INTRODUCTION

This report provides an update to the AACP House of Delegates on progress made in addressing the nine goals articulated in the House-approved AACP Strategic Plan (approved July 2000). It covers the period from July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003. This has been a remarkable year of accomplishment for the Association. A quick review of the most significant activities for the year precedes the comprehensive summary of achievements by goal.

Those highlights include:

- AJPE Editorial change and on-line publication
- Education Scholar launch
- “Excellence in Pharmaceutical Education” papers
- Expanded legislative affairs activities
- Grassroots outreach and advocacy
- Institutional research expansion
- PharmCAS Launch
- Renewal of leadership development programs
- Surge in participation in research programs
- Women’s health curricular resource development

American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education

The flagship journal for pharmaceutical educators experienced a transition in editorial office upon the retirement of George Cocolas (North Carolina) after 24 years of service to the Association. AACP was fortunate to have Joseph DiPiro (Georgia) accept responsibility as the new editor. In addition, AJPE began publication in an on-line format with the first issue of 2003 in a publication partnership with the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. A significant increase in the number of manuscripts submitted insures continued excellent quality of peer-reviewed articles in AJPE.

Education Scholar® Launch

A new resource for faculty members’ development as educators can be found at www.educationscholar.org. In collaboration with eight other health professions education associations and Western University of the Health Sciences, AACP now offers six modules for self-study or small group interaction intended to enhance the abilities of educators to prepare, deliver, and evaluate professional education to health professions students, and to develop a scholarship of teaching and learning. Education Scholar is perfect for new faculty development, preparing graduate students and residents for careers in academia, and helping enhance the skills of faculty looking to keep pace with changes such as active learning and distance education.

Excellence in Pharmaceutical Education Series

The AACP Board of Directors commissioned a series of papers intended to examine evidence related to critical issues of quality in higher education, and pharmacy education specifically. The four topics for papers released in July 2003 are curriculum development and assessment, creating and maintaining a culture of scholarship, distance learning and distributed education, and professionalization of pharmacy students. Each paper was prepared by a team of experts and peer reviewed. They will serve as the basis for AACP comments on the on-going revision of ACPE’s standards for professional degree programs in pharmacy and they will drive programming for forthcoming AACP meetings and related projects.

Expanded Legislative Affairs Activities

AACP was able to secure passage of legislation authorizing demonstrations of the value of increasing pharmacists’ participation in National Health Service Corps loan repayment programs. This will extend access to comprehensive pharmacy services for underserved populations and offer loan repayment to pharmacy
graduates. In addition, the Pharmacy Education Assistance Act (S.1806) passed in the Senate in 2002 and came extremely close to passage in the House prior to the end of the 107th session of Congress. Bipartisan sponsors of the same legislation have reintroduced legislation (S. 648) in the Senate in the 108th Congress. In addition, AACP has endorsed the work of the Pharmacy Provider Coalition and works closely with six other associations to secure recognition of pharmacists as providers in the Medicare program.

Grassroots Outreach and Advocacy

In addition to federal legislative efforts, AACP joined forces with several other national pharmacy associations and the Bureau of Primary Care to create the Pharmacy Services Support Center. The PSSC is a resource on comprehensive pharmacy services for community health centers and other service providers for the most vulnerable patients. Projects developed by the PSSC will involve pharmacy educators, practitioners, and state and national pharmacy leaders in activities that will improve medication use in virtually every community in America.

Institutional Research Expansion

AACP added additional staff capacity to expand our institutional research programs. Working collaboratively with ACPE, AACP has drafted new survey instruments for graduating students, faculty, and alumni to gather data for program assessment. In addition, a school profile document was piloted for use as part of accreditation self-studies drawing upon AACP’s current institutional data and in lieu of extensive institutional data gathering for purposes of accreditation.

PharmCAS Launch

Pharmacy education now has a centralized application service for prospective pharmacy students. 43 schools and colleges of pharmacy will be utilizing the service in this inaugural year. PharmCAS is intended to enhance the admissions process for participating schools by increasing the visibility of pharmacy as a career choice, streamlining the process of applying to one or more institutions, and verifying the application data received for admission consideration to the professional degree program. Admissions processing should be more efficient administratively, freeing school and college personnel to focus on selecting the most qualified candidates for admission.

Renewal of Leadership Programming

AACP President Barbara Wells made developing leadership the Association’s highest priority for 2002-03. That theme drove programming for the 2002 AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars as well as the 2003 Interim Meeting. The latter focused specifically on the critically important function of development and fund-raising activities. The standing committees for academic, professional, and research and graduate affairs all addressed various components of leadership in academic pharmacy. Finally, a new program designed to prepare academic pharmacy leaders for roles as deans, department chairs and other leadership roles will be announced during the 2003 Annual Meeting.

Surging Participation in AACP-sponsored Research Programs

The Merck Scholar program for undergraduate research saw a 69 percent increase in applicants for the 2003-04 review cycle. The New Investigator Program enjoyed a 17 percent increase in applications. This suggests a heightened priority among member schools and current faculty for stimulating enthusiasm among Doctor of Pharmacy students and new faculty for careers in research.

Women’s Health Curricular Resources Project

A contract from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), funded collectively by four agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is supporting the development of a new curricular resource sharing system for faculty. The specific project will yield a framework for inclusion of content on sex and gender-related differences in health and medication use in the pharmacy curriculum. In addition, three modules of specific curricular resources (e.g., syllabi, case studies, lecture notes) on priority topics in women’s health will be available in late 2003. AACP believes this project provides a template for additional curricular resource sharing and is committed to building a platform for the development of additional priority content areas.

This overview of “topline” programs only begins to capture the exciting activities and programs of AACP during 2002-03. The following material offers a more comprehensive summary by goal of the Association’s work in the past year on behalf of member institutions and faculty.
I. Colleges and schools will have an optimal number of qualified students.

Increase in Applications

For the second year in a row colleges and schools of pharmacy saw an increase in the number of applications to first professional degree programs. There was a 24.6 percent increase in 2001-02 compared to 9.1 percent in 2000-01. Seventy-two (72) of the 81 colleges and schools of pharmacy reporting data for both 2000-01 and 2001-02 saw an increase in the number of applications received. The application pool was strong, with 3.7 applications received for every student enrolled in fall 2002. Over 53 percent of the applications to colleges and schools of pharmacy were submitted by individuals who had 3 or more years of postsecondary education: 27 percent had completed 3 or more years of postsecondary education without earning a degree; 25 percent held a baccalaureate; 1.0 percent held a master's degree; and 0.2 percent held a doctorate.

PCAT

Trends in PCAT registrants indicate that the number of applications to pharmacy may continue to rise in the near future. The number of PCAT registrants increased 45 percent with 20,103 registering for the exam during the 2002-03 cycle compared to 13,876 during the 2001-02 cycle. The registration numbers for this past cycle are the highest in the history of the examination.

The AACP Board reviewed the status of the Association’s relationship with the Psychological Corporation (owned by Harcourt Measurement) and contemporary issues and concerns related to the PCAT at the October 2002 Board meeting. The Board determined that action was necessary to remedy the situation and to address key issues, including examination content, customer service deficiencies and the contractual relationship between AACP and Harcourt Measurement.

During the 2003 Town Hall, members also had an opportunity to express concerns related to the test. AACP staff and the PCAT Advisory Panel met with the leadership of the Psychological Corporation on June 24, 2003 at Harcourt’s headquarters in San Antonio to outline the steps to be taken to resolve these issues.

Pharmacy Education Financial Programs

AACP serves as the Secretariat of the Career Information Clearinghouse (CIC), a consortium of all major professional and trade organizations in pharmacy that promotes careers in pharmacy. In 2003, the CIC launched a new on-line financial aid database, known as Pharmacy Education Financial Programs (PEFP). The web-based searchable PEFP database contains scholarship, loan, grant, and award information for current professional and graduate pharmacy students. PEFP is updated annually and serves as a valuable resource for pharmacy students seeking additional financial support and professional recognition. Students and schools can access PEFP via the AACP web site by visiting the financial aid section under the “For Students and Applicants” menu option.

Pfizer Guide to NAAHP

In early 2003, Pfizer arranged for AACP to receive 5000 complimentary copies of its Full Preparation: The Pfizer Guide to Careers in Pharmacy to assist the Association in its student recruitment activities. AACP shipped 1600 copies of the Guide to members of the National Association of Advisors of Health Professions (NAAHP) so they might better understand the multitude of career opportunities available to new pharmacy graduates. AACP uses the remaining supply of guides in free information packets sent to prospective students and in other recruitment activities.

National Health Career Explorers Exposition

In August 2002, AACP participated in the first National Health Career Explorers Exposition in Bethesda, Maryland. The multi-disciplinary exposition was designed for students who participate in Health Profession Exploring posts throughout the country. One hundred and fifty (150) students aged 14-18 participated in the 3-day program.

PharmCAS

In an effort to simplify the application process for prospective pharmacy students and encourage more students to consider pharmacy as a career option, AACP launched the Pharmacy College Application Service, for students interested in applying to schools and colleges of pharmacy for the fall 2004 entering class. This centralized service, officially released Monday, May 5, 2003, allows applicants to use a single application process to apply to multiple entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy degree programs. PharmCAS benefits AACP member institutions, applicants, and the AACP office by facilitating the pharmacy admissions process, student recruitment, and data collection. PharmCAS is a service of AACP and is administered by Liaison International, Inc., an information technology and consulting company.
near Boston. There are 43 pharmacy institutions participating in PharmCAS for fall 2004 enrollment.

To prepare participating institutions for PharmCAS, AACP conducted five (5) regional training sessions during fall 2002 and spring 2003. During the training, attendees were introduced to PharmCAS policies and procedures, as well as the PharmAdMIT admission software. One hundred and thirty-eight (138) pharmacy admission officers, administrators, and technical staff participate in these regional trainings.

In May 2003, the service launched the PharmCAS Admissions Portal. This dynamic tool provides real-time application data for each participating institution. Colleges and schools may use the Admissions Portal to view, search, and print data on applications to their particular school. A similar Portal will be launched later this summer for designated members of the National Association of Advisors of Health Professions (NAAHP).

In July 2003, PharmCAS will release the PharmAdMIT admissions software to those participating colleges and schools that elect to use the complimentary software to manage their local admissions process. Simultaneously, PharmCAS will release sample versions of the weekly ACCESS (MDB) files and printed reports. The official data and reports will be shipped to the schools weekly beginning in early August 2003.

During the 2003 Annual Meeting, PharmCAS will offer one additional training (pre-session) for members. This training session will provide a review of items covered during the regional training, plus more detailed information about electronic and paper reports; the data download process; and GPA calculation rules. Participants will also walk through the new version of the PharmAdMIT software.

Professionalism

It is critically important that graduates of the professional doctoral degree learn the behaviors, attitudes, and values of professionalism while enrolled in colleges and schools of pharmacy. A variety of programs and strategies are employed by the schools to enable this maturation. The first paper in AACP’s commissioned Excellence series studies the issue of professionalism and offers additional insights and suggestions for programs institutions can consider to enhance their professionalization efforts. In addition, AACP has established a working group jointly with the APhA Academy of Students of Pharmacy that will produce a “toolkit” of additional resources to be used in the schools and colleges of pharmacy.

II. Colleges and schools will have excellent academic leadership and management.

The focus on leadership begun at the 2001 Board of Directors and Staff retreat continued this past year. The 2002 Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO., “Hallmarks of Leadership” addressed leadership topics during the General Sessions, and Section and SIG programming. President Barbara Wells’ stressed the importance of developing academic pharmacy leadership both qualitatively and quantitatively in order to address the challenges facing health care generally, and pharmaceutical care, specifically in the near future. President Wells charged the three standing committees to address the academy’s leadership needs in academic affairs, professional affairs, and research and graduate affairs during the upcoming year. In a departure from the traditional separate meetings of the committees, the Academic Affairs, Professional Affairs, and Research and Graduate Affairs committee members met together with facilitators from the University of Maryland’s James McGregor Burns Leadership Academy for one-half day, prior to discussing their specific charges. The result of these deliberations is a single multi-committee report addressing issues of leadership in all three areas, plus recommendations for future leadership programming for the Association.

Following up on the direction of the BOD and President Wells, the Interim Meeting in Long Beach, CA had “Development” as its theme. The program was provided through the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and attendees included a significant number of college/school development officers, as well as deans, associate/assistant deans, and faculty. The program evaluations were extremely high, and the development directors who attended and actively participated in the meeting have continued to interact via a ListServ.

Leadership programming continues at the 2003 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, utilizing the Saturday pre-session time period. The program was developed with the assistance of the American Council on Education (ACE), and is utilizing ACE faculty from its highly successful Department Chairs and Deans Development Leadership series.

Future leadership programming will consist of AACP-developed programs, and where possible, cooperative programming with established academic leadership programs like those of CASE and ACE. Staff continues to remain engaged with FASHP members who
are still working on developing a health care leadership program, and with ADEA, who currently sponsor a leadership program for faculty who aspire to future academic leadership positions.

III. Colleges and schools will have an appropriate number of qualified faculty to achieve schools’ missions in teaching, scholarship, and service.

In fall 2002, full-time pharmacy faculty members at AACP member institutions numbered 3,800, up from 3,700 in fall 2001. Of concern is the “graying of the faculty,” with over 40 percent of faculty in fall 2002 aged 50 or older. Five years ago, in fall 1998, 36 percent of faculty were aged 50 or older. In fall 2002, 38 percent of deans were aged 60 or older.

To work on faculty recruitment, AACP continued its collaboration with other national pharmacy associations in bringing programs to the meetings of ACCP, APhA and ASHP during 2002-03 designed to promote careers in academic pharmacy. Programs at APhA specifically examined the issues associated with successful shared faculty positions and the important role that quality preceptors play in advanced practice education in the professional curriculum.

In December 2002, under AACP’s leadership, the Education Scholar® program, Teaching Excellence and Scholarship Development Resources for Health Professions Educators, was completed and launched. Conceptualized in the mid-1990s under the umbrella of the AACP Center for the Advancement of Pharmaceutical Education (CAPE) Master Teacher initiative, Education Scholar® has grown to include nine health professions education associations (pharmacy, dentistry, osteopathic medicine, public health, nursing, optometry, podiatry, physician assistants, and allied health) and the Association of Academic Health Centers. Developed in conjunction with the Online Learning and Training Office at Western University of Health Sciences, Education Scholar® is a comprehensive, Web-based instructional program organized into seven modules. The program is available as individual modules or an entire curriculum to individual faculty members desiring to enhance their expertise and skills as educators, to develop a scholarly approach to their teaching, and to explore the scholarship of teaching and learning. Site licenses are also available to institutions interested in committing to the development of groups of faculty, residents, and/or graduate students.

IV. Colleges and schools will have adequate numbers of professional staff to optimally manage the institutions’ support functions.

Historically the library/information services and student services staff members of colleges and schools of pharmacy have been most active in AACP. Each has a section or special interest group through which programming and communications are developed and disseminated. This continued to be true in 2002-03 with the Library Section continuing to keep the Basic Resources compilation up-to-date with new editions and resources for member institutions. This year marked the loss of Winifred Sewell, former AACP Honorary President and an active participant in Section activities. Continuing a tradition of longstanding through endowed funds in her estate, the Library Section will provide scholarships to enable members, especially new to pharmacy, travel support to attend the AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars.

Student Services personnel were also very engaged in preparing for the introduction of PharmCAS, with many participating in the regional training sessions hosted throughout the year. The outcome of a renewed collaboration with the APhA Academy of Students of Pharmacy in the working group on professionalism will offer those with student development responsibilities new resources to enhance the maturation of future students into responsible, ethical professional pharmacists.

The 2003 AACP Interim Meeting was planned cooperatively with a networking group of development personnel from colleges and schools of pharmacy. With much of the content of the Interim Meeting delivered by speakers from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), development personnel, deans and faculty received timely and valuable insights into building relations with and cultivating contributions from donors of all types.

V. Colleges and schools will have professional degree curriculums and life-long learning opportunities that prepare students to practice successfully throughout their pharmacy careers.

In 2002-03, staff and the Board of Directors explored the concept of a curricular resource center (CRC) to facilitate the development of new instructional resources in emerging curricular areas and to facilitate access to quality instructional materials available from faculty members willing to share their work, as well as to materials and information from other sources. The curricular resource center will be Web-based and provide a centralized repository of resources available from
AACP and its member institutions and provide a map to other sources of quality instructional materials. There is presently no formalized system available in pharmaceutical education to facilitate the sharing of such valuable intellectual property.

The accessibility and versatility of Web-based information lends itself to this resource center. The AACP-CRC will provide a single point of access leading to multiple, content-specific sections (e.g., sex and gender-related health care, patient safety, pharmacogenomics). The materials associated with the topic will vary in design and delivery medium and might include sets of lecture outlines and notes, video and audio clips, case studies, laboratory exercises and simulations, and assessment instruments.

A contract from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), funded collectively by four agencies within the US Department of Health and Human Services, is supporting the development of the first content area to be included in the CRC. The specific project will yield a framework for inclusion of content on sex and gender-related differences in health and medication use in the pharmacy curriculum. In addition, three modules of specific curricular resources (e.g., syllabi, case studies, lecture notes) on priority topics in women’s health will be available in late 2003.

The Board of Directors also initiated the process of review and revision of the CAPE Outcome Statements during the past year, calling upon national pharmacy associations to nominate representatives from a broad array of practice settings to participate in the revision process. The group will conduct most of its work in Fall/Winter 2003-04 and release draft documents for comment during the process. Revised outcome statements should enable those schools considering curricular revision with the critical assessment of current courses and competencies.

The Excellence paper on Curriculum Design and Assessment will offer schools another important resource for curricular analysis and revision. The AACP Institute provided teams of faculty and administrators from 24 participating schools renewed opportunities to examine aspects of the curriculum and especially assessment of student performance.

VI. Colleges and schools will support faculty scholarship and graduate education.

The third paper in the Excellence Series addresses how colleges and schools of pharmacy can build and sustain a culture of scholarship, supporting achievement of one of the critical components of success in a faculty member’s career. The 2003-04 Research and Graduate Affairs Committee will build upon the issues and recommendations identified by the paper’s authors in the committee’s deliberations this Fall.

Through the financial support of the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education, AACP continues to support the initial research efforts of fifteen new faculty each year, through the New Investigator’s Program (NIP). NIP provides $10,000 starter grants through a competitive peer-reviewed process to faculty in all the disciplinary sections. Section chairs appoint peer-review panelists each year based on the number of applications submitted in their respective disciplines. These individuals evaluate and rank each proposal and the top proposals in each section are awarded a NIP grant. Although the size of the award is often not sufficient to cover all research proposal costs, awardees find the submission and review process valuable in assisting them in submissions to other agencies, including the NIH. In May 2003, 108 NIP proposals were submitted for consideration.

There is nothing superior in attracting students to research and graduate school than the opportunity to participate in research under the direction of a faculty mentor. The AACP-sponsored, Merck Company Foundation-supported Merck Research Scholar Program for Pharmacy Students continues to attract outstanding applicants. The 2003-2004 program applications increased 69 percent over the previous two years. Additionally, the Merck Company Foundation increased its support of the program so that 14 students, instead of the previous 12 will be supported in the 2003-2004 cycle. AFPE continues to offer the Gateway Program, which supports an additional 15-17 pharmacy student research projects. AACP and AFPE coordinate the award process to insure the highest number of qualified students receive support from one of the programs. Follow-up of past Merck Research Scholar awardees has demonstrated that a majority goes on to pursue post-Pharm.D. degrees or research fellowships.

AACP has collected and published NIH funding of faculty at colleges/schools of pharmacy since 1995. Each year, the data collection and analysis has increased and this data has been regarded as quite valuable by deans, department chairs, and faculty in the promotion and evaluation of their research programs. As part of the analysis, programs are “ranked” according to a number of different measures. Colleges/schools of pharmacy are also “ranked” by the NIH and these data are available on the NIH Web site. AACP expands the NIH data, by allowing institutions to verify accuracy of the data, correct
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To assist pharmacy faculty in attaining funding for their research, AACP has sponsored, either alone or with other associations, a grantsmanship workshop developed and presented by Grantsmanship Workshops & Seminars, Inc. The most recent grantsmanship workshop was presented in a pre-session at the 2002 Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO, and was attended by 53 pharmacy faculty. Each grantsmanship program has received the highest satisfaction ratings, and anecdotal feedback from past participants suggests that this program has played a significant role in project proposals obtaining funding from NIH. Grantsmanship workshops cannot substitute for great ideas, but they are extremely valuable in assisting the grantee to convince reviewers of the value of their ideas. Staff continues to work with other associations to provide additional venues for the grantsmanship programs to reach the largest number of pharmacy faculty.

The 2001-2002 Research and Graduate Affairs Committee (RGAC) report dealt with the impact of the growing interdisciplinary nature of research on pharmacy faculty appointments, promotion and tenure, and graduate education. As a follow-up to this report, COD Chair, Dr. Marilyn Speedie requested a special session to discuss aspects of the report at the 2003 Interim Meeting in Long Beach, CA. Dr. William Campbell, Dean of the University of North Carolina, and chair of the 2001-2002 RGAC and Dr. John Slattery of the University of Washington School of Pharmacy presented their views on this topic prior to a lively discussion in a session preceding the COD and COF business meetings. Dr. Campbell’s slide presentation was placed on the AACP Web site by request after the meeting.

The AACP Graduate and Research Liaison Bulletins continue to be published and available on the AACP Web site. In addition, announcement of programs with potential for funding, particularly those with short lead times, are made in the Executive Vice President’s communication vehicle to deans.

AACP staff followed up on an earlier meeting with AHRQ staff arranged by Dean David Knapp of the University of Maryland, who was serving a sabbatical at the agency, to discuss and develop a Senior Scholar Program for Pharmacy Faculty at AHRQ. The senior scholar program is designed to provide an excellent research experience for the scholar, and also to have that individual encourage other faculty to take advantage of the resources offered by the agency, including research funding. The Scholar Program is planned to begin in Summer 2004, with application for the program due in December 2003.

VIII. Pharmaceutical education will rank high in public esteem and in the esteem of the profession.

Over the past several years the Association has invested considerably more time and resources to advance understanding among public and private sector decision-makers of critically important issues in pharmaceutical education and pharmacy practice. The documented pharmacy workforce shortage and its impact on patient safety and quality health care have increased the level of interest in these audiences for strategies and solutions to such problems. This has made a ripe environment in both the 107th and 108th sessions of Congress for legislation specifically addressing the issue of pharmacist and pharmacy faculty shortages. AACP continues to work for passage of the Pharmacy Education Assistance Act which, in its current form, secures dedicated funds for loan repayment to encourage pharmacy graduates to serve patients in health professions shortage areas and also to assume positions on college and school of pharmacy faculties.

AACP’s legislative agenda also focuses on Title VII and VIII programs, residency funding issues, securing provider status for pharmacists, appropriations for federal research agencies (e.g., NIH, AHRQ), and other priorities of academic pharmacy. Increasing grassroots member participation is an important priority. One direct way to exercise this priority was the hosting of a Congressional staff briefing in June where five faculty research scholars shared with health staff members from the Senate and House brief summaries of their research to demonstrate the resources available to congressional staff at the schools and colleges of pharmacy.

AACP joined with four national professional organizations of nurses and pharmacists who work in hospitals and health systems to examine how these professionals can work together to improve patient medication safety. Participants explored opportunities to improve the medication-use process in hospitals in light of the
complex system in which medications are prescribed, dispensed, and administered to the patient; as well as the evolving role of both nurses and pharmacists, and the fact that today’s medications are more powerful and complex. The summary of the executive session can be found at: http://www.ashp.org/public/pubs/ajhpopen/5b-sf-Thompson.pdf.

AACP continues involvement and leadership in the Pharmacy Manpower Project, Inc. (PMP). AACP and PMP member organizations contributed to the HRSA-sponsored Tenth Report on Health Personnel in the U.S.: 2000-2015. As a result of the workforce issues and medication safety issues, pharmacy has garnered significant media exposure. PMP-sponsored workforce projects have made substantial contributions to the literature and to the heightened visibility of pharmacy and recognition of the importance of pharmacy services in the healthcare system. The PMP conducted a conference on Professionally Determined Need for Pharmacy Services in 2020 in October 2001. Conference proceedings were published in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, 2002; 66: 421-429.

AACP was invited to lead a focused discussion on pharmacy student socialization, experiential education, and the role for professional organizations during the August 2002 meeting of the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners. Work of the 2001-02 Scholar in Residence (Art Harralson) on the characteristics of advanced practice experience in pharmacy education programs and the Preceptor Development Task Force (appointed jointly by the PEPSIG and Section of Teachers of Pharmacy Practice) provided evidence for the discussion.

AACP convened a meeting with the Pharmacy Manpower Project member organizations and the Administrator and select staff of the HHS Bureau of Health Professions. The meeting provided organizations and the Bureau to present the focus of their work and determine opportunities for collaboration and information sharing.

AACP also participates in the meetings of the following coalitions and alliances:
- Friends of Indian Health
- Friends of HRSA
- Friends of AHRQ
- The AdHoc Group for Medical Research
- The Coalition for Health Funding
- The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition
- The Alliance for Pharmaceutical Care

IX. AACP and its member colleges and schools will be proficient in the use of information technology to facilitate achievement of their individual goals.

Implementation of AACP’s new association management system is near completion, providing increased integration of the AACP web site, membership and finance databases, and enhancing communication with members in a variety of ways. Over 50 AACP Listservs were launched during the year, allowing all members the opportunity to directly post messages to lists affiliated with their Councils, SIGs, Sections, and committees. Members can also access their membership profile online and immediately update changes in address, section or SIG affiliation, their research interests and other personal data.

The final paper in the Excellence Series addresses distance and distributive education, much of which is facilitated by technology. As class sizes expand and satellite campuses evolve at many colleges and schools technology will make an even more significant impact to pharmaceutical education than in the past. The EBIRSIG and AACP’s computer classrooms made available throughout the Annual Meeting continue to support members’ own development of integration of technology into professional education.

Staffing and Headquarters Operations

AACP is recognized by members for the high quality of professional staff who support the leaders in the design and delivery of valuable programs, communications and services. The staff totals 16 in number, including a new position in 2002-03 in the area of institutional research. A position formerly focused only on AACP meetings was modified during the year to focus on meetings, membership and marketing.

AACP maintains an attractive headquarters property in Alexandria, VA. The Association bought the townhome property in 1986 and purchased a condominium one-block away several years later. The condo provides housing for scholars in residence and other members who avail themselves of the faculty development programs supported by AACP (e.g., Congressional fellows program). During the past year approximately 75 percent of the headquarters property was given a “facelift”, updating paint, wallpaper and other features of the facility.