the differences, the vast differences, between an ambulatory patient and an institutionalized patient.”

Because CMS does not allow Part D plans to count as MTM a consultant pharmacist’s monthly review of institutionalized patients’ drug regimens, McMahan said, Humana will have to develop other MTM services for these patients that offer a meaningful and measurable benefit.

Baggett said that coordination of care between skilled-nursing-facility staff and Aetna’s pharmacotherapy specialists is included in the company’s MTM program for institutionalized patients. She noted that long-term-care pharmacists are expected to be “a huge resource of information” for Aetna’s MTM staff.

What lies ahead. Despite CMS’s initial hands-off approach to Part D sponsors’ MTM programs, the agency has stated that it expects MTM to improve patient outcomes and reduce Medicare’s health care costs in the long run. CMS could use information gained from this year’s MTM programs to devise specific requirements for future programs.

The drug plans, in turn, know that CMS is paying attention to the emerging field of MTM.

“It’s a complex program, we’re on a tight budget, and we have to be able to say to CMS that we used the dollars appropriately when all is said and done,” McMahan said.

—Kate Traynor
DOI 10.2146/news050041

Six new members join AJHP editorial board

AJHP welcomes six new editorial board members whose term of service begins with this issue of the Journal. Each board member will serve for three years and will be responsible for reviewing articles submitted to AJHP, recruiting authors and reviewers for the journal, and providing expertise to AJHP staff about important issues in contemporary pharmacy practice.

Gerard R. Barber, M.P.H., is Pharmacy Specialist for Antiinfectives at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in Florida. His professional interests include infection control and public health issues, as well as the study and treatment of infections in immunocompromised patients, fungal infections, and surgical-site infections. Barber’s leadership roles include serving as co-chair of Lakeland’s antibiotic subcommittee and cocaptain of the bicycling team for the local Multiple Sclerosis Society chapter. Barber considers his most important practice achievement to be the conducting of comparative studies assessing the risk for surgical-site infection in general surgical patients and those with cancer—studies that achieved recognition by practitioners outside the pharmacy profession. During his tenure on the editorial board, Barber would like to see AJHP publish more scientific and informational articles from young investigators and from pharmacists working in community practices and university-affiliated teaching sites. He would also like to encourage the publication of articles involving public health issues and epidemiology.

Jill S. Burkiewicz, Pharm.D., BCPS, is Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Director of the Primary Care Residency Program at Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy. Her main areas of professional interest are experiential training for pharmacy students and residents, the use of evidence-based practices in pharmacy, and the discovery of new ways to document the value of ambulatory care pharmacy services. Burkiewicz has been professionally active at the local level, serving on the executive board of the former Illinois College of Clinical Pharmacy. At the national level, she has been a strong supporter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, serving on several committees and task forces. One of Burkiewicz’s memorable practice achievements was the establishment of clinical pharmacy services for a managed care network, a program that has expanded to six pharmacists at four sites. Burkiewicz would like AJHP to foster the publication of articles on experiential training, teaching, and mentoring of pharmacists and include stories about the development and evaluation of ambulatory care clinical pharmacy services.

Jack J. Chen, Pharm.D., BCPS, GCP, is Associate Professor at Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy in Loma Linda, California. Chen’s main professional interests are neurology, with a special emphasis on...
Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders. His pharmacy leadership positions include holding office or serving on committees for the American Pharmacists Association, the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties, and the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists. Chen considers his past receipt of the ASHP Research and Education Foundation Drug Therapy Research Award to be among his most memorable professional accomplishments. Chen’s vision for AJHP is that it strive to be a well-balanced publication that contains a variety of clinical, administrative, practice-related, and pharmacologic articles that reflect the diversity of pharmacy practice in the United States and abroad.

James M. Hoffman, Pharm.D., M.S., is Medication Outcomes Coordinator at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Hoffman’s professional interests involve medication safety, medication-use policy, and outcomes research, including defining the responsibilities for his newly created position at St. Jude. Hoffman’s clinical focus is on oncology and infectious diseases. He has held leadership positions at ASHP that focus on the needs of students and new practitioners, including a term as vice chair of ASHP’s Student Forum Executive Committee. Hoffman recently completed a term of membership on the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s task force on clinical practice management. Among Hoffman’s memorable practice achievements are the completion of a combined residency in health-system pharmacy and administration and a fellowship in outcomes research. During his term of service to AJHP, Hoffman would like the journal to encourage the publication of articles from new practitioners and promote the publication of systematic reviews and meta-analyses of studies related to drug therapy.

Grace M. Kuo, Pharm.D., M.P.H., is Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and Program Director for the Southern Primary-care Urban Research Network (SPUR-Net), a practice-based research network involving five Houston-area health care organizations. Kuo’s work with SPUR-Net helps to provide research infrastructure and methodological expertise for local projects that seek to solve common patient care problems and to improve the quality of care and patient safety in primary care practices. In addition to practice-based research, Kuo’s professional interests include medication safety, medication therapy management services, and the management of chronic diseases. Her professional accomplishments include work reviewing grants for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the receipt of research funding from NIH and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Kuo would like AJHP to publish articles on medication therapy management services and medication safety in the ambulatory care setting, as well as practical advice for practitioners in ambulatory settings.

Joseph P. Nathan, M.S., Pharm.D., is Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences of Long Island University in Brooklyn and Drug Information Specialist at the college’s International Drug Information Center. Nathan’s main professional focus is on drug information centers and services and patient drug-information literacy. He has chaired the college’s task force on the development of a nontraditional Pharm.D. pathway and the self-study subcommittee on students and been an active member on numerous other committees at the school. Nathan’s professional accomplishments include successfully maintaining simultaneous practices in academic, hospital, and community pharmacy settings, as well as serving as a consultant pharmacist to long-term-care facilities. Nathan hopes to use his various practice experiences to help AJHP publish high-quality articles that satisfy the interests of all readers. Working with his fellow board members, Nathan wants to help identify emerging trends in pharmacy that merit publication in the journal.

—Kate Traynor

DOI 10.2146/news050042