Committee on Pharmacy Education/Internship

Members Present:
Keith Macdonald, Chairman, (NV); John Block (OR); William J. Grosz (ND); Robert Kelley (MT); Albert Lockamy, Jr. (NC); Robert Snively (DE).

Others Present:
Paul Boisseau, Executive Committee Liaison; Carmen A. Catizone, Executive Director; Dr. Jeffrey Wadelin, ACPE; Dr. Kimberly Werner, ACPE; Michael Hart, NABP Appointment to the ACPE Board of Directors; Frances Peknik, NABP Staff Liaison; and Cathy Cacciatore, NABP Staff.

Introduction:
The Committee on Pharmacy Education/Internships met January 17-18, 1992 at NABP Headquarters in Park Ridge, Illinois. The Committee reviewed its charge, and accepted the charge as presented.

The charge of the Committee on Pharmacy Education/internship remains as follows:

1. Study and report on current issues in pharmacy education affecting the regulation and practice of pharmacy;
2. Review existing educational curricula, experiential programs (internship and externship), continuing education, and other educational programs to assess their impact on the regulation and practice of pharmacy; and protect the public by encouraging all boards to regulate internship activities through the registration and/or licensure of all preceptors, interns, and intern sites;
3. Make recommendations relative to experiential programs and provide mechanisms, tools, and input related to the evaluation process of such programs; work toward the standardization of internship experiences among the boards of pharmacy in an effort to meet the needs of contemporary practice;
4. Assist the Executive Committee in its relations with other educational agencies and organizations and the public, emphasizing the needs for boards of pharmacy and colleges of pharmacy to work together in developing a meaningful training experience for the pharmacy student; encourage discussion between NABP and AACP through regular meetings and participation at the district meetings; and
5. Recommend to the Executive Committee, for referral to the Committee on Law Enforcement/Legislation, the development of model regulations for important educational issues.

Resolution CPEI #1: Support for Doctor of Pharmacy as Sole Entry-Level Degree
WHEREAS, social political, and technological forces are transforming the health care delivery system in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, such changes in the health care delivery system mandate revisions to the educational requirements for pharmacists; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the pharmacist is to provide competent and appropriate pharmaceutical care to patients for the benefit of society in general and the pharmacist’s patients in particular; and

WHEREAS, the practice of pharmacy is changing to provide greater protection of the health and welfare for the citizens of all states; and

WHEREAS, the revision of accreditation standards has been proposed by ACPE and the stated position of NABP is to support a single entry-level degree as one component of the qualifications for licensure and preparation for entry into practice; and

WHEREAS, active licensure through the state boards of pharmacy demonstrates learning through experience, time spent providing pharmaceutical care, and participation in continuing education activities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy supports the doctor of pharmacy degree as the sole entry-level degree and sole educational qualification for licensure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy supports inauguration of a degree exchange by colleges and schools of pharmacy awarding an accredited bachelor of science degree in pharmacy.

Background:

Acknowledging that the prolonged issue of the entry-level degree for practicing pharmacists needs to be resolved, the Committee on Pharmacy Education/internship considered the entirety of the health care system for the 21st century and specifically pharmaceutical care that has been well-defined, as well as ramifications on the public, profession, and entrepreneurial concerns associated with various alternatives and conclusions.

The necessity to assure equal and close collaboration between the regulatory agencies of pharmacy and Colleges of Pharmacy to assure uniform quality of education and pharmaceutical practice for the protection of the public health is reflected in the preamble and the resolution in support of the single entry-level degree.

The Committee determined the best of the many alternatives for degree equivalency is suggested to be a degree exchange.

Recommendation CPEI #1: Develop Experiential Programs that Satisfy Internship Requirements

The Committee encourages the Boards and Colleges of Pharmacy to work together to develop experiential programs that satisfy internship requirements for licensure and encompass the experiential component of the educational curriculum. It is further encouraged that these hours should be obtained prior to graduation. In order to accomplish this, the Committee recommends that;
1. NABP and ACP develop national competencies for experiential programs that are separate from accreditation standards and foster cooperation between the Boards and Colleges of Pharmacy.

2. Colleges and Boards should work together in the selection of Preceptors.

3. Interns should be registered with the Boards.

Further, the Committee is concerned with the length of time the student spends in each rotation. The Committee recommends that AACP and NABP conduct a study to determine the length of time necessary to establish a competency in each of the rotations.

**Background:**

The diverse description and requirements of internship by State Boards of Pharmacy and experiential rotations by Colleges of Pharmacy give rise to the recommendation expressing a need for uniformity of experiential programs to become the basis for professional licensure for a pharmacist.

**Recommendation CPEI #2: Standardized Reporting Form for Internship Hours**

The Committee recommends NABP develop a *Standardized Reporting Form* for internship hours transferred from one state to another. The reporting form should include:

- Registration of the Intern
- Verification of the Internship Hours Describing
  - Actual hours
  - Accredited hours
- Identification of Preceptor and Site
  - Individual preceptors
  - College-based preceptors
  - Non-traditional preceptors

And further, the Committee recommends that Pharmacy Boards should consider internship hours as verified by other state boards.

**Background:**

Some states have delegated the responsibility for internship hours to the school of pharmacy by accepting the experiential program offered through the school of pharmacy as fulfilling the internship requirement for examination and licensure in that state. This delegation of responsibility for internship to the school presents a problem when the student chooses to sit for examination in another state or seeks to transfer internship hours to another state.

The Committee on Pharmacy Education/Internship recommends that NABP develop a Standardized Reporting Form that will provide the information cited in this recommendation. The form will be used to transfer internship hours from one state to another and to provide the recipient state with a clear understanding of the type of experience, the actual hours spent in each rotation, and the sites where the experience was gained.

**Recommendation CEPI #3: Competency Testing Versus Continuing Education**
The committee supports the use of Continuing Education as one means of maintaining competency. In order to improve Continuing Education:

NABP encourages ACPE to:
- Establish a mechanism to identify the content and level of difficulty of CE programs offered by approved providers.
- NABP supports the efforts of ACPE to improve the monitoring of providers and the establishment of quality assurance programs that focus on an outcome.
- Providers should be encouraged to develop CE which offers a series of programs focusing on a specific subject area of pharmacy practice and/or law in order to achieve a more in-depth review of that subject, and CPE should develop an appropriate system to identify programs contained in that series.
- A representative from NABP should be considered for an appointment on the ACPE Continuing Education Advisory Committee.

Background:

The Committee discussed Continuing Education as it relates to maintaining or improving competency. Questions were raised concerning the type, quality, and level of difficulty of the current CE programs. It was the consensus of the Committee that NABP needs to work consistently to improve Continuing Education Programs in cooperation with ACPE. One way in which NABP would have input into the process would be through representation on the ACPE Continuing Education Advisory Committee. No recommendation was made regarding competency testing.

The Committee members thank ACPE Professional Staff, Dr. Jeffrey W. Wadelin and Dr. Kimberly K. Werner, for joining the meeting and updating the members on current ACPE activities. Thanks also to Michael Hart, NABP’s appointment to the ACPE Board of Directors, for his contribution to the discussion concerning the ACPE Declaration of Intent.