College celebrates American Pharmacists Month with free immunizations, CE class

The College of Pharmacy’s Professional Pharmacy Student Alliance, faculty and staff kicked off the 2010 American Pharmacists Month activities by providing 50 free seasonal flu immunizations to those attending the Pocatello campus open house, held October 1. Student pharmacists administered immunizations, provided diabetes screenings and heartburn checks, along with information about several other outreach programs. Students attending classes in the L.S. Skaggs Pharmacy Complex, Meridian, will hold an open house on Thursday, Oct. 28 in conjunction with the ISU Health Sciences Health Science Experience Night. An additional 50 free immunizations will also be provided. The event will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at 1311 E. Central Drive.

Other events planned for American Pharmacists Month include a free pharmacy continuing education class, diabetes fun/run and Pharmacy Recruiting Fair.

The 5K Fun Walk/Run for Diabetes will be held on Saturday, Oct. 9 at 9 a.m. on the Pocatello ISU Hutchinson Quadrangle to promote awareness of the rise of diabetes in Southeast Idaho. Hosted by students of the Division of Health Sciences, the event will include educational booths with students providing information on diabetes prevention and management. For additional information, contact Jeff Gower at gowejeff@isu.edu.

Students and faculty will host an Idaho Board of Pharmacy-approved continuing education class for area pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, highlighting the newly created Combat Drug Abuse outreach program.

The CE and reception will be held at both the Pocatello and Meridian College of Pharmacy locations on Thursday, October 14. The reception, held in honor of American Pharmacists Month, will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Combat Drug Abuse CE, led by Drs. Cathy Oliphant and Cindy Wilson. The sessions are designed to educate participants of the role of pharmacists in combating prescription drug abuse, a growing problem in Idaho and throughout the country. There is no charge for the CE class.

To attend, simply RSVP with your name and location of the site you will attend to kal@pharmacy.isu.edu by Oct. 11, 2010.

The 2010 Pharmacy Recruiting Fair will be held Oct. 21 and 22 in the ISU Earl Pond Student Union Building Ballroom. More than 80 health care recruiters representing about 50 companies from Idaho and across the United States typically attend the fair to interview students one-on-one for potential employment.

Each year the college makes a special effort to ensure that fourth-year students performing clinical rotations in Pocatello, Boise, Coeur d’Alene and other Western sites return to campus to participate in interviews during the pharmacy recruiting fair. The fair allows students to increase their knowledge of career pathways in community, hospital, research and other pharmacy career opportunities.

For more information, contact Andrew Gauss at 208-282-3393 or andrew@pharmacy.isu.edu.

College of Pharmacy students and faculty celebrate American Pharmacists Month at the Pocatello campus. Events slated include an open house in Meridian on Oct. 28.
Jeffrey Gower, a third-year pharmacy student at the ISU College of Pharmacy, received a highly competitive scholarship to attend the 9th Annual Paul Ambrose Scholars Program, held June 25-27, 2010 in Washington, DC. He joined 46 other medical, physician assistant, dental, pharmacy and graduate nursing students dedicated to bringing health promotion and preventive approaches to health professions education and their communities. The students were selected from a pool of applicants from over 80 health professions schools across the country.

Throughout the leadership development program, Gower and the other participants attended presentations and discussions focused on perspectives on prevention, healthcare and the economy, health policy advocacy, project planning and community organizing, medicine and the underserved, public speaking and media relations, cultural competence, and health literacy. These sessions were led by public health officials, industry experts and public health veterans.

In addition to financial support awarded to travel to and participate in the symposium, Gower is eligible to receive a micro-grant to offset costs in implementing a health promotion or disease prevention education project on campus or in his community.

The project developed by Gower involves an interdisciplinary team of Idaho State University dietetics students, resident pharmacists and others who will provide education and hands-on training to help community members with diabetes and pre-diabetes develop better self-care habits over the course of six weeks, participating in one workshop each week. The six workshops will consist of activities including: understanding how to self-manage diabetes through monitoring tools and medications, learning what exercises may be appropriate for the participants to do both in the gym and at home in order to reduce discomfort and apprehension toward physical activity, and learning proper nutrition and diet choices, including one night spent at a local store practicing hands-on where to find more nutritious alternatives to participants’ current diets.

The PASP program is named for Paul Ambrose, MD, MPH who tragically lost his life on September 11, 2001. Through his intelligence, commitment, and heart-felt energy, Paul forged meaningful relationships and touched many lives by demonstrating a zest for living and passion for prevention and public health.

The Paul Ambrose Scholars Program (PASP) is planned and implemented by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR). PASP is sponsored by the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).