



COMPLETED GRANT SYNOPSIS

Academia-Community Transformation (ACT) Pharmacy Collaborative: Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence Signature Program

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Objectives

Overarching: Over the past year, the ACT Pharmacy Collaborative aimed to further establish itself as a highly relevant, nimble group that continues to unite colleges and schools of pharmacy and community pharmacy practice leaders nationwide, mobilize stakeholders and resources to support and facilitate implementation of community-based pharmacy care, and amplify the development and implementation of sustainable community-based pharmacy care delivery.

Objective 1: Convene the 17 colleges and schools of pharmacy recognized as the Inaugural ACT Centers of Excellence.

Objective 2: Analyze Cohort 1 applications of this program to determine and share best practices.

Methods

Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted four virtual discussion-based convenings with topics and agendas informed by the ACT Task Force and ACT Centers of Excellence representatives Hosted one in-person networking lunch at the AACP Annual Meeting focused on celebrating and connecting the ACT Centers of Excellence in person and connecting them with other ACT Champions across the nation. Investigators analyzed the Centers of Excellence applications. Themes were identified and quantified across all applications. Each theme was also mapped to the four application areas: teaching, service, scholarship, and leadership/partnerships. A focus group was conducted at AACP with Centers of Excellence representatives. Themes were identified from this discussion.
Study endpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased connection across Centers of Excellence as a result of convenings. <i>The ACT Pharmacy Collaborative Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence Report: A Blueprint for Community Pharmacy Excellence in Academia</i>

Results

- The agendas for each of the four virtual convenings of the ACT Centers of Excellence are attached. The topics covered include advocacy, practice-academia partnerships, research funding, and the power of convenings at the regional, state, and local level.
- The in-person convening at the AACP Annual Meeting resulted in important recognition and celebration of the Centers of Excellence. For the first time, they had the opportunity to be in community together in the same room. They also had the opportunity to connect with other ACT Champions across the country to being building important relationships that have the opportunity to strengthen community pharmacy teaching, service, and research/scholarship collectively across all pharmacy colleges/schools. This event

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made community pharmacy faculty feel appreciated, seen, and important within the Pharmacy Academia, which is a powerful shift from just a few years ago. The attached picture captures the excitement in the room, as well as how the Collaborative has grown as a whole over the years.



- Table 1 summarizes the demographics of the ACT Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence. Of the 17 colleges/schools represented, 14 are public and 3 are private. The number of faculty focused on community-based pharmacy $\geq 50\%$ of their time ranges from 0 to 9 across the institutions.

Table 1: Inaugural ACT Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence

Center of Excellence	Public or Private	Number of Faculty Focused on Community-based Pharmacy ($\geq 50\%$, $< 50\%$) (AY23-24)	Number of Community Pharmacy Residency Positions (AY23-24)	Contact Name and Email
Ohio Northern University, Raabe College of Pharmacy Ada, OH	Private	3, 4	2	Stuart Beatty s-beatty@onu.edu
Ohio State University, College of Pharmacy Columbus, OH	Public	5, 7	3	Bella Mehta mehta.6@osu.edu
Purdue University, College of Pharmacy West Lafayette/ Indianapolis, IN	Public	3, 6	5	Nicole Olenik moore337@purdue.edu

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Pharmacy Little Rock, AR	Public	5, 6	6	Megan Smith msmith4@uams.edu
University of Iowa, College of Pharmacy Iowa City, IA	Public	3, 5	4	William Doucette william-doucette@uiowa.edu
University of Kentucky, College of Pharmacy Lexington, KY	Public	0, 7	3	Brooke Hudspeth brooke.hudspeth@uky.edu
University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy Baltimore, MD	Public	3, 3	2	Cherokee Layson-Wolf cwolf@rx.umaryland.edu
University of Mississippi, School of Pharmacy Oxford, MS	Public	7, 9	3	Lindsey Miller lemille2@olemiss.edu
University of Missouri – Kansas City, School of Pharmacy Kansas City, MO	Public	1, 4	3	Sarah Oprinovich oprinovichs@umkc.edu
University of North Carolina, Eshelman School of Pharmacy Chapel Hill, NC	Public	5, 3	14	Stefanie Ferreri stefanie_ferreri@unc.edu
University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy Pittsburgh, PA	Public	5, 4	0	Kim Coley coley@pitt.edu
University of South Carolina, College of Pharmacy Columbia, SC	Public	5, 2	5	Jordan Ballou jmballou@sc.edu
University of Texas at Austin, College of Pharmacy Austin, TX	Public	6, 0	7	Terry Weaver t.weaver@austin.utexas.edu
University of Washington, School of Pharmacy	Public	3, 2	2	Jennifer Bacci jbacci@uw.edu

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Seattle, WA				
Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Pharmacy Richmond, VA	Public	9, 3	4	Jean-Venable R. Goode jrgoode@vcu.edu
Western University of Health Sciences, College of Pharmacy Pomona, CA	Private	4, 0	3	Micah Hata mhata@westernu.edu
Wilkes University, Nesbitt School of Pharmacy Wilkes-Barre, PA	Private	2, 1	1	Jon Ference jonathan.ference@wilkes.edu

- Figure 1 summarizes the themes identified across the Centers identified through application analysis. In total, there are 7 Universal Themes, 6 Common Themes, and 5 Additional Themes identified. Several themes cover all applications areas of interest and are listed below, along with other themes that cover all areas.

Figure 1: Universal, Common, and Additional Themes of the ACT Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence

	Scholarship	Teaching	Leadership/ Partnership	Service
Universal (All Centers)				
Connection with state and national groups/initiatives to support community pharmacy (e.g., ACT, CPESN Partnership, State Pharmacy Associations, etc.)	X	X	X	X
Faculty involvement in community pharmacy practice (committed core of multiple faculty)	X	X	X	X
Community partnerships (faculty practice sites, research partners, organizational partners)	X	X	X	X
Trainee involvement in community-pharmacy research (students, residents, fellows)	X	X	X	X
Dissemination of community-pharmacy research and projects (publications, posters, presentations)	X	X	X	
Funding for community pharmacy research/projects	X		X	X
Incorporation into curriculum across all years (elective courses, specialized tracks, innovative assessments, didactic, experiential)		X	X	

Common (Many Centers)				
	Scholarship	Teaching	Leadership/ Partnership	Service
Post-Graduate Training (Community-based Pharmacy Residency Programs and/or Fellowships)	X	X	X	X
University/Administrative support & incorporation of community-based pharmacy into strategic plan	X	X	X	X
Non-faculty community pharmacist involvement	X	X	X	X
Community-focused workgroups and task forces	X	X	X	X
Community-focused scholarship/transformation centers	X		X	X
ACT Curriculum Framework Use		X	X	
Additional (Unique Approaches)				
	Scholarship	Teaching	Leadership/ Partnership	Service
Institutional funds for community-based activities	X	X	X	X
Hosting events related to community-based practice			X	X
Community-based Practice-based research network	X		X	X
Emphasis on student and faculty development in community-based areas		X	X	
University/College/School run community pharmacy or patient care service		X	X	X

Several themes which cover all areas of scholarship, teaching, leadership/partnership, and service were found at all 17 Centers of Excellence. These themes include:

1. Connections with state and national groups or initiatives which support community pharmacy such as ACT or CPESN
2. A committed core of faculty involved in community pharmacy practice
3. Community partnerships including faculty practice sites, research partners, and organizational partners
4. Trainee involvement in community-pharmacy research, including students, residents and fellows

Other themes which covered all areas that were commonly seen at Centers of Excellence include:

1. Post-Graduate training opportunities such as residencies and fellowships
2. University or administrative Support and incorporation of community-based pharmacy into the strategic plan
3. Non-faculty community pharmacist involvement
4. Community-focused workgroups and task forces

As a result of the Community Pharmacy Foundation Focus group with the ACT Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence a few themes around areas for action emerged:

- Highlight and build pharmacy faculty models that prioritize practicing at a community pharmacy (e.g., shared faculty positions)
- Enhance community pharmacy messaging in pharmacy college/school recruitment efforts
- Recognize and elevate high-quality community pharmacy preceptors
- Share examples of community pharmacy career pathways with prospective students, current student pharmacists, and pharmacists

Conclusion

Pharmacy closures, new business models, a growing public need for accessible care, and a decline in primary care providers are creating challenges but also opportunities for innovation in community pharmacy. Colleges/schools of pharmacy have a responsibility to seize these opportunities and help overcome these challenges through the ways they teach the next generation of the profession, how they support practice advancement through service opportunities, by conducting research in community practice, and by partnering with key collaborators to amplify their impact. Each ACT Community Pharmacy Center of Excellence is unique, demonstrating that all colleges/schools of pharmacy can and must lead in this way. The ACT Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence should be used as examples for other schools to strengthen their own efforts in community pharmacy teaching, service, and research. *The ACT Pharmacy Collaborative Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence Report: A Blueprint for Community Pharmacy Excellence in Academia* offers a roadmap for colleges/schools interested in beginning or continuing on this journey.

Through this program, we found that creating a Community of Learning through the five convenings over the year allowed for a safe space to share successes and solve problems together. This was a place for visionary discussions about the future needs of community pharmacy practice and education. It also became clear through these convenings that the Centers of Excellence have much more expertise that can be shared with the Pharmacy Academia beyond what was shared through their applications and subsequently in *The ACT Pharmacy Collaborative Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence Report: A Blueprint for Community Pharmacy Excellence in Academia*. The focus group really highlighted some of these opportunities. In the future, the Centers of Excellence could work together to create impactful resources for the Pharmacy Academy that may include recommended models for shared community pharmacy faculty, recognition of excellent community pharmacy preceptors based, improved recruitment materials focused on community pharmacy opportunities, and creation of career paths in community pharmacy in partnership with community pharmacy practices. There is also an opportunity to utilize Flip the Pharmacy resources, specifically the domains to strengthen education and learning.

Support from the Community Pharmacy Foundation has allowed us to identify these 17 Community Pharmacy Centers of Excellence that will continue to serve as a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for the Pharmacy Academy, helping AACP and the ACT Pharmacy Collaborative to achieve the goal of enhancing community teaching, service, and scholarship to transform community pharmacy practice while preparing the next generation of pharmacists to lead and continue to innovate in this new era.