Realizing Global Health Care Targets: An Opportunity for Pharmacists

Two reports published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in recent years, *Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020* and *Global Status Report on Noncommunicable Diseases 2014*, highlight the need for immediate action to control and prevent noncommunicable diseases.1,2

The 2014 report focuses on the status of each of the nine voluntary global targets for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (Box). These targets were first adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2013 and the goal is to achieve them by 2025.

Calls to ministries of health, other health-system leaders, and policy-makers to support the expanding role of pharmacists in the realization of key health care goals have been made. The technical report published by the IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics identifies five primary recommendations with low-spending levels, highly improved health outcomes, and rapid time from initiation to effectualness that ministers of health and other health-system leaders can implement to effect the responsible use of medicine and save billions of dollars in global health spending. Among these are (1) support for the greater role of pharmacists to own medicines

### Box: WHO Nine Global Targets2

- A 25% relative reduction in overall mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases.
- At least 10% relative reduction in the harmful use of alcohol, as appropriate, within the national context.
- A 10% relative reduction in prevalence of insufficient physical activity.
- A 30% relative reduction in mean population intake of salt/sodium.
- A 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use.
- A 25% relative reduction in the prevalence of raised blood pressure or containing the prevalence of raised blood pressure, according to national circumstances.
- Halt the rise in diabetes and obesity.
- At least 50% of eligible people receive drug therapy and counseling (including glycaemic control) to prevent heart attacks and strokes.
- An 80% availability of the affordable basic technologies and essential medicines, including generics, required to treat major noncommunicable diseases in both public and private facilities.

The value of clinical pharmacist services in achieving individualized goals for the management of patients with various noncommunicable diseases has been shown. This is especially true in developed countries where clinical pharmacy practice is well established. But more work is needed in order for pharmacists to systematically confront, attain, and document the outcomes for each of the nine targets delineated by the WHO at the national and global levels.

Can pharmacists in your country, based on the existing scope of practice, contribute to achieving these global health targets? Are pharmacists in your country prepared to tackle these targets? How or how well are they contributing to the achievement of these targets?

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### Table of Contents

- Realizing Global Health Care Targets: An Opportunity for Pharmacists .............................................. 1,2
- Book Highlights ................................................................................................................................. 2
- A Message from the Editor .................................................................................................................. 3
- Call for Abstracts: ACCP Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy ......................................................... 3
- Mark Your Calendar ............................................................................................................................ 3
- Professional Placement Advertisements ............................................................................................... 4-7
management for patients and to collaborate with physicians for revision, and (2) support of targeted disease management programs for high-risk patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes to ensure timely therapy initiation.3

At the national level, The Expanding Role of Pharmacists in a Transformed Health Care System, published by the National Governors Association of the United States, calls for exploring ways to better integrate pharmacists into teams of health care providers, especially into chronic care delivery teams, in which medication management has the potential to improve health outcomes and the treatment of chronic diseases. This association, members of which are the governors of the 55 U.S. states, territories, and commonwealths, identifies priority issues and deals with matters of public policy and governance at the state and national levels. The paper includes a call to amend existing state laws and regulations to allow pharmacists to practice within the full scope of their professional training.

Given the varied landscape of health care systems and pharmacists’ scope of practice between countries, each country will need to strategically identify how to maximize pharmacists’ contributions to improving human health. Global and national actions by all stakeholders will continue to be crucial for the optimal provision of clinical pharmacist services and the effective realization of health care targets.


Book Highlights

Infectious Diseases is the latest release in the Pharmacotherapy Self-Assessment Program (PSAP) approved for the recertification of Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists (BCPS). The book covers the latest evidence on the management of a variety of infectious diseases, as well as the recurring challenge of antimicrobial resistance, and strategies to enhance antimicrobial surveillance and improve various safety and quality measures.

Released January 15, 2015, the book offers up to 25.5 continuing pharmacy education and BCPS recertification credit hours, divided into four learning modules. Following are the chapters constituting each of the four modules.

Module 1
- Skin and Soft Tissue Infections
- Intra-abdominal Infections
- Bone and Joint Infections

Module 2
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Invasive Fungal Infections
- Tuberculosis

Module 3
- Infections in Patients with Malignancies
- Advances in Hepatitis C Therapy
- HIV Infection

Module 4
- CNS Infections in Immunocompetent Hosts
- Food- and Waterborne Illnesses
- Quality and Safety in Antimicrobial Practice

PSAP chapters are fully referenced, with online links to literature compilers such as PubMed. Hypertext links provide ready access to clinical practice guidelines, official recommendations, and patient assessment tools. Graphic features focus on pivotal studies, patient care scenarios, and take-home points that can be readily integrated into clinical practice. Multimedia elements include instructional videos and MP3 audio files.

More information on Infectious Diseases is available at www.accp.com/bookstore/p15b1.aspx.
A Message from the Editor

Dear Colleagues:

The featured article in this issue of ACCP International Clinical Pharmacist, “Realizing Global Health Care Targets: An Opportunity for Pharmacists,” summarizes nine global health targets set by the World Health Organization on noncommunicable diseases and highlights two papers that advocate for expanding the role of pharmacists to manage chronic diseases. The papers underscore the recognition of and call for advanced clinical pharmacist services by key stakeholders such as ministries of health as well as governors and non–health care policy-makers.

It is well recognized that infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance represent a major global health care challenge. I urge all of those involved in caring for patients with infectious diseases or managing antimicrobial surveillance and stewardship programs to see ACCP’s most recent release, titled Infectious Diseases, which is featured in the Book Highlights department of this issue.

Finally, I would like to call everyone’s attention to the imminent due date (February 15) for abstract submissions for presentation at the ACCP Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy. The Global Conference will be a unique venue for like-minded professionals to showcase and discuss contemporary issues related to the science and practice of clinical pharmacy.

Sincerely,

Wafa Y. Dahdal, Pharm.D., BCPS

Call for Abstracts: ACCP Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy

February 15 is the submission deadline for most abstract categories to be considered for presentation at this year’s ACCP Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy.

Abstract categories are:
- International Clinical Pharmacy Practice
- International Clinical Pharmacy Education and Training
- Original Research
- Clinical Pharmacy Forum
- Resident and Fellow Research-in-Progress
- Student Research-in-Progress
- Encore Presentation

Complete abstract submission instructions and guidelines are available at https://accp.confex.com/accp/2015am/cfp.cgi.

The ACCP Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy will be held in San Francisco, California, October 17–21, 2015.

Mark Your Calendar

2015 Updates in Therapeutics®
April 10–14, 2015
Chicago, Illinois

2015 Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy
October 17–21, 2015
San Francisco, California
Clinical Pharmacists
King Saud Medical City
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

King Saud Medical City (KSMC) is the oldest and largest general hospital in Riyadh, consisting of three hospitals with a total of 1200 inpatient beds, including 150 in its critical care units. KSMC averages 35,000 admissions, 200,000 emergency department visits, and 350,000 outpatient visits annually. The Medical City employs a staff of 8000 and supports 20 physician residency-training programs. The campus is expanding, including the construction of a new pediatric and maternity hospital that will open in 2015, followed by new medical and surgical towers in 2017–2019.

Position Description. KSMC is seeking applicants for clinical pharmacist positions in a variety of specialties, including adult medicine, critical care, pediatric, oncology, cardiology, infectious diseases, and nephrology. Responsibilities of clinical pharmacists include working directly with physicians, other health professionals, and patients on their designated specialties to ensure that the medications prescribed for patients contribute to the best possible health outcomes; assessing the status of the patient’s health problems and determining whether the prescribed medications are optimally meeting the patient’s needs and goals of care; evaluating the appropriateness and effectiveness of the patient’s medications; recognizing untreated health problems that could be improved or resolved with appropriate medication therapy; following the patient’s progress to determine the effects of the patient’s medications on his or her health; consulting with the patient’s physicians and other health care providers in selecting the medication therapy that best meets the patient’s needs and contributes effectively to the overall therapy goals; advising the patient on how best to take his or her medications; supporting the health care team’s efforts to educate the patient on other important steps to improve or maintain health, such as exercise, diet, and preventive steps like immunization; referring the patient to his or her physician or other health professionals to address specific health, wellness, or social services concerns as they arise; precepting undergraduate and Pharm.D. students; and contributing to the body of knowledge through research/scholarship.

Qualifications. Qualified candidates must possess a Pharm.D. degree, PGY1 and PGY2 residency training (or equivalent clinical experience), and at least 2 years of clinical experience. Board certification is preferred.

KSMC offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with education and experience. Salary and other benefits include tax-free earnings, housing and transport allowances, 30 days of annual vacation leave, three holiday periods totaling 11 days, an annual round-trip airline ticket for employees and eligible dependents to and from their home country/point of origin, and free medical care and emergency dental care.

The position is available immediately. Qualified candidates should send a letter of interest and a curriculum vitae by e-mail to:

Khalid Al Siyabi, BSc (Pharm), Pharm.D., BCPS, ACPR
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Manager of Clinical Pharmacy Services
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Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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Position Description. KSMC is seeking applicants for the position of Manager of Clinical Pharmacy Services. Responsibilities include leading the development and expansion of clinical pharmacy services; recruiting a rapidly growing clinical pharmacy staff; ensuring the professional development of KSMC clinical pharmacists; conducting scholarship in the area of pharmacotherapy and/or clinical pharmacy services development; and planning the development of a PGY1 residency program. KSMC currently employs 20 full-time clinical pharmacists but is expected to more than triple its clinical staff over the next 2 years. These pharmacists provide direct patient care in a team-based setting and also educate pharmacy students, medical students, and physician residents-in-training.

The manager of clinical pharmacy services will serve as the chief clinical pharmacy officer and interface with the deputy CEO for Medical Affairs and leading attending physicians across the Medical City. He or she will report directly to the director of Pharmaceutical Care Services. The successful candidate will foster the growth and development of a full team of clinical pharmacists who provide comprehensive clinical pharmacy services to KSMC’s patients. Research and scholarship are encouraged. Support is provided for attendance at professional and scientific meetings to present research and other scholarly work.

Qualifications. Qualified candidates must possess a Pharm.D. degree, PGY1 and PGY2 residency training (or equivalent clinical experience), and at least 5 years of clinical experience. Board certification is preferred.

KSMC offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with education and experience. Salary and other benefits include tax-free earnings, housing and transport allowances, 30 days of annual vacation leave, three holiday periods totaling 11 days, an annual round-trip airline ticket for employees and eligible dependents to and from their home country/point of origin, and free medical care and emergency dental care.

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Position Descriptions. KSMC is seeking applicants for the position of Manager of Inpatient Pharmacy Operations. The manager will 1) assist the director of Pharmaceutical Care Services with the development and implementation of pharmacy strategic initiatives; 2) work to provide the development and management of inpatient pharmacy services to patients throughout the Medical City’s three hospitals; and 3) work closely with the manager of clinical pharmacy services, nursing leadership, and other hospital staff to provide the highest degree in pharmacy services to the hospitals’ inpatients. The manager of inpatient pharmacy operations is also responsible for the implementation, evaluation, and improvement of quality management programs; developing and maintaining operations and all policies and procedures for inpatient pharmacy services; managing all inpatient staff, including supervisors, pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians; and ensuring that the pharmacy department meets all legal, accreditation, and certification requirements and that it complies with all applicable policies, procedures, codes, and standards of the organization.

Qualifications. Qualified candidates must possess a Pharm.D. degree, PGY1 and PGY2 residency training (or equivalent clinical experience), and at least 3 years of managerial experience. Board certification is preferred.

KSMC offers a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with education and experience. Salary and other benefits include tax-free earnings, housing and transport allowances, 30 days of annual vacation leave, three holiday periods totaling 11 days, an annual round-trip airline ticket for employees and eligible dependents to and from their home country/point of origin, and free medical care and emergency dental care.

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King Saud Medical City  
Pharmaceutical Care Services  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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**Position Description.** KSMC is seeking applicants for the position of Manager of Medication Safety. Provides a leadership role in formulating policy and instituting models that promote medication safety in all aspects of the medication management process. In conjunction with the director of Pharmaceutical Care Services and the department’s medication safety officers, the manager of medication safety is responsible for coordinating all activities related to medication safety provided by the pharmacy department. These activities involve reporting, system and process evaluation, formulation of recommendations and initiatives, coordination of intervention strategies, and monitoring of activities related to medication safety. This individual serves as a liaison to pharmacy, nursing, and medication staff leadership personnel. Duties and responsibilities include identifying best practices for medication safety; providing project management and overall facilitation for prioritizing and advocating patient safety initiatives related to the design and implementation of systems and processes that support medication safety; participating in facility-based root-cause analyses; developing, reviewing, refining, and implementing a medication safety plan; and formulating educational sessions for nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and allied health professionals according to reports in the literature, responses to corrective action plans, and recommendations from committee activities.

**Qualifications.** Qualified candidates must possess a Pharm.D. degree. PGY1 and PGY2 residency training (or equivalent clinical experience) is desired. A minimum of 3–5 years of experience in medication safety at a progressive pharmacy department is required. Supervisory experience is desired.

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