

Contact: Neal Learner, AMCP
703-683-8416, ext. 608
nlearner@amcp.org

Contact: Laura Cranston, PQA
703-690-1987
lcranston@pqaalliance.org

Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) Appoints New Board Members, Chair

AMCP Executive Director Judith Cahill Assumes Role as Chair of PQA

Alexandria, VA, March 26, 2010 — The Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) appointed Judith Cahill, Executive Director of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP), to Chair the PQA Board of Directors. Judith Cahill assumes this position as Bruce Roberts, Executive Vice President and CEO of the National Community Pharmacists Association completes two years of service as the PQA Chair.

During PQA's recent Board meeting, PQA also appointed Dr. Karen Weiss, Associate Director for Medical Policy in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to serve on its board, bringing the Board of Directors to 16 members.

PQA is a consensus-based alliance of diverse health care stakeholders committed to improving health care quality and patient safety through a collaborative process aimed at defining pharmacy performance measures to improve medication use and medication-related services across the health care system.

“We welcome Judy as the Chairwomen of the Board of Directors and look forward to her leadership and vision as PQA begins its fifth year. Judy's guidance during PQA's most formative years has been instrumental in PQA achieving the success it has in establishing itself as a leader in medication performance measurement. Her knowledge, expertise and strong relationships with key healthcare and government stakeholders will be most helpful to PQA and its membership in this year of major transformations to our healthcare system, and an expanded focus on quality, transparency and performance measurement”, says Laura Cranston, PQA's Executive Director.

PQA was established in April 2006 as a public-private partnership that identifies appropriate quality metrics for medication. The alliance represents pharmacy providers, health plans, employers, PBMs, academicians, outcomes researchers, senior advocacy groups, health IT vendors, state and national health care associations and members of the pharmaceutical industry.

The alliance's mission is to: “Improve the quality of medication use across health care settings through a collaborative process in which key stakeholders agree on a strategy for measuring and reporting performance information related to medications.”

Cahill has served on PQA Board for almost four years, and the Academy has been actively involved with PQA initiatives since its inception.

“PQA plays a vital role in setting the standards and benchmarks that are so crucial to improving medication use and our overall health care system,” says Cahill. “It is an honor for me to serve as chair of this illustrious group of health care professionals.”

PQA accomplishes much of its work through the use of taskforces and workgroups, such as the Overuse and Misuse of Medications Workgroup; the Role of Medication Management Programs in Care Transitions and the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Workgroup; and the MTM Services Workgroup.

PQA's Board is comprised of 16 members. They are:

- Steven Anderson, IOM, President & CEO, National Association of Chain Drug Stores
- Judith Cahill, Executive Director, Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
- Laura Cranston, RPh, Executive Director, PQA, Inc.
- Woody Eisenberg, MD, FACP, Chief Medical Officer, Medco Health Solutions
- William Fleming, PharmD, Vice President, Pharmacy & Clinical Integration, Humana Inc.
- Karen Ignagni, President & CEO, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
- Jeff Kelman, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- David Marshall, RPh, Vice President, New Products, Portfolio Strategies, Teva Pharmaceuticals USA
- Mark McClellan, MD, Director, Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform, Brookings Institution
- Thomas Menighan, MBA, Executive Vice President Designate and CEO, American Pharmacists Association
- Eleanor Perfetto, PhD, MS, Senior Director, Reimbursement & Regulatory Affairs, Pfizer, Inc
- Bruce Roberts, RPh, Executive Vice President & CEO, National Community Pharmacists Association
- N. Lee Rucker, Strategic Policy Advisor, Public Policy Institute, AARP
- Bruce Sherman, MD, FCCP, Corporate Medical Director, Whirlpool Corporation
- Rebecca Snead, RPh, Executive Vice President & CEO, National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations
- Karen Weiss, MD, MPH, Associate Director for Medical Policy, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

About AMCP

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) is a national professional association of pharmacists and other health care practitioners who serve society by the application of sound medication management principles and strategies to achieve positive patient outcomes. The Academy's more than 6,000 members develop and provide a diversified range of clinical, educational and business management services and strategies on behalf of the more than 200 million Americans covered by a managed care pharmacy benefit. For more information, visit www.amcp.org.

About PQA

Established in 2006, PQA represents pharmacy providers, health plans, employers, PBMs, academicians, outcomes researchers, senior advocacy groups, health IT vendors, state and national healthcare associations and members of the pharmaceutical industry. PQA identifies appropriate quality metrics for medication use and medication therapy management services. For more information, visit www.PQAalliance.org.