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FROM THE EDITOR

A Word of Welcome

■ **JAN E. BERGER, MD, MJ**

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In her editorial for this inaugural issue, the Editor-in-Chief lays out the philosophy and editorial scope of *The American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits*.

THE PHARMACY & THERAPEUTICS SOCIETY

A New Alliance: Message from the PTS President

■ **EDMUND J. PEZALLA, MD, MPH**

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The President of the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Society reviews the vision and goals for 2009 and announces its selection of *The American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits* as the Society's new official publication.

COMMENTARY

Focus on Evidence-Based Medicine: Improving Patient Outcomes and Managing Healthcare Costs

■ **J. SCOTT REID, PHARM D, AND LIDA ANDREWS, PHARM D**

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This brief commentary emphasizes the importance of applying evidence-based practices to ensure the safe and effective use of specialty medications to optimize treatment outcomes and minimize healthcare costs.

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Examining Part D Beneficiaries' Medication Use in the Doughnut Hole

■ **SHAWN X. SUN, PHD; KWAN Y. LEE, PHD;
AND MEGHANA ARURU, PHD (CAND)**

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The authors found that the Part D doughnut hole significantly reduced the use of medications for treating potentially disabling and life-threatening conditions, but increased out-of-pocket costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

Quantitative Analysis of 2 Treatment Options for Osteoarthritis in Adults: Intra-Articular Hyaluronan Products and Diacerein

■ **ELENA PAVLOVA-MCCALLA, MD; FREDERICK L. NEWMAN, PHD;
AND GULCIN GUMUS, PHD**

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Empirical findings suggest that hyaluronan injections and diacerein are similarly effective. Yet the authors found that monetary savings could be realized when conservative treatment with diacerein is chosen.

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH (CONTINUED)The Value-Based Model:
Health Management Worth Exploring

▪ KENT C. HUNTER, PHARM.D

41

The author broadly discusses the concept of value-based insurance design and provides examples of three corporations that have implemented this benefit model.

EDITORIALDriving the Value of Health Interventions: An Update on
Value-Based Innovation

▪ CYNDY NAYER, MA

49

The President & CEO of the Center for Health Value Innovation uses the Hunter article as a springboard to call us to action—to share our successes, to learn from our mistakes, and to use the data available to develop value-based systems within our own organizations.

COMMENTARYComparative Effectiveness Research:
Stimulus for Better Patient Care

▪ MYRL WEINBERG, CAE

51

Comparative effectiveness research must incorporate the needs of individual patients.

DRUG TRENDS

Factors Affecting Pharmacy Trends in 2008

▪ ANNA A. THEODOROU, RPH, MBA; AND JULIE SLEZAK, MS

53

The increase in generic medications, changes in utilization patterns, and the significant decrease in the approval of new molecular entities have slowed 2008 pharmacy trends to historically low levels.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS & AUTHORSHIP FORMS

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“Understanding the effects of such a coverage gap is a necessary step toward fully understanding the implications of the Part D program benefit design.”

from

“Examining Part D Beneficiaries’ Medication Use in the Doughnut Hole,”

page 19

MISSION

To provide pharmacy and formulary decision makers with the information they need to improve the efficiency and health outcomes in managing pharmaceutical care.