

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Certificate Program Fills Antimicrobial Stewardship Gap in LTC**

Alexandria, VA (July 17, 2017) — Today the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP), the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP), and ProCE launched a joint Long-Term Care (LTC) Antimicrobial Stewardship Certificate Program. This is a practice-based certificate program focused on the role that pharmacists play in the appropriate use of antimicrobial agents.

“The White House and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have prioritized the increased threat of antibiotic resistance to public health, and specifically called for strengthening of antibiotic stewardship in LTC settings,” said Frank Grosso, RPh, ASCP’s Executive Director and CEO. “This certificate program will help strengthen antibiotic stewardship in LTC by aiding pharmacists’ knowledge in microbiology, pharmacology, and disease state management.”

The CDC's Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes specifically calls on “nursing facilities to work with a consultant pharmacist who has received specialized infectious diseases or antibiotic stewardship training.” “This program further fulfills the pledge that SIDP has made to train pharmacists to improve public health and address antibiotic resistance by conducting antimicrobial stewardship programs. By partnering with ASCP, we are leveraging the expertise of both organizations into this unique program that meets the specialized training called for by CDC guidance,” said SIDP Immediate Past-President, Jason Gallagher, Pharm.D. BCPS, FCCP, FIDSA. Through online programming and live webinars, pharmacists will practice developing interventions at their practice site that aim to improve patient/resident care and clinical outcomes, lower health care costs, and prolong the longevity of antimicrobials.

“The stewardship activity developed by SIDP for hospitals and health-systems has been tremendously successful at educating literally thousands of pharmacists,” said Richard Lewis, PharmD, MBA, President and CEO of ProCE. “Combining the expertise and experience of SIDP with the expertise of ASCP has created a training program in long term care that is going to have an enormous impact on the patients we all serve.”

The Certificate Program, available at [www.ProCE.com/SIDP-LTC](http://www.ProCE.com/SIDP-LTC), is a practice-based pharmacy education activity, with CPE jointly provided by ProCE, ASCP, and SIDP. ProCE and ASCP are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a providers of continuing pharmacy education. This activity is eligible for ACPE credit; for questions or more information, please contact ProCE at [info@proce.com](mailto:info@proce.com).

The **American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)** is the only international professional society devoted to optimal medication management and improved health outcomes for all older persons. ASCP's members manage and improve drug therapy and improve the quality of life of geriatric patients and other individuals residing in a variety of environments, including nursing facilities, sub-acute care and assisted living facilities, psychiatric hospitals, hospice programs, and home and community-based care. Learn more at [www.ascp.com](http://www.ascp.com).

The **Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)** is an association of pharmacists and other allied health care professionals committed to promoting the appropriate use of antimicrobial agents and supporting practice, teaching and research in infectious diseases. Learn more at [www.sidp.org](http://www.sidp.org).

**ProCE, Inc.** is an independent continuing education provider accredited by ACPE that develops, delivers, and evaluates educational activities for health professionals. Learn more at [www.ProCE.com](http://www.ProCE.com).

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