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Safe medication use is focus of UGA College of Pharmacy's Howard C. Ansel Symposium

Athens, Ga. – Prescription medication use is widespread, complex and increasingly risky. While almost one-third of adults in the U.S. take five or more different medications at any one given time, clinicians have access to more than 10,000 prescriptions. Advances in clinical therapeutics have resulted in major improvements in health for patients with many diseases, but these benefits have been accompanied by increased risks.

To address this growing concern, “Patient Safety and the Future of Pharmacy” will be the focus of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy’s 2016 Howard C. Ansel Symposium, to be held Saturday, Oct. 22, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. “Medication errors and adverse drug events remain systemic problems with unbearable costs to our health care system, society and families,” said symposium coordinator Trina von Waldner, who serves as the college’s director of Continuing Professional Development and Outreach. “Adverse drug events account for almost 700,000 emergency department visits and 100,000 hospitalizations each year in our country.”

Named in honor of Howard C. Ansel, the dean of the UGA College of Pharmacy from 1977-1991, the symposium will highlight the essential roles pharmacists play in the prevention, identification and reporting of medication safety issues. In addition, participants will consider emerging opportunities for pharmacists to ensure patient safety and effective medication.

Said von Waldner, “Our panelists draw from a wide range of practice experience in community, health-system, long-term care consulting, quality improvement and pharmacy litigation.” Greg Reybold, vice president of public policy and association counsel for the Georgia Pharmacy Association; Michael Crooks, pharmacy interventions technical lead for Alliant Quality; Jennifer Shannon, owner and pharmacist at Lily’s Pharmacy in John’s Creek; Michael Azzolin, chief operating officer for PharmD on Demand; and Sharron Clackum, president of Rx Answers; will provide attendees with a study of best practices in medication safety.

To be held at the College of Pharmacy, located on West Green Street on the UGA campus, the symposium is \$60 for pharmacists and \$30 for technicians, and includes instructional materials and a light breakfast and lunch. Up to six hours of continuing education credits can be earned by participants.

For registration and further information, see [Ansel Symposium](#) or call 706-542-6232.

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