

**SAMFORD UNIVERSITY
2005 Faculty Development Grant Application
FORM 1**

Applicant name: Condit F. Steil

School: Pharmacy

Department: Pharmacy Practice

TITLE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY:

Healthcare Coordination in a Community: A Model for Pharmacy Student Training

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: (500 - 700 words, titled as Brief description of Proposed Activity and attached to Form I)

Estimated timetable for project: Eighteen months

Total cost of proposed activity: \$1,500

Signed: _____ **Date:** 10/26/05
Applicant

Signed: _____ **Date:** 10/27/05
Department Chair (if applicable)

Signed: _____ **Date:** 10/27/05
Dean

NOTE TO DEANS: Faculty members will deliver their applications, with appropriate signatures directly to the Academic Affairs Committee chairperson. You will receive a list of all faculty members and grant application titles submitted from your school. Upon receiving notification, the Committee requests assurance from each of you that applicants will be employed for the 2006-2007 academic year.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION FORM 2

Competition for limited faculty development funds is keen. Please ensure that your application is complete and meets all criteria for consideration. Respond to the following questions regarding your grant proposal, in numerical order. You may use a word processor to fill out your response, but make sure that each response is clearly numbered, and that you limit your responses to **one page maximum for each item**. This important information will be used by the committee to determine the selection ranking.

Please note: In past years these questions frequently have not received adequate attention, resulting in requests for additional information. This slows down the review process and may jeopardize a proposal's ranking. The same goes for the budget. Make sure your budget does not exceed the maximum allowable (\$2,000) award, that it does not contain requests specifically denied for consideration, and that figures submitted are accurate to the best of your knowledge at the time of submission.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AS DIRECTED. Each page submitted should be labeled "FORM 2:"

1. Describe the relevance of your research project to current trends in your area of specialization; what is the value of your research to your area of study?

2. In terms of scholarship, assess the quality of knowledge needed for successful completion of your project and predict the thoroughness of coverage that you will achieve. What publishing value will the project have? What journals or other outlets for research might be likely to publish the work? Will it, when completed, provoke further thought and critical thinking? What further scholarship might results?

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY – Form 1

The McWhorter School of Pharmacy (MSOP) has actively participated in Samford University's commitment to developing programs and services in Marion and Perry County. These activities include the implementation of a focused monitoring program for specific persons with diabetes, establishment of a hypertension clinic and diabetes clinic at the Perry County health department, and placement of a post-Doctor of Pharmacy resident in Perry County. The experience to date has indicated that many more opportunities exist for positive influence on care..

As this work has developed, the need for developing communication channels with other local health providers (physicians, pharmacists, home health agencies, podiatrists, dentists, etc.) has become evident. Also, appropriate patient teaching materials directed to the local population should be obtained and will be a focus of the program. Many communication channels with local providers have been developed, but this project will provide more sources of health care in the communities. This request proposes that the MSOP resident and staff serve as facilitators in identifying the health providers in the county and then develop a standardized communication method with each provider. Each of these providers would be polled to determine their willingness to accept referrals for caring for new patients to their practice. Proper attention to patient confidentiality requirements would of course be a consistent component of the program.

As an example, the person with diabetes often is required to travel between their physician's office, a laboratory, a pharmacy, and possibly a home health agency for their care. If a planned approach to their care is undertaken, then the patients in the health department could be referred in an organized manner to ancillary providers as needed. The hope is that each of the providers included will become communicators to the other involved providers to enhance the quality of care for the specific patient. Through this process, the MSOP resident and staff will also communicate the services that they can/do provide, and deliver new, current drug information.

With this concerted effort underway, this setting will become a model for pharmacy student training. Students in their fourth professional year of training in the Doctor of Pharmacy program could receive training in an advanced practice experience (a month long rotation) on site in Perry County. This experience would be structured to provide the student with experience in various care settings including local community pharmacies, local physician offices, home health agencies, and the health department. An emphasis of the rotation will be for the student to gain an appreciation of the value of developing a structure, or organized approach to professional care coordination. The rotation would focus on outpatient conditions in the community of Perry County. Individual and group patient teaching would be provided with materials directed to the population. Sample meals and visits to local grocery stores to do some 'healthy shopping' are components of the plan.

This project, for full implementation and evaluation, will require approximately eighteen months. The evaluation process will consist of an assessment of the local healthcare providers' opinions of the project, specific clinical and quality of life outcomes of the patients in the project, and evaluations generated by the Pharm.D. students' rotations. These results will be provided to the Academic Affairs Committee.

‘FORM 2:’

1. This project is highly relevant to pharmacy and pharmacy practice as the profession studies and develops new models for providing pharmaceutical care. Simply stated, pharmaceutical care is the acceptance by the pharmacist of increased responsibility to assure proper use and clinical outcome monitoring of drug therapy to maximize drug related outcomes. This practice model will provide the opportunity to identify a working model in a rural Alabama setting for these services that could be replicated in other communities. Moreover, the soon to be implemented Medication Therapy Management Services component of the Medicare Modernization Act encourages pharmacists to become involved in assessing patients’ drug therapy and making change recommendations.

Through identifying barriers as they occur and then overcoming them the project can demonstrate to students the value of reviewing and adjusting a plan. This can prove to be invaluable to these future healthcare providers as they enter into the profession. While this promises to be an interesting and perhaps unique practice model, it will also prove to be a very useful clerkship site. Students will be able to experience the coordinated effort to healthcare delivery and gain an appreciation of the value of an organized, planned approach to care. Components of this coordination will be carried by the students for use in their future practice.

2. With more study of demographic data concerning Perry County, this project can be developed and implemented within eighteen months. With good data and the opportunity to communicate the project’s plans to the local healthcare providers, this project has the potential to serve as a model for implementing comprehensive pharmacy services in a community.

Scholarly opportunity exists with this project in two areas. First, the healthcare coordination model that will be developed should be reported for its value in lowering or eliminating barriers to practice. Professional pharmacy practice journals such as the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association would find this work consistent with its content. Also, the teaching model and student activity in this care network would be valuable to report in the pharmacy education literature. The primary journal for this report would be the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.