

## 2013-2014 ASCP President Jeffrey C. Delafuente: A Passion for Pharmacy

Jeffrey C. Delafuente, MS, FCCP, FASCP, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of pharmacotherapy, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy, Richmond, Virginia, will assume the office of 2013-2014 president of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists at the Society's 2013 Annual Meeting & Exhibition in November.

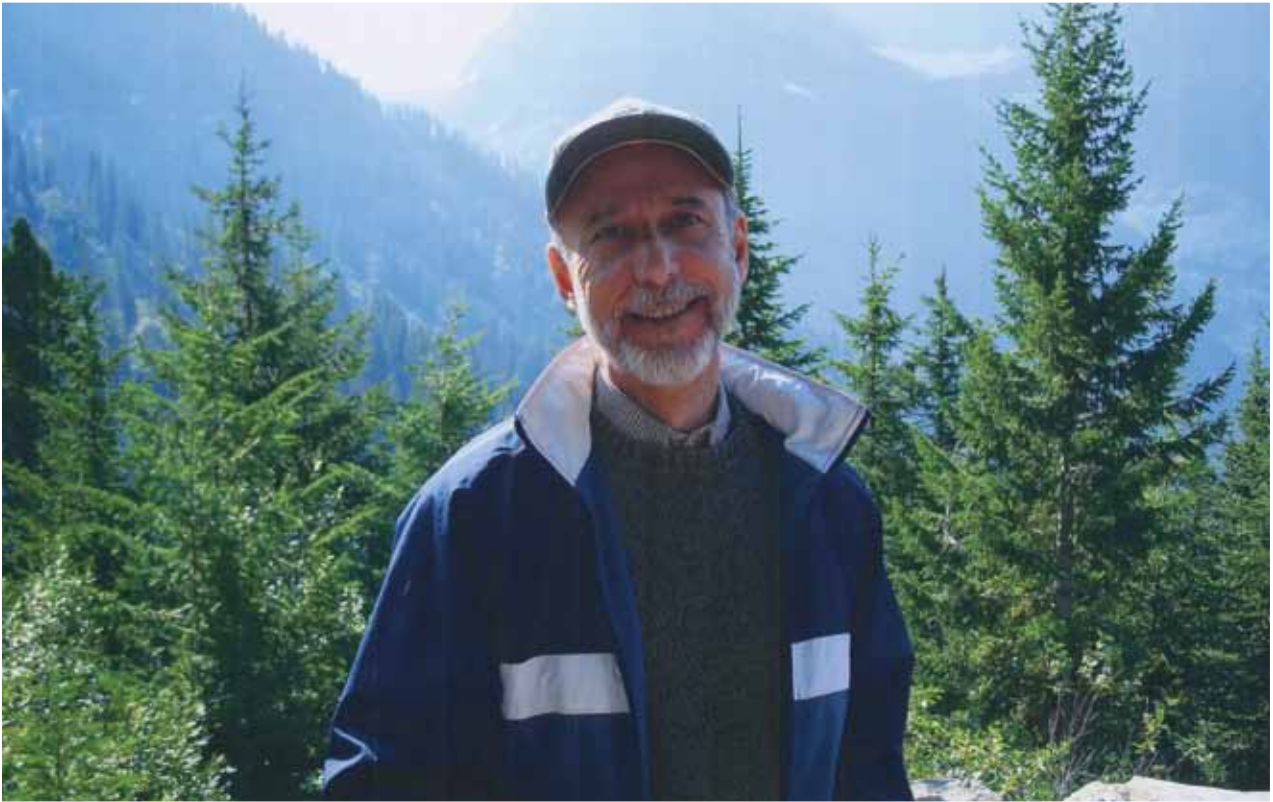
Marlene Z. Bloom

**T**he word that comes up most often when colleagues and students talk about Jeffrey C. Delafuente, MS, FCCP, FASCP, incoming president of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP), is “passion.” Delafuente is associate dean for academic affairs and professor of pharmacotherapy, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Pharmacy, Richmond, Virginia. He will assume his office in November at ASCP's 2013 Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Seattle, Washington.

“Everything he undertakes he does with a passion,” says Victor A. Yanchick, PhD, dean of VCU's pharmacy school, who has known Delafuente for 25 years. Yanchick recruited Delafuente from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy to start a geriatrics pharmacy program at VCU. The pharmacy school has since integrated geriatrics into the pharmacy curriculum and also offers a geriatrics elective. In addition, it requires a five-week rotation in geriatrics, which Yanchick says is unique.

Sarah Barden, a second-year VCU pharmacy student, says much the same thing about Delafuente. Initially she had no interest in geriatrics; in fact, she had never really thought about it very much. But when Delafuente spoke at one of her courses, his enthusiasm for the subject ignited her interest. “He was passionate about this population, and I began to realize why it was so important,” she says. “I thought of my grandmother and all the problems she was having, and I realized that many were about the drug problems we were studying. He changed my whole perspective about what pharmacists do.”

Patricia W. Slattum, PharmD, PhD, director of the pharmacy school's geriatric program, says, “He challenges students to see older people in a different way.” She adds, “As a teacher he engages the student with activities, not just lectures. He's a great teacher because he teaches not only the science of pharmacy, but also the practical aspects.”



*Delafuente exploring in Glacier National Park, Montana.*

### **Focus on the Community**

One of the cutting-edge projects Delafuente started at VCU was a community-based practice in cooperation with a national grocery chain in Richmond, focusing on the needs of the elderly population. One year later he helped create a similar practice in an independent pharmacy. This program not only helps with unmet needs in the community, but it also gives students the opportunity to provide pharmacy services to older adults; the program has been operating for 11 years. “It bothered me that no one was doing this in the community where 95% of the geriatric population lives,” Delafuente explained.

“Jeff was one of the early practitioners of community-based pharmacy care,” says Slattum. She adds, “I didn’t know anyone else that was doing this specifically for the geriatric population.”

Delafuente says he was first drawn to pharmacy because he was good at math and science. He received his BS in pharmacy and MS in clinical pharmacy at the University of Florida, then completed a two-year research

fellowship in clinical immunology. He soon realized that many of the patients in his acute care practice and in his immunology research were elderly. “I was doing geriatrics without really realizing it,” he said.

Delafuente knew he always wanted to be in academia, and he spent his early career teaching clinical pharmacy at St. Louis College of Pharmacy and clinical pharmacology at the St. Louis University School of Medicine. These interprofessional experiences became a theme throughout his career.

---

**One highlight of Delafuente’s professional life has been the development of a national medication therapy management program.**

---

One highlight of Delafuente’s professional life has been the development of a national medication therapy management (MTM) program. Representing ASCP, which developed the geriatric content, and working with

**Jeffrey C. Delafuente, MS, FCCP, FASCP**  
**2013-2014 ASCP President**

<b>1968-1973</b>	BS Pharmacy, University of Florida
<b>1973-1976</b>	MS Pharmacy, University of Florida
<b>1976-1978</b>	Research fellow, College of Medicine, Division of Clinical Immunology, University of Florida
<b>1979-1984</b>	Assistant professor of clinical pharmacy and assistant professor of medicine, St. Louis College of Pharmacy/St. Louis University School of Medicine
<b>1984-1998</b>	Assistant professor of pharmacy practice and medicine, associate professor of pharmacy practice and medicine, professor of pharmacy practice and medicine, University of Florida College of Pharmacy and College of Medicine
<b>1998-2008</b>	Director of Geriatric Programs, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy
<b>1998-present</b>	Professor of pharmacotherapy and outcomes science, Virginia Commonwealth University
<b>2006-2011</b>	Associate dean for professional education
<b>2011-present</b>	Associate dean for academic affairs
<b>Appointments, Publications</b>	
<b>2000-2003</b>	Alzheimer's Disease Response Task Force, Commonwealth of Virginia
<b>2001</b>	Fellow, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP)
<b>2001</b>	Editor, <i>Therapeutics in the Elderly</i>
<b>2005</b>	<i>White Paper on Geriatric Pharmacy Education and Training</i> , Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service
<b>2006-2007</b>	Cochair, Medication Therapy Management Certificate Program Advisory Board
<b>2007-2013</b>	ASCP Board of Directors
<b>2012</b>	Distinguished practitioner and fellow, National Academies of Practice



Jeffrey C. Delafuente

the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), which developed the community content, in 2007 the two associations launched a comprehensive, practice-based MTM certificate program—the first of its kind. The continuing education program involves 10 hours of home study, an 8-hour live workshop, and 3 hours of post-workshop activities. More than 9,000 pharmacists have completed the certificate program.

“Developing and delivering this program have been very rewarding,” says Delafuente. “Every time I teach it the enthusiasm of the participants is overwhelming. Pharmacists are so hungry for ‘How do I do this?’ information. I just leave there elated.”

Outreach to other health professionals has continued to be a key element of the way he approaches pharmacy. For more than a decade he was a coinvestigator of a federally funded Geriatric Education Center, University of Florida, which taught geriatrics to a variety of health care disciplines. As part of a Donald W. Reynolds Foundation grant to VCU's medical school to train prospective



*Incoming ASCP President Jeffrey C. Delafuente, left, met with former NFL Washington Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann at the 2012 Annual Meeting.*

physicians to care for the elderly, Delafuente helped craft the medical school curriculum on geriatrics. He found that these students were studying some drugs that were no longer on the market or were not appropriate for the elderly population. And there was nothing in the curriculum about geriatric pharmacology. “Working on this project was a real eye-opener,” he said.

A second Reynolds Foundation grant focused on teaching geriatrics to a multidisciplinary group of pharmacy, medical, nursing, and social work students. Delafuente and others developed a case-based, 10-week course in which fourth-year students follow the progress of a “patient” as she ages over the course of six years. The patient starts out at home, is hospitalized, goes to an assisted living facility, transfers to a nursing facility, and then dies. The team must work collaboratively to find out what’s wrong with the patient and provide appropriate care and social support. “The students come to understand that they can’t do it alone,” says Delafuente. “The feedback from the students is very positive.”

Colleagues stress that Delafuente is a hard worker and a team player. “Jeff always goes beyond what is expected,” says Donald F. Brophy, PharmD, MSc, chairman of the VCU department of pharmacotherapy. Adds Slattum, “He’s always rolling up his sleeves and doing the work that needs to be done.”

His writing alone would keep him busy: He has more than 150 publications, including 36 contributed chapters in 24 books, and is a coeditor of a textbook.

Although he juggles many responsibilities, Delafuente says he makes time on several occasions a year for getaways to the Great Smoky Mountains (to “veg out”) and trips to Virginia Beach (to “clear my mind”).

---

“He challenges students to see older people in a different way.”

---

THE PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CONSULTANT PHARMACISTS

# THE CONSULTANT PHARMACIST®

Experts in geriatric medication management.  
Improving the lives of seniors.

## CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

*The Consultant Pharmacist*, the peer-reviewed journal of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, seeks manuscripts on the interdisciplinary care of older adults that focus on medication therapy management and the health care needs of seniors.

The journal encourages submissions on clinical issues, practice management, case studies, or research concerning older individuals in a wide range of settings: the community, assisted living facilities, or long-term care. The journal also accepts letters to the editor, opinion pieces, and discussions of personal experiences in the care of the elderly.

The journal, indexed by MEDLINE, the Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health, EMBASE.com, Excerpta Medica, and International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, offers an efficient peer-review process. Approved manuscripts generally are published within nine months of acceptance.

**For author and submission instructions, visit [tcp.msubmit.net](http://tcp.msubmit.net)**

**For additional information, contact:**

H. Edward Davidson, PharmD, MPH

Editor-in-Chief

*The Consultant Pharmacist*

[edavidson@inther.com](mailto:edavidson@inther.com)

757-625-6040

## National Leadership

Delafuente has been active in ASCP for more than a decade and has served on the Society's board of directors since 2007. He helped develop the ASCP geriatric curriculum guide, which was shared with every school of pharmacy and the Geriatric Pharmacy Review course, to help pharmacists prepare for the certified geriatric pharmacist examination.

"Jeff is in that extraordinary group of very active, highly engaged members who have a long and sustained history of contributing their expertise, time, and passion to advance appropriate use of medications in the elderly," says Phylliss Moret, BS, RPh, assistant dean, experiential education, VCU School of Pharmacy, and former ASCP associate executive director. "He exemplifies the kind of member every professional association wants."

Slattum notes that Delafuente brings a broad base of experience to the issues facing the profession at the national level. "He doesn't just represent academia. He sees the whole landscape and can help navigate change."

His professional activism also has an impact on students. "I think Dean Delafuente sees the presidency as a huge opportunity to influence the direction of pharmacy," Barden says. "Personally, this is a great message to students. Don't just say you'll get involved, but do get involved."

Delafuente has influenced both his faculty and his students. "He is generous with his time and sharing his expertise," says Slattum. "He helped me as a teacher, a clinician and a researcher. I feel fortunate to have him as a colleague."

Although low-key and reserved, people who know him say he has a very dry sense of humor and is approachable. Students see him as someone interested in them, both as an individual and as a pharmacist.

"Dean Delafuente showed me that pharmacy could be two worlds," Barden says. "That he is an academic and yet directly serving patients showed me how it could be done. I can see how you don't have to be pigeonholed. He's an example of the kind of practitioner I want to be." ■

**Marlene Z. Bloom** is managing editor of *The Consultant Pharmacist*.

Consult Pharm 2012;28:614-20.

© 2013 American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, Inc.

All rights reserved.

Doi:10.4140/TCP.n.2013.614.