



Section of  
**AMBULATORY CARE  
PRACTITIONERS**

## In the Spotlight – February, 2013



**Name:** Ernest Dole, Pharm.D., PhC, FASHP, BCPS

**Title:** Clinical Pharmacist/Staff Pharmacist III

**Work Location:** University of New Mexico Pain Consultation and Treatment Center Albuquerque, New Mexico

### His Story

Dr. Dole received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy (with honors) from the University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, and his Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from the University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee. He completed his ASHP-accredited clinical pharmacy residency at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee, and currently works at the University of New Mexico Pain Consultation and Treatment Center, an interdisciplinary outpatient ambulatory care clinic that is part of the University of New Mexico Hospital system.

### Prescriptive Authority for Pharmacists in New Mexico

There is an interventional component, as well as a medical management component to the clinic, which has behavior health specialists on staff, including a psychiatrist who is also a trained addictionologist, and a psychologist. Dr. Dole sees an average of twelve patients a day, and manages medications patients use for chronic pain.

In New Mexico, the Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority Act granted prescriptive authority to pharmacists designated as pharmacist clinicians. A pharmacist clinician is a registered pharmacist with advanced training in the areas of physical assessment and pharmacotherapy who is eligible for prescriptive authority and enters into a collaborative practice agreement with a supervising physician. A pharmacist clinician with prescriptive authority can prescribe, modify, and monitor drug therapy in accordance with a written protocol registered with the New Mexico State Board of Pharmacy.

Dr. Dole is working to receive federal recognition for advanced practice pharmacists as mid-level providers from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. He was recently appointed by the Governor of New Mexico to the Prescription Drug Misuse and Overdose Prevention and

Pain Management Advisory Council, and was also appointed to the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy Subcommittee, Substance Abuse & Harm Committee.

### **Advice from Dr. Dole for Someone New to Specialty Area**

“Pharmacist involvement in the area of chronic noncancer pain and palliative care historically has not been as extensive as in the areas of other chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and hyperlipidemia. Therefore, there has not been the chance to develop postgraduate training programs, as there has been with other chronic diseases. Because of this, I feel that personal networking plays a more prominent role for someone new to this area than it would for other chronic diseases that have more extensive pharmacy participation. If you have an interest in this area, I would do a literature search on your subject of interest, and then seek (not stalk), the people that are publishing and active in this area when you attend a pharmacy meeting.”

### **Value of ASHP**

“I currently serve as Chair of ASHP’s Section of Ambulatory Care Practitioners’ Advisory Group on Pain Management and Palliative Care. I also serve as New Mexico’s Delegate to ASHP’s House of Delegates. I grew up in ASHP. I joined the Society in 1979 and have been active in the organization, at different levels, since that time. “

“ASHP provides networking, professional development, education, leadership, and a chance to shape our profession. My involvement allows me never to become complacent and stagnant in my profession. In my opinion, ASHP is the most progressive professional pharmacy organization. It has the most insight into legislative issues that will affect pharmacy and is not afraid to take a forward-thinking position on those issues. ASHP has the best education programs of the different professional pharmacy organizations. And if you look around, you’ll see the majority of pharmacy leaders who are being asked for their opinions on issues that will affect our profession are from ASHP.”