

FORUM ON DRUG IMPORTATION



Over the last year, the issue of importation of prescription drugs from foreign countries has received considerable attention from legislators, the media and the public. Advocates for the practice argue that importation introduces much needed price competition into the marketplace and makes drugs more affordable for U.S. seniors. The Food and Drug Administration, however, warns that drug importation is unsafe and illegal because the drugs may not meet U.S. standards. In defiance of the FDA, however, at least 14 states and numerous local governments have announced plans to import lower cost prescription drugs from Canada. The goal of this forum is to explore the complexities of this issue.

SPEAKERS

MODERATOR:

David A. Knapp, PhD, Dean, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Dr. Knapp, founder of the School's Center on Drugs and Public Policy, has studied the socioeconomic aspects of medication prescribing and use, focusing on the quality and effectiveness of public and private drug programs. He has been elected to fellowship in the American Pharmacists Association, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, the American Public Health Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He avoids taking drugs unless absolutely necessary.

PANELISTS:

Cynthia Boyle, PharmD, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. At the School of Pharmacy, Professor Boyle is the Director of the Experiential Learning Program and the advisor for the Student Government Association. She teaches "Effective Leadership and Advocacy" to encourage student pharmacists to actively participate in legislative and regulatory processes. She is also the current president of the Maryland Pharmacists Association and an officer in the American Pharmacists Association. Having served patients in community, health-system, and consulting pharmacy practice, she supports the safety of drug products in a system of coordinated patient care.

William Hubbard, MA, Senior Associate Commissioner for Policy, Planning and Evaluation, United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Commissioner Hubbard has been the FDA's point person on drug importation, and has testified numerous times before Congress and elsewhere explaining the Administration's position on the issue.

Tom Perez, JD, MPP, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland School of Law. Professor Perez teaches in the School's Clinical Law Program, and is actively involved in the School's nationally recognized Law and Health Care Program. In addition, he is Vice President of the Montgomery County Council, and represents 180,000 residents of Montgomery County. Professor Perez has led the effort in Montgomery County to establish a voluntary program that will allow current and retired employees to purchase their maintenance medications from Canada.

Peter Rost, MD, Vice President, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Rost has had 20 years experience marketing pharmaceuticals and has been involved in drug importation in Europe for Pfizer, one of the world's largest drug companies. Although Dr. Rost is not speaking on behalf of Pfizer, but as a private citizen, he believes that an effective system can be put in place in the United States that satisfies safety concerns and can result in substantial savings.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF LAW
LAW & HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

The Law & Health Care Program at the University of Maryland School of Law was established in response to a growing demand for health law expertise by lawyers and health professionals enabling them to address today's health law issues from both a legal and interdisciplinary perspective. The Program combines an interdisciplinary approach to education with research on emerging medical, health policy and law-related issues.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
CENTER ON DRUGS & PUBLIC POLICY

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Center on Drugs and Public Policy was established in 1987 as an interdisciplinary forum for the study and informed debate of policy issues related to the use of medicines in our society. The Center focuses on the discovery, development and marketing of drugs and how organization and financing mechanisms, law and regulation, pharmacoeconomics, and pharmacoepidemiology affect their safe and effective use.



The University of Maryland School of Law, and
The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy

invite you to attend a

FORUM ON DRUG IMPORTATION

**Should we permit drug importation
from Canada and/or other countries?**

What are the benefits? Are there risks?

**Wednesday, October 27, 2004
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Reception following**

**University of Maryland
School of Law
Ceremonial Court Room
500 West Baltimore St.
Baltimore, MD 21201**