Department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences

June 9, 2015

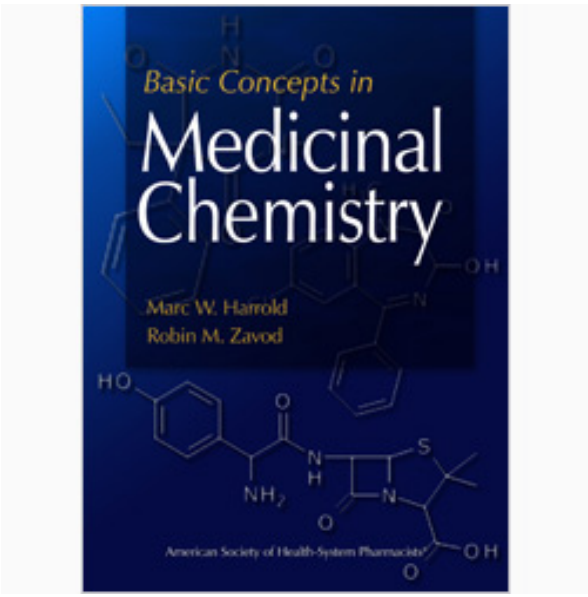
Greetings incoming P1 class!

Congratulations on your acceptance into the South Carolina College of Pharmacy (SCCP). Faculty in the Department of Drug Discovery and Biomedical Sciences (DDBS) are looking forward to meeting you in August, just a few short months away.

We understand your desire to decompress a bit during the summer months prior to your matriculation into the SCCP. However, we encourage you to keep your minds stimulated in preparation for this next big step in your academic career. It is important for you to acknowledge and appreciate that you are entering a ***professional doctoral*** program. The challenges are going to be much greater than you have experienced previously and the expectations of the faculty are going to be much higher. It will be necessary for you to quickly adapt to this new environment of learning and to interact with your peers, not only in pharmacy, but in the other health professions as well.

The first year of the professional curriculum is designed to explore, in great detail, the molecular basis of life as well as drug action. You will ultimately apply this knowledge towards understanding how to treat and/or cure disease. In the first year there are four chemistry-based courses. Even though we are complex living organisms, we are made up of molecules. Everything we consume and is processed by the body, including drugs, is a molecule. Drugs produce therapeutic effects by interacting with molecules in our bodies or with viruses/microbes that might infect our bodies. Your success in these courses will rely significantly on the pre-requisites of chemistry, and in particular, organic chemistry. Faculty in the DDBS department, and particularly those who teach the biochemistry, biotechnology, and the pharmaceutical chemistry series of courses, strongly encourage you to review your previous coursework in preparation for these courses. In addition, you are ***required*** to purchase the textbook *Basic Concepts in Medicinal Chemistry* as soon as possible and ***read*** the chapters on functional groups and stereochemistry this summer with the goal of building a solid foundation toward success in these courses. This book is published by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and provides an overview of much of the organic chemistry related to the clinical therapeutic action of drugs. It is a 300 page paperback book that can be obtained from several sources, including ASHP. It will be beneficial and serve as a primer to introduce you to the concepts to be covered in these

courses as well as providing you an important resource in your first academic year. The ISBN for this textbook is: 978-1-58528-266-1
http://ebooks.ashp.org/product/basic-concepts-in-medicinal-chemistry



You have chosen a career that plays an integral role in health care. Your patients will look up to you and will have high expectations of you. Attaining the PharmD degree is the first step toward achieving that goal, but it will take a significant amount of time and effort on your part. You will quickly see that this is not your undergraduate experience and that you will have to limit and/or sacrifice some of your extracurricular time and activities. As a faculty, we want nothing more than for you to be successful academically while in the SCCP and ultimately in your careers, no matter what path you may follow. The faculty are very dedicated, highly regarded and continuously strive to achieve excellence. It is our job to provide you with the best education possible, but it is your responsibility to embrace that opportunity and make the most out of the experience towards becoming a pharmacist.

Again, congratulations on your acceptance into the SCCP, have a great summer and be ready to hit the ground running in August by doing preparatory work before you begin this next great step in your career!

On Behalf of the DDBS Faculty and With Best Regards,

Edward E. Soltis

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