VIEWPOINT

Enhancing Discourse in AJPE

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One of the greatest benefits of an academic life is the opportunity for intellectual discussion and discourse on key topics among colleagues in the academy. The Kenyan proverb “having a good discussion is like having riches” best expresses the value of engaging in such activities as faculty members and students. Pharmacy education is no exception—it only takes one a few minutes of reflection to quickly identify a wide variety of topics that merit consideration for a thoughtful and analytical oral discussion or written analysis.

In the spirit of intellectual curiosity and to enhance our discussions across the academy, we introduce to AJPE readers a new type of manuscript that we hope will benefit pharmacy and health sciences education. This type of manuscript, titled “Viewpoint: Point/Counterpoint” will focus on a specific topic and present two opposing opinions. The goal of such manuscripts is to provide AJPE readers with thoughtful analysis of the topic and stimulate conversation in colleges and schools of pharmacy. The

opinions presented in these papers represent those of the individual authors and not of the association or the journal.

For the initial offering, we focus on the question “Should a Pharmacy Dean be a Pharmacist?” Dean Craig Svensson (Purdue University College of Pharmacy) and Dean Hershey Bell (LECOM School of Pharmacy) provide thought-provoking opinions on this topic that we hope will benefit the academy by stimulating discourse or forming the basis for potential new areas of investigation. We will also use this format for papers from our Academic Leadership Fellows Program based on debates presented at the 2014 Interim Meeting. These manuscripts, like all others in AJPE, will undergo the peer-review process by the AJPE editors and outside reviewers. We believe this type of article will provide a new opportunity to engage in exciting discussions at all levels of academic pharmacy. Our goal initially is to publish Point/Counterpoint quarterly.