



**Section of
INPATIENT CARE
PRACTITIONERS**

In the Spotlight



2012 Distinguished Service Award Winner

Debra L.P. Cowan, Pharm.D., FASHP

Director of Pharmacy
Angel Medical Center
Franklin, North Carolina

Dr. Debra Cowan received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy with honors from the University of New Mexico and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Colorado. She attended the Pharmacy Leadership Institute in 2011. Currently she is serving as Adjunct Associate Professor with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She chairs the Western North Carolina Health Network (WNCHN) southeast regional pharmacy directors group. Debby was recognized as a Fellow of ASHP in 2011.

Dr. Cowan primarily serves as Director of Pharmacy at Angel Medical Center, a critical access hospital. She has been a small and rural hospital pharmacist for 33 years with 25 of those years spent also as director. She was the first pharmacist to work at her current hospital. There she expanded pharmacy services to include extensive clinical activities, pharmacy student preceptorships, and technologically-enhanced med safety procedures. Being a small hospital director, her job duties are multiple and varied ranging from staffing to providing community emergency preparedness.

Dr. Cowan is a long-time member of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). She has served as Chair of the Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners (SICP) Executive Committee and she has also served on the SICP Small and Rural Hospital Advisory Group (immediate past chair), SICP Committee on Nominations, and SICP Educational Steering Committee. In addition to her work in the SICP, Debby's ASHP service includes serving on the Council on Pharmacy Management, Telepharmacy Task Force, and Committee on Nominations.

She has also been an active participant in efforts to promote the Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI) as speaker at a state association meeting, as part of the Foundation's webinar series, and as a member of the PPMI Complexity Index Panel.

As an outspoken advocate for small and rural hospital practitioners, Debby has led an active advisory group (Small and Rural Hospital Advisory Group) with recent activities including development of training program for community pharmacists and planning a multi-organizational webinar series for small hospital CEOs. She has served as moderator and/or speaker as well as led small and rural hospital networking sessions at several recent ASHP Midyear Clinical Meetings (MCM). Debby has worked to promote small and rural hospital sites as pharmacy school and residency programs by setting an example at her own hospital for more than 10 years, developing MCM programming to promote residency programs in rural sites, and consulting in the development of a new rural pharmacy school site in North Carolina.

Click here to read [Dr. Cowan's](#) remarks during the DSA Dessert Reception at the 47th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting where she received her award.