



## Press Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **ASHP Advantage Provides Continuing Education on Biosimilars**

*Multidisciplinary-focused educational initiative to help prepare health care professionals in the U.S. for the introduction of biosimilars and follow-on biologics.*

**BETHESDA, MD, December 20, 2010** – ASHP Advantage has launched an educational Initiative to provide an in-depth review of the various clinical and regulatory aspects concerning the eventual introduction of biosimilars in the United States. Featured CE programming includes three web-based home study activities. Podcast dialogs and e-Newsletters are also available on the initiative website ([www.BiosimCentral.org](http://www.BiosimCentral.org)).

Biosimilars are coming to the U.S., and health care providers will play a major role in patient safety efforts through enhanced pharmacovigilance as well as education to policymakers, patients, and decision-makers in the health system. Physicians and pharmacists will need to be knowledgeable regarding the unique characteristics of biologics, understand the developing regulatory system for biosimilars, and know which questions must be posed as biosimilars are considered.

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (known as the PPAC Act), establishing an abbreviated approval pathway for biological products that are demonstrated to be “highly similar” (biosimilar) to a biological product approved by the FDA. These new statutory provisions are referred to as the BPCI Act. The BPCI Act is consistent with the goal of FDA to allow the use of established knowledge of a drug, thereby avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort for clinical research and saving time and resources.

This initiative is supported by an educational donation provided by Amgen and educational grants from sanofi aventis U.S. and Centocor Ortho Biotech, Inc. For more information about this educational initiative, visit [www.BiosimCentral.org](http://www.BiosimCentral.org).

#### **About ASHP Advantage**

*Launched in 1995, ASHP Advantage specializes in developing customized educational activities to address identified educational gaps. As a division of ASHP, ASHP Advantage staff members stay apprised of key issues and trends shaping pharmacy practice and health care today. With access to the vast resources of ASHP and its membership, ASHP Advantage designs quality programs and projects for*



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*health care professionals. For more information about the services of ASHP Advantage, visit [www.ashpadvantage.com](http://www.ashpadvantage.com).*

### **About ASHP**

*For more than 60 years, ASHP has helped pharmacists who practice in hospitals and health systems improve medication use and enhance patient safety. The Society's 35,000 members include pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who practice in inpatient, outpatient, home-care, and long-term-care settings, as well as pharmacy students. For more information about the wide array of ASHP activities and the many ways in which pharmacists help people make the best use of medicines, visit ASHP's Web site, [www.ashp.org](http://www.ashp.org), or its consumer Web site, [www.SafeMedication.com](http://www.SafeMedication.com).*

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