

Institute for Safe Medication Practices

1800 Byberry Road, Suite 810, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

www.ismp.org

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ISMP President Honored with Prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowship *\$500,000 Unrestricted Grant to Enable Further Creative Work*

HUNTINGDON VALLEY, Pa.— Today the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced that Michael R. Cohen, RPh, MS, ScD, President of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), was named one of its Fellows for 2005. The highly selective Fellowships are awarded to individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their professional pursuits, and outstanding promise for important future advances. Dr. Cohen is being honored for his ability to lead national efforts to ensure safe medication use and protect patients.

The MacArthur Foundation is one of the nation's ten largest private philanthropic foundations, and Fellows are chosen through a rigorous process; there are usually more than one hundred active nominations at any given time, with only 20 to 30 chosen each year. The program does not accept applications or unsolicited nominations. Fellows each receive an unrestricted, five-year grant totaling \$500,000, which is considered an investment in their originality, insight, and potential to use their abilities to benefit society at large.

Dr. Cohen has dedicated his 40-year career in healthcare to bringing about greater understanding of the causes of medication errors and providing the healthcare community with practical prevention strategies. He and ISMP's pharmacist, nurse, physician and support staff have spent more than ten years building the Institute into the premier resource for impartial, timely, and accurate medication safety information.

Other accomplishments include helping launch a continuous, voluntary practitioner medication error reporting system; publishing extensively on medication use issues; serving on key national medication safety committees; and providing consultation, education, and assistance on safe medication use to healthcare professionals and organizations around the world.

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Dr. Cohen has been honored by many other organizations for his leadership in medication safety, including receiving several honorary degrees and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacy's H.A.K. Whitney Award, the highest award in health system pharmacy.

Recent MacArthur Fellowship winners include academics in the field of science and medicine at top-ranked universities such as Harvard, Yale, and Stanford; the executive director of a human rights organization; and the President/CEO of a healthcare foundation for a medically underserved population.

Fellowship nominations are evaluated by an independent selection committee composed of leaders from a diverse range of professional disciplines, including arts, sciences, and humanities, as well as for-profit and non-profit communities. Nominators and selection committee members all serve anonymously and their correspondence is kept confidential, enabling participants to provide their honest impressions independent of outside influence.

For more information on the MacArthur Foundation Fellows Program, visit

http://www.macfound.org/programs/fel/fel_overview.htm. For interviews, bios or photos of Dr.

Cohen, please contact Renee Brehio at 704-321-3343 or rbrehio@ismp.org

About ISMP: The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, consumers, and professional organizations to provide education about medication errors and their prevention. ISMP represents nearly 30 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process. In 2004, the Institute celebrated the 10th anniversary of its official incorporation as a nonprofit organization. For more information on ISMP, or its medication safety alert newsletters for healthcare professionals and consumers, visit www.ismp.org

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