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**CPESN® South Carolina and University of South Carolina  
Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior Collaborate to  
Improve Outcomes for Community Pharmacy Patients**

**Assessing and responding to patient barriers in social determinants of health:  
capacity building through community-based pharmacies**

Raleigh, N.C. – August 1, 2019 – [CPESN USA](#), a clinically integrated, nationwide organization of pharmacy networks structured to advance community-based pharmacy practice, announced today that its network in South Carolina – CPESN® South Carolina – is collaborating with the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health [Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior](#) (HPEB) to tackle capacity-building in the social determinants of health among independent community pharmacies.

The project has recently received funding from [The Duke Endowment](#) to improve health in South Carolina and beyond.

[Spencer Moore](#), University of South Carolina associate professor of HPEB, will lead the project to build the capacity of independent South Carolina community pharmacies to intervene on issues related to the social determinants of health (e.g., chronic stress, social isolation, food insecurity). Moore will work with members of the CPESN® South Carolina network as well as the National United States network to develop and implement a training program in key topic areas (i.e., chronic stress and psychosocial resiliency; social isolation; food insecurity, access, and diet; household environment and resources) among South Carolina community pharmacists.

“Chronic diseases are the leading cause of death and disability worldwide with 60 percent of Americans having at least one chronic disease and 42 percent having two or more chronic diseases,” Moore says. “Lifestyle approaches to disease prevention alone are ill-equipped to change the underlying conditions that shape a person’s risk for multiple morbidities. Intervening on the social determinants of health, such as social isolation, chronic stress, and food insecurity, can have a tremendous impact on a person’s risk for multiple disease conditions.”

This project represents a unique and innovative collaboration between public health and community pharmacy. “I am excited about the opportunity to work closely with the CPESN® South Carolina and its luminaries Deborah Bowers and Brian Clark on an issue that network members identified as important to them and their patients,” says Moore.

“We are excited to work with Dr. Moore to tackle capacity-building in the social determinants of health among independent community pharmacies,” said Bowers. “Our pharmacy providers have long-standing relationships with patients and providers throughout their communities and are looking forward to building their ability to address the social determinants of health and improve the overall health of their patients.”

Community pharmacists are often on the front line caring for people with complex health and social needs, particularly in rural areas. “By building the capacity of pharmacists to address the social determinants of health in their patients, our program is formalizing many of the activities that community pharmacists are already doing and leveraging their experiences, skills, and social trust that they have with community members to improve the health of our state’s most vulnerable residents,” Moore says. “Our goal is to make intervening on the social determinants of health sustainable among community pharmacies, while bringing out about meaningful improvements in the lives of community pharmacy patients.”



CPESN® Networks continue to expand across the country with 46 local networks in 43 states. These pharmacy providers have emerged and joined the movement to provide patients, physicians, and payers with enhanced medication-use and patient-care services that have been proven to improve patient health and lower healthcare costs.

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### **About CPESN® USA**

CPESN® USA a clinically integrated, nationwide organization of pharmacy networks structured to advance community-based pharmacy practice. They empower community-based pharmacies that are deeply rooted within their community by fostering their ability to provide high quality, patient-centered enhanced services. CPESN® pharmacies integrate with the other providers on the patient's care team and coordinate medical treatment which has led to better medication adherence, higher patient satisfaction, and lower healthcare costs. You can now find CPESN® Networks of pharmacy providers in 43 states across America. To learn more, please visit [www.cpesn.com](http://www.cpesn.com).