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(EDWARDSVILLE, Ill.) A pharmacy pain summit expected to attract more than 200 professionals from across the country will take place at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville campus Oct. 1-2.

The planning summit, designed to bring representatives together from schools and colleges of pharmacy, post-graduate residency and fellowship programs and practicing pharmacists to the area, will focus on making recommendations to shape the future of pain and palliative care. Professionals will discuss a variety of topics in breakout sessions, including care standards and assessment, curriculum enhancement, residency and fellowship training, certificate program content development and credentialing.

The topics of the breakout sessions are a result of professional collaboration at the 2003 National Pain and Palliative Care Summit at The Ohio State University. SIUE School of Pharmacy Assistant Professor Chris Herndon secured funding for the national effort through the Mayday Fund, which was established in 1992 and is committed to social and medical causes.

“The purpose of this summit is to improve pain and palliative care education for pharmacists of today and tomorrow,” Herndon said. “A real need exists to enhance the care and direction provided by pharmacists.

“The provision of this care might be from any setting and encompass a wide range of scope of practice. To effect change in the preparation of pharmacists to provide care to the population, the effort must be considered across a continuum.”

Herndon has worked for nearly three years with an advisory board of pharmacy experts from across the country to organize the summit.

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