February 2005

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James Colbert, Pharm.D.
San Diego, California

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A service-oriented person, Colbert has dedicated his practice of pharmacy and his specialized knowledge to helping others. As an officer in the U.S. Army and a decorated veteran of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Bosnia, he has practiced pharmacy on four different continents, where he helped care for soldiers. “At the time I joined the Army, I had never been involved in anything more demanding than the Boy Scouts,” Colbert recalled. “Being in a position to take care of wounded soldiers was one of the most satisfying things that I have done with my pharmacy training.”

Although he specializes in pediatrics, Colbert recognizes that caring for children is not his only job. “When you work with children, by definition, you work with families. I establish that I am there for them as well as for their children,” he said. “I am truly in my element when I am teaching families about their children’s medication issues. In many ways, I look at myself as the applied chemist on the team. My expertise is in the specific use of those chemicals in young children to promote positive medical outcomes.”

Today, Colbert is active in pediatric care associations, including the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group, the Southern California Pediatric Group and the UCSF Sickle Cell Support Group, which provides education to parents and families about sickle cell disease. He has been selected Pharmacist of the Year in San Diego, and was named a Health Hero by the Combined Health Agencies (CHAD).

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