

ASHP Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists

The mission of the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists (SCSS) is to improve patient care by serving as a conduit for translating scientific advances in drug therapy and clinical therapeutics into the practice of pharmacy and advocating practice development and advancement.

The Section's Executive Committee has developed a strategic plan linked to the mission and goals of the Section. The goals include (1) effectively communicating the value members receive from their membership in the Section and ASHP, (2) enhancing efforts to encourage networking among Section members, (3) supporting the professional development of specialists and scientists, (4) promoting pharmacist implementation of evidence-based medicine, (5) facilitating the development of strategic internal and external partnerships, and (6) actively participating in ASHP's policy and advocacy initiatives.

SCSS continues to grow significantly in membership. Strong interest in the Section among students and new practitioners continues; students account for 31% of the Section membership. Approximately 60% of SCSS members select the Section as their primary section.

Educational and Networking Opportunities. The Section's Programming Committee is charged with developing programming at an advanced level that will be of interest to clinical specialists and scientists. The 2006–2007 committee is developing more than 12 hours of educational programming on drugs with novel mechanisms of action and on advances in cardiology, infectious diseases, immunology, neurology, and critical care. The committee developed an educational track for the 2006 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM) on "Integrating National and International Guidelines into Clinical Practice"; the four sessions focused on the use of evidence-based guidelines in the management of various diseases and the application of guidelines in current and future clinical practice. The committee also planned a session devoted to debates in areas of therapeutic controversy and coordinated the Clinical Pearls session. In collaboration with the ASHP Research and Education Foundation and the New Practitioners Forum, the Section once again provided a six-hour session at the MCM on developing research skills, aimed at new researchers. Among the topics covered in this session were study coordination, statistical analysis, and practical aspects of dealing with institutional review boards.

The Section's electronic NewsLink is distributed biweekly to more than 8000 ASHP members, providing news and current information on medical research, regulatory and health policy issues, health care, and therapeutics. The Section's e-discussion group provides a forum for Section members to exchange information and ideas on a wide variety of topics related to clinical practice; currently, more than 1000 members participate. The discussion group is also used to communicate urgent information on clinical specialty practice.

The Section has 16 specialty networks encompassing most areas of specialty pharmacy practice. The networks meet regularly at the MCM. Facilitators are appointed for each network by the Section's Chair; the network facilitators monitor developments and trends in their therapeutic area and advise ASHP and the Section's membership of these developments through the Section's e-discussion group, NewsLink, networking meetings, and other avenues. The facilitators serve ASHP and its members as therapeutic experts and contribute to ASHP advocacy and educational efforts.

Resources for Clinical Specialists and Scientists. The Section continues to enhance its resources for pharmacy practitioners in different specialty areas, and to use multiple communication pathways to notify Section members of new resources. The Section has created a virtual journal club on the Web site to enhance communication and participation among members with different

Executive Committee

Ted L. Rice, Chair-elect (Pennsylvania)
 Susan Goodin, Chair (New Jersey)
 Marie Chisholm (Arizona)
 Michael W. Kelly (Iowa)
 Gary Milavetz (Iowa)
 James A. Trovato (Maryland)
 Diane B. Ginsburg, Board Liaison (Texas)
 Leila R. Mohassel, Secretary

specialties. This tool provides informal online discussion of advances in various therapeutic areas, with the purpose of applying evidence-based medicine to practice. In addition, the Section is creating a new clinical column in the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* for discussion of cutting-edge issues. The column will cover therapeutic controversies and provide recommendations on handling specific pharmacotherapeutic problems. A preceptor information area on the ASHP Web site is a new resource developed jointly with the New Practitioners Forum. It includes helpful information such as advice on becoming an effective preceptor, improving oral and written communication skills, and encouraging the development of student skills. Although developed for preceptors, its resources are useful to all practitioners. The Section has also created advisory groups on emergency care and investigational drug pharmacy services to develop resources for practitioners; e-discussion groups in these areas have been created to enhance networking.

Advocacy. The Section continues to support ASHP activities in collaborative drug therapy management, compensation for pharmaceutical care services, recognition of pharmacists as health care providers, residency and fellowship training, and credentialing for pharmacists. In each of these areas, the Section leadership provides input and recommendations to the Board of Directors and ASHP staff. The Section continues to work on the issues of clinical privileging and credentialing for pharmacists; currently available on the Section Web site are templates for establishing credentialing and privileging for clinical services in health systems and a companion document outlining a stepwise approach for implementing these processes. A collaborative effort between SCSS and the Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners will produce additional tools, resources, educational programming, and publications.

The Section has been heavily involved in emphasizing the evidence-based nature of pharmacy practice and has worked to incorporate evidence-based medicine concepts into the ASHP Health-System Pharmacy 2015 initiative. The Section will continue to stress that the responsibility for incorporating evidence-based therapeutic guidelines and medication use into patient care belongs to all pharmacists and pharmacy departments. The Section collaborated with the Council on Public Policy in creating a position statement regarding the use of placebos in clinical practice. The policy states that patients should be informed when receiving placebos as a treatment component and that placebo use without informed consent is inappropriate. Sample policies and procedures have been posted on the Section Web site to encourage health care facilities to address this issue.

Specialty Practice and Credentialing. SCSS represents ASHP's continued commitment to meeting the needs of pharmacists in specialty practice settings and those working in the science of pharmacy practice. Members of the Section's Executive Committee believe that stakeholders from all of the pharmacy credentialing and certificate-granting programs should discuss an organized and rational model for pharmacist specialty practice. Discussions should address the utility of these credentials in privileging processes, and a plan should be developed for examining the processes for recertifying or maintaining specialty credentials to demonstrate continuing competence in the specialty.

Conclusion. The Section offers members a sense of identity within ASHP and an organizational home dedicated to meeting their specialized practice, scientific, and research needs. The Section will continue to grow and expand its activities largely because of the efforts of its enthusiastic members and dedicated leaders.

Committee on Nominations

Susan Goodin, Chair (New Jersey); William L. Greene (Tennessee); Mary Hess (South Carolina); Rita K. Jew (California); Michael D. Katz (Arizona); Edith A. Nutescu (Illinois); Susan J. Skledar (Pennsylvania)

Programming Committee

Melinda Neuhauser, Chair (Illinois); Curtis D. Collins (Michigan); Kevin Garey (Texas); Cherry W. Jackson (Georgia); Karla Miller (Tennessee); Mark A. Ninno (Florida); Michael Oszko (Kansas); Jean M. Scholtz (Pennsylvania)

Committee on Qualified Provider Models

Christene M. Jolowsky, Chair (Minnesota); Melissa Blair (South Carolina); Cynthia Brennan (Washington); Jannet M. Carmichael (Nevada); Karen E. Gorman (Colorado); Patricia C. Kienle (Pennsylvania); Philip T. Rodgers (North Carolina); Kim Thrasher (North Carolina); Elizabeth W. Young (North Carolina); Rita K. Jew, Executive Committee Liaison (California)

Advisory Group on Emergency Care

Danie P. Hays, Chair (New York); Umbreen Idrees, Vice Chair (Maryland); Roshanak Aazami (California); Elizabeth A. Clements (Michigan); George Delgado (Michigan); Karen Gurwitch (Texas); Todd D. Lemke (Minnesota); Frank P. Paloucek (Illinois); Maria I. Rudis (California); James A. Trovato, Executive Committee Liaison (Maryland)

Advisory Group on Investigational Pharmacy Services

Bobby G. Bryant, Chair (Alabama); Joseph T. Dye (Georgia); Tricia Meyer (Texas); Ronald Seto (Toronto, Canada); Kathleen Truelove (Maryland)

Network Facilitators

Anticoagulation: Snehal Bhatt (Massachusetts)
Cardiology: Michael Gulseth (Minnesota)
Drug Information/Pharmacoeconomics: Mark A. Ninno (Florida)
Emergency Medicine: Daniel P. Hays (New York)
Geriatrics: Michelle Fritsch (North Carolina)
Hematology/Oncology: Kamakshi Rao (North Carolina)
Immunology/Transplant: David I. Min (California)
Infectious Diseases: Curtis Collins (Michigan)
Investigational Drugs/Critical Research: Bobby G. Bryant (Ohio)
Nutrition Support: Caitlin S. Curtis (Wisconsin)
Pain Management: Christopher M. Herndon (Illinois)
Pediatrics/Obstetrics–Gynecology/Neonatal: Anita Siu (New Jersey)
Pharmacokinetics: Rosa Yeh (Texas)
Primary Care/Pharmacotherapy: Alan J. Zillich (Indiana)
Psychopharmacy/Neurology: Sheila R. Botts (Kentucky)
Surgery/Anesthesiology: Eric L. Chernin (Florida)