

ASHP Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists

The mission of the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists 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 Executive Committee has developed a strategic plan linked to the Section's mission and goals. These goals are (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. 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.

2008–2009 Section Highlights. Section membership declined by 0.5% during 2008, to almost 11,500 members. Approximately 48% of the Section's members have selected the Section as their primary membership group. There still is strong interest with the Section among students and new practitioners. Section members elected Dr. Trovato as Chair and Dr. Eiland as a Director-at-Large; both will be installed at the June 2009 ASHP Summer Meeting.

The Section selected Kimberly A. Galt as the winner of the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists Distinguished Service Award. Established in 2007, the ASHP Pharmacy Practice Sections Distinguished Service Award recognizes a member of each section whose volunteer activities have supported the section's mission and helped advance the profession. The award was presented at the 2008 Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM).

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 2007–2008 Programming Committee developed more than 14 hours of educational programming on current issues in infectious diseases, perinatology, pediatrics, psychiatry, and internal medicine. In addition to developing two highly successful educational sessions ("In Case You Missed It: Top Ten Papers in Medicine 2008" and "Meta-Analysis: Principles and Practice"), the committee planned a session devoted to debates in areas of therapeutic controversy and coordinated the Clinical Pearls session.

The Section's electronic NewsLink is distributed once a month to more than 13,000 ASHP members, providing news and current information on medical research, regulatory and health policy issues, health care, and therapeutics. The Section Chair's message is also distributed once a month to NewsLink subscribers and provides news on Section and ASHP programs and initiatives. The Section's electronic 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 2700 members participate. The discussion group is also used to communicate urgent information on clinical specialty practice.

The Section has 17 specialty networks encompassing most areas of specialty pharmacy practice. The networks meet regularly at the MCM, with approximately 750 meeting attendees participating. 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 electronic discussion group, NewsLink, networking meetings, the Virtual Journal Club, and other avenues. The facilitators also serve ASHP and its members as therapeutic experts and contribute to ASHP advocacy and educational efforts.

Executive Committee

Kelly M. Smith, Chair (Kentucky)
 James A. Trovato, Chair-elect (Maryland)
 Michael W. Kelly, Immediate Past Chair (Iowa)
 Marie A. Chisholm-Burns, Director-at-Large (Arizona)
 Erin R. Fox, Director-at-Large (Utah)
 Lea S. Eiland, Director-at-Large-elect (Alabama)
 Kathryn R. Schultz, Board Liaison (Minnesota)
 Sandra Oh Clarke, Secretary

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 hosted a Virtual Journal Club on the ASHP Web site to enhance communication and participation among members with different specialties. This program is on hold due to a revamping of the program and an ASHP software upgrade. The Clinical Consultation column in the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AJHP)*, created by the Section, continues to be a popular resource for members. This column covers therapeutic controversies and provides recommendations for handling specific pharmacotherapeutic problems. The Section planned two Webinars on the pharmacist's role in the implementation of The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal 3E. Other Section initiatives in this area included the development of the anticoagulation resource center, entitled "ASHP's Anticoagulation Initiative: Promoting Patient Safety Through Education, Practice, Policy, and Advocacy," on the ASHP Web site. This site is a compilation of educational materials, policies, best practices, and links to other organizations for practitioners looking for resources in the area of anticoagulation management.

Task Force on Science. The Section was involved with planning the ASHP Task Force on Science, held at ASHP headquarters on September 17, 2008 with participation from national experts in informatics/technology, pharmacogenomics, personalized medicine, gene therapy, and nanomedicine. The task force made 12 recommendations, which can be categorized into three areas: education and research, practice and policy development, and advocacy efforts. The recommendations from this meeting will help guide future activities of the Section and ASHP in the emerging sciences and the incorporation of informatics/technology into pharmacy practice. The full report will be published in the June 15, 2009 issue of *AJHP*.

Advisory Group on Emergency Care. In 2007, the Section Advisory Group (SAG) on Emergency Care developed the ASHP Statement on Pharmacy Services to the Emergency Department to address this growing practice area. As a follow-up to this document, the group is drafting guidelines on the pharmacist's role in the emergency department. In addition to two emergency-care-related programs at the 2008 MCM, a successful emergency medicine networking session at the meeting drew more than 70 participants. Practitioners in this field also network through the ASHP Emergency Care electronic discussion group, which has close to 1100 subscribers.

Advisory Group on Gene Therapy. The SAG on Gene Therapy was established in 2008. The group has been reviewing the *European Association of Hospital Pharmacists Guidance on the Pharmacy Handling of Gene Medicines* for its application to U.S. practice. A gene therapy survey was developed and launched in November 2008. The purpose of the survey is to identify educational and practice gaps in gene therapy. Survey results identified a number of practitioner needs in this area. As a first step, the SAG will develop a template policy and procedure on the safe handling of gene therapy agents. The group also planned a two-hour educational program at the 2008 MCM that was well received by meeting attendees.

Advisory Group on Investigational Pharmacy Services.

The Section continues to recognize and support the needs of pharmacists working in the areas of investigational drugs and clinical research. The SAG on Investigational Pharmacy Services is currently developing an investigational pharmacy services resource center and reviewing and updating the ASHP Statement on Clinical Drug Research and ASHP Statement and Guidelines on Pharmaceutical Research in Organized Health-Care Settings. In addition to the educational session on investigational drugs held at the 2008 MCM, the SAG led a successful networking session in this practice area. This group and practitioners in this area network through the ASHP Investigational Drug Services electronic discussion group, which has over 675 subscribers.

Residency Preceptor Skills Development. The Executive Committee is collaborating with the Accreditation Services Division to develop educational initiatives on residency preceptor skills development. Committee members will lead a networking session at the 2009 Summer Meeting on this topic. Other educational initiatives are planned, including programming at the 2009 MCM and a series of articles in *AJHP*.

Advocacy. 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 is a responsibility of all pharmacists and pharmacy departments.

Committee on Nominations

Michael W. Kelly, Chair (Iowa); Curtis D. Collins (Michigan); Rita K. Jew (California); Edward Li (Pennsylvania); Alan H. Mutnick (Ohio); Melinda Neuhauser (Illinois); Jean M. Scholtz (Pennsylvania)

Programming Committee

Kevin Garey, Chair (Texas); Cherry W. Jackson, Vice-Chair (Alabama); Ericka L. Breden (Virginia); Curtis D. Collins (Michigan); Michelle D. Wiest (Ohio); Daniel P. Hays (Arizona); Karla Miller (Tennessee); Kamakshi V. Rao (North Carolina); Lori Reisner (California); Susan M. Stein (Oregon); Paul M. Szumita (Massachusetts); Alan J. Zillich (Indiana); James A. Trovato, Executive Committee Liaison (Maryland)

Advisory Group on Emergency Care

Umbreen Murtaza, Chair (Maryland); Renee M. Petzel, Vice-Chair (Illinois); Roshanak Aazami (California); Tony Casanova (Washington); Toby L. Cooper (Texas); Heather Draper Eppert (Tennessee); Alison Jennett (Michigan); Ted L. Rice (Pennsylvania); Kevin O. Rynn (New Jersey); Joanne Witsil (Illinois); Marie Chisholm-Burns, Executive Committee Liaison (Arizona)

Advisory Group on Gene Therapy

Susan Goodin, Chair (New Jersey); Gail Bernstein (Illinois); Susan Johnston (Wisconsin); Stephen C. Kay (Massachusetts); Theresa Mays (Texas); John Petrich (Ohio); Kim Powell (Texas); Lynette Moser (Michigan); Michael W. Kelly, Executive Committee Liaison (Iowa)

Advisory Group on Investigational Pharmacy Services

Kathleen Truelove, Chair (Maryland); Darlette G. Luke, Vice-Chair (Minnesota); Anastasia Lialios-Ramfos (Virginia); Tricia Meyer (Texas); Ronald Seto (Canada); Erin R. Fox, Executive Committee Liaison (Utah)

Network Facilitators

Anticoagulation: Snehal Bhatt (Massachusetts)
Cardiology: James C. Coon (Pennsylvania)
Critical Care: Lance J. Oyen (Minnesota)
Drug Information/Pharmacoeconomics: Karen P. Norris (Kansas)
Emergency Medicine: Roshanak Aazami (California)
Geriatrics: Rosina M. Stamati (New York)
Hematology/Oncology: Leila R. Mohassel (Virginia)
Immunology/Transplant: Nicole Weimert (South Carolina)
Infectious Diseases: Curtis Collins (Michigan)
Investigational Drugs/Critical Research: Darlette G. Luke (Minnesota)
Nutrition Support: Vivian Zhao (Georgia)
Pain Management: Christopher M. Herndon (Illinois)
Pediatrics/Obstetrics-Gynecology/Neonatal: Cathy Y. Poon (Pennsylvania)
Pharmacokinetics: Rosa Yeh (Texas)
Primary Care/Pharmacotherapy: Steven T. Boyd (Louisiana)
Psychopharmacy/Neurology: Eric C. Kutscher (South Dakota)
Surgery/Operating Room/Anesthesiology: Peggy Bickham (Illinois)