

Message from the Chair



The final preparations for the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Orlando are underway and Section leaders have been busy putting the last touches on activities for our members. Since there are so many activities during the Midyear, we wanted to point out and update you on particular sessions of interest to you.

Late Breaking News!

An Open Hearing will be held during the Midyear for members to comment on the Petition to the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS) requesting recognition of **Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice as a Specialty**. This session is scheduled on Tuesday, December 9th from 9:30-11:00 am in room W203C. To learn more, go to <http://www.ashp.org/bpspetition>.

The Section Programming Committee has planned greater than 14 hours of educational sessions for clinical specialists and scientists. Here are the highlights for the week:

- Current Issues in Infectious Diseases, Monday, December 8th, 2 - 5 pm.
- Debates in Therapeutics 2008, Tuesday, December 9th, 8 -11 am.
- Clinical Pearls, Tuesday, December 9th, 2 - 4:30 pm.
- Meta-Analysis: Principles and Practice, Wednesday, December 10th, 8 -9:50 am.
- In Case You Missed It: Top Papers in Medicine 2008, Wednesday, December 10th, 2 -5 pm.
- Therapeutic Updates in Clinical Practice, Thursday, December 11th, 9 -12 noon.

In addition each of the Section Advisory Groups (SAGs) has planned educational sessions. These include:

- Handling Investigational Drugs 101: Tips of the Trade from Experienced Investigational Drug Service Practitioners, Tuesday, December 9th, 3 -4:30 pm. Planned by the SAG on Investigational Pharmacy Services.
- Contemporary Literature Review in Emergency Medicine, Tuesday, December 9th, 4 -5 pm. Planned by the SAG on Emergency Care.
- Clinical Trials in Gene Therapy: Science, Outcomes, and Implications for Pharmacy Practice, Wednesday, December 10th, 8 -9:50 am. Planned by the SAG on Gene Therapy.
- Best Practices in Emergency Medicine, Wednesday, December 10th, 8 -9:50 am. Planned by the SAG on Emergency Care.

There is also a great opportunity to network with colleagues that share similar interests. Attend any of the 16 networking sessions in a variety of specialty practice areas scheduled Sunday through Wednesday. These sessions are for practitioners to discuss a variety of topics and issues specific to their practice area. All are welcome to attend these lively discussions! For the full schedule, go to:

<http://www.ashp.org/midyear/Events/NetworkingSessions.aspx#css0>

Networking Session Schedule UPDATE!

The Drug Information/Pharmacoeconomics networking session will meet on Sunday, December 8th from 2:30 -4 pm in W109A, Level 1. The topic of discussion will be "Transforming Best Evidence into Practice" led by Karen Norris, ApotheComm, Inc, Overland Park, KS. Discussions will focus on challenges faced when evidence is scarce or when only sub-par studies exist regarding a clinical issue. What are the major issues to consider when making a recommendation or a practice decision when this situation occurs?

The Investigational Drugs/Clinical Research networking session will meet on Tuesday, December 9th from 4:45 - 5:45 pm in W309A, Level 3 at the Orange County Convention Center. Whether you're a new or seasoned practitioner take this opportunity to discuss "lessons-learned" from investigational drug practitioners. Discussions will be led by Darlette Luke, University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview, Minneapolis, MN.

Get Involved!

You still have a chance to get involved in the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. ASHP is piloting a new program to provide live feedback to residents presenting posters at the meeting. Residents have told us that they are seeking this type of input on their projects. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference for some of the health-system pharmacy profession's newest members. For more information and to apply, visit <http://www.ashp.org/midyear/EducationCE/Posters/Residents.aspx>

Congratulations to the winners of the 2008 ASHP Best Practices Award in Health-System Pharmacy. This award is given to those who have been successful in the implementation of an innovative program which improved the quality of patient care in their health-system. Six health systems will be honored at a poster reception at Midyear. Please join ASHP on Sunday, December 7, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at The Peabody Orlando, Florida Room, where the following award winners will present their projects at a special poster reception: Advocate Christ Medical Center in Illinois, Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma, University of Kentucky HealthCare in Lexington, University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, University of Southern California School of Pharmacy in Los Angeles, and VA San Diego Healthcare System in California. This annual recognition program is developed and awarded by ASHP and sponsored by Amgen. Visit <http://www.ashpadvantage.com/bestpractices/mcm.htm>

Also come by the ASHP Membership booth! Section Executive Committee members will be there throughout the week to answer questions about the Section and discuss ways for you to get involved. The Section Executive Committee encourages you to participate in Section activities and to become involved in Section leadership. [Click here](#) for a list of opportunities. If you have any questions or have an interest in any of these opportunities, please contact me at sections@ashp.org.

I look forward to seeing you in sunny Orlando!

Regards,

Kelly M. Smith, Pharm.D., BCPS, FASHP
Chair, Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists