



Message from the Chair – June 2010

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Immediate Past-Chair, Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists (2010-2011)

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Dear Colleagues:

The time has come for me to bid you farewell as Chair of the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists (SCSS). I thank you from the bottom of my heart (the lower half of the left ventricle) for this opportunity to serve as your Chair during this past year. It has truly been an enjoyable and rewarding experience for me.

At the ASHP Summer Meeting this month in Tampa, FL, Mary M. Hess, Pharm.D., FASHP, FCCM was installed as the new Chair and Heath R. Jennings, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ Cardiology) as the new Director-at-Large of the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists. I have no doubt that Mary will be successful in continuing to lead the Section forward and uphold the mission and vision of our Section.

As I began to write my last Chair message, I reflected over the past accomplishments of our Section and I wanted to recognize that none of it would have been possible without you, the members of our Section. As members of the SCSS, many of you have volunteered your time and given considerable effort to working with various Section committees, advisory groups, serving as a network facilitator, or developing and presenting section related programming at ASHP meetings. I thank you for your active participation as SCSS members and wanted to share with you some of the most notable Section initiatives that you have helped us to accomplish.

Educational Opportunities - The Section's Educational Steering Committee is charged with developing programming at an advanced level that will be of interest to clinical specialists and scientists. The 2008-2009 Committee developed more than 32 hours of educational programming on current issues in infectious diseases, critical care, pharmacogenomics, alcohol withdrawal, and nutraceuticals. For the 2010 Midyear Clinical Meeting, the Section will be coordinating 47 hours of approved educational programming. The committee also planned a session devoted to debates in areas of therapeutic controversy and coordinated the Clinical and Emergency Pharmacy Clinical Pearls sessions.

The Section has 15 specialty networks encompassing most areas of specialty pharmacy practice. The networks meet regularly at the MCM, with almost 850 meeting attendees participating. Facilitators are appointed for each network by the Section's Chair. The network facilitators monitor developments and trends in their therapeutic areas and advise ASHP and the Section's membership of these developments through the Section's electronic discussion group, NewsLink, networking meetings, and other avenues. The facilitators also serve ASHP and its members as therapeutic experts and contribute to ASHP advocacy and educational efforts.

Resources for Clinical Specialists and Scientists - 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 continues to host the anticoagulation resource center. The resource center 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.

The Section also coordinated ASHP's efforts in the development of the "PharmGenEd" educational programs, live and Web versions. The goal of the program is to educate pharmacists and other health care professionals in the basic science and clinical application of pharmacogenomics.

Advisory Groups - Two new advisory groups were established on preceptor skills development and clinical leadership to focus on the development of programs and resources in the specific areas of practice for Section and ASHP members. The Section also developed the Clinical Leaders Boot Camp: Practical Tools for Promoting and Establishing Services Workshop held prior to the 2009 MCM.

A section advisory group (SAG) was established on the emerging sciences, to include representation from, but not limited to, genomics, nanomedicine, biotechnology, and gene therapy. Activities of the SAG on Gene Therapy are incorporated into the SAG on Emerging Sciences. A Web resource center is being developed on the emerging sciences, and the newly formed advisory group will be charged with advising the Section and ASHP on the emerging sciences and implementing recommendations of the Task Force on Science.

The SAG on Emergency Care is drafting guidelines on the clinical pharmacist's role in the emergency department. The group also hosted a successful emergency medicine networking session at the MCM that drew more than 35 participants. Practitioners in this field also network through the ASHP Emergency Care electronic discussion group, which has close to 1600 subscribers.

Committee on Nomination - The ASHP Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists, Committee on Nominations has submitted the following slate of candidates for the offices of Chair and Director-at-large. This slate was presented to the membership at the Summer Meeting, June 4-9, in Tampa, FL and ballots will be sent to Section primary members in July.

The candidates for Chair, SCSS (2011-2012) are Erin Fox, Pharm.D. and Eric C. Kutscher, Pharm.D., BCPP

The candidates for Director-at-large, SCSS (2011-2013) are Phil Ayers, Pharm.D., BCNSP and Tricia Meyer, Pharm.D., M.S.

Lastly, the Section Executive Committee encourages your continued participation in Section activities and to become involved in Section leadership. For a list of opportunities, go to ASHP's Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientist Web site at www.ashp.org/clinical.

Best wishes,

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