

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues:

The Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists (SCSS) Executive Committee convened this past January in Bethesda, Maryland. During our very productive meeting, the members of the committee spent the day focusing on updating the Section strategic plan and reviewing the many activities that our Section members have designed for the broader ASHP membership.



In addition, reports were given regarding the activities of the Sections' Advisory Groups and Programming Committee. The Section Advisory Groups (SAGs) and Programming Committee are key to the workings of the Section and I want to thank our peers for their ongoing hard work and dedication to developing innovative, vibrant and timely initiatives. Some of the current accomplishments and activities the Section include:

Section Advisory Groups' Activities

- Emergency Care: developing a paper on the pharmacist's role in the emergency department.
- Gene Therapy: conducted a gene therapy survey to identify practice gaps for future initiatives.
- Investigational Pharmacy Services: revising and updating ASHP Statement and Guidelines for Pharmaceutical Research in Organized Health-Care Settings and ASHP Guidelines on Clinical Drug Research.

Programming Committee Activities:

- The group met during the 2008 Midyear Clinical Meeting to brainstorm on topics for future educational initiatives.
- The top educational priorities identified by Committee Members included intensive care unit sedation/pain/delirium, infectious diseases and critical care guidelines, pharmacogenetics/genomics, alcohol withdrawal in the inpatient setting, antimicrobial stewardship in special populations, emergency pharmacy pearls, "me-too" drugs (psychiatric agents, cardiovascular agents, and pain drugs), inpatient glucose control and transitioning to outpatient care, progesterone agents in preterm birth, hypertonic saline, fibromyalgia, infectious disease issues in oncology, oncology ambulatory care issues, and heparin-induced thrombocytopenia.

Other Key Section Activities

- Anticoagulation Resource Center: In December, the Section launched a new resource center to help practitioners address anticoagulation issues - www.ashp.org/anticoagulation. This month we have launched a new networking tool specifically for anticoagulation management issues, whether clinical or management. The goal is to have one place where practitioners can go to exchange ideas in the area of anticoagulation management. Go to www.ashp.org/ashpconnect and set up your account today!
- Conducting a networking session on residency preceptor skills development at the 2009 Summer Meeting. More information will be coming in a future "Chair's Message".

As you can see, our Section is working on a wide spectrum of activities and programs. Of course, your participation is the key to our future success. I encourage and request your participation in the Section. [Click here](#) discover ways you can become involved with the Section.

Thank you for your continued support of ASHP and the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists.

Regards,

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