



Message from the Chair – May 2010

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Greetings Section Members!

Spring has sprung and ASHP and the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists continue to spring forward making progress on our many initiatives for Section members and our profession.

ASHP Strategic Planning Retreat

I had the opportunity to represent our Section at the ASHP Strategic Planning Retreat in Bethesda this past April. The ASHP Board of Directors, Board-Elects, Chairs of ASHP Sections and Forums, and selected ASHP Staff Members got together to develop a new ASHP Leadership Agenda and assess progress in implementing the current Leadership Agenda.

The Leadership Agenda is ASHP's top professional priorities as approved by the ASHP Board of Directors and consists of the following five items:

- Improve the quality of medication use in hospitals and health systems
- Foster optimal models for the deployment of pharmacy resources in hospitals and health systems
- Ensure that the pharmacy work force in hospitals and health systems has the capacity to meet current and future patient-care needs
- Cultivate the leadership skills of health-system pharmacists
- Foster the creation and implementation of health information technologies that produce continuous improvement in medication use in hospitals and health systems

The retreat was very productive and included discussion about the impact of the health care reform law on the future of the pharmacy profession and how ASHP will take a leadership role to help pharmacy leaders maximize opportunities for pharmacy practice as a result of health care reform. The health care reform law creates opportunities for pharmacists to improve the safety and quality of medication use as members of the interdisciplinary patient care team and ASHP is working on developing a new item in the leadership agenda that speaks to providing guidance to members and policy makers on the implementation of health care reform law relating to pharmacy.

ASHP Summer Meeting

Where does the time go? I feel like spring just arrived but the ASHP Summer Meeting in Tampa, Florida is less than a month away! Besides the great educational opportunities, here are some meeting highlights that include activities related to our Section.

- Prepare for changes in practice as a result of the new Health Care Reform law by attending an overview of the law by Susan Dentzer on Sunday, June 6 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. in Ballroom A, 1st Floor.
- The ASHP House of Delegates kicks off with an Open Forum on June 5th at 2:30 p.m. in Ballroom A, 1st Floor. Dr. Heath R. Jennings will be installed as Director-at-Large during this time.
- The first House of Delegates Meeting takes place on Sunday, June 6th at 2 p.m. in Ballroom C, 1st Floor.
- The Opening General Session will be on Monday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m. in Ballroom C, 1st Floor.
- A Clinical Leadership Networking Session hosted by the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists' Advisory Group on Clinical Leadership will be held on Monday, June 7th in room 12, 1st Floor from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Dr. Kelly Smith, the immediate past Chair of our Section will be facilitating this session.
- Meet the Candidates running for ASHP President-elect and Board of Directors on Monday, June 7th at 12:00 p.m. in Room 19, 1st Floor.
- The second House of Delegates Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8th at 4:30 p.m. in Ballroom C, 1st Floor. Our Section Executive Committee Chair-elect, Mary M. Hess, Pharm.D., FASHP, FCCM will be installed as the new Chair of the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists at this meeting.

ASHP House of Delegates

Here are some policy items pertinent to our section that will be discussed and voted upon in the House of Delegates during the summer meeting. Below is the link to ASHP Connect where you can view the policy statements in greater detail and provide your comments.

http://www.ashp.org/ashpconnect/forum/default.aspx?FTVAR_SUBCAT=20&subcatname=House%20of%20Delegates

- From the Council on Public Policy, Policy B: Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies
To advocate for research on the impact of the Food and Drug Administration’s Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies (REMS) on patient safety, cost effectiveness, and pharmacy workflow; further,
- From the Council on Public Policy, Policy F; Definition of Meaningful Use of Health Information Technology
To advocate to policymakers (public and private) that definitions of “meaningful use of health information technology” address interoperability of medication orders and prescriptions, medication decision support and continuous improvement, and quality reporting; further,
- From the Council on Public Policy, Policy H: Employment Classification of Pharmacy Residents
To advocate that pharmacy residents, as part of the organization’s graduate medical education program, should be classified as exempt employees; further,
- From the Council on Therapeutic, Policy C: Use of Surrogate Endpoints for FDA Approval of Drug Uses
To support the continued use of surrogate endpoints by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of new drugs and new indications for existing therapies; further,
- From the Council on Therapeutic, Policy E: Research on Drug Use in Obese Patients
To encourage drug product manufacturers to conduct pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic research in obese patients to facilitate safe and effective dosing of medications in this patient population, especially for medications most likely to be affected by obesity.

Look forward to seeing you at the Summer Meeting!

Best wishes,

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