

Message from the Chair – November 2010



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Dear Colleagues:

November is the month we observe Thanksgiving. I would like to give thanks for the many pharmacy professionals taking care of patients every day and to ASHP, and similar organizations, that help promote and advance the pharmacy profession. Additionally, I would like to give thanks to the many members of The [Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners \(SICP\)](#) who go **above** and **beyond** the call of duty through their grassroots advocacy efforts and development of educational programming and resources to assist the membership in their diverse practice settings.

During ASHP's Policy Week and Legislative Day, former Chairs of the [SICP](#) participated and summarized their professional advocacy experiences as follows:

Dale English (SICP Chair 2006-2007) said his Ohio delegation, which consisted of five pharmacists and two students, spoke to one of their Ohio Senators, Sherrod Brown, about funding for pharmacists' provided services as defined in the new health care bill, restoration of PGY-2 residency funding, pharmacy education and major issues with prescription medication abuse that is currently the leading cause of accidental death in the state of Ohio. The Ohio delegation also discussed role of the pharmacist in the medical home model and the benefits of multidisciplinary education of pharmacy and medical students.

Randy Kuiper (SICP Chair 2008-2009) gave this account, "I went with the Montana delegation to visit with staff members of the Senate Finance Committee. We had a substantive conversation with the staffers from Senator Baucus' office. A member of the delegation met personally with Senator Tester and Congressman Rehberg (Montana's lone Congressman) and that meeting was a good meeting as well."

In the continued spirit of giving thanks, thank you to the more than 150 participants in Dallas, the sponsors of Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI), to everyone who followed, via technology, the PPMI meeting and all who provided key input into shaping the future of our profession. The PPMI held in November touched on the subject of accountability and the

November 8th press release revealed 88% of the PPMI voting participants recommended adding "Accountability for development and documentation of the medication-related components of the pharmaceutical care plan" to the list of essential pharmacist-provided drug therapy management services. More details will be forthcoming from this landmark event!

As pharmacists, we are in a key position to help shape the future of healthcare. Our active involvement in legislative, PPMI and advocacy activities makes us poised to have our expertise further applied and utilized. To that end, several sessions focused on healthcare reform legislation have been developed for the **45th Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exhibition (MCM) in Anaheim, California**. On Sunday December 5, the [*Programming for Small and Rural Hospitals*](#), now in its 5th year, will commence its full day of programming with a session entitled: **"Healthcare Reform's Impact on Rural Communities"**. Brock Slabach, Senior Vice President for Member Services for the **National Rural Health Association (NRHA)**, will be the keynote speaker. The remaining sessions, equally as stimulating, will command speakers from various platforms: Critical Access Hospitals, Small and Rural Hospitals, rural health systems, Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), Northern Opinion Research Center (NORC), a telepharmacy business, and a state college, to name a few. Additionally, representation from ASHP's Board of Directors and ASHP's corporate leadership will be present to meet, listen and discuss with program attendees issues unique to pharmacy practice in rural and frontier areas of the Country.

In addition to the *Programming for Small and Rural Hospitals*, the [*Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners*](#) has put together a stunning list of educational and networking sessions for the 2010 MCM that is sure to interest a diverse group of practitioners. We have developed over 18 hours of educational content and will host five networking sessions. For a concise list of [*SICP*](#) offerings, please view the following link:

<http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Midyear10/MCM10-programs-Inpatient-Care.aspx>

Should you need help searching for specific areas of interest and focused programming, try the links below to view the schedule at a glance and to sort all sessions by date, track (networking sessions and CE offerings) and practice interest. Create an account and be continually updated.

http://www.softconference.com/ashp/ashp_MCM10itin.asp?C=3164

<http://www.ashp.org/Midyear2010/GeneralInformation/Schedule-at-a-Glance.aspx>

Support your fellow colleagues at the professional poster sessions! These sessions are held on Monday and Tuesday, 4pm-6:30pm. I encourage everyone to find out what exciting practice initiatives are taking place at the numerous hospitals and health systems throughout the country. Finally, if you are still in town, please plan on attending the Thursday Networking Luncheon. You will enjoy great food and "Classically Trained, Comically Derailed" Mike Rayburn. Further details about the luncheon can be viewed at:

<http://www.ashp.org/Midyear2010/Events/Thursday-Networking-Luncheon.aspx>

These are exciting times for pharmacists and pharmacy personnel. I am truly thankful to be a member of the pharmacy profession and to be involved with so many active and engaged ASHP members. I look forward to meeting and catching up with all of my SICP colleagues in Anaheim at the **45th Mid-Year Clinical Meeting & Exhibition**, the largest gathering of pharmacy professionals in the world!

Let's continue to keep our patients safe and to advance the pharmacy profession.

Brian Benson, Pharm.D.

Chair, **Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners**

*The "In" Section: Influential...Innovative...Indispensible
and*

Executive Director of Pharmacy

Iowa Health - Des Moines

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