

Message from the Chair



To all my SICIP Colleagues:

This is always one of the most exciting times of the year for me as I look forward to the upcoming holiday season and spending time with family and friends. The annual **Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM)** adds another exciting element to this time of year by giving me the opportunity to attend the world's **premier pharmacy meeting** and meet and reconnect with health-system pharmacists from all over the world, many of whom have also become my good friends.

This year's **43rd ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM) and Exhibition** is being held December 7-11 in Orlando, Florida. The theme for this year's meeting is "**The Power of You**". This theme represents the growing responsibilities and influential roles we **each** have as health-system pharmacists.

The meeting has something to offer every health-system pharmacist and will feature new programming, more interactive sessions, and many notable speakers, including keynote speaker **Elizabeth Edwards**. Her story as she battles breast cancer is truly remarkable and inspirational. For those **MCM** attendees who stay until Thursday, two special treats await them: the opportunity to hear Networking Luncheon speaker **Kevin Carroll** and having their names entered into a drawing to win a **FREE** registration for **MCM 2009** which will be held in **Las Vegas, Nevada**. Several awards will also be given at this year's **MCM** and the **Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners (SICIP)** is pleased to announce **Ronald Barnes** as this year's recipient of the Section's **Distinguished Service Award!**

SICIP has been planning and working on many exciting educational opportunities and networking sessions for this year's meeting. On Sunday, December 7th, there will be the return of the popular special programming created especially for small and rural health system practitioners. Opening comments, **Pharmacy - The Rural Perspective**, for this programming will be given by Paul Moore, current president of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA). From Monday, December 8th through Wednesday, December 10th, there will be six networking sessions that have been organized by the Section's four Section Advisory Groups (SAGs) that will allow our members an opportunity to interact with fellow colleagues on topics related to medication safety, publications, student rotations, and issues facing small and rural health facilities. Be sure to check out these exciting networking sessions!

In our Country, the current times are somewhat tumultuous and uncertain in healthcare. In health-system pharmacy, we have been embedded for quite some time in an environment of rapidly evolving challenges and opportunities. In our quest to provide the best possible care to our patients, we will need to continue to learn and adapt to better reflect the changing times. We need to have an accurate awareness of the key elements of our healthcare environment.

We need to be continually rethinking our approaches, abandoning those approaches that used to work and embracing those approaches that work better. This is what the **MCM** is all about. This is why it is the largest pharmacy meeting in the world. Don't miss this opportunity to participate and channel the dynamic "**Power of You**"!

See you in Orlando!

Randy Kuiper
Chair, Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners