



Message from the Chair – February 2010

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To All My SICP Colleagues:

Happy New Year! I personally hope this year is wonderful for you, your family, and your co-workers. Blessings on all of you!

Boy, wasn't that just the greatest [Midyear Clinical Meeting \(MCM\)](#) ever? Besides serving the greatest number of attendees in ASHP history, the programming choices were just phenomenal. My only regret is that I couldn't be two or even three places at once so I could take it all in. I have downloaded handouts from multiple sessions that I couldn't attend.

In reflecting on the ones that I did attend: Dennis Quaid's message just reminded me again of why we are doing this....it is all about the patient and his/her safety. And did you catch the Spotlight on Science speaker Larry Wellikson, the current CEO for the Society of Hospital Medicine? The **Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners' (SICP) [Advisory Group on Small and Rural Hospitals](#)** hosted for the fourth consecutive year- [Programming for Small and Rural Hospitals](#). Speakers during this rural health series included both the current and the immediate past presidents of the **National Rural Health Association**....talk about having the opportunity to hobnob with all these big wigs! Very inspiring....Personally, I was recharged to return to my hospital with specific ideas for med safety initiatives (inspired by Dr. Wellikson and tidbits picked up at the **SICP's Safety and Quality Pearls Session**), pharmacokinetic and anticoagulation monitoring, and a stronger knowledge base of oncology and antimicrobial issues. Where else could I ask questions of the experts in our field? Where else could I find out the latest information on rapidly changing concerns?

So at this traditional time of making New Year resolutions, did you develop some for your practice setting? Were any of you inspired by your **MCM** experience? If you haven't taken the time, I urge you to take the time and think about what changes you would like to see occur in your practice setting. Take the time to deeply reflect about how you are serving your patients. Can you make a commitment to make a medication safety round once a week in the hospital to look for potential errors or ways to catch them before they occur? Is there a physician or co-worker who does one thing that doesn't match current practice standards that you could make the commitment to show the individual the latest guidelines and in so doing, positively effect change in practice? Is there an opportunity in your department to share something you learned....an article, a video of **MCM Best Practices Award** poster presentations, or maybe engage your colleagues in a discussion about the [Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative \(PPMI\)](#)? Can you sit down with your supervisor for just 30 minutes and share what you experienced at the **Midyear Clinical Meeting** and what the latest practice trends include?

ASHP has many resources available to help you make and keep such a commitment. Even if you didn't attend the **MCM**, you can still see the videos or take the [ASHP Advantage](#) continuing education programs. Search [AJHP-American Journal of Health System Pharmacy](#)-the Association's official journal that seeks to encompass the full scope of pharmacy practice in hospitals and health systems. Utilize [ASHP Connect](#) - the Society's electronic communication mediums such as the discussion boards, the list servers, blogs and the varied social media offerings. Sign up for a listserv or join a discussion group. Check out the Quality Initiatives resource kit which you can use to learn, plan, and put into practice quality improvement initiatives. And if you don't see a resource that you think would really make a difference for you, let me or someone at **ASHP** know so that we can address your concern.....but it takes that first step on your part to get the ball rolling.

I urge you to pick at least one commitment for a new resolution for the year in your work setting....and remember this is a win-win process for you, the profession and most importantly... your patients!
Have a Happy New Year!