

## Message from the Chair

June 2009



Dear SICP Colleagues:

It is hard to believe that my tenure of being chair of the Executive Committee of SICP is almost over. It has been an eventful year for the Section.

Our Section Advisory Groups, also known as SAGs, serve to advise the Section and ASHP at large on specific issues or areas of practice. There are four such groups within our section. I have chronicled below some of their current accomplishments and activities:

### **Section Advisory Group on Small and Rural Hospitals**

The SAG on Small and Rural Hospitals maintains an active electronic discussion group. They planned a successful educational track and networking sessions for the 2008 MCM. Under the leadership of their current chair, Paul Driver, educational sessions for the 2009 MCM Rural Sunday Track in Las Vegas promise to be very relevant and valuable. The sessions will address numerous hot topics, including sessions such as establishing rural residency programs, experiential education in rural America, and financial considerations for small and rural hospitals. Additionally, the SAG successfully recruited the current National Rural Health Association (NRHA) president, Beth Landon, to speak at the Rural Sunday Track as well. The group served as a pilot for ASHP's Webinar on Demand series and recently produced a highly informative Webinar entitled "Creative Funding Opportunities for Clinical Pharmacy Services in Rural Healthcare Institutions." This Webinar, featuring speakers from the Office of Rural Health Policy as well as the Director of Pharmacy for Decatur County Hospital in Indiana, has been posted on ASHP's website. Discussion opportunities for this Webinar will be possible through ASHP's Discussion Forum, ASHP Connect. The SAG will continue to provide input on proposed ASHP policies dealing with issues facing small and rural hospitals. The SAG is actively engaged in assessing current ASHP policy as it relates to the recent legislation in Texas that could dramatically affect pharmacy practice in small and rural hospitals. Finally, the SAG has suggested that ASHP seek continued collaborative efforts with NRHA and other rural health agencies/offices to further the rural healthcare agenda.

### **Section Advisory Group on Publications**

The chair of the SAG on Publications is Tammy Cohen. The SAG continues its contribution to the Frontline Pharmacist column in the [American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy](#). The SAG has also contributed to the ASHP consumer drug information Website, SafeMedication.com. At the 2008 MCM, the SAG conducted a networking session that addressed publication tips for frontline pharmacists. A panel of experts that included ASHP staff, SAG members, and a SAG student representative, offered advice on overcoming writing fears, handling editorial criticism and mentoring students through the publication process. Also, several of the SAG members served as mentors for the 2008 MCM Resident Poster Exhibit.

### **Section Advisory Group on Medication Safety**

The chair of this SAG is Deb Saine. It was formed in August 2006 and is charged with providing tools and resources for medication safety officers or pharmacists who have medication safety responsibilities as a component of their position. The group has provided

educational content for the 2008 MCM, which included the Safety and Quality Pearls Session for the second consecutive year. Additionally, the group conducted a successful networking session at the 2008 Summer Meeting and will host a session at the upcoming 2009 Summer Meeting. In response to The Joint Commission's April 2008 Pediatric Sentinel Alert, the SAG sponsored a Webinar entitled "Sentinel Alert: Pediatric Medication Errors and The Joint Commission." The speakers included a neonatologist/ informatics professor and a pediatric medication safety officer, both from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. This Webinar drew more than 200 participants and is posted on the Section's Web site.

### **Section Advisory Group on Pharmacy Practice Experiences**

The chair of this SAG is Debbie Sisson. It was formed to provide tools and resources for preceptors and potential preceptors that foster favorable student experiences as students matriculate through their pharmacy rotations. A tool kit they developed entitled "How to Start a Student Rotation" is posted on the Section's Web site. This was presented as a poster for the annual American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy meeting, which convened in Chicago, July 2008. The SAG also held a successful networking session at the 2008 MCM and has submitted an educational proposal for the 2009 MCM. Currently, the group is developing additional resources that include a preceptor tool kit and an operational institutional pharmacy practice teaching resource.

In addition, the Section's **Educational Steering Committee** has been very active this year. The Section conducted more than 17 hours of successful educational sessions at the 2008 Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM). For the third consecutive year, a day of programming for pharmacists working in small and rural hospitals was offered. This programming, dubbed the Sunday Rural Track, was commenced with remarks from Paul Moore, President of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA). Topics from the Sunday Rural Track included Health Resources and Services Administration's Patient Safety Pharmacy Collaborative (PSPC) and pediatrics and technology safety issues in rural hospitals. Other MCM programming of interest to Section members included a pediatrics update for the non-pediatric specialist, expanded use of antineoplastic agents, medication safety tips for frontline pharmacists and strategies for anticoagulation safety related to The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goal. The committee is chaired by Laura Wachter and met at the 2008 MCM to discuss and select topics for Section programming for the 2009 MCM. The Committee utilized the Section's Need Assessment Survey, electronic discussion group reports, networking session discussions, and conversations with peers to guide them in the topic selections. The new charge for this committee has been expanded to also include content for Summer Meeting programming, Section-relevant Webinars, and publications.

As you can see, our Section is working on a wide spectrum of activities and programs. I want to thank all the individuals on our team who accomplished so much for the Section this year! Of course, your participation is the key to our future success. I encourage and request your participation in the Section.

Thank you for your continued support of ASHP and the Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners.

**Randy Kuiper**

*Chair, Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners*