

Message from the Chair



To all my SICP Colleagues:

I would like to applaud ASHP for the proactive steps we are taking to address the pharmacy leadership gap. I see developing pharmacy leaders as one of our top priorities in the upcoming years. Fewer health-system pharmacists seem to be gravitating towards careers in management positions, contributing to a significant shortage in qualified individuals to fill available open positions. Former ASHP President Sara White recently issued a report describing this leadership gap, stating that we will require up to 5,000 new health-system leaders in the next decade.

The Center for Health-System Leadership was created to address issues related to leadership within health-system pharmacy. It also strives to help develop effective leaders who can fill open positions in pharmacy management.

The Student New Practitioner Leadership Task Force was formed in 2007 to address leadership issues facing pharmacy students and new graduates. This Task Force has published a report entitled "Leadership As a Professional Obligation" to address these issues. This is an excellent report and I would like to commend the Task Force for their excellent work.

In their report, they correctly identify the need for all pharmacists to be leaders. They state that the key to our existence and future is our ability to influence others, a key component of leadership. They identify Frontline Pharmacists as providing leadership at its best by successfully influencing the behavior of physicians, nurses, and others towards optimal medication safety and improved patient outcomes.

I feel our Section needs to join in with these ongoing efforts in leadership development. We need to provide a mechanism to assist our members who may have a desire to further develop their leadership skills in order to become pharmacy directors.

I would also like to see the Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners take steps to identify, motivate, and develop future leaders in our Section. I feel getting involved in one of our many Section Advisory Groups is an excellent way to begin. I would also encourage our members to explore possibly serving on one of the various Councils, Commissions, or Task Forces in ASHP. We all have opportunities to get involved in policy development at ASHP. I would encourage all our members to become a candidate in your state for the ASHP House of Delegates.

Why become more involved in ASHP? For me, my involvement in ASHP has provided some of the most satisfying aspects of my professional career. It has made me a better pharmacist and has allowed me to meet some of the most distinguished leaders in our profession. If you want to help shape the future of health-system pharmacy, get involved. You can make a difference!

Randy Kuiper
Chair, Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners