



New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee Message – October, 2011

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“Whether you think you can or think you can’t, you are right.” -Henry Ford

August 15th marked the first day of my new job. After four years of pharmacy school and two years of residency, I had done it-- achieved the dream of becoming a critical care pharmacist and independently managing patients in my own intensive care unit. As I sit in my office, one shared with a group of the most amazing and welcoming practitioners, I think about all of the things I have accomplished and how I got to where I am today. I wonder how I ever managed to do it all; between the many projects, presentations, lectures, and long hours during residency, where did I find the time for professional organizations?

The truth is if something is important to you, you will find the time. You will make the time. And while my two years of residency training provided me with the clinical skills I would need to survive in an ICU, it was the extra-curricular involvement that has made me a well-rounded practitioner. My involvement with ASHP has enabled me to collaborate with pharmacists all over the country. Many of the projects that have come out of the New Practitioners Forum focus on improving pharmacy practice and helping new pharmacists as they transition out of their training role.

Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to partake in a variety of exciting activities offered through ASHP. This year, I am eagerly awaiting the [Great eXpectations Live](#) program at the Midyear: a conference tailored to meeting the unique challenges of new practitioners. The opportunity to network with other new pharmacists and gain a more global perspective on pharmacy practice is invaluable.

*“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”
-George Patton*

[Great eXpectations](#) was developed from the ideas and creativity of an ASHP New Practitioners Forum advisory group. [Great X Live](#) is one component of the [Great eXpectations eXperience](#) and is a live, day-long conference that takes place during the Midyear Clinical Meeting and engages practitioners in discussions that are pertinent to pharmacists in the beginning of their career. It addresses challenges which are often faced by those who are just entering the pharmacy profession; such as staying abreast on current issues in pharmacy practice, managing more seasoned practitioners, working as a multi-disciplinary team, and succeeding in career development and advancement. The program offers 6.25

hours of continuing education and many opportunities for networking with both new and seasoned practitioners.

This year there are three different educational tracks, all with great tips and pearls for the new pharmacist:

- Track 1: Fine-Tuning Your Clinical Skills
- Track 2: Mentoring and Leadership
- Track 3: Advancing Your Career

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.” –Abraham Lincoln

Whether you are a new or seasoned practitioner, there are unlimited opportunities to enhance your pharmacy knowledge at this year’s [Midyear Clinical Meeting](#). I encourage everyone to get involved and contribute to our profession’s progress and innovation in some way. Each of us has the opportunity to make a difference in pharmacy practice; whether you are involved in ambulatory care or critical care, pharmacy operations or clinical pharmacy, the changes happening in our healthcare systems will affect every aspect of medicine and of pharmacy. We must stay up to date on the ongoing changes in healthcare reform and be proactive in defining our roles before they are defined for us. Getting involved in an organization that supports health-system pharmacy is a great start and the Midyear Clinical Meeting provides ample opportunity for such involvement. Hope to see you all there!