



New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee Message – September, 2011

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“Time. It is limited, although the extent of its limitation for an individual is an impenetrable mystery. If we vow to use it wisely, our lives and the lives of others may be enriched. Using it wisely does not mean doing everything yourself.”

William Zellmer

It is midnight and tomorrow is another Monday. Right out of the gate tomorrow I have two meetings and a topic discussion scheduled with the fourth-year pharmacy student who is on rotation with me this month. Where did the time go this weekend?

Not an uncommon phrase for me to mutter at least once a week, but it is true. Where does the time go? It is hard to believe that it is already September and the better part of 2011 has elapsed. Just the other day the ASHP New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee was discussing our plans for the 2011 Midyear Clinical Meeting and I know it will be here in the blink of an eye.

As a student, I remember watching my faculty members and leaders within the profession and thinking, “How do they get it all done?” “How are they successful in their career, professional organizations, and still have the sanity to maintain a social life?” As a new practitioner, I still find myself thinking that about my colleagues. However, now I have a bit of insight. Time is what you make of it and where you place your priorities. If you spend all your time fretting over the things you did not do, you will never have a chance to enjoy the things you are currently doing.

This construct is what makes ASHP a unique organization and one that embraces all those who wish to contribute to the profession. The variety of opportunities and flexible time commitments enable even those with the most hectic of schedules to participate. ASHP has afforded new practitioners numerous opportunities to represent ourselves at this early stage in our career and gain the traction we need to launch our involvement for many years to come.

One unique experience that six new practitioners will participate in this month is Policy Week. Six pharmacists representing the New Practitioners Forum on the five policy-recommending councils and the Commission on Affiliate Relations will be at the ASHP headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, during the week of September 19-22. Policy Week focuses on the work of the councils and deliberation of the

profession's current issues and priorities. The goal is ultimately production of draft policy statements for eventual submission to the House of Delegates for approval at the Summer Meeting in June. Here is a sampling of the issues the Councils will address this year: drug shortages, health care reform, practice models, competencies, and pharmacists' roles in accountable care organizations.

At the conclusion of Policy Week, all attendees participate in Legislative Day. Meetings are arranged with congressional representatives and participants have a chance to voice their concerns as well as educate legislators on what pharmacists do.

A special thank you is due to our new practitioner council and commission members: Kate Schaafsma (Council on Education and Workforce Development), John Gray (Council on Pharmacy Management), Rachel Kruer (Council on Pharmacy Practice), Lindsey Justin (Council on Public Policy), Linda Banares (Council on Therapeutics) and John Hertig (Commission on Affiliate Relations). Thank you for giving your time during Policy Week to represent the profession and specifically for being the voice for new practitioners.

Following Policy Week, the new practitioner council and commission members will summarize their experiences and these will be posted on the ASHP Web site. Return later this fall to see a summary of events and a reflection these members' experiences, especially if you are interested in applying for a 2012-13 appointment. Keep an eye out for other opportunities like this to enhance your membership in ASHP. The time spent here, investing in your career, will greatly influence your opportunities in the future.