

## Message from the Committee

Greetings from the New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee! I hope that this message finds you well. I know that spring is a busy time of year for everyone, particularly for new graduates as you prepare to begin a residency or a new position. I wanted to take this opportunity to talk with you about a special community within ASHP that is just for you and your unique needs – the New Practitioners Forum (NPF). There are many benefits and opportunities for involvement and leadership within the Forum. All new practitioners within five years of graduation are automatically enrolled. The Forum's mission is unique:



“To integrate new practitioners into the pharmacy community by acknowledging their unique needs and providing an opportunity for collaboration and professional development.”

One opportunity for involvement that I want to highlight is the NPF Advisory Groups. There are six groups: Membership and Outreach, Public Affairs & Advocacy, Leadership & Career Development, Science & Research, Professional Practice, and Communications & Technology. Each group is made up of appointed new practitioners. The groups meet via conference call several times a year, as well as face-to-face (if possible) at the Midyear Clinical Meeting. Each group has a unique area of focus and is responsible for providing feedback and guidance to the New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee and ASHP staff. The time to get involved with the Advisory Groups is NOW! Applications will be accepted until May 1, 2009 for the 2009-2010 term. You can find detailed information about each group's focus and [instructions on how to apply](#).

If you are interested in getting involved with the Forum but advisory groups do not seem to be a good fit, you may want to consider applying to be a member of the NPF Executive Committee or becoming a new practitioner representative on an ASHP Policy Committee. There are new practitioner representatives on the Council on Education and Workforce Development, Council on Pharmacy Management, Council on Pharmacy Practice, Council on Public Policy, Council on Therapeutics, and Commission on Affiliate Relations. The deadline to apply for these opportunities for the [2010-2011 term is December 31, 2009](#).

Being a member of the New Practitioners Forum provides you with many opportunities for leadership; however the benefits do not stop there! Please check out our Web site for a complete list of benefits. Some of my personal favorites include the Webinar programs, *MentorExchange*, *ASHP Connect*, and *Great eXpectations*. The Webinars are great educational programs specific for new practitioners that you can watch on-demand from our Web site. The topics are specific to issues we face as new practitioners. *ASHP Connect* is an electronic discussion board that allows new practitioners to get questions answered and network with peers from all over the country. The *MentorExchange* provides a unique opportunity to find a mentor that has been there and done that, and can provide you with tips and guidance as you start your career. Finally, a very unique and exciting part of the Forum is the special programming geared specifically to our unique needs as new practitioners called.... *Great eXpectations*! Please check out the information on [Great X](#) and see what kind of programming will be available at ASHP's Midyear Clinical Meeting.

I have had the opportunity to be a member of the Membership and Outreach Advisory Group this past year. It has been a great experience and provided a chance to network with colleagues from all over the country. This year's Membership and Outreach group has been working on a number of projects for the Forum. We are in the process of creating two new webinars to be posted on the Web site. One will detail how to submit a manuscript and the second will discuss CV preparation and editing as you evolve through your career from student, to resident, to pharmacist, and beyond. We are also preparing answers to frequently asked questions regarding opportunities and benefits of the Forum which will be posted on the website for your reference.

Thanks for letting me take a moment to tell you about opportunities to get involved with the New Practitioners Forum. If you ever have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Forum at [newpractitioners@ashp.org](mailto:newpractitioners@ashp.org) . I look forward to working with you in the future.

Ashley M. Garrett, Pharm.D.

New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee Member 2008-2009