

## Message from the Committee

"Some men look at things the way they are and ask why? I dream of things that never were and ask, why not?"



Forty years after the death of Robert Kennedy, we still marvel at the simplicity and power of these words and of this great visionary. As our profession barrels "full steam ahead" towards an ever-changing future, we need to embrace innovation and creativity now more than ever. While pharmacy school and in many respects, the day-to-day management of our profession, requires fine attention to detail; advancing our profession to new frontiers requires us to think outside the box, think what has never been thought, and to ask, "why not?" at every possible opportunity.

I would like to briefly share with you some of the innovative ideas that our Forum is currently working on for our members:

### **ASHP Connect**

*ASHP Connect*, our new electronic discussion forum, was launched on February 17. Created in the style of a message board, this interactive forum will allow us to communicate like never before. Also, this will be a great mechanism for new practitioners to network with peers and to collaborate about topics that matter to us. Plus, no unwanted emails cluttering up your inbox! I encourage everyone to jump in and have fun! Sign on today and start a thread, create a poll, or respond to a message already posted.

[www.ashp.org/ASHPConnect](http://www.ashp.org/ASHPConnect)

### **New Practitioners Forum Website**

Enhancing the Web content is a main priority of the New Practitioners Forum Executive Committee this year. We are committed to providing high-quality resources to our members at the click of a mouse. We want our Web page to be the site you visit to get timely information in an efficient manner.

Each of our five current advisory groups has been charged with expanding our electronic resources. We all like user-friendly, concise information with as little unnecessary detail as possible. Over the next few months, you can expect to see new tools designed for new practitioners by new practitioners that are created to make your professional life a little bit easier.

Starting in March, we will create a new advisory group, the "Communications and Technology Advisory Group," that will be charged with continual assessment and feedback regarding the Forum Web site(s) and other electronic communication tools.

The current "Communications and Public Affairs Advisory Group" will be renamed the "Public Affairs and Advocacy Advisory Group" and will have a renewed focus on advocacy.

### **New Practitioner Advocacy**

Speaking of advocacy, are you interested in getting more involved with supporting our pharmacy agenda to local, state, and national political leaders? If so, in early March you can view the new webinar entitled, "Defenders of our Future: Political Advocacy for New Practitioners." This webinar, as well as all of our new practitioner webinars can be viewed by clicking on the programs tab on our Web page at [www.ashp.org/newpractitioner](http://www.ashp.org/newpractitioner).

### **New Practitioners Forum Column**

Keep an eye out for another new feature on the New Practitioners Forum's Web page. Coming soon, all New Practitioners Forum columns published in *AJHP* will be available on the Web page for quick review and easy access. These columns provide a wealth of information for all of us at different points in our career.

Have a creative idea? Forward it to [newpractitioners@ashp.org](mailto:newpractitioners@ashp.org). Great ideas will be spotlighted on our Web page!

Finally, Henry David Thoreau once said, "The world is but a canvas to our imaginations." Let's get out there and paint!

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