



Section of  
**CLINICAL SPECIALISTS  
AND SCIENTISTS**



## Message from the Chair – October, 2011

**Erin R. Fox, PharmD**

**Chair, Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists (2011-2012)**

[sections@ashp.org](mailto:sections@ashp.org)

Dear Colleagues,

I am recently back from representing our section at the Council on Therapeutics during policy week. I was lucky enough to be invited to each Council to discuss our Section's New Business Item regarding pharmacist board certification. This New Business Item was approved at the House of Delegates and if you need more information, please check out this link <http://connect.ashp.org/ASHP/ASHP/Blogs/ViewBlogs/Default.aspx?BlogKey=9f91e115-74a6-4ed8-9d0f-a6b39f9fd2ae>.

I want to personally thank each Council for taking time on their agendas to discuss this important issue. We received excellent feedback that our Section will incorporate into the language we will send to the Board of Directors. If you have thoughts about this New Business Item – please share at the *Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists Community* on ASHP Connect! <http://connect.ashp.org/directory/communitydetails/?CommunityKey=bd71b0c2-d74b-4704-8b8b-06adeaaa4d7a>

As many of you know, Council week concludes with the opportunity to personally meet with legislators about current issues in health care. On the morning of legislative day, we heard from Senator Amy Klobuchar, sponsor of the Preserving Access to Life-Saving Medications Act. She inspired us to “charge the hill” with a message for our patients – drug shortages are critically impacting patient care. Discussing this important issue was a very meaningful way to finish a week of hard work. Contacting your own legislator is a great way to keep the momentum moving. Check out ASHP's Advocacy Center for details about the shortage bills. <http://www.ashp.org/menu/Advocacy/FederalIssues/DrugShortages.aspx>

I am also recently back from presenting at FDA's Drug Shortage Workshop (archived webcast at <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/NewsEvents/ucm265968.htm>). The workshop was very encouraging – all participants truly seemed focused on improving the situation and not casting blame. We heard very real stories from patients and practitioners including many ASHP members. The best news I heard was that both FDA and industry intend to focus energy on prevention strategies. Look forward to seeing continued progress on drug shortages and the proposed legislation.

Last, I want to share some exciting news related to the topic of board certification. ASHP and APhA have been named a professional development provider for the BPS Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Specialty. The first exam was on October 1, and ASHP members will be able to recertify with ASHP programming. Please join me, and our entire executive committee, in congratulating the team at ASHP responsible for this new programming, and in particular Sandra Oh Clarke.

Sincerely,

**Erin R. Fox, Pharm.D.**

Chair, Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists (2011-2012)