



Message from the Chair – September, 2011

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

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Dear Colleagues,

Please join me in congratulating the newest members of our SCSS Executive Committee – Lea Eiland as Chair-elect and Michelle Allen as Director-at-large-elect. We have a great team and I know I speak for everyone on our executive committee when I say that we are all looking forward to working together this upcoming year to represent your interests.

Many of you know our Section proposed a New Business Item which was approved at the House of Delegates regarding pharmacist board certification. You can read more about this topic at

<http://connect.ashp.org/ASHP/ASHP/Blogs/ViewBlogs/Default.aspx?BlogKey=9f91e115-74a6-4ed8-9d0f-a6b39f9fd2ae>. I have received many questions about this proposal and want to provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

- **Why did the SCSS propose this new business item?**

The SCSS executive committee reviewed the PPMI recommendations and was in support of the PPMI recommendation (B10) that “pharmacists who provide drug therapy management should be certified through the most appropriate Board of Pharmacy Specialities board-certification process when a specialty has been formally recognized.” (<http://www.ajhp.org/site/PPMI.pdf>) Another reason why we felt this was important was because ASHP currently has no official policy statements regarding certification for pharmacists.

- **Does this new business item mean that every pharmacist has to become board certified?**

Absolutely not! Currently there are is not a board certification for every specialty or for general practitioners. While some clinicians and centers choose to interpret the Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist (BCPS) certification as a certification for generalists, this is not the intent of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS).

- **Why does this new business item only address board certification and not other certifications like those for diabetes or asthma?**

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties has very specific criteria for testing and ensuring specialty knowledge in pharmacy practice.

- **Are there a few summary points I can use to discuss this issue with my director or other colleagues?**

Yes! Having an official ASHP policy on pharmacist board certification makes sense.

- ASHP has policy for pharmacy technician certification
- ASHP recommends board certification for residency program directors if there is a speciality certification in their area of practice.
- An ASHP policy on pharmacist board certification is in concert with the recent recommendations from the PPMI.
- ASHP has been involved in petitioning for 4 of the 6 available specialities and should continue to provide leadership around pharmacist board certification.

Finally, I want to send a message of sincere thanks and appreciation to Sandra Oh Clarke as she moves to a new role within ASHP. Sandy served selflessly as ASHP's Director of our Section providing tremendous support and leadership. Please join me, and our entire executive committee, in congratulating Sandy and wishing her all the best – we owe a great deal of our progress to her.

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