

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues:



As the Chair of the Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners, I look forward to your participation in the activities of the Section. As a brief introduction, I am from a long line of pharmacists. My background includes hospital, ambulatory, long term care, and home infusion pharmacy practiced in a variety of roles, but with an infusion focus. My work is focused on facilitating clinical and operational excellence, and my interests include care collaboration and medication safety. I have practiced pharmacy in nine states since graduation and I am relocating to the tenth as I write this.

The Section, through its members, is creating opportunities to participate in a number of initiatives while also working with ASHP on relevant activities. Some of the current initiatives and accomplishments of the Section include:

Section Advisory Group (SAG) on Pain Management and Palliative Care

- Planning 2008 Midyear Clinical Meeting Pain Management and Palliative Care Workshop
- Planning a pain management and palliative care webinar for February 2009

Section Advisory Group (SAG) on Cognitive Reimbursement Resources

- Planning 2008 Midyear Clinical Meeting Ambulatory Care Workshop
- Developed two webinars on reimbursement for clinical services
- Completed AJHP articles authored by SAG members

Section Advisory Group on Home Infusion

- Developing a webinar specifically for home infusion members in late Fall 2008
- Working with ASHP on updating the Guidelines for Home Care Pharmacies
- Working with ASHP on addressing the issue of the use of ambulatory care pumps

Other Section Activities

- Creating ASHP Task Force on Caring for Patients Served by Specialty Suppliers
- Creating ASHP Task Force on Patient-Owned Medications and Administration Devices
- Working on the ASHP Summit on Continuity of Care
- Working on the ASHP Summit on IV Medication Safety

The Summer Meeting of the Section leadership saw the approval of the 2008-2009 Strategic Plan with its focus on fostering professional community among the Section's specialties. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to improve continuity of care, develop additional resources for Section specialties, cultivate Section leadership, and promote pharmacists in their role to improve patient outcomes. Other highlights of the Executive Committee meeting were:

- Methods to improve e-communication
- Creation of an advisory group on ambulatory business models and financial planning
- Planning for the networking sessions at the 2008 Midyear Clinical Meeting
- Midyear Clinical Meeting programming; including 6 hours on home infusion and chronic care

- Supporting the Congressional House Bill recognizing pharmacists as providers
- Developing upcoming member spotlights
- Highlighting rural health issues
- Promoting medication safety in outpatient and community setting

As of April 2008, there were 5,876 members in the Section, with 1,956 choosing the Section as their primary home. The Section Executive Committee encourages you to participate in Section activities and to become involved in Section leadership. Contact me with any questions at marcstranz@gmail.com or through ASHP at sections@ashp.org

Regards,

Marc Stranz, PharmD

Chair, Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners