

## Ever felt like you have bitten off more than you can chew?



Dear Colleagues:

For those of you who have had this feeling then you can easily relate to how I feel one month after attending the Summer Meeting in Chicago. Now some may think I am referring to being installed as Chair and to a certain extent you are correct, but the other reason is the incredible agenda the Section's Executive Committee has drafted for the upcoming year.

After looking over the meeting minutes, I admit to being overwhelmed with our upcoming projects, yet proud that our Section is taken a leadership role within ASHP. However, this is a much different feeling that the one I had almost 5 years ago when I was pondering what exactly do the sections at ASHP do and why do I have to choose one to join!!! If you were like me I had no idea what the projects, tasks, and programming were at ASHP, more importantly why do I have to pay so much for membership if I do not see immediate results!!

Then one day, an active member of our section asked me to sit on a committee, and in no time I understood exactly where my money went and why it took so long...the most obvious answer, we are pharmacists. It is simply our nature not to leap without looking first, then examining the evidence, only to re-examine it "one more time" before we proceed with caution. All of this is being done while attempting to maintain the vision and gain momentum for the jump.

The Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners (SHAACP) has been on the cutting edge redefining ASHP Sections for the past 5 years, but as a member I never knew they were "jumping" so much. What I did not see is our Section has delivered innovative ideas and projects that have prompted change within ASHP and the other sections over the past years. All it took was one person to ask me to get involved and here I am as Chair of the Section with the job to oversee and make sure we continue our success. Talk about zero to 60....so it is my turn to "give back" by asking you to get involved within your section.

Keep reading so you can understand the opportunities we have within our Section and let me know which ones sound appealing. By planning ahead and working as a part of this team you can strengthen and enhance your career just by being active.

**New Section Advisory Group** called Clinical Business Development was approved this summer. This group will be responsible for creating programming, writing articles, and providing education to assist pharmacy administrators on how to get reimbursement for their pharmacy clinics. It is launching this fall with Mary Ann Kliethermes as the Chair.

**The Section Advisory Group on Cognitive Reimbursement** continues to pump out articles, midyear programming and setting the bar in outlining how practitioners can bill for their services. This group has been instrumental in educating clinicians on how to bill for services and what the current and future trends are within the profession. They are the parent group to the new Clinical Business Development SAG. Seena Haines serves as Chair for this cutting edge group.

**The Home Infusion Section Advisory Group** is coming into its own this year with programming for the midyear as well as planning for upcoming journal articles and webinars. Don Filibeck has organized a group of pharmacists that are committed to the profession and are ready to promote the need and importance of Home Infusion pharmacy, including the expansion of residency programs into this arena.

How many ambulatory pharmacists practice pain management on a day to day basis? Exactly, we all do in some form or another, which makes the **Pain and Palliative Section Advisory Group** more relevant than ever. Once again Chair Suzanne Nesbit is outlining and planning for the workshop that will take place at the midyear. Also did you know clinicians looking for a career in pain management now will be able to extend their education by completing a mandatory PGY 2 residency? Talk about setting the bar for others to follow...SHACCP continues to shine.

The newest committee is **Membership and Marketing Committee**. This group was formed to focus our efforts as a section on the members that practice in ambulatory, chronic care, and home infusion. We have so many identities within our section and this committee is being convened to outline and implement strategies to increase our membership by informing pharmacists about our efforts and what the section can do for them.

These working groups are just the tip of the iceberg. The section also develops a large number of continuing education (CE) hours at the Midyear Clinical Meeting, hosts at least five webinars a year, creates and staffs networking sessions at all meetings, and several of our group have been published in AJHP promoting our career paths within the profession. It goes without saying that we are always networking and lobbying to have pharmacists recognized as practitioners with reimbursement for cognitive services.

We hope to never worry about how to recruit section members since ambulatory pharmaceutical care is the FUTURE and growth in our practice areas appears infinite, especially when it comes to providing care for our patients. However, with the economic changes, increase stressors at the practice site, as well as everyday living we are facing a challenge to keep our members enrolled AND engaged.

That takes me back to how this all got started for me....someone asked me to join. So here goes....I am asking you....no I am challenging you to get involved with YOUR section. I will even give you my promise that if you ask to get involved we will make it happen. When have you ever heard anyone promise you that? As Chair it is my job to oversee the big picture and there is always room for one more when viewing our profession with a wide angle lens so here is your chance to demand to be involved.

So what are you waiting for...challenge me to find a place for you to "GIVE BACK!"

Regards,

**Tim Brown**, Pharm.D., R.Ph.  
Chair, Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners