



Section of
**INPATIENT CARE
PRACTITIONERS**



Message from the Chair – May, 2011

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Dear SICP Members:

Happy Spring/Summer greetings from the Midwest! Time has sure flown by since MCM 2010 in Anaheim and the Summer Meeting (SM) in Denver is but a few weeks away. While the MCM 2010 is in our rearview mirrors I wanted to reflect on a great 5 days of programs and events. The Woodruffs' story during the opening session of perseverance, passion and commitment really set the tone for the MCM. It reinforced the fact that day in and day out pharmacy professionals demonstrate a similar level of perseverance, passion and commitment to the patients they serve.

The NFL lock out and drug shortages. When will they ever end? Players blame owners, owners blame players, drug manufactures blame raw materials and manufacturing glitches, hospitals blame manufacturers, yet the only people that are left out in the cold are the fans and the patients! There isn't a day that goes by where pharmacies across the U.S. aren't forced to prepare for the latest shortage and deal with the unknown. Pharmacists continue to be among the few rational voices for dealing with these pressing issues. I previously mentioned medications shortages in an earlier Chair's message and the issue seems to be gaining some much needed momentum and national attention. Back in January 2011, as a positive outcome of the Drug Shortage Summit convened by ASHP in November 2010, Senator Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn introduced new legislation to deal with the problem of medication shortages. A portion of her legislation focuses on increased communication by manufacturers and asking the FDA to require manufacturers to notify early on when decisions to discontinue or limit production. Recently several types of chemotherapeutic medications have been in extremely short supply; doxorubicin, cytarabine and methotrexate to name a few have caused treatment interruptions for patients. Please keep an eye on the ASHP Drug Shortage website for current information regarding medication shortages; and, should you experience a shortage please submit this information to ASHP. The ASHP communication vehicles (ASHP Connect, listservs, etc) are a wonderful source of information on how to manage a shortage at your institution. Shortages bring many potential safety issues to the forefront and health systems need to be prepared with information. Likewise, pharmacists must continue to demonstrate leadership during this national crisis.

As we look forward, the upcoming Summer Meeting (SM) promises more CE for pharmacists than ever before. Unprecedented, will be the medication safety track which will offer up to 20 hours of pharmacist CE focused on medication safety. Also, unprecedented are the 14 physician CMEs and nursing CEs our physician and nursing colleagues will be able to obtain

in the area of medication safety as well. The series of educational sessions and the Monday evening networking session will give medication safety officers, and all health professionals responsible for leading medication safety efforts at their respective institutions, the opportunity to collaborate with peers and stay 'on top' of the latest developments in medication safety. From the [ASPH bulletin](#) "this intensive, one-of-a-kind event offers more medication safety CE programming than any other national or regional meeting". Please visit <http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/SM2011/MedSafetyFinal.aspx> for the dates and times of this must attend event. The Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners (SICP) is credited for the development of the medication safety track. Please be sure to congratulate program chairs: Joanne Kowiatek, SICP Director at Large-Elect, Jorge Carillo and Deborah Wagner (members of the SICP Advisory Group on Medication Safety) for their tireless efforts in assembling an impressive faculty list of speakers and facilitators! A Safety Priority Tool Kit will be made available exclusively for meeting attendees. And, during the Monday evening networking session there will be a drawing for Dr. Henri Manasee's and Dr. Kasey Thompson's Book, *Medication Safety: A Guide for Healthcare Facilities*. So, if you haven't done so already, plan on attending the Summer Meeting in Denver. Don't just hear, Be there!

And now for the governance aspect of the SM: The House of Delegates (HOD)! The HOD Open Forum will be on Saturday, June 11 from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm MT. Please attend the open forum to share your views on policy proposals, comment on emerging issues that will be discussed at the House of Delegates, and witness the installation of the SICP Director at Large-Elect, Joanne Kowiatek. If you plan on attending caucuses please look for the caucus schedule on line. The second annual Small and Rural Hospital caucus will convene early Sunday morning, June 12 from 7:30 – 9:30 am MT in Room 104, Level 2 of the Convention Center. All delegates are invited to present issues and engage in discussion to shape future recommendations in policies that will affect small, rural and frontier pharmacy practice sites. To read the [SICP HOD report](#), please see the following link: <http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/Policy/HOD/ReportonSectionsandForums.aspx>. There will also be discussion regarding Section Strategic goals specific to small, rural and frontier settings and the applicability of these goals to the Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI). At the second meeting of the House of Delegates, new business items may be presented for consideration by the Board for the upcoming year. Also Chair-Elect, Jennifer Edwards will be sworn in as the 2011-2012 Chair of the Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners. Please join me in welcoming Jennifer as Chair!

Throughout the past year hospitals and health-systems are moving full speed ahead in working to prevent readmissions. There are numerous projects and pilots underway showing how health-system pharmacists, along with many other health care professionals, are working together across the continuum of care to increase quality of care and patient health. Pharmacists have the unique opportunity to take the lead in any setting that is just in the beginning phases of addressing readmissions. Additionally, if your institution has begun work on this quality initiative and pharmacy is not yet fully involved – assert your presence in the effort. Medication reconciliation, medication information and patients understanding of the medications they take are extremely important elements to a successful program. Hand-offs between care providers such as home care, long-term care, primary care providers and follow up appointments once patients are transitioned from acute care to all points outside of the "hospital" are also areas for pharmacy to have impact. The Society of Hospital Medicine and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement are two great places to look for those just starting out or for those seeking confirmation of efforts currently underway. Other initiatives bubbling up include Meaningful Use, Value-Based purchasing and the Department of Health and Human Services' recently launched public-private partnership: Partnership for Patients.

Inpatient Care Practitioners have the ability, professional knowledge and the can do attitude to make vital contributions to the care of the patients and play an essential role in assisting health-systems successfully meet the challenges of quality care measures.

Let's continue to make things happen. I look forward to meeting and greeting you at our Summer Meeting in Denver! Remember, Don't Just Hear, Be There!

"In"Patient-ly yours,

Brian Benson, Pharm.D.

Chair, [Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners](#)

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and

Executive Director of Pharmacy

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