



Section of
**INPATIENT CARE
PRACTITIONERS**

Message from the Chair – August, 2011



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(2011-2012)

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Dear Colleagues,

I am your new Chair for the Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners. I have served as an Executive Committee member of this section for the past four years (Director at Large and Chair elect) and am now so grateful for the opportunity to lead this fantastic group during such an exciting time for pharmacy!

Getting Involved!

Once upon a time, I was a young pharmacy practitioner who was very active in my hospital and state pharmacy organization but never knew about the great opportunities that existed within ASHP. Sure I paid my dues, attended the Midyear meetings and utilized the ASHP textbooks and webpage as resources, but that was the extent of my ASHP experience. Then I was nominated by my state organization and was appointed to serve on the ASHP Council on Education and Workforce Development. My world of pharmacy expanded and I began my voyage as an active ASHP member. My first experience of arriving at 7272 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda was one of complete amazement. The ASHP staff with whom I interacted was passionate about pharmacy. They asked so many questions about what I did at my practice site; and, really wanted to understand the professional issues I faced and how ASHP could help to meet those needs. Throughout my 10 years of active ASHP involvement, that passion for the pharmacy profession is still evident amongst the ASHP staff and all the pharmacist volunteers who dedicate their time to advancing our profession. Get Involved! It will be one of the most rewarding aspects of your career...I guarantee it! You may be asking....HOW? There are numerous opportunities...through Section Advisory Groups (SAGs) and committees, councils and commissions, presenting at meetings and/or reviewing educational sessions/posters for meetings, participating in the networking sessions, connecting with colleagues through the use of ASHP Connect, blogs and sundry other ASHP communication and social media vehicles. Feel free to [contact me](#) and let me know of your interest of getting involved! I will be more than happy to help guide you through the ASHP networking process.

Drug Shortages

Drug shortages continue to be a tremendous problem within the medical community, impacting patient care and increasing costs to the nation's health system. [A study entitled, Impact of Drug Shortages on U.S. Health Systems](#), was just released July 11, 2011 by ASHP in partnership with the University of Michigan Health System. Recent legislation introduced in the House of Representatives "Preserving Access to Life Saving Medications Act" (H.R. 2245) gives the Food and Drug Administration new authority to prevent shortages. Similar legislation was introduced in the Senate (S. 296) this past February. I strongly urge you to contact your state representatives and senators to support these important bills. ASHP has made this easy for you! Follow the link below and you will have access to a form letter that you can EASILY send to your state legislators. I did it and so can you! It is imperative to [show your support of this bill](#) and encourage your friends and colleagues to do so as well.

Credentialing...Specialization...Board Certification

Wow! There is certainly a lot of buzz surrounding board certification, credentialing and specialization of pharmacists. Let's start with the 2011 ASHP House of Delegates (HOD) session at the Summer Meeting in Denver approving new policy that addressed this issue. The Section of Clinical Scientists and Specialists got the ball rolling by introducing a new business item entitled "Board Certification for Pharmacists" that was ultimately approved by the HOD. You may review the [original draft of the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists' recommendation on ASHP Connect](#). Board-certification and credentialing of pharmacists practicing in direct patient care positions have also been recommended in the recently published [Pharmacy-Practice Model Initiative \(PPMI\) Summit proceedings](#). And, if that were not sufficient, check out David Witmer's (Vice President, ASHP Office of Member Relations) [blog on Credentialing and Specialization- An Evolving Trend](#) on the ASHP website. Finally, [July's issue of INTERSections](#) also features a story on credentialing and specialization as well.

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

I am looking forward to the 46th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition December 4-8, 2011. Save the date and come to *NOLA: Network-Opportunity-Learn-Advance in The Big Easy...* New Orleans, Louisiana! Keep in mind that the Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners hosts its annual Programming for Small & Rural Hospitals. The sixth annual event will convene on Sunday, December 4th, 8am-5:30pm. All day educational programming that focuses on issues germane to rural and frontier healthcare practitioners. I look forward to meeting you there! The Section's Advisory Groups and membership components will also host six networking sessions: Pharmacy Practice Experiences, Investigational Drug Services, Medication Safety, Pharmacy Support Services, Small and Rural Hospitals, OR/Anesthesiology and a Section Executive Committee Meet and Greet Session. Details on when and where will follow as we get closer to the MCM.

Please reflect on my journey of volunteerism and active involvement with ASHP. Consider how much satisfaction it has brought to me both professionally and personally. Finally, ponder the following quote as you contemplate how the PPMI is going to revolutionize our profession and the role you will play in the revolution:

"Every new day begins with possibilities. It's up to us to fill it with the things that move us toward progress." -- Paula Santidrian

Let me help you get involved~

Jennifer M. Edwards, Pharm.D., FASHP

Chair, Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners

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and

Clinical Pharmacist, Bozeman Deaconess Hospital; Bozeman, Montana "The Last Best Place"