



Message from the Chair – July 2010

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Chair, Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology**

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I would like to begin by thanking the Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology for your support by selecting me to serve as your Chair for the coming year. It has been very rewarding serving in various roles the past three years and I am excited to begin this next phase. It is obvious after serving as the Section delegate for this year's House of Delegates that we have lots of important work to do relative to policy statements and new recommendations to the House. It was very satisfying to see the [ASHP Statement on Barcode Verification during Inventory, Preparation, and Dispensing of Medications](#) be unanimously approved by the House of Delegates. Congratulations to the [SAG on Pharmacy Operations Automation](#) for their hard work on this statement.

The first full day of the Summer Meeting was devoted to the topic of Meaningful Use with 6 full hours of sessions scheduled by our Section. It occurred to me as I reviewed my notes on the flight home from the meeting that this concept of "[meaningful use](#)" can extend beyond the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the [Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health \(HITECH\) Act](#). We should adopt this methodology for all systems and technology we implement. We should insure positive and expected outcomes and apply continuous quality improvement cycles to monitor data and optimize systems for maximum benefits. The [final regulation](#) has just been released and I encourage pharmacist informaticists to get involved with Phase I requirement evaluation at your site.

There was also an interesting session on the pharmacist's role in project management. Project Managers provide important structure to drive projects to positive outcomes on time and on budget. However, is the pharmacist best-suited to serve as the project manager or as the subject matter expert? The Section will have a chance to present their views in this arena as we review the [ASHP Statement on the Role of the Pharmacist in Informatics](#).

In closing I would like to thank [Dennis Tribble](#) and [Brent Fox](#) for their dedication and contributions to ASHP and the Section as their tenures officially end. The next twelve months

will be very challenging. As we inch closer to economic recovery and see more and more projects begin, we may struggle at times to balance the extra work with current daily responsibilities especially as we face the road to Meaningful Use. We will need to lean on each other ever more so and pool our resources to develop tools we can share and refine. We are a very talented group and I am confident we will continue to support each other and sustain our development as a strong informatics community.

The ASHP Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology, Committee on Nominations has submitted the following slate of candidates for the offices of Chair and Director-at-large. This slate was presented to the membership at the Summer Meeting, June 4-9, in Tampa, FL and ballots will be sent to Section primary members in July. The candidates for Chair, SOPIT (2011-2012) are Ron J. Burnette, R.Ph., M.B.A., PMP and Allen J. Flynn, Pharm.D., CPHIMS, CHS. The candidates for Director-at-large, SOPIT (2011-2013) are Stanley L. Pestotnik, M.S., R.Ph. and Sylvia M. Thomley, Pharm.D., M.S. Be sure to view the [candidates' statements](#), and cast your vote for your Section leadership.

Lastly, the Section Executive Committee encourages your continued participation in Section activities and to become involved in Section leadership. For a list of opportunities, go to ASHP's Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology's Web site at <http://www.ashp.org/informatics>

