



## Message from the Chair – June, 2011

**Chris Urbanski, R.Ph., M.S.**

**Director Pharmacy Informatics and Meds Integration, Clarian Health  
Chair, Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology**

[sections@ashp.org](mailto:sections@ashp.org)

Dear Colleagues,

As I head home after attending the Summer Meeting in Denver, it's time to reflect back over the past year as Chair of the Section. There are a few themes from the past year that also resonated at the meeting that I want to share.

We are just a few months away from the first reporting period for [Meaningful Use](#) under the HITECH Act. It would seem larger institutions are most poised with resources to take the dive and sign up. They have likely had integrated EMR systems in place for years but what about the smaller stand-alone hospitals? Will they make it? The next two years will likely bring about much change with respect to the small and rural hospital landscape.

One cannot look back over the past 12-months without discussing the [Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative \(PPMI\)](#). In order to achieve the significant practice model change called for by the initiative, the profession is calling for more resident-trained pharmacists, more residency programs, and increased delegation of non-clinical tasks to pharmacy technicians and support personnel. One of the six objectives of the PPMI is to identify existing and future technologies required to support optimal pharmacy practice models in hospitals and health systems. That's where we come in. However, without an adequate pool of informatics pharmacist resources to design, build, test, implement and support these technologies, we will continue to be asked to do more with the same resources. The colleges of pharmacy have to hear the call and assist us with establishment of more specific informatics curriculum as we build the informatics career path to include [rotations and PGY2 residencies](#).

Speaking of pharmacy informatics credentialing, there was a very thought-provoking session on this very topic on Tuesday afternoon of the Summer Meeting. Have we reached the point where we need to consider creating a BPS certification for informatics pharmacists? Do we meet the criteria to be considered for board certification? While there are pros and cons to consider, look for this to be a hot topic over this next year.

I'd like to thank the [Section Executive Committee and Section Advisory Groups](#) for all their efforts and support this past year. In particular, many thanks to Anne Bobb and Chad Hardy who have completed their three-year commitment as executive committee members. They have been instrumental in advancing our Section during its early years. Our primary Section membership has almost doubled in the past year and much of that growth should be credited to Anne and Chad's leadership.

Lastly I'd like to acknowledge the undying commitment and endless energy of our Section director Karl Gumpfer. Karl is as dedicated to the profession as anyone I know. He is in constant motion between Advisory Group calls, newsletters, and Executive Committee meetings. He keeps his finger on the pulse of pharmacy informatics and the state of the profession in general. The Section could not accomplish its objectives and be as successful without Karl's leadership and support.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Urbanski". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Chris Urbanski, R.Ph., M.S.**

Past-Chair, Section of Pharmacy Informatics & Technology (2010-2011)

Director Pharmacy Informatics and Meds Integration Information Systems

Indiana University Health

Indianapolis, IN

[sections@ashp.org](mailto:sections@ashp.org)

For more information about the Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology, please visit our website at [www.ashp.org/informatics](http://www.ashp.org/informatics).