

Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology

Message from the Chair

December 2008

This is turning out to be a really exciting year. At our executive meeting this month, we will be considering an ASHP statement on bar-code assisted dispensing and its place in the toolset for a safer medication-use process.



The informatics column appears to be headed toward increased circulation, and it appears that ASHP is on its way to articulating a 21st century practice model that considers both the opportunities technology offers and the realities of our available pool of professionals.

I continue to be impressed and amazed at the depth and quality of people you have elected to serve on the Section's Executive Committee (myself excluded). Specifically this month, I would like to highlight two people:

Anne Bobb – for her continued leadership in reminding us that technology provides us with a suite of tools that, taken together, provide opportunities to improve the safety and quality of the medication use process. Anne presented at the ASHP Leadership conference on Informatics: Health Information Technology Impact on Safety and Quality – The Pharmacist's Role. Take a look at the work Anne has done with HIMSS on a book regarding Clinical Decision Support Systems - Improving Outcomes with Clinical Decision Support: HIMSS Clinical Decision Support Guidebook Series.

John Poikonen – who continues to remind us that evidence is what should drive us (as opposed to expert opinion) and to provide an encyclopedic knowledge of that evidence. Be sure to attend John's session at the Midyear Clinical Meeting - Information Technology and the Pharmacy Department: Collaboration or Conflict? on Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m.

Both of these people are active contributors to the section in a variety of fashions, both as thought leaders in public forums and as educators in various ASHP venues. Please join me in thanking them for their efforts.

I will continue to highlight the capabilities and contributions of other team members in subsequent messages; I want you to share with me the delight in knowing and working with these incredible people.

I am really looking forward to interacting with you at the networking sessions in Orlando in December. I really hope you are planning to attend. At the general networking session, we will be talking about some significant work being done by the section, including what could be some real visioning activities regarding the

technology-enabled practice model of the future. I think you are going to find this interesting, challenging, and fun. Come prepared to think out of the box!

As always, I encourage you to become actively involved in the section. As a very new section, we have much to be proud of in both our growth, and our involvement.

- Got an idea for the informatics column? Please send it to Brent Fox.
- Got an informatics issue that you think ASHP should address? Please send it to Karl Gumper.
- Want to participate in policy development? Write and tell Karl you would like to volunteer.

Don't forget to register for the upcoming Networking Webinar organized by the Section's Task Force on Education and Publications: Innovations in Chemotherapy Preparation Safety: Telepharmacy and Barcode Technology. This event, a value added service for ASHP members, is scheduled from 2:00p.m-3:00p.m. (Eastern Day Time). To register, click on the following link:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/788844701>

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

A good way to get involved with the Section is to participate on one of its advisory groups or task forces. For more information about these groups, please visit the About This Section page. If interested, please send your CV to sections@ashp.org.