

Message from the Chair

July 2008

It seems like just yesterday I was informed of my position as Chair-elect, yet here we are nearly a year later and I am now Chair. I know I speak for the Executive Committee in thanking Jeff Ramirez for his involvement as Director-at-Large this past year.



If you were not able to make it to the 2008 Summer Meeting in Seattle this year, you missed a great meeting. I am especially proud of the involvement our Section displayed (led by John Poikonen and Mark Siska in the House) which included:

- The only Section sponsored ASHP Position Statement placed before the house on Bar Code Medication Administration
- The only Resolution considered before the House (for an alternative to the National Drug Code - NDC)
- Six heavily-attended informatics CE sessions with the introduction of audience-participation using voting devices (Thanks Brent!!!)
- Five recommendations set before the House of Delegates
 - Support Telepharmacy Practice
 - Support Centralized Distribution practice
 - Change the term “transcription” to an alternative term that better represents the cognitive work pharmacists do in reviewing and managing patient medication orders
 - Consider alternatives in pharmacy practice to nearly universal pharmacist order review (NUPOR)
 - That ASHP review all policy statements to ensure that none prohibits or prevents appropriate encoding of medication data for automated retrieval.

The Automation and Documentation Section Advisory Group (SAG) worked hard on what turned out to be a controversial update to the statement on BCMA. Look for more exciting work from this SAG relating to multi-site formulary architectures and commentary on interfaces to automated dispensing devices. Chris Urbanski and Arash Dabestani deserve thanks for helping to keep this SAG so productive.

The Executive Committee met over a two-day period to plan for the coming year. One of the more exciting outcomes is the formation of a new SAG to focus on informatics for Ambulatory Practice. Initially, this group’s charge will include such matters as e-Prescribing, the longitudinal health record, personal health records, continuity of care, and reimbursement issues.

With a declining population of pharmacists, a decline in the number interested in our “traditional” practice roles, and a steadily increasing demand for our services, the time has come to critically review our practice model. Technology holds some

interesting promises for the way our model will evolve, making the Section a very interesting place to be.

Thank you to each and every one of you who have contributed to the success of our listserv so far; we are barely two years old as a section yet our list serve is among the most active. Keep up the good work of sharing your knowledge and vision with others!

Finally, thanks to each of you that has contributed to a very successful year for the Section. There is a lot of work to be done; we need your involvement and support as we move through a year with a packed agenda and real opportunity to make a difference in the way our profession is practiced.

Dennis Tribble, Pharm. D.

Chair, Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology