

Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology

Message from the Chair

May 2009

“Wow! It’s amazing to realize that a whole year has gone by! I continue to be impressed by the quality of thought and action that our section members display.



We have been wrestling with a number of important issues:

- **A new pharmacy practice model** – it is clear the our current paradigm will probably not survive either the tidal wave of care requirements brought on by the aging of the baby boomers (like me!) or the impacts of health care reform we are likely to encounter. The executive committee generated a vision statement on a technology-enabled future practice model that will be published in a future issue of *AJHP*.
- **CPOE and CDSS** – the [Clinical Information Systems Section Advisory Group \(SAG\)](#) has recognized the need for significant improvement in the way medications are handled in these processes and has worked on two documents, a guideline on best practices for CPOE and a statement of requirements for a clinically functional contraindications (allergies, etc.) functionality in CDSS are being written.
- **Informatics Programming** – we restructured two subgroups, the Task Force on Education & Publications and the Programming Committee. The Task Force is now the [SAG on Pharmacy Informatics Education](#), and its members will be responsible for educational needs and of the Section’s members and managing the “Informatics Interchange” column in *AJHP*. The [Programming Committee](#) will continue to provide ideas for quality programming at the Midyear Clinical Meeting and the [Summer Meeting](#). Both groups have done yeoman’s work in putting together what has been a consistently high quality of presentations at our national meetings.
- **Informatics Interchange** – the frequency of this column has increased, and we are getting a lot of good contributions for the column. Please contribute your expertise! Please send your ideas to the [Section](#).
- **Commentary** – we have been pleased to work with authors to develop a wide range of commentary on technology-enabled practice. Perhaps the most controversial one, and one that will consume some discussion at the [Summer Meeting Section’s networking session](#), is [Allen Flynn’s](#) discussion on the opportunity cost for nearly universal pharmacist order review (NUPOR).
- **Standards** – we have worked with a variety of organizations to participate in national forums regarding automation of the medication-use process, including [commentary on the NDC](#) and its serialization and use cases for CCHIT.
- **Regulatory and Legislative Affairs** – the introduction of the funding for adoption of electronic health record (EHR) technologies with “meaningful use” has stimulated a lot of

activity in attempting to define what meaningful use may be. The Executive Committee is working to get a position paper done on what meaningful use would be in terms of the medication-use process. We will introduce [new business](#) to the House of Delegates concerning an official position by ASHP, but your section will have a draft statement for consideration long before then.

- **Bar coding in Pharmacy Dispensing** – the [SAG on Automation and Documentation](#) is nearly done with a companion statement regarding the desirability of implementing bar code verification during dispensing. Unfortunately, that statement was not complete in time to make it to the House of Delegates this year; look for it to be published as a section document while we are waiting for our opportunity at next year's House of Delegates.

What is just as exciting is to see the way our members help one another both on the list serve and on the new [ASHP Connect](#) blogosphere. We need to tap into that commitment and ask you to consider lending your time and talent to the business of the Section. As you can see, we have barely scratched the surface of what needs to be done. We have a lot of work before us to develop a practice model that will take the best advantage of our training and skill. The old systems that were designed to help us distribute drugs in the 1980's are no longer adequate to our needs and we need incredible amounts of research to define and validate what those new systems will look and feel like. I hope we can count on each and every one of you to become more involved.

A good way to get involved with the Section is to participate on one of its advisory groups or committees. For more information about these groups, please visit the [Section's website](#). If interested, please send your current CV or resume to sections@ashp.org and indicate which [Group or Committee](#) you would like to volunteer your time. The deadline for applying to the Section's Groups and Committees is May 31, 2009.

It has been my privilege to work with the executive group this year; they teach me daily. I am excited to see where [Chad](#) will take us in the next year, and pass the baton to him with great confidence.

[Dennis Tribble, Pharm. D.](#)

Chair, Section of Pharmacy Informatics and Technology