



Message from the Chair – June 2010

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Immediate Past Chair, Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers (2010-2011)

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Dear Colleagues:

Wow, what a phenomenal year for health care, pharmacy leadership, and our section. I would compare this time for us in pharmacy as the making of a perfect Broadway production. The stage is set, our cast and crew have all had the training and resources needed to provide the perfect show, and we as producers of the show have the tools we need to make it a success.

The Stage

Healthcare reform can be our friend, as I recently learned at the ASHP Board Retreat targeted to re-evaluate our leadership agenda. Many of the new planks on the [ASHP Leadership Agenda](#) are aimed at healthcare reform. ASHP legislative leaders are keeping their eye on the healthcare reform legislation and although, there are several “unknowns” to this act, there are several opportunities for pharmacy to shine and show what we can do for health care for our patients. Please take a moment to read through the planks of the [ASHP Leadership Agenda](#) to learn more about our focus related to healthcare reform.

Last year the National Quality Forum published the 2009 update consensus report on “Safe Practices for Better Healthcare”. This year, a new safe practice was introduced. The new chapter is [NQF-endorsed Safe Practice 18: Pharmacist Leadership and Systems](#). The objective of the safe practice indicates that pharmacy leadership is the core of a successful medication safety program. The objective also identifies that the role of pharmacy leadership structures and systems is integral to organization-wide safe medication use. This became the only safe practice that calls on a specific discipline to take on an expanded leadership role to improve patient safety. The NQF best practice indicates that pharmacy leaders should have an active role on the administrative leadership team that reflects their authority and accountability for medication management systems performance across the organization.

Our Cast and Crew

The number of training programs, alternative learning opportunities, and quality of students coming from established programs are at an all time high. Many of us are experiencing an end to the shortage of pharmacists and are able to fill vacancies with highly qualified candidates.

Additionally, the number of states and individual health systems requiring PTCB certification and/or advanced technician training is increasing every year. Our support crew is becoming even more ready to take on the challenge of a changing pharmacy practice model.

Producers

The Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers has continually improved our [practice resource site](#) on the ASHP website to provide tools for development and support of our section members. These tools are a great resource for members who are in manager roles. These tools are the direct result of our Section Advisory Groups' work.

If you aren't already reading material that the C-suit is seeing, I encourage you to read a recent publication from the Commonwealth Fund entitled: [A Guide to Achieving High Performance in Multi-Hospital Health Systems](#). The guide was published in March of this year and identifies best practices associated with high performing health systems.

The ASHP Foundation recently initiated a [Leadership Resource Center](#) on their website. This site provides resources and tools for leaders in pharmacy. This supplements the Foundation's Pharmacy Leadership Academy and Pharmacy Leadership Institute.

This is certainly an extremely challenging time when we are all being asked to do more with less. However, this is also a very exciting time of change with many opportunities to lead/manage a pharmacy into the next century. Let's make it the perfect Broadway production.

While this is my last chair's message, I can't pass up the opportunity to recognize the great work that our [Section Advisory Groups and Executive Committee](#) have accomplished over the past year. Our web resources, member recognition, tools, training opportunities, publications, and ability to involve Section members are incredible. This success is a result of commitment from our Advisory Group leaders and members. Their dedication to our Section and the profession is a testament to the greatness we can achieve.

Sincerely,

Kathy Pawlicki, M.S., FASHP

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