

Message from the Chair

March 07, 2009



Dear Colleagues:

Opportunities now available to design and implement an integrated clinical – distribution medication system in a multidisciplinary care environment that emphasizes quality clinical outcomes that correlate with the cost effective use of resources. Established leadership and management skills, written and verbal communication proficiency, critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, and the ability to work in a team are key for success. Staff pharmacists and pharmacy managers are to apply within.

Does the above appear to be a help wanted advertisement or does it reflect today's practice environment for health-system pharmacists? The current economic environment can be seen either as a perilous situation or as an opportunity for health-system pharmacists to demonstrate the drug therapy management skill sets they have developed in order to effectively manage the clinical, financial, and operational aspects of medication use. Today's healthcare and economic environments are perhaps 'the calling' health-system pharmacists have been waiting for to demonstrate their role in medication management given that pharmacists are drug therapy managers.

The Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers provides an environment for health-system pharmacists to network, develop skills and obtain the necessary information to succeed in today's challenging, and albeit at times very difficult, healthcare environment. The offerings of the Section to its members are numerous and member driven. Section offerings include educational programming at the ASHP Summer Meeting, Midyear Clinical Meeting, Annual Leadership Conference, Managers Boot Camp and the newly developed student leadership development conferences. Section members, with the assistance of ASHP staff, provide webinars, electronic newslinks, management consultation columns, practice surveys, networking sessions, resource centers, and Journal publications to assist health-system pharmacy managers.

The Section would not be successful without the involvement of its members. The Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers has five section advisory groups (SAGs); Pharmacy Business Management, Manager Development, Compliance and Quality, Leadership Development, and Communication and Publications. I encourage you to visit the Section website and consider participating in one of the SAGs during 2009 - 2010. If you desire to be directly involved with the Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers as a member of a SAG please indicate your interest and the specific SAG to ASHP via email at sections@ashp.org no later than April 15, 2009.

Today's healthcare environment is extremely demanding and challenging for health-system pharmacy managers. The Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers can assist you with meeting these challenges through management and leadership education, networking, and resources that you can apply within your organization.

Thank you for supporting the Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers.

Sincerely,

James R. Rinehart, M.S., R.Ph., FASHP