

# ASHP Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners

In 2005, the Section's membership elected Cathy Sasser to serve as Chair-elect; she immediately began to serve the Section in that capacity. The Section's membership also elected Timothy Brown to a two-year term as director-at-large. The Section's Committee on Nominations for 2006, chaired by Mary Ann Kliethermes, will present a slate of candidates for Chair-elect and one director-at-large position.

Led by its Executive Committee, the Section focused on efforts in members' practice areas, including the ongoing activities of the Continuity of Care Task Force and the Pain and Palliative Care Task Force, the organization of practice area networks, the establishment of an advisory group on reimbursement for cognitive services, and the development of a Web resource on patient assistance programs (PAPs) and the ambulatory care workshop and other Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM) programming. In addition, many Section members represented ASHP on various committees nationwide.

During 2005, the Section's membership grew nearly 19%.

**Continuity of Care Task Force.** Continuity of care continues to be a major emphasis for the Section. A position paper titled "Continuity of Care in Medication Management: Review of Issues and Considerations for Pharmacy" was completed by the Section's Continuity of Care Task Force and published in the August 15, 2005, *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AJHP)*. The document was listed as a resource in the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) February 2006 *Sentinel Event Alert* titled "Using Medication Reconciliation to Prevent Errors." The task force was chaired by Caryn Bing and had representation from each of the Section's practice areas as well as from other ASHP sections and forums. The Executive Committee will continue to promote improvements and education in continuity of care as a major part of the Section's strategic plan.

**Pain and Palliative Care Task Force.** The Section's Executive Committee identified pain and palliative care as an area that needed attention, including more emphasis during the education of students and new practitioners and assessment of how ASHP could provide supporting resources. The area of pain and palliative care encompasses the care of patients with acute pain and chronic pain, as well as the management of patients at the end of life. The Section's Pain and Palliative Care Task Force completed a review of ASHP policies and guidelines and suggested changes to update those documents. In April 2005 the task force completed a survey of pharmacy practice chairs in the colleges, pharmacy directors, clinical coordinators and specialists, and practitioners to assess the level of practice in, education for, and resources allocated to the area of pain and palliative care. The results will be published in *AJHP*. In addition, the task force supported ASHP's efforts in this area by providing the Government Affairs Division with comments on various documents and by contributing to ASHP's comments to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education on the need for expanded educational and experiential opportunities for students in pain management and palliative care. Also, the task force is developing a workshop to be presented in conjunction with the 2006 MCM.

**Practice Area Network Forums.** The Executive Committee decided in January 2005 that the Section needed to develop network forums focused on members' various practice areas. Network forums were initiated during the 2005 Midyear Clinical Meeting and were well attended. Each practice area network has two facilitators, who will help support network listservers and plan network sessions for the 2006 MCM.

## Executive Committee

Carol J. Rollins, Chair (Arizona)  
Cathy L. Sasser, Chair-elect (Georgia)  
MaryAnn Kliethermes, Immediate Past Chair (Illinois)  
Timothy R. Brown (Ohio)  
Sandra L. Chase (Michigan)  
M. Sharm Steadman (South Carolina)  
Kevin J. Colgan, Board Liaison (Illinois)  
David F. Chen, Secretary

**Advisory Group on Reimbursement for Cognitive Services.** This advisory group was appointed to address changes in the health care environment such as the introduction of medication therapy management under Medicare Part D. The group will review current practices, give advice on educational needs, and develop resources. It will develop Web-based resources to help pharmacists obtain compensation for clinical services and will update those resources as new regulations, legislation, and other events affect payment for services. In addition, the group will organize the ambulatory care workshop at the 2006 MCM.

**PAP Web Resource.** This Web site, made possible by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration Pharmacy Services Support Center, provides a comprehensive list of PAPs, tools to assist in their use, and information about individual manufacturers' programs. Section members and other members of ASHP developed this resource to support the goal of providing affordable and accessible medications to patients.

**Educational Programming.** At the 2005 MCM, the Section provided a presentation on the "Cutting Edge in Ambulatory Practice" and programming on family health. The programs were very well attended, and the Section will repeat the "Cutting Edge" format. The Section's theme for the 2006 MCM will be continuity of care.

**Advocacy.** Many Section members represented ASHP in various forums and committees. The Section has provided member experts to the National Quality Forum and its Ambulatory Care Project, to the JCAHO Professional and Technical Advisory Committees on Ambulatory and Home Care, and to the SOS-Rx Coalition/National Consumers League and its patient medication education project. These members bring the pharmacist's perspective to discussions of nationwide projects that influence patient care.

**Conclusion.** The Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners had a very productive year as it fulfilled members' needs and continued to provide leadership and value for its members through its members.

## Committee on Programming

Melissa Blair, Chair (North Carolina); Doug Baldwin (North Carolina); Kimberly A. Binaso (New Jersey); Edith Nutescu (Illinois); Barbara J. Petroff (Michigan); Edward P. Sheridan (Indiana); Pamela L. Stamm (Alabama); William H. Vanderpool (Maryland); M. Sharm Steadman, Executive Committee Liaison

## Committee on Nominations

Mary Ann Kliethermes, Chair (Illinois); Becky Armor (Oklahoma); Leona J. Dombroske (California); Diane Jones (Florida); Mae Kwong (California); Richard L. Stambaugh (Minnesota); Marc H. Stranz (Colorado); Barbara A. White (Florida)

**Continuity of Care Task Force**

Caryn M. Bing, Chair (Nevada); Carol J. Rollins (Arizona); William J. Crossey (Pennsylvania); Amber L. Briggs (Alaska); Vincent Yahl (Ohio); Douglas E. Miller (Georgia); Jessica B. Mitchell (Illinois); Mary Ann Kliethermes, Executive Committee Liaison (Illinois)

**Pain Management and Palliative Care Task Force**

Douglas Nee, Co-chair (California); James B. Ray, Co-chair (Pennsylvania); Sondra M. Adkinson (Florida); Thomas Bookwalter (California); Christopher M. Herndon (Illinois); Kenneth C. Jackson (Utah); Lori Reisner (California); Jennifer M. Strickland (Florida); Cathy L. Sasser, Executive Committee Liaison (Georgia)

**Advisory Group on Reimbursement  
for Cognitive Services**

Robert Wayne Blackburn (California); Seena Zierler-Brown (Florida); Roger S. Klotz (California); Sandra Leal (Arizona); Edith Nutescu (Illinois); Laura D. Roller (Utah); Ronald F. Smetana (Ohio); Raymond E. Smith (California); Hoai An Truong, New Practitioner (Maryland); Timothy R. Brown, Executive Committee Liaison (Ohio)