

ASHP Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners

In 2006, the Section membership elected Ernest Dole to serve as Chair-elect; he immediately began to serve in that capacity. The members also elected Barbara Petroff to a two-year term as director-at-large. The Section's Committee on Nominations for 2007, chaired by Carol Rollins, will present a slate of candidates for one director-at-large position and for Chair-elect.

Led by its Executive Committee, the Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners focused on pain management and palliative care, reimbursement for cognitive services, and continuity of care. The Section's Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM) programming and other activities described in this report addressed challenges and pharmacists' role in these areas. The 2006 MCM programs were well attended. The Section chose Aging in Place as its theme for the 2007 MCM and will repeat its Cutting Edge in Ambulatory Practice presentation.

During 2006, the Section grew by nearly 11%, to a total primary and secondary membership of 7603.

Pain Management and Palliative Care. The Section's Executive Committee identified pain management and palliative care as underserved areas in which there is potential for growth through the education of students and new practitioners, and in which ASHP might provide resources to support practice. These areas include the management of acute and chronic pain and the provision of end-of-life care. The Section's Pain Management and Palliative Care Task Force provided a well-attended workshop at the 2006 MCM, which will be repeated in 2007. The task force also contributed comments on documents prepared by the ASHP Government Affairs Division and the National Quality Forum.

Reimbursement for Cognitive Services. With the changing health care environment and the introduction of medication therapy management (MTM) programs, the Section's Advisory Group on Cognitive Reimbursement Resources was formed to review current practices, provide advice on educational needs, and develop member resources. The group organized the 2006 MCM Ambulatory Care Workshop, which focused on documentation, collaborative drug therapy management agreements, and obtaining grants. The workshop will be repeated in 2007. In addition, the advisory group is generating articles for the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AJHP)* on reimbursement for cognitive services, the first of which was published in the January 15, 2007, issue.

Continuity of Care. "Continuity of Care in Medication Management: Review of Issues and Considerations for Pharmacy," prepared by the Section, was published in the August 15, 2005, issue of *AJHP*. That document has been used by the Section as a guide for strategic planning and education. In addition, the document was listed as a resource in Joint Commission's February 2006 *Sentinel Event Alert* titled "Using Medication Reconciliation to Prevent Errors." Sessions organized by the Section's Programming Committee for the 2006 MCM emphasized continuity of care; included was a six-hour case study of a patient's journey from the emergency department to ambulatory care.

Medicare Modernization Act. Practice models for MTM services under Medicare Part D were the topic of the Section's Cutting Edge in Ambulatory Care session at the 2006 MCM. Also in 2006, an *AJHP* question-and-answer column on the Medicare Modernization Act was initiated.

Executive Committee

Cathy L. Sasser, Chair (Georgia)
Ernest Dole, Chair-elect (New Mexico)
Carol Rollins, Immediate Past Chair (Arizona)
Timothy R. Brown (Ohio)
Sandra L. Chase (Michigan)
Barbara J. Petroff (Michigan)
Lynnae M. Mahaney, Board Liaison (Wisconsin)
David F. Chen, Secretary

Practice Area Networks. The Section's networks focus on the unique needs of Section members in various practice areas. The network in each practice area (i.e., home, ambulatory, and chronic care) has two facilitators. Network forums were begun at the 2005 MCM and repeated at the 2006 MCM.

Advocacy. Many Section members are active in committees representing ASHP in various settings nationwide. The section has provided member experts to the Pharmacy Quality Alliance, the National Quality Forum and its ambulatory care project and substance abuse treatment project, the Joint Commission Professional and Technical Advisory Committees on Ambulatory and Home Care, and the SOS-Rx Coalition/National Consumers League and its patient medication education project. These members bring the pharmacist's perspective to discussions that have an impact on national patient care issues. In addition, in cooperation with the National Home Infusion Association, a Web-based seminar was conducted to obtain feedback from members in support of ASHP's comments on the proposed USP Chapter 797 standards.

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

Committee on Nominations

Carol J. Rollins, Chair (Arizona); Leona J. Dombroske (California); Mary Ann Kliethermes (Illinois); Mae Kwong (California); Barbara S. Prosser (New Hampshire)

Programming Committee

Melissa Blair, Chair (North Carolina); Kimberly A. Binaso (New Jersey); Michelle A. Fritsch (North Carolina); Katie V. Lai (Washington); Kimberly B. Lloyd (Alabama); Tracy A. Martinez (Michigan); Michele L. Matthews (Massachusetts); Edward P. Sheridan (Indiana); Pamela L. Stamm (Alabama); Anita Thomas (Indiana)

Advisory Group on Cognitive Reimbursement Resources
Robert Wayne Blackburn (California); Seena Zierler-Brown (Florida); Timothy R. Brown (Ohio); Kelly T. Epplen (Ohio); Roger S. Klotz (California); Sandra Leal (Arizona); Edith Nutescu (Illinois); Laura D. Roller (Utah); Ronald F. Smetana (Utah); Hoai An Truong (Maryland); Anne T. Jarrett, Section of Pharmacy Practice Managers Advisory Group on Financial Management/Reimbursement Liaison (North Carolina)

Task Force on Pain Management and Palliative Care

Doug Nee, Co-Chair (California); James B. Ray, Co-Chair (Pennsylvania); Sondra Adkinson (Florida); Thomas Bookwalter (California); Christopher Herndon (Illinois); Kenneth C. Jackson II (Utah); Mary Lynn McPherson (Maryland); Suzanne A. Nesbit, ASHP Network Facilitator on Pain Management (Maryland); Lori Reisner (California); Jennifer Strickland (Florida); Cathy L. Sasser, Executive Committee Liaison (Georgia)