

ASHP Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners

The Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners, now in its third year, has grown to more than 8000 members. Through educational programming, networking, advocacy, and volunteer opportunities, the Section Executive Committee has worked to develop member services that support the needs of the frontline pharmacist.

Educational Programming. The Section conducted successful educational sessions at the 2005 Midyear Clinical Meeting (MCM). The topics were "Small and Rural Hospitals: Unique Innovations for Unique Challenges," "Continuous Professional Development to Enhance Your Career," and "Expanding Your Role: Communication and Career Pathways." The Committee on Programming, chaired by Brian D. Benson, met during the 2005 MCM and selected a potential theme for the Section programming at the 2006 MCM: "Stories from the Front." The committee will develop three sessions for the 2006 MCM.

Resources for Inpatient Care Practitioners. Frontline pharmacists can use the Section's custom view on the ASHP Web site to find information pertinent to their needs, see a "Member Spotlight," and read about current Section activities. "Recommendations for Safe Use of Insulin in Hospitals," a 44-page document prepared by ASHP and the Hospital and Health-System Association of Pennsylvania, is posted on the Section's custom view. It offers a compilation of practices that experts agreed could prevent hospitalized patients from being harmed by insulin therapy. The project was supported by an educational grant from Eli Lilly and Company.

All members of the Section receive a bimonthly electronic NewsLink that provides information of interest to staff pharmacists and notifies members of opportunities within the Section. In addition, an e-discussion group enables Section members to communicate rapidly about areas of interest and receive vital information from various sources. Use of this resource has grown in the past year.

Section Advisory Groups. Section advisory groups advise the Section and ASHP at large on various issues and areas of practice. The Advisory Group for Small and Rural Hospitals maintains an active e-discussion group. It has provided written comments and oral testimony to the National Advisory Committee on Access to Pharmaceuticals, an activity of the Office of Rural Health Policy. The group also provided input to the ASHP Council on Administrative Affairs on remote order review, planned programming for the 2005 MCM, and is planning educational sessions for the 2006 MCM. The Section's Advisory Group on Publications is charged with contributing to the Frontline Pharmacist column in the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*; several topics submitted by the group are in process for publication.

Advocacy. A recommendation from the Section's Executive Committee "To urge the Food and Drug Administration to mandate that manufacturers of medications and medication-device combination products include labeling information on whether any component of the product, including its packaging, contains natural rubber latex" was approved by the 2005 ASHP House of Delegates.

Mission and Vision. The Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners was launched in September 2003 to meet the needs of the

Executive Committee

Megan K. McMurray, Chair (Washington)
Dale English, Chair-elect (Ohio)
Deborah Saine, Immediate Past Chair (Vermont)
Paul S. Driver (Idaho)
Patricia Knowles (Georgia)
Laura C. Wachter (Maryland)
Janet Silvester, Board Liaison
Teresa M. Rubio, Secretary

frontline pharmacist. The Section dedicates itself to achieving a vision in which pharmacists practicing in an inpatient setting safely integrate clinical (direct patient care or indirect patient care), distributive, and operational functions and are focused on improving care. To achieve this vision, the Section will:

- Serve as a voice for inpatient care practitioners and members of the Section within ASHP, including ASHP governance and integration of Section policy development within ASHP,
- Facilitate the integration of drug distribution and clinical practice for inpatient care practitioners and members of the Section,
- Support the professional development of inpatient care practitioners and members of the Section through education and skills development,
- Increase communication with Section members on key issues for the profession and the Section,
- Identify and offer guidance on quality of work life issues for Section members,
- Encourage, facilitate, and educate on the application of ASHP best practices and evidence-based guidelines at the inpatient care practitioner level, and
- Identify and promote the development of leaders within the Section.

Committee on Programming

Brian D. Benson, Chair (Iowa); Paul D. Mangino, Vice Chair (Kentucky); Paul J. Barrett (Maine); Michael W. Kelly (Iowa); Matt B. Zimmerman (Pennsylvania); Laura C. Wachter, Executive Committee Liaison (Maryland)

Committee on Nominations

Deb Saine, Chair (Vermont); Ronald M. Barnes, Immediate Past Chair (Georgia); Debra B. Feinberg (New York); Patricia C. Kienle (Pennsylvania); Steve Meyer (Ohio)

Advisory Group on Publications

Tammy Cohen, Chair (Texas); Norberto A. Alberto (New York); Adam D. Boon (Indiana); Catherine Christen (Michigan); Debbie Heckathorn (Idaho); Sandra C. Hennessy (Massachusetts); Tep M. Kang (Delaware); Bonnie A. Labdi (Texas); Jacqueline L. Olin (New Jersey); Megan K. McMurray, Executive Committee Liaison (Washington)

Advisory Group on Small and Rural Hospitals

DeeAnn W. Oleson, Chair (Iowa); Reginald L. Hain (Nebraska); Debby Lynn Painter Cowan (North Carolina); Timothy P. Stratton (Minnesota); Allen J. Vaida (Pennsylvania); Deb Saine, Executive Committee Liaison (Vermont)