



## **“Improving Practice, Now and Into the Future”**

ASHP President Lynnae Mahaney, MBA, FASHP

Opening General Session

ASHP 2010 Summer Meeting

Monday, June 7, 2010

### **Introduction**

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff at ASHP, welcome to Tampa!

I'm so happy to be here with all of you, but I have to admit that it's with a little bit of nostalgia. As the outgoing president, this will be the last time I stand on this stage in my current role. I have to tell you that it's been one great year. Even in the midst of unprecedented economic, political, and health care challenges, ASHP has stood strong and has kept our focus on the issues that matter most to you.

A year ago, I gave my inaugural speech calling on all of us to become pharmacy warriors in the ongoing battle for quality health care. Today, I want to thank all of you for stepping up to the plate and taking on the mantle of warrior. Because of you, patients across the country are healthier.

I also want to thank you for your ongoing support, both in terms of attending meetings like this one and your participation in the many communities that make up ASHP. Whether it's through the efforts of our House of Delegates, whose policies drive the fundamental work that we do as an organization, or through your involvement in ASHP Sections and Forums, we value your commitment to the profession.

### **Health Care Reform**

I'd like to share some information with you about two important events. First, an update on what's happening with health care reform, from the pharmacist's perspective. Second, some important information on ASHP's Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative.

Even though the fervor over health care legislation has died down, the questions over what it will mean for both patients and health care providers remain. ASHP scored some significant victories in this massive bill, victories that will improve quality and patient outcomes.

With your help, ASHP pushed hard to be present and accounted for during House and

Senate negotiations. We also worked with a number of other stakeholders to tell Congress that hospital and health-system pharmacists play a critical role on multidisciplinary teams. And that we need to be recognized and compensated for that care. We also made sure they knew how much pharmacists contribute to innovations in quality, technology, and evidence-based medicine.

And you, as ASHP members, marched along with us. You called your Congressmen and women. You wrote letters. You participated in ASHP's Legislative Day. You contributed to ASHP's Political Action Committee. You invited local legislators to your facilities to show them what you do each day... You had a powerful effect.

In fact, I invite you to take a look at the Spring issue of *ASHP InterSections* to see how Linda Radke, clinical coordinator for the pharmacy at Salina Regional Health Center in Salina, Kansas, successfully got her Congressional representative to tour her site.

While Representative Moran was at Salina, Linda talked to him about the importance of federal funding for pharmacy second-year residencies and the need to compensate pharmacists as providers under Medicare. She was able to carry the national ASHP message right down to the grassroots level.

For pharmacists, there are many opportunities contained within this 2,700-page law. It authorizes the creation of both a medication therapy management grant program and a medical home demonstration program. Both of these include pharmacist-delivered medication therapy management.

The new health care legislation includes programs designed to help reduce hospital readmissions and provide medication reconciliation services. It offers grants to create community health teams that will include pharmacists. It establishes a National Healthcare Workforce Commission that includes pharmacists. And it allows for FDA approval of biosimilars.

These are tremendous opportunities for hospital and health-system pharmacists, to be leaders in implementing health care reform. We have a new and unprecedented chance to help advance quality, create a more coordinated health care system, and improve the health of high-risk patients and patients with chronic conditions.

There are many other elements in this new law that ASHP's government affairs team will be analyzing and reporting back to you in the weeks and months to come.

In the meantime, I urge you to stop by ASHP's Membership Information Center to pick up our new issue paper on health care reform. And you can see it online at [ashp.org/health\\_reform](http://ashp.org/health_reform).

We also have sessions and other events focusing on these issues every day this week.

I hope you all have RSVP'ed for the Political Action Committee luncheon that happens right after this Opening Session. If not, please ask any ASHP staff member how you can contribute to this important advocacy group. Tomorrow, from 2 to 4:30 p.m., we have a session on current legislative and regulatory issues in pharmacy. And, on Wednesday, don't miss the session from 8 to 10:30 a.m. that includes a workshop on "Strategizing with the C-Suite on Health Care Reform." If you missed yesterday's session on health care reform with Susan Dentzer, editor-in-chief of *Health Affairs*, don't worry: We'll be posting the session on our web site.

### **Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative**

As we continue to analyze what health care reform will mean for all of us as pharmacists, it's clear that our practice model will have to evolve along with these new expectations. New safety and quality imperatives will require all of us to become leaders in measuring our own performance and contribution to care. We also have to begin moving into medication management leadership roles within our own institutions. This is truly a time to become a pharmacy warrior, on behalf of our patients.

Luckily, we have the confidence of organizations like the National Quality Forum, which recently released Safe Practice 18. This groundbreaking statement calls for pharmacists to engage in leadership that, and I quote, "reflects their authority and accountability for medication management systems performance across the organization."

Authority and accountability... these words might excite you or they might scare you. Either way, it's clear that pharmacists have to embrace this new world. We can only advance the profession of pharmacy if our practice environments support our ability to contribute to safety and quality. We can only achieve our aspirations if our practice environments reflect the future realities of health care.

So, how can we ensure that pharmacists are involved where they're most needed to manage patients' medication therapies? How will information technology affect patient care in the future? What is the balance between what we do to physically manage drugs and what we do in terms of direct patient care? How will new scientific developments affect the profession? These are just some of the many questions we want to examine as part of Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative.

As you know, ASHP and the ASHP Foundation have always been at the forefront of practice change. We were there 25 years ago, when the Hilton Head conference successfully laid the groundwork for the entry-level Pharm.D. degree and many of the professional opportunities that pharmacists now enjoy. Now we're ready to embrace the current revolution in health care through our Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative.

New practice models are needed because pharmacists are already stepping out onto patient floors and proving their value as the medication expert at the bedside. We need

new models to support the role of pharmacists as patient-care providers and leaders in medication therapy management.

And, we need them because health care reform will mean a sea change in quality. As our hospitals come under increased pressure to adopt best practices, they will require our skills and knowledge as *the* medication-use experts.

So, together with the ASHP Foundation, ASHP has developed this Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative to examine these important questions. This multi-year Initiative has a number of components. These include a consensus summit, a robust effort to promote practice change, and demonstration projects.

The Initiative will focus on five areas to shape the future of our profession:

- It will foster the creation of new pharmacy practice models that ensure ALL hospital and health-system patients receive safe, effective, efficient, accountable, and evidence-based care.
- It will point the way to patient-care services that should be consistently provided by departments of pharmacy in hospitals and health systems.
- It will identify which technologies support this new practice model.
- It will ensure that pharmacy resources are deployed as efficiently as possible.
- And it will identify specific actions that we can ALL take to bring about practice change.

I'm truly excited to be part of this effort, and I hope that you are, too. It will take all of us, working together, to figure out the right paths to the future. The Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative is an investment on behalf of all members... we are ALL responsible for changing what is possible in pharmacy practice.

We've spent the last year planning the kickoff for this effort, starting with a multidisciplinary, invitational consensus summit November 7-9. This summit will be a first step toward really understanding the challenges that face us and the opportunities that are available to us.

To prepare for the summit, we will soon be surveying all members about their perceptions of both current practice and practice change. The results of the survey will be shared at the summit as points of discussion and as information we can use to build consensus.

I want to take a moment to thank our corporate supporters, including McKesson Corporation, which is providing Leadership Level support. Omnicell and CareFusion are providing Gold-Level support. Cardinal Health Foundation is providing Silver-Level support, and Pharmacy OneSource, Epic, and Siemens are our Bronze-Level supporters. Thanks to all these valued partners for helping to provide the resources we need to launch the Initiative and get started on this important work.

### **Conclusion**

So, a few of you have to be wondering how you can get involved. Well, the answer is the same for both health care reform and practice model change. Change starts with each and every one of us.

We can all be excited and proud of what is beginning to happen in health care in this country. As we move into the 2010 elections, it's more important than ever that pharmacists stay in the discussion... So, take a moment and stop by the Membership Information Center to get more information on how you can become a grassroots advocate and how you can contribute to ASHP's Political Action Committee.

For the Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative, we also urge everyone to get involved. Watch how the Initiative unfolds and see where you fit in. Listen to your fellow pharmacists, contemplate what they are saying, and please, join the conversation.

Finally, I urge you to support the ASHP Foundation in any way that you can. The work that the Foundation does to support practice change and pharmacists' medication-management roles is critical. So, please be generous in your support!

Thank you!