

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,



As your recently installed Chair of the Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists (SCSS), I plan on continuing the new initiatives that we worked on during the first half of 2006. They are resources that were developed in order to help you in your day to day practice, and include the Virtual Journal Club, Clinical Consultation Column, Credentialing and Privileging, and the Advisory Group on Emergency Care.

Journal Club

Launched on April 14, 2006, the Virtual Journal Club was developed to enhance participation among members in different therapeutic areas. This new and exciting feature provides an informal forum for online discussion on new advances in various therapeutic areas with the purpose of applying evidence-based medicine to practice. The focus of this Journal Club changes every month based on specialty, therefore be sure to check out any controversial issues that may be discussed in your area of practice. Don't miss out on the next review by Dr. Alan Zillich that will focus on antihypertensive medications and the risk of incident type 2 diabetes. I encourage you to participate in this exciting tool by visiting <http://www.ashp.org/ashponline/>.

Coming Soon...Clinical Consultation Column

This monthly Clinical Consultation Column in *AJHP* will address cutting edge clinical issues. It will feature brief advice, in question-and-answer format, on how to handle specific drug therapy problems. Watch for this new column in the upcoming months!

Credentialing and Privileging

If you are in the process of establishing credentialing and privileging for clinical services at your institution, the SCSS Ad Hoc Committee on Qualified Provider Models created several documents that serve as great resources for pharmacists in hospitals and health-systems. They contain critical information on the scope of privileges and other patient-related activities for pharmacists and can serve as examples for practitioners nationwide. The committee has also developed a companion document that describes the step-wise approach to implementing these processes at hospitals and health-systems. The documents are available at <http://www.ashp.org/acute/credentialing.cfm>.

Advisory Group on Emergency Care

A new SCSS Advisory Group on Emergency Care was created to assess current ASHP programs, tools, and resources related to emergency care and determine member needs related to this specialty. This group will identify and develop future programs/resources related to emergency care, encourage and determine the extent of pharmacist integration into health-care teams, and identify opportunities for departments of pharmacy at hospitals and health-systems in ensuring safe and effective use of medications in emergency departments. ASHP, with the oversight of the SCSS Advisory Group, is developing an official statement on the role of health-system pharmacists in the emergency department.

Stay tuned for more information on these and other SCSS initiatives and how you can get involved.

Please feel free to contact me at sections@ashp.org with any ideas or questions.

I look forward to serving as your new Chair!

Sincerely,

Ted Rice, M.S., FASHP, BCPS

Chair, Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists (2006-2007)

Updated July 2006