

Message from the Chair



"What if!"

Dear Colleagues,

As I write this message it is a beautiful spring morning. The sun is shining, the wind is blowing a gentle breeze through our home and the birds are singing. Everything is blooming and starting over with new life for the year and we simply sit back and watch it flourish. We enjoy the new found beauty and begin to become reenergized with warmer temperatures and greater abundance of sunshine. Ahhh...Spring the closure of winter and a time to break out of our shells and become new again, just like our natural surroundings. But what if we chose to stay warm and cozy in our shells?

What if we, as individual practitioners, chose to do our own thing and not collaborate with others? What if others within our profession as well as the other members of the healthcare team chose to continually recreate the wheel, where would we be? This may sound odd to some of you in today's technologically advanced world, but is it really that odd to think this? When you think of your personal situation think of the advances that you do or don't currently have in your employment environment and then ask yourself what or how you could advance your current practice. The ASHP Listservers (http://www.ashp.org/s_ashp/cat1c.asp?CID=1683&DID=1727) are great opportunities for you to connect with others throughout the organization. The listserves provide easy access to colleagues throughout our organization in practically every capacity in which health-system pharmacy is practiced. Another superb possibility is utilizing our organization's foundation. The ASHP Foundation has and continues to wonderfully support the endeavors of our members.

I recently had the opportunity to participate in an ASHP Foundation Antithrombotic Traineeship. Wow...what an experience! The individuals both at the Foundation and the individuals that worked to put the didactic and experiential programs together should be commended for their efforts to advance the profession. These individuals see the status quo as something that needs to continually be pushed upward and onward. These traineeships should continue to be a breeding ground for "what ifs". What if I took this new found experience and knowledge and created a more efficient and safe practice of providing antithrombotic treatment to our patients. What if I took this information and passed it along to my colleagues, or better yet pharmacy students, who could begin to realize the possibilities for their own professional development. What if you had the ability to donate to a great cause within the profession of pharmacy- then the ASHP Foundation might just be that opportunity.

(http://www.ashpfoundation.org/Support/DonationForms/ASHP_donorform.pdf)

What if you had the ability to be a part of or influence the statements and policies that shape our organization? Well, you do have the ability to voice your opinions, questions, and concerns with the upcoming ASHP House of Delegates (HOD). Each and every member is encouraged to go to the ASHP House of Delegates webpage (http://www.ashp.org/s_ashp/cat2cnaa.asp?CID=23&DID=23) and become a more active participant in the future of our organization. The ASHP HOD Regional Delegate Conferences will be occurring at the beginning of May in several locations around the country to begin the discussions of the upcoming business for this year's HOD. The webpage above will provide you with the upcoming business (along with everything you ever wanted to know about the ASHP HOD) as well as your state delegates, section and forum delegates, and past presidents to be seated in the HOD that you may contact. Please know this is a great opportunity for you to familiarize yourself with the current issues and concerns of our organization.

What if you chose not to speak up, not to shape the future of this wonderful profession, and never challenge the status quo? What if you never wrote a government official, never became an active member of a professional organization, or never encouraged others to become involved? What if you never tried to make a difference in someone's life, would you feel good at the end of your life's journey? Think about it! Where can you make a difference to the profession? What if you took that first step, would it bring a sense of fulfillment? I can guarantee you if you take that first step you will find a world of opportunity awaiting you to make that difference! Break out of your shell! Every step you take can and will make a difference in someone's life and who knows it may just be your own!

Sincerely,

Dale E. English II, Pharm.D., R.Ph.

Chair, Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners (2006-2007)

sections@ashp.org

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