

## Message from the Section Chair



### National Pain Awareness Month

Dear Colleagues,

Pain management and palliative care are important areas of patient care that you are engaged in every day. With an aging population managing their complex disease states and an ever increasing awareness by patients of their options and rights to participate in their health care management, we are, and will continue to be, called upon as pharmacists to make a difference in patients' lives.

Recently, these areas of care have risen in awareness of even our lawmakers. On March 1, Representative Mike Rogers (R-MI) introduced H.R. 1020, the National Pain Care Policy Act of 2005. The bill would declare adequate pain care research, education, and treatment as national public health priorities. H.R. 1020 would establish the National Center for Pain and Palliative Care Research within NIH to conduct clinical and basic science research into the biology of, the causes of, and effective treatments of pain. It would also establish a national agenda for conducting and supporting pain and palliative care research, and to identify, coordinate, and support research, research training, and related activities with respect to primary and secondary pain.

In June 2006 the Citizens' Health care Working Group, created by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, included as one of its six interim recommendations that our nation fundamentally restructure the way palliative care, hospice care and other end-of-life services are financed and provided.

ASHP has been actively working on these areas for our members. In response to member input and surveys, the Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners established a Pain Management and Palliative Care Task Force. This task force has been working for ASHP members and accomplishing:

- ASHP letter of support of HR 1020.
- ASHP comments to the DEA concerning prescribing of CII's.
- Inclusion of pain management and palliative care as an area of increased focus in the ASHP comments to ACPE on the proposed Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum
- Addition of a pharmacist to the steering committee and creation of a pharmacist advisory group with the National Consensus Project, who developed the NCP Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care.
- Recognition of pharmacists in the National Quality Forum's (NQF) *A National Framework for Palliative and Hospice Care Quality Measurement and Reporting*.
- Selection of a pharmacist for the NQF's steering committee of Substance Use Disorder Project
- Establishment of a Pain Management and Palliative Care Workshop for the 2006 Midyear Clinical Meeting
- Ensuring that pain management and palliative care programs are included in ASHP educational programming
- Review and assurance that ASHP policies meet current practice standards.

This task force will soon be publishing the results of a survey that over 1000 members responded to addressing the status of pain management and palliative care programs in our pharmacy schools and practice settings, how members are obtaining continuing professional development, and what issues practitioners are facing. ASHP members supporting this important work include: Doug Nee, Sondra Adkinson, Jim Ray, Jennifer Strickland, Lori Reisner, Suzanne Nesbit, Tom Bookwalter, Kenneth Jackson, Chris Herndon, Mary Lynn McPherson, Ernest Dole, and myself.

We will continue to focus and provide legislative and professional support in this important area of patient care. Please contact us with your ideas and comments for how we can further support improved patient care with pain management and palliative care.

### **September is National Pain Awareness Month**

The following information has been organized by the ASHP Pain Management and Palliative Care Task Force in order for you to have a list of some available resources; both organizations and education materials; that can be utilized to support your practice.

#### Organizations:

- [American Academy of Pain Management](#)
- [American Academy of Pain Medicine](#)
- [American Alliance of Cancer Pain Initiatives](#)
- [American Chronic Pain Association](#)
- [American Pain Foundation](#)
- [American Society of Pain Educators](#)
- [American Pain Society](#)
- [National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care](#)
- [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#)
- [NIH Pain Consortium](#)
- [VA Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program](#)

#### Industry Sponsored:

- [Pain Treatment Topics](#)
- [Partners Against Pain](#)

#### Resources and Educational Materials:

- [ASHP Catalog: Pain Management for Primary Care Clinicians](#)
- [ACPA Pharmacist Pain Awareness Toolkit](#)
- [AAPM Internet Resources](#)
- [ASPE September Web casts](#)
- [NIH Pain Consortium: Pain Intensity Scales](#)
- [JCAHO Requirement: Pain Assessment and Management Standards - Hospitals](#)
- [Pain.com](#)
- [Pain & Policy Studies Group: University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center](#)
- [Partners Against Pain: Tools for Implanting JCAHO Pain Management Standards](#)

Sincerely,

**Cathy L. Sasser, R.Ph.**

*Chair*, Section of Home, Ambulatory, and Chronic Care Practitioners (2006-2007)

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