Dear Colleague,

I could not be more excited about CSHP in 2012, based on our achievements in 2011. Our ASHP affiliated chapter is stronger both in membership & commitment to our profession, and more sound financially. This time last year, we were facing a negative checkbook balance. Over the past year, this has changed dramatically. We have recovered and are now posting a positive balance. An active Board of Directors, engaged committees and the enthusiasm of our resident members is responsible for this development and strengthening our society. The energy from our student chapter members also is a strong contributor.

I want to share with you a seldom recognized fact: The CSHP Board and committees are comprised of volunteers. I want to express a sincere thank you to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly over the past year to ensure we started out both professionally and fiscally strong this year. I want to send another sincere expression of gratitude to those who have accepted the challenge to volunteer their time and commitment to our professional organization throughout 2012.

CSHP has grown and expanded its membership benefits over the past two years. Our reputation for providing quality CE programs throughout the year still remains unchallenged. However, you are probably wondering how we have changed. By holding our programs throughout the year at a variety of health systems throughout the state, our membership had the opportunity to see state of the art pharmacy departments, interact with colleagues in specialty practice settings and learn something new in dynamic and interactive settings. The opportunity to network with colleagues on site is just one part of our new networking strategy. We have increased our collegial approach to other organizations in state. We have initiated a Resident Task Force and we have increased student involvement. We have focused on recruiting new members from under represented facilities across
Joining forces to make an impact; U.S. Public Health Service’s Report

Professional News of Note
Performance requirements to receive reimbursements

Student News
News from UConn

Education
March 20th 2012 CE Program

Opportunities
A selection of recent postings on the CSHP web site

the state. We have actively participated in ASHP national events and initiatives. We have expanded the scope of the annual meeting (Catch the Wave), and lastly, we continue to work closely with our management team from The Association Advantage to provide the most efficient and responsive service possible.

This is going to be another exciting year of growth and opportunity for CSHP members. Some of our goals for 2012 include increasing pharmacy technician membership, initiating a discussion with St. Josephs College of Pharmacy to establish a student chapter, continuing to expand networking and professional development opportunities, and further enhancing the Catch the Wave conference format.

I hope you will become engaged in your professional organization. Know someone interested in checking out CSHP? Any Board member can sponsor a guest at a CE night. Don’t know a Board member? Contact me (or the CSHP office) and be my guest. If we have overlooked an event, venue or topic you would like to participate in, please contact us since we are always looking for fresh ideas.

Your membership dues help fund these exciting events. Please remember your renewal was due by January 1. If you have not paid your dues yet, we are offering a renewal grace period through February. Renew your membership and your commitment to your professional organization before the February 29th deadline to take uninterrupted and full advantage of this year’s membership offerings.

Best Wishes,
Robyn Wahl

Inside CSHP

NEW! CSHP Resident Task Force
submitted by Teena Sam

CSHP has recently approved the creation of a Resident Task Force in an effort to increase resident membership, develop more resident-tailored CSHP activities, facilitate professional networking, and foster PPMI leaders at our respective institutions. The Resident Task Force’s short term goal is to develop a mentoring program between residents and students. Long term goals include developing a resident newsletter, community service projects, and supporting legislative advocacy. Residents interested in becoming involved in the committee or the student mentoring program should contact Niyati Vakil at niyati.vakil@ynhh.org or Teena Sam at teena.sam@ynnh.org for further details.

A Word from the 2012 Membership Committee
submitted by Martha Butkus
Happy New Year! We would like to thank all of the current CSHP members who have already renewed their membership for 2012 as well as the new members who have joined us! As an active member of CSHP, you play a crucial role in our efforts to advocate for professional issues facing pharmacy today.

Our Society has grown significantly over the past few years, and in 2012, we hope to add to our growing membership by continuing to offer quality CE programs and professional development opportunities of all kinds. If you have not yet renewed your CSHP membership, you have until February 29, 2012, the end of the renewal grace period to avoid any interruption in services and benefits. Please renew your membership today so you can continue being a valuable member of the CSHP team!

**CSHP Career Center Now LIVE!**

submitted by *Saba Mojdeh*

We are very excited to announce the launch of the new on-line, CSHP Career Center, catering specifically to job seekers and employers in health-system pharmacy. You can access this tool simply visiting the CSHP web site home page or by going to [www.cshponline.org/resources.html](http://www.cshponline.org/resources.html) and clicking on either "Important Links" or "Opportunities."

As a courtesy to our members, members who post jobs will receive a 20% discount on all job posting packages. Please contact the CSHP management office to obtain the discount code (disregard the code disseminated in the most recent broadcast). Additionally, we are currently kicking off the Career Center debut with 3 months of unlimited job postings by employers for $695. CSHP members may post their résumés at no charge.

Whether you are looking to recruit for a pharmacist or pharmacy technician position, or you are on the hunt for a new job, do not delay; hurry up and check out the new CSHP Career Center!

**Legislative**

**CSHP Works for You:**

**2012 Legislative Initiatives**

submitted by *Tom Buckley*

By joining forces with representatives from CPA, local chain pharmacies, and the schools of pharmacy, we intend to make the 2012 legislative session, which begins on February 8th, a success. Our efforts will focus on pursuing bills that expands immunization administration, clarifying in law the role of the certified intern as an immunizer, and state health care reform initiatives that align with pharmacist services.

CSHP is excited to support the U.S. Public Health Service's Report released this month. This landmark report was accompanied by a letter of support...
has changed, please let us know.

USEFUL LINKS

CSHP Membership Application

ASHP Website

CT Dept. of Public Health

Your Legislative Contacts

CT Dept. of Consumer Protection

US Food and Drug Administration

Deadline for submissions to the next issue of News Brief
e-mail to our editor, Natalie Dearing, at ndearing@sjc.edu by March 7, 2012

News Brief is a service for and about CSHP and its current members.

We invite you to send us information to share as well as your comments on the information contained in this issue.

from the U.S. Surgeon General, which promotes the role of the pharmacist on health care teams and recognition of pharmacists as health care providers. This report is a monumental step forward in obtaining federal recognition for pharmacists and will hopefully open the door for compensation of pharmacist services. Connecticut’s role in providing MTM services is prominently mentioned on pages 39-40 of the report.


The following is a link to the ASHP press release endorsing the report to the Surgeon General: http://www.ashp.org/menu/AboutUs/ForPress/PressReleases/PressRelease.aspx?id=672

If you are interested in volunteering to help move these legislative efforts forward by contacting local legislators and/or other health care stakeholders during this upcoming session, please contact Thomas Buckley at thomas.e.buckley@uconn.edu

Professional News of Note

Reimbursements

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) estimates a $41.1 billion expenditure to outpatient Medicare beneficiaries for equipment, supplies and hospital personnel. This expenditure does not cover scheduled services provided by physicians and non-physician providers. Similarly, inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) has called for a 0.55% reduction in reimbursement to acute care hospitals in the 2012 fiscal year. CMS will reduce payments to hospitals that have high 30-day readmission rates for pneumonia, heart failure, and myocardial infarction. Hospitals also will be required to report certain quality measures to CMS including administration of aspirin on arrival in acute myocardial infarction patients. Hospitals that do not perform well will not receive full Medicare reimbursement.

To read more on this topic, Click here

Student News

News from UConn

submitted by Chien Lo

The Value of Site Visits

The purpose of CSHP’s Student Chapter is to increase knowledge about health-system pharmacy among pharmacy students and to encourage active participation in activities that will advance the pharmacy
**Member News/Kudos**

CSHP is an association of individual members. Send us information to help celebrate your professional and personal accomplishments and milestones.

Examples: promotions, degrees or certificates, new jobs, awards, grants, presentations; marriage, birth, special anniversary, volunteer activity; book review, case study, new technique profession. These goals are accomplished through educational programs and speakers, community outreach projects, and hospital site visits. This last activity provides students with an opportunity to explore various pharmacy roles within a health-system.

The students of the UConn CSHP Student Chapter would like to take this time to thank the following pharmacists for hosting site visits:

- Drs. Bill Baker, John Dobbins, and Tom Pizzoferrato of UConn Health Center
- Drs. Michael Nailor and Fei Wang of Hartford Hospital
- Dr. Mojdeh Saba of Yale-New Haven Hospital
- Dr. Kathryn Wheeler of Backus Hospital
- Dr. Sean Jeffery of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

**Upcoming Community Outreach**

The UConn Student Chapter members would like to announce their upcoming community outreach project. The focus of this project is on educating elementary school children about poison prevention. Using active learning techniques, we hope to inform students on the role a pharmacist can play in poison prevention while promoting safe medication and substance avoidance methods.

**Education**

**Critical Issues for the Management of Organ Donors and Strategies for Improving Long-term Allograft Survival**

**Tuesday, March 20th, 2012**

Hosted by Yale-New Haven Hospital

**SPEAKER**

Mari Mull, Director, Donate Life Connecticut
Lisa Kurczewski, PharmD, Pharmacy Resident Yale-New Haven Hospital

**LOCATION**

Yale-New Haven Hospital

**AGENDA**

- 5:45 p.m. Registration
- 6:00 - 7:00 Dinner, CSHP Business Meeting
- 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Program

**AUDIENCE**

Health system pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy educators and students

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Review the impact of re-transplantation on the kidney shortage in
the United States
- Describe the pathophysiology behind cerebral hypoxia leading to brain death
- Review the impact of brain death organ system
- Describe the pharmacotherapy management of each organ system to preserve organ function prior to organ recovery
- Explain pharmacist involvement to ensure appropriate pharmacotherapy management of potential organ donors and recipients

**SPONSORSHIP:** Pending

This activity is approved for 1 live credit hour (0.1 CEUs). TG Medical Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. The program number and release date will be announced.

Pharmacists in attendance must complete the online program evaluation form in order to receive their CE credit. The evaluation forms can be found at [www.TGMedEd.com](http://www.TGMedEd.com). All participants must register on the TG Medical Education site in order to receive CE credits. Specific instructions on how to find this particular program and how to enter your program "keyword" will be provided at the lecture. All evaluations must be filled out on-line. Upon completion of the on-line evaluation, CE certificates can be printed for your records.

**REGISTRATION** Space is limited so please make your reservation soon.

Seating and dinner will be reserved for pre-registered members and pre-registered, pre-paid non-members.

**Current CSHP Members:**
Complimentary but RSVP by **Friday, 3/16/2012,** the Friday prior to the program
Either call 888/506-3784 or send an email to the [office@cshponline.org](mailto:office@cshponline.org)
Provide the following information: Your full name including credentials, your nickname or preferred first name, your CSHP member number, best phone number if we need to reach you.

**Non-members:** $25 per person
Note: Payment must be received to hold your reservation. CSHP accepts all major credit cards. Call in (888/506-3784 Monday - Friday, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) or fax (781/245-6487) your registration with credit card information (888/506-3784) or mail your registration form and check to the CSHP office (c/o The Association Advantage, 591 North Ave., Ste. 3-2, Wakefield, MA 01880-1617). Please remit payment no later than noon on Monday, **March 19, 2012.**

**REFUNDS:** Payment in full is due for all reservations unless a written cancellation is received by the **3/16/2012,** the Friday prior to the program.

**DIRECTIONS**
For over 20 years, warfarin was the only orally administered anticoagulant available. Over the past few years, there has been a surge in the number of new oral anticoagulants. According to Dr. Michael Cleman, Professor of Medicine (cardiology) and Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at Yale-New Haven Hospital, “warfarin is just too difficult to manage...patients remain within therapeutic range only 60% of the time.”

Advantages to oral anticoagulants like dabigatran (Pradaxa®), rivaroxaban (Xaletro®), and apixiban (Eliquis®) include the lack of required monitoring, significantly less drug-drug and drug-food interactions, and simplified dosing regimens as compared to warfarin. Despite their advantages, not all patients are ideal candidates for anticoagulation with these agents. In Dr. Cleman’s opinion, patients with previous strokes or transient ischemic attacks, and age < 75 years without renal or hepatic dysfunction, are ideal candidates for dabigatran. On the other hand, patients with fall risk and/or history of noncompliance are better suited for warfarin.

It also is important to remember that despite their advantages, these agents come with their own risks. In Dr. Cleman’s practice, patients often demand dabigatran, emphasizing the superiority in stroke reduction as compared to warfarin. However, dabigatran carries the same risk of bleeding as warfarin without reversibility. This is something patients must understand before committing to therapy with these agents. When asked to comment on his knowledge of research endeavors related to the development of antidotes for these agents, Dr. Cleman stated that he was not aware of any.

Dr. Cleman speculates that in 5 years, non-warfarin oral anticoagulants will be used in 80% of orthopedic patients; similar rates are expected in cardiology patients. Dr. Cleman believes that rivaroxaban provides significant promise. In his opinion, the clinical trials surrounding the FDA approval of rivaroxaban were impressive especially with regards to reduction in stroke. In fact, he has already used it twice in his practice. Despite the attractive results, approving these agents for formulary status should not be taken lightly, especially as on-going analysis reveals new risks. For example, dabigatran is under re-review given its possible association...
with myocardial infarction and other complications.

Regardless of the immense advances made in cardiology and anticoagulation therapy, cost still remains the rate-limiting factor for widespread use of these new agents. According to Dr. Cleman, this is one the reasons unfractionated heparin is still used even though it is one of the oldest anticoagulants available. Dr. Cleman's states that the ideal drug anticoagulant would have reversible effects, low risk of bleeding, wide clinical application and strong efficacy equivalents.

While this is "certainly an exciting time in cardiology" with expected changes in clinical practice due to these novel agents, one must keep in mind that their future utility will depend on their associated cost coupled with outcome data from robust trials with large patient populations.

Niyati Vakil, PharmD, is a Resident at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Opportunities

CSHP receives information about educational, award and grant opportunities, and posts them on our web site. The "Opportunities" page is regularly updated so check back often. Here is a sample of recent updates.

Call for Nominations: John W. Webb Lecture Award

Candidates for the John W. Webb Lecture Award should be hospital or health-system pharmacy practitioners or educators who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary dedication to fostering excellence in pharmacy management. This important award to be presented at the ASHP Conference for Leaders in Health-System Pharmacy in Chicago, Illinois, October 2012.

Although this award does not have specific minimum criteria that must be met, candidates for the award will often have demonstrated inspiring team leadership that yielded nationally significant innovations in pharmacy practice; they may have made noteworthy contributions in mentoring new practice leaders; or they may have inspired a large number of pharmacy students or practitioners to make a commitment to professionalism and innovation in practice management through their teaching, speaking, or publications.

Nominations should be accompanied by a one to three page statement about why the individual is qualified for the award along with a copy of the nominee’s curriculum vitae. Nominations should be e-mailed to: Paul W. Bush, Pharm.D., MBA, FASHP, Chair

John W. Webb Lecture Award Selection Committee/ASHP sections@ashp.org for receipt no later than March 26, 2012.

For more information, please visit http://www.ashp.org/Import/ABOUTUS/Awards/WebbAward.aspx
Apply for Six-Month Mentorship Program in Starting ED Pharmacy Services

Pharmacists’ involvement in the emergency department improves patient care and optimizes collaboration with the health care team. These benefits were shown-project after project-by the participants in ASHP Patient Care Impact Program: Introducing an Emergency Pharmacist into Your Institution. Apply for the 2012 program, a six-month educational program in which you and a small group of colleagues will work closely with nationally recognized expert emergency practitioners Daniel Hays and Kevin Reilly to develop and implement an emergency pharmacist role in your institution. Continuing pharmacy education credit is offered.

http://www.ashp.org/Import/CONTINUINGEDUCATIONCE/LiveActivities/PatientCare.aspx

AHRQ Releases Medication Reconciliation Tool Kit

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has released an online tool kit for improving the medication reconciliation process at hospitals. The tool kit is based on the Medications at Transitions and Clinical Handoffs program developed by a pharmacist and a physician at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. For your tool kit: http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/match

CSHP is your professional organization

THERE TRULY IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.

CSHP is the professional society that represents the interests of those who practice in health-system environments.

For information, please visit our web site or contact our office at 888/506-3784 or office@chsponline.org

Please encourage your colleagues to join us.
Click for an application with details of member benefits.
Click here for a student application.

Note: We can fill out applications and registrations, and complete a credit card transaction over the telephone. The CSHP office is here to assist you on weekdays from 9 - 5.