



HOPA News

From the HOPA Board: Thank You HOPA Members!

Moe Schwartz, At-Large Board Member

If you had the opportunity to attend the HOPA /ISOPP Annual Meeting, you witnessed the greatest strength of HOPA – its members. It amazes me to see the growth of our young organization, and to realize the richness of our membership. The challenge for the organization is to make sure we realize and capitalize on this wealth.

As we work to develop the structures and plans necessary to move HOPA into the future, the Board is aware that planning for HOPA should come from its membership. We have heard it from you – HOPA members need to be actively involved in all aspects of HOPA. It is the responsibility of HOPA leadership to create both formal and informal methods to allow members to be an active part of the organization.

Historically – and perhaps that is a relatively short history for HOPA – the obvious mechanism for members to participate in HOPA is via committee work. In an attempt to increase the opportunities for committee work for all members, we are currently finalizing guidelines to help committee chairs and vice-chairs increase the breadth and depth of committee memberships. Hopefully, you have received the survey recently sent to all members asking about your experiences and interests in being



HOPA 2007-2008 Board

an active part of HOPA committees and efforts. This tool is being used to get a better idea of how to build committees with members from throughout the organization – young and not-young (I will not say old) members from a variety of practice sites representing different ideas and experiences. Our goal is to create committees that not only help the organization to operate well, but also help to determine the direction of HOPA. This tool is also being used to help committees look beyond their current membership to others within HOPA.

We also want to increase the voice of the membership in the work of the organization beyond that of established committees. One method is through the development of task forces. These groups of members will be challenged to tackle projects that may be more focused than standard committee

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Optimizing Patient Adherence to Self-Administered Chemotherapy: Best Practices for Hematology/Oncology Pharmacists

Gary C. Yee, PharmD, FCCP, BCOP

One of the most exciting advances in cancer chemotherapy over the past few years is the availability of orally administered agents, particularly the newer targeted therapies that are usually prescribed to be taken daily. Although these agents have provided therapeutic benefit for many cancer patients, they have presented the oncology team with many new challenges. In addition, community pharmacists, many of whom have limited knowledge of these oral agents, are increasingly getting involved in the care of these patients.

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HOPA/ISOPP 2008 Joint Annual Conference Recap

Amelia Chan, PharmD, BCOP

The HOPA/ISOPP 2008 Joint Conference was a rewarding and inspiring experience to all who attended. The first ever HOPA and ISOPP Joint Conference brought together oncology pharmacy professionals from a multitude of disciplines and areas worldwide to Anaheim, California for 4 days of learning, education, and networking.

Over 1,000 attendees from 39 countries gathered to learn about and address the challenges and opportunities confronting oncology pharmacy professionals around the world. Among the 1,000 plus attendees, 600 were from the United States and 400 were from countries abroad. This year's conference also showcased 150 corporate sponsors and exhibitors.

The HOPA/ISOPP 2008 program had topics that cover many aspects of treating and caring for patients with cancer, from basic to advanced, from research to reimbursement, from pharmaceutical care to supportive care. This year the program included parallel sessions that covered not only critical clinical issues and in-depth BCOP recertification topics, but also up-to-date technical information.

The poster session was well attended and the quality of the work was high. One hundred and forty-seven posters (78 trainees and 69 practitioners) were accepted. The poster award winners were Diana Booth, Patrick Hall, Julianna Roddy, and Richard Tizon. HOPA Recognition Awards went to: Carol Balmer (Award of Excellence), Janet Espirito (New Practitioner Award), and Kenneth Groghans (Technician Award). HOPA/ISOPP Platform Award winners were: Tiene Bauters, Niesha Griffith, Michael Moloney, and LeAnn Norris.

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

BCOP Recertification Committee

Casey Williams, Chair; Amy Hatfield Seung, Vice-Chair; Jane Pruemmer, Board Liaison

The BCOP Recertification Committee has been very active since the HOPA meeting listening and responding to questions and concerns of membership, primarily regarding the process of BCOP recertification, including recertification costs. The committee attended the BPS Open Forum at the annual meeting and collectively discussed concerns and ideas with other HOPA members and the BPS Specialty Council. The committee gathered useful information from the session and is planning to move forward to tackle several of the issues presented. Currently the BCOP Recertification Committee is responsible for providing 6 hours per year of live recertification content, including identifying topics and securing speakers. ACCP provides the annual review course and the home syllabus. Additionally, ACCP provides and facilitates the exam and sets the fees associated with the test.

The committee is currently working on the following:

1. Identifying topics and speakers for the 2009 live recertification CE
2. Creating and implementing a standard operating procedure for validating BCOP recertification test questions
3. Reviewing feedback of the BCOP sessions from our recent HOPA meeting and making recommendations to the speakers in preparation for the remaining sessions at ACCP and ASHP
4. Creating the 2009 budget including securing financial support for the 2009 HOPA BCOP programming through educational grants
5. Collaborating with the ACPE, Publications, and Education Committees to get web-based content up and running

Finance Committee

David Gammon, Chair; Sol Yoder, Vice-Chair; Patrick Medina, Board Liaison

The Finance committee has a full agenda for the 2008-2009 year, which includes:

1. Evaluating insurance policies for Board of Directors and Officers
2. Evaluating liability insurance for the association
3. Reviewing RFPs for the HOPA Annual Meeting Coordination. We have received a Request for Proposal to review for the company (DesignWrite) that provides the current association annual meeting coordination. We are asking for other RFPs to assure that HOPA is getting the best price for services rendered.
4. Feasibility study for a HOPA-produced Hematology/Oncology Reference Guide. Such a reference could provide HOPA with an income stream if done properly so we will undertake examining that as a possibility.
5. Feasibility of developing regional HOPA meetings. These meetings serve those members that can't attend the 3- or 4-day annual meeting. The Committee will attempt to develop a framework for HOPA-endorsed regional meetings, not to replace but supplement the annual meetings.

New Committees for 2008

The HOPA Program Committee (annual meeting planning) and the HOPA Industrial Relations Committee have been added as HOPA committees. Susan Goodin is Chair of the Program Committee and Laura Michaud is Vice-Chair. Jim Koeller is Chair of the Industrial Relations Committee. Best of luck to the new committees!

6. Lastly, the Committee will consider the pros and cons of HOPA self-management and determine whether it is mature enough for such an undertaking.

Nominations and Awards Committee

Michelle Rockey, Chair; Susanne Liewer, Vice-Chair; Jane Pruemmer, Board Liaison

Congratulations to the following HOPA members who were honored at the HOPA/ISOPP meeting in June:

HOPA Award of Excellence - Carol M. Balmer, PharmD, BCOP, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, School of Pharmacy;

HOPA New Practitioner Award - Janet Espirito, PharmD, BCOP, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center;

HOPA Technician Award - Kenneth Grohgans, CPhT, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

The nominations for the 2009 HOPA Awards will be solicited earlier this year. A request for nominations will be sent in September and nominations will close in October, so start thinking about who you would like to nominate for the Award of Excellence, New Practitioner Award, Literature Award, and Technician Award! Further details regarding the awards nomination process is available at www.hoparx.org.

Publications Committee

Bob Ignoffo, Chair; Amelia Chan, Vice-Chair; Lisa Holle, Board Liaison

The Publications Committee met at the 2008 Annual Meeting and discussed plans for the coming year. Activities planned, include:

1. Develop newsletters for Summer 2008, Fall 2008, Winter 2009, and Spring 2009. (Immediate)
2. Identify items for Publications in the newsletter and on the website. Updates on new drugs or guidelines; HOPA surveys, such as membership and therapeutic controversies (e.g., Totect for doxorubicin extravasation); legislative issues; best practices forums. (Immediate)

COMMITTEE UPDATES

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3. Develop a policy for items that should be published on the website; job postings, HIPPA-related CE content. (Complete by 2008)
4. Obtain approval from the Board for a Virtual Journal Club. (complete by Dec 2008)
5. Develop a liaison relationship to publish important warnings related to hematology/oncology from ISMP. Because many of the warnings reported to the ISMP are hematology/oncology related, it is imperative that our members receive timely notification of events that could impact their patients. (Complete by October 2008)
6. Make recommendation to the Board on how to develop a HOPA web-based educational site (through HOPA University). Focus on enduring ACPE-approved educational content. (Complete by June 2009)
7. Begin a feasibility study and analysis for a web-based reference tool in hematology/oncology for HOPA members. Appoint a subcommittee in 2008. (Complete by June 2009)
8. Begin a feasibility analysis and recommendations for establishing a mechanism/process to ensure rapid publishing of new guidelines or updates, warnings emanating from national organization or their meetings. (Complete by June 2009)
9. Begin a feasibility analysis and recommendations for identifying and disseminating tools and (Complete by Dec. 2010)

Because of the extensive to-do list over the next few years, we have received approval to expand the number of members on the committee to 16.

Jennifer Gastos Walter, Steven Wolfe, Kevin Kuzma, and Joshua Howell will be stepping down from the committee and both Sheetal Sheth (last year's Chair) and I wish to thank them for their excellent service while serving on the Publications Committee. Sheetal Seth, herself, is also leaving the committee to pursue new and growing opportunities. The committee is very appreciative of all Sheetal has done for the Publications Committee and for HOPA. Five new members are joining the Committee, including an oncology resident. They are Dominic Solomando, Karl Kwok, Stacy Shord, Ray Muller, and Melissa Teichman (Resident). Returning committee members are Bob Ignoffo (Chair), Amelia Chan (Vice Chair), Brooke Beavers Bernhardt, Bonnie Labdi, Jeff Liticker, Theresa Dockery, Damary Castanheira Torres, Peter Tortorice, Barbara Yim, and Kim Bergstrom. New member Ray Muller from Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute will be the ISMP liaison to the HOPA Publications Committee and Lisa Holle will serve as Board Liaison. Andy Beloff from DesignWrite will serve as staff liaison.

Research Committee

Tim Brenner, Chair; Judith Smith, Vice-Chair; Jim Koeller, Board Liaison

2008 HOPA / ISOPP Pre-Meeting Research Workshop

From the HOPA 2007-2008 Research Committee: Tim Brenner, Lisa Davis, David Frame, Paul Hutson, Jill Kolesar, Kelly Markey, Judith Smith, and Siu-Fun Wong

The HOPA Research Committee is pleased to announce the tremendous success of the 2nd Annual Research Workshop! The goal of this year's research workshop was to show HOPA and ISOPP hematology/oncology pharmacists (with limited or no research experience) how to get started in research and how to integrate research into their current practice. The workshop was designed to accommodate 80 participants, however, there was an overwhelming response that pushed the actual number to more than 100 participants. Participant experience level ranged from student and resident level to practitioners with more than 25 years of experience. There was approximately an equal number of HOPA and ISOPP participants. It was very exciting to have so many practitioners with different backgrounds and home countries coming together to learn about basic research principles.

The workshop participants were fortunate to have many distinguished researchers participating in the workshop, such as, Barry Goldspiel, Chris Fausel, Siu-Fun Wong, Scott Soefje, Roxanne Dobish, Jill Kolesar, Paul Hutson, Jillian Davis, and Mark Holdsworth. The faculty did a wonderful job explaining why research is important, describing an investigator's responsibilities, showing different types of research involving pharmacists, and helping participants identify research opportunities and resources that are already available to them in their practice sites. Faculty members shared personal stories, successes (and defeats), and tips for personal and professional development. It was an amazing opportunity for participants to get candid research advice from pharmacy researchers who "have been there and done that."

Research is an important part of all professions, including pharmacy. The HOPA Research Committee is dedicated to increase pharmacy research. Thus, the Research Committee will continue to strive to develop opportunities for more HOPA members to get involved in pharmacy research. The Research Workshop Subcommittee (Tim Brenner, Lisa Davis, Kelly Markey, and Judith Smith) is already hard at work developing next year's research workshop experience.

Editor's Note: Not all committees had news to report for this issue. As updates are received, they will appear in future issues of HOPA News. ■



From the HOPA Board: Thank You HOPA Members! (continued from page 1)

work. We are encouraging committees to look at their tasks and/or projects and create opportunities for expanding their efforts through the development of task forces that invite non-committee members to participate. The use of these small focus groups provides a great opportunity to expand the efforts of committees without increasing the work of committee members. They also help HOPA reach out to those members with very specific interests and expertise. For you as a member, this provides an opportunity to work on an area you are

interested in without the long-term time commitment of committee work.

As HOPA grows, we have many opportunities and challenges. It will be essential to always remember that our members are what make HOPA. We will need to continue to engage our members – and in oncology pharmacy that means we need to listen to the ideas and thoughts of these members.

I would like to conclude with an analogy

from another important organization – the great Chicago Cubs, as I have found most things in life can be emphasized with a Chicago sports analogy. The thing that has always made the Chicago Cubs so wonderful is the fans. The same idea holds for HOPA – it is our membership that will continue to move this organization forward. Our board is derived from our members, and the work of HOPA is completed through the efforts of our members. Thank you all for your success at the annual meeting and HOPA's continued growth. ■

Optimizing Patient Adherence to Self-Administered Chemotherapy (continued from page 1)

In response to the growth in oral self-administered chemotherapy, many oncology pharmacists are changing their procedures and practices. The HOPA Education & Standards Committee therefore felt that "Optimizing Patient Adherence to Self-Administered Chemotherapy" would be a timely topic for the 2008 Best Practices Initiative. With generous grant support from Pfizer, the Best Practices Initiative issued a call for proposals and selected five participating institutions for the Roundtable. The institutions represented a wide variety of practice settings, including one institution from outside of the United States.

The Best Practices Initiative program consisted of three presentations. In the first presentation, Dr. Gary Yee from the University of Nebraska Medical Center provided a brief overview of medication adherence, potential consequences of nonadherence of oral chemotherapy, predictors of poor adherence, and results of clinical trials of interventions to improve medication adherence. It is of interest to note that none of the randomized trials of interventions to improve medication adherence were conducted in cancer patients. Furthermore, a recently published survey of pharmacy directors at NCI comprehensive cancer centers documented many issues concerning oral chemotherapy, including a lack of formal processes for adherence monitoring. Following that presentation, Dr. Shauna

Choi from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center shared the best practices of the five institutions selected to participate in the Roundtable. Each institution's approach was different, but the pharmacist was an important member of the multidisciplinary team at all of the institutions. Most of the medication adherence programs were "works in progress" and outcomes of the various interventions were usually not available.

Dr. Joe Bubalo from the Oregon Health & Science University Hospital concluded the evening program by summarizing the current state of oral chemotherapy adherence and roundtable recommendations. He reviewed some of the practitioner and patient barriers to adherence and presented key questions that pharmacists should ask patients to identify potential issues related to medication adherence. Dr. Bubalo reviewed responsibilities of patients and practitioners, an important concept because the term "adherence" implies a shared responsibility for medication adherence. He identified groups of patients who need additional help or support and provided examples of how practitioners can provide that support. Finally, he concluded his presentation with next steps that every pharmacist can make at their institution. ■

This activity will be available at www.HopaU.org (0.125 CEUs) this fall for those who were unable to attend the program at HOPA/ISOPP 2008.

HOPA/ISOPP 2008 Joint Annual Conference Recap

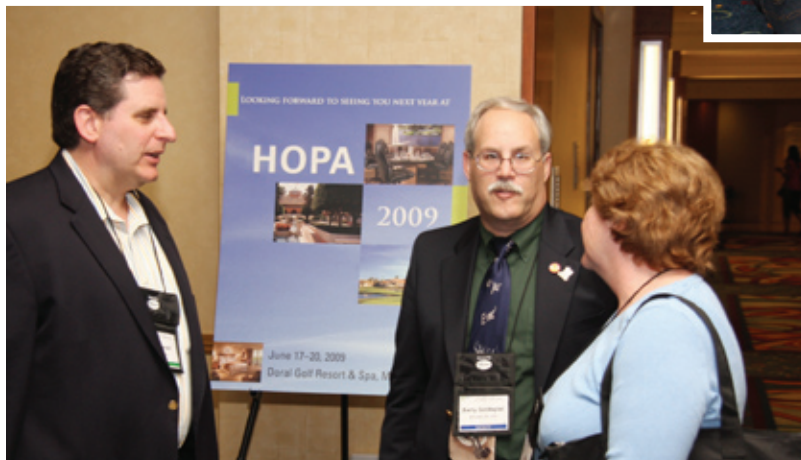
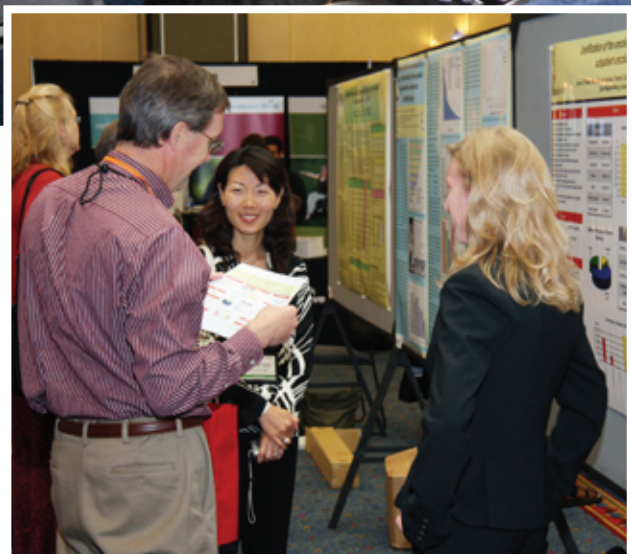
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On the whole, the first HOPA/ISOPP Joint Annual Conference was a resounding success thanks to all the committees who contributed to planning the program, including the Program Oversight Committee, BCOP Recertification Committee, CE Accreditation Committee, and Research Committee, as well as the governing bodies of the two organizations: the HOPA Executive Board and the ISOPP Secretariat.

In closing, if you were unable to attend the annual conference or just wish to review any or all of the symposia presented, in the next few weeks we will be posting as pdfs the presentations of all symposia and workshops presented at HOPA/ISOPP on our website at www.hoparx.org/hopa2008.aspx. We encourage you to visit this page and relive some of the highlights from the meeting. As soon as they are up we will send out an alert to all members, so make sure your email address and mailing preferences are up-to-date in your member profile.

Next year's Annual Meeting (HOPA 2009) will be from June 17 to 20, 2009 at the Doral Hotel in Miami, Florida. Mark your calendar, come, learn, network and have fun. ■

HOPA/ISOPP 2008 - A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!





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