

News LETTER



Newsletter - Vol 5, No 4, December 2003 • International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners

Message from the President

As 2003 comes to a close, I want to reflect on some of the goals that I set at the beginning of my Presidency. To remind you, these goals included:

- Better membership services
- Frequent communications from the secretariat and committee chairs
- More activity from the committees
- More frequent newsletters
- Research grants and awards
- Abstract translations for the Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice
- Revised Rules to make the society function more efficiently and effectively
- Officially recognizing ISOPP chapters
- A membership drive
- More ISOPP involvement in regional meetings

I am happy to say that we have made progress towards many of these goals. CMC International is doing a great job as ISOPP's management company. We are using the new ISOPP website to send emails to members frequently. This is an easy and cost-effective way to communicate. If we don't have an email address on file for you, please either contact your CMC branch or logon to the ISOPP website (www.isopp.org).

The ISOPP Committees have been very active. The Publications Committee has been busy working on the new and much improved ISOPP website and the newsletter (now quarterly). In the future, we hope to publish the Newsletter electronically. If you haven't visited the ISOPP website, you should, on a frequent basis.

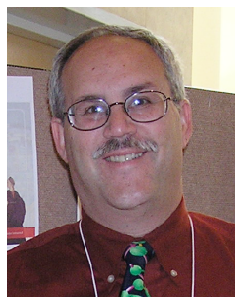
The Research Committee awarded the first set of research grants this year. We hope to be able to provide continued research support in

the future. The Membership and Finance Committee worked hard to create various travel and recognition awards program. I would encourage you take advantage of these programs as they can provide direct financial support or acknowledgement of your unique contributions to oncology pharmacy practice and ISOPP.

The Standards Committee is working hard to create the first draft of ISOPP's Guidelines for Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Agents. If you have not already contributed your guidelines, please contact one of the Standards Committee Co-Chairs. And last, but certainly not least, the Education Committee is working to finalize the program for ISOPP IX in Turin, Italy from April 14 to 17, 2004.

As I mentioned previously, the Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice (JOPP), ISOPP's official publication, has received a grant to translate the abstracts for Volume 9 into German, French, Italian, and Spanish. These translations will be appearing in the first issue of 2004. We will evaluate whether members consider this beneficial to determine whether we will continue to provide translation in the future. On another note for JOPP, the Editorial Board is in the process of selecting the Best Practice Paper and Best Research Paper Awards to be presented at ISOPP IX. Good luck to all authors who contributed to JOPP for the last three volumes.

As happy as I am to report this progress, I feel that we should still be doing more – much more. We are still working on revising the ISOPP Rules, and possibly the Constitution, to ensure that all members are treated equally and fairly and to make the society run more efficiently. For example, as a result of looking at the present Rules, the Secretariat decided that we have not completely established the benefits and risks of forming chapters and affiliates. Thus, the Secretariat has decided hold off on accepting and approving any Chapter or Affiliate applications at this time. This means that ISOPP does not have any official chapters at this time, but hopefully, through open



discussions at ISOPP IX, we will be able to revitalize this effort and establish a Chapter and Affiliates program that makes sense, both to ISOPP and the partner organization.

I am also happy to see that more members are participating in the Society's activities. I am receiving emails from members quite frequently and it seems that many of you are very interested in the upcoming elections. I am glad to see this willingness to participate and make ISOPP a better place for everyone. Information about the election is posted on the ISOPP website.

I am still very much open to suggestions about how we can work together to improve ISOPP. Although progress has been made, we still have a long way to go to firmly establish ISOPP as THE organization for oncology pharmacists. But if members participate and work together, I'm positive this ultimate goal can happen.

Warmly,

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FISOPP is now a reality!

Fellowships are awarded to individuals who have demonstrated a continued high level of excellence in oncology pharmacy practice, research or management, and who have made a sustained contribution to ISOPP. To apply, complete the application form (available directly from the website or Terry Maunsell) and send it with a copy of your *Curriculum Vitae* and two letters of recommendation to: Terry Maunsell. Email: terry.maunsell@email.cs.nsw.gov.au

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The British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA) Annual Symposium 2003

Cardiff in Wales was the host city of the largest BOPA symposium to date. The fine venue of Cardiff City Hall is within walking distance of all the main hotels, historic Cardiff Castle and the city centre shops! Delegates hailed from the U.K., Republic of Ireland, Denmark, New Zealand and included our very own ISOPP Publications Committee Chair, Jude Lees from Australia.

The programme was varied and included a number of update sessions on some of the less common cancers (sarcoma, melanoma and cancer of unknown primary). These sessions were particularly useful for those of us working in smaller cancer units who often find that these diseases are now referred to specialist treatment centres.

Traditionally, pharmacy has been overlooked when any high level decisions relating to cancer treatment in the U.K. have been made. Focus and funding has been channelled towards medical staff, nursing staff, radiographers and other disciplines involved in cancer therapy and palliative care. Thanks to the untiring hard work of the BOPA committee this oversight is undergoing radical change. The government are now listening to BOPA and oncology pharmacy in the U.K. is enjoying a prominent and respected profile.

In a session from Gul Root (Department of Health), oncology pharmacists were encouraged to be part of the new wave of pharmacist supplementary prescribers with a view to becoming independent prescribers in some areas of practice in the future. An exciting Question and Answer session with Member of Parliament Dr. Ian Gibson had everybody discussing raising the political profile of oncology pharmacy. ISOPP member Martyn Blundell chaired a lively session of "myths and pearls" which had the audience rocking in their seats with laughter. Really – you had to be there!

The social programme was no less stimulating and the organising committee had clearly given it high priority. On Friday evening we enjoyed a champagne reception at the National Gallery amongst the work of Monet and Rodin before hotfooting it off to the Charity Casino complete with Welsh singer "Tom Jones" impersonator. The Gala Dinner on Saturday night was preceded by yet more champagne and concluded in true BOPA style with a raving disco playing ABBA, Bee Gees and more oldies till we dropped.

Graham Sewell (ISOPP President Elect) promoted ISOPP IX on Sunday morning before retiring BOPA Chair (and ISOPP member) Denise Blake closed the symposium. Although all the BOPA members are saddened by Denise's retirement (she was a fantastic BOPA Chair) she will be working away in the background and has handed the reins to another British oncology pharmacy dynamo Tim Root. Rest assured BOPA 2004 will be worth coming to – it is in Birmingham so get some sponsorship, pack your dancing shoes and come and join us.



ISOPP President-elect Graham Sewell telling British pharmacists about ISOPP IX

Ann Hogan

Member, ISOPP Publications Committee.

BOPA 2003 From An Australian Perspective

I decided to attend the BOPA meeting after a holiday in France, to see how the British tackle the oncology problems we have in common. I found it a well organised and very friendly meeting, and have no hesitation in recommending it to other non-U.K. oncology pharmacists. Although politics, hospital pharmacy and departments of health differ around the world, I found sessions involving those topics of great interest. It was good to hear of the high profile that oncology pharmacists will be enjoying in the U.K. very soon. The scientific posters were of a high standard, and it was good to catch up with many of the British ISOPP members I have known for years and meet some new ones. BOPA's new Chair Tim Root has kindly agreed to further publicise ISOPP IX to all BOPA members, and hopefully British oncology pharmacists will decide to join ISOPP.

Jude Lees

Chair, ISOPP Publications Committee

Editorial

The year is drawing to a close, a time to reflect on what ISOPP has achieved and what remains unfinished. As you will have read in the President's Message, the Secretariat under the leadership of Barry Goldspiel has increased the benefits ISOPP



provides to its members and I do hope that members take advantage of all the programs now on offer. A great deal has been achieved but the difficult task of revising the Rules of the Society still remains.

I think that ISOPP's aim and reason for existence is very well showcased in Saad Othman's Oncology Pharmacy Journey. Oncology Pharmacists from all around the globe, from beginners in the field with poor resources to experts with years of experience and almost unlimited resources, working together to improve oncology pharmacy practice and thus patient outcomes.

Individuals can make a difference. Members should not hesitate to contact each other to help solve problems. The Secretariat is assisting in this communication by holding set sessions in the chat-room on the website.

This is your opportunity to contact the Secretariat directly – please utilize this opportunity. See the website for chat schedules. I am pleased that this issue of the Newsletter contains articles from our three global regions – Europe and the Rest of the World, the Americas and Asia-Pacific – highlighting our international membership. Now is the time also to start preparing abstracts for submissions to ISOPP IX. The closing date is January 31st 2004. Don't forget you can contact me at jillian.davis@austin.org.nz or via the website.

Cheers Jill

**Opportunity to win
free registration at
ISOPP IX**

Turin, Italy: APRIL 2004
- see website for details

The Oncology Pharmacy Journey in Promoting Oncology Pharmacy Practice and ISOPP in South East Asian Countries.

Saad Othman – Malaysia (ISOPP Secretariat Member)

Oncology Pharmacy Practice (OPP) is still very new in South East Asia, starting in Singapore back in late 1980's. I introduced the first service in Malaysia in 1990 at Kubang Kerian Hospital in Kelantan State. Now, 15 Malaysian hospitals have oncology pharmacy services.

Malaysia

I have conducted more than 20 workshops in Malaysia over the past 10 years. The 3 day training package is conducted with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zuraidah from the School of Pharmacy, University Sains Malaysia, Penang Malaysia. Pre-workshop and post-workshop assessments are made to measure the effectiveness of the training. The participants of the workshop include pharmacists, pharmacy assistants, doctors and nurses. The results of the evaluation of the workshops were presented at ISOPP VII, Prague in 2000

Help from Australia

The turning point in my career in oncology pharmacy came when I did my oncology pharmacy attachment in Western Australia at Curtin University, Perth WA. Since then I have chosen Australian practice as my special reference point and benchmark. I was introduced to ISOPP while in Australia and attended ISOPP V in Sydney and I joined as an ISOPP member in 1997 (the first Asian member). The benefits of being an ISOPP member are not only the attending the symposia and receiving the journal, but most of all the contact with other oncology pharmacists. Networking with oncology pharmacy peers has certainly helped my practice at the hospital and my teaching at the university.

European Contact

My first contact with Europe was ISOPP VII, Prague in 2000, where I was invited to present in the "Pearl Session": Oncology Pharmacy Practice – The Rest of the World". I was also able to share my teaching experiences via an oral presentation on the "Oncology Pharmacy Training Package" which I had developed based on my training in Australia. In January 2001, I was invited to the 9th NZW in Hamburg to present my paper "Oncology Pharmacy: Teaching,



Associate Professor Saad Othman

Training and Practice". After the meeting I made the opportunity to visit various Oncology Pharmacy Practice sites around Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds in the UK. With assistance from many European colleagues, my "Oncology Pharmacy Consultation package" was developed and then offered to Malaysian hospitals.

Elected as ISOPP Secretariat member

In the 2002 election, I was elected to a position on the ISOPP Secretariat. It was a surprise to me to be nominated and be successful in the election considering the Asian membership was less than 1% at that time. This truly reflects the spirit and mission of ISOPP (to promote and enhance oncology pharmacy practice worldwide in order to improve cancer patient care). With my position on the ISOPP Secretariat I felt obliged to promote Oncology Pharmacy Practice and ISOPP itself among Asian countries. Feedback and encouragement from fellow ISOPP members as well as the ISOPP Secretariat (who met at Hamburg before the NZW meeting in 2003) helped me devise strategies to promote Oncology Pharmacy Practice (and ISOPP) in Asia.

Promoting Oncology Pharmacy Practice and ISOPP. Indonesia – Pan Pacific X, Bali

With financial assistance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Centre and professional assistance from ISOPP members (Helen McKinnon –New Zealand, Jude Lees - Australia, Klaus Meier- Germany, Maria-Jose Tames- Spain and Graham Sewell – UK), I was able to deliver a lecture at the Pan Pacific X Conference in Bali, Indonesia 2003 with a title: "Oncology Pharmacy: Global Practice and Organizations". During

this session we linked up live to the ISOPP website. Previous ISOPP and Regional symposia were highlighted, especially the ISOPP Australasian Regional Symposia since it covers this area of the world. Following the Pan Pacific Conference, I visited the Dharmais Cancer Center and Fatmawati Hospital in Jakarta. The Dharmais Cancer Center has a well designed and constructed cleanroom and they use a cytotoxic cabinet for their reconstitution work. They have a good documentation system and conduct their own in-house training. Fatmawati Hospital uses an isolator for their reconstitution work.

Philippines

The following month, July 2003, I with three other faculty members was invited to Manila to promote Clinical Pharmacy Practice in general with a focus on Oncology Pharmacy. The trip was organized and sponsored by the WHO Regional Centre. Our hosts were the University of Philippines, which is the oldest university in Philippines, and the Philippines General Hospital. The response from our audience to the lectures and workshops (more than 100 pharmacists, doctors and students) was excellent. The Chancellor of the University attended and officially acknowledged the importance of the pharmacist in patient care and promised to make sure pharmacists are included, in the future, in hospital committees pertaining to patient-care.

Beyond Asia

In December 2003 two pharmacists from Khartoum University of Sudan, Africa will be attending our university for a one month Oncology Pharmacy Attachment.

Conclusion

I started in Malaysia with an interest in oncology pharmacy practice, with the help of people in Australia, Europe and Canada I was able to bring back to Asia knowledge to share amongst pharmacists to foster oncology practice. My sincere thanks to all ISOPP Secretariat members from the first committee until the present one and to ISOPP members from the various countries who have supported me, helped me and advised me and to Helen McKinnon who had the foresight to foster international communication and thus create ISOPP.

Up coming meeting dates Mark your diaries now

Date	Meeting	Location	Contact for further details
Jan 23-25 2004	12 th NZW meeting	Hamburg, Germany	www.nzw.de
Apr 1-4 2004	MAD in Oncology	Florida, USA	tproctor@syntaxxcomm.com
Apr 14-17 2004	ISOPP IX	Turin, Italy	Franca Goffredo (goffranc@tiscalinet.it)

NOPS 2003: National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium Toronto, Ontario, Canada 25-26 October 2003

Undaunted by SARS, power blackouts, and passing hurricanes, over 150 intrepid Canadians attended NOPS 2003, Canada's premier oncology pharmacy symposium held in Toronto. Chaired by Kim Stefaniuk and Julia Elia-Pacitti, NOPS attracted participants from coast to coast. From Vancouver, British Columbia, to St. John's Newfoundland, participants gathered for the brilliant hues of an Ontario autumn and a weekend packed with learning, networking, and just plain fun.

NOPS was delighted to welcome Peter Gilbar from Australia, who spoke about palliative chemotherapy and chaired a palliative care case study workshop, Dr. Bill McLean, a Canadian icon renowned for his work in advancing pharmaceutical care, and Jeff Barnett, ISOPP webmaster and self-proclaimed "computer geek," to update delegates on Internet resources and new technology.

Excellent speakers and provocative topics rounded out an eclectic program. New drug and disease updates, clinical monitoring of cancer patients, symptom management, bone marrow transplant, clinical trials, professional roles, "Ask An Oncology Nurse", and other relevant subjects offered something of interest for every level of practitioner. NOPS 2003 closed with the immensely popular Points-of-View discussion; this year's subject was medical marijuana.

The panel consisted of a "pro" pharmacist, a "con" physician, a lawyer, forensic toxicologist, and marijuana activist. Each panellist presented their views, had the opportunity to debate with fellow panellists, and addressed questions from the audience. This most interesting discussion continued for 90 minutes, with several of

the panellists using the same information about cannabis to support their opposing viewpoints. Certainly provocative, at times humorous, the topic of marijuana became an informal theme of the conference. In fact, Kim took the opportunity to present Peter Gilbar with some "marijuana" of his very own!

Saturday sessions closed with the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology (CAPHO) Annual General Meeting. Members were updated on a number of CAPHO initiatives, including the Oncology Pharmacy Practice Standards, due at the next NOPS meeting in October 2004. Of note, George Dranitsaris formally handed over the presidency to Lynne Nakashima. The new Distinguished Service Award was presented to Larry Broadfield for his significant sustained contributions to CAPHO and the oncology pharmacy community.

NOPS 2003 also marked a historic occasion as Jeff Barnett, the last of the three founders of CAPHO still serving on the Executive, completed his term as Past President and retired from CAPHO after ten years of service to the organization.

Immediately after NOPS, 125 delegates attended "An Afternoon with Cancer Care Ontario," again hosted by Kim Stefaniuk. After an update on provincial cancer care initiatives, concurrent sessions for both oncology pharmacists and technicians began. From new chemotherapy preparation devices to building an oncology library, vaccines to pharmacogenomics, Ontario speakers (including honorary Ontarian Peter Gilbar) presented a wide range of topics of interest to oncology pharmacy practitioners. Thought-provoking, entertaining, and always informative, our speakers nonetheless paled beside the magnificence of the Chef's culinary-Olympic-gold-medal-winning creations! The next Cancer Care Ontario pharmacy conference will be held June 19, 2004 in Toronto. Watch for upcoming news and events.

Kim Stefaniuk
NOPS 2003 Co-Chair

ISOPP WEBSITE CONTINUES REVISION

We are continually revising the website to improve ease of use for all our members. You will notice the Home Page has been changed, and there is a Poll for members to fill out online asking your opinion of these changes. When you log on to the ISOPP website at www.isopp.org, you can have your say about questions raised in the website Polls. This provides quick feedback so we can continually improve the site.

A recent Poll asked: The ISOPP secretariat has approved a new logo - what do you think of it? Poll results from 48 members who replied online were: 75% agreed "Great - it really enhances ISOPP's image; 13% replied "I do not care either way" and 13% "I like the old one better".

Please visit the website and tell us your opinion online or by email.

Jude Lees. Chair, ISOPP Publications Committee.

Membership fees due!

All members will have received their membership renewal letters by mail. Those members that chose the two-year membership option in 2003 can sit back and relax as there is nothing to pay. Those members that do have to pay for 2004 can also take a two year option and pay for 2004 and 2005 with the benefit of a reduced fee. Please renew your membership early and thus assist ISOPP.

Elections are coming!

The elections for President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 members of the Secretariat will take place early next year. If you are considering running for office, start your planning now! If require any information about the process please contact CMC (helenm@internet.co.nz).