

News LETTER



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President's Message

Thank you to each of you for renewing your ISOPP membership and please consider getting involved in an area that interests you. We will all benefit from each of us sharing that time and talent. If you have a talent in computers and wish to see more education offered between symposium on our website please get in touch with Lynne Nakashima (lnakas@bccancer.bc.ca) or myself (carole.chambers@albertahealthservices.ca) as that group has identified this need which I am sure will appeal to one of our members. This has been a recurring request so please take the time to let us know if this is something you can assist with.

Thank you to everyone who completed a survey this past July on the international challenges facing oncology pharmacy practice. With a 34% response rate from 35 countries the use of survey monkey by ISOPP continues to show strong participation. Table 1 shows some highlights on the challenges facing oncology pharmacy practice. ISOPP is composed of very positive people! The survey then asked respondents to rank the challenges for oncology

pharmacy practice from most important to least important:

Ranked Challenges for Oncology Pharmacy Practice

1. COST OF CYTOTOXICS
2. HUMAN EXPOSURE TO CYTOTOXICS
3. MULTIPLE STANDARDS THAT MAY CONFLICT
4. WORKFORCE SHORTAGES
5. Continuing Education
6. Varied Protocols and their Acronyms
7. Biological drugs handling
8. Oral Chemotherapy processes
9. Patient number increases
10. Look alike/ sound alike cytotoxics
11. Language in Reference sources
12. World wide Drug shortages
13. Administration of Vincristine in minibags
14. Internet communication

Early Bird Registration for ISOPP 2010 in Prague has closed, your Education committee has a tentative program, and they are now approaching speakers, your Membership committee

will be working on the travel grants and awards, and our election of new Secretariat members will be coming out for your attention shortly. It is a busy time for ISOPP and I encourage all of you to participate.

I have had the honor to attend and share ISOPP perspectives to many of the membership over this year.

We do share common problems, which is why ISOPP provides another valuable network to assist each of us in our daily practice. I know my own practice is richer from my membership and interaction with ISOPP colleagues from around the globe. I look forward to renewing connections and making new ones when we meet in Prague in a few short months.

Carole R Chambers
B.Sc.(Pharm) MBA
President ISOPP

Reminder!

If you would like to propose any New Business at the upcoming ISOPP General meeting in Prague, please send to Secretary Judith Smith (jasmith@mdanderson.org) by end of February 2010

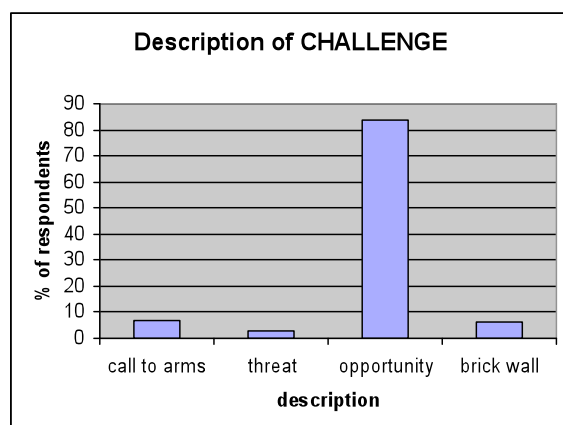


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Editorial

The President of ISOPP certainly does some travelling around the world. In this newsletter Carole Chambers has attended the BOPA meeting in Brighton, England, the 10th anniversary meeting of the Polish Oncology Pharmacist's meeting in Warsaw, Poland and her own national oncology meeting in Ottawa, Canada. It is very pleasing that she can attend these meetings to promote ISOPP and it's mission and values "The International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners will promote and enhance oncology pharmacy practice worldwide in order to improve cancer patient care". A way that individual members can also assist in this promotion is to sponsor a member from a developing country through the ISOPP Member Sponsorship scheme. This is an easy way to assist those financially less well off by giving them access to all ISOPP has to offer. Please see the 2010 membership form if you are interested in this sponsorship. I am always looking for interesting items to include in the newsletter. If you have been to an oncology meeting recently, been involved in something new or different, seen an unusual side-effect of treatment or would just like to report on oncology pharmacy activities in your country – please contact me on jillian.davis@austin.org.au. Looking forward to meeting you in Prague in May,


Jill Davis

The Polish Oncology Pharmacists Association Celebrates its 10th Anniversary.

John Wiernikowski (Canada) & Jerzy Lazowski (Poland)

In 1995, Dr. Jerzy Lazowski who was then the editor of the Journal of the Polish Pharmaceutical Society "Farmacja Polska" attended the 3rd ISOPP meeting in Hamburg, Germany. Jerzy was struck by the problems and issues faced by cancer patients and by the important role pharmacists could play in the care of this patient population. As a member of the organizing committee for the annual conference of Polish hospital pharmacists, he introduced this as a general session at their annual meeting in 1996. This was the first time that Polish hospital pharmacists were introduced to the concept of specializing in a particular area of pharmacotherapy. In 1997, Klaus Meier (then President-Elect of ISOPP) was invited to the annual meeting and spoke about centralized chemotherapy preparation, and the role of pharmacists in safe handling of anti-neoplastics, as well; information sessions on new anti-neoplastics were presented. Jerzy was very interested in this area, and authored a number of papers on newer anti-neoplastic agents in the Society's Journal (Farmacja Polska). After attending further ISOPP Symposia in Sydney, Washington and Prague and with the encouragement of Klaus Meier (now

ISOPP President); Jerzy undertook to organize annual meetings for Polish pharmacists (largely hospital based) interested in Oncology. The first of these meetings took place in Warsaw in October of 2000, and was attended by 35 pharmacists. At this meeting, discussions occurred regarding establishing a Section of Oncology Pharmacists, as well as a commitment to have annual meetings, with the next one to occur in Krakow in October of 2001, and to increase the meeting content to sessions/workshops spanning 3 days. Through the hard work of Jerzy Lazowski, an application was put forth to the Governing body of the Polish Pharmaceutical Society and in December of 2000 the Section of Oncology Pharmacists of the Polish Pharmaceutical Society was born; with Jerzy Lazowski as "Head of Section". The Section of Oncology pharmacists has enjoyed continued growth and from a modest beginning of 35 pharmacists at the first meeting, had



XII. ISOPP
PRAGUE
WWW.ISOPP2010.COM
12th SYMPOSIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGY PHARMACY PRACTITIONERS
MAY 5-8, 2010 | CLARION CONGRESS HOTEL PRAGUE | CZECH REPUBLIC

The Polish Oncology Pharmacists Association Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

Continued.

over 140 participants at this year's 10th Anniversary meeting in Warsaw; and has achieved a great deal in a short period of time.

In 2002, the Section published its first handbook on "Establishing a Chemotherapy Reconstitution/Admixture Service"; and in 2005 with the support of EBEWE Pharmaceuticals published the first "Standards for Oncology Pharmacy in Poland", with a second edition being published in 2008. In conjunction with Poland becoming a member State within the European Union in 2004, the Section undertook to organize annual meetings with their German neighbours. These initially alternated between Frankfurt on Oder and Slubice, and now alternate between Dresden in Germany and Wroclaw in Poland; and have been a source of welcome cooperative learning for both groups of oncology pharmacists. The proceedings of these meetings were initially published in *Farmacja Polska* but since 2007 have been published in the Oncology Pharmacy section of the Journal "Hospital Pharmacy in Poland and Globally". The Section of Oncology Pharmacists currently has 85 full time members, and 3 ISOPP members (J. Lazowski, BJ Sobkowiak, E Korczowska). The members also participate in meetings of the European Society of Oncology Pharmacists (ESOP), and in various Master Classes organized by this organization.

I (JW) had the pleasure of being invited to speak at this year's 10th Anniversary meeting in Warsaw; giving an introductory lecture on Practical issues in Pediatric Oncology as well as a session on Late complications of cancer treatment in survivors of childhood malignancy. The meeting was also attended by current ISOPP President Carole Chambers who gave an excellent overview on ISOPP's mission and goals, and benefits of membership. I am very optimistic that ISOPP will have significantly more



Polish Oncology Meeting Group Picture, Warsaw 2009.

Polish members come 2010. The opening plenary to this year's meeting was given by Tadeusz Kobierzycki, Professor of Philosophy at the Music University of Warsaw. The lecture was entitled "On being a Patient, being ill, being cured, Living and Dying: An anthropologic perspective" and was a trip through history in terms of treatment of disease, perspectives of disease from the standpoint of an individual and a society; and how this has shaped modern therapy, and human behaviour in relation to disease. This year's meeting had 3 general themes, 1) Advances in Oncology, in which there were presentations by eminent Polish oncologists on New Drugs and Targets in Haematologic Malignancy as well as in Renal Cell Carcinoma. 2) Unique Patient Populations in which there are sessions on Optimizing Chemotherapy in the Elderly patient (Dr. A. Wiela-Hojenska); Cancer treatment in Pregnancy (Dr. M Gornas) and Practical considerations in Pediatric oncology pharmacy by yours truly. 3) Adverse Reactions/Toxicity from Chemotherapy in which there were sessions on Cardiotoxicity of Antineoplastics by Dr. Filipczyk-Cisarz and Late Effects of Cancer Treatment.

There was also a session given by ESOP President Klaus Meier on good patient support as the basis for better collaboration among all health professionals caring for patients with cancer.

The highlight of the meeting was an opportunity for oncology pharmacists to discuss issues around standards, chemotherapy preparation, labeling, and handling by health care personnel with the Chief Pharmaceutical Inspector for Poland. As an EU member, Poland is newly faced with coming on board with EU regulations and standards pertaining to the aforementioned elements of pharmacy practice. Some centres are ahead of others in this process, and this led to some heated discussion as perceptions varied on the role of Government and the Inspectors office in facilitating change. Ultimately the dialogue proved to be fruitful, with a promise that it would be ongoing throughout Poland's transition to EU standards and regulations.

The meeting concluded with a lovely dinner, live entertainment and dancing. I would like to express my thanks to Jerzy Lazowski and the Section of Oncology Pharmacists for the invitation to this meeting, for Jerzy's incredible hard work as Section Chief and to extend my congratulations to all the Polish Oncology pharmacists for their accomplishments to date and for continued success.

Looking forward to seeing very many of you in Prague!!



NOTICE OF ISOPP Assembly General Meeting
Friday May 7th 2010 –Prague, Czech Republic

1130 – 1245

AGENDA

1. Outgoing President's Welcome and Review period 2008/10 – Carole Chambers
2. Finances and Budget 2010/12 – Terry Maunsell
3. Committee Reports
 - Publications – Felice Musicco
 - Newsletter Editor: Jill Davis
 - Research – Kellie Jones
 - Education – Franca Goffredo
 - Lynne Nakashima
 - Membership and Finance – Bruce Burnett
 - Nagwa Ibrahim
 - Standards – Jim Jorgenson
4. Poster Awards
5. Update on Constitution/By Law revisions
6. Proposed resolution: Group Membership Rates
7. Introduction of New Secretariat Members and Officers
8. Incoming President Welcome – Johan Vandenbroucke
9. Announcement of ISOPP XII in.....attend to find out next location!
10. New Business

If any member wishes to propose New Business please send to Secretary
Judith Smith (jasmith@mdanderson.org) by end of February 2010

Please plan to join ISOPP Secretariat and Committee Chairs at our Assembly General Meeting

Carole R Chambers
ISOPP President

NOPS 2009

The Canadian Association of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (CAPHO) hosted its annual National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium (NOPS), "Oncology Safety – Not an Oxymoron", in Ottawa, Ontario October 23- 25, 2009.

Each year's meeting seems to build on the previous one and this was no exception with 23 poster presentations and 289 attendees from across the nation and other countries.

ISOPP members will be especially pleased to hear they were well represented with presentations given by Carole Chambers, Johan Vandembroucke and Terry Maunsell. As president Carole brought greetings from ISOPP to the conference delegates and presented "ISOPP Perspectives". She also addressed possible areas of collaboration between ISOPP and CAPHO. Johan presented during an industry sponsored session highlighting the need for closed systems devices and the ways they can benefit the workplace. Terry and Carole participated as panelists in the final industry sponsored symposium entitled, "Collaborating for Chemo".

Friday consisted of morning to evening industry sponsored presentations on a variety of timely subjects. Industry also hosted symposia Saturday and Sunday morning before the conference commenced and after the close of the conference.

These were current, interesting and informative and contributed significantly to the meeting.

On Saturday morning after welcoming the delegates to NOPS 2009 and the nation's capital the meeting began with a primer on genomics and a review of drug interactions in oncology. These provided the perfect backdrop for subsequent presentations requiring a basic understanding of those topics. One of the highlights of the conference was the opportunity to hear Dr. Robert Dorr address the subject of reducing the hazards of handling cytotoxic chemotherapy.



President Carole Chambers, President-elect Johan Vandembroucke and Treasurer Terry Maunsell meet up during the NOPS meeting in Ottawa.

Saturday afternoon delegates choose sessions from three streams. The topics were as varied as they were interesting. The administration stream hosted sessions reporting on the use of telepharmacy in remote locations in Western Canada and a presentation by a representative of the Joint Oncology Drug Review (JODR). JODR evaluations of new oncology medication are considered in provincial formulary decisions.

The technical session looked at latex allergies, repetitive strain injuries, and technician regulation in Canada.

The clinical stream included updates in brain tumours, intraperitoneal chemotherapy, triple negative breast cancer and challenges in pediatric oncology.

For the third year in a row CAPHO hosted an evening dinner for delegates and guests. From bagpipes in Halifax to cowboys in Calgary, NOPS moved this year to the sophistication of chamber music, and fine dining at the National Museum of Man.



NOPS Organising Committee - how many ISOPP members can you spot?

NOPS 2009 continued

After dinner a comedian provided an entertaining capstone to a remarkable evening.

Sunday morning included oral presentations by the poster award recipients and a panel discussion on medication reconciliation in the in-patient and out-patient oncology settings.

NOPS 2009 presented a cross-section of timely oncology pharmacy topics that were well received by clinicians, technicians, and administrators in a relaxed and enjoyable venue that fostered national and international collaboration and networking.

During the annual CAPHO business meeting it was announced that next year NOPS 2010 will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Perhaps we'll see you there.
Lee Gordon



Terry, Johan, and Carole at the Museum of Man and Nature - the Saturday night social event.

BOPA 2009

This year, the BOPA conference was held in collaboration with the United Kingdom Oncology Nursing Society (UKONS), and it took place in Brighton. Themes ranged from research and clinical updates to team working and introductory level oncology.

The clinical update on Melanoma was delivered by an optimistic speaker who highlighted that in the past the treatment of metastatic melanoma has been far from satisfactory with little impact on overall survival. However, with the substantial advances that have been made in understanding the genetic changes associated with this disease, new classes of drugs have been designed to target these mutations. One of these classes targets the RAS/RAF/MEK pathway which is up-regulated in melanoma and is responsible for proliferation and resistance to apoptosis. This pathway can be turned on by activating mutations in NRAS or BRAF which has been linked to disease progression. PLX4032 -a selective B-RAF kinase inhibitor- is in early phase II studies, and is a promising new drug.



BOPA venue held at the seaside city of Brighton

The clinical update on Breast cancer focused mainly on endocrine therapy. The speaker discussed the recent data that suggest aromatase inhibitors (AIs) are superior to Tamoxifen in reducing recurrence, prolonging disease free survival and overall survival. The ATAC and BIG 1-98 compared tamoxifen and AIs as monotherapy while other studies compared various switching schemes between the two such as starting with Tamoxifen then switching to AIs or

starting with the latter then switching to Tamoxifen (reverse switch). The switching schemes gave superior results than Tamoxifen monotherapy, and minimized time dependent adverse effects of therapy such as thromboembolic events with Tamoxifen and musculoskeletal complications with AIs.

The poster presentation session was quite popular and included over 50 entries. Three of these were nominated

BOPA 2009

for oral delivery. One of which was an audit conducted by Bruce Burnett and Calum Polwart . This is a multi-centre audit of hypersensitivity reactions to docetaxel infusion. The authors designed a website that practitioners can access and input their data. The compilation of this data hopes to identify preparation methods and factors that may influence the observation and incidence of hypersensitivity reactions during docetaxel administration. The keynote speaker for BOPA was the ever inspiring John McCarthy. Over a span of 50 minutes, he captivated the audience with his story. McCarthy, Britain's longest held hostage in Lebanon, was set free in 1991 after more than five years in captivity. He shared little anecdotes of suffering and survival that moved the audience to tears.

Shereen Nabhani, PharmD, BCOP
Kingston University UK



Bruce Burnett and Calum Polwart with their posters at BOPA, and the winning poster below.

Do you have what it takes to gain the Fellowship of ISOPP (FISOPP)? Why not complete the self-evaluation form on the website at www.isopp.org and if you fit the criteria send in your application as directed prior to 31 March 2010. Successful FISOPP candidates will be presented with their award at the Prague ISOPP XII symposium.

It is not too late to renew your ISOPP membership!

To submit to the ISOPP newsletter, contact editor Jill Davis via jillian.davis@austin.org.au

Multi-centre audit of hypersensitivity reactions (HSR) to docetaxel infusions.

Bruce Burnett, Calum Polwart, Steve Williamson
Glan Clwyd Hospital, North Wales; County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Introduction

Background

Docetaxel is associated with unpredictable HSR. The exact cause is not well understood and may be linked in part to polysorbate-80. A number of other factors may be causative.

A combined analysis of several phase II and III studies suggested the incidence of HSR's could be greater than 20%, with severe HSR's in excess of 4% (Engels). To compare HSR rates observed and formulation/administration methods used with those quoted in the SmPC a multi-centre audit was proposed to obtain sufficient data.

Aims

To compare methods of preparation and administration used in practice with that quoted in the SmPC, and other factors which may influence a HSR. Also to compare the HSR rates at sites with the rate quoted in the literature.

Methods

Demographic data, pre-medication and details of product preparation, storage and administration were collected electronically using a prospective audit template.



Alongside grade of reaction (CTCv3) where appropriate. Data collection was undertaken in partnership between pharmacy and nursing staff



Results

The results to date are summarised in the tables below:

	Breast	Prostate	Head and Neck	Other	Total (%)
No. of infusions	95	43	19	10	167
Pre-med as per SmPC	88	21	18	7	134 (80.2)
Preparation as per SmPC	50	42	19	10	121 (72.5)
Administration as per SmPC					-
Reactions	7	1	0	0	8 (4.8)

Site	A	B	C
Infusions	21	100	46
Reactions	2	5	1

	Grade 1/2	Grade 3	Grade 4
No. of reactions	0	6	2

Doses administered as per SmPC remains to be determined (data entry variation across the three sites requires further verification of methodology). The overall reaction rate is 4.8% versus literature reported rate range in a recent review of 5 – 60% (Engels, 2007). No breakdown for individual diseases or regimens as yet – although data available in the SmPC will be used for future comparison. The median patient age was 60 years (range 36 – 79), 73% of doses were administered to men. Median dose 150mg (range 70 – 210 mg) [56-100mg/m²]. All doses were prepared in sodium chloride, (4 in 500mL, others in 250mL), median volume 265mL. 121 doses were mixed using inversion. 19 had foam present in at least one vial and 23 in infusion bags. 26 infusions were given centrally. 22 infusions were given more than 4 hours after the treatment was mixed. 134 infusions were given with the standard dexamethasone 8mg twice daily starting 24 hours before chemotherapy, continuing for 3 days. 1 male, 7 females developed HSR (4.8% of all infusions) - 8 Grade III/IV reactions. All HSR's occurred at either first or second cycle. The most common chemotherapy protocols being used were FEC-T, docetaxel-prednisolone and single-agent docetaxel (range 60-100mg/m²).

Conclusions

There is still insufficient data to perform any statistical analysis or draw any conclusions, although the overall reported reaction rate is less than that reported in a recent review (Engels, 2007). The regimen specific rates which appear in the SmPC will be used to compare against the audit results where appropriate. It has not been possible to do the comparison at this time due to lack of data and the use of regimens not included in the SmPC, e.g. FEC-T. Data is now being collected at 4 sites and it is hoped that the number of sites collecting data increases so that the target of 500 infusions is reached soon. A multi-site audit is capable of collecting data in such a way to allow remote data entry and provide results suitable for analysis. Once the 500 infusions target has been reached the data will be analysed to determine whether the reported rates differ from the literature and SmPC. If the differences are statistically significant we plan to undertake a research project to determine whether any of the identified potential factors have any role in the development of infusion related reactions to docetaxel.

Bibliography

www.emc.medicine.org.uk – Taxotere® SmPC – accessed May 2009
Engels FK, Mathot RAA, Verweij J. Alternative drug formulations of docetaxel: a review. *Anti-cancer Drugs* 2007; 18: 95 – 103
<http://reaction.chemo.org.uk>

BOPA 2009

continued



The Helen McKinnon Award submissions are now open.

This is ISOPP's most prestigious award and recognizes an ISOPP member who has made a significant contribution to ISOPP or who has made a sustained contribution to oncology pharmacy practice. Submissions are made directly to the ISOPP President. See the website www.isopp.org for details.



Secretariat member Shereen Nabhani and one of her students with work presented at BOPA

Applications for travel grants to attend ISOPP XII in Prague are now open – visit www.isopp.org

ISOPP Achievement Award

submissions are now open. If you think a fellow ISOPP member has shown a significant contribution to or has provided leadership to developing or supporting an innovative technical or clinical oncology pharmacy service, why not nominate them for an ISOPP Achievement Award? Direction on how to do this are available on the website at www.isopp.org. Why not do this now? Submissions received before 31 March 2010 and deemed to fulfill the criteria will allow the recipient to be presented with the award at the Prague ISOPP XII symposium.



ISOPP President Carole Chambers with Geoff Saunders (Chair of the Faculty of Cancer Pharmacy)



David Thomson, BOPA Chair and ISOPP member, and Jeffrey Koundakjian, BOPA Newsletter Editor acting up at the Beach Party social event