

News LETTER



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Message from the President

Dear ISOPP members,

Recently you will have received an e-mail announcing the changes that were made to the management service company and the extension of the country bands with a fourth band.

The Secretariat believe these changes are important for ISOPP and the membership, to further the growth and professionalism of our Society.

When switching from CMC to STS as management service company, our long relation with Helen McKinnon enters a new phase. Helen had the inspiration and the will to do some more for oncology patients by starting up the ISOPP society. She realized over twenty years ago that communication and reaching out helping hands to colleagues working with and for these oncology patients could be of great benefit both for those patients and for the professional health care worker himself.

Helen took the initiative to create the society, to lead ISOPP as the first president, and later on to support and help ISOPP in serving with a management service company CMC. Without her, ISOPP would not exist and be what it is today. Helen will be a continuous source of inspiration both for the present Secretariat and for the following ones to come. ISOPP owes many thanks Helen and be sure we will stay connected.

But these changes are not the last ones you can expect from ISOPP. The Secretariat is preparing some more changes in the rules and constitution, such as different categories of

membership and the whole membership application process, to mention only two of them. You will receive other messages announcing these proposed changes in the near future and we all invite you to use the named reflection period to send us your comments.

Changes to the rules can be voted on, taking into account your comments, by the Secretariat. Changes to the constitution need to be voted on by the membership and this voting will be held either electronically or at the general meeting during the Melbourne Congress in May 2012.

A major change that will be proposed will be to move the society out of Germany into Canada. The reason for this is based on the historical and present difficulties the society has in meeting the German requirements and the associated tax regime. To give just one example, the German court does not accept our documents of elections or general meetings, unless they have been translated by an official translator service. This causes delays in the ability to hand over duties to new office bearers (especially the Treasurer position) and also incurs extra costs.

After acceptance by the German court, other documents must be signed by the senior ISOPP officers in front of a legal representative of Germany at the embassy. All this takes time and often requires (airplane) travel for the senior officers, just to sign documents witnessed by the appropriate German representatives.

This has resulted in, for example, our former treasurer (Terry Maunsell) still



having to perform the financial activities for the society instead of the elected (in 2010) and in office present treasurer Jill Kolesar. This is unacceptable.

In addition, the tax regime in Germany does not allow the Society to build up reserves in the bank for possible financial difficulties the society might face. Just think about how close to major problems we were in Prague in 2010, if the Icelandic volcano had erupted only a couple of days before, lots of attendees could not have reached the congress with a likely enormous financial loss as a result.

Taking into account that the society

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Message from the President continued

was nearly bankrupted in 2007, ISOPP installed saving actions at that time and started an active sponsorship program which was very successful, but the other side of the coin is that by creating a financial reserve we are facing loss of our charity or non-profit status in Germany.

The Secretariat has investigated different possibilities using the criteria of English speaking, administrative requirements and tax regime and came to the conclusion that Canada would be an appropriate candidate. We are working with legal advice to prepare the required changes and you will get more news and chance to comment on this issue early next year.

The coming of the end of the year also means it is time to renew your membership. We are pretty sure the move to four country bands is a good and honest base and will boost membership in many countries. But the best publicity of all is the "word of mouth" publicity from you, our current members, who can convince your colleagues to join ISOPP.

You will also notice that the renewal application is totally reworded, with faster and easier processes and with the novelty of an on-line payment module to be implemented any day now (if not yet done, it will be shortly available).

The end of the year 2011 is in sight, a period to reflect about the past year and the time to make new goals for the coming year.

On behalf of the Secretariat and committee chairs, I would like to wish you and your relatives a marvelous and peaceful end to 2011, an enthusiastic beginning to 2012 and a year full of health, joy, happiness and satisfaction both in private and in professional life.



Johan Vandenbroucke
President ISOPP 2010-2012

SIFO XXXII Congress Nazionale



Franca Goffredo and Felice Musicco

Many thanks to SIFO President Laura Fabrizio and the SIFO Congress President Andrea Messori for the invitation to ISOPP to attend the SIFO XXXII Congress Nazionale held in Florence Italy 16 – 19 October 2011. Italian ISOPP members Franca Goffredo and Felice Musicco were in attendance to hand out ISOPP brochures to interested attendees.

ISOPP International Travel Grants

We are pleased to announce the ISOPP International Travel Grants Program. The purpose of the travel grants is to offer a number of ISOPP members from developing countries or with financial hardship the opportunity to attend the ISOPP Biennial symposium so they may expand their current knowledge and share the new knowledge with colleagues in their home countries/regions. The award is designed to cover some (not all) of the expenses incurred to attend the ISOPPXIII meeting in Melbourne, Australia, 9-11 May, 2012. Up to four travel grants of €500 Euro each will be available.

Applications should be sent by 29 February 2012. Visit isopp.org to check out the application requirements.

Have you registered yet for ISOPP XIII?
Early bird registration closes 31 January 2012. Visit www.isoppxiii.org

Medal awarded

Congratulations to Barry Goldspiel (USA), awarded the Don E. Francke Medal at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in December 2011. This award recognizes a pharmacist who has made international contributions to pharmacy practice. As part of the award, Barry gave a 20 minute talk titled, "Oncology Pharmacy Practice: Opportunities for International Collaborations" with ISOPP a central theme throughout his talk. Well done Barry!



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XVII Congresso Brasileiro de Oncologia Clínica

October 26-29, 2011 saw over 2500 health professionals from multiple disciplines (physicians, nurses, pharmacists) gather in Gramado, Brazil for the XVII Congresso Brasileiro de Oncologia Clínica. The entire congress was in Portuguese but I had the honor of being invited to speak at this meeting. My lecture sounds wonderful in Portuguese: Erros de modicacao em oncologia como podemos evita-los? - Medication Error Prevention in Oncology. Thank you to Annemeri Livinalli for suggesting this topic as we got a great attendance and numerous excellent questions. The opportunity to highlight the coming Medication Safety Self Assessment in Oncology was



Carole Chambers and daughter enjoy their visit to San Paolo



Carole Chambers and Annemeri Livinalli

also taken so that when it is released in January 2012 our oncology community will be aware and watching for it.

Brazil oncology has an enthusiastic younger group if this conference is any indicator. Their congress evening function had one of the popular rock bands performing and a crowd that knew all the words. My crash language course of one week allowed me to appreciate the enthusiasm and I am much more appreciative of the energy expended when you try to communicate in another language. My favourite word that week was 'obrigada' which I used liberally.

My daughter Jennifer also accompanied me and we took the opportunity to explore Sao Paulo, a city of 22 million workaholics if my guide book was correct with 1% of the population English. Gramado is a resort location and the falls, 5 km outside this lovely location, were spectacular. If you are a chocaholic Gramado is a great destination as I believe there were 52 chocolate producing companies. As we walked the main street in Gramado the Congress flags were along the entire road and you could not walk a block without another chocolate shop. First impressions - Brazil is a great destination and their oncology group is welcoming and moving forward.

Carole Chambers
(Canada) Past-President ISOPP

BOPA Conference Report 2011

The 14th Annual symposium of the British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA) took place in Glasgow, Scotland from 13th-16th October. The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre on the banks of the River Clyde was the venue and for the third year BOPA combined with the annual conference of the UK Oncology Nursing Society (UKONS). The meeting consisted of some lively plenary sessions and varied concurrent sessions offering something for everyone and we can't forget the main social event – the black-tie gala dinner – but more about that later.

The first day of the conference was a UKONS-focussed day with plenary sessions on survivorship, leadership in cancer nursing, and optimising the management of emesis. The second day was a joint BOPA/UKONS day with sessions specially selected for their interest to both professions. The combined day opened with a plenary presentation from Professor Sir Mike Richards, National Cancer Director. Sir Mike gave an update on improving cancer outcomes from the perspective

of the Cancer Action Team. He gave an honest account of the shortfall in data collection, especially around the delivery of chemotherapy across the UK. This was followed with a patient perspective from Mike Hobday, Head of Campaigns, Policy and Public Affairs at MacMillan Cancer Support. The final plenary for the day was a session on adherence to oral cancer treatment and the issues and challenges involved with delivering this type of treatment. The afternoon saw three concurrent streams: clinical update, policy/industry/strategy, and “hot topics”. I co-chaired the policy stream and we heard a thought provoking talk from Ian Costello, Chief Pharmacist at the Royal Marsden Hospital on “The New NHS: Risks and opportunities for the

NHS chemotherapy service”. Ian very eloquently described the situation, familiar to many of us, of health services reaching capacity for the provision of hospital-based chemotherapy delivery. He also made the case as to why we need to look elsewhere for new models of chemotherapy delivery, including, the delivery of intravenous chemotherapy in the community.

The third and fourth day were BOPA-focussed days with the same concurrent streams running for the majority of the program each day. The clinical update stream was very well put together with sessions on cancer genetics, chemotherapy late-effects, melanoma, gynaecological tumours, breast cancer and lung cancer. The plenary sessions consisted of a presentation from Dr Catherine Duggan on the progress of the “new” Royal Pharmaceutical Society one year on. This presentation resulted in some lively debate and questions from the delegates. The keynote plenary of this year's conference was the extended poster discussion session where the six best abstracts were presented. The formal Saturday program finished, as always, with The Succinct Lecture. This year Sir Ranulph Fiennes gave a talk about his life titled “A Life Less Ordinary”. Just a couple of Sir Ranulph's achievements include in 1992/1993 completing the first unsupported crossing of the Antarctic



Continent (with Mike Stroud). This was the longest unsupported polar journey in history. In 2003, only 3½ months after a massive heart attack, and double bypass, Sir Ranulph (with Mike Stroud) achieved the first 7x7x7 (Seven marathons in seven consecutive days on all seven continents). It was awe-inspiring to just be in the same room as this amazing human being.

As mentioned earlier, the pinnacle of social events was the black-tie gala dinner. Once again I was a guest on the BOPA committee table. I would like to thank all of the committee, particularly David Thompson (Chair), for their hospitality and friendliness. Being in Scotland the evening would not have been complete without a Ceilidh band which resulted in many of us trying a few Scottish dances for the first time (apologies to all of my dance partners!!).

Next year the combined BOPA/UKONS conference will be held in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Being a Yorkshireman this is one that I don't want to miss and I would recommend this conference to any pharmacist who works in the area of cancer services.

Dan Mellor MPharm MRPharmS
Chair of the Cancer Pharmacists Group
(Australia)

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre,
Melbourne, Australia



Children's Oncology Group Fall Meeting

Atlanta Georgia USA September 13-17 2011

I recently attended the Children's Oncology Group Fall Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia as a delegate of Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick. The Children's Oncology Group (COG) is an American National Cancer Institute (NCI) sponsored organisation with multiple international partners inclusive of many Australian paediatric centres and is the world's largest cooperative children's cancer research consortium. COG holds working meetings twice yearly with a focus on protocol review, enrolment updates and new protocol development.

COG meetings are true working meetings, rather than educational in nature and can be difficult to navigate if sessions are not carefully selected. Multiple diseases are presented concurrently and the agenda is run to an extremely tight schedule. I felt it best to focus on a single disease and ensure my colleagues attended different streams. As our institution, Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick is about to open a new study for Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) with many new therapeutic agents I selected this as my primary focus.

The current open COG study for de-novo AML is a phase III randomised trial with incorporation of Bortezomib and Sorafenib for a certain subset of patients in addition to standard AML chemotherapy. A status update for the trial was presented.

This study will add the FLT3 inhibitor Sorafenib as first in paediatrics multicentre trial for patients with a mutation in FLT3. FLT3 or FMS-like tyrosine kinase-3 is a type III tyrosine kinase receptor where wild type FLT3 plays a role in regulation of normal haematopoietic stem cell function. Mutations in FLT3 are reported to occur in around 15% of paediatric AML patients and can lead to unregulated

haematopoietic stem cell proliferation. Internal tandem replication (ITD) and point mutations in FLT3 are thought to play a role in leukemogenesis and therefore are targets for therapeutic intervention.

Sorafenib is a highly selective FLT3 inhibitor and inhibits autophosphorylation of FLT3 and downstream protein phosphorylation reducing the burden of disease through targeted therapy. Patients who present with AML with FLT3 ITD and point mutations have a higher rate of relapse and are classed in a poor prognostic group therefore the addition of new agents for those patients is an exciting move for what remains a disease with a poor outcome.

In addition to de-novo AML protocols an update was given for AML relapse studies. There were a number of sessions that described the new paradigm for the structure of retrieval studies for leukaemia under the COG banner. In the past, multiple phase I studies were open simultaneously. These studies were plagued by poor accrual and institutions were often restricted to a single phase I study for each disease type. The new COG structure will see new agents incorporated sequentially on the same chemotherapy backbone. This new ethos will allow paediatric AML to keep up with drug development and evaluate numerous novel agents.

Children's Oncology Group Fall Meeting is a members only event, the next meeting is to be held Atlanta Georgia September 2012

Felicity Wright (ISOPP Secretariat member)

Sydney Children's Hospital, Australia
e: Felicity.Wright@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Report from the Canadian National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium (NOPS)

Members of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology (CAPHO) and supporters of the Oncology Pharmacy community gathered in beautiful Quebec City from November 3-6 for the annual National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium (NOPS). The theme of this year's symposium was "Let's Get Personal". Satellite symposia were held beginning in the evening of November 3rd and throughout the day on the 4th of November and covered topics ranging from Targeted therapies to Patient Safety and the impact of Low Molecular Weight Heparins on outcome in adults with Cancer and Bone targeted therapy which is declaring itself as an important aspect of cancer management based on new data for Zoledronic acid and it's positive impact on survival in women with breast cancer.

Saturday morning began with 2 excellent back to back plenaries. The first given by Dr. Jeffrey Hoch entitled "Hope for Reimbursement, Reimbursement for Hope and the Significance of Elephants" was an excellent and more than entertaining primer on Health economics and how payers whether it's the individual or Governments approach paying for health and health care. The second



Participants engaged during the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology's (CAPHO) 2011 annual Symposium plenary session.

plenary from Dr. Petr Kavan, focused on Adolescents and Young Adults and the serious gaps in research applied to this population that has resulted in this group being significantly disadvantaged in terms of survival and quality of life outcomes. Additional presentations included an excellent review by George Dranitsaris on Bio-similars of Drug Therapies which will be an important aspect of therapeutics once the first biologicals come off-patent. This was followed by an update on Malignant Melanoma, and new information on what has been learned about the malignant transformation of the benign to malignant melanocyte. With the ability to now identify 4 distinct molecular signatures; this is spurring the developments of new therapies for this deadly disease that remains one of the cancers with most rapidly increasing incidence globally.

The afternoon sessions were structured more like an ISOPP Symposium with 3 distinct 'streams' (Technical, Clinical and Administrative) and concurrent breakout sessions that included topics such as: Measuring Surface Contamination, Hematopoietic

Stem Cell Transplantation, and Development of an Oncology Patient compliance tool. The afternoon was closed out with the NOPS Poster Session, wine & cheese and a great opportunity to visit and network with colleagues from across the country. Saturday evening participants were treated to a magnificent French Canadian Dinner at the museum of civilization. The evening was a most memorable event as CAPHO held its awards ceremony and bestowed it's first ever Honorary Life Memberships to Edgar Goldstein from Montreal and Betty Riddell (ISOPP Member) from Saskatoon; for their outstanding contributions to Oncology Pharmacy and CAPHO. Congratulations! After the official part of the program, participants were treated to an evening of amazing musical talent performed by a local quartet of musicians (and more than one participant from the audience) that had people standing and cheering throughout the show. Sunday morning's program featured CAPHO's first "Town Hall" meeting; and plenary presentations on Biomarkers in Oncology and the role of the pharmacist; Therapeutic Drug monitoring for targeted therapies and Pharmacy Research by "Non Research" Pharmacists.

John T Wiernikowski, BScPhm, PharmD, FISOPP (ISOPP President-Elect)
McMaster Children's Hospital
Hamilton, ON, Canada



Participants and exhibitors network and share information during CAPHO's 2011 annual Symposium exhibition

Society Rules changes

According to the rules of ISOPP, changes to the rules can be voted on by the Secretariat after notifying the membership and allowing for a period of 45 days for comments for the Secretariat to take into consideration prior to voting.

If you would like to comment on the proposed change (please see below), please send an e-mail before January 22, 2012 to the secretary at: Hannelore.Kreckel@apo.med.uni-giessen.de.

Kind regards,

Johan Vandenbroucke, President

Rules of the ISOPP society

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 There will be two categories of membership:

A. MEMBERS

B. HONORARY MEMBERS, who shall be determined by the Secretariat and do not have to pay annual membership fees.

Amendment of the rules point 2. Membership

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 There will be THREE categories of membership:

Full Member: Pharmacy practitioners, including pharmacists, technicians, support personnel, and students with full benefits including voting rights. Technicians, support personnel and students receive 50% off the annual membership fee.

Corporate Member: Employees of corporations that provide products, services, and/or research in the field of oncology pharmacy. Corporate members may not serve on the Secretariat or have voting rights.

Honorary Member: A lifetime complimentary membership granted to individual oncology pharmacists recognizing outstanding, long-term career contributions related to the oncology pharmacy practice and ISOPP.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: ISOPP ELECTION 2012

This is the official Call for Nominations for the upcoming ISOPP Election to be held in February 2012.

Positions up for election this year include:

President Elect, Treasurer and 2 General Secretariat Members. The link to the Nomination form as well as Job/Role descriptions for the Elected positions is provided with this call.

The deadline for Nominations is Midnight January 8th (EST) 2012.

Please read the Nomination form entirely as it includes new information regarding the funding structure for Secretariat Members to attend ISOPP Symposia. These changes were put in place by the Secretariat since we now have annual instead of bi-annual elections that occurred in Symposia years; and are meant to address the financial burden placed on those Secretariat members that are elected in a Symposium year

vs. those that are now elected in the 'off' (non-Symposium) year.

If you require any clarification around the new funding structure, feel free to contact me at the following address: john.wiernikowski@gmail.com or via Fax +1 905 521 5008 .

A reminder once again, that the nomination process has been streamlined, and no longer requires multiple signatures. If you are interested in running for a position please submit your nomination. If you know of a colleague that would be suitable please ask them to submit their nomination. The Society can only continue to grow and succeed through the ongoing participation and commitment of it's members; members like you!

Visit www.isopp.org to obtain President Elect job Description Treasurer job Description and the General Secretariat Member job Description

Achievement Award

Description and Nomination Process

Purpose: The ISOPP Achievement Award recognizes an ISOPP member who has made a significant contribution to or has provided leadership for developing or supporting an innovative technical or clinical oncology pharmacy service. Examples of such contributions include, but are not limited to:

- Service to the oncology pharmacy community
- Unique cancer patient programs
- New & innovative technical or clinical oncology pharmacy programs
- Contributions to ISOPP or an ISOPP Chapter/Affiliate
- Evidence of oncology pharmacy leadership

- Improved outcomes resulting from oncology pharmacy practitioner interventions
- Evidence that supports sustained excellence in providing oncology pharmacy services
- Innovative oncology pharmacy-related research
- Innovative basic science research in oncology

Specific emphasis will be placed on nominations where documentation is provided that confirms that the contribution has had a positive effect on oncology pharmacy practice or patient care.

Deadline for submissions 31 March 2012.

Visit isopp.org to check out the application requirements.

To make a submission to the Newsletter, contact editor Jill Davis via email jillian.davis@austin.org.au