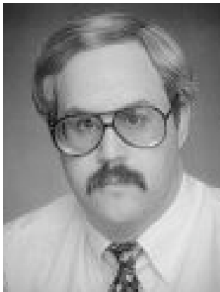


News LETTER



Newsletter - Vol 5, No 2, June 2003 • International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners

Message from the President



ISOPP is moving forward!

You will notice several new initiatives mentioned in this newsletter. These include distribution of ISOPP Research Awards and the announcement of

part of the ISOPP Practitioner Recognition - The ISOPP Achievement Award and The Helen McKinnon Award. These programs are just some of the several new programs that the ISOPP Secretariat has been working on over the past few months. I would encourage you to nominate an ISOPP colleague for these awards if you think they qualify. You can look forward to seeing announcements for other programs, such as ISOPP Travel Grants and another part of the Practitioner Recognition program – Fellow of the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (FISOPP). Through the diligent work of our management company, CMC International, and the JOPP publisher, we have caught up on supplying back issues and have fixed the distribution problem with JOPP. If you are a Full Member and think you have not received all of the JOPPs you are entitled to, please contact the appropriate CMC branch and they will be sure to fix the problem. We are still working on translating the article abstracts into German, Spanish, French, and Italian and hope to have this done for Volume 9. And, as JOPP editor, I am happy to report that we are receiving many more submissions than we have in the past. I fully expect that we will be able to complete Volume 9 for 2003, by the end of the year. I would encourage each of you to consider writing something for the Society's Journal, JOPP, and I will guarantee that the editors will work with you, especially new authors, to get your paper published.

In the background, the Secretariat is

continuing to review and propose revisions to the Constitution and Rules to make the Society function more efficiently. They are also actively discussing some of the issues brought up by ISOPP members at the NZW meeting in Hamburg in January – most notably, membership categories, Committee Chair selection, and the election process. You should expect to see the draft documents sent out for comments by the members during the northern summer, but you don't have to wait until then to voice your comments. You can always email them to me at any time.

The Secretariat has also been working hard to rebuild the ISOPP committees and reorganize the ISOPP Liaison program. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to be either a committee member or a liaison.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to appoint everyone who expressed an interest. For those of you who won't have an official appointment this year, the Committee Chairs might still contact you about a committee matter as the Secretariat feels that we should involve as many ISOPP members in all ISOPP activities. After many years, the ISOPP Secretariat has decided to seek out a professional website development company, CHIC Inc, to manage the ISOPP website. The website's content will be reorganized and expanded to meet the needs of the ISOPP members. ISOPP members should visit our website frequently to keep in touch with ISOPP activities.

Many of you received a "test" email from me just a few weeks ago. In an effort to improve communications, you should expect to see frequent email communications from the Secretariat,

Research Awards:

The inaugural ISOPP Research Awards have been granted. The research projects and recipients of these awards are:

1. The Appropriateness of Utilisation of Antiemetics in a Medical Oncology Department in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

William Rotea Junior, Oncology Pharmacist, Sao Paolo, Brazil. (US \$2000.00)

2. Influence of formulation acceptor-media on permeation rate (through gloves) of selected cytotoxics.

Gerhard Carstens, Chief Pharmacist, Hanover, Germany. (US \$10,000.00)

3. Evaluation of the Potentiation of Cytotoxic Agents in Human Gynaecologic Cancer Cell lines when co-administered with ZD1839 (Iressa), on Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor – Selective Tyrosine inhibitor.

Judith Smith, Assistant Professor, M D Anderson Hospital, USA (US \$6000.00).

Congratulations to the successful applicants.

Professor Graham Sewell
Chair, ISOPP Research Committee

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Italian Society of Health System Pharmacy (SIFO)

Since ISOPP IX (to be held in Turin, Italy April 14-17 2004) will be held in conjunction with SIFO, it is timely to learn a little about this long-standing pharmacy organisation. SIFO is a Scientific Association, the largest Association (about 2640 members) of pharmacists in Italy. Its members work in the National Health Service providing pharmaceutical services within hospitals and administrative services within the Administrative Regional Centres. In Italy the majority of hospitals are State Hospitals. The number of pharmacists per hospital can vary from 2 to 14 pharmacists with the larger numbers in the hospitals with the greatest number of beds (up to 2500 beds).

Pharmacists working in the Administrative Regional Centres monitor prescriptions - supporting the National Health Service to optimise the correct use of drugs and ensure cost-effective treatments. These pharmacists promote pharmacoepidemiological studies. The president of SIFO is Giovanna Scroccaro; the secretary is Giancarlo Taddei. They are supported by seven other colleagues thus forming the Directive Council. The Council are elected by members every 4

years.

SIFO is organised into Groups such as Total Parenteral Nutrition, Infectious Diseases, Cardiology, Oncology etc. The Oncology Group is organised into regional Working Groups and has about 200 members. The Directive Council is supported by:

- The Scientific Committee which promotes research projects submitted by the members
- The Pharmacoeconomic Laboratory (promoting and carrying out pharmaco-economical research)
- The Medical Devices Laboratory responsible for the national formulary which includes information on the characteristics of devices, comparisons among various devices etc.
- The South Mario Negri Institute.
- The National Assembly (about 50 members from the various regions)
- The Delegates, one for each region.

Both the National Assembly and the Delegates are elected by the members. SIFO was founded in 1952 (and celebrated it's 50th anniversary in 2002). To find out more about SIFO, visit the website at - www.sifo.it

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Committee Chairs, and me. We are working to correct some of the 'returned undeliverable' email addresses and I would encourage everyone to obtain an email address so that we may communicate with you efficiently. It's hard to believe that my time as President is passing so quickly. It is time to start planning for the election of new officers and probably most importantly, to plan for your attendance at ISOPP IX in Turin, Italy, April 14 to 17, 2004. As always, I encourage your feedback about anything ISOPP. Your comments are always important and will be used to further enhance ISOPP, your society. Warmly,

Email: bgoldspiel@nih.gov
Phone: USA 301.496.5869
FAX USA 301.496-0210

Report from the Publications Committee

The Publications Committee has recently expanded and we now have the following new members – Jo Brien and Yogi Mishra (Australia), Aurea Flores, Jeannine McCune, Shane Scott and Barabara Yim (USA) and Lynne Nakashima and Sarah Jennings (Canada). Welcome. There are 3 people who expressed interest in joining the Committee whom I have not been able to contact – Maria Caramona, Danke Mehrtens and Britta Callsen. Please contact me by email if you wish to join.

Work is about to begin in earnest on the new official ISOPP Website. From 4 Proposals, Coastal Health Information Consultants (CHIC) won the contract and we are just waiting for official transfer of the domain name to proceed. There will be a Public Access Area, and then a Members Only Area accessible by password. We plan significantly expanded Education and Communication Centres, and an on-line Symposium database for ISOPP IX. It is also planned to incorporate a Membership database on the website so in future members will find it easier to keep up to date.

If anyone has ideas for what they would like to see on the new Website, they are welcome to email me.

Jude Lees
Chair, Publications Committee jlees@mail.rah.sa.gov.au

Editorial

This last three months have simply flown by. The ISOPP Secretariat is making visible progress assisting members – note the announcement of the inaugural Research Awards later in this Newsletter and the two Practitioner Recognition awards announced in the accompanying handout. Start writing your application today – think how impressed your work colleagues (and your bosses) will be if you win an international award. The revised, upgraded and professionally designed website is almost ready to be launched onto the internet. I was hoping that this Newsletter would contain the big re-launch information but some minor problems have delayed the announcement. However, you can be sure that the website will be up and running by the time the next Newsletter is published. All the Committees are working hard in the background and thanks to the many members willing to have an active involvement in ISOPP and have joined the Committees. We should all be thinking about ISOPP IX now and working on our abstracts. After all, the meeting is less than 10 months away!

Cheers, Jill

p.s. Please note my updated email address:
jillian.davis@austin.org.au



A day in the life of ...

A German pharmacist working in oncology

Annette Junker is a clinical oncology pharmacist at the Sana Klinikum Remscheid GmbH in Germany. In addition, she freelances, publishes on oncology themes and is chief editor of the journal "Onkologische Pharmazie" now in its' fifth year. Annette writes:

Oncology must be one of the most rewarding, stimulating and challenging specialities that a pharmacist can work in, with the opportunity for building close relationships with patients and to be a valued, integral member of the healthcare team. With continual new drug development the scope for pharmacist involvement is huge.

It is not possible to describe one typical working day, as each day has its own distinct pattern and challenges, so I will choose three extraordinary tasks to explain my role.

Research

Since 2001, I have been study co-ordinator for a co-operative trial, between Sana Klinikum and the Universities of Bonn and Essen, involving the treatment of colorectal cancer with oxaliplatin, fluorouracil and leucovorin. This study aims to investigate inter-individual differences in oxaliplatin pharmacokinetics and perhaps find a correlation between pharmacokinetics and response and toxicity. My principle task is to inform patients about the aims of the study and the advantages in participation. Patients are very different individuals, with their own particular concerns, attitudes, health beliefs, and life circumstances. I believe that it is vital for me to understand these issues if I am to help them effectively manage their cancer treatment.

My second task is in the hospital's clinical laboratory where I collect six blood samples from each patient and separate these into full blood, plasma, ultra-filtered plasma and leukocytes, before freezing. Colleagues in Bonn measure the content of platinum, from which I am able to identify, using a special computer program, secondary parameters like AUC, clearance and half-life.



Annette checking prescription order with Nursing Staff

Pain Management

In their last months of life, patients with cancer may suffer from severe pain, making effective symptom control and discharge from hospital to home difficult. In such cases, my role as a pharmacist in the palliative team is to facilitate the use of electronic pain pumps. My duties include consultation regarding the indication for a pump; selection of the most appropriate type of pump; opioid dosage calculation; filling of bags; changing bags; programming pumps; educating hospital staff, family doctors, patients and carers; and co-ordinating a continuing supply of medication upon discharge.

EFQM Assessor

SANA Holding, an organisation of several hospitals in Germany, is a member of the *European Foundation of Quality Management* (EFQM). Remscheid is commencing self-evaluation using EFQM standards and I am a member of a team of 45 assessors. Our first task is to survey work practices throughout the hospital and make suggestions for improvement.

After my routine duties in the pharmacy department, teaching responsibilities and caring for the above mentioned patients, I must find time for documentation, answering emails and returning telephone calls. Out of hours I indulge my "second profession" as free lancer and chief editor. However, I always try hard to make my twin daughters and my husband realise that they still have a caring mother and a wife.

Editor: Annette Junker's research project was included in the 2003 ASCO Abstract Book. Congratulations Annette!



Annette (right) consulting with colleagues

Welcome to New Members March - May 2003

Australia: Tandy-Sue Copeland, Deanne Gorman

Brazil: Everardo Saad

Germany: Uwe Ammeling; Gunnar Ebeling; Ingeborg Gebhardt; Michael Jürgens; Bianca Köster; Peter Kraus; Joachim Mues; Herbert Reuther; Kristin Rothhaar; Beatrix Ullrich; Martina Westfeld; Sandra Zilz

Singapore: Lita Chew

Spain: Albert-Mari Asunción

United Kingdom: Nishaat Saini; Kin-Ngai Soo

USA: Richard Harms; Yuen Yi Hon; Maurice Keyes; Marisa Navo; Ostriker Scott; Lori Vrabel

Up coming meeting dates Mark your diaries now

| Date | Meeting | Location | Contact for further details |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Aug 1-3 2003 | ISOPPAustralasian Regional Symposium | Gold Coast, Queensland Australia | Jude Lees jlees@mail.rah.sa.gov.au |
| Sept 2003 | EU Satellite meeting adjacent to ECCO | Copenhagen, Denmark | Klaus Meier KHMeier@t-online.de |
| Oct 10-12 2003 | The BOPA Symposium 2003 | Cardiff, Wales, UK | Douglas@succinctcomms.comm |
| April 14-17 2004 | ISOPP IX | Turin, Italy | Franca Goffredo goffranc@tiscalinet.it |

Meeting Update: Tandem Blood and Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Meetings

The Tandem BMT Meeting was held at the Keystone Resort, Colorado (USA) on January 30 – February 3, 2003. This is a joint meeting of the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT) and the International Bone Marrow Transplant Registry / Autologous Blood and Marrow Transplant Registry (IBMTR). The meeting provides an update on blood and marrow transplantation with emphasis on basic science / laboratory research, clinical investigations and patient care issues. An educational conference for pharmacists was held on January 29 – 30th in conjunction with the meeting – and provided a wonderful forum for pharmacists that focus their practice in bone and marrow transplantation.

The BMT Pharmacists Conference included a comprehensive education program developed by Helen L. Leather and Kathleen P. Kovatovic. Helen moderated the two-day program that addressed a variety of practice issues. Pharmacists and physicians from around the world made presentations addressing a wide range of topics. A main focus was patient care issues of transplantation including the management of viral infections (William Garret

Nichols), fungal infections (Kieren Marr) that included a debate concerning the combination of antifungal therapy in treatment (Tracey Walsh and LeAnne Kennedy), acute graft-versus-host disease (Andrea Bacigalupo) and veno-occlusive disease (Christopher A. Fausel). Innovations in transplantation were also discussed. Presentations included the emerging roles of cord blood transplantation (Joanne Kurtzberg), “mini-transplantation” (Valerie Relias) and outpatient management of HSCT (Mary Emami). Each presentation allowed time for discussion from the audience; and was an opportunity for pharmacists to discuss practice challenges, questions and controversies. The pharmacists’ program session was an excellent beginning to the Tandem BMT meetings; and provides an educational and networking opportunity for pharmacists that practice in transplantation.

The next Tandem BMT Meeting will be held in Coronado Springs Resort Orlando, Florida (USA) on February 13 – 17, 2004. The BMT Pharmacists’ Conference will likely precede the main meeting.
Moe Schwartz

JOPP is now available online!

All full ISOPP members may now access the JOPP online archive. The JOPP online archive combines the full text of the previous five volumes with the existing electronic journal service. To register for online access, please complete the form at www.ingenta.com/home/fs_registernow.htm. If you have problems with registration, please contact the Ingenta Help Desk for user name and password on +44 (0) 1225 826176 or email: help@ingenta.com.

Barry

Please confirm your email address with CMC

It is important for ISOPP’s management firm –CMC- to have your accurate email address to ensure rapid communication between the ISOPP Secretariat and ISOPP members. If YOU have not been in touch with Helen McKinnon by email this year, please email her as soon as possible with “Confirming ISOPP member email address” marked in the subject area. Helen’s email is helenm@internet.co.nz

Standards Database Ready and Waiting!

Over the past few months the ISOPP Standards Committee has been very busy in setting up a database to allow easy and consistent collection of information on existing Standards. The database contains over 900 items which can be entered quickly by simply clicking Yes or No. This database will operate over the internet on a secured web address and may be accessed by any committee member anywhere in the world.

It is expected that data collection will begin in early June 2003 and committee members will work in teams with the aim of having an initial analysis and evaluation in October 2003.

A number of enthusiastic ISOPP members have joined the Standards Committee but **we are still looking for helpers**. So, if you are interested in being part of this important project and would like to place your practice standard on the database, PLEASE contact Johan for further information and for your Login and Password. We look forward to welcoming you aboard!

Johan, Robbie and Tom, ISOPP Standards Committee
Contact Johan: johan.vandenbroucke@uzgent.be