Message from the President

Based on Inaugural Speech at General Assembly, ISOPP IX, Turin, Italy

Taking over from Barry Goldspiel as President of ISOPP is a great honour but I know I have a very hard act to follow. Barry has worked tirelessly for ISOPP, and the evidence is there for all to see; rejuvenated and active ISOPP Committees, a new and much acclaimed website, new awards and ISOPP Fellowships to name but a few of his initiatives. Very few ISOPP members could have known the difficulties Barry faced when he took office – problems that were definitely not of his making. However Barry faced up to these issues with courage and honesty, always taking the right path for ISOPP, not the easy one. He had the intelligence and vision to think internationally, and yet, throughout his term of office, Barry remained as I have always known him, a quiet, modest, almost humble man. He had no need for the adoration and publicity coveted by some who reach high office. His commitment to ISOPP combined with a phenomenal knowledge of oncology pharmacy and his internationally recognised leadership at the cutting-edge of practice were more than enough to earn our respect and affection. I hope he will continue to take an active role in ISOPP for years to come.

I would also like to pay tribute to Bob Ignoffo, who as ISOPP Secretary for the past two years now stands down from the Secretariat. Bob is another individual who has quietly and efficiently worked and contributed so much to ISOPP. On behalf of the membership, I would like to express my gratitude to both Barry Goldspiel and to Bob Ignoffo. I would also like to thank Franca Goffredo, Jill Kolesar and Helen Leather and their team who, together with major inputs from some of the Secretariat and Committee Chairs, made ISOPP IX an excellent and memorable symposium.

So, what are my plans for the future of ISOPP over the next 2 years:

• Revision of the Rules of our Society. Making the Society more open, user-friendly and inclusive for all ISOPP members has challenged the last 2 Secretariats. I plan to form a small working group, led by the Past-President, to address these needs, seek opinions from the membership and place informed proposals before the membership for their approval.

• Eliminating the unnecessary politics from ISOPP. So many members have commented to me over the years that they are tired of ISOPP progress being obstructed by those with political ambitions. So am I and I would rather focus on more positive and important issues for the Society.

• Putting members first and concentrating on key issues for the membership. These include;
  - more affordable membership based on ability to pay. I unveiled my plan for linking membership fees to salary (“salary-banding”) at the General Assembly in Turin (more on this in the next Newsletter)
  - more benefits for members, particularly through development of the website
  - recognition that ISOPP is the international voice for oncology pharmacy.

• increasing the membership, particularly from areas such as Asia and South America where ISOPP is currently poorly represented.

I want ISOPP to be inclusive – there is a place for everyone whatever their interest in our speciality – and to treat all members equally. There has been a tendency over the last few years for some members to become “organised” along national or regional lines and attempt to impose their will on ISOPP. This is contra to the spirit of an international and

Travel Grants to attend ISOPP IX for 3 ISOPP members - Harbans Dhillon (Malaysia); Dil Shagar Sharma (Nepal) and Anna Wiela-Hojeńska (Poland) all received a Travel Grant to go towards their travel costs to attend the recent ISOPP IX symposium in Turin, Italy. For meeting reports from Harbans and Anna see inside!
Welcome to the New Secretariat

The New Secretariat was inaugurated at the ISOPP General Meeting in Turin. Congratulations to President Graham Sewell, President-Elect Saad Othman, Treasurer Thomas Garms, Secretary Jill Davis, Members Franca Goffredo, Camille Groos, Per Hartvig and Robert Terkola.

absent from photo Franca and Camille.

Winners of the ISOPP IX Poster prizes were:-
Elizabeth Greening (UK); Sabine Kaestner (UK); Jude Lees (Australia); Amparo Serrano (Spain); Judith Smith (USA); Kim Stefaniuk (Canada). Their abstracts are published in JOPP Volume 10, Number 2, the symposium edition. All winners received a cheque for 500 euro.

ISOPP Awards presented at ISOPP IX – Turin, Italy:

1. The inaugural Helen McKinnon Award was presented to Klaus Meier (Germany) by Helen McKinnon.

2. ISOPP Achievement Awards were presented to Moe Schwartz (USA) - For recognizing the need for education efforts in geriatric oncology in the USA and Victor Jimenez (Spain) –For commitment to the education and training of future oncology pharmacists practitioners in Spain (Victor was unable to attend to accept his award in person).

3. The first three Fellows of ISOPP were Jill Davis, Peter Gilbar and Jude Lees, all from Australia.

For details of the requirements for each award see Grants and Awards. Congratulations to all award winners!

Change of President

Barry Goldspiel performed his final duty as ISOPP President when he handed the official ISOPP Stele to incoming President Graham Sewell. The audience warmly welcomed Graham to his new role and applauded Barry for his dedication to ISOPP over the previous 4 years (2 years as President and 2 years as President –Elect).

President’s message contd from Page 1

democratic society like ours. Also, I believe all ISOPP members have the intelligence to develop their own opinions without being told how to think. Most of all, I want ISOPP to be open, transparent and accountable. That includes me, the Secretariat and the ISOPP Committees.

So, what can I offer as the New President? Well, as I mentioned previously, I have little time for politics so I will just have to rely on communication to engage the whole membership in taking ISOPP forward. Of course, communication will also be a challenge – being English my language skills are not a strong point (perhaps the same could be argued for my football, cricket and rugby skills). All I really have to offer is a tremendous passion for the oncology pharmacy speciality and an enthusiasm for our Society. I believe we are fortunate to practice in such a diverse and challenging pharmacy speciality where we can contribute to patient care in so many ways. ISOPP, as a unique, international network of pharmacy specialists, enables us to share our expertise and experience to further enhance the care we can offer to our patients.

I hope over the next 2 years all members will want to get involved and support ISOPP, its Committees and its Symposia. I also encourage you to give me your opinion and constructive advice so that together, we can take ISOPP into a golden age of achievement.

Professor Graham Sewell (ISOPP President)
ISOPPP Research Award 2003: winner Gerhard Carstens

It is twenty years since I became involved in Oncology Pharmacy by establishing the first centralised reconstitution service for antineoplastic agents in a German hospital pharmacy. Attending the 4th International Symposium of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners at Hamburg in 1995, I enjoyed being amongst the founding members of the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners.

From the beginning, I had a strong interest in safety measurements, especially in personal protective equipment. Due to the fact that no data were available for products on the German market, we started our own research work in 1991. Since then we have tested a broad range of protective clothing regarding resistance against permeation of various cytotoxic medicines. All tests that have been published so far are based on a two-chamber-principle. One chamber containing a solution of the cytotoxic medicine and the other chamber containing a collecting medium, both separated by the protective material. In most cases the collecting medium is an aqueous liquid.

We doubt that water is an appropriate collecting medium for all cytotoxic agents to gain effective information on permeation. In order to prove this assumption, we are undertaking a study, which is kindly supported by the ISOPPP Research Award.

We are going to measure permeation of selected cytotoxic medicines through swatches of medical gloves made from latex, nitril, or neoprene. The medicines will represent a broad range of physical characteristics especially regarding solubility. This will include medicines that have been found permeating easily. These tests will be conducted by varying the collecting medium including water, an aqueous solution simulating the condition on surface of hand with regard to pH and hydrophilic-lipophilic-balance, and others.

A comparison of the data will prove whether the formula of the collecting medium is relevant to results of permeation testing or not. Results may be helpful to design one or more standard media for permeation testing.

Gerhard Carstens
St. Bernward Apotheke
Hildesheimer Str. 240
30519 Hannover

ISOPPP President Visits Thailand and Malaysia

During the middle part of May, Professor Graham Sewell (ISOPPP President) visited Thailand and Malaysia for informal discussions and formal lectures with oncology pharmacists.

Graham’s first stop was Bangkok, Thailand, where he was able to meet with colleagues from hospital, academia and industry who all share a common interest in oncology pharmacy. His busy itinerary included a visit to the huge Siriraj General Hospital in Bangkok for meetings with the Chief Executive and senior pharmacists to discuss facilities, clinical pharmacy and medicines management.

Graham also gave a series of formal lectures attended by over 100 delegates at a meeting sponsored by Bioscience Ltd and Dabur Pharma Ltd.

On to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, where Graham was joined by ISOPPP President Elect, Saad Othman, who will host the ISOPPP X Symposium to be held in Malaysia in 2006. In addition to a series of enthusiastic hospital visits and meetings with representatives from the Malaysian Health Ministry, Graham gave some formal presentations at a meeting attended by over 150 pharmacists, which was again sponsored by Dabur.

Graham was impressed by the dedication, enthusiasm and knowledge of pharmacists in both countries: “I enjoyed some wonderful hospitality and many excellent discussions during my visit. It was an inspiration to meet so many pharmacists with a passion for the oncology specialty. I hope we can encourage many more pharmacists from Thailand and Malaysia to join ISOPPP, particularly when the Symposium visits the Region in 2 years time”
After a wonderful journey above snow-covered the Alps I was welcome by sunny Torino, where the 9th International Symposium on Oncology Practice was held from 14 to 17 April 2004. It was one of the few days with good weather but the atmosphere of this meeting was specially nice. For a long time I will remember this visit full of interesting lectures, kindness, smiles and architecture worth noticing – all at Lingotto Conference Center. Congratulations to Franca Goffredo – President of the Symposium and to the Organising Committee.

The meeting started with an Opening Ceremony including official speeches, two very interesting lectures “State of the art in research” presented by P. Pelicci and “State of the art in clinical practice” by M. Tonato, which gave us the future prospects that progress in cancer treatment is possible. It is a result of a lot of elements, new strategies of therapy and the discovery and development of new anticancer drugs, especially those that are more active and less toxic than current treatment. Well-planned and conducted randomized clinical trials are also very important. However, our optimism can’t be too great because the best treatment on the basis of scientific evidence is not always applied in clinical practice. There are a lot of reasons for this e.g. difficulty in changing long-standing practices, inconsistent trial results, financial and practical limitations.

After the scientific part was over a concert took place and the music of the string instruments appeased us. During the following days of Symposium, science alternated with practice. Before the afternoon of the first day President-Elect of ISOPP – Graham Sewell – Professor of Clinical Pharmacy University of Bath in UK made us familiar with the EU Clinical Trials Directive 2001/20/EC, its main objectives and difficulties that might be encountered in implementing them. An important session of this day was connected with drug interactions observed in oncology.

Why should we speak a lot about this particular problem? Cytotoxic drugs, having narrow therapeutic index, prove to be very toxic for healthy tissues. The addition of other drugs can increase the activity and toxicity of anticancer chemotherapy or diminish its action and they can be made ineffective. We often don’t remember that the sequence of chemotherapy administration can be important for antitumor efficacy and toxicity e.g. paclitaxel given before carboplatin results in less intensive thrombocytopenia than the reverse order. I found the examples given and information about the source of that knowledge truly valuable. On Friday I paid special attention to two sessions “Cancer treatment of older patients” and “Preventing errors in daily practice”. An absorbing supplement for the lecture of J. Vanderbroucke about “Influence of a computerised program on the number of faults in prescribing and preparing cytotoxic drugs” was his poster. During well organized breaks we had the opportunity to view the poster presentations. This meeting had something for everyone. The participants could enjoy a wide range of lectures, reports, poster session with 69 presentations, meets the experts, small group meetings, symposia sponsored by pharmaceutical firms, workshops, round table conferences and especially the gala dinner at Stupingi Castle!

In my opinion, the visit to Italy was not only nice but also very inspiring for my future of scientific, didactical and applied work. The knowledge and material obtained there will be used in preparations a project for the scientific-training meeting for pharmacists, chemotherapy optimalisation as the basic subject and promotes pharmacists attending conferences and symposia. He is now aided by two young, very active pharmacists – Agnieszka Jarmolowicz and Teresa Czekaj. They are all involved in the idea of chemotherapy optimisation as the basic task not only of physicians but also pharmacists. Finally I wish to thank Dr Jerzy Lazowski, Dr Jacek Wlodarczyk, Terry Maunsell and Thomas Garms for my taking part in such important event like ISOPP IX.
The Ninth International Symposium on Oncology Pharmacy Practice was held in the beautiful historic Italian city of Turin from 14-17 April 2004. I arrived there on the 13 April 2004 and lo and behold on my evening walk, it started raining and the next thing I could see falling out of the sky was the hailstones. You can imagine that I come from a country where on a daily basis we see temperatures hitting 35 degrees Celsius, I was being exposed to this beautiful phenomenon of hailstones pelting down and covering the windshields of parked cars. Wow!

The symposium started on 14 April at the Lingotto Conference Centre, with the opening ceremony conducted by the president of ISOPP, Barry Goldspiel and the Co-Chairs of the symposium, Franca Goffredo and Jill Kolesar. All the chairs of the various committees made their presentations. The ISOPP Education Committee Chair, Helen Leather, together with Franca Goffredo and Jill Kolesar and their committees had worked very hard to put together a fantastic programme with great emphasis placed on education about cancer therapy and improving cancer patient care. This marked a fantastic collaboration between ISOPP and SIPO (Italian Society of Health-System Pharmacists), marking the great world-wide partnership that ISOPP tries to foster.

At the opening ceremony ISOPP recognised individuals who had made contributions to the field of cancer. The ISOPP Achievement Awards went to Victor Jimenez Torres of Spain for sustained contribution to the development of oncology pharmacy services in Spain and to Rowena (Moe) Schwartz from USA for the recognition of the need for education efforts in geriatric oncology.

ISOPP Fellowships were awarded to 3 outstanding pharmacists from Australia - Jill Davis, Peter Gilbar and Jude Lees for their continued high level of excellence in oncology pharmacy practice

The Helen McKinnon Award was presented to Klaus Meier of Germany for his sustained and significant contribution to ISOPP and to oncology pharmacy practice as a whole.

Our heartiest congratulations to all the winners, and I felt very inspired by the efforts of these esteemed pharmacists to do better in my own oncology pharmacy practice back home!

The opening session kicked off with 2 lectures, one by P. Pelicci from Italy on “State of the Art in Research” and the other by M. Tonato also from Italy on “State of the Art in Clinical Practice”, which outlined on “targeted therapies” and “well planned and conducted clinical trials”.

Then we were treated to a 3 instrument ensemble and a choir for an hour in which we were entertained to some beautiful melodies and tunes. The concert was absolutely excellent and it was a real treat! We then went off to the reception where we were fed with some fabulous Italian entrees, pasta and desserts together with their famous wines. And that was just Day 1!

Day 2 kicked off with a plenary session on Advances in the Understanding and Treatment of Colon Cancer with J. Kolesar from USA presenting on Pharmacogenomics of colon cancer and A. Sobrero from Italy presenting on “New therapies for colon cancer”. After this session I attended the update on pain control therapy, where C. Ripamonti from Italy presented “Opioid rotation: a new strategy in cancer pain management” and Kim Stefaniuk from Canada presented: The role of Pharmacists”.

I presented a paper on “Procedures and staff” during the session “How to supply an Oncology Pharmacy Practice. Part 1” outlining on the standard operating procedures, screening of staff, written protocols, education and training of staff reconstituting cytotoxic drugs and waste management. Prof K. Sabra presented “Technical aspects, equipment”, the second paper during this session outlining the equipment he uses and the problems he encountered with regards to keeping a full manufacturing service at his hospital in St. James’s University Hospital in Dublin, Ireland.

ISOPP has given me the opportunity to come in contact with some of the world’s experts in reconstituting cytotoxic drugs as well as learning how to fit in a clinical oncology service in my hospital. This has made me more confident in putting into practice a lot of what I learn from attending ISOPP and in addition, I have made some great friends. I would certainly recommend ISOPP to all pharmacists.
HAVE YOU LOGGED ON TO THE ISOPP WEBSITE AS A MEMBER?

If not - you are missing out member benefits. Why not try it today?

How to log on

1. Go to www.isopp.org and you will find the Home Page.

Without logging in, you can see:

- A Menu of different pages, from ISOPP History, to past Symposia, dates of future events, an Officers page telling you who is on the Secretariat, and Committees, information about members Grants and Awards, old Newsletters, and more.

- NEWS items - about ISOPP or other important issues. Click on the item to get the full article

- NEWS items - about ISOPP or other important issues. Click on the item to get the full article

- an ISOPP Poll - you can tick on a poll question and view the results.

2. Next step - log in to the members area for access to much more.

- On the left side of the Home Page, click on the blue Login help

- fill in your name and your email address

- you will be sent a Username and Password by email

- log in using those, and you will have access to the Members Area.

What is available on the Members Area?

- Member List - see who is a member, and their email address

- Member Chat - this function is not yet very useful, but will improve in the next few months

- Update Personal data - this allows you to change your password to something easy you can remember, or change your email address or mail address if these are wrong (Please let CMC know if you do that)

- Discussion groups - this is where you can ask or answer a question. A fantastically useful area - not used by very many members yet. Have a look.

- Education Centre - this is now full of great information, and currently has the ISOPP IX powerpoint presentations on, as well as presentations from other meetings, Links to useful websites, and soon much more

Current Newsletter - electronic version (more space than the hard copy newsletter)

WHY NOT TRY IT TODAY?

Contact me, Jude Lees, jlees@mail.rah.sa.gov.au, Chair ISOPP Publications Committee, if you have any problems, comments or suggestions.

New Members:

ISOPP warmly welcomes the following new members:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Petra Feichtinger; Ulrike Guger-Halper; Sigrid Kiendler; Silvia Struger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Hilde Augustyns; Sofie Goovaerts; An Heeremans; Ann Maes; Nathalie Paesen; Marc Raes; Martine Salien; Sophie Scholtes; Marc Van Robays; Veronique Verhulst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Catherine Bratt-Rico; Linda Chow; Carlo De Angelis; Brenda Stinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Flores Concha; Laura Garcia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Kristina Melounova; Petr Palous; Blanca Podhra'zaska'; Paula Sedenková; Gabriela Skriciinova; Martina Sutharova; Dana Syrova; Jaroslava Urbaniková</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Klaus Snej Jensen; Karina Jorgensen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Michele Ancel; Olivier Aujoliat; Patricia Bret; Claudin Corbin; Sylvie Crauste-Manciet; Christian Doreau; Claudine Gard; Michele Hehn; Nicole Le Gall; Nicole Preaux; Godfroy Scalabre; Florence Tabary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Sven Czerwonatis; Mehran Fallahi; Birte Koster; Manfred Schneider; Jürgen Wachsmuth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Thorunn Gudmundsdottir; Hulda Hardardottir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Quentin Crameri; Pearl Lynn; Kamal Sabra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Zoya Hevrone; Gabi Naftali; Riuka Youdovich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Margherita Abrate; Paolo Amari; Antonella Bagaccin; Barbara Battistini; Paola Bertana; Massimo Boni; Bianca Bovetti; Antonella Branciforti; Elena Buffà; Elga Cagliero; Anna Campi; Enrica Cantillo; Silvia Cavassa; Tiziana Corsetti; Mario Corsi; Aura Daneri; Maria Serena Fatori; Eleonora Ferrarato; Paola Fiaccì; Pietro Finocchiario; Francesca Giannoni; Nicoletta Jannitti; Renzo Lazzarini; Lucia Losco; Paola Marini; Silvia Maselli; Caterina Micari; Patrizia Montinaro; Daniela Nanni; Maria Nicotra; Anna Nigro; Luisa Omini; Grazia M. G. Palazzolo; Angelo Claudio Palazzo; Anna Marina Porcu; Barbara Re; Ilaria Rognoni; Silvia Rosano; Gabriella Saibene; Graziella Sassi; Manuela Savoldelli; Pardossi Stefania; Alicia Tavella; Giorgio Temporini; Anna Maria Toffano; Sara Veneziano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Lana Nassoura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Jayne Mueni Kivai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Rania El Khoury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Zuraiadah Mohd Yusoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Sandra Palacios Garcia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>Berry Van Schaik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Gisela Costa; Paula Duarte; Ana Hering; Joana Marques; Catarina Oliveira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Doina Verzea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Monica Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Gil Angeles; Jose Aparici; Amparo Burgos; Monica Cholvi; Teresa Gurrera; Inmaculada Jimenez; Carmen Lopez Cabezas; Belen Matilla; Estela Moreno; Nieves Muro; Iciar Perez Rodrigo; Belen Rodriguez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Eva Honoré; Agneta Nilsson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>Sha Chiang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>David Barrett; Martyn Blundell; Elizabeth Greening; Sabine Kaestner; Helen McClay; Lindsay Mc Girr; Alastair McMurray; Tim Root; Dale Stone; Chiew Khim Tan; Valerie Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Mary Ella Mahoney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>