

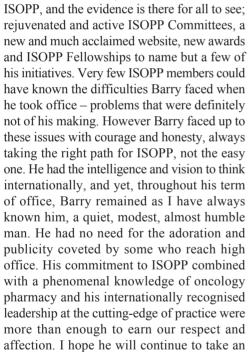


Newsletter - Vol 6, No 2, June 2004 • International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners

## **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



## 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!



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



Franca Goffredo

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Did you attend ISOPP IX?

Help us to update the Database

Have you visited the ISOPP website?

**New Members** 

#### 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.

#### 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

# ISOPP Awards presented at ISOPP IX – Turin, Italy:



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



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!

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)





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).

## **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).



# **ISOPP 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 that time 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

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 ISOPP 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

# ISOPP President Visits Thailand and Malaysia

During the middle part of May, Professor Graham Sewell (ISOPP 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

On to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, where Graham was joined by ISOPP President Elect, Saad Othman, who will host the ISOPP X Symposium to be held in Malaysia

Pharma Ltd.



Graham and Saad at thse Kebangsaan University Hospital in KL.

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.

## **Editorial**

What an excellent symposium was held in Turin. Congratulations to Franca Goffredo, Jill Kolesar and Helen Leather for devoting the time and energy that is required for a



successful meeting. It was wonderful to be present at the Opening Ceremony when all the awards were presented and I was honoured to receive one of the first ISOPP Fellowships. I hope that the next symposium will also have many award winners. Planning is already underway for ISOPP X, to be held in Malaysia. Dates are not final yet but will be published as soon as known. Instead of including Committee Reports in this mailing, the reports will be placed on the website (www.isopp.org) - they were too detailed to be included here. Over the next few issues of the Newsletter, somes members of the Publications Committee will be Guest Editors. This will enable them the opportunity to reach members and will also give me more time to devote to my duties as ISOPP Secretary. However, don't let this stop you from contacting me if you have any queries (at jillian.davis@austin.org.au). Cheers,

Jill

## Visit www.isopp.org today!

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 speciality. I hope we can encourage many more pharmacists from Thailand and Malaysia to join ISOPP, particularly when the Symposium visits the Region in 2 years time"

# **Report from the Ninth International Symposium on Oncology Pharmacy Practice**

After a wonderful journey above snow-covered the Alps I was welcome by sunny Torino, where the 9<sup>th</sup> 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. Wellplanned 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 appeared 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 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, to be hold in Wrocław, Poland on 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2004. I am also convinced that my observations will be helpful in the course of modifying educational programmes for pharmacists as well as for the post-graduate training of pharmacists. I would like to attend the monthly meeting of hospital pharmacists, where I will be able to present my impressions and reflections concerning the activities of their colleagues from other

### Anna Wiela-Hojeńska

Chair and Department of Clinical Pharmacology Wrocław Medical University, Poland

countries. In Poland oncology pharmacy is a new discipline for pharmacists but I think a very important one. Why? In our country, like in many others, the cancer diseases are one of the greatest health problems and mortality is extremely high. In middle-aged women, tumors are the commonest cause of death and in men – the second commonest. The cooperation between different working groups such as pharmacists, nurses and oncologists may influence changing this situation. This is a new but not easy challenge for Polish Pharmacists. Besides, our present system of education doesn't prepare pharmacy students for work in hospitals as oncology pharmacists. Moreover, there are only a small number of hospitals where an Oncology Pharmacy Service exists. I would like to express my tribute to Dr Krystyna Chmal-Jagiełło and Dr Hanna Jankowiak-Gracz, who organized in their towns -Cracow and Poznań - such modern services. I think that it is very important to create possibilities of attending symposia, receiving scientific journals and staying in contact with other oncology pharmacists from different countries, as well as organizing journeys to the centres of broad experiences in this discipline. In Poland we are lucky to have a dedicated pharmacist - Dr Jerzy Łazowski who organizes the Meeting of Oncology Pharmacy every year, writes articles on such subjects and promotes pharmacists attending conferences and symposia. He is now aided by two young, very active pharmacists -Agnieszka Jarmołowicz and Teresa Czekaj. They are all involved in the idea of chemotherapy optimalisation as the basic task not only of physicians but also pharmacists. Finally I wish to thank Dr Jerzy Lazowski, Dr Jacek Włodarczyk, Terry Maunsell and Thomas Garms for my taking part in such important event like ISOPP IX.

#### ISOPP IX: Harbans Dhillon

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 SIFO (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.

Did you attend ISOPP IX?
If you did and did not receive a copy of the Journal Of Oncology Pharmacy Practice Volume 10 Number 2, please let Helen McKinnon know. Her e-mail address is helenm@internet.co.nz.
All members who did not attend ISOPP IX will be sent a copy of this issue.

ISOPP Members - access JOPP online - see ISOPP website for details.

Please help us get the database up-to-date! If you have made any changes to your demographic information (address, etc) since the inception of the database on the ISOPP Website, please let Helen McKinnon know these changes. Her e-mail address is either CMC@isopp.org or helenm@internet.co.nz.

### 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
- 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:

Austria: Petra Feichtinger; Ulrike Guger-Halper; Sigrid Kiendler; Silvia Struger Belgium: Hilde Augustyns; Sofie Goovaerts; An Heeremans; Ann Maes; Nathalie Paesen; Marc Raes; Martine Salien; Sophie Scholtes; Marc Van Robays; Veronique Verhulst Canada: Catherine Bratt-Rico; Linda Chow; Carlo De Angelis; Brenda Stinson Chile: Flores Concha; Laura Garcia Czech Republic: Kristina Melounova; Petr Palous; Blanca Podhra'zska'; Paula Sedenková; Gabriela Skricilova; Martina Sutharova; Dana Syrova; Jaroslava Urbaniková

**Denmark:** Klaus Snej Jensen; Karina Jorgensen

France: Michele Ancel; Olivier Aujoulat; Patricia Bret; Claudin Corbin; Sylvie Crauste-Manciet; Christian Doreau; Claudine Gard; Michele Hehn; Nicole Le Gall; Nicole Preaux; Godefroy Scalabre; Florence Tabary **Germany:** Sven Czerwonatis; Mehran Fallahi; Birte Köster; Manfred Schneider; Jürgen Wachsmuth

**Iceland:** Thorunn Gudmunddottir; Hulda Hardardottir

**Ireland:** Quentin Crameri; Pearl Lynn; Kamal Sabra

**Israel:** Zoya Hevrony; Gabi Naftali; Riuka Youdovich

**Italy:** Marghaerita Abrate; Paolo Amari; Antonella Bagaccin; Barbara Battistini; Paola Bertana; Massimo Boni; Bianca Bovetti; Antonella Branciforti; Elena Buffa; Elga Cagliero; Anna Campi; Enrica Cantillo; Silvia Cavassa; Tiziana Corsetti; Mario Corsi; Aura Daneri; Maria Serena Fatori; Eleonora Ferrarato; Paola Fiacchi; Pietro Finocchiaro; 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 Palozzo; Anna Marina Porcu; Barbara Re; Ilaria Rognoni; Silvia Rosano; Gabriella Saibene; Graziella Sassi; Manuela Savoldelli; Pardossi Stefania; Alicia Tavella;

Giorgio Temporin; Anna Maria Toffano; Sara Veneziano

Jordan: Lana Nassoura Kenya: Jayne Mueni Kivai Lebanon: Rania El Khoury

Malaysia: Zuraidah Mohd Yusoff Mexico: Sandra Palacios Garcia Netherlands: Berry Van Schaik

**Portugal:** Gisela Costa; Paula Duarte; Ana Hering; Joana Marques; Catarina Oliveira

Romania: Doina Verzea

South Africa: Monica Alexander Spain: 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

Sweden: Eva Honoré; Agneta Nilsson

Taiwan: Sha Chiang

United Kingdom: David Barrett; Martyn Blundell; Elizabeth Greening; Sabine Kaestner; Helen McClay; Lindsay Mc Girr; Alastair McMurray; Tim Root; Dale Stone; Chiew Khim Tan; Valerie Walker USA: Mary Ella Mahoney