

# News LETTER



Newsletter - Vol 11, No 2, July 2009 • International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners

## President's Message

I hope many of you have now checked out the new website look. I have been diving into various spots looking at how it will function and there is still more to come. Thank you Felice and your team, which now includes Etisbew support, for this smooth transition. Thank you again to Jeff Barnett, our retiring webmaster, for his input, extension of service and support over many years. As an international society this website linkage for ease of communication is critical.

I will be travelling extensively August through October and I hope to see many of you at the conferences coming up in Australia, UK, Poland and Canada. Please introduce yourself to me as ISOPP truly is a network based organization and I would appreciate the opportunity to put another face to the name. It is also not too soon to start planning to be in Prague in May 2010 for our next ISOPP symposium, whether as a presenter, sharing a poster, or an active participant.

Carole



## Upcoming local meetings

### ISOPP Australasian Regional Symposium 2009

August 28 – 30, 2009

The Sebel and Citigate

Albert Park, Melbourne, Australia

### British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA)

The 12th Annual BOPA Symposium; will take place at the Hilton Brighton Metropole Hotel UK from Friday 16th October – Sunday 18th October 2009. This year (BOPA) joins with the UK Oncology Nurses Society (UKONS).

### Canadian National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium 2009

October 23 – 25, 2009

Fairmont Château Laurier  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

## ISOPP XII – May 5-8, 2010

ISOPP XII early bird symposium registration opens soon and closes on 5 December 09.

To get the cheapest member rates, register before this date. To receive the membership rate, you must be a member in 2009 and remain a member in 2010.

Visit the symposium website on [www.isopp2010.com](http://www.isopp2010.com) for all details of registration and hotel bookings.



Site of ISOPP XII – Clarion Congress Hotel Prague, Prague, Czech Republic

## CONTENTS

1. Message from the President
1. Upcoming meetings
2. Editorial
2. Co-Chair of the Education Committee: Lynne Nakashima
3. Co-Chair of the Education Committee: Franca Goffredo
4. Call for abstracts ISOPP XII
4. Research Grants - how to apply
4. South African Society of Oncology Pharmacists
5. Report BMT Tandem Meeting 2009
6. New ISOPP website members section
7. Welcome to new members
7. Taiwan Guidelines for Safe-handling of Cytotoxic drugs

## Editorial

Along with five Melbourne colleagues I have been organising the programme for the upcoming ISOPP Australasian Regional Symposium. Because of this, I have the utmost respect for the work being done by Franca Goffredo and her Scientific Committee in developing the programme for ISOPP XII to be held in Prague in May 2010. It is not easy providing something for everyone – and is even more difficult considering the differences in practice around our world. A great deal of volunteer time is spent determining the most appropriate topics to include and then identifying the best speaker for the topic. Many of our members give an amazing amount of time to ISOPP activities because they believe in the philosophy of ISOPP – sharing oncology pharmacy practice with all our colleagues around the world to improve practice everywhere and thus improve the quality of life of cancer patients. Thank-you to all ISOPP volunteers.

  
Jill Davis

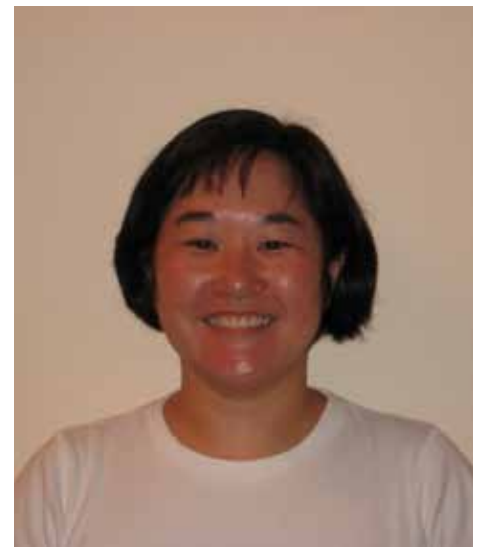
## Introducing Education Co-Chair Lynne Nakashima

My name is Lynne Nakashima and I am one of the co-chairs of the Education Committee. I graduated from the University of BC in 1988 and then went on to receive my Pharm.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA) in 1990. I am currently the Pharmacy Professional Practice Leader for the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, where I have worked since 1990. I started here as the Clinical Coordinator, and became the Pharmacy Leader in 1997.

Oncology Pharmacy is my passion, and I have been involved in numerous national committees, including a term as the President of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology. I have been privileged to be a member of ISOPP Publications Committee in the past, and am now very excited to be working on educational needs for ISOPP.

For the Education Committee, my particular role is to work on educational needs outside of the ISOPP biannual meetings. The goal is to use the new ISOPP website to begin facilitating educational opportunities

for Pharmacists around the world. The computer and the internet have really opened up educational opportunities for health care professionals and they allow individuals to access educational programs at their convenience. One of the first tasks will be for us to identify educational programs that we can evaluate and list on the ISOPP website. Eventually I hope that we might be able to start developing educational programs of our own. This subcommittee is in its infancy and we are looking for members from around the world, and especially need someone with computer expertise to assist us. If you are interested, please contact me at [lnakas@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:lnakas@bccancer.bc.ca) or via phone at + 1 - 604 - 707 - 5989  
Lynne



**XII. ISOPP**  
**PRAGUE**

**12th SYMPOSIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGY PHARMACY PRACTITIONERS**  
**MAY 5-8, 2010 | CLARION CONGRESS HOTEL PRAGUE**  
**CZECH REPUBLIC**

**CONGRESS SECRETARIAT:**  
GUARANT International/ISOPP2010, Ms. Kristina Pichancova  
Opletalova 22, 110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic  
Phone: +420 284 001 444, Fax: +420 284 001 448  
E-mail: [isopp2010@guarant.cz](mailto:isopp2010@guarant.cz)

**WWW.ISOPP2010.COM**



## Introducing Education Co-Chair Franca Goffredo

Hi, my name is Franca Goffredo. I'm currently responsible for the organisation of the Scientific Programme of ISOPP symposium to be held in Prague in 2010. Actually it is not my first experience in this job, as I was co-chair of the organisation of the ISOPP XII Symposium in Torino, Italy in 2004. I have been a member of the Education Committee ever since. When Carole Chambers asked me to consider taking on the Committee Chair for planning Prague 2010, I was honoured for her thinking of me but at the same time I was aware of the big commitment I had to face and I was worried about that. However, I felt comfortable because Lynne Nakashima was appointed as Co.Chair of the Education Committee. I was sure I would find other strong contributors who would help me in accomplishing this task, and I did. Now we have a big Committee which is representative of many countries and is working very hard in order to organise an excellent and exciting meeting together with the local organisers. Irena Netikova from Prague is working very hard in order to welcome all the participants in the best way. The Committee is very active and we have interesting discussions. Sometimes different ideas and different points of view arise, but diversity is a precious point that cannot be given up and that represents the very power of an international society. I'm sure we will be able to offer good answers to all colleagues' needs. I joined ISOPP in 1993, when I attended

the meeting in Toronto. It was the first time I could attend an oncology meeting specifically addressed to oncology pharmacists. I started my oncological activity in 1990, working in an oncological hospital in Torino where I moved from community pharmacy, and where I had to organise the centralised preparation of chemotherapy in the Pharmacy. In Italy we had only a few locations at the time and they were set up in small hospitals. I was really very keen to share doubts, enthusiasm and activities with other colleagues who might have had the problems I had and I was excited to know that in some part of the world somebody, who I could meet later and consider one of the founding fathers of ISOPP, Larry Broadfield, (Canada) was just offering us an international event ie ISOPP III. Since that time, I have always been very involved in oncology and in ISOPP. I was elected twice as a Secretariat member. I have also worked very hard to spread oncology pharmacy in Italy and I led the Oncological Area inside the Italian Society of Health System Pharmacy (SIFO) for ten years. I have organised many meetings and educational events and I'm still part of many Committees at the regional and national level. Oncology Pharmacy is now well recognised in Italy. We have

good relationships with oncologists and haematologists, particularly now that economic problems related to new drug use requires cooperation among the various professional care providers involved in antineoplastic therapy management.

I'm also liaison for Italy for the European Society of Oncology Pharmacy. I join colleagues in Hamburg for the yearly January meeting and in Luxembourg where we have the consensus meeting on European Quality Standard in Oncology. I have always been very interested in supportive care. I think oncology pharmacists may give their important professional contribution to improve patients' care. Recently I have also joined the Multinational Association on Cancer Supportive Care (MASCC) whose recent meeting was held in Rome in June

*[Ed. A report of the MASCC meeting will appear in a future newsletter].*

Of course SIFO is also very important to me. I was a member of the National Board for four years and I'm still the regional representative. My current position is Director of Pharmacy at the Institution for Cancer Research and Treatment in Candiolo, four kilometres from Torino. I live in the countryside in a small town, where my family moved from Apulia, in the South of

Italy when I was a child. I like to have a moment's rest far from work commitments. I like travelling, reading, gardening and share my time with friends every time I can. In my small garden I have old English roses and camellias. I'm very fond of mountain walks. We have beautiful mountains in Piedmont. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Prague in May 2009.



Franca on holiday near Gran Sasso, Abruzzo

## Research Grants – Invitation to submit a letter of intent for a 2009 ISOPP research grant

All ISOPP members at universities, hospitals and research institutions are invited to submit applications for research grants focused on oncology pharmacy research – either pre-clinical, clinical, or practice related areas.

Potential applicants should submit the required administrative information and a Letter of Intent addressed to the Research Committee Chair summarizing the proposed studies electronically via our online system at <http://www.isopp.org>. On-line submission process will begin, June 15, 2009.

**The Letter of Intent must include the following information in this order:**

1. The objective.
2. The relevance to oncology pharmacy practice.
3. The hypothesis or hypotheses to be tested.
4. Preliminary data.
5. A statement of the methods of procedure.
6. A plan for evaluating the results.
7. Current financial support: list each current grant or contract for the conduct of this research. If there are no other grants, state “NONE.”

The online process must be completed by Friday, September 4th, 2009 at 5 PM (USA, EST).

There is a total of 15,000 euros available to fund these grant applications and we plan on awarding up to two grants for this year. Grant will cover direct cost only; no indirect fees/charges will be covered.

The Letters of Intent will be evaluated by the ISOPP Research Committee, and applications will be invited from those

whom the committee recommends. Our decision will be transmitted to the candidates no later than Saturday, October 3rd, 2009, and those who are invited to apply will have to do so by Friday, January 15th, 2010. A member of the Research Committee will be assigned to each application to facilitate the grant application preparation and submission process. The applicants will be informed of the decisions regarding their applications as soon as they have been made, but no later than March 1st 2010. Research Awards will be presented at the ISOPP XII Annual Conference, May 5-8th, 2010, Clarion Congress Hotel Prague, Prague, Czech Republic. Funding will be initiated in July 2010.

Any questions or clarifications need, please contact the Research Committee Chair, Kellie Jones at [kjones14@clarion.org](mailto:kjones14@clarion.org) or +1-317-278-5331.

To submit to the ISOPP newsletter, contact editor Jill Davis via [jillian.davis@austin.org.au](mailto:jillian.davis@austin.org.au)

## Call for Abstracts ISOPP XII 2010 Annual Conference

### ABSTRACT DEADLINES

Monday, December 14, 2009 (11:59 USA, PST): Abstracts must describe completed research (ie, abstracts that contain objective, methods, results and conclusions). All accepted December abstracts will be published in an issue of the Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice. Accepted abstracts will be notified by January 4th, 2010.

### ONLINE SUBMISSION PROCESS

Abstracts may be submitted starting 1 September, 2009 See the ISOPP website for details. Questions or problems can be directed to ISOPP Research Committee Chair, Kellie Jones at 001-317-278-5331 or at email me at: [kjones14@clarion.org](mailto:kjones14@clarion.org)

Thank You!  
Kellie Jones,  
Chair, ISOPP Research Committee

## The South African Society of Oncology Pharmacists have launched a website and newsletter

“We believe this will create an interest in Oncology Pharmacy Practice in South Africa” says Chairman Michael Conidaris

To subscribe visit <http://www.pacificbreeze353.com/index.cfm?x=subscribe&COMPANY=15>

South African Society of Oncology Pharmacists  
Michael Conidaris, Chairman  
P.O.Box 891192 Lyndhurst 2106 South Africa. Mobile/Cell 082 880 4547



# BMT Tandem Meeting 2009 Tampa Florida

Ruth Chieng

The 2009 BMT Tandem Meetings was held in Feb 11-15 at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida – home to Super Bowl XLIII. The meetings are jointly run by ASBMT (American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation) and CIBMTR (Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research) and provides a comprehensive update on blood and marrow transplantation, laboratory research and patient care for clinicians, investigators and allied health professionals.

This meeting was particularly attractive to me, as it stands as a one-of-its-kind in offering pharmacist-specific sessions parallel to the clinicians' meetings. It was an invaluable opportunity to network with over 200 pharmacists practicing in the highly-specialized field of bone marrow transplantation, thus creating a forum where clinical experiences and expertise could be shared. The provision of the power-point slides of all the presentations on a USB and folder was a valuable take-home resource.

The packed program began each day with a breakfast symposium and on most days, concluded with a dinner symposium. The five-days of plenary sessions, concurrent scientific sessions, workshops and symposia presented by internationally renowned speakers covered recent progress in basic science, translational research and clinical studies in all areas of BMT, with updates on treatment of haematological malignancies to current strategies in infectious complication management.

There was an overwhelming amount of information presented, but the following were particular highlights for me:

Helen Leather of Health Interactions, Princeton presented a review of ASH 2008. In it, she spoke of the VOSIFI Study which utilizes voriconazole for secondary prophylaxis of invasive fungal infections (IFI) in allogeneic

SCT (stem cell transplantation). This study started patients with proven or probable IFI in the previous 12 months who were undergoing SCT on prophylactic voriconazole (oral or IV) within 48 hours of SCT for at least 100 days. The results were that of the 42 patients, only 3 (7% incidence, 10% in the complete case analysis) developed a probable/proven IFI during the study. This is a favorable result compared to the expected rate of 30% and implies that the utilization of prophylactic voriconazole can take patients with a past history of IFI to subsequent HCT effectively.<sup>1</sup>Cordonnier C. et al, Blood '08:112 Ab1159

Michael D. Westmoreland of MD Anderson Cancer Center gave a comprehensive update on Acute Graft versus Host Disease (GVHD). During this session, he presented the results from a recent Phase II randomized trial evaluating Etanercept, Mycophenolate, Denileukin Diftitox and Pentostatin in Combination with Steroids in 180 patients with Newly Diagnosed Acute GVHD<sup>2</sup> Alousi A et al. Blood 112; ASH abstract 55, 2008

In this study, mycophenolate clearly won the war with 27 of 45 (60%) patients achieving complete response (CR) at Day 28, compared to the other agents [Etanercept 9/46 (28%); Denileukin 15/47 (48%); Pentostatin 11/42 (39%)]. This is also a promising result in view of the historical CR rate

of 35% with steroids alone. However, it was raised that more information on the trial was needed ie. Differences in use of in vivo T cell depletion, benefit of having a steroid-only arm. These issues will hopefully be addressed in the Phase III trial of mycophenolate against steroids alone which will open to enrollment in mid 2009.

In the afternoons, there was an opportunity to view 470 posters submitted by authors based in 29 countries.

For complete abstracts, see Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation Vol 15 No 2 Supplement 2 February 2009

There were many fantastic poster abstracts, but one of particular interest to me was one put together by Julianna Burzynski at Mayo Clinic, Rochester. The details are as follows.

## Impact of a Pharmacist in the Outpatient Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplant Clinic<sup>3</sup>

Burzynski, J.A., Craver, L.F. et al Mayo Clinic Des Moines, IA Abstract 83

### Background

- Pharmacist involvement in direct patient care of allogeneic stem cell (SCT) transplant patients has not been described.

- 2009 National Patient Safety Goals from the Joint Commission emphasize the importance of accurate and



Channelside party (from bottom L to top R) – Yvonne, Michelle, Siew Woon Lim, Ruth Chieng, Diana Booth

# BMT Tandem Meeting 2009 Tampa Florida continued

complete medication lists across the continuum of care to reduce adverse drug reactions

- Hypothesis is that including a pharmacist in the care of patients undergoing allogeneic transplant will improve medication list accuracy and improve pharmaceutical care

## Methods

- SCT patients were commenced on scheduled pharmacist appointments at the clinic prior to their physician visit to complete medication reconciliation and pharmaceutical care was provided.

## Results

- The pharmacist met with 90 patients between 5/5/08 and 1/10/08 (total 410 patient visits during 105 clinic days)
- 72% of patients had at least 1 medication omitted from their list at their first pharmacist visit
- 367 pharmaceutical care

recommendations were made on 76 patients, with 72% of recommendations accepted

## Conclusion

- Pharmacist involvement in the allogeneic stem cell transplant clinic has improved medication list and pharmaceutical care of patients

It is well-acknowledged that SCT patients are a complex-care population and provision of pharmaceutical care by an inpatient clinical pharmacist is crucial in reducing the incidence of adverse drug events and optimizing medical therapy. However, there has been limited research looking at bridging the gap to extend a continuum of pharmaceutical care to the outpatient setting. This poster highlights the positive impact of an outpatient SCT pharmacist and it is a service which

those involved in transplanting would do well to consider.

Finally, as a well-known saying goes, "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" which implies that without time off from work, a person becomes bored and boring. The organisers of the BMT tandem meeting avoided that pitfall by inclusion of a meet-and-greet dinner on the first night, which was held at a nearby Channelside plaza and allowed the attendees to socialise and mingle.

The 2010 BMT Tandem meetings will be held in Orlando, Florida on Feb 24-28. I would not hesitate to recommend attendance at these meetings to BMT pharmacy practitioners as they will undoubtedly find that the knowledge gained will greatly enhance their practice of SCT patient care.

## Features of the new-look ISOPP website

The screenshot shows the ISOPP website interface with several key features highlighted:

- General Members Menu:**
  - Publications Center: section updated by JOPP editor - link to JOPP on-line
  - Journal Of Oncology Pharmacy Practice: section updated by Newsletter Editor - archive of fulltext newsletters and information about how to publish in ISOPP newsletter
  - Newsletter: open access archive of news published in homepage below the picture
  - News Archive: open access archive of news published in homepage behind the picture
  - News From Society: news and information from the secretariat
  - Secretariat News
  - Education Center:
    - Documentations from ISOPP meetings: links to documentation of ISOPP meetings
    - Standards and Practice: ISOPP standards (when available) and links to standards in JOPP
    - Calendar of events: list of oncology meetings worldwide by date
    - Other Educational Events: links to documentation of oncology meetings
    - Other Educational Links: links to educational websites
  - Member Discussion Forum: ISOPP members discussion forum
  - Grants & Awards:
    - Research Grants: information about ISOPP research grants (when available)
    - Travel Grants: information about ISOPP travel grants (when available)
    - Mckinnon Awards: information about ISOPP Mckinnon awards (when available)
- Personal Resources Center:**
  - Image Gallery: see pictures of ISOPP meetings
  - Private Messages: send messages to ISOPP members
  - Task Teamlog: to do
  - Chat: chat with ISOPP Members on-line
  - Blog: create your blog
- Navigation and User Actions:**
  - Home, User Information, On-line Payment, My Profile, Browse, search Members, Officers, Contact Us
  - edit your contact details
  - pay your membership fee
  - edit your practice and interests

Everybody can participate in surveys and polls. Moreover, if you are a Member of the ISOPP Committee, you can join a specific discussion forum

# ISOPP – new members 2009

## ISOPP welcomes all its new members

### Australia

Julia Adolphs  
Quentin Crameri  
Helen Dixon  
Clare Francis  
Rebecca Grundy  
Wendy Ho  
Justine Hong  
Claire Jones  
Namrata Malhotra  
Jillian McDonnell  
Michael Moloney  
Geoffrey Muriuki  
Melanie Poorun  
Michael Powell  
Kailin Teh  
Vy Vy Tran  
Felicity Wright

### Belgium

Hilde Augustyns  
Katrien Cosaert  
Greet Engelmann  
Barbara Lafaut

### Brazil

Gaby Schroeder

### Canada

Yvonne Dresen  
Charlene Jones  
Ferid Rashid  
Thanh Vu

### China

Yang Xiaolai

### Egypt

Sherif Kamal

### Germany

Volcker Joppich  
Daniela Kauzor  
Annette Keuker  
Irene Kraemer  
Mirko Laux  
Marc Mathea  
Jens Meyer  
Karen Schaefer  
Karsten Vilter

### India

Gouri Shankrar  
Bhattacharyya  
Israel  
Miriam Adam  
Vered Almog  
Yitshac Bar  
Ella Dinisman

### Italy

Angelo Palozzo

### Malaysia

Nur Azrida Azhari Wasi

### Pakistan

Nadia Ayoub

### Philippines

John Louise Raval

### Portugal

Sara Gato

### Sweden

Per Ronneklev

### Thailand

Nutthada Areepium  
Pimchanok Ho-Ngam  
Pradit Ngamsiripol  
Komkrit Srisawai  
Chairat Thirophas

### United Kingdom

David Thomson

### United States of America

Tammy Adams  
Kimberly Anderson  
Lisa Ashworth  
Elizabeth Baker  
Philip Bergman  
Dan Bestul  
Mark Blizinski  
Patrick Boyle  
Tammy Bradshaw  
Ryan Breznak  
Marjorie Carson  
Jennifer Chapman  
Jennifer Christenson  
Joseph Coyne  
Diane D'Ambra

Thomas Davis  
Stephen Eckel  
Shera Edwards  
Deborah Foulger  
Emily Frydendal  
David Gowarty  
Jennifer Halikman  
Gina Hanna  
Toni Imwold  
Katie Loehr  
Mary Lord  
Susan Mason  
Thomas Mathews  
Bernadette Menuey  
Justin Nevins  
Carolyn O'Donnell  
Mikaela Olsen  
Jill Rhodes  
Pamela Terrell  
Lee Vermeulen  
Edwin Weill  
Jill Wells  
Rachel Westendorf  
Lacey Williamson  
Wendy Wong  
Elizabeth James

### The Taiwan Society of Health-System Pharmacists are currently working on the second edition of their guidelines for the Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs.

A multidisciplinary meeting of experts was held in June 2009 in Taipei and one of the agenda items was the ISOPP Standard of Practice for the Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs. Taiwanese pharmacists are very aware of the ISOPP Standard and had a number of questions about the writing of this document. Robbie McLauchlan from Melbourne, Australia (former Standards Committee co-chair) was invited to the meeting to answer specific questions about the content of the Standard, and to explain the logistics behind writing such a detailed document. The meeting was very successful, and our Taiwanese colleagues are likely to try some of the strategies used by the Standards



Committee, such as an on-line chat forum.

Following this meeting, there was an interesting afternoon symposium including presentations on extravasation management, cleanroom facilities, and, of course, the ISOPP Standard!

Chiang Kai Shek memorial hall in Taipei

Robbie McLauchlan  
ISOPP Standards Committee  
[Robbie's attendance at this meeting was made possible by Pfizer Taiwan Pty Ltd.]