

# News LETTER



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## Message from the President



I was asked to give a welcome address at the 11<sup>th</sup> NZW meeting (24 – 26 January 2003) and thought I would share this with all ISOPP members.

*On behalf of the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners, I would like to welcome you to the 11<sup>th</sup> NZW meeting. The ISOPP Secretariat and Committee Chairs would especially like to recognize Klaus Meier for inviting us to be part of the meeting and to thank Thomas Garms for making our stay in Germany comfortable.*

*ISOPP's vision – to improve cancer care worldwide – is easily stated, but will be difficult to achieve unless there is cooperation among all oncology pharmacists worldwide and assistance from our supporting disciplines – physicians and nurses, to name a few.*

*Imagine- just imagine (this is a reference to the John Lennon Song "Imagine" - and no, I will not sing this like our superb entertainment last night) that all oncology pharmacists can come together and help each other – each unique and diverse person, region, or country contributing their expertise with the same end result – that every cancer patient in the entire world achieves the optimal benefit from all of their medications because a pharmacist was part of their care. Am I just a dreamer (another reference to the John Lennon song)? Well I know that I'm not the only one who shares this dream. I know...and feel...that each and everyone in this room dreams this same dream. And, I think that the creation of ISOPP and its cooperation with organizations such as DGOP, ESOP, and the Australasian groups, for example, demonstrates that this goal IS achievable!*

*And let me make this clear – ISOPP wants to work hard to form relationships and partnerships with EACH and EVERY oncology pharmacist – Including ALL, Excluding None. The first step in making this dream possible involves you. I urge you to become involved in your local oncology pharmacy group, and of course, involved in ISOPP. There are many opportunities for your participation – ranging from committee membership to running for an elected office – or simply voicing your opinion about an oncology pharmacy practice issue. At any level, ISOPP welcomes your thoughts. Remember, without your participation, ISOPP and oncology pharmacy practice can not achieve its goals.*

*ISOPP wishes you a successful meeting & invites everyone, not just current ISOPP members, to our meeting later today where you can meet the ISOPP Secretariat and Committee Chairs and can learn about ISOPP's plans for the future. Thank you.*

During the ISOPP membership forum at the NZW meeting, a question was asked about ISOPP's business and strategic plans. While ISOPP creates a formal long-term strategic plan, I present the following short-term goals, most of which were listed in my first President's column:

- Increased membership
- Revitalized liaison program
- Revised ISOPP Rules
- Improved communications
- Productive committees
- Criteria to evaluate symposia will be developed
- Criteria to evaluate training programs will be drafted
- Recognized chapters and affiliates
- Research grants awarded
- Abstract translations for the Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice

The outcome and results of these efforts will be reported during my President's address at ISOPP IX in Turin, Italy.

As always, I want to hear from you.

Warmly,  
*Bary*

Email: bgoldspiel@nih.gov  
Phone: USA 301.496.5869  
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## Stop Press

Want to make more money?  
Its easy!

Just recruit a colleague for ISOPP membership and you will earn US\$10! Ensure that your name is placed on your colleague's membership form and as soon as their membership is processed a cheque for US\$10 will be in the mail heading your way. There is no limit to the number of members you can recruit and each year there will be an acknowledgement of the member who recruited the most NEW members for ISOPP. Make money and watch our Society grow!

Highest Recruiter for the period January 03 – March 03 is Moe Schwartz from the USA. Well Done!

### Please Note

Tom Connor (Standards Committee Co-chair) has changed his email address. New address is [tmc6@cdc.gov](mailto:tmc6@cdc.gov)

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## ISOPP IX Update

Jill Kolesar (jmcolesar@pharmacy.wisc.edu) has accepted the position of Scientific Co-Chair (along with Franca Goffredo) for ISOPP IX (to be held in Turin, Italy).

Jill is a past winner of an ISOPP travel grant (ISOPP VII) for a poster presentation. She is an established researcher, clinician, and educator. Jill has been active in many USA societies (ASHP, ACCP, & ASCO) and recently facilitated the process to have pharmacists receive continuing education credits for the ASCO Meeting. The ISOPP Secretariat thanks Celeste Lindley, former ISOPP Education Chair, for all her input into the programme so far. Franca and Jill will be able to build on the foundation that Celeste started and create an outstanding program for ISOPP IX. The ISOPP Secretariat hopes to see all ISOPP members at this meeting. For more information about ISOPP IX, contact Franca Goffredo (goffranc@tiscalinet.it).

## Report from the Membership and Finance Committee

The Membership and Finance Committee is responsible for developing strategies to recruit and maintain membership of our society. Members of the committee assist by promoting the society to oncology pharmacy practitioners and communicating with current members to ascertain their membership needs and encouraging them to take an active role in the society. The committee also works with the treasurer to ensure the society maintains a sound financial position. The committee members communicate by email and aim to meet at ISOPP Symposia. Committee members are:

**Chair:** Terry Maunsell (terry.maunsell@email.cs.nsw.gov.au).

**Members:** Terri Davidson (USA); Rosalyn P. Sims-McCallum (USA); Thomas Garms (Germany) ISOPP Treasurer.

### Main activities in 2002

- Collaboration with Publications Committee in development of the ISOPP brochure and co-ordination of distribution of the brochure at various oncology pharmacy meetings
- Development of new membership form

## News from the Publications Committee

Those of you looking on the ISOPP website, [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org), will notice that most of its contents have been removed to the unofficial website, which will continue to operate from Germany, as a "fan" site. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for companies interested in tendering a Proposal for redeveloping and managing the official ISOPP Website went out in February 2003. Closing date for Proposals is mid-March 2003, and the formal selection process is planned to take place as quickly as possible. This will be a Secretariat decision, with input from the Publications Committee (except anyone who is involved in a Proposal). If you have any ideas for features you would like to see on the updated website, please contact me.

The Publications Committee has a new member – David Frame from Chicago. David should prove invaluable in helping with the set up and content of the new website. Welcome David.

**Chair:** Jude Lees (jlees@mail.rah.sa.gov.au)

**Members:** Jeff Barnett (Canada), Jill Davis (Australia), David Frame (USA), Ann Hogan (UK), Annette Junker (Germany), Karl Kwok (USA), Klaus Meier (Germany).

## Editorial

ISOPP officials have been working very hard since the last Newsletter. A Secretariat meeting was held in January with all Secretariat members and most Committee Chairs present. The two day meeting was very productive and many issues were discussed. In this edition of the Newsletter you will find reports from all the Committees and note that all are very active on behalf of members. In order to keep the costs of the meeting as low as possible, it was held immediately prior to the German NZW meeting in Hamburg and many of the Secretariat and Committee Chairs participated in the meeting as invited speakers and were thus financially supported by the NZW. Special thanks to Klaus Meier (organizer of NZW) for supporting ISOPP in this way. Hamburg was a chilly 2°C, at least I thought it was chilly having travelled from summer in Australia where the temperature had been 38°C. However, Moe Schwartz insisted that the weather was balmy since Pittsburg USA had been -18°C when she left home. However, it didn't really matter what the temperature was outside since there was little opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. More information about the Secretariat meeting will appear in future Newsletters.

It's not too late to renew your membership for the 2003 year (if you haven't already). However, please send in your renewal as soon as possible to ensure continuity of benefits. Don't forget the membership drive ... tell your colleagues about ISOPP and for every new member who cites your name on their membership form you will receive US\$10.

Members are invited to submit information to the Newsletter – this is an excellent way to communicate with our colleagues around the world. Just email me at [Jillian.Davis@armc.org.au](mailto:Jillian.Davis@armc.org.au) I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers  
Jill



## Education Committee

The Education Committee is responsible for assisting with development of the educational program for the ISOPP Symposia, reviewing the educational content for all ISOPP-endorsed regional symposia, assisting with identifying speakers for oncology pharmacy meetings, and developing criteria to accredit oncology pharmacy training programs. The majority of this work is done via email and telephone communications. Committee members will be expected to respond to requests from the ISOPP Education Committee Chair and to be available for committee meetings when scheduled. Please contact Barry Goldspiel (bgoldspiel@nih.gov) for information about this committee.

# Meeting Report: NZW Hamburg, Germany.

Moe Schwartz

The Onkologisch-Pharmazeutischer Fachkongress held in Hamburg-Harburg, Germany on January 24-26, 2003 included a parallel program in English and German. One morning of programming was presented in English, but was available via translation in German. The format for programming ranged from interactive workshops to large didactic presentations. No matter what the format of the presentation, all programs allowed the opportunity for participants to discuss issues with the presenters – and therefore both speakers and audience left the program learning something new.

The English session (translated to German) covered a number of topics. Dr. Axel-Rainer Hanauske (Germany) discussed new drugs and new strategies for cancer treatment. The management of infections in the patient with cancer was presented with a focus on applications of current practice guidelines (Rowena Schwartz, USA). Peter van Balen (Netherlands) discussed the importance of the risk management for cytotoxic handling.

The parallel English program covered a wide range of topics. Presentations included an overview of some new agents used in oncology (Celeste Lindley, USA), the emerging area of pharmacogenomics (Barry Goldspiel, USA), management strategies for chemotherapy-induced neurotoxicity (Jude Lees, Australia), issues in managing the elderly patient with hematologic malignancies (Gunther Wiedemann, Germany), and the use of bisphosphonates in the management of bone metastases (Robert Ignoffo, USA). Issues with cytotoxic stability (Graham Sewell, England), standardization of parental nutrition in patients with cancer (Rudiger Kilian, Germany), the role of ambulatory pharmacy in the provision of pharmaceutical care in oncology (Michael Hockel, Germany) and the changing trends in oncology pharmacy in Malaysia (Saad Othman, Malaysia) were also presented. These presentations introduce the subject discussed and then encouraged interaction from a diverse audience. The questions and discussion following each presentation provided differing ideas and views concerning each topic.



*Klaus Meier, Barry Goldspiel and Graham Sewell discuss an important point at the NZW meeting*

Another venue for education was the small interactive workshops.

During these intimate sessions the focus was discussion of the topic; the workshop leader's role was to direct discussion versus presentation of ideas. The role of pharmacist in clinical trials (Jillian Davis, Australia and Barry Goldspiel, USA), treatment of lymphoma (Celeste Lindley, USA) and management of infections in the patient with cancer (Rowena Schwartz, USA) were workshop topics. I had the opportunity to moderate one of the workshops, and feel the discussion concerning practices in different regions and different practice sites helped me go away from the meeting with some new strategies for my own practice.

## Standards Committee asks for help!

In January of this year, three members of this committee were able to meet for the first time, in Hamburg, Germany. Robbie McLauchlan, Saad Othman and Johan Vandenbroucke met and had some initial discussions about the work of the committee.

Our first task will be to collect and examine existing practice standards relating to Oncology Pharmacy and to do this, **we need your help.**

Enclosed with this edition of the newsletter is a request for standards. If you use, or are aware of, any standards/guidelines in your region/country it would be very helpful if you could make these available to the committee by contacting the relevant co-chair. These documents will be studied carefully and the information contained in them will be shared with ISOPP members, and will also help the committee in its task of writing ISOPP Practice Standards.

The Secretariat has given this project a high priority in response to requests from members for ISOPP Practice Standards. We hope that you can help us to deliver these standards and allow members to develop and improve their daily practice.

Thank you, and we look forward to receiving all your documents!

*Johan, Robbie and Tom.*

Johan Vandenbroucke (johan.vandenbroucke@uzgent.be)  
Belgium; Robert McLauchlan (mclaur@svhm.org.au) Australia;  
Thomas Connor (tmc6@cdc.gov) USA  
Co-Chairs, ISOPP Standards Committee

## Welcome to New Members Jan - Feb 2003

**Australia:** Jan Lewis; Yogi Mishra; Alison Ridge.

**Belgium:** Jaak Damiaans

**Canada:** Paula MacDonald; Jack Seki; Susan Walisser

**Czech Republic:** Hana Kostková

**Denmark:** Anita Pedersen

**France:** Jean-Louis Cazin

**Germany:** Thekla Kiffmeyer; Katrin Imke Mühlenfeld; Kerstin Splinter; Claudia Woeste

**Italy:** Giuseppe Caravella; Maria Fazio; Vincenzo Gatti;

**Kuwait:** Muhammad Qaiser

**New Zealand:** Jacqui Watt

**United Kingdom:** Patricia Baird; Rie Hitchmough; Sandra Robinson

**USA:** Amy Bivens; Michael Cox; Cheryl Heard; Laura Jung; James Kalnas; Debra Tesoro; Michael Vozniak; Torrey Whitworth



## Up coming meeting dates .... Mark your diaries now

Date	Meeting	Location	Contact for further details
Apr 24-27 2003	7 <sup>th</sup> annual Making a Difference in Oncology (MADONC)	Phoenix, Arizona, US	<a href="http://www.madonc.com">www.madonc.com</a>
Aug 1-3 2003	3rd ISOPPAustralasian Regional Symposium	Gold Coast, Queensland Australia	Jude Lees <a href="mailto:jlees@mail.rah.sa.gov.au">jlees@mail.rah.sa.gov.au</a>
Sept 2003	EU Satellite meeting adjacent to ECCO	Copenhagen, Denmark	Klaus Meier <a href="mailto:KHMeier@t-online.de">KHMeier@t-online.de</a>
Oct 10-12 2003	The BOPA Symposium 2003	Cardiff, Wales, UK	<a href="mailto:Douglas@succinctcomms.comm">Douglas@succinctcomms.comm</a>
April 14-17 2004	ISOPP IX	Turin, Italy	Franca Goffredo <a href="mailto:goffranc@tiscalinet.it">goffranc@tiscalinet.it</a>

## ISOPP Liaisons: An Opportunity for Members

The continued growth and development of ISOPP requires consistent input from members concerning activities, efforts and the direction of the organization. The Secretariat has been, and remains, the most direct link to the membership; but there is a desire of the Secretariat to increase the exchange of ideas among ISOPP members and between the membership and the Secretariat. The ISOPP Liaisons provide a wonderful opportunity to be the conduit for this communication.

The role of the ISOPP liaison is evolving with the evolution of the organization. The liaison will provide a voice to the Secretariat for their designate country / region. The Secretariat requests volunteers to serve as liaisons; this will be for a two-year appointment. Those individuals that have served in this role in the past and would like to continue in this role are encouraged to volunteer. (Thank you all for the work and effort that you have done!!)

The responsibilities of the liaison are planned to expand as the role evolves. Liaisons will be asked to attend (or coordinate with an appropriate designee from their country/region) each ISOPP symposium. Attendance at the symposium will provide a forum for the liaisons to meet (a meeting of liaisons will occur at each biennial symposium) and discuss issues concerning ISOPP and their represented region face-to-face. It will also serve as an opportunity for the membership and the Secretariat to with meet the liaisons, and to recognize their contributions to the organization. Additionally, the liaison will be asked to work with the various committees of ISOPP. It will be important for the liaison to communicate with the ISOPP Publications Committee about any national / regional oncology pharmacy symposium or meetings within their region. To increase membership awareness of activities in different areas of the world, each liaison will be asked to submit an item for the ISOPP Newsletter. The liaison will also have the opportunity to work with the Education Committee, the Research Committee and the Membership and Finance Committee. Be assured all the work will not be done by the individual liaison; the liaison should help and identify additional members from their region that can serve to further the mission of ISOPP through work

with the ISOPP committees.

Although this position is not an official elected representative of ISOPP, it is an important position that allows ISOPP to continue to move forward. It is essential that ideas and issues that concern oncology pharmacy in all areas of the world be brought to the attention of the Secretariat. The organization needs the involvement of individual members - this is an opportunity to contribute to the organization.

A more comprehensive list of responsibilities will be posted on the ISOPP website. If you have any questions and/or interest in the position of liaison for your region please feel to contact Moe Schwartz, Pharm.D. at [schwartzrn@msx.upm.edu](mailto:schwartzrn@msx.upm.edu).

## Announcement from the Research Committee

The Research Committee have been kept busy reviewing the applications that have been received for the inaugural ISOPP Research Projects Award/s. The final process is currently underway and an announcement will be made in the next Newsletter. As well as the review process, the Committee are undertaking a number of other projects including: preparing a 'Getting started in oncology research' manual for members, approaching other research -orientated organizations and developing an awareness of the capacity of ISOPP to undertake research (e.g. FIP, WHO, EORTC, NCZ) and developing the research section of the new ISOPP website.

**Chair: Graham Sewell** ([G.J.Sewell@bath.ac.uk](mailto:G.J.Sewell@bath.ac.uk))

## Attention ISOPP FULL Members

The Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice (JOPP) will be available online ([www.oncologypharmacypractice.com](http://www.oncologypharmacypractice.com)) starting with the release of Volume 9 (around June, 2003). Only FULL members who have paid their renewal fees for 2003 will receive online access. Online access will include JOPP issues from 1999 to the present.