

News LETTER



Newsletter - Vol 7, No 1, March 2005 ¥ International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

This short contribution is an opportunity for me to update you on the recent meeting of ISOPP Secretariat and Committee Chairs in Lisbon on 19 and 20 March. A detailed report on this meeting will appear on the ISOPP website once Secretariat members have formally approved the minutes. However, I can share with you some of the key points to come out of the meeting:

- Approval of a “salary-banding” scheme to link membership fees to members income. This will be put to members for their vote.
- Formation of a working group to review the Constitution and Rules of ISOPP.
- Significant progress with the ISOPP X Symposium to be held in Malaysia
- Update of the Election Process for the ISOPP Secretariat.
- Agreement on an outline budget for 2005/06.
- Decisions to increase financial accountability and transparency.
- Excellent progress on the ISOPP International Standards document.
- New and exciting developments from other ISOPP Committees including the launch of “mini-sabbaticals” (funded by ISOPP to allow members to experience practice in other countries), a new round of research grants and new ISOPP awards.

As I say, more detailed information will follow soon on these and other key outcomes of the meeting.

I would, however, like to take this opportunity to say a public “thank you” to the Secretariat Members and Committee Chairs who gave up their weekend for this extremely productive meeting.

Membership Renewal

Renewal requests went out in February, and I would like to thank all those members who have already renewed their ISOPP Membership for the coming year. For those who have not yet renewed their membership, please return your membership form and payment as soon as possible. This will enable you to continue to contribute to the international voice of oncology pharmacy and to receive the benefits of membership which include:

- Full access to the new, revitalised website (which has attracted many positive comments)
- The Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice. The ISOPP Journal goes from strength to strength and many



of the excellent articles written by ISOPP members are quoted and cited all over the world.

- Other education resources in oncology pharmacy, as hard-copy and web-based media.
- Eligibility for ISOPP education and research grants.
- Eligibility for ISOPP awards
- Discounts for registration at ISOPP Symposia.
- Communication and contact on a global basis through the ISOPP Newsletter
- Voting rights on important issues (only paid – up members may vote).

ISOPP is the International voice for Oncology Pharmacy: Please support your Society.

I wish all our members every success with all of their endeavours. If you have any ideas or comments relating to ISOPP or to Oncology Pharmacy in general, please feel that you are very welcome to contact me.

With Best Wishes

Graham Sewell (ISOPP President)

ANNOUNCING ISOPP X:

ISOPP X will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from April 3rd to 6th, 2006. More details will be coming – check out the ISOPP website at www.isopp.org

The conference will open in the evening of April 3rd, and there will be 3 full days of educational programming. If you have not attended an ISOPP conference before, please give consideration to attending the next meeting. ISOPP conferences are an excellent opportunity to learn from pharmacy leaders in the field, to network and make excellent professional connections with colleagues the world over, and to make new friends. Malaysia similarly is a beautiful country that is readily accessible from most regions of the world, and is also close to several other desirable locations for an attached holiday/vacation at the end of ISOPP or before ISOPP. We encourage you to start planning to attend this meeting. In the tradition of ISOPP, we plan on maintaining the excellent programming the society is known for, and we look forward to seeing you in Malaysia. We, of course, are always happy to receive input from you - the members. If you have an idea for a topic that you really think should be in the program, please contact Helen Leather, Chair ISOPP Education Committee via email at leathhl@shands.ufl.edu

**REMINDER to all ISOPP Members
Your 2005 fees are due.**

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A Day in the Life of a Pharmacy Educator

An article in the December 2004 newsletter, "Oncology Pharmacists Spread the Word in Canada," highlighted the challenges of Canadian health care: an enormous land mass, a sparse population, and a strong belief in universal health care for all. How do we ensure that all Canadians receive the same quality of care, regardless of where they live? In oncology, "regional" cancer centres, located in cities and affiliated with teaching hospitals, act as resources for the smaller communities.

The province of British Columbia has four such centres, each supporting the many smaller centres of the Community Oncology Network (CON). There is one centre for Vancouver Island, one for the Fraser Valley, and one for the Southern Interior. The Vancouver centre looks after the rest of the province!

At each centre, a Pharmacy CON Educator provides staff development and practice support to pharmacies in their area. The educator for the Vancouver centre, ISOPP member Marianne Moore, provides a liaison for a number of hospital pharmacies. This dynamic lady is admired by pharmacists from the Sunshine Coast to the Yukon Territory. Let's see how she does it...

9-10:30 Planning the next BC Cancer Agency conference.

This annual event attracts health care professionals from across the province. Marianne works with CON Educators at the other three centres to plan "Pharmacy Day."

Learning, networking, and social opportunities will be enjoyed by pharmacists from many different practice settings. The conference isn't until November, but there seem to be a lot of action items piling up! At least one pharmacist from each CON centre is invited free-of-charge, so Marianne is compiling guest lists, and ensuring that flights and accommodations are covered.

10:30-10:45 Purdy's break!

Purdy's chocolates are, without question, one of the best things about life in BC. This box arrived by courier from the pharmacy manager in Dawson Creek, some 1200 kilometers away. Marianne arranged for a pharmacy technician from Dawson Creek to spend some time with Rowena Lee, senior technician at the Vancouver Centre, learning about chemotherapy preparation and safe handling.

10:45-11 Poster travel arrangements. The old adage "publish or perish" certainly applies to Pharmacy CON Educators. Posters



Marianne and Rowena enjoying some well-earned hedgehogs!

or abstracts are expected every year, at every cancer care event. The spring meeting of the National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCIC) is happening soon, and the CON Educators have had a poster accepted. The poster is based on the group's first major undertaking: the publication of "Pharmacy Guide to BCCA Chemotherapy Protocols."

This guide is the result of a structured, goal-oriented approach to program development. In 2002, a learning needs survey was sent to all BC pharmacists, the need for such a guide was identified and researched, and the final product was delivered. The success of this approach is explained in the poster "A Learning Module: A Real-Life Case Study." Unfortunately, no one in the group is able to attend the NCIC meeting. Marianne chats with Rongrong Karim, the clinical trials pharmacist at the Vancouver centre, who agrees to take the poster to Montreal.

11-12 Educating the whole team.

Canadian physicians face the same challenges as Canadian pharmacists. Physicians want to provide effective and up-to-date cancer care for their patients, regardless of where they live. Dr. Judith Pike arranges for a group of family physicians to spend six weeks in Vancouver, shadowing oncologists and speaking to other health professionals. The program typically includes an hour with a pharmacist (Marianne, of course!), but some physicians are asking for more. In isolated areas, physicians may prescribe, prepare, and administer chemotherapy; these doctors are far more interested in safe handling of chemotherapy than a typical oncologist in Vancouver. Marianne talks to Dr. Pike about spending more time with these physicians.

12-1 Lunch.

If you know anything about Marianne, you know she loves cats. She is a tireless

Editorial

Many of you do not know me, but my name is Lynne Nakashima and I am an ISOPP member from



Canada. It has been my task and my pleasure this time, to put together the ISOPP newsletter. The newsletter is a reflection of the work that oncology pharmacists are doing around the world and it has been an amazing time for me. I have been communicating with oncology pharmacists from around the world!

E-mail is an excellent tool, because it is not time sensitive, and allows us to keep in touch at any time of the day, anywhere in the world! I hope that you will enjoy this newsletter as there are many different articles for you to enjoy. I certainly have enjoyed the experience! Have a wonderful spring!

Lynne Nakashima, ISOPP Publications Committee Member, lnakas@bccancer.bc.ca

volunteer for the Richmond Homeless Cats Society, and she seems never to stop thinking about those cats... Chatting with Dennis Jang, the drug distribution coordinator at the Vancouver centre, Marianne discovers that the pharmacy is getting a new fridge. Instantly, Marianne pounces! What is happening with the old fridge? It sure would be useful for the cat shelter.

1-2 A two-parent job.

The four CON Educators, as a group, report to the chair of the Provincial Pharmacy Professional Practice Committee. Individual CON Educators also report to the Pharmacy Professional Practice Leader at their regional centres. The practice leader at the Vancouver centre is Lynne Nakashima, ISOPP member and guest editor of this newsletter. Marianne and Lynne are meeting today to discuss Marianne's next article for the Systemic Therapy Update, a monthly BC Cancer Agency publication to which Marianne contributes three articles per year.

Member Profile:

SAMEER AGARWAL

Sameer Agarwal is not your typical ISOPP member. Sameer is a member from India. Holding several degrees, including an MBA from the IGNO University in New Delhi, and a masters in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Toledo in the US, Sameer is presently working in International Sales in Marketing of Pharmaceuticals. Having started in Research & Development and later shifting to Regulatory & Operations functions, the technical background and experience help in the sales & marketing and strategic planning activities.

Sameer makes the following comment: "Since I am in pharmaceutical industry,

I cannot really find a way how to describe my typical day! You know how we work in corporate world – meetings and more meetings clubbed with extensive overseas travels!"

ISOPP gives us all the opportunity to meet and work with pharmacists from around the world, pharmacists such as Sameer. Take advantage of your membership – check out the website, get involved, and attend the ISOPP meeting. There are many more interesting pharmacists who belong to ISOPP, just waiting to get to know you!

Submitted by Lynne Nakashima, ISOPP Publications Committee Member

VISIT THE ISOPP WEBSITE

Go to www.isopp.org and see what ISOPP has to offer its members.

- **NEWS** items about activities of the ISOPP Secretariat and Committee Chairs
- **NEWS** items about new drug releases, adverse effects etc. from the Education Committee updated almost daily
- **Member Discussion Area** – you can ask or answer questions, or add your comments
- **Member Chat** – check who else is on-line (lower right hand side) and talk in the member chat room – this function is greatly improved with the TIKI system introduced last year – why not try it.
- **SHOUT BOX** – on the left - this is a simple message system that you can use – always look to see if there is a message which might be of use to YOU, or leave a message. This is a GENERAL message system, not private. If you see someone else is online, you can place a message suggesting you meet in the Chat Room – or if you have a particular website problem you can leave a message here. For drug information queries, DO NOT place your message here – go to Member Discussion.
- **Symposia** – as we develop more information about ISOPP X or other ISOPP related symposia – it will be placed here. Also here are links to photos from previous ISOPPs which are fun to look at. YOUR photo might be here! There is much more if you take the time to explore the website in detail – we plan to add many other items during 2005.

A Day in the Life of a Pharmacy Educator

Continued from page 2



Teleconference

2-3 Come together. The CON Educators may be separated by the Strait of Georgia, the Fraser River, and the Rocky Mountains, but technology helps them work together. Not content to rest on their laurels, the group is starting work on another educational module. As this one is still in its infancy, the group spends today brainstorming content and formatting ideas.

3-3:30 The CON Educators rotate secretarial duties, and Marianne is this year's secretary. After the meeting, she takes a few minutes to organize the minutes.

3:30-4:30 OSCAR watch. Remember that Canadian belief in universal health care for all? It means many, many drugs have to be paid for. OSCAR is a new on-line system that allows CON hospital pharmacies to claim reimbursement for chemotherapy drugs. Marianne has a customer service role here, phoning hospitals in her area to get comments on the program and help solve problems. She has 16 calls to make this week.

4:30 And speaking of phone calls... Marianne takes a moment to register surprise that no one has phoned with questions today. Generally, she is called upon to provide a wide range of information to pharmacists throughout the province. One day she may be asked to help interpret a chemotherapy protocol. The next day she may give advice on purchasing a biological safety cabinet.

4:30-5 On the road again. An important part of Marianne's job is site visits. Visiting pharmacies allows her to meet CON pharmacists face-to-face, and identify their learning needs. She may discuss safe handling, the protocols guide, OSCAR, or navigation of the BC Cancer Agency website. Her suggestions often make chemotherapy preparation easier or safer. Marianne visits each of her CON hospitals at least once a year. Tomorrow, she's making her first visit to Squamish, so she spends some time preparing and gathering materials. This small town is just an hour's drive north on the Sea to Sky highway. This is quite close by Marianne's standards – only about halfway to Whistler. Sorry, Marianne – no time for skiing!

5 – A job well-done. Marianne heads off to the racquetball court.

Websites to visit

www.bccancer.bc.ca/RS/CommunitiesOncologyNetwork/Educators/Pharmacist.htm
www.richmondhomelesscats.com

Submitted by Sarah Jennings, ISOPP Publications Committee Member



Why not log in today.

If you have access problems please let the WebMaster, Jeff Barnett, know by using Contact Us on the Main Menu of the website.

Submitted by Jude Lees, Chair, ISOPP Publications Committee

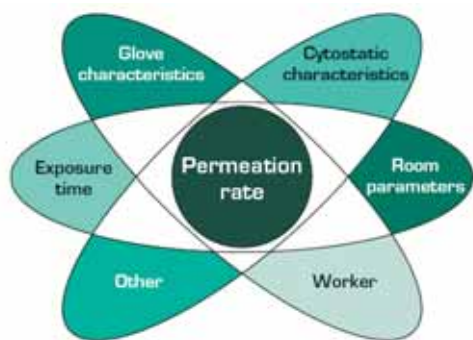
PERMEATION OF GLOVES

There was an interesting discussion during the GERPAC meeting in France after the presentation of ISOPP member, Tom Connors (USA) on Permeation of gloves.

The permeation through gloves from products depends on

- the glove characteristics (material, thickness, ...)
- the product characteristics (molecular weight, liposolubility, ...)
- duration of exposure
- room conditions (temperature, humidity, ...)
- skin condition (wounds, sweating, ...)

Even more interesting new points that pop up in the discussion :



1/ there is a difference in between a static and a dynamic test situation. Dynamic situation is used to mimic movements of hands

Results ==> X 2 of permeation rate

2/ there is a clear temperature influence
Temperature of the gloves after 5 minutes = 34 ° C

Results ==> X 2 of permeation rate

Conclusion :

- Based on existing data, there is an underestimation of potential risk
- The results of a study are **ONLY** and **SOLELY** valid for the glove tested under the specified conditions.
Any extrapolation to other materials, brands or test conditions would be erroneous.

Note:

All studies published until now have been performed in a static test situation. A new study at the "Université Catholique de Louvain - Belgium" by Prof.P. Wallmacq and all is finished using dynamic test situation. The results are submitted for publication.

Submitted by Johan Vandebroucke, Senior pharmacist production, University Hospital Gent - Belgium

Canadian National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium Report

Once again, the annual National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium was a tremendous success. Hosted by the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology (CAPHO), NOPS attracted over 200 oncology pharmacy practitioners nationwide. Held in Toronto October 23-24, amid the brilliant colours of an Ontario autumn, participants gathered for a weekend of learning, networking, and of course, some serious shopping in Yorkville!

Satellite events proved to be popular, with topics ranging from supportive care issues to updates on breast, lung, and haematological cancers.

ISOPP Past President Larry Broadfield opened the conference with a thought-provoking look at the future of oncology pharmacy practice. Saturday's program encompassed a wide range of topics: neuropathic pain, new drugs, medication errors, anticoagulation, and pharmacy based research, to name a few. Dr. Mark Clemons stole the show with a humorous, yet insightful, review of adjuvant systemic therapy for breast cancer. Sunday's program examined issues around oncology pharmacy education, looking at various training, education, and credentialing programs. ISOPP VIII co-chair Kim Stefaniuk was pleased to present CAPHO's vision for developing a national oncology pharmacy education and specialty practice initiative.

Of special note, at CAPHO's annual general meeting, members voted to approve the first-ever Standards of Practice for Oncology Pharmacy in Canada. The standards committee, chaired by ISOPP member Betty Riddell, was recognized for their significant achievement; Betty was presented with CAPHO's Distinguished Service Award for this tremendous contribution to oncology pharmacy practice.

Planning is well underway for NOPS 2005, to be held in beautiful Vancouver, British Columbia, October 29-30. Stay tuned for more details!

Submitted by Kim Stefaniuk, ISOPP Publications Committee Member

The 2005 Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) Pharmacists satellite meeting, USA.

I was fortunate to attend this dynamic meeting held in the USA preceding the Tandem BMT Meeting, Keystone in February 2005. The force behind setting up a separate 2 day BMT Pharmacists Meeting is ISOPP's own Education Committee Chair, Helen Leather (right) from Shands at the University of Florida, USA. Her co-chair at



the meeting, Cindy Ippoliti from MDAnderson Cancer Center was glowing in her praise for Helen's efforts in starting up and continuing to organise this highly specialised meeting. For pharmacists involved with bone marrow transplant patients, I would recommend you consider attending the next meeting. The venue rotates, and in 2006 will be in Hawaii, USA. Helen has kindly organised for Powerpoint slideshows of the presentations from the 2005 meeting to go on the ISOPP Website. To find them, go to www.isopp.org, login with your username and password, and go to the Education Centre. This is a special benefit for ISOPP Members – don't miss out, as there are some excellent slide presentations from pharmacists and haematologists.

Submitted by Jude Lees, Chair, ISOPP Publications Committee

Cancer Care Ontario Oncology Pharmacy Conference

On April 30-May 1, 2005, Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) will once again host a provincial oncology pharmacy conference in Toronto. Featuring ISOPP president, Graham Sewell, oncology pharmacists and technicians across the province will gather to learn about topics such as individualizing chemotherapy doses, pharmaceutical care of patients with leukemia and advanced cancer, antifungal therapy, and updates on diseases, drugs, and CCO initiatives. Highlighted this year will be issues arising from the recent NIOSH alert, understanding risk, and the results of CCO's systematic review of the literature pertaining to risks of working with antineoplastic agents. Tours of Princess Margaret Hospital and a Historic Toronto walking tour will also be offered.

Shopping in Yorkville is also strongly encouraged...AFTER the conference!

Submitted by Kim Stefaniuk, ISOPP Publications Committee Member