

# News LETTER



Newsletter - Vol 14, No 1, March 2012 • International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners

## Message from the President

Dear colleagues, dear friends

Our ISOPP congress is approaching very quickly now. Only one month and again ISOPP members can enjoy this great event of global communication, networking on education.

The program is complete, the speakers confirmed, the posters accepted, and the booths distributed.

The local organizing committee has done a great job and I would like to address here words of thanks for all the members who spent lots of time and effort in making this event happen. The registrations especially from Europe are less than expected and I would like to encourage all Europeans to put aside their hesitations and to come to Melbourne. A special appeal for the accepted posters, here is your change to present your poster during the poster session to an international global public of enthusiastic and dedicated colleagues.

Melbourne is cooling down a bit, so for us, as summer has passed, it will be excellent Autumn temperatures to enjoy besides the congress in this wonderful and exciting city.

Meanwhile you all have been able to vote for the new secretariat and these people will take office during the closing ceremony of the congress. It will be my pleasure and honour to welcome them. It is encouraging to see that more people want to take the responsibility of leading the Society. Not everyone who stands for election can be successful but elections are held each year and if you are not successful this year, please stand again.

In addition, during the closing ceremony the venue for the ISOPP congress in 2014 will be revealed.

At the general meeting in Melbourne, all ISOPP members are invited to attend, it is the only chance we have every 2 years to discuss face to face the different items that affect our Society.

The agenda for the general meeting is as follows :

### **Agenda General Meeting ISOPP 2012**

**Place : Melbourne**

**Date : May 10 ; 10:30 H – 12.00 H**

- 1/ Welcome from the President
- 2/ Financial report
- 3/ Committee reports
- 4/ Why ISOPP wants to move the official address
- 5/ Vote on the "change of address"
- 6/ presentation of the new secretariat
- 7/ Q & A

An important item will be the vote of moving our official address out of Germany and the incoming president, John Wiernikowski, will send a letter to you all very soon explaining why we want to take this decision.

If you want to raise any particular issues, please send these questions/issues to me by 26th April 2012 at [johan.vandenbroucke@uzgent.be](mailto:johan.vandenbroucke@uzgent.be) so they can be added to the Agenda. No items can be discussed without being on the Agenda.

I am counting the days to fly over, I



hope I can meet and greet as many members as possible in person, we are sharing the same goals and interests but we might have a different approach and opinion how to come to it , and that is the value of our Society.

I look forward to seeing you all 'down under', in Melbourne.

Have a safe journey

Johan Vandenbroucke

President ISOPP 2010-2012

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# 2012 NZW Report

John Wiernikowski, PharmD, FISOPP

I once again had the distinct pleasure of being invited to participate in this years NZW meeting in Hamburg, Germany at the end of January. This year marked the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of NZW, so congratulations and kudos go out to Klaus Meier and the NZW Executive for 20 years of advancing Oncology Pharmacy Practice, in Germany and throughout Europe.

As always, the conference covered a broad range of topics relevant to Oncology Pharmacists; with excellent presentations on molecular diagnostics and pharmacogenetics and the rapidity with which this type of testing is becoming cheaper and thus more accessible to more and more patients. It now presents us with the challenge of defining the real clinical utility of these tests and their impact on patient outcomes. Also presented, was an update on a number of cancer prophylaxis trials beyond the large

breast cancer prevention trials. These include some very large trials looking at early H. Pylori eradication and impact on gastric cancer; as well as trials with anti-oxidants (Selenium) COX-inhibitors, Statins and Metformin. Additionally, Dr. Ruth Ladenstein, European continental President for SIOF addressed the challenges faced by children with cancer due to Regulatory hurdles in Europe (and in North America as well) to get more timely access to new drugs and generate appropriate clinical trial evidence for efficacy. There were also excellent update presentations on “nibs” and “mabs”; esophageal cancer; and advances in immunotherapy for melanoma. This year’s NZW Europe session was highlighted by an initiative to establish a registry for “extravasation events” looking at outcomes from interventions applied to these events. The other big event this year will be the first European Conference in Oncology Pharmacy; in Budapest, Hungary in late September.

Beyond this, there was clearly a great emphasis on oral chemotherapy at this years meeting; as we see more and more oral agents becoming available. Presentations highlighted data on compliance/adherence to Sunitinib therapy in patients enrolled on the IPSOC1 trial for Renal cell carcinoma; which based on self-report was exceedingly high, incongruent with data reported on side-effects. This is now being investigated more rigorously in an expanded (11) number of centers in Belgium examining adherence with MEMS cap technology. Information was also presented by Rick Abbott from Canada on a program established in Newfoundland. The program involves having a dedicated pharmacist perform structured call backs to patients at home; to assess oral chemotherapy side effects/toxicities, and through pro-active management of side effects and toxicities can improve adherence with oral chemotherapy. Survey data was also presented on knowledge and comfort levels of community pharmacists in dispensing oral chemotherapy and being able to appropriately counsel patients on such medications; with the majority of community pharmacists feeling they have ‘minimal’ or ‘insufficient’ knowledge of oral chemotherapy to appropriately counsel cancer patients or participate in a medication management program for such patients. This was topped off by a presentation, highlighting progress made in Germany by NZW to establish a training/teaching program for community pharmacists on oral chemotherapy; with the plan for this program to begin this year. The outcome of this program will be much anticipated.

## Message from David Thomson, BOPA Chairman:

For anyone who may be interested BOPA is delighted to announce the release of the Interactive Meeting Report of its Annual Symposia 2011 in Glasgow.

This contains reports from the key sessions and links to videos, slides from the event and much more. To access the report please follow the link below.

[www.bopawebsite.org/bopa/imr2011#](http://www.bopawebsite.org/bopa/imr2011#)

Thanks to Dan for the kind comments about the meeting in the December 2011 ISOPP newsletter.

Regards,  
David

## Membership Committee Activities 2011

Rosalyn P. Sims, PharmD  
ISOPP Membership Committee

- Revised the guidelines and form for sponsored memberships
- Revised the Membership Form for annual renewal
  - Revised and updated the criteria for the Helen McKinnon, ISOPP Fellowship, and ISOPP Achievement Awards
  - Revised the ISOPP Manual

The committee chair corresponded with our new ISOPP members in Cuba trying to help find a speaker for their oncology program that unfortunately coincides with the ISOPP meeting in Melbourne in May 2012.



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<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/event.php?eid=123403207696758>

# Oral Chemotherapy: Is it really that easy to take oral medicine against cancer?

A report from the NZW (Norddeutscher Zytostatika Workshop), 27th – 29th Jan 2012

Monika Hampel, Germany



German Registerstudie: “Orale Krebstherapie – sicher und effektiv durch gemeinsame Beratung“

Oral chemotherapy seems to be much easier than an intravenous one at first sight, but high risks are involved to using that form of cancer treatment. In oral chemotherapy patients have also problems with side effects, interactions and complicated treatment plans.

In Germany there is no need to be specialized for dispensing oral anticancer medicines. Patients can get their capsules or tablets in any pharmacy. This is convenient for them because we know that people like to buy their medicines in the pharmacy they already know. The problem occurring though is, not every pharmacy knows how to handle oral chemotherapy.

This year The German DGOP (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Onkologische Pharmazie) started an initiative for better pharmaceutical care in oral cancer treatment. Every pharmacy in Germany is invited to be part of this new program to learn important issues about oral chemotherapy.

What is the initiative about?

For the patient nothing changes: he chooses his physician, the physician prescribes the oral anticancer medicine and then the patient goes to “his” pharmacy. The pharmacist is responsible for the patient’s pharmaceutical care during the whole time of oral therapy. DGOP has already provided a lot of training about that issue. If you take part in the intensive training you receive a special certificate.



In the 8-hour-training pharmacists learn how to handle cancer-patients with all their problems during the time of oral chemotherapy.

An online database was programmed especially for this initiative which enables the pharmacist to create easily an individual therapy plan for each patient. According to that plan the patient is making notes when he has taken his medicine then documents his feelings and main side effects every day. This information is the foundation for the patient – pharmacist – physician relationship. In case the pharmacist has to write a letter to the doctor he can also get help from the online database. Furthermore the pharmacist can choose solutions from a pool

of available information’s important for him concerning his patient. This information he can print out individually and/or give it in the database as a summary of his advice. So the pharmacist can very easily document, in the online database, each step taken for the benefit of the others.

What is the intention of the initiative?

At this moment there are only few test centers accompanying patients as mentioned above. More than 20.000 pharmacies in Germany have been asked to be part of this special program. The intention is to get a network of pharmacies that are committed in making oral chemotherapy safer and thus increasing the quality of life for the patients taking this medicine!



# Publications Committee, summary of activities 2011

Felice Musicco, ISOPP Publications Committee Chair

In 2011 Publications Committee has been involved in writing news for the website and supporting Secretariat and other Committees in making ready on-line surveys.

Unfortunately not many members expressed interest to join the Committee, however, I want to say thanks to Jill Davis, who supported the activities and gave many suggestions and Maria Larizza who participated in the survey implementation.

In January the on-line audit tool has been made available to ISOPP members in the Standards and Practice Section of the website. See this news at: [http://www.isopp.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1335:isopp-standards-audit-tool-now-available-to-members&catid=52:society-member-news&Itemid=179](http://www.isopp.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1335:isopp-standards-audit-tool-now-available-to-members&catid=52:society-member-news&Itemid=179). You can fill out the survey or see answers. We have 21 respondents at this stage.

In the first months of the year I have collaborated with Carol Chambers, ISOPP election returning Officer, to set up the on-line tool to manage the secretariat elections. It was for me a

challenging and interesting activity. This year, elections have been managed in collaboration with Sea To Sky by using the same tool and very similar procedures.

In April 2011 a survey has been created to support the Education Committee to publish on-line the second case of the ISOPP education series. The topic is multiple myeloma and survey is still open at this link: [http://www.isopp.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1101&Itemid=182](http://www.isopp.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1101&Itemid=182) on the website in other educational events. We have 84 respondents till now. There were 63 respondents to the first education survey in 2010.

In August and September two more surveys were prepared and have been used to evaluate the 7th Australasian Symposium in Melbourne and to support the meeting educational sessions.

Presentations from 4th IOM Meeting (May 2011), Australasian ISOPP Meeting (August 2011) and FIP-ISOPP sessions at 71st FIP meeting (September 2011) have been published on the website (see events calendar [http://www.isopp.org/index.php?option=com\\_events&task=view\\_](http://www.isopp.org/index.php?option=com_events&task=view_)

[http://www.isopp.org/index.php?option=com\\_events&task=view\\_year&Itemid=181&year=2011&month=03&day=05](http://www.isopp.org/index.php?option=com_events&task=view_year&Itemid=181&year=2011&month=03&day=05)).

In 2011, 53 press news and 21 Society news items have been published on the ISOPP homepage. These news have been published elsewhere on the new ISOPP facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ISOPP-International-Society-of-Oncology-Pharmacy-Practitioners/225135194163335>); to this day we have about 100 "I like it". Titles of our news are twitted through my account @musicco63 and BOPA Chair David Thomson uses to retwitt our news to his BOPA twitter members list. Another facebook page has been created to talk and give information about the next ISOPP Symposia in Melbourne. (see <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/event.php?eid=123403207696758>)

My hope is to be able to involve more ISOPP members to publish news and feed the website with information can be useful for others. Sharing information is the key of our success and new portable technology is ready, so we need ideas and goodwill. I see there is more interest this year in the publication activities and want to be hopeful. Hope to meeting many of you in Melbourne in May.

## Research Committee Updates 2011

Kellie L. Jones, Pharm.D., BCOP  
ISOPP Research Committee Chair

The research committee was busy this year. We have created an online abstract/poster instruction guide for individuals to help direct them through the process of creating and executing an abstract and poster. In addition, we expanded the categories for abstract submissions to this year's symposium to include: Oncology Pharmacy Practice Research, Practice Innovation/Patient Education, Technology/Informatics, Case reports, Medication safety, Original research, Student/Fellow/Resident, and Encores.

We received a total of 60 submissions with 41 abstracts accepted for poster

presentations. Each abstract was reviewed by at least 2 members of the research committee. Four platform presentations were also chosen and will be presented during the upcoming symposium. They include:

Sara Gato: Use of cytotoxic drugs in Veterinary Medicine: prescription and handling practices in Portugal. (Portugal)

Nadia Ayoub: Impact of pharmacist interventions on 5HT3 antagonist prescribing and overall management of chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (CINV). (Pakistan)

Donald Harvey: Establishment of a Pharmacist-Led Phase I Clinical Trials Program. (United States)

Tiene Bauters: Unlicensed and off-

label drug use in a pediatric hemato-oncology unit. (Belgium)

The committee is currently in the process of reviewing Grant submissions. Final results of the grant award winner will be announced at the upcoming symposium in Melbourne, Australia.

The work of the committee could not have been done without the help of its members. Thanks for all of their help, time, and commitment to expanding and improving research in ISOPP. The members of the committee include: Carlo DeAngelis, Claire Mach, Daisy Yang, John Wiernikowski, Judith Smith, Michael Dooley, Nagwa Ibrahim, Paul Sessink, Robert Mader, and Tiene Bauters.



## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGY PHARMACY PRACTITIONERS

April 2, 2012

TO: ISOPP Membership

FROM: John Wiernikowski, PharmD, FISOPP  
ISOPP President Elect

RE: Change of Address for the ISOPP Constitution

When ISOPP was first formed, it had its Constitution registered in Germany as a matter of convenience due to it coinciding with the ISOPP Symposium in Hamburg. However, for those of us having served as an ISOPP officer, it has been clear for a good number of years now that having our Constitution officially registered in Hamburg, Germany makes the day to day running of our Society difficult.

The reasons for this include the following:

1. The official language of our Society is English. However, the German courts demand that all correspondence and official Society documentation must be in German. This means that all meeting minutes and election results must be officially translated into German which is both time consuming and expensive.
2. For new officers of the Society (President, President-elect, Treasurer) to be registered with the German courts, they must travel to the closest German Consulate in their home country and have their signature witnessed by a German official. In addition to the time and expense to travel to the nearest German consulate; there is also a fee charged by the Consulate for this service. This can be difficult to arrange and it took the two most recent Treasurers more than one year to be officially recognized and be able to begin their duties. This makes the working of the Society very inefficient.
3. ISOPP is registered as a Not-for-Profit organization in Germany. This means that there are limits to the amount of money that can be saved and carried forward from one year to the next. Therefore, we cannot 'save money' for a larger/more expensive initiative or project that would benefit our membership. To clarify, ISOPP has never had its expenditures questioned by the German Tax auditors, but we have been recently challenged by the German Tax system for having 'not spent enough' of our funds. Those of you who have looked at our Treasurers reports know that our income/revenues rise in Symposium years, and fall in non-symposium years. We have faced considerable financial challenges in recent years because we are not permitted to save some operating funds to keep the Society working.
4. Changing the Society's address will of course involve some costs. There will be legal fees to be paid both in Germany and in our new country of residence. However, in the end the operation of our Society will be easier, cheaper and more efficient.

Based on this, we feel that it is in the best interests of ISOPP to end our Constitutional registration in Germany and change address to a country that will allow us to function in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. This in no way means that we are dissolving the Society, and all operations of the Society will continue as normal. We hope to make the change as smooth as possible and plan to inform and involve the membership throughout the process. There will be Constitutional amendments that members will need to vote on. The Secretariat has looked at a number of new 'host' countries, including: Belgium, Gibraltar, and Canada. No final decision has yet been made, but of these 3 countries researched so far; Canada is the most suitable.

The first step in this process is to have the support of you the members. We will therefore be having a vote at this year's Annual General Meeting in Melbourne on the following motion:

"We the membership of ISOPP wish to move the Constitution of ISOPP out of Germany, and authorize the ISOPP Secretariat to initiate the process, identify a new Country of residence; and make the necessary Constitutional Amendments (to be subsequently voted on) to accomplish this.

The 38th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) took place in Perth from the 15th-17th of November, 2011. The venue for the meeting was the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on the banks of the Swan River. COSA is the main multidisciplinary cancer conference in Australia, incorporating clinicians and researchers working in cancer from medical and radiation oncology, surgery, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health. The theme for the 2011 ASM was "Partnerships against cancer - bridging gaps, breaking barriers", and focused on the opportunities and challenges facing cancer health care today and in the future. The program focused on urological, prostate and colorectal cancers, as well as the role of primary care in cancer.

The first morning opened with a plenary session, partnerships against cancer, with some interesting presentations highlighting the need for partnerships against cancer. The conference then broke into concurrent symposia. Excellent topics, at times, made for difficult decisions on what to attend. I attended a very informative session on Prostate cancer with contributions from practitioners as well as a frank and amusing presentation by David Sandoe, giving his own personal experience with prostate cancer. Another symposium on bladder cancer offered an excellent & up to date overview of current treatment trends and an informative case history. Day 2 opened with a plenary, "Closing the Gap- Consumers in Cancer Care" with some informative presentations highlighting such things as the importance of contributions of consumers in development of a National Framework for Consumer Involvement in Cancer Control. A session entitled, New Drugs in Clinical Practice, was very well attended with experts in their fields, Dr Michael Millward and Dr Arlene Chan presenting the latest information of new drugs in melanoma and breast

cancer respectively. Pharmacist, Julie Wilkes presented a concise and useful update on some haematology drugs and the session finished with another pharmacist, Michael Cain, updating the audience on drugs in prostate cancer. The exhibition bay was a convenient place to wander about, browsing many excellent posters, grab a bite to eat and sit down and listen to the oral presentation of, "The best of the best posters". A very interesting topic was presented by Associate Professor Judith Smith, ISOPP member from the USA, who combines some lab work with her clinical duties. Judith has completed some studies using carboplatin and placenta to conclude that carboplatin is safe to use at any stage during pregnancy and that similar results are expected with granisetron. It was inspiring to see a pharmacist involved in such important & groundbreaking work.

The plenary on the final day was titled, "Novel therapeutics, drug development and diagnostics". A very absorbing presentation was given by Dr David Thomas from Peter Mac on matching patients to the drug, suggesting that, in the future, since the same tumour markers can appear across a wide array of cancers, oncologists may not practice in the traditional streams but become specialist in treating cancers that express similar markers. Another very interesting session was presented by Dr Paul Bass, delivering results of some phase III trials in mesothelioma in which he was a lead researcher. Although the results of both trials were negative, the chance to hear results of a major phase III trial from the principle investigator was a privilege. This year's COSA will be in Brisbane on the 13-15th of November. It is a well rounded conference with many informative sessions and I would recommend attendance.

Michael Moloney,  
PeterMacCallumCancer Centre,  
Melbourne, Australia

We are very pleased to announce that the **2012 ISMP International Medication Safety Self Assessment® for Oncology** is now available.

The assessment can be accessed by going to <https://mssa.ismp-canada.org/oncology>.

Please forward this announcement to your colleagues and professional organizations, as well as hospitals, ambulatory clinics, and doctor's offices that administer chemotherapy in your country or region of the world, to create awareness of this important new medication safety tool for oncology practitioners.

Data can be submitted until **June 29, 2012**.

**See following pages.**

### ISOPP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 10, 2012

1. President's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Committee Reports:
  - a. Membership and Finance
  - b. Education
  - c. Publications
  - d. Research
  - e. Standards
4. Change of Address of ISOPP Constitution
5. Discussion
6. Membership vote on Motion to Move ISOPP Constitution
7. New Business

To make a submission to the Newsletter, contact editor Jill Davis via email [jillian.davis@austin.org.au](mailto:jillian.davis@austin.org.au)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 3, 2012**

**CONTACT: Renee Brehio, Media Relations, ISMP**  
**704-831-8822, [rbrehio@ismp.org](mailto:rbrehio@ismp.org)**

## **Now Available: ISMP International Medication Safety Self Assessment<sup>®</sup> for Oncology**

**Horsham, Pa**– Oncology practitioners all over the world can now access a tool that will assist in making drug treatment for cancer even safer for their patients. The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), along with ISMP Canada and the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP), has launched the 2012 ISMP International Medication Safety Self Assessment<sup>®</sup> for Oncology. The new assessment will identify an international baseline for safe medication practices related to oncology as well as potential opportunities for improvement.

Hospitals, ambulatory cancer centers, and private physician office practices where chemotherapy is administered are being asked to convene multidisciplinary teams to complete the assessment tool. To ensure anonymity, data reporting will be through a secure web-based form that is available on the websites of all three partner organizations ([www.ismp.org](http://www.ismp.org), [www.ismp-canada.org](http://www.ismp-canada.org), and [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org))

***Data for the self assessment can be submitted online through June 29, 2012.*** At the completion of the project, respondents will be able to compare their completely confidential results with aggregate data from other demographically similar organizations and use that information in their own safety and quality improvement efforts.

A multidisciplinary team of international experts evaluated published world standards to develop the oncology self assessment, which covers ten key areas:

- Patient information
- Drug information
- Communication of drug orders and other drug information
- Drug labeling, packaging, and nomenclature
- Drug standardization, storage, and distribution
- Medication device acquisition, use and monitoring
- Environmental factors, workflow, and staffing patterns
- Staff competency and education
- Patient education
- Quality processes and risk management

-more-

“For the first time, oncology practitioners have a specific oncology medication safety self assessment resource that can help them evaluate how they are responding to the multitude of medication safety best practices and standards that exist,” says Carole R Chambers, Past President, ISOPP. “We hope that healthcare organizations providing cancer treatment will join this important effort and bring a greater focus on what we can be doing to protect patients from medication errors.”

The international oncology self assessment has been made possible through a grant from ISOPP, as well as from The Clinical Excellence Commission and the Cancer Institute of New South Wales. Private sector support was received from Baxter Corporation, ICU Medical Inc., Pfizer Oncology, and Roche.

For more information about the assessment, contact [oncselfassessment@ismp.org](mailto:oncselfassessment@ismp.org).

### **The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP)**

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is an independent, nonprofit charitable organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, consumers, and professional organizations to provide education about medication errors and their prevention. ISMP represents more than 35 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process. ISMP is a federally certified patient safety organization (PSO). For more information on ISMP, or its medication safety alert newsletters and other tools for healthcare professionals and consumers, visit [www.ismp.org](http://www.ismp.org).

### **ISMP Canada**

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada is an independent national not-for-profit organization committed to the advancement of medication safety in all healthcare settings. ISMP Canada works collaboratively with the healthcare community, regulatory agencies and policy makers, provincial, national and international patient safety organizations, the pharmaceutical industry and the public to promote safe medication practices. ISMP Canada's mandate includes analyzing medication incidents, making recommendations for the prevention of harmful medication incidents, and facilitating quality improvement initiatives. Information about ISMP Canada's work with Canadians to prevent medication incidents is available at: [www.ismp-canada.org](http://www.ismp-canada.org); and also [www.SafeMedicationUse.ca](http://www.SafeMedicationUse.ca), a website designed for consumers.

### **International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners**

The International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) was founded in 1988 and incorporated in 1996 as a not-for-profit society. ISOPP promotes and enhances oncology pharmacy practice worldwide in order to improve cancer patient care with over 40 countries represented in its membership. The *Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice* (JOPP) is the official publication of ISOPP. Research, standards, education and publication are key activities that support ISOPP's purpose. For more information on ISOPP, visit [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org).