

# News LETTER



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## Message from the President

I was fortunate to attend the ISOPP Australasian Regional Meeting this past summer. Besides the excellent program content and networking done among the attendees, I was delighted to see the support for ISOPP voiced during the meeting. There is more information about this meeting in this Newsletter. I think this meeting serves as a model for other regions to follow. So, I would encourage you to think about having ISOPP meetings in your region, especially during the years between ISOPP Symposia.

The Secretariat has approved several new programs since the last newsletter was published. These include an ISOPP Travel Grants Program to help members in need attend ISOPP IX in Turin in April, 2004 and the ISOPP Membership Scholarship Program to assist needy members with paying their membership fees. Please check the ISOPP website ([www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org)) for more information about these programs.

The Secretariat has also approved another part of the Practitioner Recognition program – Fellow of the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (FISOPP) to recognize ISOPP members for their contributions to ISOPP and oncology pharmacy practice. Information about and applications for this new program and the other ISOPP Member Recognition Programs – The ISOPP Achievement Award and The Helen McKinnon Award – are available on the ISOPP website. I would highly encourage you to nominate a fellow ISOPP member for these awards, if you think they deserve recognition for their contributions to ISOPP or the profession.

If you haven't already done so, please visit the new ISOPP website, [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org), and visit it often! I've made it the homepage on all of my computers. I think you will find it easy to navigate and chock-full of useful information to improve your practice and interaction with other ISOPP members. And more information will be regularly added, so it's a webpage that you should visit at least daily.

As many of you have seen, I have started using email to communicate more frequently to ISOPP members. I have also initiated some 'Member Discussions' through the website. I think this is an efficient, cost-effective way to communicate and hope one day soon that most of ISOPP's communications and business is done electronically. If you haven't checked out the 'Discussion' area on the website, I hope you will do this soon. It is an easy way for you to post your opinion or comment about a subject and follow all of the responses.

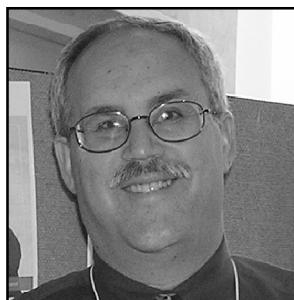
Election time is approaching rapidly! I would encourage each of you to consider running for an ISOPP office, especially if you want to get involved with making ISOPP better. But the job isn't for everyone. You must be willing to dedicate your time and actively participate in Secretariat business. You will be hearing more about the elections in the near future. Meanwhile, I would encourage you to contact the Secretariat members to discuss what they do in their positions, if you are interested in becoming part of the ISOPP Governance.

By now, I am hoping that your calendars are clearly marked with the dates - April 14 to 17, 2004 – the dates of ISOPP IX in Turin, Italy. You will be seeing information about the program, how to register for the meeting, and where to reserve hotel rooms in mailings, in your email, and on the ISOPP website.

Your feedback is always welcome.

Warmly,

Email: [bgoldspiel@nih.gov](mailto:bgoldspiel@nih.gov)  
Phone: USA 301.496.5869  
FAX USA 301.496-0210



**FISOPP is coming!**  
**Impress your colleagues**  
**with this professional**  
**recognition. See future**  
**editions of the Newsletter**  
**or check the website for**  
**upcoming details of how**  
**you can become a Fellow**  
**of ISOPP.**

*Opportunity to win*  
**free registration**  
**at ISOPP IX – Turin,**  
**Italy: APRIL 2004 –**  
**see inside for details**

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### Welcome to New Members June - August 2003

**Australia:** Stephen Doyle, Kerianne Grundie, Maria Guareschi, Glenn Munari, George Shortis  
**Belgium:** Joeri De Cloet  
**New Zealand:** Michelle Grasty  
**Poland:** Wanna Jankowiak-Gracz, Anna Wiela-Hoyenska  
**Sweden:** Per Hartvig  
**USA:** Sulphat Subongkot

# ISOPP Research Grant winner William Rotea tells us about himself and his project

I graduated from the pharmacy program at the University of Sao Paulo in 1996. I was a trainee in a general hospital and some coincidences led me to the world of oncology. At the end of 1996, the Brazilian Federal Council of Pharmacists published a statement on the role of pharmacists in the preparation of cytotoxic drugs. At that time, pharmacists were not commonly involved in compounding such drugs in Brazil. Because of the federal statement, many hospitals began to hire pharmacists to prepare the drugs. I was very lucky, because my hospital was one of the few with a Chemotherapy Unit controlled by the pharmacy. This previous experience took me to Hospital Sao Paulo, the chief hospital of the Federal University of Sao Paulo. I worked there only for one year, but it was a very good time. We didn't only focus on drug preparation, but also in the improvement of our clinical skills and in multidisciplinary work. In the middle of 1998, the University opened the Pediatric Oncology Institute (IOP), and I was invited to coordinate the pharmacy. The IOP is now the most important Pediatric Oncology center in Brazil. It is known for high-quality medical practice, and also for the social impact being made by treating pediatric tumors in a developing country like Brazil. This was the great experience of my professional life.

## Call for help from Publications Committee

The Publications Committee is developing the History pages of ISOPP on the website [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org).

So far we have an outline of the development of ISOPP courtesy of founder Helen McKinnon. We would like to make this a memorable page and include photos from every ISOPP Symposium since its inception. So anyone who has photos from ISOPP II to ISOPP VII please choose one or two key ones, scan them to make a jpeg file, and email them to Jude Lees, [jlees@mail.rah.gov.au](mailto:jlees@mail.rah.gov.au), along with exact names of who is in the photo, when it was taken, and any other historical details you wish to add.

Jude Lees, Chair.

In 2001, I was among the group that founded SOBRAFO, the Brazilian Society of Oncology Pharmacists. Our goals are technical and scientific improvement of pharmacy practice in oncology. We support practitioners with information such as standards of practice, symposia and other educational activities.

In the beginning of 2002, I went to Albert Einstein Hospital, the only JCAHO-accredited hospital in our country. Dr. Saad, one of Albert Einstein's oncologists and my co-investigator in the ISOPP award project, invited me to join him in a unique venture. Our company integrates scientific information and communication tools to improve dissemination of medical knowledge in Brazil. One of our products is a course that provides continuing education for health professionals working in oncology. I also teach Oncology Pharmacy at the Oswaldo Cruz School of Pharmacy. Our project, "The Appropriateness of Utilization of Antiemetics in a Medical Oncology Department in Sao Paulo", is a study designed at Albert Einstein Hospital. Despite the availability of many published guidelines, antiemetic choice is still a question of physician's personal preference.

Our primary objective is to evaluate patterns of antiemetic usage and relationship with the emetogenic potential of chemotherapeutic drugs. This information will be useful for the development, implementation, and evaluation of specific local guidelines for the prescription of antiemetic regimens, and will also enable us to evaluate the costs associated with antiemetic therapy.

*William Rotea*

(Ed. William received US \$2000 towards his research in the inaugural ISOPP Research Awards)

## Editorial

I have been having such fun surfing our new website at [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org). Each day it seems that the information on the site expands and the benefits available to ISOPP members increase. I have already downloaded the BSA calculator and it is sitting on my computer as I write. What a useful tool – thanks to member Sarah Jennings (and her husband). Two new ISOPP initiatives, the Membership Scholarship program and the Travel Grants program aim to ease the financial burden for economically challenged members. If you fit this category, please apply for these benefits.

Whether we can afford the registration cost of attending ISOPP symposia or not, we all love a bargain. So watch out for the upcoming website competition to win free registration to ISOPP IX. This means more money for shopping or travelling in Italy!

I am also pleased that ISOPP is introducing a Fellowship Award. This will not be an easy award to achieve – the application process itself is quite onerous – but it will recognize members with a commitment to both ISOPP and oncology pharmacy and will be a way to advertise your expertise. Details on the Fellowship Award and how to apply for it will be on the website soon.

In this edition we have some Members News. Don't forget that you can share your news with us all e.g. non-ISOPP awards/honors/promotions that you have received, interesting visits you have made to other countries or interesting people who have visited you. Just email me at [jillian.davis@austin.org.au](mailto:jillian.davis@austin.org.au) or contact me via the website.

Cheers Jill



## \*\*\* Win Free Registration to ISOPP IX \*\*\*

Check the ISOPP website at [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org) during the month of October to see how you can win **free registration** to next year's ISOPP symposium, ISOPP IX in Italy. Thanks to generous industry support we will be running a competition which will give ISOPP full members the chance to win free registration. There will be 20 questions on a range of topics to do with oncology pharmacy and ISOPP – see how many you can get right. In the event that more than 3 correct entries are received, all correct entries will go into a draw and 3 winners will be selected at random. Remember this is open to ISOPP full members only.

## Meeting reports:

# ISOPP AUSTRALASIAN REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2003

The 3<sup>rd</sup> ISOPP Australasian Regional Symposium was held at Broadbeach, just south of the Gold Coast in sunny Queensland (Australia) from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2003. After gathering our symposium satchels and investigating the contents, while simultaneously eyeing off the industry displays for spare pens, pads and coffee mugs (and information) as any good pharmacist should, we settled in for what proved to be an extremely varied and interesting afternoon session.

The opening presentation was by the President of ISOPP, Barry Goldspiel, who gave us an Update on Genomics and Pharmacogenomics. For those of us who sometimes get caught up in the details of our own work this session provided an amazing overview of genetic advances and oncology. Barry outlined how genomics will alter the current system of drug discovery and drug selection as we head towards individualised treatment. A key point from Barry's presentation was how genomics will help identify an individual's polymorphisms, particularly those involved in the metabolism of many of the drugs we use today, and hence enable adjustments in therapy to suit the individual. Gail Glogoski followed with a presentation on New Targets for Cancer Therapy, including epidermal growth factors receptors (EGFR) and tyrosine kinases. Gail also discussed the novel agents in development and clinical trials, including proteasome inhibitors, farnesyl transferase inhibitors, matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors and vascular endothelial growth factor inhibitors (VEGF). Mary-Louise Grohn spoke on Avascular Necrosis (AVN), a treatment complication in children with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL). She discussed the causes, the link between AVN and glucocorticoid use and the treatment options. Tony Hall then covered drug-induced, disease-related and treatment-related coagulation problems in cancer with reference to the coagulation cascade. The final session for the afternoon was an Update from Malaysia, presented by Harbans Dhillon. This presentation highlighted for all in attendance the benefits of ISOPP membership irrespective of borders or distance. Harbans shared her experiences in setting up the first appropriately constructed, designed, and outfitted cytotoxic preparation area in Malaysia. After many trials and tribulations, the end result is an impressive work area of amazing proportions. The sheer size of the area had most (if not all) Australian pharmacists' mouths wide open and all very envious. The day concluded with some social drinks where newcomers and seasoned campaigners alike, could mingle and chat, another of the undeniable benefits of being a member of ISOPP and attending ISOPP symposia.

The Saturday morning session Disease Update I - New Treatment Directions in Ovarian Cancer was presented by Dr Keith Horwood a local Oncologist. The second speaker Peter Gilbar, gave an in-depth review on Palmer-Plantar Erythrodysesthesia in Ovarian Cancer. This session ended with viewing of contributed posters with authors present.

The mid-morning session was on Meeting Highlights presented by ISOPP members who attended the American Society of Clinical

Oncology Conference 2003 in Chicago. Barry Goldspiel, Michael Dooley and Jude Lees shared the knowledge gained at their attendance of this premier oncology meeting.

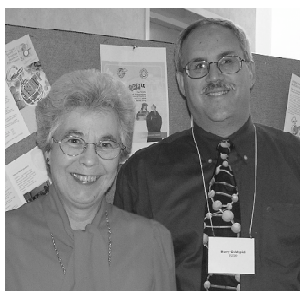
The afternoon presentations were held in two concurrent interactive group streams. The first session was Barry Goldspiel and Gail Glogoski presenting on Oncology Pharmacy Basics for New Practitioners. Barry gave an overview of Pharmacist Specialization in Oncology in US and shared his own experiences (& misadventures!) while Gail explained to would-be Oncology Pharmacists how to make the learning process most effective in Australia. The concurrent session was on 'Stress, Burnout & How to Cope' presented by Pamela McNeil, an Oncology Social Worker. In the second session Robert McLauchlan and Allison Cavill gave details of the Certification Examination for Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties, USA which they both passed in 2002. In the concurrent session Jill Davis gave an exciting glimpse of future drugs in Oncology practice currently under clinical trial. Jill gave examples of how identification of tumour antigens capable of inducing immune responses is the basis for discovery of a cancer vaccine. The final two interactive sessions of the day were Michael Dooley and Krissy Carrington giving their experiences on "Pharmacists' Experiences with New Targeted Therapies - Toxicity and Management Case Studies" and "Medication Errors- How to Deal with the Consequences" with Terry Maunsell and Vicki Wilmott wherein the audience shared their experiences with various medication errors and learned from each other how to avoid them in future. Terry and Vicki gave detailed account sources of medication errors in chemotherapy prescribing and distributed articles from journals on this very important issue. The Sunday morning session entitled "Disease Update II" comprised three presentations. Kerriane Grundy set the scene with her presentation on pemetrexed (currently available in Australia under Special Access Scheme) leading smoothly into Associate Professor Paul Mainwaring speaking on Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma. He followed this by a presentation on Taxanes in Breast Cancer. In the session "Drug Focus II" Krissy Carrington presented the use of calcium & magnesium infusions for management of chemotherapy induced neurotoxicity while Tony Hall discussed usefulness of Nabilone and other cannabinoids in palliative care. Vicki Wilmott spoke on the confusing issue for practitioners of

modern medicine, Complementary Medicines. Potential interactions and toxicity associated with complementary medicines were well highlighted. Alison Cavill gave a detailed review of monoclonal antibodies currently under development. The last session of the symposium was presented by Barry Goldspiel wherein he apprised delegates on "What's new with ISOPP?". Jude Lees, Chair of the Publications Committee demonstrated the new website by holding an amusing live chat with developer Jeff Barnett in Canada. Barry emphasized that the future in speedy communications was in using email and said

that he would be using this form of communication more and more. He urged members with spam-blockers on their computer emails to allow emails through from addresses such as [president@isopp.org](mailto:president@isopp.org). The Symposium ended by a vote of thanks from Helen McKinnon to members of Organizing Committee and a wish to "see you all" in Turin Italy for ISOPP IX..

*Ben Stevenson and Yogi Mishra*

(Ed- Barry's presentation on genomics has been posted on the ISOPP website.)



*Barry Goldspiel and  
Helen McKinnon*



*Organising Committee: Jude Lees, Jill Davis,  
Peter Gilbar and Terry Maunsell*

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

Date	Meeting	Location	Contact for further details
Oct 10-12 2003	BOPA Symposium	Cardiff Wales, UK	Douglas@succinctcomms.com
Oct. 25-26, 2003	NOPS 2003	Toronto, Canada	Kim Stefaniuk Kimberley.Stefaniuk@tsrcc.on.ca
Jan 23-25 2004	12 <sup>th</sup> NZW meeting	Hamburg, Germany	www.nzw.de
Apr 14-17 2004	ISOPP IX	Turin, Italy	Franca Goffredo (goffranc@tiscalinet.it)

## Members News

*From Tom Connor (Co-Chair Standards Committee)*

Dr. Schierl, who is in charge of a research group in the Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Munich, Germany, recently visited the USA. His group have recently published three articles on occupational exposure to antineoplastic drugs. They measured wipe samples, drugs in the urine of handlers and examined safe-handling practices.

While in the USA, Dr. Schierl presented a seminar of his work in Germany and met with our research team to discuss strategies we can use in our occupational study. NIOSH is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which is part of the CDC (Centre for Disease Control in the USA). We are currently involved in several areas related to hazardous drug exposure in healthcare workers. These include: A permeation study of chemotherapy gloves; a study of engineering controls used for the preparation of hazardous drugs; a study of drug vial contamination; a working group made up of healthcare, government and industry to examine the issues related to the safe handling of hazardous drugs; the publication of a NIOSH Alert on hazardous drugs; and a multi-site study of the exposure of healthcare workers to antineoplastic drugs. It was most interesting to meet with Dr Schierl and have the opportunity to exchange information.



*Tom Connor and Dr Schierl*

## Publications Committee Report

In the short time that the new ISOPP website at [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org) has been on-line, amazing changes have taken place. Many members have visited the site, but many are still to see what it offers. I invite everyone to visit. Once on the site and through to the homepage (all you need do is click in the ISOPP box) please Log In. Members have access to much more than the public. If you have trouble, click on Login Help. You will quickly receive your assigned password – and can then CHANGE that to a password of your own choice that is easy to remember. Once logged on as a member, you have access to the ISOPP Members List, Grants and Awards information, a Member Chat Room (see who else is online and talk to them). You can also Update your own Personal Data, within limited fields. You can see what Discussion groups are in progress – participate in a discussion, answer questions other members have posed, or ask a new question. Recent topics discussed include Downloads for Palm handheld PCs, Herceptin (trastuzumab) observation times, use of magnesium and calcium for oxaliplatin neurotoxicity, intraventricular chemotherapy dosing, and also ISOPP elections issues.

The new Education Centre is under development – the first lecture posted is Barry Goldspiel's Powerpoint lecture presented at the recent 3<sup>rd</sup> Australasian Regional Symposium, Genomics: Overview and Applications in Oncology. We hope to develop this site into a useful educational area for all our members, but need help with ideas, offers of resources to add to it etc. These can come from any of you, not just the Publications Committee.

Another area features LINKS to other websites. We have a number of links to other society websites, and have developed a TOPIC OF THE MONTH section. The topic for August was Herbal links – and for September, Body Surface Area Calculations links. We will be archiving old Topics of the Month, but for those of you who have missed August's topics, there is a list in this Newsletter. We hope you find them useful.

We will be formally surveying all ISOPP members for feedback on the new website later this year – in the meantime – please visit the site, see what is there and help us with comments, suggestions and most of all participation. Thanks to all members of the Publications Committee and Web Manager Jeff Barnett, and Web Editor Frank Hilliard.

Jude Lees, Chair.

### Herbal Links from the ISOPP Website Topic of the Month, August 2003.

#### Herbal Sites

- **AHNO** [www.altmedicine.com](http://www.altmedicine.com)
- **Sloan-Kettering** [www.mskcc.org/mskcc/html/11570.cfm](http://www.mskcc.org/mskcc/html/11570.cfm)
- **Mayo Clinic** [www.mayoclinic.com/findinformation/condition\\_centers/centers.cfm?objectid=11CDE163-B9AF-4654-AFE48C762662EA4D](http://www.mayoclinic.com/findinformation/condition_centers/centers.cfm?objectid=11CDE163-B9AF-4654-AFE48C762662EA4D)
- **Natural Database** [www.naturaldatabase.com](http://www.naturaldatabase.com)
- **BCCA** [www.bccancer.bc.ca/PPI/UnconventionalTherapies/default.htm](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/PPI/UnconventionalTherapies/default.htm)
- **BMJ** [http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/complementary\\_medicine](http://bmj.com/cgi/collection/complementary_medicine)
- **Consumer Lab** [www.consumerlab.com](http://www.consumerlab.com)
- **IMGateway** [www.imgateway.net/wheel.htm](http://www.imgateway.net/wheel.htm)