

News LETTER



Newsletter - Vol 7, No 3, September 2005 • International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners

Register for ISOPP X today!

For the first time in its history, the ISOPP Symposium will be held in the Far East when it visits the beautiful and modern city of Kuala Lumpur (KL) in Malaysia. This exotic location which combines Eastern culture and tradition with the very finest of western comforts, will host the 10th anniversary symposium on April 3-6th, 2006.

For those pharmacists, technicians and related healthcare professionals and scientists working in the oncology and haematology areas, this is the meeting to attend. Delegates will have the opportunity to hear international speakers of world class, participate in workshops and discussions, and to interact with colleagues from the 4 corners of the world.

A taste of the programme on offer is outlined on our website, www.isopp.org. ISOPP and local teams are working hard to produce an exciting, informative and memorable Symposium. I will take this opportunity to introduce those leading these teams:

Symposium Chair: Assoc. Prof. Saad Othman (Malaysia)
ISOPP Education Committee Chair: Helen Leather (USA)

On behalf of ISOPP and the ISOPP Secretariat, I look forward to welcoming you all to what promises to be an excellent Symposium.

See you in KL!

Professor Graham Sewell
ISOPP President

ISOPP X - 2006
International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners

The Tenth International Symposium On Oncology Pharmacy Practice

April 3 - 6, 2006

Hilton Kuala Lumpur
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

www.isopp.org www.mps.org.my/ISOPP_X

Jointly organised by

Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society, UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA, Ministry of Health Malaysia

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Editorial

This issue's guest editorial comes to you from British Columbia, Canada. Never a stranger to forest fires, BC is currently fighting a peat fire. About 300 hectares (450 acres) of Burns Bog is burning. There was plenty of smoke in the air yesterday, but no homes were in danger and our world-class fire crews quickly controlled the situation. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, it would hardly be worth mentioning, but it did get me thinking. The smoke outside has almost cleared, but the hallways and stairwells of my building still smell. Why? The stagnant air has nowhere to go. So as I write, I have a towel stuffed under my front door and all of my windows open, and my own apartment is airing out.



Meanwhile, I'm assembling articles about pharmacists forming international teams to develop safe handling standards and leading interdisciplinary teams to create new formulary software. I've read a report from an Australian pharmacist attending a conference in the US and I've learned that a Canadian conference traditionally held "back east" will be coming to the West Coast this year. It seems many pharmacists know that we learn more when we open ourselves up to new experiences.

Certainly, ISOPP members need not lack for new experiences. You can use the ISOPP website to chat with a colleague across the globe, apply for an ISOPP mini-sabbatical, or register for ISOPP X in Kuala Lumpur. Whatever you choose, remember the lesson I've learned today and, once in awhile, block off your internal corridors and open the window for some fresh air.

*Sarah Jennings,
ISOPP Publications Committee
Member, Canada*

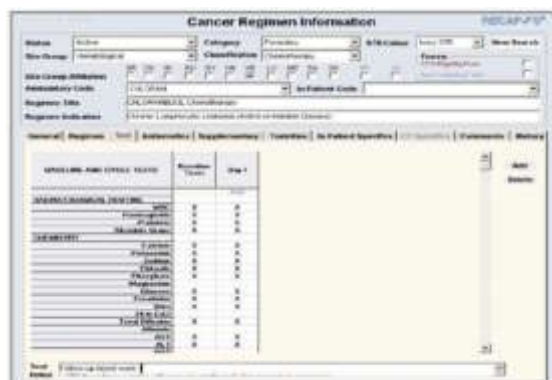
Enhancing the Quality of Patient Care with RECAP-FS®

Previous articles from Canadian pharmacists have discussed some of the challenges associated with providing universal health care to a geographically large area. The Juravinski Cancer Centre, as the core centre for a sizeable portion of Ontario, faces these same challenges. Its pharmacists must play a strong leadership role in ensuring standardized care for patients. Their new Regional Cancer Program Formulary Software (RECAP-FS®) reflects this vision.

Spearheaded by pharmacists Sandra Kagoma and Sharon Meeke, the creation of RECAP-FS® involved nine other pharmacists, as well as nurses, physicians, librarians and administrators. The software contains all of the systemic therapy regimens approved for use in the region and is continuously updated by pharmacy staff. RECAP-FS® not only allows individuals at the Centre rapid electronic access to the formulary, but more importantly, it allows community partners access to this information as well. This is an important step in ensuring that the same high quality of treatment will be delivered to patients requiring systemic therapy across the region.

In storing and making regimen information easily accessible, RECAP-FS® facilitates evidence-based treatment, efficient resource utilization, and timely dissemination of new information. It's proving indispensable to many different groups:

- Medical residents and new staff use formulary information to become acquainted with regional treatments and practices.
- Pharmacy Technicians have access to mixing details.
- Nursing staff use the dosage and drug administration details.
- Booking clerks have an up-to-



date resource for obtaining patient visit and nursing times.

Pharmacists thinking about computerizing their own formularies should know that this project was completed in just 15 months:

- 7 months to update the database with current regimen information
- 2 months to export information needed for test data collection survey and to supplement the database with inpatient regimens
- 6 months for disease site teams to systematically review current treatment regimens and make suggestions for updates, deletions, or additions

Beta testing took a further six months and involved 40 users from various disciplines and locations. While ensuring the functionality of the software was important, the beta testing also provided an opportunity to engage staff at all levels in the creative process of software development. Staff became involved by sharing their observations and insights and, in so doing, directly contributed to the success of this initiative.

*Submitted by:
Sandra Kagoma, ISOPP member*



Update from the Membership and Finance Committee

The Membership and Finance Committee has representation from Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand, Poland and India.

Over the last twelve months, the main activity has been review of the Grants and Awards offered by the Society. The application form for the ISOPP Fellowship Program has been revised to make it more "user friendly." Details are available on the ISOPP website and applications close on December 31st.

Also available are ISOPP Travel Grants, which offer a number of ISOPP members from developing countries or with financial hardship, the opportunity to attend the ISOPP X Symposium in Kuala Lumpur. Announcements regarding other awards will be made shortly so watch the website!

ISOPP membership at present is 328 Full Members and eight Associate Members. These members are from 38 countries. Although we had 42 new members in 2005, the membership numbers for 2005 are less than for 2004. This is not entirely unexpected as membership numbers always increase in the year of a symposium and fall the

Update on the ISOPP Safe Handling of Cytotoxics Standard

The chairs and the committee members of the Standards Committee are making excellent progress on the writing of the Safe Handling Standard. As of September 1, 2005, 19 sections have been completed and work is ongoing on the remaining ten sections. The review process is just about to begin, whereby discussion will take place within the committee and a consensus will be reached on a final version of each chapter of the standard. Once this has been achieved, the work will be passed on to a professional writer for completion of the final

Canadian National Oncology Symposium to be held in Vancouver

The National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium (NOPS) for 2005 will be held October 28-30 at the Sheraton Wall Centre in downtown Vancouver. The theme for 2005 is "From the Patient's Perspective." This symposium is presented by the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology (CAPHO).

CAPHO is the Canadian national forum for oncology pharmacy practitioners and other health care professionals interested in oncology pharmacy. If you are interested in learning, discussing, sharing, and networking in this specialized and important field, this is the symposium to attend. It will cover topics in the areas of symptom management, new drug updates, pharmacy based research, board certification and academic training, and so much more. For more information please access our website: www.capho.ca.

*Submitted by: Victoria Kyritsis, NOPS Organizing Committee Co-Chair and *NEW* ISOPP member*



following year (there were 199 new members in 2004) however we still need to promote the Society. Membership brochures are being distributed at oncology and haematology meetings to promote awareness of ISOPP and the benefits of membership. If you know of a relevant meeting at which we could distribute these brochures, please contact me:

terry.maunsell@email.cs.nsw.gov.au

Submitted by: Terry Maunsell, ISOPP Membership and Finance Committee Chair

Welcome, New Members!

As of August 31, we've welcomed 42 new members from 14 countries.

Australia: Sonia Cuan, Deidre D'Souza, Jiin Nyuk Fung, Amanda Ho, Sue Kirsas, Dorothy Lam, Maria Larizza, Sonia MacKenzie, Birim Ozgur, Aynsley Peterson, Sandy Scholes, Angela Stefanou, Jane Stidworthy, Janet Weir, Julie Wilkes
Austria: Martin Czejka, Ute Heubrandtner

Belgium: Nathalie Beck, Isabelle Glorieux, Caroline Verbeken

Canada: Victoria Kyritsis, Rohini Naipaul

Denmark: Vagn Handlos

Germany: Christoph Erdmann, Andreas Iffland, Petra Koebbert, Karl-Georg Spanke, Dorothee Wandel

Italy: Giorgio Temporin

Netherlands: Catherine Massé

New Zealand: Anita Frew

Saudi Arabia: Nagwa Ibrahim

Switzerland: Sonja Ess

Thailand: Penjamaporn Apiromraksa Chuntana Boonrod, Orawan Keatchareon, Nongyao Mattanapun, Kasem Phankam-ai

United Kingdom: Matthew Small

USA: Kristin Hennenfent, Robert Morris, Laura Wiggins



*Tom Connor,
United States*

*Johan
Vandenbroucke,
Belgium*

*Robbie
Mclauchlan,
Australia*

document.

It is anticipated that the ISOPP Safe Handling Standard will be launched at ISOPP X in Kuala Lumpur in April 2006. Book your tickets today! See you in KL!

Submitted by:

Johan Vandenbroucke, Belgium

Robbie Mclauchlan, Australia

Tom Connor, United States

ISOPP Standards Committee Co-Chairs

An ASCO Adventure

This year's meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) was held May 13th to 17th in Orlando, Florida. The meeting lasted for 5 days, starting on the Friday lunchtime and finishing on the Tuesday lunchtime, and was attended by 29,000 delegates. The scale of the meeting meant careful planning was required and, armed with my pre-organised itinerary, I arrived at the venue on the Friday to map out my journey between sessions (as advised by my colleagues). PDA stations that 'beamed' the programme onto my own device allowed me to review and replan my itinerary.

The programme consisted of educational and scientific sessions and meet the professor sessions, along with the oral abstract and poster presentations and the three plenary sessions. Of particular value were the discussions and editorials that followed many of the oral presentations. I was impressed that most sessions ran to time, ensuring that you could (if you ran fast) attend sequential sessions without missing too much of the beginning or end. I attended as many sessions as I could fit into the day and felt quite virtuous arriving at 7:30 a.m. most days for the sessions. With so much to attend, I concentrated on areas of personal interest, namely patient care, melanoma, myeloma, sarcoma, colorectal cancer and some of the extremely useful educational sessions on drug delivery, novel targeted agents, leukaemias and paediatric oncology. In

addition, I managed some poster viewing and poster 'grabbing': a phenomenon that seems to occur when the poster sessions are opened and normally sane people run around the room grabbing the A4 copies that are produced by the authors in limited quantities whether or not they intend to read them. The 'Highlights of the Day' sessions on the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday were invaluable in summarising some of the previous day's abstracts given the number of concurrent sessions. I arrived at the first plenary session on molecular targeted therapy in pancreatic, colorectal and lung cancer to find the room full but a showing was available in the next room of slides only. Given that the size of many of the rooms meant you couldn't see the speaker unless you were at the front, this didn't bother me and the same arrangement applied when the now

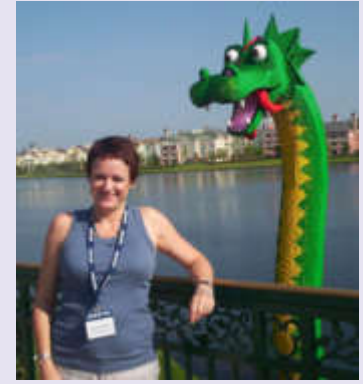
infamous data on trastuzumab and breast cancer was revealed the following day.

The other aspect of ASCO which deserves mention is the exhibit hall. Watching so many highly paid oncologists queue for an engraved pen or a beach bag from a pharmaceutical company was an activity recommended to me and one which I thoroughly enjoyed. I too got swept away in the madness and managed to come away with many useful (!) items, along with some valuable drug information on products not available in Australia. Many pharmaceutical companies invite delegates out to dinner, which is a great way of networking and meeting other delegates. Additionally, I managed to fit in some outlet shopping, determined to make the most of the generous baggage allowance when travelling from the USA.

ASCO was a most enjoyable and educational meeting and had a real international feel to it. I would encourage oncology pharmacists to attend ASCO. It is invaluable in providing up to date information in the area of oncology and in generating ideas to bring back to your own area of practice.

*Submitted by:
Christine Carrington,
ISOPP Publications Committee Member*

Christine's attendance at ASCO was made possible by a grant from Mayne Pharma and assistance from Roche and Sanofi Aventis.



Christine discovering the local wildlife in Orlando, Florida

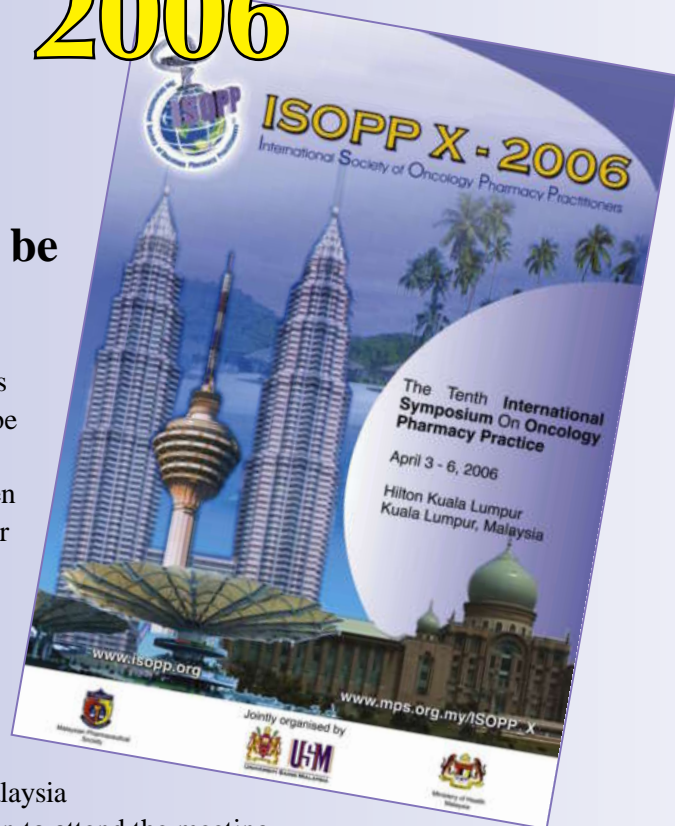


Christine making new friends at ASCO 2005

ISOPP X – Kuala Lumpur, April 3 – 6th, 2006

It is that time again....time for the biennial ISOPP meeting, this time to be held in the Asian region.

ISOPP X promises to live up to the expectations of all previous ISOPP meetings with a complete scientific program, and will be enhanced by this exotic location that combines Eastern culture and tradition with the very finest of western comforts. I have been asked many times, “Why Malaysia? It is so far away!” To answer this, we need to go back to our origins and what ISOPP truly represents. ISOPP – the acronym – stands for the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners. As such we truly need to embrace the word “international” and view the meeting as an opportunity to bring some of the principles of oncology clinical pharmacy to other regions that are perhaps not as developed as many Western regions. Bringing the meeting to Malaysia also permits oncology practitioners from the surrounding region to attend the meeting, as travel to Europe, Australia or America is often cost prohibitive. Furthermore we can all learn from different traditions and lifestyles to enhance our own personal and professional development. So, after much consideration, Malaysia was chosen as a destination. Kuala Lumpur is a thriving metropolis that offers all the comforts of home, yet will expand our horizons with different traditions, smells, tastes, and development. It is with much enthusiasm that I look forward to this meeting – and your participation.



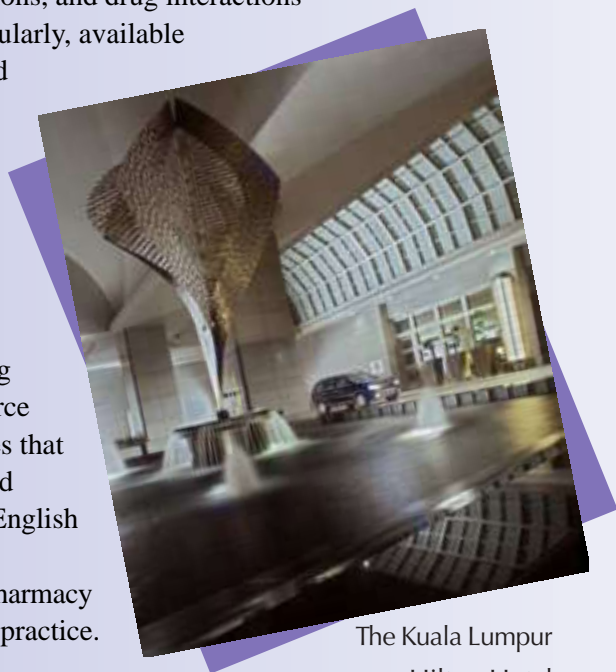
So where are we with the planning of this meeting? The scientific committee was convened and set about delivering a program that would appeal to all members; therefore, it had to embrace the scientific, clinical, and fundamental aspects of pharmacy. We hope that we have delivered such a program. What treats lie in store for you if you register for this meeting?

From the scientific perspective, we've planned presentations examining new molecular targets – the targets of many new molecules currently in clinical development. As practitioners, we are continually challenged with new technology in cancer care. Several presentations will focus on these technologies and present them in a manner we all will understand. Genomics, proteomics, drug resistance, pharmacogenomics and biomarkers are many terms that frequently appear in peer-reviewed publications. An understanding of how these will affect us as pharmacists is important to our future survival.

On the clinical front, we have several exciting and topical presentations planned. Issues that are important to pharmacists often involve supportive care. The program is full of disease state updates and advances in supportive

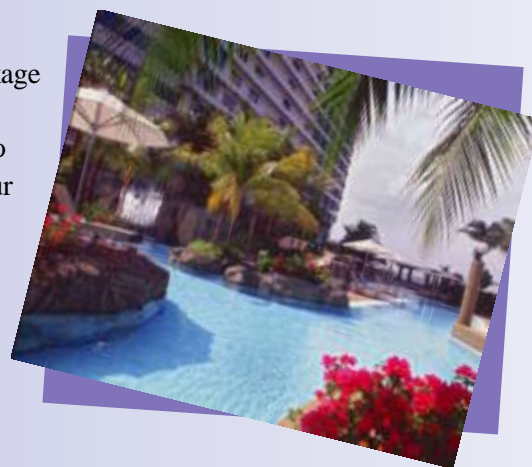
care, including nausea and vomiting, neutropenia, fatigue, palliative care, bisphosphonate therapy, management of menopausal symptoms, bacterial and fungal infections, and drug interactions that matter. For specific details, please visit the ISOPP website regularly, available at www.isopp.org. The program will be posted and regularly updated as we confirm speaker participation.

Last, but not least, is the fundamentals stream. Cytotoxic handling (assessing the real risks), a NIOSH alert update, compatibility issues in oncology, USP797 and how it affects you, and personal protective equipment needed for the safe handling of cytotoxic drugs are topics amongst a variety of others. The ISOPP standards committee will also present the results of a long journey and hard work – the ISOPP Standards of Practice. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labor. We also plan to address the ethics of resource allocation and how we can pay for all of the technological advances that are introduced into clinical practice. This is a controversial area and certainly one that is very topical, particularly in the European and English press this week. Finally we plan to have some sessions to enhance development of practitioners who are new to the field of oncology pharmacy or who perhaps are stretching their own boundaries and expanding practice.



The Kuala Lumpur
Hilton Hotel

I wholeheartedly encourage you to attend the ISOPP X meeting. Many have expressed concern at the cost of traveling so far. I suggest that you look at a variety of airline websites, but from personal experience and living in America, I can tell you that with a little research, there are some excellent deals to be found that are no more expensive than traveling to Europe from America. Of course I realize I am talking about the USA, but visit the websites of Malaysian airlines (<http://www.malaysiaairlines.com.my/>), Singapore airlines (<http://www.singaporeair.com/saa/>), Cathay Pacific airlines (<http://www.cathaypacific.com/>), as these may have some special package deals for travel to the region (make sure you select your originating location). These airlines service the Malaysia region, so are likely to have special offers on a regular basis. Accommodation in Kuala Lumpur is very reasonable and we have chosen a newly refurbished state of the art hotel, the Kuala Lumpur Hilton Hotel, with a direct rail link to the airport. While in the region, consider a side-trip at the conclusion of the meeting to exotic locations such as Langkawi, Pangkor Laut, Penang, or to other countries a short flight away, such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Bali, and Thailand.



So I encourage you to visit the website regularly, and I hope to see you in Malaysia for another outstanding ISOPP meeting. This is a great occasion to meet up with old friends and make new friends. So stop procrastinating and go ahead and register online for the meeting at

https://secure.serve.com/cornerstone/new_mps/ISOPP_X_registration_form_https.cfm.
See you there!



Submitted by:
Helen Leather
Chair, ISOPP X Scientific Committee
Chair, ISOPP Education Committee