Message from Acting President

I recently attended the HOPA 2007 meeting in June and came away very excited for our 2008 Joint meeting. A separate write up is found in this newsletter with pictures graciously shared by Design Write from that meeting. Please mark your calendars for June 18-22, 2008 and plan to be in attendance at the Anaheim Marriott, California (close to Disneyland). We have been planning now for the joint meeting so I hope you are all holding the date, looking at what you might submit for posters at this meeting, and considering how you might approach your contacts for delegate sponsorship to this meeting. ISOPP have found that delegate sponsorship is very successful by our members as you practice in diverse areas and know your contacts best.

ISOPP has broadened its Sponsorship opportunities as you can note on both our website and now on this newsletter. The publication of our Standards will also be in a sponsored supplement of JOPP. This allows us to bring more to our membership services as we create alternative funding opportunities.

As a reminder I am repeating the rotations in our Secretariat that will be starting in 2008. In order to get a rotation set up, the 2008 elections will be a mixture of two and three year terms.

This means in 2008 if you run for Secretary it will be for a 3 year term. If you run for a general member you may have a two or three year term. In this one election we plan to assign the three year terms to those running for general members who attract the higher vote results. All other positions in the election remain at the 2 year usual terms. This secretariat rotation will assist us as the current method has an entirely new Secretariat join the President, which has

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limitations. I am very excited to see this particular initiative proceed.
As a significant portion of our membership resides in Europe we are sure there are interested members who would be willing to host the 2010 ISOPP conference in Europe. We have posted a call for interest on the website as well as in the last newsletter. I would encourage you to express an interest by September 30, 2007 so we can ensure our next hosts will be in place by January 2008. They can then prepare to attend the 2008 meeting with promotional material for attendees to start planning for 2010.

Sincerely
Carole R Chambers
Acting President

ISOPP XI is less than 10 months away. It won’t be long before the Call for Abstracts comes through. Are you ready?

New Appointments of ISOPP members:

1. Secretariat Member Per Hartvig has changed job position.
Per Hartvig, after 30 years as information and research officer at the hospital pharmacy at Uppsala University Sweden, has changed jobs. He has been appointed Professor in Pharmacokinetics at the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy at the Pharmaceutical Faculty at the Copenhagen University in Denmark.
After having a broad interest in clinical pharmacy in Uppsala encompassing pharmacotherapy, imaging, neuropharmacology, infectious diseases, oncology and PK-PD his work will now be devoted mainly to the concept of the relationship between pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. He will continue his mission in ISOPP and hopefully give further research input to the ISOPP membership.
My mail address is peh@farma.ku.dk
With all the best from Per Hartvig

2. Mr. Jeff Barnett, ISOPP webmaster, has been appointed to the new position of Director, Clinical Informatics, Cancer Care British Columbia Cancer Agency.
Jeff will represent the BC Cancer Agency in E-health initiatives at the provincial level and function as a change leader and educator for the implementation of new clinical information systems. He will have lead role in clinical informatics research activities in the BC Cancer Agency and guide the activities of the Pharmacy Informatics Research Group. He will make full use of his recent qualification of Masters of Science in Health Information.
Congratulations Jeff

To assist in planning your trip to Anaheim, California for the joint ISOPP/HOPA meeting in June 2008, visit the Anaheim and Orange County convention and visitors bureau at:
http://www.anaheimoc.org/visitors.asp

Editorial

ISOPP members have had another very busy three months represented within these pages by reports from ASCO, MASCC and HOPA. The next three months won’t be quiet either with BOPA, NOPS and the Australasian ISOPP meetings to be held. Changes in oncology practice are rapid and oncology pharmacists must keep up with the rapid pace of change. Attendance at national and international meetings is the best way to not only hear new information but to network with colleagues to share problems and hopefully solutions. I hope as many members as possible can attend the joint ISOPP XI/HOPA meeting next June as this promises to be the premier oncology pharmacy meeting for 2008. The call for abstracts is announced in this newsletter.
This newsletter begins two new initiatives. Firstly, this newsletter is sponsored. We welcome our first sponsor and invite our members to visit their website at http://www.nipro.com/ . Secondly, we are commencing a section titled ‘New appointments’ so if you have changed jobs/positions and would like to tell the membership, please send me your information.
If anyone wants to share good news or if you have finally solved a problem and want to tell us please contact me.

Jill Davis

Per Hartvig dressed as a 18th century pharmacist working in the old museum pharmacy built 1777.
HOPA 3rd Annual Conference was held in Denver, Colorado June 14-16, 2007. The Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association is a non-profit professional organization of pharmacy clinicians, educators, and researchers who specialize in hematology/oncology. HOPA was launched in 2004 with the primary objective of helping oncology and hematology pharmacy practitioners and their associates provide the best possible care.

HOPA’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer on society and promote optimal, cost-effective care for those affected by cancer.

This year’s conference provided HOPA’s more than 800 members with the opportunity to network and obtain more than 20 hours of high quality ACPE accredited continuing education, including 6 hours of programming approved for BCOP recertification credit. Topics ranged from treatment and prevention of VTE in cancer patients to updates from the 2007 ASH and ASCO meetings.

A new feature for HOPA 2007 was a hands-on Research Workshop which developed 6 research ideas into grants during the closed work sessions. The 6 ideas were selected from member submissions. HOPA funded one or more of the grants at the completion of the workshops. In addition, there were 3 lectures provided by the Research Committee that were open to all attendees.

With more than 800 members in 47 US states and 8 countries, HOPA is becoming an essential resource for pharmacists, technicians, and clinicians in the field of hematology and oncology.

HOPA and ISOPP are joining forces for the 2008 conference in Anaheim, California. This promises to be even more exciting and informative than 2007! Mark your calendars now for June 18-22, 2008, and watch the HOPA and ISOPP websites for more information.

I guess the biggest "message" for me was that cancer patients need our specialized knowledge more than ever. Pharmacy professionals willing to dedicate themselves to the oncology/hematology specialty are currently somewhat of a "rare breed". We need to make ourselves more visible in all arenas as patient advocates and resources for not only patients, but also for all of the members of the healthcare team.

For all information on this meeting including powerpoint presentations visit http://www.hoparx.org/HOPA2007.aspx

The 3rd annual Hematology Oncology Pharmacy Association 2007 meeting was held in Denver Colorado June 14-16. This particular meeting is not for the faint of heart as they had a full program running from 0630am to 9 pm each day. Organizers reminded me that it was intended for people to choose when they took a break but as we all know pharmacists don’t like to miss a thing so it was more the marathon. I was particularly engaged at this meeting as we will be doing the Joint ISOPP/HOPA meeting in 2008 (June 18-22, 2008) and it promises to be a good partnership and excellent meeting. HOPA to this point has planned their meeting just after ASCO so that the updates from ASCO are presented which was the case throughout the conference this year. This meeting was extremely well run and sessions stayed on time which was much appreciated. HOPA 2007 started each morning and ended each evening with industry symposium. However, HOPA integrated the programming and speakers into their education programming so that the topics which were presented were an extension of the program.

There were six BCOP (Board Certification in Oncology Pharmacy) presentations which individuals requiring the BCOP recertification credits had to attend all 6 sessions. These were excellent review topics presented in depth:

a. Treatment and Prevention of Venous Thromboembolic Disease in Cancer Patients
b. Current Trends in the Management of Early Stage Breast Cancer
At the 3rd Annual Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) Meeting this past June that was held in Denver Colorado, the HOPA Research Committee held its first annual HOPA Research Workshop. The workshop sessions were held on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday during the meeting. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a mentored forum for workshop participants interested in developing research ideas into research proposals/clinical protocols. The workshop sessions were divided into open lecture portions and closed work sessions. Workshop participants included investigator participants and active learners. Twenty-nine meeting registrants participated, as well as 10 mentors/facilitators. There were 6 investigator participants, as well as 23 active learners. During the open lecture portions of the workshop, participants learned about topics such as Objectives, Specific Aims, and Research Methods; Application of Statistics and Data Analysis in Clinical Pharmacy; and Taking your Project Home: Future Directions and IRB Submission. In the closed sessions, investigator participants met one-on-one with a mentor to further develop their projects. Active learners were divided into groups based on the research topic of their interest, including MUEs/pharmacoeconomics/outcomes research, clinical pilot study, and translational/basic research. Active learners participated in group discussions led by facilitators. The Research Workshop was a great success but could not have been possible without the leadership by workshop co-chairs Kelly Markey and Timothy Brenner and the generous help of its mentors and facilitators: Lisa Davis, Chris Fausel, David Frame, Susan Goodin, Paul Hutson, Helen Leather, Laura Michaud, Judith Smith, Timothy Tyler, and Siu-Fun Wong.

At the upcoming HOPA/ISOPP Joint Annual Conference being held June 18th -21st 2008 at the Anaheim Marriott in Anaheim, California, the HOPA Research Committee is planning to have the 2nd Annual Research Workshop and details are being finalized it will be open to ISOPP members to participate if interested.

Look for information in the upcoming conference announcements and materials.

Kelly Markey, Pharm.D., BCOP
Judith Smith, Pharm.D., BCOP
The ASCO Annual Meeting is considered the leader of educational and scientific symposium in oncology specialization. This year, the 43rd ASCO Annual Meeting was held at the Lakefront Convention Center, McCormick Place, situated in one of the most attractive cities in the USA, Chicago, Illinois. The 2007 ASCO annual meeting attracted almost 30,000 attendees from all over the globe. This year ASCO meeting satisfied the promise of its theme “Translation Research into Practice” through the presentation of nearly 500 research abstracts on translational research during the period of the meeting.

ASCO features key presentations in the oncology fields including translational science, targeted therapy, novel cytotoxic agents, radiation therapy, supportive care, and is generally the most significant time of the year for oncology professionals. A summary of highlights presented at ASCO 2007 on Friday June 1, 2007 through Tuesday June 5, 2007 as well as information on related presentations from earlier in the conference were reported in brief as follows.

- **Sorafenib Prolongs Survival of Patients with Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma.** This is the International controlled trial (SHARP) identifies first active systemic treatment in this fatal disease. Sorafenib prolonged overall survival by 44% in a placebo-controlled trial for patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), according to research presented at the Plenary Session held on Monday, June 4 (Abstract LBA1). Toxicity was low, manageable and comparable for the sorafenib and placebo groups. The study results also demonstrated that sorafenib has promise not only for extending survival in the palliative setting but also as an adjuvant therapy to potentially curative treatments for patients with less advanced disease.

- **Perioperative Chemotherapy Not yet the New Standard of Care for Patients with Colorectal Cancer with Resectable Liver Metastases.** In the Plenary Session (held on Monday, June 4), results from the EORTC Intergroup study 40983 indicated that patients with colorectal cancer who receive surgery for liver metastases benefit significantly (p = 0.0434) with six cycles of chemotherapy (FOLFOX4) added before and after surgery (Abstract LBA5). Although the results were encouraging, subgroup analysis weakened the study. The protocol-defined population included 182 patients in each arm, which declined to 171 in each arm for the eligible population, and declined further still - to approximately 151 patients in each arm - after eliminating patients who could not receive hepatic resection because of extrahepatic disease or presence of more than four liver metastases. Although improvements in the rate of progression-free survival were significant in both the eligible and resected populations, it was not significant in the protocol-defined population.

- **Combination Bevacizumab/Interferon Extends Progression-free Survival, Improves Tumor Response in Renal Cell Carcinoma.** The findings of an AVOREN study presented at the Plenary Session represent another important step in the recent advances involving the treatment of metastatic renal cell carcinoma (RCC). This phase III trial showed that at the time of interim analysis of overall survival, 251 of 450 scheduled events had occurred. There was a trend toward improved survival in favor of the combination therapy; the median overall survival was 19.8 months for the interferon-alone arm and had not been reached for the combination-therapy arm (p < 0.0267). The combination of bevacizumab and interferon led to a clinically important and significant improvement in progression-free survival and tumor response (Abstract 3). When compared to sunitinib that has been evaluated in the same setting, bevacizumab plus interferon also demonstrated similar progression-free survivals.

Other highlights not reported in this summary were also presented in this 2007 ASCO meeting including:

- Arsenic Trioxide Shown to Offer Clinical Benefits for Patients with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia
- Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation Offers Benefit in Extensive Disease-Small Cell Lung Cancer

I left Chicago full of joy, not only because I gained a lot of knowledge from this productive meeting but also because of the opportunity to meet with a number of health care professionals who devote themselves to making a cure for cancer more possible. See you soon at the XI ISOPP in California, USA.
The British Oncology Pharmacy Association (BOPA) celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. The location of this year’s symposium is Glasgow. For the latest information on this upcoming BOPA meeting visit: http://www.bopa-web.org/

The Canadian National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium (NOPS) for 2007 will be held October 26 - 28 at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The theme for 2007 is “Oncology Pharmacy in your Community”. 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 additional information regarding the NOPS 2007 conference, please contact Vanessa Scholten at 604-984-6447 or by email at vanessa@seatoskymeetings.com. Please visit www.capho.org for further information including booking forms.

The USA National Institute for occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is in the process of updating their hazardous drug list. You have until 20th September to comment on this public draft. Go to: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/105/default.html

ISOPP / HOPA 2008 Joint Annual Conference
Wednesday-Saturday, June 18-21, 2008
Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, California

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
The ISOPP XI symposium will combine with HOPA's 4th Annual Conference to create the 2008 Joint Conference in Anaheim, California.

ABSTRACT DEADLINES
Monday, JANUARY 14, 2008: Abstracts must describe completed research (ie, abstracts that contain results and conclusions). All accepted January abstracts will be published in an issue of the Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice in addition to the ISOPP/HOPA 2008 Meeting Program Book.

Trainee Abstracts ONLY
Monday, MARCH 10, 2008: Trainee (resident, fellow, student) abstracts may describe ongoing research. Only current trainees may use this deadline, although trainees are encouraged to use the January deadline if their completed research (results & conclusions) is available at that time. All accepted trainee abstracts will be published in the ISOPP/HOPA 2008 Meeting Program Book only.

ONLINE SUBMISSION PROCESS
Abstracts may be submitted starting November 1, 2007. Please go to http://isopp.org to submit your abstract. Questions or problems can be directed to ISOPP Research Committee Chair, Judith Smith at 001-713-500-6408 or HOPA Research Committee Chair, Kelly Markey at 001-813-745-4652.

MEETING REGISTRATION
Registration will be open some time in January. If you wish, you can e-mail info@hoparx.org with “HOPA/ISOPP 2008 Registration” in the subject line and receive an e-mail as soon as online registration becomes available.

Thank You!
ISOPP/HOPA 2008 Research Committee

NEWS
ISOPP plans to move further into the electronic age and is currently exploring different electronic election packages. The hope is that for the 2008 Secretariat elections the entire process will be performed electronically. Keep watching the website for further information www.isopp.org.

The USA National Institute for occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is in the process of updating their hazardous drug list. You have until 20th September to comment on this public draft. Go to: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/105/default.html

For the latest information on the next MASCC meeting visit:

MASCC / 2008 / Houston
June 26-28, 2008

MASCC International Symposium
Supportive Care in Cancer
The Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) is an international, multidisciplinary organization with members representing over sixty countries and five continents. Founded in 1990, MASCC is dedicated to research and education in all aspects of supportive care for patients with cancer, regardless of the stage of their disease. The annual MASCC symposium, which alternates in location between Europe and North America, attracts oncologists, dentists, nurses, palliative care physicians, and amongst others, a small number of pharmacists.

Two such pharmacists attending this year were ISOPP members Jude Lees from Australia (current Secretariat Member and now also Chair of the MASCC Membership Committee) and Tim Tyler from California, USA. Tim and Jude had met at ISOPP VIII in Vancouver, and were delighted to renew their acquaintance while viewing 2 posters submitted by Lyssa Friedman from USA. Her posters described the design, implementation and results of the EDUCATE study (EDUcating Clinicians to Achieve Treatment guideline Effectiveness). This was designed to evaluate if an educational intervention program targeted to health care providers on adherence to anemia and neutropenia treatment guidelines improves guideline adherence in the community-based setting. This type of program could well be applied to many other supportive care guidelines used in other settings.

This year’s posters were from a wide range of presenters from different professional areas and regions of the world. Poster Topics were divided into Quality of Life, Nausea/Emesis, Mucositis/Oral Care/Skin Toxicity, Fatigue/Sleep Disorders, Pain and other Symptom Control (including Bisphosphonates), Psychosocial Issues, Communication, General Supportive Care, (medical and nursing), Growth factors/Infections/Anaemia, Nutrition/Cachexia/Diarrhea, Rehabilitation/Exercise, Quality Assurance, Health Care, Education, End of Life Care and Palliative Care. Posters ranged from clinical studies on patients (including paediatrics) having high dose chemotherapy and BMT, to gene expression profiling of buccal mucosa in AML patients, and from identifying faecal flora changes in patients with diarrhoea following chemotherapy, to laboratory –based animal studies of pro-inflammatory cytokine expression in the gut after exposure to chemotherapy. This research day was so successful that it may well be repeated in the future.

The morning plenary sessions were well planned with a balance of areas of expertise in each topic. The topics were timely and fully represented the needs of a multidisciplinary conference with the only anemic portion being that of pharmacy. This would suggest an opportunity is presenting itself for excellent researchers, practitioners and speakers to join in and add their contribution.

The first plenary was entitled “Bridging Gaps in Supportive and Palliative Care” with speakers Jorn Herrstedt (DK), St. Eychmuller (CH), John Smyth (UK) and M.Fey (CH). The speakers laid a great case for gaps that do usually exist regardless of the country and solutions for rectifying this situation. John Smyth (UK) reviewed the past 20 years of supportive care history which was very stimulating and probably the best received of the morning.

The second plenary was specific to lymphomas (both Hodgkins and Non-Hodgkins) and was a good review of the state of treatments and the use of supportive agents. The speakers were V.Diehl (DE), T.Cerny (CH), J. Crawford (USA), N. von der Weid (CH) along with a special guest. Entitled “Supportive Care - Key Component of Cure”, its speakers focused on the various facets of supportive care, ending with an actual patient survivor Mr D. Steriti of Liechtenstein who after his speech was able to field questions from the audience of practitioners. This was needless to say a very special session.
The third and fourth plenary sessions were held on the final day of the conference. The first “Quality of life after curative and preventive cancer treatment” included H.J. Senn (CH), C. Seynaeve (NDL), Richard Gralla (USA) and S. Gujral (UK). This session highlighted the follow-up after surgical intervention in breast, lung and colon. Then “Survivorship and future developments” addressed unmet needs in the supportive care of the patient with cancer. Speakers were Paul Hesketh (USA), R. Kaiser (DE), S. Fossa (NOR) and Eduardo Bruera (USA). This final session of the conference was able to focus the membership of MASCC on the needs remaining and was a great charge from the current President, Dr. Paul Hesketh.

There was even a bit of an intellectual dust up with a late-breaking satellite symposium at lunch during the meeting, regarding changes in the ESAs (Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents) package insert and ramifications on continuing use of these agents and their role in supportive care. The session was chaired by MASCC President Paul Hesketh MD (USA) with speakers John Glaspy (USA) having lead multiple clinical trials on ESA’s and John Ettinger (USA). The counterpoint came from Richard Gralla, (USA) from the floor and it provoked a large and sometimes pointed debate. The mix of highly respected presenters from around the globe is a feature of these symposium plenaries, and indeed most of the conference sessions. However, all in all the overwhelming thing to report was the lack of pharmacists of all stripes, nationalities and creeds participating in the conference. While your two humble conference reporters hail from opposite ends of the Pacific, we imagined that pharmacists closer to the meeting might be interested and indeed, we can attest to the need for pharmacist’s viewpoints to be present at multidisciplinary meetings of this sort.

We would therefore like to challenge ISOPP members to consider submitting presentations of their research to next year’s MASCC symposium, which is in Houston, USA, June 26 to 28, 2008, and ensure the voice of oncology (and related) pharmacists is heard a little louder in future!

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**ISOPP welcomes the first sponsor of the newsletter**

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**2008 REQUEST FOR RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS**

We invite all ISOPP members at universities, hospitals and research institutions, to submit applications for research grants focused on oncology pharmacy research – either pre-clinical, clinical, or practice related areas.

Potential applicants should submit electronically the required administrative information and a Letter of Intent addressed to the Research Committee Chair summarizing the proposed studies via our online system at http://www.isopp.org.

The Letter of Intent must include the following information in this order:

1. The objective.
2. The relevance to oncology pharmacy practice.
3. The hypothesis or hypotheses to be tested.
4. Preliminary data.
5. A statement of the methods of procedure.
6. A plan for evaluating the results.
7. Current financial support: list each current grant or contract for the conduct of this research. If there are no other grants, state “NONE.”

The online process must be completed by Friday November 2nd at 5 PM (USA, Central Standard Time).

There is a total of 15,000 euros available to fund these grant applications and we plan on awarding up to two grants for this year. Grant will cover direct cost only; no indirect fees/charges will be covered.

The Letters of Intent will be evaluated by the ISOPP Research Committee, and applications will be invited from those whom the committee recommends. Our decision will be transmitted to the candidates no later than Saturday December 15th, 2007, and those who are invited to apply will have to do so by Friday February 15th 2008. A member of the Research Committee will be assigned to each application to facilitate the grant application preparation and submission process. The applicants will be informed of the decisions regarding their applications as soon as they have been made, but no later than April 1st 2008. Research Awards will be presented at the HOPA/ISOPP Joint Annual Conference June 18th-21st 2008, Anaheim Marriott, Anaheim, California. Funding will be initiated in July 2008.

If you have any questions or need any clarifications, please contact the Research Committee Chair, Judith Smith at jasmith@mdanderson.org or phone her at +1 713 500 6408.

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**ISOPP welcomes the first sponsor of the newsletter**

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