

Newsbriefs

New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists



sponsored by the
American Society of
Health-System Pharmacists

| [About NYSCHP](#) | [ASHP](#) | [How You Can Join](#) | [Contact Us](#) |

Announcements

In Loving Memory of Sid Schneps

NYSCHP is greatly saddened by the passing of Sid Schneps.

Sid was very involved with NYSCHP. He served as both a representative of a number of different pharmaceutical companies, the last being Pfizer, and as a member of the NYSCHP REF. He received the NYSCHP Corporate Achievement Award at the 50th anniversary of the NYSCHP. Sid was a long time friend of pharmacy and NYSCHP. He will truly be missed.

Donations in honor of Sid can be made to:

The American Cancer Society or The American Heart Association

Pfizer will be setting up a tribute in Sid Schneps memory though Memorial Sloane-Kettering Cancer Center. It is very important to write or mention that the gift is "In Memory of Sidney Schneps" because this is the only way that it is guaranteed the gift is placed into his tribute account.

You, your friends and family can make donations in one of three ways:

1. Call Elise Cooke at (646) 227-2743 with credit card information
2. E-mail Elise Cooke at cookee@mskcc.org with credit card information
3. Mail a check & the completed matching gift form to the attention of:

MSKCC
Attn: Elise Cooke
633 3rd Avenue, 28th Floor
New York, NY 10017

[web link](#)

Headlines

NYSCHP News

- NYSCHP 2010 Winter Jan Keltz Memorial CE Program
- Mentoring
- NYSCHP Anticoagulation Practice Based Certificate Program
- NYS Board of Pharmacy Implements, Part III Waiver for NYS Practice Residencies
- Oath of a Pharmacist

ASHP News

- Health Reform Highlight ASHP Midyear Meeting
- Alert System Aims To Prevent Deaths
- FDA Launches Plan to Prevent Unnecessary Harm From Medication

December 2009

Seasons Greetings from NYSCHP



**New York State Council of
Health-system Pharmacists**
Pine West Plaza, Bldg #2
Washington Ave Extension
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 456-8819

- [e-mail link](#)
- [web link](#)

About ASHP

ASHP is a 35,000-member national professional association that represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, long-term care facilities, home care, and other components of health care systems. ASHP is the only national organization of hospital and health-system pharmacists and has a long history of improving medication use and enhancing patient safety.

**American Society of
Health-System Pharmacists**
7272 Wisconsin Avenue

Use

Bethesda, MD 20814
301-657-3000

Pharmacy News

- Pharmacy Technician Employment Increasing Up to 32 Percent By 2016; PCTB Certified CPhTs Are Uniquely Qualified in Growing Healthcare Field
- Lancaster General Hospital Releases Infusion Pump/EHR Interoperability Data -- Auto Programming Provides an Additional Layer of Safety
- Dennis Quaid Lends Support to ASHP Patient Safety Initiatives
- USP Clarifies Proposed Revised Standard for Labeling of Injectable Drug Vials
- Crackdown Targets Counterfeit Drugs
- Diabetes Education Hits Next Level at Sinai Hospital
- Providers Should Get Used to Hand Hygiene Demands
- Vaccine Is Worth the Fuss, Say Experts
- Modern Medicine 'Under Threat' From Antibiotic Overuse

- [e-mail link](#)
- [web link](#)

NYSCHP News

NYSCHP 2010 Winter Jan Keltz Memorial CE Program

The 2010 Winter Jan Keltz Memorial CE Program will be held at the High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid, New York on January 15th – 18th, 2010.

Speakers and topics include:

- Debra B. Feinberg, RPh, JD, *"Pharmacy Law Update 2010: Change & Challenges"*
- Jeffrey Kennicutt, PharmD, *"C. difficile Infectious Colitis Treatment"*
- Liz Shlom, PharmD, *"New Drugs Update 2010"*
- Danielle Longo, PhD., *"The Health Care Practitioner's Guide to Herbal Preparations and Dietary Supplements"*
- Leah Crow, PharmD(PGY-2), and Karina Muzykovsky, PharmD(PGY-2), *"Pharmacotherapy for Stress Ulcer Prophylaxis and NSAID-Induced Gastropathy Prevention."*

Please check www.nyschp.org for more information and to register.

[web link](#) | [return to headlines](#)

Mentoring

What does being a mentor mean to you? A mentor is a professional role model who can provide guidance, support, and feedback to a mentee. The pathway to success and satisfaction in the pharmacy profession can sometimes be confusing and bumpy. A good mentor develops a personal relationship with their mentee, actively listens to them and over time this ensures that they can both speak candidly to each other. Identifying short term and long term goals of the mentee is another very important step in this process. A mentor can help identify action steps and a timeline for each goal. Introducing a mentee to professional contacts and inviting them to educational events are other avenues a mentor can use to help a mentee to advance professionally. At first, it may seem like a drain on the time and resources of a pharmacist to be a mentor. It does take some time to listen to a mentee, give them your advice, and meet for a cup of coffee. With this said, most pharmacists who are involved in mentoring would agree that this is among the most rewarding of all professional pursuits. Helping others realize their potential is an endeavor that brings tremendous joy and satisfaction to both the mentor and mentee. If you are not involved in mentoring activities, ask yourself why? Mentoring can be

NYSCHP Calendar of Events

Membership Reminder

11/01/09 - 12/31/09

It is that time again to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES January 30! Don't forget to renew your membership with NYSCHP. Logon to www.nyschp.org to renew, rejoin or to become a first time member! Log in the membership login section: FirstnameLastname, no space and 1st letter of first name in upper case and 1st letter of last name in upper case. Password: NYSCHP (case sensitive). Please review and update your information and change your password. Thank you for helping us to maintain the accuracy of our records.

[web link](#)

NYSCHP 2010 Winter Jan Keltz Memorial CE Program

1/15/10 - 1/18/10

NYSCHP 2010 Winter Jan Keltz Memorial CE Program Will be held at the High Peaks Resort in Lake Placid, New York on January 15th – 18th, 2010. 6 Hours of Live CE. Register for the CE program at www.nyschp.org.

[web link](#)

ASHP Summer Meeting and House of Delegates [ASHP]

6/14/10 - 6/17/10

Chicago, IL

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting [ASHP]

12/06/10 - 12/10/10

Las Vegas, NV

part of a lasting legacy you can leave with your profession.

[web link](#) | [return to headlines](#)

NYSCHP Anticoagulation Practice Based Certificate Program

March 12, 2010 (12:30 – 6:30 PM) and March 13, 2010 (7:00 AM – 1:00 PM).

St. John Fisher College
3690 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618
585-385-8000

GOALS:

With expanded use of anticoagulant agents, the number of patients receiving these drugs has increased dramatically. Safe and effective anticoagulation must include a number of key components to avoid complications. These include careful patient assessment, an understanding of the clotting cascade and mechanisms of action of anticoagulant drugs, a detailed focus on factors which influence therapy and knowledge of current guidelines. This certificate program is a comprehensive program designed to provide pharmacists with the basic knowledge and skills necessary to care for patients taking anticoagulation therapies. By completing this course, pharmacists can earn 21 ½ hours of continuing education credit while becoming certified in anticoagulation management. Join the growing number of pharmacists who are providing anticoagulation services.

Anticoagulation Practice Based Continuing Education:

The Anticoagulation Practice Based Certificate Program is conducted in two parts: the didactic home study and the live workshop. To earn a Certificate of Achievement for the entire certificate training program, participants must successfully meet the following requirements:

1. Read the Home/Self Study Materials in their entirety and successfully complete the Self Study Assessment. A score of 70% or better is required.
2. Attend Conference: On Site Training and successfully complete the open book Final Exam. A score of 70% or better is required.

A Certificate of Achievement is awarded to participants who successfully complete all program requirements.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

[web link](#) | [return to headlines](#)

NYS Board of Pharmacy Implements, Part III Waiver for NYS Practice Residencies

Several years ago key NYSCHP members began discussions with the NYS Board of Pharmacy on the difficulties associated with out of state residents obtaining licensure in NYS in time for their residency in NYS. NYSCHP asked the NYS Board of Pharmacy if they would consider a waiver of Part III of the pharmacy boards for those residents who are in an aggressive practice residency. The NYS Board of Pharmacy passed the waiver and this was subsequently approved by the NYS Board of Regents in August 2009.

Application for waiver of the Part III is now available at
<http://www.op.nysed.gov/pharmforms.htm>.

Just another example of what your organization, New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists is doing for you and the pharmacy profession.

[web link](#) | [return to headlines](#)

Oath of a Pharmacist

As pharmacy budgets tighten and staff members are expected to do more with less during these trying times, we must not neglect our professional responsibility to train the next generation of pharmacists. All of us can recall at some point receiving guidance and training from someone who went above and beyond to teach us. Providing that spark to our profession's youth is essential to our future success. Each pharmacist is able to share their own methods, pearls, and unique insight that can contribute to this effort.

In 2007, a conglomerate of pharmacy organizations joined forces and revised the Oath of a Pharmacist to highlight this endeavor. The following statement was added, "I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences and values to fulfill my obligation to educate and train the next generation of pharmacists."

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education has revised its standards for PharmD student experiences. These new standards expose students to the workplace sooner and more often. Schools of Pharmacy have many new opportunities available for potential preceptors. Perhaps it is time to consider renewing your commitment to the training of our future colleagues.

OATH OF A PHARMACIST revised in 2007

"I promise to devote myself to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy. In fulfilling this vow:

- I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.
- I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for my patients.
- I will respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.
- I accept the lifelong obligation to improve my professional knowledge and competence.
- I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of moral, ethical and legal conduct.
- I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.
- I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to fulfill my obligation to educate and train the next generation of pharmacists.
- I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public."

ASHP News

Health Reform Highlight ASHP Midyear Meeting

It was standing room only for sessions on informatics, the future of health care reform, and pharmacists' roles in emergency departments, at the ASHP 44th Midyear Clinical Meeting, which wrapped up Thursday in Las Vegas.

The five-day meeting, the largest international gathering of pharmacists, featured a host of educational sessions covering a broad range of therapeutic and administrative pharmacy issues, including pain management and palliative care, preparing for a Joint Commission survey, and staying current on guidelines for treating infectious diseases.

[Read more.](#)

Alert System Aims To Prevent Deaths

ASHP and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) last week launched a national alert system to help prevent dangerous medication errors from happening again.

This new system—the National Alert Network for Serious Medication Errors—will issue an alert when a seriously harmful or potentially seriously harmful error has occurred.

ISMP will use medication-error report data in preparing the alerts and then forward them to ASHP, which will activate the network. Each alert, or message, will include a description of the error and recommendations for preventing the same error in the future but will not identify organizations or individuals.

Bona E. Benjamin, director of medication-use quality improvement at ASHP, said she expects the network to issue two to four alerts per year.

[Read more.](#)

FDA Launches Plan to Prevent Unnecessary Harm From Medication Use

FDA in November announced the launch of the Safe Use Initiative, an undertaking intended to avert unnecessary adverse events arising from the inappropriate use of medications.

"I feel strongly that reducing preventable harm from medication misuse should be a top priority for the FDA," said Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg during a November 4 media briefing.

FDA is focusing on what Hamburg called "avoidable harm," such as unintentional overdoses, dosing errors, and medication abuse. In a report announcing the initiative, FDA cited research indicating that at least 1.5 million avoidable adverse drug events occur in health care settings each year.

Hamburg said that a majority of medication-related injuries "could be prevented using currently available knowledge." The report set that figure at 11–50%.

[Read more.](#)

Pharmacy News

Pharmacy Technician Employment Increasing Up to 32 Percent By 2016; PCTB Certified CPhTs Are Uniquely Qualified in Growing Healthcare Field

PR Newswire (12/08/09)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2008-2009 report estimates that employment for pharmacy technicians could increase as much as 32 percent by 2016. In light of these statistics, the need for certified pharmacy technicians (CPhTs) is growing. Over 40 states now regulate pharmacy technicians; and, more than 70 percent of those states have endorsed Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) exam as the required standard for pharmacy technicians. In

order to meet this demand, the PTCB has made several changes to its program to make it easier for technicians to become certified. Certification exams are now available in more than 200 Pearson Professional Centers, which offer pass/fail results immediately following the exam. Candidates are now also able to schedule PTCB examinations Monday through Friday, with possible Saturday availability.

[return to headlines](#)

Lancaster General Hospital Releases Infusion Pump/EHR Interoperability Data -- Auto Programming Provides an Additional Layer of Safety

Globe Newswire (12/07/09)

Lancaster General Health has received the Best Practices Award in Health-System Pharmacy from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists for its auto-programmed smart infusion system at patient bedsides. The smart infusion system is connected to the hospital's bar-code medication administration and electronic health record systems, enhancing patient safety by making the IV medication administration process more efficient and eliminating a possible source of errors. Interoperability has cut the amount of time nurses take to program infusion pumps by 24.8 percent, reduced the number of programming steps from 17 to seven, and cut manual reprogramming by more than 90 percent. The release of hard data on the benefits of auto-programming "is an industry-changing step," says Symeria Hudson of Hospira, whose A+ infusion pump and MedNet safety software is liked to Cerner's Bridge Medication Administration solution at Lancaster.

[return to headlines](#)

Dennis Quaid Lends Support to ASHP Patient Safety Initiatives

Newswise (12/09/09)

Actor Dennis Quaid recently volunteered his support for ASHP's new National Alert Network for Serious Medication Errors as well as its Pharmacy Technician Initiative at the organization's Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas. Quaid began his support of ASHP after his infant twins suffered a life-threatening medication error in 2007. In order to mitigate risks associated with these types of errors, the National Alert Network will record seriously harmful or potentially seriously harmful medication errors. Alerts will include a description of the error, as well as recommendations to prevent similar errors in the future. The Pharmacy Technician Initiative, for its part, will advocate for state laws that require completion of an ASHP-accredited pharmacy technician training program and certification by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board.

[return to headlines](#)

USP Clarifies Proposed Revised Standard for Labeling of Injectable Drug Vials

USP (11/24/2009)

The U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) has released a proposal for revised standards on what should and should not appear on the ferrules and cap overseals for drug vials. Most importantly, these areas should not have any markings except those intended to prevent an imminent life-threatening situation. The proposal requires warnings to be printed in a contrasting color, clearly visible under ordinary conditions. Other requirements include restricting the location of important but less-urgent information, such as lot numbers and product names, to elsewhere on the vial. If no urgent warning is necessary, the top surface must remain blank. USP will publish the proposed standard in the January issue of Pharmacopeial Forum for a 90-day comment period.

[return to headlines](#)

Crackdown Targets Counterfeit Drugs

Washington Post (11/20/09) Mui, Ylan Q.

Law enforcement agents from around the world have cracked down on counterfeit pharmaceutical products as part of a new global effort to prevent these medications from reaching patients. The operation, known as Pangea, has already uncovered nearly 800 alleged packages of counterfeit or suspicious medications in the United States, including imitation Viagra, Vicodin, and Claritin. Officials say these counterfeit medications pose a serious patient safety risk, as some have been found to have as much as three times more of the active ingredient than is usually prescribed. Other medications may be placebos and some have been found to contain potentially toxic substances including drywall material, antifreeze, and yellow highway paint. In addition to seizing these medications, officials also shut down 68 online pharmacies believed to be trafficking in counterfeit pharmaceuticals. The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy maintains a list of approximately 4,000 Internet-based pharmacies that it says are questionable. It also certifies legitimate sellers through its Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice program. Thus far, 17 Web-based pharmacies have met the requirements for certification through the program. In an effort to further prevent the sale of counterfeit drugs, Rep. Steve Israel (D-N.Y.) recently proposed a bill that would increase penalties for counterfeiters and enhance the Food and Drug Administration's ability to track them. However, the bill is currently stalled in committee.

[return to headlines](#)

Diabetes Education Hits Next Level at Sinai Hospital

Medical News Today (12/03/09)

Sinai Hospital of Baltimore is opening the Diabetes Resource Center to provide diabetes education and help patients manage their disease. The center provides real-time glucose monitoring, nutritional counseling, and training for the use of medication and insulin use, all with a focus on preventing complications. Physicians, diabetes nurse educators, pharmacists, and registered dietitians are on staff. The American Diabetes Association has awarded this program its Education Recognition Certificate for quality diabetes self-management education.

[return to headlines](#)

Providers Should Get Used to Hand Hygiene Demands

Health Leaders Magazine Online (12/09) Clark, Cheryl

Hospitals are coming up with more creative ways to encourage health professionals to wash their hands with soap and sanitizing gels. A nurse at Massachusetts General has created a rap music video about hand sanitation; and Beth Israel Deaconess in Boston plays a game of tag, with health professionals who forget to wash their hands becoming "it" and having their name posted on every computer in the hospital until another person makes the same mistake. Now the federal government has helped create a video that urges patients and visitors to speak up about hand-washing, even encouraging them to insist that healthcare providers wash their hands in front of them. Concern about the H1N1 virus may have led to a new sense of urgency about hand hygiene. Healthcare-acquired infections are estimated to affect 1.7 million patients each year, lead to the deaths of 99,000 patients, and incur costs of \$35 billion to \$45 billion to care for patients who become infected.

[return to headlines](#)

Vaccine Is Worth the Fuss, Say Experts

Philadelphia Inquirer (11/30/09) Sapatkin, Don

Experts are urging people to get vaccinated against the swine flu because the

disease likely will come back in the winter as the seasonal flu, and they emphasize that it is better to be safe than sorry. Scientists continue to monitor past pandemics and activity in the Southern Hemisphere to determine how the H1N1 pandemic could play out in the coming months, noting that the three pandemics reported during the last century were similar in that they came in waves of two to four peaks of disease separated by anywhere from a few months to a year. Experts note that increased infection and/or vaccination means new flu strains spread less efficiently and become more seasonal. According to Neil Fishman, an infectious disease specialist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, "The pandemic strain becomes the predominant strain because it can infect more people." D.A. Henderson of the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Biosecurity says the current pandemic has been progressing as forecast. Henderson sees similarities between the current pandemic and the 1957 pandemic, which ended by mid-December only to come back and peak in January through March of 1958--a scenario that experts believe could happen again this time around.

[return to headlines](#)

Modern Medicine 'Under Threat' From Antibiotic Overuse

Pharma Times World News (11/11/09) Taylor, Lynne

A senior expert at the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Dominique Monnet, recently expressed concern that overuse of antibiotics could jeopardize procedures that need antibiotics to remain safe and effective, including organ transplants, hip replacements, chemotherapy, and neonatal care for premature infants. According to the ECDC, the number of patients infected by antibiotic-resistant bacteria is increasing and could pose "a major threat to public health." However, the organization says that responsible use of antibiotics can halt the development of resistant bacteria. The ECDC is scheduled to publish this month a survey of intensive care specialists across Europe, with 21 percent of respondents saying they had seen within the last six months three or more patients suffering from infections that were totally or partially resistant to antibiotics.

[return to headlines](#)



© 2009 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

News summaries © 2009 Information, Inc. [[subscribe/unsubscribe](#)]