

# Newsbriefs

New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists



sponsored by the  
American Society of  
Health-System Pharmacists

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## Announcements

### ***NYSCHP 2010 Annual Assembly***

Exhibits and educational programming are as follows:

Legislative Update  
Leadership Track  
Toxicology Update  
Pharmaceutical Waste  
Oncologic Emergencies  
Pulseless Emergencies  
Board of Pharmacy Update  
Medication Safety Presentation  
Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement  
Medication Reconciliation in the ED  
Hypertensive Urgency & Emergencies  
Controversies in the Use of Factor VII  
Director of Pharmacy Round Table Discussion  
Understanding the Treatment Spectrum of BOTOX  
The Evolving Role of the Pharmacist in Emergency Medicine  
Pain Management Certificate Program, pre-registration required

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## NYSCHP News

***NYSCHP Anticoagulation Practice Based Certificate Program***

## February 2010



### **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](#)
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### **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  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301-657-3000

- [e-mail link](#)
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### **NYSCHP Calendar of Events**

#### **Membership Reminder**

3/01/10 - 3/31/10

It is that time again to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES March 31! Don't forget to renew your membership with NYSCHP. Logon to [www.nyschp.org](http://www.nyschp.org) to

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.](#)

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#### Online CE Process

NYSCHP has upgraded to online CE processing. This is phenomenal news for you and the environment!  
Now you can access your CE evaluations and credits 24 x 7! You can complete your evaluations when you want and then receive your credit immediately after you complete the evaluation \*No more waiting for your credits!\* !  
You have complete access online to view and print your credits 24 x 7, \*no worries when you need proof of your credits quickly.\* !  
And together we will save thousands of trees and contribute to a healthier world for tomorrow!!

How do I get started?!

Go to: <http://www.healthsystemce.org/>

>Click on: Member Login!

>Enter your user ID: This is the e-mail address you have in your NYSCHP profile. \*Be sure to update your e-mail address as necessary.!

>If you do not know your password click on "I forgot my password" and instructions on how to reset your password will be mailed to the e-mail address we have on file.!

>In order to access the evaluation for the program and receive credit you need the code the presenter gave you during the educational program!

>Lets get started!

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#### The Role of Professional Pharmacy Organizations and the New Generation of Pharmacists

Written by: Beth Karwaski, P-4 Pharmacy Student

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.

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#### Anticoagulation Program

3/12/10 - 3/13/10

NYSCHP 2010

Anticoagulation Program Will be held at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York on March 12th - 13th, 2010.

Register for the CE program at:

<http://m360.nyschp.org/event.aspx?eventID=12957>

Our goal is to bring the Anticoagulation Program downstate in the summer/fall of 2010, this depends on how well the Rochester program does.

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#### NYSCHP 2010 Annual Assembly

5/07/10 - 5/09/10

NYSCHP 2010 Annual Assembly Will be held at the Saratoga Hilton in Saratoga Springs, New York on May 7th - 9th, 2010. Register for the CE program at

<http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S%2cM3%2cac95f219-7cad-4e73-8cd3-52d619dcad14>

[web link](#)

#### ASHP Summer Meeting and House of Delegates [ASHP]

6/06/10 - 6/09/10

Tampa, FL

#### ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting [ASHP]

12/05/10 - 12/09/10

Anaheim, CA

Wilkes University, Nesbitt College of Pharmacy Written during Renal Transplantation Rotation at Upstate-University Hospital

As pharmacy expands and redefines its role within the healthcare team, it becomes more important than ever to actively involve the student pharmacists and new practitioners. This generation of pharmacists is a widely untapped power of energy and enthusiasm for change in pharmaceutical care. With the improvements in technology, there are a wealth of opportunities to reach out to these individuals and funnel their ideas into actions. It is important to attract the attention of pharmacy students early in their professional career by demonstrating the need for advocacy and involvement in pharmacy organizations. Established pharmacists should take an active role as mentors and lead by example. Interns, Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) students appreciate the guidance and experience of seasoned pharmacists and often mimic the involvement of those they admire.

The number of pharmacists is steadily increasing and newly graduated pharmacists are looking to set themselves apart and participate in organizations that will facilitate more specialized learning. Programs that offer certifications, such as diabetes training, in addition to standard continuing education programs add significant marketing power to an organization. A wide variety of educational opportunities is important to every pharmacist, to encourage professional growth and maintain proficiency in an ever evolving field. It is also important for a pharmacy organization to establish clear directional goals and follow through with a strategic plan. Offering concise, interactive meetings also appeal to many younger pharmacists. After finishing six years of lecturing, the last thing a new practitioner wants to do is spend valuable time watching PowerPoint slides and taking notes.

Attracting new pharmacists amidst a sea of professional organizations is a daunting task. Membership in these groups oftentimes becomes an afterthought as students transition from classroom to working pharmacists. It tends to be easier to appeal to the technological savvy of this generation and send mass email alerts and notifications. Unless the intention is to be labeled spam and subsequently deleted, it is important to keep the message short and simple. Tailor emails to specific groups or pharmacist interests to increase the likelihood of having your message heard. Increase involvement in the community so the organization is associated with visible outcomes and service learning. Many people are still motivated by what an organization can do for them, so capitalize on the programs available to young pharmacists including continuing education.

Pharmacy schools are popping up all over the country, churning out fresh faces in pharmacy each year. Building a unified network of pharmacists starts with education and continuous involvement in pharmacy societies. Very few individuals would argue that the current level of involvement in professional pharmacy organizations is adequate to implement real, timely change. Capturing the attention of younger professionals is an important step in building the foundation for a strong and cohesive voice for pharmacy.

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### ***Blood Drive in Memory of Sid Schneps***

NYSCHP is hosting a Blood Drive in Memory of Sid Schneps - Saturday, May 8, 2010

Location: The Saratoga Hilton  
Address: 534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
Room: Saratoga 3 Ballroom  
Time: 8 am to 12 pm

Reservations can be made starting March 29th.

Goto: [www.redcreosblood.org](http://www.redcreosblood.org)

enter the zip code: 12866

In memory of Sid Schneps

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### ***House of Delegate Timeline 2010***

1st House mailing (reach delegates by March 1)  
 March 8, 2010 BOD House reports due  
 March 17, 2010 2nd House mailing (reach delegates by March 31)  
 April 22, 2010 12 Noon Open Hearing Conference Call  
 May 5, 2010 9 PM Resolutions Committee  
 May 5, 2010 8 AM Nominations Committee  
 May 6, 2010 8:30 AM Open Hearing  
 May 6, 2010 10:00AM House of Delegates

Annual Assembly Timeline May 7-9, 2010

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### ASHP News

#### ***Tell Congress to Keep Pharmacy Provisions in Health Care Reform Legislation***

House and Senate leaders are working to merge the two health care reform bills into a final proposal that will be approved by Congress later this month.

ASHP members are urged to contact their congressional representatives to ask them to retain provisions that would allow pharmacists a greater role in improving medication use. Sample versions of e-mails to legislators in the House and the Senate are available at the [ASHP Grassroots Advocacy Center](#).

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#### ***Get Connected!***

[ASHP Connect](#) is the Society's new online community where members connect with each other and share ideas through our discussion board, blogs, social networking tools, RSS feeds, and more. Get started now and [get connected!](#)

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### Pharmacy News

#### **Hospital Pharmacies Nationwide Are Moving Toward ASHP's 2015 Initiative's Goals**

*Behavioral Health Central (02/01/10)*

Findings from the 2009 ASHP National Survey indicate that hospital pharmacies nationwide are working to meet ASHP's 2015 initiative goals. The first goal of the initiative is to increase the use of technology to improve the safe use of medications. The 2009 survey found that 56.1 percent of hospitals are working towards this goal by monitoring inpatients with high-risk and/or complex medication regimens, while 17.4 percent have a pharmacist managing discharge medication counseling. Another goal is to increase the role of pharmacy departments in patient safety. To this end, the 2009 survey shows that 27.9 percent of hospitals have implemented a barcoded medication administration--one of the stated objectives included as part of this goal. Nearly 50 percent of hospitals surveyed also reported pharmacists using medication-relevant portions of patients' electronic medical records to manage patient medication therapy, while 72.3 percent of health system pharmacists report accessing pertinent patient information and communicating across settings of care to ensure continuity and safety in all treatment regimens. Other goals in the 2015 initiative include increasing the extent to which pharmacists help individual non-hospitalized patients achieve the best use of medications, increasing the use of evidence-based methods by pharmacists, improving the role of pharmacy departments in patient safety, and increasing the involvement of pharmacy departments in community-based outreach.

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#### **New System Warns Health Professionals of Medication Errors**

*American Medical News (01/15/10) Frellick, Marcia*

The new national e-mail alert system for medication errors developed by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) will give doctors speedy notification of potentially deadly errors. Launched last month, the system will send alerts to members of

the two organizations' newsletter network, which includes representatives in every hospital in the United States, and eventually it will be expanded to more organizations. The alerts, which include descriptions of the error and advice on how to prevent the same mistake, will likely be sent less than ten times per year as they will only be used for the most serious errors. An example of the kind of error that would prompt an alert is the 2008 incident when Fer-In-Sol changed the concentration of its pediatric oral iron drops, and many doctors who were unaware of the change continued prescribing the same amounts, resulting in the wrong dosage of iron. The specific hospital or doctor will not be identified in the alerts, and they will be archived and posted publicly on the ASHP web site.

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#### **WTAMU Continuing Ed to Offer Pharmacy Tech Course**

*WTAMU.edu (01/27/2010)*

West Texas A&M University recently announced that it will offer a Pharmacy Technician Training course beginning March 1, 2010. The 14-week course is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions as pharmacy technicians. Those who complete the course will be able to fill prescription orders under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist and how to perform all duties required in various pharmacy settings. Students will also be prepared to take the certification exam offered by the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT).

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#### **Education, Judicious Use Necessary to Combat Escalating Antibiotic Resistance**

*Pediatric Supersite (02/02/2010)*

Increasing antimicrobial resistance in the United States has shown the need for improved education and more judicious use of antibiotics and infection control. At the 2010 Annual Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance in Bethesda, Md., Dr. Ronald N. Jones of JMI Laboratories said, "Combination chemotherapy will become the rule of practice as we wait for the development of new compounds and vaccines. Maybe the future of infectious disease management is not new classes of drugs, but new classes of chemicals that attack the resistance mechanisms that are already in place." Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) rates in the United States jumped from 34 percent in 1997 to 1999, to 55 percent within the past decade. However, European programs have steadied or reduced MRSA rates by emphasizing infection control. Vancomycin resistance rates have also increased from 17 percent to 20 percent, and *Enterococcus faecium* resistance rates have climbed up to 77 percent. More accurate susceptibility tests are necessary to combat these increasing rates, Jones said, as well as more cautious antibiotic use by physicians and flexibility for adjusting to wider pathogen prevalence patterns.

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#### **Bortezomib (Velcade) Starting Dose Adjustments for Patients With Hepatic Impairment**

*Medwatch (01/26/2010)*

The FDA has issued a notification for healthcare professionals regarding revisions to the Prescribing Information for bortezomib (Velcade). These changes pertain to patients with hepatic impairment at the start of bortezomib therapy. The changes also include new safety information on dose adjustment for patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment. The new information instructs healthcare professionals that bortezomib doses be reduced for these patients and that they be monitored for toxicities.

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#### **Most Healthcare Workers Support Compulsory Influenza Vaccinations**

*Medscape (01/05/10) Larson, Nancy Fowler*

A study published in the January issue of the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine indicates that mandatory flu vaccines for hospital employees are supported by most healthcare workers (HCWs). The study involved the completion of a Web-based questionnaire by 585 doctors, nurses, and other employees of Children's Mercy Hospital about their immunization histories and feelings about mandatory vaccination of HCWs. Researchers, led by Dr. John Lantos of Children's Mercy Bioethics Center at Children's Mercy

Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., found that 391 employees, or 70 percent, supported mandatory vaccination as long as HCWs had no medical contraindications, and 94 percent of these employees had received the flu vaccine. The survey also indicated that 45 of the 81 respondents who opposed mandatory vaccination had been immunized. More than 66 percent of those who approved of mandatory vaccination and 62 percent of those opposed believe pediatric patients are especially vulnerable to the flu, and 51 percent of those in favor of mandatory vaccines and 29 percent of those who oppose them think they are at risk of contracting the flu. Researchers note that opponents either understand the benefits of mandatory vaccination but support individual choice, or they have fears and misconceptions about the flu vaccine, and they believe improved education programs could help the latter group move toward supporting mandatory vaccination programs. The study authors emphasize the importance of vaccinating HCWs because they could contract the flu and pass it on to patients; influence patients and co-workers to get vaccinated; and miss work and jeopardize patient care by contracting the flu.

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### **The 'Medical Home' Experiment**

*Buffalo News (02/06/10) Davis, Henry L.*

An increasing number of medical practices are implementing "patient-centered medical home" principles. Under this concept, physicians use computers to track tests and identify patients at risk of serious problems. Patients with complex illnesses are coached about self-care by a team of nurses, pharmacists, and physician assistants, and instructed about follow up after visits. The team's decisions are made by using guidelines on the latest scientific evidence and measuring their quality. Patients can make same-day appointments and have the opportunity to talk to someone during off hours. In 2007, primary care organizations comprising approximately 330,000 doctors agreed on patient-centered medical home principles. Buffalo Medical Group, which has adopted the medical home concept, recently used its electronic medical record system to identify patients with potential health problems, such as abdominal aortic aneurysms. The medical group's computer identified more than 2,000 patients at higher risk for the aneurysm, of whom 30 had aneurysms that could rupture at any moment.

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### **Guidance for Industry Contents of a Complete Submission for the Evaluation of Proprietary Names**

*FDA.gov (02/10/10)*

The FDA has issued guidance describing information the agency uses to evaluate proposed proprietary names for medications, including biological products, under the traditional review process within the time frames set by the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA IV) performance review goals. This guidance is intended to assist industry in the submission of a complete package of information that FDA will use in (1) the assessment of the safety aspects of a proposed proprietary name to reduce medication errors, and (2) the promotional implications of a proposed proprietary name to ensure compliance with other requirements for labeling and promotions. The Guidance for Industry: Contents of a Complete Submission for the Evaluation of Proprietary Names is available at:  
<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM075068.pdf>.

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