

# Newsbriefs

New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists



sponsored by the  
American Society of  
Health-System Pharmacists

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## Announcements

### *In Loving Memory of Sid Schneps*

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](mailto:cookee@mskcc.org) with credit card information 3. Mail a check & the completed matching gift form he Attention of: MSKCC, Attn: Elise Cooke 633 3rd Avenue, 28th Floor New York, NY 10017

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## October 2009



### **New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists**

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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

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### **NYSCHP Calendar of Events**

- Decreased Potency
- Study Supports Early Triple Therapy for Stubborn Type 2 Diabetes
- H1N1 Flu Unlikely to Mutate Into 'Superbug'

## NYSCHP News

### **2009 Antimicrobial Stewardship Program**

The 2009 Antimicrobial Stewardship program will be held at the Millennium Broadway in New York, NY on November 6th – 7th, 2009. Speakers will include: Robert C. Owen, Jr., PharmD, Elizabeth Dodds-Ashley, PharmD; Thomas Lodise, PharmD, Ben Lomaestro, BS, PharmD, Belinda Ostrowsky, MD, Jeffery D. Kennicutt, BS, PharmD, John Papadopoulos, BS, PharmD, FCCM, BCNSP. Please check [www.nyschp.org](http://www.nyschp.org) for more information and to register.

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### **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](http://www.nyschp.org) for more information and to register.

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### **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

### **Membership Reminder**

11/01/09 - 12/31/09

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

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### **2009 Antimicrobial Stewardship Program**

11/06/09 - 11/07/09

Space is still available, register today for the 2009 Antimicrobial Stewardship program, at the Millennium Broadway in New York, New York on November 6th – 7th, 2009. Please check [www.nyschp.org](http://www.nyschp.org) for more information and to register.

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### **ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting [ASHP]**

12/06/09 - 12/10/09

Venetian Resort and Sands Expo Center  
Las Vegas, Nevada

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### **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](http://www.nyschp.org).

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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.”

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### ***A new study conducted by IPRO, "The Safety and Quality of Prescribing"***

A new study entitled The Safety and Quality of Prescribing by Medical Residents conducted by IPRO is investigating the most common prescription-related problems encountered in retail pharmacies throughout New York State. IPRO members are visiting independent pharmacies and district managers of chain pharmacies that are near the 6 largest teaching hospitals, with the hopes of getting two or three pharmacies per area involved. Data collectors come to the pharmacy for a few business days, reviewing prescriptions that require further assistance from a physician or the office, before being dispensed. A goal of this study is to determine if electronic prescribing is at all useful in preventing these “problems”. A panel of physicians, medical residents, pharmacy association representatives, e-prescribing system specialists and others rank the data based on the following: occurrence, clinical relevance, and the likelihood of e-prescribing correcting the issue. This research project is part of a state-wide Pharmacy Safety Systems Initiative which was initiated in May 2009 and will continue through July 2010. Grants for this study were given by Health Research, Inc and is funded through New York State Attorney General's Office and Cardinal Health, Inc. For more information on participation, visit [www.jeny.ipro.org](http://www.jeny.ipro.org).

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### ***Pharmacy Week***

The New York State Council of Health System Pharmacists would like to wish all of its members and affiliates a happy Hospital and Health System Pharmacy Week. This is a great time to take a moment to reflect upon who we really value professionally. One small sentence of encouragement or appreciation can make a person's daily struggles seem worth it. We are grateful for your continued support of this organization and look forward to our continued success together.

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### **ASHP News**

#### ***New Book Helps Pharmacists Prepare for Role in H1N1 and Other Public Health Crises***

*ASHP Publishes Pharmacy in Public Health: Basics and Beyond*

With the flu season and the H1N1 virus looming, pharmacists are increasingly being called on to take a more active role in public health, from immunizations to disaster planning and management. ASHP's new book, Pharmacy in Public Health: Basics and Beyond, provides pharmacists and other health care practitioners with critical information they'll need to play a much-needed role in public health, for flu season, emergency preparedness, and chronic disease prevention and management.

[Read more](#)

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### ***FDA Looks Ahead to Withdrawal of Nonprescription Epinephrine Inhalers***

With two years remaining until ozone-depleting nonprescription epinephrine inhalers must come off the market, FDA is seeking an effective way to inform those who purchase the products that they need to find an alternative remedy for asthma symptoms.

The agency held a public meeting September 25 in Rockville, Maryland, to discuss with stakeholders several challenges with the phaseout. These include identifying people who purchase the inhalers, telling them about the deadline, and protecting their health as they transition to new treatments for their asthma, officials said.

[Read more](#)

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### **Pharmacy News**

#### **Team Inspects Seniors' Homes to Reduce Their Risk of Falls**

*Fort Worth Star-Telegram (09/21/09) Jarvis, Jan*

A team of physical therapists, pharmacists, engineers, and nurses are paying visits to the homes of senior citizens in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to inspect the residences' safety. Such inspections are part of a free service to reduce seniors' risk of traumatic injury due to falls. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that falls are the leading cause of accidental death in people 65 years of age and older. In addition, falls are responsible for at least 95 percent of hip fractures in that age group, and 50 percent to 66 percent of falls take place in or around the home. Mary Ann Contreras at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth says most falls can be deterred via home safety checks, exercise, and medication reviews.

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#### **Tamiflu (Oseltamivir) for Oral Suspension: Potential Medication Errors**

*Medwatch (09/24/2009)*

The FDA has issued a Public Health Alert due to reports received by the agency of errors when dosing instructions for patients taking oseltamivir (Tamiflu) do not match the dosing dispenser. The agency believes these errors are due to the fact that most liquid medications are prescribed using milliliters or teaspoons, while oseltamivir is dosed in milligrams (mg). To prevent these errors, the FDA has asked that pharmacists ensure that the units of measure on prescription instructions for the drug match the dosing device provided. Healthcare providers should also make sure they write all doses in mg if the dosing dispenser for the drug is in mg.

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#### **Pharmacy Technician Training Offered Through JobsNOW Initiative**

*US Fed News (09/30/09)*

Stanly Community College (SCC) in North Carolina has announced that it will be offering pharmacy technician courses beginning in Spring 2010. Courses are designed to prepare students for certification with the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board. The program includes lecture, lab, and clinical instruction, as well as national certification exam preparation. The pharmacy technician program is a 108-hour course, with 36-hours of coursework in the clinical setting. The new courses are being offered as part of the JobsNOW initiative, which is designed to provide jobs to residents in needed fields. According to the North Carolina Employment Security Commission, the number of pharmacy technician jobs in the state will increase 42 percent in the next 16 years.

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### **UBC Pharmacy Program Gets Funding Boost**

*Vancouver Sun (Canada) (09/05/09) O'Brian, Amy*

The British Columbia government has announced that it will be giving \$86 million to the University of British Columbia to construct a new building for the faculty of pharmaceutical science. The new building will allow the department to grow and accept 47 percent more students. It will include research and teaching laboratories, office space, classrooms, and other space that will be leased to drug research and development companies. There is a growing need for pharmacists outside the Vancouver area as the population ages and pharmacists retire. "This is a very exciting development," says Marshall Moleschi, registrar of the BC College of Pharmacists. "It meets a huge need. Our society needs to be able to make sure there are enough pharmacists in this province to be able to meet the needs of the aging population."

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### **APIC Urges Healthcare Workers to Get Vaccinated Against Influenza**

*Infection Control Today (08/31/09)*

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) has called for healthcare facilities to require that all employees with direct patient contact receive annual flu vaccines. Only about 40 percent of healthcare personnel receive yearly flu shots, according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. APIC also recommends that healthcare facilities obtain informed statements acknowledging the risk to patients from employees who decline the vaccines for non-medical reasons. APIC recommends that all employees with direct patient contact be immunized each year, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, dieticians, religious workers, environmental services, and kitchen staff.

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### **R2D2 Has Your Pills**

*Forbes (10/08/09) Dolan, Kerry A.*

Following the 2004 Institute of Medicine report that estimated 98,000 patients die in hospitals annually due to preventable medical errors, hospitals across the country have sought different strategies to reduce such errors. California-based John Muir Health System invested \$40 million in a number of technologies, including a medication-dispensing robot. Doctors input medication orders into the computer, and the orders are checked by pharmacists before the robot retrieves the medication. Other technologies are available that use biometric fingerprint scanners to grant nurses access to medication cabinets, and nurses ensure they have the right medication by scanning bar codes. John Muir Health Systems estimates that patient mortality rates have declined 25 percent since the adoption of the new medication administration technologies.

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### **FDA Alert: New USP Standards for Heparin Products Will Result in Decreased Potency**

*FDA.gov (10/01/09)*

The United States Pharmacopeia (USP) has adopted new manufacturing controls for heparin that will result in a decrease in the potency of heparin used in the United States, according to the FDA. The changes adopted by the USP include a modification of the reference standard for the drug's unit dose so that it now matches the World Health Organization's International Standard unit dose definition, which has been in use in Europe for some time. The revised USP reference is approximately 10 percent less potent than the former USP

unit. While these controls officially take effect Oct. 1, the FDA has asked that manufacturers not ship new product until Oct. 8, in order to give healthcare facilities time to make any necessary changes to their pharmacy procedures and dosing practices. These revisions were made, in part, as a response to an incident of heparin contamination involving a manufacturing step in China. The monograph for heparin has now been changed to include a test for the contaminant.

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### **Study Supports Early Triple Therapy for Stubborn Type 2 Diabetes**

*Reuters (09/11/09)*

Adding pioglitazone to the combination of metformin and a sulfonylurea or a glinide may help control stubborn type 2 diabetes, researchers suggest. According to a team from Centre Hospitalier Sud Francilien, Corbeil Essonnes, this therapy should be implemented as soon as possible. Their study involved 299 patients with type 2 diabetes who had high hemoglobin A1C (HbA1C) levels despite dual therapy with metformin and a sulfonylurea or a glinide. After adding pioglitazone therapy, 64.8 percent of the treated patients and 9 percent of controls experienced the minimum goal of 0.6 percent HbA1C reduction. After seven months, 39.4 percent of pioglitazone patients and 4.8 percent of placebo patients had HbA1C levels below 7 percent. In the group that received pioglitazone, the homostasis model assessment of insulin resistance, insulin, proinsulin, and C-peptide decreased, and HOMA-B increased. This study is published in the September issue of *Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism*.

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### **H1N1 Flu Unlikely to Mutate Into 'Superbug'**

*Reuters (09/01/09) Steenhuyzen, Julie*

Although the H1N1 swine flu virus is spreading more quickly and causing more severe disease than seasonal flu, U.S. researchers say that it shows no sign of mixing with other flu strains to create a so-called "reassortant virus." A University of Maryland study conducted on ferrets infected with 2009 H1N1 virus plus either seasonal H1N1 or H3N2 viruses found that both viruses made them sick, but only the H1N1 virus spread to other ferrets. The pandemic H1N1 virus established infections deeper in the respiratory system, while the seasonal flu strains stayed in the nasal passages. Five companies are now making swine flu vaccine for the U.S. market, and tests have begun to determine if people will need one or two doses for protection.

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