



Pediatric Pharmacy
Advocacy Group

“Crabby” NICU/PICU Pharmacists Meet in Baltimore: A Specialty Conference Recap

In a city famous for its fresh crab meals at nearly every restaurant, PPAG hosted the NICU/PICU Spring Specialty Meeting March 31-April 2nd. A record number of 164 participants joined us for a weekend full of lectures, workshops, and great meals, but I would have to say that the mood of our group was anything but “crabby”.

The event started with a preconference session sponsored by Discovery Labs focusing on the use of both established agents and a new surfactant, Surfaxin[®], in both RDS and alternate conditions. That evening we were challenged by our keynote speaker, Dr. Sunny Anand, to look at new methods for controlling pain in the NICU and PICU patients. His information challenged us to look at new ways to use existing drugs and sparked many conversations at the opening reception which followed his presentation.

Saturday was full of lectures and workshops for specialists in either the NICU or the PICU. Topics ranged from Medication Error Prevention to CVVH and expanded the knowledge of each attendee. In the later afternoon on Saturday, PPAG hosted its first ever round of resident presentations. Fourteen residents presented the findings of their research work and had the opportunity to discuss their findings with experts in the field. Watch for more information on these projects in the future ... we hope to see many of them as poster or platform presentations at upcoming meetings!

Sunday was filled with additional lectures and workshops along with a challenge. Our final speaker, Dr. Joseph Carcillo, challenged the group to actively advocate for change on multiple medication related topics and to remind our teams of the importance of the pharmacist in quality patient care. The event wrapped with a reminder to watch for more information on the Annual Meeting to be held in October!

Many thanks go out to my fellow committee members for putting together a spectacular meeting. Mary Binghay, Carlton Lee, Jim Dice, Sherry Luedtke, and Amy Parham worked diligently to find speakers and workshop leaders to challenge and inspire attendees and I thank them for their hard work!

Tim Todd

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**Annual Meeting
ABSTRACTS/
BEST
PRACTICE
PAPERS DUE:**

*May 31,
2006*

www.ppag.org

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Research Committee Update

At the Annual Meeting in Chicago, the research committee focused on establishing collaborative research among PPAG sites. A number of projects have evolved from that meeting. The first project is a formulations project. Ralph Lugo (University of Utah College of Pharmacy) and Jim Dice (Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Norfolk, VA) are working with a pediatric formulations committee organized by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Over the next year, the committee will be working to define the scope and extent of use of extemporaneously prepared liquid formulations in children's hospitals in North Amer-

ica. They are working on developing a collaborative study to be conducted by PPAG members that will assess several aspects of this issue. Please stay tuned, as more details will emerge in the upcoming weeks. The PICU "AE Trigger-Tool" project is a multisite project that will be looking at defining triggers associated with adverse events (including adverse drug events) in the PICU. Over 20 PPAG practitioners have expressed interest in this project and at least 1 teleconference call has been held to date. The third project involves SSRI exposure during pregnancy and the effects on the newborn. Seven PPAG practitioners, to date, are involved with this project. The protocol

is almost ready for submission to the IRB. Lastly, the committee is finalizing its plans for workshops at the Annual Meeting that will be held in San Francisco. We are putting together workshops on issues dealing with pediatric research, including ethics in pediatric drug trials and the process of obtaining consent in research studies. The abstract and review process seems to be working quite smoothly, after major changes last year.

David Knoppert and Ralph Lugo

Advocacy Committee Update

The Advocacy Committee is very active right now with over 35 members. We are working hard on position statements, such as the rule of six vs. standardization, use of long-acting beta agonists, use of psychostimulants in children, and a database on products for patients on a ketogenic diet. The most exciting project is our workshop planned for the upcoming annual PPAG meeting on medication use in schools, which

is also one of our position statements planned. A survey on the ratio of beds to pharmacists in children's hospitals, among other topics, will be conducted. Please help us by participating in these surveys so that we can



develop strong position statements on behalf of PPAG. All ideas and comments are welcome.

Our next conference call will be in June. Anyone interested in joining the Advocacy Committee or voicing ideas for future position statements can contact Catherine.tom@liu.edu.

Cathrine Tom

Member Services Update

The Members services committee has been busy with the recruitment campaign as it comes to a close. PPAG currently has 597 members. We are in the process of creating a PPAG brochure that can inform pharmacists and other health-care providers about PPAG and what PPAG can do for them! If you know pharmacists who works with the pediatric popula-

tion, let them know about PPAG and encourage them to become a member and get involved. Also, encourage your students and residents to join – they even get a discounted price!

Are you ready for pediatric specific **on-line** CE from PPAG? It is almost here! Be watching as more details are coming.

Let us know your thoughts about Pedi-Net! Check out the online survey and let us know what new forums would be beneficial.

New idea for members?? Let us know. Contact Lea Eiland at eilanls@auburn.edu

Lea Eiland

Calling all ABSTRACTS!!!

All practitioners/investigators in the field of pediatric clinical pharmacy, whether members of PPAG or not, are invited to submit abstracts of papers to be considered for platform or poster presentation at the 15th PPAG Annual Meeting, September 28-October 1, 2006 at the Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel, San Francisco, California.

All submissions should be no longer than 400 words. All submissions with preliminary or final results may be submitted in any of the following categories: Scientific, Administrative, Case Report, and Encore Presentations (a poster that has been pre-

resented and published elsewhere. A citation must accompany encore presentations). Accepted abstracts will be published in the Journal of Pediatric Pharmacy and Therapeutics.

Students, Residents and Fellows whose research projects are ongoing at the time of submission but do not have preliminary results are encouraged to submit in the Research-in-Progress category. Abstracts accepted in this category will not be published in the Journal of Pediatric Pharmacy and Therapeutics. However, if such projects do have preliminary or final results, they should be

submitted in Original Research, or Encore Presentation category. All submissions, except those in Research-in Progress and encore categories, will be eligible for the Young Investigator or Best Original Paper award. The finalists will be judged by a panel of judges during the poster and platform presentation sessions .

Online submissions will begin in April. Deadline for Submission of abstracts is May 31, 2006

Education Committee Update– 2006 Annual Meeting

The Education Committee is working hard to finalize the 2006 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel in San Francisco from Thursday, September 28th through Sunday, October 1st. A few of the highlights of the meeting will be a Pre-conference symposium on the Management of Cystic Fibrosis, a Post-conference symposium related to Toxicology and

Drugs of Abuse, and an Infectious Diseases tract that will run throughout the meeting.

Dale
Whitby



Drug Shortages on the Web Page– Have you seen them?

You may have noticed information about drug shortages on the PPAG website and through the email updates over the last year. This has been an ongoing project through the member services committee in order to alert pediatric practitioners about drug shortages or changes in clinical practice (i.e. – promethazine in patients less than 2 years of age) that particularly affect their patients.

We need to hear from you about shortages you experience and any particular drugs you would like information about. Please email matthew.helms@ppag.org with suggestions.

Katie Marks

Current info n the web site:
Promethazine, MVI, Cefotetan, Flovent HFA.



Q&A with the COO-Jim Dice

1. What is your mission as the chief operating officer of PPAG?

My mission is to help move PPAG to the next level. I think we, especially Matt, has done a terrific job with our meetings, increasing our membership and enhancing the web page. One area I am hopeful we can increase our involvement in is medication advocacy by working with other pediatric medical professional organizations. I would like PPAG alone or jointly make or publish position statements on various medication issues or topics. In addition, we need to expand our membership support and benefits by offering on-line CE and other benefits via innovative means.

2. How do you anticipate accomplishing this mission? Working with Matt, the Board and the VPs.

3. Tell us about your background?

Education: BS in Pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy & Science, PharmD from the University of Tennessee. Residency Training: Hospital practice residency at Medical College of Virginia Hospitals; pediatric specialty residency at the University of Tennessee & LeBonheur Children's Hospital. While in HS I started in a retail pharmacy in a small town in central PA. I realized retail was not for me and in the summer after my second year of pharmacy school got a job in the pharmacy at the local hospital. The following summer I was rounding with a family medicine team and going to codes. My first "real" job, other than moonlighting as a PharmD student, was a faculty position at the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy & the Department of Pediatrics; with the practice site being at the Oklahoma Children's Memorial Hospital. Then I was at Children's National Medical Center as Assistant Director of Pharmacy. After 8 years at CNMC, went to Children Hospital of Pittsburgh as Director of Pharmacy. After 12 years in Pittsburgh, it was time for warmer weather and I accepted the position of Director of Pharmacy at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk, VA.

4. Where do you work now?
Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters

5. What area of your current position interests you the most?

The areas that interest me the most are strategic planning, mentoring, information technology and extemporaneous oral compounding and sterile compounding but most of all is providing clinical practice to the neonates. I really like all areas of my job and pediatric pharmacy practice

6. How long have you been involved with PPAG?

Since the beginning in the 1980s.

7. What were those earlier years of PPAG like?

As some know, the original name of the organization was the Pediatric Pharmacy Administrative Group. In the early years the group was mainly Pharmacy Directors at the major free standing children's hospitals. There were a few of us who were not directors who also would attend and be involved. The group felt that there were specific issues in pediatric hospital practice that other pharmacy organizations were not addressing. The group would meet at ASHP meetings and discuss administrative and operational issues such as extemporaneous compounding, dispensing practices, sterile compounding practices, expanding clinical services, etc.

8. When it comes to being an advocate of pediatric pharmacy, what is your one issue that you love to discuss/support?

What a tough question. I am most passionate advocating for clinical practice and the importance of the pharmacist role on the patient care unit from a patient safety perspective and in recommending cost effective therapy. I am an advocate for appropriate extemporaneous & sterile compounding based on pharmaceutical evidence or "sound" professional judgment. Also, from a patient perspective I have been an advocate for informed consent when medications are being used in an "innovative" (significant off-label) or experimental matter.

9. What is your favorite non-professional activity?

I really have a couple: golfing, being at the beach, gardening/landscaping, most sports & singing (I sing in two men's choirs). I use to play softball but now am too old for that. I also am enjoying my new and only grandchild, Haighley.

10. Last question, if every time you walked into a room we heard your theme music playing, what would we be listening to?

"We Are Family" sung by Sister Sledge., because my own family and my work family are very, very important to me. In addition, I am a big supporter of team work. I really like most oldies (50's, 60's & 70's music) and if you walk into my office you will hear my CD player playing oldies music.

Keith DelMonte

Report from the Board of Directors

On March 30, 2006, the PPAG Board of Directors held their spring meeting in conjunction with the Specialty conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Highlights of the meeting included: updates on current projects, a strategic review of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats- SWOT analysis and a lunch meeting with Steve Allen, former PPAG Board member and Executive Vice President and CEO of the ASHP Foundation. Current membership of PPAG is about 600 with a significant increase seen over the last eighteen months. The financial condition of PPAG continues to improve and thanks to Matthew Helms, our executive director, communication with member and the website has improved as well. We appreciate the loyalty of our members and are working to continue to improve service to our members. Because of the growth of our organization the following actions were taken by the board.

1. The recruitment of a second staff member to assist Matthew Helms. We hope to have this position filled in the next 60 days.
2. Grow the Board to 7 members over the next two years. This organization continues to grow and a modest increase in Board size should be helpful as we expand our service and projects.
3. Pending contract approval- selected the Spring Specialty conference for Austin, Texas in March 28-31st 2007 with a theme of technology and medication safety. Eric Rose will coordinate this event.
4. Pending contract approval- selected Portsmouth, Virginia for the fall 2007 Annual meeting to be held September 26-29th. Leslie Briars will chair this event.

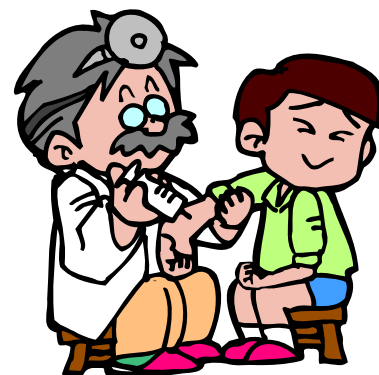
Currently nominations are open for Board positions and please contact Matthew Helms or a board member for additional information.

PPAG continues to grow and we thank all the committee members for their hard work in allowing this organization to grow.

Bob Kuhn

Did you know????

- New Pertussis Treatment Guidelines were released in December 2005
Check out <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5414a1.htm>
- Summaries of Pediatric Studies are Available from the FDA regarding ertapenem, glimepiride, insulin aspart, levetiracetam, linezolid, meloxicam, oxcarbazepine, ritonavir, sibutramine, alendronate, and rbesartan
Check our <http://www.fda.gov/cder/pediatric/Summaryreview.html>
- There are concerns with leakage from the Diastat AcuDial device
Check out <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01348.html>
- April 12, 2005, marks the 50th anniversary of the first polio vaccine
- A new oral rotavirus vaccine (RotaTeq™) was approved in February 2005. It is indicated for children at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months of age.
Check our http://www.cdc.gov/nip/pr/pr_rotavirus_feb2006.htm



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*Pharmacists Improving the Lives
of our Children*



Best Practice Award Announcement

The Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group award up to 2 Best Practice Awards annually. The awards are given to innovative and creative pharmacy programs that advance the mission, vision, and goals of the organization.

Awards are evaluated based upon innovation, creativity, cost effectiveness, improvement in practice and leadership. All pediatric pharmacy practitioners are eligible and encouraged to apply.

To be considered for the award, practitioners must submit a 400-word summary of your innovative and creative pharmacy program to the Advocacy Committee of PPAG.

Submission should include the following information:

- Introduction - a summary of the program including length of time for development and implementation.
- Background - a description of the impetus for the program and the establishment of its goals.
- Program Description/Methods - a description of the development process, including timeline.
- Discussion and Conclusion - a discussion of the program and its outcomes.
- Submissions should include any pictures, graphs, figures and data tables that supports the summary. Each of these must be clearly labeled and described.

Submission Format:

Each program description must be submitted online. Information re-

Officers

Chief Operating Officer– Jim Dice

Vice President Member Services- Jeff Low

Vice President Finance– Karl Gumpfer

Vice President Education and Research– Eric Rose

Vice President Publications and Advocacy- Sherry Luedtke

Board of Directors

Chair- Robert Kuhn

COO/Chair-Elect- James Dice

Donna Kraus

Cindy Stowe

Cindy Dusik

Committee Chairs

Dale Whitby, Chair, 2006 Annual Meeting

Timothy Todd, Chair, 2006 Specialty Conference

Lea Eiland, Chair, Member Services Committee

Ralph Lugo, Co-chair, Research Committee

Dave Knoppert, Co-chair, Research Committee

Catherine Tom, Chair, Advocacy Committee

Allyson Gaylor, Chair, Silent Auction Committee

Mary Bingham, Chair, Exhibits and Sponsorships

garding the online submission process will be described each year in advance of the deadline.

Recipients of the award receive a plaque for the practice site and a certificate recognizing each contributor to the program. Award recipients will share their best practice during a presentation at the Annual Meeting and as a poster at the Annual Meeting. Registration, airfare, and one night hotel will be provided for one representative of each award.

