**Announcements**

**Hurricane Sandy**
Dear NYSCHP Members, On behalf of the NYSCHP Board of Directors, I want to extend my thoughts and prayers to all of those affected by Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath. Thank you for your dedication to this great profession of ours and especially for what you have done over the past several weeks to help those in need. Whether it be those pharmacists from NYU and Bellevue Medical Center, the Coney Island Hospital and all others too numerous to mention, It has truly been a trying time for all of us. If there is any bright spot in all of this, it would be the incredible spirit that comes from each and every one of you. And I am certain that this dedication will continue as we heal and move forward. Mark Sinnett, PharmD, FASHP President, New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists
msinnet@montefiore.org

---

**Headlines**

**NYSCHP News**
- College Spotlight: Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- NYSCHP Jan Keltz Memorial Winter CPE Program
- Pharmacy Week 2012: Pharmacists as Immunizers!
- Chapter Spotlight: Long Island
- 2013 NYSCHP Annual Assembly: Medication Safety

**ASHP News**
- International Hospital Pharmacy Section’s Work on Basel Statements Continues
- Meningitis Outbreak Challenges Hospital Pharmacies
- ASHP Testifies to Senate Committee about Compounding
- ASHP Endorses CDC’s Joint Statement on Antibiotic Resistance

**Pharmacy News**
- FDA and EMA Reaffirm Important Health Benefits and Safety of Pradaxa (Dabigatran Etxilate) for Patients With Atrial Fibrillation
- School of Pharmacy Celebrates 50 Years of Excellence
- New Milestone Reached by UH-Hilo College of Pharmacy
- FDA Approves Tofacitinib for RA Treatment
- FDA expands use of Rivaroxaban to Treat, Reduce Recurrence of Blood Clots
- Prescription drug monitoring programs are underutilized tool
- Doctors Advocate Greater Use of Pain Relievers for Children in the ER
- Acetaminophen Dosing Guidelines Needed for Overweight Children, Report Shows
- Home Infusion Therapy Helps Avoid Visits to the Hospital
- Hospitals Look to Lower Readmission Rates
**NYSCHP News**

**College Spotlight: Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences**

ACPHT SSHP Spotlight- October 2012 Nicole M. Lodise, ACPHS Faculty Liaison and SSHP Co-Advisor

The Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS) Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy (SSHP) has just completed another successful year of professional outreach, legislative lobbying, patient care initiatives and networking opportunities. In spring 2012, the new e-board for the student society was elected. Our 2012-2013 Board consists of: Jessica Ramich, President; Rachel Meyer, President-Elect; Maura Wojak, Vice President; Amelia Casalenuovo, Secretary; Mark Carswell, Treasurer; and Molly Squilla, Clubs Congress Representative. Faculty co-advisors for SSHP include: Nicole Lodise, PharmD and Jessica Farrell, PharmD.

ACPHT-SSHP has again received official recognition from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) for the 2012-2013 academic year. The organization has worked diligently over the past year to achieve this recognition. Their key initiatives continue to focus on promoting patient education and advocating for the profession.

Promoting Patient Education: the SSHP chapter continues to grow with dynamic members. Each member’s active participation and involvement within the chapter is essential in maintaining our success. Three key patient care projects that SSHP has been extremely active in include: Tar Wars, Poison Prevention education and Public Outreach initiatives such as Fall Prevention for the Elderly. Tar Wars is a national tobacco free education program for kids from the American Academy of Family Physicians. It is aimed towards providing education regarding the harmful effects of tobacco use to fifth grade students. This is a free education service offered at local elementary schools. Over this past year, SSHP has presented the Tar Wars program at multiple schools regarding the health risks of tobacco use. Another important patient initiative is Poison Prevention. The Poison Prevention program, designed by the Upstate New York Poison Control Center, is aimed at providing education and awareness to first and second grade elementary school students regarding unsafe household products and strategies to make your home safer. The SSHP chapter has also been involved with several community events presenting on Fall Prevention and providing education on Calcium and Vitamin D.

SSHP continues to be active with on campus awareness events and community events supporting Great American Smokeout initiatives in addition to participation at the ACPHS Health Expo. Advocating for the Profession: service through professional activities is an excellent way to make an impact in the profession. SSHP has been involved in numerous endeavors over the year such as: continued participation in ASHP’s Clinical Skills Competition; presenting a Residency Fair to educate students within the ACPHS community on available residency programs, tools to prepare for the interview process and navigating the ASHP midyear clinical meeting; participation at Pharmacy Legislative day in addition to offering presentations to educate students on current legislation; and promoting the importance of advocacy and leadership within the profession.

The ACPHS-SSHP chapter is a dynamic, energetic and vibrant group of future pharmacists and the chapter is thrilled to have so many active existing members. However, the chapter is always looking for new members and new opportunities to advocate for the profession and educate patients. Everyone can make a difference within our profession.

**NYSCHP Jan Keltz Memorial Winter CPE Program**

NYSCHP 2013 Jan Keltz Memorial Winter Program January 19-21, 2013 Crowne Plaza, Lake Placid, NY

7.5 hours of continuing professional development with topics including a new drug update, IRB discussion, Herbal update, Pharmacologic Management of Psychiatric

---

**NYSCHP Calendar of Events**

**2012 Midyear Meeting [ASHP]**
12/02/12 - 12/06/12

The 47th ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exhibition will be held in the exciting Las Vegas, this year. ASHP’s Midyear Clinical Meeting is the largest gathering of pharmacists in the world. With its focus on improving patient care, the meeting is attended by more than 20,000 pharmacy professionals from 86 countries. For decades, the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting has provided health-system pharmacy practitioners with a venue for updating their knowledge, networking with colleagues, enhancing their skills, and learning about the latest products and technologies.

**Las Vegas, NV**

web link

**NYS Reception, ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, LV, NV**
12/03/12

MGM Grand Room 314/315
5:30 - 7:00 PM NYSCHP
ACPHS D’Youville LIU SJF SJU
Touro UB
web link

**CDTM Summit II**
2/27/13

CDTM Summit II February 27, 2013 GNYHA, 555 W. 56th St, NY, NY
web link

**NYSCHP Annual Assembly: Medication Safety**
5/03/13 - 5/05/13

Turning Stone Verona, NY
web link

---


11/29/2012
Complications in HIV, Updates in Antifungal Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, A primer on the management of antiplatelet and anticoagulant-induced bleeding events, Empowering patients through motivational interviewing, septic shock in pregnancy and combating antibiotic resistance. Registration will open the the beginning of November 2012. You may make your reservations at the Crowne Plaza now by reserving under the NYSCHP room block by calling . We look forward to seeing you in Lake Placid!

Pharmacy Week 2012: Pharmacists as Immunizers!
Pharmacy Week at Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Kenmore NY Western Chapter of NYSCHP. Due to limited availability of our Employee Health Office, associates did not have convenient times in which to get their flu shots. The hospital provides them for no charge to associates and volunteers. Last year approx 31% of associates got the flu shot. This year, pharmacists traveled to the nursing units and ancillary departments and immunized approximately 175 associates during working hours. The goal for next year is to have more pharmacists as certified immunizers and increase the number of employees immunized. Jim Barlett, president of the NYSCHP Western Chapter and Frank Heinrich, Past President of the NYSCHP Western Chapter administered flu shots to associates.

Chapter Spotlight: Long Island
Chapter Spotlight, LISHP Kathleen Minlionica, Pharm.D., President LISHP Chapter Director of Pharmacy, The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brooklyn, New York 2012-2013 Year: The Long Island Society of Health System Pharmacists continued to have nine well attended monthly meetings. Membership is growing slightly and members look forward to the venues and continuing education topics chosen for them. There have been typically 60 to 80 members present, which lends itself to networking and friendly discussion. A favorite of all is our March meeting which has been named the Professor Anthony Buatti Pharmacy Resident Research Symposium, who was a beloved Professor from Saint John’s University who always attended LISHP meetings even as a retired member until his death. The Symposium features research presentations by six Pharmacy PGY-1 Residents from various Residency programs on Long Island. Professor Buatti’s daughter, Adele McHugh, is also an LISHP member, and is always moved with the administration of the meeting and the educational effort put forth is truly what her father fostered. We would like to thank GNYHA and Chapter Liaison Joe Mislowack for their continued support of our June installation meeting over the years. This year’s meeting was well received with a presentation by our own Past President as well as NYSCHP Past President Dr. Leigh Briscoe Dwyer with Medication Safety continuing education credits provided. Secretary of the NYS Board of Pharmacy, Mr. Larry Mohkiber was also in attendance and provided our members with the most recent updates related to CDTM and Pharmacist access to Controlled Substance Registry to assist with the challenges with opiate overusage. Mark Macchia, LISHP Past President 2011-2012, Membership Chair NYSCHP, has been actively educating current members about recruiting new members from their respective institutions. During our October meeting held during Pharmacy Week, we gave out USB flashdrives with LISHP logos to our current members to thank them for their continued membership and with the hope they further promote our Society to their peers. Our October meeting had a record attendance of 90 members in attendance. LISHP was also present at the 2012 St John’s University Organization day held October 22nd. Past President Donna Sym, President Elect Robert Berger and President Kathleen Minlionica staffed the tables and provided information about the NYSCHP and LISHP to St John’s University Pharmacy students. We are hoping to increase student membership to our chapter. LISHP is fortunate to have a very active roster of LISHP Past Presidents that continue to provide the current Board with their experience and expertise. These past presidents include Ed Hayes (our current Secretary) who painstakingly sends out announcements and maintains member information, Leigh Briscoe Dwyer, Donna
Sym, Leonard Langino, Steven Cabble, Amanda Ryan, Heide Christensen and Mark Macchia. Their help in setting up monthly meetings, providing advice, and reaching out to various contacts continues to benefit us. LISHP had full representation at the NYSCP Annual Assembly in Saratoga Springs New York at the House of Delegates Sessions earlier this spring. We are proud to have LISHP chapter representation at the NYS level, namely, Heide Christensen Chair of Continuing Competency Committee (CCC), Mark Macchia, Chair Membership Committee as well as a member of the Professional Advisory Committee, and Kathleen Minlionica member Constitution and By Laws Committee. I want to thank my Board members serving with me in the current year, Robert Berger Pharm.D., MBA, Director of Pharmacy at St Catherine of Sienna Hospital, Edmund Hayes, Pharm.D. M.S. Associate Director of Pharmacy, Stonybrook University Medical Center and Caesar Alaienia, Pharm.D., Clinical Pharmacist Stonybrook University Medical Center. We continue to look for ways to increase the involvement of LISHP in the NYSCP and the Health System Pharmacy profession. We have challenges going forward with funding for our upcoming meetings in 2013 but are exploring different avenues to pursue to provide our members with the continuing education topics that are of interest to them. Respectfully, Kathleen Minlionica, Pharm.D.

President-LISHP

web link | return to headlines

**2013 NYSCP Annual Assembly: Medication Safety**

May 3-5, 2013 Turning Stone, Verona, NY Medication Safety

Topics ISMP medication safety Jerry Foundation Keynote REMS/Opioids Biostatistics Diabetes Certificate Program Multidose Medication Dispensing for Discharge NYS Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement Update NYS Board of Pharmacy Update

web link | return to headlines

**ASHP News**

**International Hospital Pharmacy Section’s Work on Basel Statements Continues**

[December 1, 2012, AJHP News] Cheryl A. Thompson BETHESDA, MD 15 November 2012 - With the global consensus statements on the future of hospital pharmacy practice reaching their four-year anniversary, the hospital pharmacy section of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is considering some adjustments.

Marianne F. Ivey, section vice president representing the Americas, said the officers have talked about splitting the consensus statements into two groups: necessary and optional. Ivey said such a bifurcation could result, for example, in the statements about formulary issues being put into the necessary category and the statement about collaborative prescribing - a "sophisticated" practice - into the optional category.

Lee C. Vermeulen, recently elected to a four-year term as section secretary after serving two terms as assistant secretary, said the group may simplify some of the statements.

Read More

**Meningitis Outbreak Challenges Hospital Pharmacies**

[December 1, 2012, AJHP News] Kate Traynor BETHESDA, MD 15 November 2012 - Pharmacists involved in the care of patients with fungal meningitis say both clinical and administrative issues are important in the response to the outbreak.
Before the infections were linked to tainted injectable medications made by the New England Compounding Center (NECC) of Framingham, Massachusetts, no one knew what was making the patients sick.

"Initially, just trying to figure out what was wrong with these patients - that was really the hard time [for us]," said Mark Sullivan, director of pharmacy operations at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Read More

**ASHP Testifies to Senate Committee about Compounding**

11/15/2012 Kasey Thompson The fungal meningitis outbreak caused by contaminated medications compounded by the New England Compounding Center was an avoidable tragedy, Kasey Thompson, vice president of ASHP's office of Policy, Planning and Communications, told legislators today during a Capitol Hill hearing looking into the incident.

Thompson represented ASHP at a hearing held by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. During his testimony, he noted that the majority of compounded medications used in hospitals are prepared in-house by pharmacy departments to meet patient needs and described the reasons why hospitals might enlist the help of compounding pharmacies.

Read More

**ASHP Endorses CDC's Joint Statement on Antibiotic Resistance**

Collaborates with CDC, Other Healthcare Organizations to Improve Antibiotic Use

11/13/2012 BETHESDA, MD - The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) is one of 26 signatory organizations that have supported the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Joint Statement on Antibiotic Resistance that was released today. Acknowledging the dangers presented by antibiotic resistance, the joint statement promotes several principles to both conserve and replenish our antibiotic resources, including:

- Improving coordination among stakeholders to promote knowledge sharing and communication to improve antibiotic use,
- Promoting the wise use of antibiotics through effective antibiotic stewardship,
- Identifying and replicating best practices,
- Supporting research that deepens our understanding of the current situation and trends,
- Refining and using the definition of "appropriate antibiotic use" to guide stewardship practices,
- Improving reporting and surveillance for drug-resistant infections,
- Encouraging the development of new drug products, diagnostics, and vaccines to combat antibiotic resistance, and
- Promoting the judicious use of antibiotics in agriculture and food animals,

"ASHP is pleased to support this initiative coordinated by the CDC and we look forward to participating in ongoing efforts to address this critical public health issue," said ASHP CEO Paul W. Abramowitz, Pharm.D., FASHP. Current ASHP policy affirms the Society's commitment to antibiotic stewardship and advocates for the inclusion of pharmacists in broad-based public health efforts to combat resistance.

Read More

Pharmacy News
FDA and EMA Reaffirm Important Health Benefits and Safety of Pradaxa (Dabigatran Etexilate) for Patients With Atrial Fibrillation
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Press Release (11/05/12)

The FDA and the EMA have reconfirmed that the anticoagulant (dabigatran) Pradaxa is beneficial in preventing strokes in atrial fibrillation patients. The decision came as the FDA published the results of a Mini-Sentinel assessment that found that patients taking the drug for the first time do not have higher bleeding rates than those taking warfarin for the first time. In fact, the assessment showed that the combined incidence rate of gastrointestinal bleeding and intracranial hemorrhage per 100,000 days at risk was 1.8 to 2.6 times higher for new warfarin users than it was for new dabigatran users. As a result, the FDA said that it was not changing its recommendations for dabigatran.

School of Pharmacy Celebrates 50 Years of Excellence
Northeastern University News (11/05/12) St. Martin, Greg

Northeastern University’s School of Pharmacy on Nov. 3 celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gathering of some 150 alumni, along with faculty and university leaders. “You may have noticed that the campus has changed, the programs have changed and the people have changed, but at its core, it's that enduring commitment to excellence that drives us forward every day,” said John Reynolds, dean of the School of Pharmacy, during the event. Stephen Director, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Northeastern, meanwhile praised the program for its research that focuses on the needs of society, security, and sustainability. “We know today just how important health care and efficient cost-effective delivery of health care is in this country and this school plays a leading role there,” Director said. The school’s cutting-edge research includes using new technologies to facilitate medical treatments, such as using nanotechnology to attack cancer and also monitor glucose levels.

New Milestone Reached by UH-Hilo College of Pharmacy
Big Island Now (10/19/2012)

The residency program in community pharmacy offered at the University of Hawaii’s College of Pharmacy at Hilo recently received national accreditation from both the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). Anita Ciarleglio, assistant professor in the college's Department of Pharmacy Practice, had been working with others in the department putting together the data needed for accreditation for over two years. "Receiving a three-year accreditation was a coup for us because we're so new," Ciarleglio said. "It means we can continue to concentrate on patient care while giving licensed pharmacists from all over the country the experience they need to get on with their careers and gives them credentials to compete for jobs." The College of Pharmacy, located on the island of Maui, is the only school for pharmacists in the Pacific. The school has thus far graduated five pharmacists, all of whom will get retroactive credit for being part of the newly-accredited program. "These [graduates] are redefining community pharmacy," Ciarleglio said. "They primarily act as the liaison between the community, the hospital and the physician, and provide a continuity of care that just wasn't there before."

FDA Approves Tofacitinib for RA Treatment
FDA.gov (11/06/12)

The FDA has approved tofacitinib (Xeljanz) to treat adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who have had an inadequate response to, or who are intolerant of, methotrexate. The safety and effectiveness of the drug were evaluated in seven clinical trials in adult patients with moderately to severely active RA. In all of the trials, patients treated with tofacitinib experienced improvement in clinical response and physical functioning compared to patients
treated with placebo. However, use of the drug was associated with an increased risk of serious infections, including opportunistic infections, tuberculosis, cancers and lymphoma. For this reason, tofacitinib is being approved with a boxed warning and a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) regarding these safety risks. The drug is also associated with increases in cholesterol and liver enzyme tests and decreases in blood counts. In addition to the REMS and the boxed warning, the FDA will also require a postmarketing study to evaluate the long-term effects of tofacitinib on cardiovascular disease, cancer, and infections.

**FDA expands use of Rivaroxaban to Treat, Reduce Recurrence of Blood Clots**

*FDA.gov (11/05/12)*

The FDA has expanded the approved use of rivaroxaban (Xarelto) to include treating deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or pulmonary embolism (PE), and to reduce the risk of recurrent DVT and PE following initial treatment. The FDA reviewed the new indication under the agency’s priority review program. The safety and effectiveness of the drug for the new indications were evaluated in three clinical studies. A total of 9,478 patients with DVT or PE were randomly assigned to receive rivaroxaban, a combination of enoxaparin and a vitamin K antagonist (VKA), or a placebo. The studies were designed to measure the number of patients who experienced recurrent symptoms of DVT, PE or death after receiving treatment. Results showed rivaroxaban was as effective as the enoxaparin and VKA combination for treating DVT and PE. The major adverse event observed in these studies was bleeding, similar to other anti-clotting drugs.

**Prescription drug monitoring programs are underutilized tool**

*Risk & Insurance (11/12)*

Heller School for Social Policy and Management researchers found through an assessment of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) in 41 states that there is a patchwork of strategies and standards throughout the United States, which has resulted in a reactive strategy. PDMP Center of Excellence Director John L. Eadie says, "Being proactive is the key to success in the fight against prescription painkiller abuse. While doctors may routinely collect and report data to a state program that signals where and when prescription painkillers are likely being misused, the program might not share that information with others who can best use it." While the programs are not sharing and analyzing the data in the best ways possible to prevent prescription abuse, the study does indicate that states with PDMP data collection have lower rates of doctor shopping than other states. Additionally, the use of state-issued prescription forms with uniquely configured page numbers has slowed rates of fatal painkiller overdoses. American Insurance Association (AIA) CEO and President Leigh Ann Pusey says, "PDMPs are weakly structured and administered, with an absence of mandatory reporting by physicians and pharmacists, and generally no access for third-party payers. More robust reporting and interstate exchange of prescription information, between and among physicians, pharmacists and other third parties with a legitimate policy interest in ending the abuse are desperately needed."

**Doctors Advocate Greater Use of Pain Relievers for Children in the ER**

*RTTNews (10/29/12)*

A study published in the journal Pediatrics has found that the use of topical pain medications and mild narcotics often does not result in misdiagnoses, despite the beliefs of many emergency room doctors to the contrary. As a result, the study said, topical pain medications and mild narcotics could be used to treat pain in children who are experiencing medical emergencies before they reach emergency rooms. In addition, topical pain medications and mild narcotics could be used to reduce the pain that children experience in emergency rooms during procedures such as the placement of IV lines and the drawing of blood, the study found.
Meanwhile, the American Academy of Pediatrics has announced that it has created new guidelines for reducing pain and stress in children during visits to emergency rooms.

**Acetaminophen Dosing Guidelines Needed for Overweight Children, Report Shows**
*Drug Topics (10/15/12)*

Simple, evidence-based dosing guidelines need to be developed to help caregivers and pharmacists determine how much acetaminophen to give to overweight and obese children, a study published in the "European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy Science and Practice" has found. Researchers came to that conclusion after giving pharmacists and caregivers working in a pediatric emergency room three hypothetical scenarios involving the recommendation or administration of acetaminophen doses to overweight or obese children. Most of the recommended doses were between 10 and 20 mg/kg after adjusting for actual body weight, though dosages above 20 mg/kg were recommended after adjusting for ideal body weight. The authors noted that such high dosages of acetaminophen could put obese and overweight children at a higher risk of toxicity.

**Home Infusion Therapy Helps Avoid Visits to the Hospital**
*AnnArbor.com (10/22/12) Caldwell, Alan*

Heartland Home Health Care, Hospice and Home Infusion introduced the SAFE (Specialized Assessment for Fragile and Elderly patients) program as part of an effort to keep people in their homes and out of the hospital. Designed to help Heartland's senior clients, the program is covered by most managed care insurance plans, features a special assessment of needs, geriatric certified pharmacists specializing in dosing for older patients, and includes IV medications, tube feeding, and total parenteral nutrition. The program has been quite successful, increasing the home success rate for Heartland's seniors from 65 percent to 93 percent, which is nearly the same as the success rate among their younger patients.

**Hospitals Look to Lower Readmission Rates**
*Boston Globe (11/05/12) Conaboy, Chelsea*

Hospitals nationwide are working to improve practices to reduce readmissions and prevent monetary losses under a new federal program to improve overall care for sick seniors. Among the strategies hospitals are adopting are hiring people to follow up with discharged patients, installing technology to predict which patients need the most help when they are discharged and forging new partnerships with nursing homes, physician practices and social services. Hospitals in Massachusetts are working under new payment models in which they are rewarded for improving the management of patients' overall healthcare for the long term. However, critics are concerned the federal penalty program will disproportionately affect hospitals serving poor and minority communities. Beth Israel Deaconess' intensive follow-up program has reduced readmissions by as much as 20 percent among the up to 30 patients worked with monthly. The hospital plans to extend the program to 250 patients per month by the end of the year, adding seven transition counselors and four pharmacists to work in a large physicians' group affiliated with the hospital and in several other practices and community health centers.