From MSHP President Paul Arpino:

Greetings,

We hope you are all off to a great spring!

MSHP is in high gear and we have a busy but exciting spring ahead. Our Honors and Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting is just around the corner, on May 8th and 9th, so if you have not registered, please do (details and link below). This year’s meeting is shaping up to be one of our best yet, showcasing a new location, tremendous networking and learning opportunities, a sports theme that will provide some added fun, and a keynote address from ASHP’s CEO Paul Abramowitz.

This time of year for MSHP also includes our annual election process, which is critical to our continued success and growth. This year the ballot will include candidates for one Director, Treasurer and President-Elect. Voting has begun, so please make sure you take the time to vote by April 20 and help shape the future of our MSHP.

On the legislative front, we continue to work closely with the Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA) to help educate and provide prudent guidance to the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy (BoP) on the regulations being drafted and formalized in Massachusetts. Regarding institutional pharmacy licensure, we have secured time for local directors to meet, discuss and provide feedback on the proposed changes with the BoP. We have also made significant progress with proposals that would allow us to leverage technology to further expand the role of pharmacy technicians in Massachusetts (e.g. “technology check tech”). I urge all of you to look for and take the time to participate in opportunities to shape initiatives such as these during upcoming public comment periods.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to any officer of the MSHP Board or a committee chair with any comments, questions or concerns. Looking forward to seeing you all at the spring event!

Paul

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Updates in Pharmacy Law and Regulations 2017 »
4/27/2017
A Dose of Reality: The Pharmacist’s Role in Pain Management and Addiction »
5/3/2017
Antimicrobial Stewardship in Acute & Long-Term Care: Partnership for Prevention »
5/8/2017 - 5/9/2017
MSHP 2017 Annual Meeting and Honors & Awards Banquet »

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MSHP 2017 Annual Meeting

**Registration is open** for the 2017 MSHP Honors and Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting May 8-9.

Sharpen your game with professional development and networking opportunities at the 2017 Annual Meeting and Honors & Awards Banquet May 8-9th at the Four Points Sheraton in Norwood, Massachusetts!

This year’s annual meeting theme “Pharmacists as Health Care Providers: In It to Win It” focuses on team building and how pharmacy team players can work more effectively together to strengthen their skills, enhance efficiency, and improve patient care.

The meeting will kick off with the Honors & Awards Banquet and Poster Session, held in the evening on Monday, May 8th. At this event, MSHP will recognize outstanding pharmacists, technicians and students based on member-driven nominations.

The evening will begin at 5:30 pm with a cocktail reception and a visit from Patriots’ Team Mascot Pat Patriot, who will be signing autographs and posing for photos with attendees! The poster review session will be held during the Honors & Awards Banquet Cocktail Reception from 5:30 to 7:00 pm on May 8th; the posters will also be on display at the Annual Meeting on May 9th.

The Annual Meeting general session will begin on Tuesday morning, May 9th, with a keynote address presented by our team captain, ASHP CEO Paul Abramowitz, PharmD, ScD, FASHP. The 2017 Annual Meeting general sessions will feature a full day of live, multi-track educational programming for pharmacists and technicians (7 hours available, including two hours of law, one hour sterile compounding). Red Sox Team Mascot Wally will be on hand during lunch on the 9th to add to the fun! Don’t miss this chance to win Red Sox tickets or get a photo with Wally!

Don’t wait--register on or before May 1st to take advantage of early bird pricing. See you there!

**Register Now!**

### Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

**Paul Abramowitz**

Chief Executive Officer of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), Paul W. Abramowitz, will be the Keynote Speaker at the 2017 MSHP Annual Meeting. Prior to joining ASHP in 2011, Dr. Abramowitz worked in hospitals and health-systems for 34 years.

The title of his address will be “Pharmacists Must be Leaders: Perspectives on Leveraging Leadership to Improve Patient Care.”

*Continued on p. 3*
Three MSHP Members Receive ASHP Fellow Status

Please join us in congratulating the following MSHP members for receiving ASHP's designation of "Fellow of ASHP" (FASHP).

Snehal H. Bhatt (MCPHS University/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center)  
Bryan D. Hayes (Massachusetts General Hospital)  
Paul M. Szumita (Brigham and Women's Hospital)

The ASHP Practitioner Recognition Program acknowledges pharmacists who have excelled in pharmacy practice and distinguished themselves through service and contributions to ASHP.

Members who have achieved FASHP status have successfully demonstrated sustained commitment or contributions to excellence in pharmacy practice for at least 10 years, contributed to the total body of knowledge in the field, demonstrated active involvement and leadership in ASHP, and have been actively involved in and committed to educating practitioners and others. The program has recognized 900 Fellows since it began in 1988.

A list of the 2017 Fellows is available [here](#). They will be honored on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, during the ASHP Summer Meetings in Minneapolis.

Meet the Communications Committee's Social Media Members

The MSHP Social Media Subcommittee is getting active again—join us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn! Meet our current subcommittee members:

Mark Sciaraffa (MGH) wants to increase MSHP participation using modern tools such as social media. He feels the social media platform is extremely beneficial because it allows a wealth of information to be shared and disseminated very easily to a wide variety of users.

Margaret Wey (MGH) joined the social media subcommittee to be more involved in MSHP and bring the community closer via social media platforms.

Shannon Kean (MGH) looks forward to helping the subcommittee use social media to promote professional news, events, and announcements that keep our pharmacy organization on the forefront while also encouraging members of our pharmacy community engaged and connected.

Dr. Abramowitz has actively combined practice, teaching, and research throughout his career. He has lectured and published extensively, focusing on the effect that quality pharmacy care can have on improving outcomes of care and reducing costs, developing new care models, reducing adverse drug events, and expanding comprehensive pharmacy care to the ambulatory setting. He was a recipient of the John W. Webb Lecture Award in 2000 and the Harvey A.K. Whitney Lecture Award, health-system pharmacy’s highest honor, in 2009.

Come hear Dr. Abramowitz kick off the Annual Meeting with his keynote presentation at 8 am. Additionally, **10 lucky attendees will have the opportunity to have lunch with Dr. Abramowitz on a first-come-first-served basis!** If you would like to have lunch with Dr. Abramowitz, please sign-up via e-mail by [clicking here](#).
MSHP Program Committee Hits the Mark!

The MSHP Program Committee is pleased to continue to bring high quality pharmacist and technician CE’s throughout the year! Thus far in 2017, we’ve had a number of outstanding programs. Please make sure to check your emails or the MSHP website to register for upcoming sessions!

The following CE programs were sponsored by MSHP:

January 2017
Oral Chemotherapy: Setting Treatment Expectations for Patients and Providers
Speaker: Douglas Hackenyos, PharmD

February 2017
Adjusting Doses in the Critically Ill Obese Patient: How Big of a Deal is It?
Speaker: Katherine Nault, PharmD, MBA, BCCCP

March 2017
Management of Severe Traumatic Brain Injury in Pediatrics
Speaker: Ji Yeon Lee, PharmD, BCPPS

The following CE programs have been developed and sponsored by other organizations, but are endorsed by MSHP:

April 20, 2017 at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (for pharmacists and technicians)
Updates in Pharmacy Law and Regulations 2017
Speaker: David Seaver

April 27, 2017 at MIT Endicott House in Dedham
A Dose of Reality: The Pharmacist’s Role in Pain
Speakers: Antje Barreveld, MD (Anesthesia and Pain Management at Newton-Wellesley Hospital) and Michele Matthews, PharmD, CPE, BCACP (MCPHS University)
Organized by: Canton, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Norwood, Wellesley, and Westwood Public Health Departments

May 3, 2017 at MA Health and Hospital Association in Burlington
Antimicrobial Stewardship in Acute & Long-Term Care: Partnership for Prevention
Organized by: MA DPH, MA Health & Hospital Association, Healthcentric Advisors/New England QIN-QIO, MA Senior Care Association, and the MA Coalition for the Prevention of Medical Errors

More are in the works for the summer months! Join us!
Join an MSHP Committee!

- Looking for a way to make a difference in your pharmacy community by participating in MSHP?
- Not sure you want to dive right into running for a leadership position?
- Then why not consider a position on an MSHP committee?

MSHP is looking for interested pharmacists and technicians like you to provide input and feedback!

Check out this link http://www.mashp.org/?page=committee at MSHP and send us an email, or contact us via FB or Twitter.

Come to the Annual Meeting on May 9, meet some committee members and get an idea about what MSHP is all about!

Communications Committee

Board Advisor: Martin Goldberg

Website, Newsletter Layout and Publication:
Susan Wagner and Rousseline Rodene

Social Media Subcommittee
Mark Sciaraffa
Shannon Kean
Margaret Wey

Newsletter Subcommittee
Barbara Irby
Jonathan Zand

Thanks to our Contributors
Paul Arpino, Nicole Clark, Mark Sciaraffa, Monica Mahoney, Jonathan Zand, Susan Wagner, Rousseline Rodene, Barbara Irby

Comments & Suggestions on our Newsbriefs?
Please email us at admin@mashp.org.
**Practice Changing News**

**Individualizing inhaler instructions improves retention of inhaler technique**

Incorrect inhaler technique is responsible for more frequent asthma exacerbations and worse patient outcomes. Although dry powder inhalers (DPIs) eliminate the need for patients to coordinate inhalation with compressing the activator, DPI users still need to properly carry out several steps to deliver medication correctly, including preparing the device and generating sufficient inspiratory velocity. With “show and tell” demonstrations, most patients learn to properly use inhalers but technique deteriorates rapidly with time, particularly in patients prescribed multiple inhaler types. A recent study shows that when a simple list of printed instructions is affixed by the pharmacist directly to the DPI along with routine demonstration, patients retain correct technique, have better control of asthma symptoms, and use fewer puffs of their rescue inhaler. This scalable real-world intervention has the potential to increase the benefit of pharmacy training and improve important patient outcomes.


**Sterile compounding – findings from FDA’s 2017 Human Drug Compounding Progress Report**

As the first in a series of trials of the owners and operators of New England Compounding Company proceeds to a verdict in the tainted compounded drug tragedy, the FDA has issued its first report of the state of sterile compounding following three years of implementation and enforcement of the Drug Quality and Security Act.

Under this 2013 legislation, responsibility for regulation and inspection of compounding facilities was clarified and aligned with state efforts, compounding good manufacturing practice requirements (CGMPs) issued, and penalties for noncompliance implemented. Since 2015, FDA has coordinated inspection of more than 350 facilities, taken numerous regulatory actions ranging from 100 product recalls to complete facility shut-downs, issued extensive policy guidance, and convened an advisory board of scientific, technical and medical experts to oversee the future of safe sterile compounding. All pharmacy practitioners should review the first Human Drug Compounding Progress Report with particular attention to potential gaps (e.g., unregistered outsourcing facilities, page 9) and persisting threats such as insanitary conditions and other violations FDA continues to observe during many of its inspections (page 12).


**When dabigatran is combined with certain statins, older patients seem to be at increased risk of major bleeding**

In a recent analysis of health records of nearly 46,000 Canadian patients (age ≥66) who were taking dabigatran for atrial fibrillation, patients who were also treated with simvastatin or lovastatin had a nearly 50% greater risk of hospitalization due to major hemorrhage than patients receiving other statins. The authors of this study suggest that simvastatin and lovastatin may inhibit P-gp efflux of dabigatran, but this mechanism is unconfirmed by pharmacokinetic data. Until additional information on this potential interaction becomes available, it may be prudent to recommend use of a statin other than simvastatin or lovastatin in older patients treated with dabigatran and for those with an elevated risk of serious bleeding.

*Continued on p. 7*
Antioniou T, Macdonald EM, Yao Z et al. Association between statin use and ischemic stroke or major hemorrhage in patients taking dabigatran for atrial fibrillation. CMAJ (January 9, 2017) 189(1):E4-10. (PMID 28246253)
http://www.cmaj.ca/content/189/1/E4.full.pdf+html

Glucosamine and chondroitin fail to demonstrate benefit in knee osteoarthritis

Patients and caregivers alike are acutely aware of the need for safer, more effective options for improving pain control and function in osteoarthritis. Several smaller trials have suggested a benefit of glucosamine and chondroitin supplementation in osteoarthritis with virtually no harm observed. In a recent multicenter randomized placebo-controlled trial (n=146), glucosamine and chondroitin administration produced no improvement in patient-reported outcomes or mobility measurements. After six months’ follow-up, the reduction in global pain scores was superior in the placebo group relative to glucosamine-chondroitin use and there was no difference in any of the secondary outcomes, which included measurements of function, disease activity, and tolerability.


News from ASHP

The ASHP website has a new look—check it out!


ASHP Names 25 Members as ASHP Fellows for 2017 (3/23/2017)

Alabama Pharmacists Push for State Collaborative Therapy Law (3/10/2017)

Maine Pharmacists Eye Legislation to End Drug Plans’ Retroactive Fees (3/10/2017)

FDA Outlines Conditions for Pharmacies to Repackage Drug Products (3/20/2017)

Hunt to Receive 2017 Whitney Award (3/9/2017)

Abuse Potential of Noncontrolled Drugs Often Overlooked, Official Says (2/27/2017)


Pharmacists Turn Naloxone Training Programs into Video for Broad Audience (2/27/2017)

Family Focus Helps Pharmacist Improve Diabetes Care for Native Americans (2/13/2017)

Proposed Legislation CMS Guidance Portend Advancements for Pharmacists (2/13/2017)