

SDCPhA Voice

Newsletter of the San Diego County Pharmacists Association
May 2003 - Volume VI Issue 4 - www.sdcpha.com

California Pharmacists Association

President's Message

Helen K. Park, Pharm.D.

It's hard to believe that summer is already here, and 2003 is nearly half gone. There are some SDCPhA issues that you should probably keep in mind as the weather gets warmer and we all head for our respective vacations – at least for those of us lucky enough to get away from work.

Legislatively, aside from the never-ending budgetary and pharmacy payment issues, the board of pharmacy has begun its sunset review process. Six legislation items are contained within SB361, including a proposal to add 2 public members to the Board to “ensure that the consuming public has a (more) significant role in the decision-making process.” In order to address the problem of pharmacist shortage in California, the bill also proposes the adoption of NABPLEX and thereby allowing reciprocity with other states. The proposed change would take place beginning with the January 2004 exam.

Educationally, SDCPhA, in conjunction with the San Diego Pharmacy Emergency Response Team (RxERT), was awarded a substantial grant by the county of San Diego to provide four continuing education programs. The grant allows us to focus on emergency preparedness in the event of biological or chemical attacks. The first such C.E.

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UCSD at APhA Convention in New Orleans

by Sanam Ansari, Dan Ford, and Linda Ngo

The end of March not only marked the near-end of Spring Break for a number of the UCSD School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences students, but it also marked the beginning of a new opportunity. On March 27, 2003, six student pharmacists set out to represent their school at the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition. This year, the location was New Orleans, Louisiana. Having arrived one day prior to the start of the event, we were able to spend some time exploring the treasures of New Orleans. From eating beignets by the Riverwalk, to listening to jazz in Preservation Hall, this city offered a cascade of fun-filled opportunities to choose from. With the enthusiasm we felt, we were ready for the conference to start.

Having only attended the CPhA Outlook 2003 conference prior to this event, we were overwhelmed yet very impressed with the grand set-up and vast schedule of events available to us. We were very privileged to attend leadership workshops, learn about bioterrorism projects, and expand our knowledge of other exciting issues in various continuing education workshops. In addition to this educational aspect, UCSD was also represented in the APhA-ASP House of Delegates, thereby allowing for our voices to be heard and having an impact in important decision-making processes affecting many is-

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Dan Ford, Ali Rezaei, Shadi Vaccani, Sanam Ansari, Mebrnaz Farrokhi and Linda Ngo outside the Preservation Hall.



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Dates to Remember

May 31 - June 4, 2003

American Society of Health-System
Pharmacists Summer Annual Meeting
San Diego, CA
Call (301)657-3000 or go to www.ashp.com

June 6-8, 2003

Family Getaway Weekend
Embassy Suites, South Lake Tahoe
For details, contact Shannon Presidio at
(916) 444-7811 ext. 321

June 8, 2003

CPhA Emergency Contraception Training
South Lake Tahoe, CA
For details, contact Shannon Presidio at
(916) 444-7811 ext. 321

July 16, 2003

CPhA Third Party & Professional Services
Advisory Committee
CPhA Headquarters, Sacramento, CA

September 13-14, 2003

CPhA Long Term Care Weekend
Holiday Inn at the Wharf, San Francisco, CA
For information, contact Paige Talley at
(916) 444-7811 ext. 346

October 1, 2003

CPhA Policy 1 Committee Meeting
CPhA Headquarters, Sacramento, CA

September 28, 2003

SDCPhA/SDSHP Day at the Ballpark
Qualcomm Stadium
For information, contact Chris Woo at
(858) 538-4079 or ChrisAWoo1@aol.com

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program is on June 7 at Sharp Hospital. The focus is on smallpox vaccinations. Other C.E. programs have also been scheduled for the summer and are available via our website at www.sdcpha.com. For those of you interested in becoming involved as a voluntary pharmacist for RxERT, click on the website link from our homepage.

Following our social tradition, a Padres tailgate party and ballgame outing has been planned for late summer. In the meantime, the board is looking for volunteers to help plan a summer social. If interested, please contact me as soon as possible at hpark47@yahoo.com.

And sadly, I regret to inform you that Nicole Dolder will be leaving us this month for new adventures in North Carolina. Nicole has served as our secretary for the past 18 months and has been a true leader in the association, as demonstrated by her involvement with the 2003 Career Expo held in March. We will miss her greatly and wish her much success.

CPhA Trustee Report

by Terry McCarthy, CPhA Trustee-at-large/Region 8 Trustee

In the spring of 2002, the CPhA Board of Trustees voted to pursue a drastic "new direction" for the Association. This action was based upon the Board's belief that the Association was becoming increasingly unable to meet the rapidly evolving needs of the California pharmacist population, which was itself undergoing tremendous demographic and "psychographic" changes. The Board's conclusion was evidenced by continued declining membership and the specific inability to attract newer pharmacists.

CPhA's "new direction" can be best described as a shift from the Association's traditional service approach (basic member education and advocacy for what pharmacists want from the marketplace) to a new leadership approach. As part of this new leadership approach, CPhA will proactively determine what the marketplace needs from pharmacy and uniquely position its members to meet those needs. If done successfully, CPhA will help its members become invaluable components of the healthcare marketplace and experience unparalleled professional prosperity. In the process, membership in CPhA will become a valuable and essential part of pharmacists professional lives. Please stay tuned for the next update on this "new direction".

In just a few weeks, the nomination deadline for CPhA Region 8 Trustee candidates will be upon us and I urge you to consider running for this position. I will not be running due to term limits. I have greatly enjoyed my time on the CPhA Board of Trustees, finding it well worth the experience. CPhA's Region 8 covers not just San Diego, but also San Bernardino, Imperial Valley, Palm Springs and Coachella, with the trustee serving as a liaison between CPhA and the local associations. If you would like to find out more about the position, please feel free to contact me by phone 619-662-4151 or e-mail tmccarthy@syhc.org. Your membership is much appreciated, but your service would be invaluable.

UCSD at APhA continued from page 1

sues relating to the field of pharmacy.

Most of the policies were regarding the curriculum in the nation's schools of pharmacy. These ranged from instilling professionalism via white coat ceremonies, to certification in CPR for health care providers, to encouraging more stringent faculty standards to ensure the highest quality of teaching. Of the issues regarding the real world pharmacy, policies concerned the importance of mono-pharmacy as well as the regulation of Ephedra-containing supplements. It was a unique experience to see firsthand that California is ground-breaking in both its schools and its law compared to the rest of the nation. The highlight of the House of Delegates manifested itself in the support that all of the California schools demonstrated towards each other, thus giving California a strong voice nationally. These bonds that are formed now will definitely keep our state active and innovative in

the development of the profession of pharmacy.

To add a cherry to this sundae, extravagant galas, receptions, and ceremonies were organized for students to attend. From the first night to the last, this gave us all an opportunity to meet others who are in situations similar to our own, as well as San Diegans such as Dave & Pauline Newberg, Sondra Berdon, Ryan Gates, John & Cindy Cronin, and Denise & Chris Woo. UCSD even received an award for having greater than 90% membership in ASP. This we brought home to show off to our fellow colleagues. UOP received the same honor, in addition to winning the national chapter award for their 2002 Operation Diabetes. USC similarly won regional awards for both their 2002 Operation Diabetes and their Operation Immunization. USC's Peter Lee was recognized for his student leadership as well. In the National Patient Counseling competition, Western University and

UOP both made it to the finals. UCSD was even able to have a representative in this competition this time. They were all great recognition for hard jobs well done. Nationally, CPhA Past-President Steve Dibble was recognized as Honorary APhA President, UOP graduate Lawrence Brown was elected APhA Speaker-Elect, CPhA Trustee Kathy Hillblom served as APhA Nominations Chair, CPhA Past-President Mike Pavlovich served as APhA Policy Committee Chair, and APhA/ASP delegate Ryan Gates & CPhA Past-President Chris Woo served on the APhA Reference Committee.

Taking part in the APhA convention gave us all an insight to the inner workings and vast breadth of the field of pharmacy, a distinct view that we cannot always get from inside the classrooms. All these things combined made this experience an unforgettable one for the six UCSD SPPS pioneers.

Seeking Participation and Volunteers for 2004

With the year about half over, we are looking for YOU to volunteer to serve on a SDCPhA committee or to run for an office. Elections will be coming up in the next few months for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, and three Board of Director positions, and your service would be much appreciated. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact SDCPhA President-elect (and 2004 President) Randy Moore at 858-451-2611, fax 858-451-6324, or e-mail randym_68114@yahoo.com. Thanks for your association membership and support.



Sanam Ansari, Dan Ford, Linda Ngo, Shadi Vaccani, and Mebrnaz Farrokhi with the Preservation Hall Jazz band.

Legislators seem to think they have to do something, anything, just to prove that there is some need for their existence.

We have Senator Jackie Speier and her Senate Bill SB545. This would allow pharmacists to provide Emergency Contraception services. Although pharmacists already can statutorily perform this, it seems a legislator is taking notice and recognizing expanded pharmacist scope of practice. Isn't that what we've all been talking about?

Currently, in order to provide this service, the participating pharmacist must complete a training program on the product and service, find a prescriber who will engage in a protocol permitting the pharmacist to provide EC services without having been seen by the physician, incur increased liability for such action, and then assess each patient seeking the service before dispensing the product to determine a need for the product. It is because of these

product-specific requirements that third party payers compensate pharmacists for providing this service with a \$20 'consulting' fee that is unique to this product. The Medi-cal program is also in the process of developing a payment for this unique service. This seems fair to me.

However, SB545 would do the following:

- Prohibit pharmacists from charging a separate consultation fee to a patient for emergency contraception drug therapy.
- Provide that a pharmacist may not charge a dispensing fee that is in excess of the dispensing fee charged to Medi-Cal patients for the initiation of emergency contraception drug therapy.
- States that the emergency contraception provisions do not impose a duty on the pharmacist to provide a consultation different from that currently required nor to maintain different patient medication records.
- Authorizes a pharmacist to initiate emergency contraception drug therapy without having to complete a training program.

This bill impacts not only those who currently provide the service, but all pharmacies that provide Medi-Cal services.

Can you imagine what pharmacy liability insurance carriers will do with this. Also, if you work in a pharmacy and have a personal or religious belief against abortion, where does that leave you?

The profession believes in expanded practice, but it should be worth something. If you think of other items that legislators could come up with, you might include the following that could be done

for a Medi-Cal fee:

- Flu and other shots.
- Insulin shots and diabetes counseling.
- Blood pressure screenings.
- Diet counseling and patient weighing.
- Anything a physician does, that a pharmacist can do cheaper.

It seems that the only way that "expanded practice" as seen by legislators could be curtailed is by refusing, and then you wouldn't be allowed to fill prescriptions on the Medi-cal program. Can you imagine what the consequences of that would be? If the pharmacies all refused, the Medi-cal patients would be forced to stand in long lines at county and/or state facilities. Umm.

SB 545 is currently being held in Senate Appropriations Committee for possible amendments. CPhA is urging members to contact the Senate Appropriations Committee immediately through letters, phone calls and personal visits, urging opposition to this bill. The Chair of this committee is Senator Dede Alpert and she can be reached at:

Senator State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-3952
Fax (916) 327-2188
e-mail: senator.alpert@sen.ca.gov

However, ONLY write to her if she represents the district in which you have a business or in which you live. Senator Alpert represents Senate District 39, which includes the communities of La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Mission Beach, Ocean Beach, Point Loma,

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Bob Becker currently serves as the San Diego Pharmacist Association Legislative Affairs Chair

Coronado, part of Imperial Beach, Mira Mesa, Tierrasanta, Clairemont, Linda Vista, Hillcrest, North Park, Old Town and downtown San Diego. If you are not sure if she represents you, log onto www.leginfo.ca.gov and click on the blue box entitled YOUR LEGISLATURE. Enter your zip code to find your representative.

There is also an interesting federal bill that applies to you as an employee. Congressman Richard A. Gephardt is touting a bill that would reduce the income tax relief the Bush administration is considering and take that money and give it to corporations to pay for 60% to 65% of health care for their employees. Can you imagine a corporation that wouldn't like that? It would also leave one to assume that the employee would be responsible for 35% to 40%. Most of you, who have health insurance, are covered at a higher percent than that. But when the government gets into something, it becomes the norm for everyone. If you are covered by employer sponsored health insurance, imagine how much more you would pay for what you are now getting. This also doesn't do anything for the retired senior citizens, who have to send to Canada for their prescriptions. The working pharmacists (or other workers, for that matter) aren't the ones who have the higher medical & pharmaceutical bills. It's the retired, part-time and the unemployed who need this kind of help.

But as I say, when the government produces a plan, it becomes the standard.

Oh well, keep the faith.

- Fat Bob

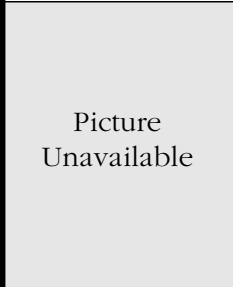
2003 SDCPhA Local Officers Roster and Contact Information



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From left to right: John Jones, RPh, JD - President, California State Board of Pharmacy; Robert Ratcliff, PharmD - Supervising Inspector, California State Board of Pharmacy; Dennis Ming, PharmD - Supervising Inspector, California State Board of Pharmacy

April 3, 2003 Dinner CE

“Update on Pharmacy Law and the California Board of Pharmacy” at the San Diego County Health Services Complex.



Stay informed about Continuing Education!

Visit our website at <http://www.sdcpa.com> for an updated schedule of our planned CE events.

Upcoming events:

June 5 - *Type 2 Diabetes Update*

June 7 - *Emergency Preparedness Conference*

Visit the website now for information on how to register for these fantastic events!



March 4, 2003 CE Dinner

“Hands-On Meter Workshop on Blood Glucose Meters” at Dave & Busters Restaurant.



March 20, 2003 CE Dinner

“Update on the Evaluation & Management of Chronic Heart Failure” at Busalacchi’s Restaurant

Be Part of the Festivities of the Last Padre Game Ever at Qualcomm Stadium

SDCPhA/SDSHP DAY AT THE BALLPARK

Sponsored by the San Diego County Pharmacists Association and the
San Diego Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists

SAN DIEGO PADRES VS. COLORADO ROCKIES Sunday, September 28, 2003



The San Diego County Pharmacists Association and the San Diego Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists have reserved a limited number of Press Level seats to the San Diego Padres versus Colorado Rockies baseball game at Qualcomm Stadium. Please join us for a tailgate lunch (B.Y.O.B.—however, no beverages of any kind are allowed into the stadium) at the last Padre game ever at Qualcomm Stadium. This will be a special day, with a pre-game ceremony scheduled and commemorative ticket holders distributed. It is likely that former Padre players may be part of this gala affair which will close down baseball at the former Jack Murphy Stadium, the last scheduled game of the 2003 season (the 2004 Padre season is scheduled to be played at the new downtown Petco Park).

We will be meeting at Parking Area A-4 from 12 noon to 1PM (game tickets will be distributed during this time). The game begins at 2PM. Take this opportunity to renew old acquaintances, meet new friends, and enjoy a good ballgame. Reservations will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please fill out the information below and return it with your payment no later than August 31 in order to hold your space. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Woo at phone/fax 858-538-4079 or ChrisAWool@aol.com.

You are welcome to participate in SDCPhA and SDSHP. SDCPhA meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at VASD Hospital at 7PM. SDSHP meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at VASD Hospital at 6PM. Please attend any and all meetings, serve on a committee, run for elected office, or just be heard.

Sincerely, Chris Woo

----- Please cut here and return with your payment -----

Name _____ E-mail address _____

Address _____ Number CPhA/CSHP members & family _____

_____ Number of Non-CPhA or CSHP members _____

Phone number _____ Fax number _____

Please return with payment by 8/31/03 to:
Attn: SDCPhA Day at the Ballpark
757 East Valley Parkway
Escondido, CA 92025

Cost (includes ticket and lunch)
\$17 per CPhA or CSHP member, and per family member
\$25 per additional person

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

San Diego County Pharmacists Association
6549 Mission Gorge Road, #101
San Diego, CA 92120

Local Board Meetings

Meetings of the San Diego County Pharmacists Association are held at 7PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the VASD Hospital, Room B152, in La Jolla. The next scheduled one will be on June 17. We welcome your input, participation, and attendance.



SDCPhA at APhA

Below: APhA CEO John Gans (middle), with Denise and Chris Woo. Bottom: San Diego APhA 2003 Reference Committee members Ryan Gates and Chris Woo.

