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Inside this issue:

Safety Goal Review	2
Las Vegas Relay For Life	2
Student Article	3
New NVBOP President	3
ASHP Foundation	4
USN Patient Counseling Competition	5

Special points of interest:

- Check out the new forum page on our web site. Post new topics and contribute to on going discussions! <http://nvshp.com/forum>
- Watch for information regarding the upcoming resident presentations scheduled to take place later this year. Updates will be posted on our web site: <http://nvshp.com>



Message From The President



**Kathryn Craven
NVSHP President**

NVSHP had two successful Nevada Law CE meetings last month with almost 200 participants between the Reno and Las Vegas venues. We had quite a few people sign up as members

at the meetings. The Education Committee is working very hard to organize the Second Annual Meeting. Topics of interest are being discussed between the Committee and the Board. Plans are being made to have a Resident Presentation on June 4th at Sunrise Hospital. The Legislative Committee brought together Pharmacy Directors and Managers for a meeting in February with plans for many more such meetings. As I announced at the Law CE meetings, the Board is actively recruiting new

committee members for all of our committees which include Membership, Awards and Nominations, Education and Legislative. Make the decision to become a committee member and increase your involvement in NVSHP. We need your participation to make the organization even better. If you are interested, please email me at KHC@att.net.

Sincerely,

Katie Craven

Announcements

- Save the date—the NVSHP annual meeting will be coming up October 16th-17th in Reno, NV. See you there!
- Be sure to vote on bylaw changes. Votes must be submitted no later than May 1, 2009. View the full NVSHP Bylaws, with proposed changes, on our web site <http://nvshp.com>
- The NVSHP website is a great place to keep up with NVSHP news and events, check for job postings, find CE credit opportunities, and post advertisements. Visit us today at <http://nvshp.com>

Medication Reconciliation National Patient Safety Goal to be Reviewed, Refined

From: http://www.jointcommission.org/Library/WhatsNew/med_rec.htm
Last Accessed 3/30/09

Medication errors continue to be one of the most frequent causes of preventable harms in health care.

Medication errors continue to be one of the most frequent causes of preventable harms in health care. The Joint Commission is committed to helping organizations prevent medication errors, as evidenced by our National Patient Safety Goal on medication reconciliation, which highlights a critical problem that poses significant risk to patients. However, since the Goal on medication reconciliation was instituted in 2005, many organizations have struggled to develop and implement effective and efficient processes to meet the intent of the Goal.

Today, The Joint Commission Accreditation Committee determined that effective January 1, 2009, survey findings on National Patient Safety Goal 8 (Accurately and completely reconcile medications across the continuum of

care) will continue to be evaluated during the on-site survey. However, given the difficulties that many organizations are having in meeting the complex requirements of NPSG 8, the Accreditation Committee agreed that The Joint Commission should evaluate and refine the expectations for accredited organizations. While this evaluation is being conducted, survey findings from NPSG 8 will not be factored into the organization's accreditation decision. In addition, survey findings on NPSG 8 will not generate Requirements for Improvement (RFIs) and will not appear on the accreditation report.

Recognizing that medication reconciliation problems continue to put patients at risk, The Joint Commission expects organizations to continue to address medication reconciliation within their or-

ganizations. During the on-site survey, Joint Commission surveyors will evaluate the organization's medication reconciliation processes, discuss opportunities for improvement, and collect information on the progress organizations are making in meeting NPSG 8.

In 2009, The Joint Commission will evaluate and further refine NPSG 8. As part of this process, The Joint Commission will consult with health care organizations, physicians, pharmacists, nurses, surveyors, and other stakeholders. Through these discussions, an improved NPSG 8 will be crafted that both supports quality and safety of care and can be more readily implemented by the field in 2010.

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Las Vegas Relay for Life

WHAT **Relay For Life** is a non-competitive team event to fight cancer. Team members take turns walking around the track. It's not an athletic competition, but it is overnight because cancer never sleeps.

WHO People like you who want to make a difference in the fight against cancer. Teams come from businesses, civic organizations, churches, families, youth groups, cancer survivors.

WHY To continue the progress that the American Cancer Society has made in diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

WHEN **April 25, 2009 6:00 PM – April 26, 2009 6:00 AM**

WHERE **The Alexander Dawson School – 10845 Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas, NV 89135**

The registration fee is \$10 per team member. Teams can be any size (average is 15) Email Alicia Gonzalez at gonzal213@gmail.com for Team Info or Call **(702) 476-4689** for all other information. Sign up today at www.relayforlife.org/northwestvalleynv



Student Article: Nevada Pharmacists and Student Pharmacists push for change.

By: Ana Negrete, NVSHP Student Representative

Currently Nevada is one of three states (Arizona, Nevada, and New York) that does not allow for a pharmacist to take a patient's blood glucose level. In a combined effort, a senate bill has been proposed that will hopefully change this law and allow for pharmacists and student pharmacists to perform blood glucose tests.

On February 18th, 2009, several pharmacists, student pharmacists, patients, and community members attended an open legislative hearing to show support for the bill SB 72. In addition, several members present at the hearing had the opportunity to testify in support of the bill. Amongst those who testified was Dr. Renee Coffman, Dean of the University of Southern Nevada College of Pharmacy (USN COP). Dean Coffman was able to address the concerns over the lack of training and knowledge that pharmacists have regarding diabetes disease state management and screening. She also emphasized that a pharmacist performing a finger stick would then refer a patient

to an appropriate provider and that Nevada pharmacists are not looking to attain rights outside of their scope of practice.

As the current APhA-ASP and ASHP (Student Alliance) president at USN COP, I was given the opportunity to testify in support of SB 72. I was able to testify about my experiences as a student with regards to health fairs and other community events that student pharmacists attend.

Currently, when student pharmacists volunteer at health fairs, they are able to provide basic screening for diabetes by using a set of standard questions. The patient must then go see a student nurse or EMT to have their blood glucose tested since pharmacists are not permitted to perform the test. Following the test, a student pharmacist, under the guidance of a licensed pharmacist, will consult the patient on the significance of the reading. As a student, it is very frustrating to be able to talk in depth to a patient about their risks for diabetes or managing some of the

complications but not be permitted to actually perform the finger stick.

With continued support from Nevada pharmacists, physicians, diabetes educators, the Nevada Board of Pharmacy, and community members, this bill has the potential for advancing the profession of pharmacy in the state of Nevada. Allowing pharmacists to perform simple finger sticks will serve as a great step forward to improving diabetic patient care in the state of Nevada.



New President of the Nevada Board of Pharmacy



Nevada State
BOARD OF PHARMACY

Late last fall, Donald Fey was voted as President of the Nevada Board of Pharmacy. Don was appointed to the Board in December 2007. He obtained his B.S. Pharmacy Degree at the University of Utah in 1982. In 2005, he graduated from the University of Florida with his PharmD degree through their Working Professional Doctor of Pharmacy (WPPD) Program.

Don started his pharmacy career at the University of Utah Hospital prior to coming to Las Vegas. He has worked at Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center since 1985 and is currently a Pharmacy

Supervisor. He has moonlighted at both North Vista and Desert Springs Hospitals.

With just a few meetings under his belt, Don has already shown the board and the attendees just how capable he is as president. One can only be impressed on how well he treats the witnesses who come to tell their side of the situation. He manages the meetings very professionally and competently.

NVSHP is very lucky to have such a well respected member.



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Case for Support: The ASHP Foundation

By: Jan Carmichael, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, BCPS

A few weeks ago I got a call from a past ASHP President asking my support to increase contributions to the ASHP Research and Education Foundation. In the past, pharmaceutical industry support has provided much of the direct support for Foundation projects. However, in the current climate members will need to step up. In discussion, I learned that there are approximately 400 ASHP members in Nevada and only 5 of us contribute to the ASHP Foundation. I've decided to write this article with the hope of changing that statistic.

Why the Foundation is Different from ASHP & Needs Member Support

The Foundation addresses unmet member educational and research needs that ASHP is not in a position to address.

The Foundation is the incubator that paves the way for the future of the profession while ASHP is the engine that supports current-day member needs.

The profession benefits when both ASHP and the ASHP Foundation are strong and effective thereby creating synergy unachievable if the Foundation did not exist.

I'm sure you also know that:

Foundation Contributions Will Be Utilized

To support the expansion of leadership programs that will benefit practicing health-system pharmacists at all levels of career development.

To support additional grant programs for clinical practice research for pharmacists in partnership with other health professionals.

To develop unique educational offerings that assist pharmacists in assuming expanded direct patient care roles in medication management.

To establish evidence of the effectiveness of pharmacists' direct patient care services thereby strengthening pharmacists' value in the health care system.

To demonstrate to potential corporate sponsors and other foundations that practicing health-system pharmacists personally support the work of the Foundation enhancing the likelihood of increased corporate support.

Never before has there been a better opportunity for pharmacists to significantly impact patient care by supporting the work of the ASHP Foundation. However, the ASHP Foundation cannot continue its work without the support of the very health-system pharmacists whom they champion. The current level of available funding will not allow support of all important research studies that will spring from the work currently being done or future programs that are necessary to bolster and promote the important role of the health-system pharmacist.

Please consider support of the Foundation and read more about other great projects your ASHP Foundation supports and go to: www.ashpfoundation.org

2009 USN Patient Counseling Competition

Please join me in congratulating P1 student pharmacist Jeni Riddle, who is the winner of the 2009 USN Patient Counseling Competition. Jeni will go on to represent USN Henderson at the APhA National Patient Counseling Competition at the 2009 APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Antonio, TX from April 3-6. There she will serve as our University's representative by competing against 1 student from each College of Pharmacy in the U.S. for a chance to place as 1 of 10 finalists who will compete for monetary awards and an engraved trophy for USN.

We had a large field of competitors, and special congratulations also go out to runner-up P2 Ana Negrete.

Many thanks go out to all the individuals who helped to make this event a success: Holly Prieto, District

Pharmacy Supervisor for Walgreens, who along with Lindsay Forrester from Walgreens provided food, and enlisted the support of 6 Walgreens pharmacists to judge the competition. Special thanks also to Dr. Coffman, the College of Pharmacy, and the Student Alliance for providing Jeni with complementary meeting registration, airfare, and hotel.

For those of you unfamiliar with the competition, it is divided into the preliminary round and final round. In the preliminary round, students select a simple practice scenario at random and are required to counsel a patient on the appropriate use of the drug involved. Students are then given time to refer to the reference sources available in the model pharmacy. After consulting the references and determining the appropriate information for the patient, the participants counsel the patient.

Evaluations are based on the content and style of the counseling presentations. The ten highest scoring participants are then invited to the final round.

The final round involves a more complex counseling situation where the participants again select a prescription at random and are asked to counsel the patient on safe and effective drug use. In addition, the patient in the final round will display personality characteristics such as anxiousness, belligerence or apathy to challenge the participants' ability to convey pertinent information in a realistic situation. The top ten finalists in the national competition will be recognized during the APhA-ASP Awards Ceremony and will receive a prize compliments of APhA-ASP. The four top winners of the national competition will also receive cash prizes.

Good luck Jeni!



Congratulations to Jeni Riddle, winner of the 2009 USN Patient Counseling Competition

Stay Connected

Stay up to date on NVSHP news and events.

- Email changes in your contact information to: nvshpinfo@gmail.com.

Visit us online at: www.nvshp.com

Give us your feedback! Please send your questions, comments or corrections to:

Michael Bartholow, Pharm.D.

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***Our Mission:** The mission of the Nevada Society of Health-System Pharmacists is to advance and support the practice of pharmacy in the health-systems and serve as a collective voice on issues related to medication use and public health.*