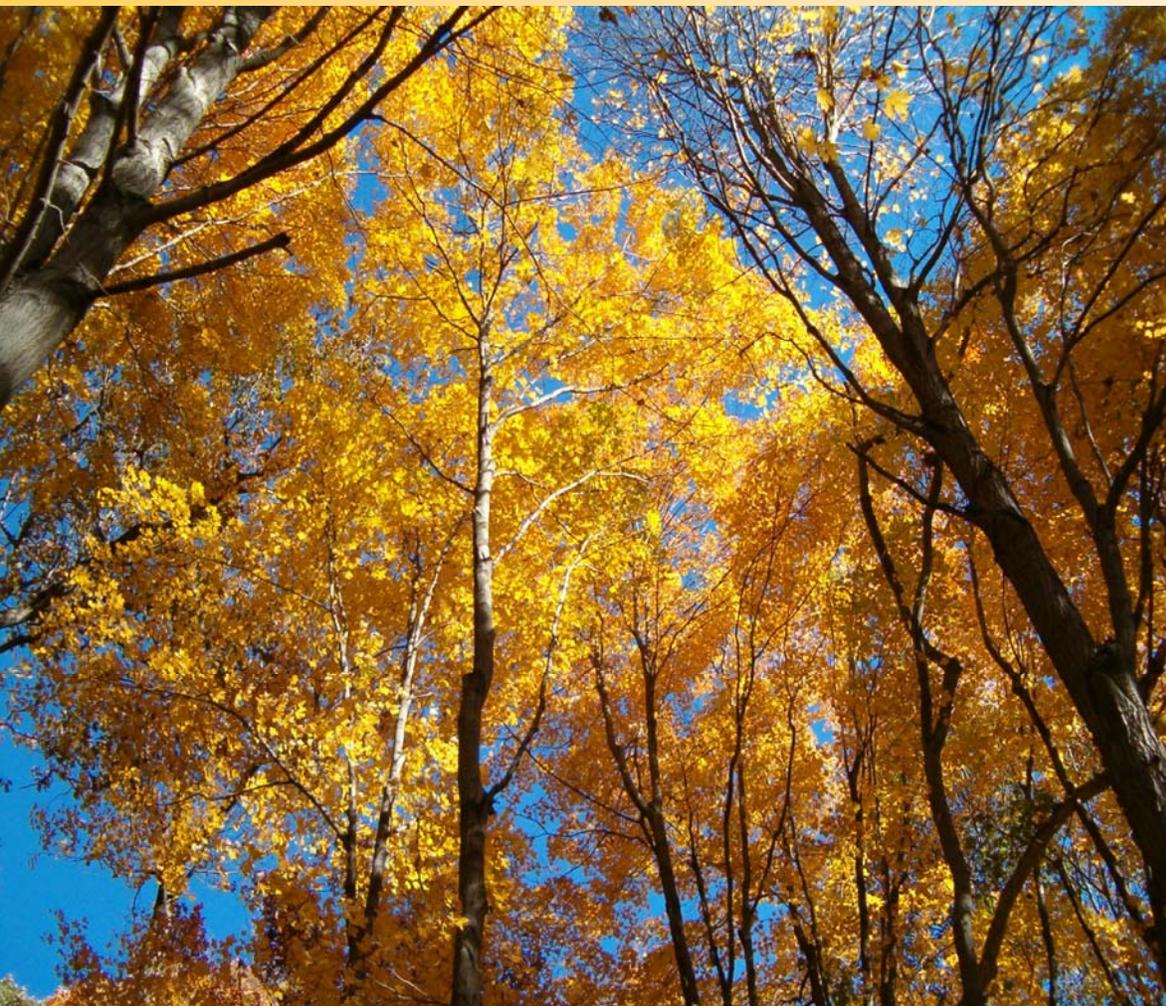


CT-ASCP's SenioRx

Care

Perspective

Fall 2006
Volume III No. 3



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UConn School of Pharmacy Update

Marie Smith, PharmD

Dept. Head and Clinical Professor – Pharmacy Practice

About 5 months ago I returned to Connecticut and the UConn School of Pharmacy as the Head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice. It has been over 25 years since I last spent any significant time at the School of Pharmacy and things have changed remarkably! First, many of you were present for the dedication of the new School of Pharmacy building in October 2005. You saw the state-of-the-art facilities with a high-tech, amphitheater lecture hall (which took the place of the beloved Rm. 350 in the old building), an expanded pharmacy library and computer lab, a new pharmacy practice lab with patient counseling rooms, student meeting and study areas, and pharmaceutical science labs.

The Department of Pharmacy Practice has expanded its staff and presence throughout the state with 16 full-time faculty practicing at various settings including UConn Health Center, Hartford Hospital, Children's Medical Center, Institute of Living, Burgdorf Clinic, Brownstone Medical Clinics, Hebrew Home and Hospital, West Haven VA, Yale-New Haven Hospital, and St. Raphael's Hospital. In addition, UConn School of Pharmacy is supporting 15 post-graduate residencies and fellowships in Connecticut this year. Of course, we are very fortunate and grateful to the 300+ preceptors who assist with teaching our students in a variety of community, hospital, clinical, and elective rotations.

The School of Pharmacy has had several activities and accomplishments I can share with you:

First, we are very proud that one of our faculty members – Sean Jeffery, PharmD, was elected as Region I Board member of ASCP. Congratulations to Sean for a well-deserved honor!

In August 2006, we welcomed three new faculty members in the Department of Pharmacy Practice:

- Sneha Baxi, PharmD, recently completed a residency in ambulatory care at the University of Illinois – Chicago. She is establishing a teaching/practice site in the ambulatory care clinics at St. Raphael's in New Haven.
- Megan Ehret, PharmD, recently completed a fellowship in clinical psychopharmacology and pharmacogenomics at Nova Southeastern University. She is establishing an inpatient teaching/practice with an emphasis on bipolar disorders and pharmacogenomics at the Institute of Living in Hartford.

- Effie Kuti, PharmD, recently completed a fellowship in pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research at Hartford Hospital. She is establishing an internal medicine teaching/practice with an emphasis on pharmacoeconomics at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven.

On September 7, 2006, the School of Pharmacy had the honor of hosting Mr. Robert Miller, ASCP President. During his visit, Mr. Miller met with pharmacy students, faculty, Dean McCarthy, and the CT-ASCP student chapter. We are excited that this visit spurred 51 students to enroll as new members bringing the total to 74 active student members.

Over the next several months, the faculty will also be addressing an implementation plan for a revised curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking skills utilizing a problem-based learning approach. We anticipate greater use of small-groups (rather than a large lecture format for 100 students) and are interested in identifying volunteers who have experience in patient case-based teaching methods. If you are interested in working with students in this volunteer capacity, please feel free to contact me.

Another change is the emphasis on creating more elective courses for PharmD students. Some of the new didactic courses include diabetes disease management, drug-induced diseases, e-health, entrepreneurial pharmacy, and pediatric pharmacotherapy.

Finally, I look forward to meeting or reconnecting with you as I travel throughout the state visiting with practitioners, preceptors, and pharmacy organizations.



Members of the CT-ASCP Board of Directors met at UConn earlier this month with ASCP President Robert Miller. From left: Jim Conklin, Sean Jeffery, Dennis Chapron, Kevin Chamberlin, and Robert Miller.

National Consultant Pharmacist Week



The week of October 23–29, 2006 will mark the 12th annual observance of National Consultant Pharmacist Week (NCPW). The primary objective of NCPW, which is the last full week of American Pharmacists Month, is to nationally promote the value of consultant and senior care pharmacists through high-profile media and public relations activities. Begin planning the week's activities today. By orchestrating community events during the week of October 23–29, ASCP chapters and individual members can play an important role in carrying on the ASCP legacy of professional excellence and community involvement.

To help you do this, ASCP has prepared promotional materials communicating why the consultant and senior care pharmacist is one of our nation's most valuable health care resources. These promotional materials are easy to use and include a sample press release, public service announcements, "op-ed" articles for your local newspaper, links to help seniors with the Medicare prescription drug benefit, and slide presentations on the health needs of seniors and the role of the consultant and senior care pharmacist in meeting those challenges.

NCPW also provides a great opportunity for you as a pharmacist to meet with your national or state legislators. Meeting with your elected officials or their staff is the best way to explain to them who consultant and senior care pharmacists are, what consultant and senior care pharmacists do, and the issues consultant and senior care pharmacists encounter on an everyday basis. *You* are the expert on pharmacy issues. You know more than the lawmakers do about Medicare, Medicaid, prescription medications and how the medicines affect your patients. In the meeting you can provide real-life experiences from your own perspective and that of your patients, which can affect how lawmakers view and decide on legislation. You can educate the lawmakers about your own pharmacy and the ser-

vices you provide to patients in communities they represent in Congress.

This election year provides an ideal time to invite your lawmakers to visit your pharmacy or work site for a tour. Candidates welcome opportunities to meet publicly with local business people and to shake hands with voters. NCPW is a great way to reach out to your elected officials and show them more about what consultant and senior care pharmacists do. You never know who may be your ally in the future.

If you have any questions or need guidance on coordinating promotional events, please contact Jonalan Smith at 703-739-1316 x111, jsmith@ascp.com. Information is available on the web at: <http://www.ascp.com/ncpw>



Above: Robert Miller, ASCP President, spoke with UConn pharmacy students at the UConn School of Pharmacy during his visit on September, 7th, 2006.

Communications Committee:

- Amy Huie-Li, PharmD, CGP
- Anna Egle, RPh, FASCP
- Kevin Chamberlin, PharmD
- Brian Pelletier, PharmD

Building the Student Chapter

Katie Myers, PharmD Candidate 2007

The cooler weather has arrived, the schools are back in gear, and the University of Connecticut student ASCP chapter is ready to kick off a new year! Our student chapter hoped to maintain the momentum we gained at the end of the spring semester. Our chapter has accomplished two successful fundraisers with our own rendition of "What Not To Wear," and our t-shirt sales at the Senior Symposium '06. We have been active with the state chapter, assisting with events at Senior Symposium. Now it is time to tackle student participation! At our summer retreat, we decided the best way to increase student involvement was to educate them on the benefits of joining ASCP and to teach them about consultant and senior care pharmacy. Who could achieve these goals better than our own National ASCP President Robert Miller?

The student chapter and the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy were pleased to welcome a visit from Robert Miller on Thursday, September 7. An agenda was created that heavily concentrated on student recruitment. The day began with two "Lunch and Learn" programs for the students to attend. Mr. Miller focused on describing senior care and the pertinent role we, as pharmacists, have and will continue to have in the care of the geriatric population. He spoke of ASCP's free e-membership for students and the many benefits and networking possibilities available through ASCP. The attendance at the "Lunch and Learn" lectures totaled about 80 students!



Above: UConn students gathered in the School of Pharmacy Atrium to learn more about ASCP

Right: Robert Miller, ASCP President, received a UConn sweatshirt from Kim Gillian, CT-ASCP Student President during his visit to the UConn School of Pharmacy on September 7th, 2006

The student chapter was also able to meet with Robert Miller for our first meeting of the 2006-2007 school year. We discussed ways to increase student participation and to keep the chapter active. Being one of many organizations within the school of pharmacy, we need to think of activities which will make us unique. We brainstormed for an hour on student chapter development and came up with some great ideas including community service activities, such as volun-



teering at a nursing home or hosting a "brown bag session" at a local senior center. We considered avenues of enhancing our exposure to the geriatric population, such as spending a day at an adult day care or shadowing a consultant pharmacist or VNA nurse for a day. In order to increase awareness about senior care pharmacy, we thought of a "Geriatric Expo." The idea would be to invite consultant pharmacists to set up booths at our exposition and educate the students about their careers. If you have any ideas on how we can increase student awareness about senior care pharmacy, please do not hesitate to share with us!

Following the student chapter meeting, the Board of Directors hosted a dinner for all students to attend. Students were encouraged to sign-up for ASCP membership while having dinner. Free membership and a free meal, it was a no-brainer. Forty students joined us for dinner, signed up for membership, and attended the monthly CT-ASCP Board of Directors meeting. A lot of positive feedback was received from the students following our first ASCP event of the school year. We hope this effort has differentiated us from the other organizations and that the students realize the numerous opportunities available to them through ASCP. We will keep you updated on the upcoming events for our student chapter; soon we will be packing our bags for the annual meeting in Phoenix!

Using and Understanding the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)

Dana Asaro, PharmD, Geriatric Resident, West Haven VA

WHEN:

The MMSE is most valuable when it is first used before cognitive impairment is suspected in order to obtain a baseline measurement. It is clinically useful to monitor the MMSE repeatedly for the same patient in order to track the progression of their cognitive impairment, or their response to treatment. It is also a good tool to estimate the severity of impairment in new admissions, or to note changes in the presence of acute illness.

HOW:

It is very important to begin by explaining to the patient the purpose of the test to the patient. This will make the results more likely to be accurate, as most patients value their cognitive abilities and may be concerned themselves about any impairment. The proctor should avoid persisting on items that the patient finds difficult or can not answer. The scores on the test should be interpreted using the information provide with the MMSE packet. It is important to remember that these scores should not be used for diagnosis, but for following a patient's cognitive decline. The test is scored out of 30, with scores above 24 considered normal. However, a table is provided below that adjusts for age and education level based on population averages. Patients who have a lower education level may start with a lower baseline score, and it is normal to have some slight decline with aging that is not associated with any pathology.

WHY:

The MMSE is a very standardized way to determine a somewhat subjective variable. It has been used since 1975, and has shown validity in studies of many populations. In addition, because this test is so widely used, it is an easier way to have a continuity of assessment when the patient moves between care settings. There is the possibility for rater bias when the test is given by different providers, and this presents as a weakness, however, it appears to be one of the most objective quantitative tests available at this time for initial screening purposes.

WHERE:

It is best for the patient to be in an environment where they feel comfortable in order to ensure that their test results will not be skewed due to nervousness. It is also best if the provider establishes a rapport with the patient.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

www.minimental.com

www.palliative.org

www.alzheimers.org

www.nemc.org



More than 30 students from UConn attended the CT-ASCP Board of Directors meeting on September 7th, 2006.

Table I: Based on population reference group regarding age and education

Education	Age													
	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	>84
4th grade	22	25	25	23	23	23	23	22	23	22	22	21	20	19
8th grade	27	27	26	26	27	26	27	26	26	26	25	25	25	23
High School	29	29	29	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	27	27	25	26
College	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	28	28	27	27

Notes 'n Votes - September 2006 Board Meeting

Michel Fortin, RPh, CGP

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 7-17-06 meeting. Approved unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

ELECTION UPDATE

J. Conklin provided an update regarding nominations for BOD & Pres-Elect. Nominations should be sent to Jim no later than 9-13-06. The installation banquet will be held at the Rocky Hill Marriot on 10-23-06.

NEWS FROM UCONN

Job Expo to be held at UConn School of Pharmacy on 9-26-06 with Interview Day scheduled for 9-27-06.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Kim Gilligan, Student Chapter President addressed the group and thanked the student chapter members for attending Bob Miller's meeting earlier in the day. She presented Bob with a UConn Huskies sweat shirt as a token of their appreciation. The student chapter is planning another fund raising event potentially to be held at Nordstrom's. The chapter is discussing other events including a community service event, residency and fellowship preparation with job interview preparation. Bob Miller congratulated Dr. Sean Jeffery on being elected to the ASCP BOD. He will be installed at the annual meeting in Phoenix. Bob also thanked Kim Gilligan for a great job done and he thanked S. Wojciechowski for inviting him to this meeting.

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Sponsors were thanked by the BOD for their sponsorship of this meeting and for providing an educational presentation.

Sponsorship: Jim Farrell and GlaxoSmithKline
 Guests: Robert Miller, ASCP President, Dennis Cleary, Cleary & Associates, LLC, Kim Gilligan, CT-ASCP Student Chapter President, Audrey Bernard, CT-ASCP Student Chapter Treasurer, and members of the student chapter

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm

Meeting—September 7th, 2006

Location: UConn School of Pharmacy, Storrs, CT

Next Meeting: Thursday, 10-23-06 at 5:30pm

Location: Rocky Hill Marriot, Rocky Hill, CT

Respectfully submitted,

Michel Fortin, Secretary

MEMBER NAME & TITLE	June	July	Sept
Sandy Wojciechowski, President	X	X	X
Sean Jeffery, President-Elect / Education Chair	X	X	X
Jim Conklin, Immed. Past-President / PAC Chair	X	X	X
Michel Fortin, Secretary / Treasurer	X	X	X
Mark Wrabel, Board 2005 / Programs Chair	X	X	X
Amy Huie-Li, Board 2005 / Communic Co-Chair	X	X	
Dennis Chapron, Board 2003	X	X	X
John Cannarella, Board 2003	X	X	
Kevin Chamberlin, Board2004 / Communic.Comm	X	X	X
Anna Egle, Board 2004 / Communic. Co-Chair		X	
Larry Sobel, President Emeritus / Legislative Chair		X	X
Gene Memoli, Past President / Chair Senior Symp. Legislative Committee	X	X	
David Cooper, Past President / Sales Senior Symp	X		
Jack Ziskin, Past President / Membership Chair Legislative Committee			
Sheldon Sones, Past President			
Kathy White, Senior Symposium Committee	X	X	X
Lisa Marusic, Senior Symposium Committee			
Bryan Lentini, Senior Symposium Committee			
Paul Belcher, PAC Committee			X
George D'Agostino, PAC Committee			
Brian Pelletier, Communications Committee		X	X

Connecticut Chapter-ASCP presents:

Managing Behavioral Problems in Dementia Patients

Richard Goldberg, M.D.

Professor, Departments of Psychiatry & Medicine, Brown University
Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital

at the
Hartford Marriott, Rocky Hill
October 23rd, 2006

5:30 PM-registration, reception, *installation of president, Sean Jeffery*

6:30 PM-dinner

7:30 PM-8:30 PM-lecture, 0.10 CEU

Please RSVP before October 19th, 2006

Call Erin O'Neil at CT-ASCP,

860-640-0008

Or

fax 860-657-3222

Attendance limited...\$15.00 processing fee will be collected at door, or mail in a
\$10.00 nonrefundable processing fee before October 19th

Learning Objectives :

- Review the differential diagnostic considerations relevant to behavioral problems in dementia patients
- Assess the relative importance of behavioral and psychopharmacologic interventions
- Learn the choices of psychotropic agents with relative advantages and disadvantages
- Review safety issues with antipsychotic agents, with focus on cerebrovascular adverse events and mortality

***This program supported by an educational grant from the
Johnson & Johnson LTC Group***

CT-ASCP
c/o Solomon & Associates
343 New London Turnpike
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Installation Banquet

Connecticut Chapter-ASCP Presents:

Managing Behavioral Problems in Dementia Patients

Pharmacists are encouraged to attend this presentation that will review the prevalence, differential Diagnosis, and management of behavioral problems in dementia problems, with an emphasis On safety and efficacy of antipsychotic drugs in the elderly.

Attendance limited... \$15.00 processing will be collected at the door or mail in \$10.00 before Oct. 19th

<p>Send to: CT-ASCP c/o Solomon & Associates 343 New London Turnpike Glastonbury, CT 06033</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____ _____ _____</p>	<p> CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT: The University of Connecticut, School of Pharmacy is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education as a provider of continuing pharmacy education. Pharmacists in attendance who complete an evaluation form will receive 0.10 CEU's (1 contact hour). (ACPE No. 009-000-06-065-L01) Statements of credit will be mailed within 4 to 6 weeks of the program.</p>
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