From MSHP
President John Clark:
Greetings!

It’s hard to believe that the MSHP year is almost over. I would like to thank Paul Arpino and the tremendous work that he did as President. Much like those that came before him, and likely after, the year goes by very quickly. Having the opportunity to serve on the MSHP Board for several years, I have been able to witness this firsthand. It is hard to believe that my term as President officially begins in only a few days. It was truly an honor to be installed by Dr. Paul Abramowitz, ASHP’s CEO and the keynote speaker at the MSHP Annual Meeting.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting and the Honors and Awards Banquet that precedes it, this year was another touchdown. A tremendous amount of effort goes into planning and executing these events each year and it truly shows. This year, there was a venue change as the meeting has become so robust that it was maxing out the previous venue. The committee members really stepped up to the plate incorporating a sports theme for this year’s events. They even went so far as to get Wally the Green Monster and Pat the Patriot to make guest appearances!

Traditionally, MSHP is relatively quiet over the summer months. However the Board and the Communications Committee wanted to get this edition of the Newsbrief published before the end of the year. Additionally, for the past several years, the Board has met sometime in August for a half day strategic planning session. You may have noticed on the website (www.mashp.org) under ‘Resources’ that there is a link for the MSHP Strategic Plan. It is modeled on the ASHP strategic plan yet customized for our members. If you have not had a chance to look at it, I encourage you to take a few minutes to review and reflect on what you are passionate about and where you could possibly contribute.

I would like to thank all of those that contribute to MSHP in any way to make it the successful society that it is. In particular, I would like to especially thank and congratulate the outgoing Board members as they have worked tirelessly to advance the practice of pharmacy in Massachusetts. Caryn Belisle, Keith Foster, and Anne Selig – a huge thank you! Melissa Ortega (President-Elect), Richard Wojtowitz (Treasurer), and James Gilmore (Director) – you have big shoes to fill and I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Board in the upcoming year to continue to grow our society and tackle the challenges that we are presented with.

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MSHP Spring Event Hugely Successful

MSHP’s Spring Event “Pharmacists as Health Care Providers: In It to Win It” held on May 8th and 9th was an out-of-the-park home run!

Day 1 of this sports team-themed event kicked off with our 3rd Annual Directors’ Forum with 25 health systems participating. Ross Thompson, Executive Director of Pharmacy, Tufts Medical Center, and Chris Fortier, Chief Pharmacy Officer, Massachusetts General Hospital, led the forum entitled “Creating Strategy: Adjusting Your Game Plan to the Changing Rules and Priorities in Healthcare”. It was an excellent program with great discussion and ideas shared among the group members.

The pharmacy directors and their colleagues then participated in the 3rd Annual Reverse Expo, in which they interacted with 21 vendors. President-Elect John Clark was Master of Ceremonies for this very successful event that allowed vendors to have dedicated meeting time with Massachusetts health system leaders. We thank all the vendors and health systems for participating!

The evening continued with the Annual Honors and Awards Banquet. With over 130 people in attendance, this event kicked off with a cocktail reception, which also included our formal poster session with 18 posters from our Massachusetts health systems showcasing their great work. To help us show our team spirit, we had two special guests at the Honors and Awards Banquet this year, ASHP Chief Executive Officer Paul Abramowitz and New England Patriots mascot Pat Patriot. The event began with welcome remarks from current MSHP President Paul Arpino. Awards were then given to very deserving MSHP members for their excellence in pharmacy (see separate article). Dr. Abramowitz installed the new officers: President John Clark, President-Elect Melissa Ortega, Treasurer Richard Wojtowicz, and Director James Gilmore. The event was a wonderful evening of honoring MSHP All-Stars.

The 42nd Annual Meeting, on Day 2, was very successful, with almost 200 pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, students and residents in attendance, along with 49 vendors. Our team captain, Dr. Abramowitz, started the day as the keynote speaker with his motivating talk

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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. More importantly, get involved – check out one of the monthly CE offerings or even join a committee. Lastly, congratulations and best of luck to those that are graduating programs and leaving Massachusetts for their next opportunity.

John

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Successful Residency Program Workshop Held

On April 5, 2017, the MSHP Residency Program Committee sponsored a Residency Program Design and Conduct (RPDC) Workshop that was held at MCPHS University in Worcester, MA. The ASHP workshop facilitator, David Warner, PharmD, led a very informative and interactive discussion of the PGY1 pharmacy, PGY1 community and PGY2 accreditation standards.

Pharmacists must be leaders: Perspective on leveraging to improve patient care.

The day was then filled with many excellent continuing education lectures on sterile compounding, Joint Commission readiness, antibiotics, pain management, heart failure, insulin, strategic planning, opioid law update, process improvement, and rising drug costs. Throughout the day, attendees visited vendors who handed out MSHP Board of Directors baseball card raffle tickets for the grand prize of “Red Sox vs Yankees” tickets. One of the highlights of the day was when Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster visited us during lunch to add to the fun.

It truly takes a sports team to organize this meeting! Special thanks to Nicole Clark, Erin Taylor, Monica Mahoney, Neil Gilchrist, Anne Selig, Trisha LaPointe, Scott Ostriker, Lisa McCabe and the entire Annual Meeting Planning Team. Thank you again to all our vendors for their support, especially Diamond Sponsor McKesson, and Gold Sponsors DrFirst, PharmMEDium and Mallinckrodt. Thank you to all who attended the events over the two days; the team has already begun the planning for next year. Hope to see you there.

Be Social!

Did you know? MSHP is on Social Media! Follow and like us for society information, pharmacy news, and other updates!

@MAPharmacists  @masspharmacy

MSHP (MA Society of Health-System Pharmacists)
Congratulations to the 2017 MSHP Honors and Awards Recipients!

These individuals and teams were honored at the Honors & Awards Banquet on May 8th at the Four Points Sheraton Norwood Hotel and Conference Center:

**Health-System Pharmacist of the Year Award**  
Kristina McGill, MS, RPh  
Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth

**Outstanding Service Award**  
Keith Foster, PharmD, BCPS  
Concord Hospital

**Pharmacy Health-System Award**  
Boston Medical Center Department of Pharmacy

**Pharmacy Resident/Fellow Research Project Award**  
Adrian Wong, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital

**Practitioner Excellence Award**  
Paul Szumita, PharmD, FCCM, BCCC, BCPS  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital

**Preceptor of the Year Award**  
Susan Holden, BCACP, CDE, BCGP  
VA Boston Healthcare System

**Student Excellence Award**  
MCPHS Boston: Mallory Mouradjian  
MCPHS Worcester: Daniel Nova-Estepan  
Northeastern University: Kayla Joyal  
Western New England University: Chelsea Keedie

**Technician Excellence Award**  
Jean Beach, CPhT  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center-Boston

**MSHP Fellow**  
Ross Thompson, MS, RPh, FASHP  
Tufts Medical Center and the Floating Hospital for Children
Upcoming Events

Residency Welcome Event for Massachusetts Pharmacy Residents, Fellows, RPDs and Preceptors
(More information to follow)

Date: August 17, 2017
Time: 6 PM to 10 PM
Location: Bleacher Bar, Boston, MA
Food: passed cold and hot appetizers, buffet dinner and dessert, one drink ticket per attendee
Activities: Wally the Green Monster, Caricature artists from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
http://seemikedraw.com/seemikedraw/Caricature_Artist_in_Boston.html

Continuing Education

Preceptor Development:
The JCPP Pharmacist Patient Care Process: Time to Reinvent the Wheel?
Live Webinar!
Speakers: Margarita DiVall and Alexa Carlson, Northeastern University
Date: July 26, 2017
Time: 12 PM - 1 PM
(More information to follow)

CE Opportunity with a discount!
MSHP is excited to offer our members a new CE opportunity! We have partnered with the Pharmacy Learning Network on their one-day regional meeting to be held in Boston on Saturday, October 7th. MSHP members can receive an exclusive $10 discount by using the code “PARTNER” at checkout. This translates to a low price of only $29, if you register by September 1st!

A variety of topics are offered, for up to 6 hours of live CE credit. The meeting agenda, registration, and more information can be found on their website: http://www.managedhealthcareconnect.com/pln-meeting/boston
Critical care: Shortage of norepinephrine associated with increased mortality among patients with septic shock

The impact of a shortage of norepinephrine on vasopressor agent selection was recently highlighted in a retrospective study of 28,000 patients with sepsis. When norepinephrine (i.e., first-line agent) was in short supply, phenylephrine was the most frequent alternative vasopressor chosen, during which time mortality rates from septic shock rose from approximately 36 to 40% (absolute risk increase of 3.7%). These data further support existing Surviving Sepsis guideline recommendations against routine use of phenylephrine as a second-line vasopressor in management of fluid-refractory shock in most patients with sepsis.


Ambulatory care: New evidence of safety concerns with short-term outpatient corticosteroids use

Chronic steroid use is associated with well-documented adverse effects. However, little is known about adverse effects risks in short-term corticosteroid use. In a recent self controlled case series analysis of over 300,000 adults who received at least one short-term (<30 days) outpatient prescription for oral glucocorticoids, the risk of sepsis, VTE, and fracture increased by 2- to 5-fold within 30 days of drug initiation and gradually returned to baseline over the subsequent 31 to 90 days. The most common indications for use were URIs, spinal conditions, and allergies. These findings suggest that even short-term use of oral steroids can be associated with serious adverse effects.


Pediatrics: Codeine and tramadol contraindicated in children <12 years old and breastfeeding women

The US FDA recently issued a strong warning to restrict use of codeine and tramadol in children <12 years old and breastfeeding women because of increasing reports of life-threatening respiratory depression in young children exposed to these drugs. Children and breastfeeding mothers who are ultra-rapid CYP2D6 metabolizers metabolize these drugs faster than normal, leading to dangerously high levels of active drug. Codeine should not be used to treat pain or cough in children <12 years old and tramadol should not be used to treat pain in children <12 years old.


Intervention opportunity: Concurrent prescribing of benzodiazepine with an opioid is associated with a significantly higher risk of overdose and death

Benzodiazepines can potentiate respiratory depressant effects of opioids and concurrent use of these medications could be a factor in the rapid increase in opioid overdoses. In an analysis of a large sample of patients prescribed an opioid, concurrent use of both opioid and benzodiazepine medications was associated with an increased risk of emergency department visit or hospital admission due to opioid overdose compared with patients receiving only an opioid. Avoiding this medication combination may help prevent some overdoses and fatalities.

Patient counseling: A national survey shows most patients do not safely store opioids, risking misuse and overdose especially in households with children and adolescents

Safe storage of prescription opioid medications (e.g., in a locked cabinet) is recommended but appears to occur infrequently in the community. In a survey of over 600 adults with a recent opioid prescription who had children <18 years old living with them, fewer than 30% safely stored their opioid medications away from other household members, including children. Patient counseling that emphasizes opioid safe storage especially for patients in households with children and adolescents may help limit opioid diversion, abuse, and overdoses.

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](http://www.mashp.org/?page=committee) at MSHP and send us an email, or contact us via FB or Twitter.

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