

# SSHP Times



The Sierra Society of Health System Pharmacists

## Special points of interest:

- \* For up to date information regarding SSHP activities, please visit the website at [www.sshp.org](http://www.sshp.org).
- \* Please fill out the enclosed survey located in this issue. We are interested in finding out the best way of communicating with our membership.
- \* Our board liaison, William Yee, lives in Stockton and has attended almost every meeting this year.

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## The Newsletter is back!

At the request of several members and after some discussion, we have decided to bring the newsletter back.

In the pages of our newsletter, we plan to cover things important to the organization including upcoming continuing education, member events (both social and charitable), happenings around town, and both legislative and clinical issues. Anything important to our membership is open game for the newsletter.

This year, CSHP has really made a point to each of the chapters of attempting to communicate better with it's membership, the media and legislators. These ideas have been covered at Regional Chapter Presidents meetings and have focused on many of

## Meet the Board...

The 2005 Board for SSHP includes people from almost every major institution in the Fresno Area. At president this year is Bruce Manzo, Pharm.D. who is currently an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Fresno Regional Coordinator based out of the

these items. At the first meeting of this year, CSHP put on a training session on expanding and maintaining membership. Many ideas were reviewed. We encourage interested membership to review this material available on the CSHP website under the members only section. As stated earlier, this newsletter is the result of these meetings and correspondence with some of our membership.

In this issue you will find articles introducing the current members of the board. There are articles on the boards website, a quick review of the last meeting minutes, a mini review of tiotropium and coverage of one of the many legislative issues that CSHP is currently monitoring.

VA Fresno. Marisa Mendez, Pharm.D. is our President-Elect. Dr. Mendez is an infectious disease specialist practicing at University Medical Center. Our treasurer is Mitra Assemi Bennett, Pharm.D., Director UCSF Fresno Pharmacy Education Program and Associ-



We will be evaluating the best way to disseminate this newsletter. This issue was sent out via e-mail and postal service. Eventually, we would like to utilize one method of delivery for this newsletter. We encourage your participation in this decision. We hope to hear from you soon. Thank you.

ate Professor of Pharmacy. Dr. Assemi Bennett is currently in her third year as treasurer. Wenee Liu-Lopez, Pharm.D. is our current secretary. Another three year veteran of the

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SSHP has a website.....

Ok, well normally we have a website. Our hosting company has changed servers and the site is down as I write this, but by the time you receive the newsletter the site should be back up and running. The site, which can be accessed at [www.sshp.org](http://www.sshp.org), contains current information regarding the board and events, including CE and the events like that mentioned on page 3 of this newsletter. It also contains links to journals, the CSHP and ASHP websites and other sites of interest for



both pharmacists and technicians. Abbreviated versions of the boards meeting minutes will be made available as well as the different positions descriptions for each of the elected positions. We will also be posting PDF versions of these newsletters on the site.

The site, at [www.sshp.org](http://www.sshp.org), contains the most current information pertaining to SSHP functions

For our technician members, we are planning to create a section dedicated to issues affecting technician practice. If you forget who's who on the board, there is even a section identifying the board members. The board has decided to utilize the website as it's main means of communicating with members. Soon, we hope to be able to offer prospective employers a section to advertise open positions on. We invite you to browse through the site and submit any remarks or suggestions you might have.

## At the last board meeting....

Our goal in this section is to give a mini report of the meeting minutes from the last board meeting. At the June 2005 meeting, it was noted that the regional chapter presidents meeting had changed to 6/18/05 and the focus was on public relations. The board is also considering an outing for membership to Woodward park with local residents and students. The board is considering having a town

hall meeting at this event. No treasurer report was given. The chapters website address was secured for another two years. Discussion were made regarding the technician law CE that was held 6/22/05 on final preparations. The board is planning to mail out an information update request to it's members. The board confirmed that Joel Weber was nominated for the CSHP distinguished service award.

No new technician business was discussed. Future CE events were also discussed. The board wishes to pursue a membership volunteer drive for the Mission Treasure Box and the PR committee will make these arrangements. Nominations are still pending. Grizzlies Night will occur on 8/9/05 and a flier will be sent to the membership. A more detailed account of the minutes is available on the website.

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**Board members  
Mitra Assemi and  
Wenee Liu Lopez  
have been in their  
respective  
positions for three  
years straight!**

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## Meet the board...

*(Continued from page 1)*

board, Dr. Liu-Lopez is the student and resident coordinator for Children's Hospital of Central California. The immediate past president is Ken Perrin, Pharm.D. Dr. Perrin also serves as the inpatient pharmacy director for Community Medical Centers-Fresno. Our delegates for 2005 are Gordon Hayashi, Pharm.D. and Randy Sasaki, Pharm.D. Dr. Hayashi

and Dr. Sasaki are no strangers to SSHP and have been around in some capacity for many years. Dr. Viral Kothary, Pharm.D. is our public relations chair and practices as a neurology specialist from the VA Fresno. Dr. Melissa Chase, Pharm.D. serves as the CE chair and practices as the clinical coordinator at the VA Fresno. She is currently expecting her first baby! As always, Sandy Mooney is the board's Technician Liaison and coordinator for

the annual Industry Night event. I would like to thank each one of these people personally for their hard work and dedication. -Bruce

## Formulary...

Tiotropium:

Tiotropium is a long acting inhaled anticholinergic approved for use in the maintenance treatment COPD in February 2004. It is dosed as 18mcg inhaled once a day. Tiotropium works by binding to the muscarinic receptors. Specifically, it binds to the M1, M2 and M3 equally, but dissociates from the M1 and M3 receptors more slowly than the M2 receptor. It's binding affinity is similar to that of ipratropium but releases more slowly from the receptor giving it a longer duration of action. Approximately 20% of

the inhaled dose is deposited in the lung. The drug is poorly absorbed from the GI tract. Cmax is 19 ng/L and Cmin is 4.3ng/L after 90 days of administration. Plasma half life at steady state is 5-6 days. After inhalation, 14% of the dose is excreted in the urine and the rest via the fecal route. Patients with FEV1% predicted values of 16-65% have been shown to be able to effectively inhale the medication via the handihaler device. Several Studies comparing tiotropium to placebo have shown improvement in spirometry and peak expiratory flow rate (PEFR)

which was significantly better with tiotropium. Physician global evaluation was also better with tiotropium compared to placebo. Studies comparing tiotropium to ipratropium have shown an increase in trough FEV1 values in favor of tiotropium, however other pulmonary function measures have been similar between the two agents. Similar results have been seen when tiotropium was compared to long acting beta agonists. The most commonly reported ADR with tiotropium is dry mouth which usually resolves over time. Dry mouth, constipation and UTI have been seen more commonly in patients over age 65 And caution is advised in this population.



Once a day anticholinergic for COPD

## CSHP Legislation Watch

CSHP is currently watching three assembly bills and seven senate bills. In this issue of the newsletter we will review one of these bills. CSHP currently opposes Assembly Bill 21, the Women's Contraceptive and Pharmaceutical Freedom Act of 2005. Under proposed section 4069, a pharmacist may refuse to fill a prescription if one of three things occurs. If the pharmacist determines that dispensing would

violate the law or if after consultation with the patients provider it is determined that the medication is contraindicated. If the pharmacist does not have the drug prescribed or a generic for it. Lastly, the pharmacist may refuse on ethical, moral or religious grounds. In this case, the pharmacist must have notified his or her employer in writing, which must be done upon acceptance of employment. The

employer must take action at that time to accommodate the patients need for a drug and may not refuse employment to a pharmacist because of these objections. A violation of this bill would constitute unprofessional conduct. Proposed section 4316 addresses pharmacist conduct and defines harassment of a patient. CSHP currently has concerns that this bill would take away the professional judgment of a pharmacist when deciding if it is appropriate to dispense any medication to a patient, not just items like "Plan B". It is expected that this bill will not pass. More info is available on the CSHP website under the legislative priorities section.

## Upcoming events....

The board of SSHP is looking for volunteers for a booth to benefit the Mission Treasure Box of Fresno. This charity puts together shoe boxes at Christmas time filled with gifts for boys and girls in the Fresno County area. The booth for this charity will be at the Fresno Greek Festival on the weekend of August 27-28, 2005. We are also looking for people to volunteer in booth set up Friday, August 26. Please contact Dr Viral Kothary at

559-225-6100, x4811 or e-mail him at viral.kothary@med.va.gov if you are interested. We need people to do face painting and balloon animals for the weekend duty. SSHP is also looking at the Adopt-A Freeway program. This would require a minimum 5 year commitment of at least 1 weekend a month by our chapter to clean the area assigned by Cal-Trans. The board would like to hear back from members regarding potential participation in this

event. Please contact President Bruce Manzo by phone at 559-225-6100, x4811 or by e-mail at bruce.manzo@med.va.gov. If you have any other ideas for community service or suggestions for the board to consider, we invite you to join us at our monthly meetings or to submit them via e-mail. As more information becomes available it will be posted on the website and newsletter.



# The Sierra Society of Health System Pharmacists

Sierra Society of Health System Pharmacists  
P.O. Box 5499  
Fresno, CA 93755-5499

Meetings: SSHP board meetings take place the third Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 PM at Marie Callendar's at Shaw and Cedar in Fresno.

**President: Bruce Manzo,  
Pharm.D.**

**President Elect: Marisa Mendez,  
Pharm.D.**

**Treasurer: Mitra Assemi  
Bennett, Pharm.D.**

**Secretary: Wenee Liu-Lopez,  
Pharm.D.**

**Delegates: Gordon Hayashi,  
Pharm.D., Randy Sasaki,  
Pharm.D.**

**Technician Liaison: Sandy  
Mooney, CPhT**

**CE: Melissa Chase, Pharm.D.**

**PR: Viral Kothary, Pharm.D.**

We're on the web  
at [www.sshp.org](http://www.sshp.org)!

**We are currently looking to update our member profiles. Please fill out the included form with the requested information. If you wish, you may submit the requested information via e-mail to [bruce.manzo@med.va.gov](mailto:bruce.manzo@med.va.gov) or by using the link to send comments on the website. We are also soliciting for nominations for the 2006 year. As you know Marisa Mendez will be president and we are looking forward to a very fruitful year! We need nominations for president elect, secretary, treasurer and delegates. We are currently seeking chairs for legislative and membership committees.**

## Around town....

Not much information to put in here for this edition of the newsletter. I will start by catching up on things that I know of.

**Students:** Around town there are currently eight UCSF students, two Creighton students and one USC student. UOP will have 13 students starting in mid August and another USC student about the same time. The 2004 graduation rate for the First NAPLEX was 99.6% across all California schools. The rate was 93.7% for the CPJE.

**Residents:** CHCC currently has 2 residents and 1 fellow. UMC has spots for 4 residents, but only has 3 at this time.

The Fresno VA is currently evaluating the feasibility of a geriatric specialty residency. We plan to do a residency program spotlight at a later time, keep an eye on future newsletters for that.

**Pharmacists:** SSHP President Bruce Manzo (UOP) will pursue tenure this coming year. Melissa Chase (VA Fresno) is expecting her first child. Staci Anderson passed the BCPS examination and Viral Kothary passed the CGP examination this year.

If you have any spotlight information you would like to appear in the SSHP newsletter, please send it to us at [bmanzosprint0@earthlink.net](mailto:bmanzosprint0@earthlink.net) or mail it to us at our P.O. box listed above.

