

CT-ASCP's SenioRx Care Perspective

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Inside: SENIOR

White Coat Ceremony	Page 1-2
Student Chapter Update	Page 3
CT-ASCP Legislative Report	Page 3
2009 Senior Symposium "Save the Date"	Page 4
Notes 'n Votes— January 2009	Page 5

SYMPOSIUM

White Coat Ceremony Keynote Address

Thomas Buckley, RPh, MPH

January 20th 2009, a day you are making history, and we are all a witness to history. I could not pass up the opportunity to reflect on how memorable this day is, as this white coat symbolizes your transition into a lifelong commitment to medicine and service to community and patient care, and our country transitions into a new era with our 1st African American President.

Today, we celebrate with you as you begin the initiation process of entering our pharmacy family. It's a family that strives to support each other and teach each other about our culture and values. Welcome to our family! We celebrate the presentation of this coat with the caveat that it does NOT provide a financial entitlement, and that it may inadvertently create a barrier at times between you and your patients, but most importantly it symbolizes the need for you to balance excellence in science with compassionate medical care. As Francis Peabody said at Harvard Medical School in 1926: "The secret of the care of the patient is in caring for the patient."

There may be moments in your life that will stand out as turning points to help guide your career – indeed, those "ah-ah" moments are so valuable, but yet may be so fleeting or unsuspecting. Perhaps this day, January 20th 2009, with all its symbolism, will stand out in your career as you go forward.

This dawning of a new Presidential era takes me back to another day in history that I realized much later in life may have been one of those "ah-ah" moments. I want to take you back to November 22nd 1963, if you guessed this was my parents' 15th wedding anniversary, you would be correct, but many in this room will recall the tragic events of that day. It was 2:30 in the afternoon, I was 4 years old watching the Zenith black & white console TV my father was so proud of purchasing (so much so it was nearly 20 years later when they got a color TV). My mother answered the front door bell and came back smiling with 15 long-stem red roses sent from my father. Walter Cronkite (the most respected newsmen in America) was on TV at that moment, wiping back a tear as he told us that President John F. Kennedy was dead - it's the first time I ever saw my mother cry.

Those are the earliest memories of my childhood, watching JFK's daughter Caroline (a year older than me) and son John-John (a year younger than me) throughout that weekend's funeral ceremonies. It struck some years later how much of an impact that moment had on me, as I remember writing out JFK's inaugural address of January 20th, 1961 in my 5th grade class. Although these notes were lost in one of many moves, through the miracle of the internet, I have it here again – it's only 1392 words, less than 3 pages long, but it provided inspiration for a generation of Americans. It offered a message that I hope you heard again today –

that we can step beyond our narrow personal concerns to achieve great things. His words ring so instructive for our time today, as President Kennedy told us to get past the fact that life was unfair, and get on with the important work of making the planet a better place to live. For me, the words that stand out in his address come just before the famous "Ask not what your country can do for you," when he urged us to join in the "struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself."

As biographer Robert Dallek has pointed out, it was a call to civic engagement – something we seldom hear from politicians. I've looked back at that speech and the philosophy of that era many times and feel it was a call to take off the white coat and step out of my comfort zone into the ghettos of the Dominican Republic, to take off the white coat and help in the ruins of Hurricane Katrina, and to take off the white coat and put on this blue coat of the Mae Tao Clinic to assist Burmese refugees in Thailand.

...cont. on page 2



Picture of Tom Buckley giving the keynote address at UConn's 2009 White Coat Ceremony. The ceremony was held on January 20th, 2009 at the University of Connecticut.

White Coat Ceremony Keynote Address, cont.

Thomas Buckley, RPh, MPH

...cont. from page 1

What will those “ah-ah” moments motivate you to do? We know what you can do with this white coat on, but I challenge you to think of how valuable you can be with and without this white coat. Putting on this white coat confers a tremendous amount of responsibility – first and foremost to your patient, but also to your profession and to your community. Indeed the very survival of our profession will require you to take a stewardship role in our profession. In any stewardship role, whether it is in your profession or in your community, when you grow as a steward you assure that the world will remain a gift for future generations.

Stewards are not just caretakers. They hand on their work with improvements. Stewards are creative and productive with the resources they have.

Stewards believe they are not the beneficiaries – others are. Good stewards believe the treasures they have received (in pharmacy terms, your education & your clinical experiences) are for the purpose of giving it away.

In his simple and elegant style, Gandhi describes stewardship this way:

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

There are many examples of stewardship in this room, and I’ve been blessed through the years to have worked with many wonderful stewards from Connecticut to Southeast Asia. Like me, you will walk in the footsteps of all the pharmacists that have come before you.

You will become part of a profession known for its honesty, integrity and ethics. Others will walk in your path long after you have gone and will be trusted because of your actions. This trust will not only be expected of you professionally, but in your personal and community life. You will be looked up to by children, students, parents and grandparents. You will need to be worthy of that trust.

As I thought about the confluence of events happening on this day – your transformation into a professional career and the start of a potentially transformational presidency – I

couldn’t help but turn to the words of a leader whose birthday the country celebrated yesterday and dreamed this day would come true:

Martin Luther King.

On March 26,

1965, Dr. King stood on the steps of the Alabama state capital after the march on Selma and spoke these words:

“How long will it take? How long will prejudice blind the visions of men, darken their understanding, and drive bright-eyed wisdom from her sacred throne? How long will justice be crucified, and truth bear it? How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever. How long? Not long, because you shall reap what you sow. How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but bends toward justice.”

These words were spoken over 40 years ago during the enormity of a moral, spiritual, human battle for justice. But today these questions of injustice are recognized throughout our health care system. How long have health disparities adversely affected access to care in this country? TOO long. How long have African

American, Native American, and Puerto Rican infants had higher death rates than white infants? Too long. How long have African American women died of cervical cancer and breast cancer at rates twice as high as white women? Too long. How long have African American adults had 40% higher death rates for stroke and be twice as likely to have diabetes than white adults? Too long.

The opportunities for you to make an impact – indeed to make history - are abundant both near and far. 20 miles from here, Hartford has the 2nd highest infant mortality rate in the country. 20,000 miles from here, Burma has the 2nd worst health care system in the world. For how long? Too long. 20 miles from here someone is dying from a preventable hospital-acquired infection. 20,000 miles from here a Burmese girl - in the care of someone in this blue coat - will not reach her 3rd birthday due to preventable malaria. 20 miles from here someone is dying from a preventable disease because they didn’t have access to a vaccine or screening test. 20,000 miles from here a Burmese girl will not reach her 3rd birthday due to preventable HIV. How long? Too long.

You’ll see these adversities in your coming clinical rotations or hear about them from others, and you’ll pledge to save those whose destiny is the same. We all do this because if we turn our heads, if we look away in hopes that it will all disappear, we will be right. For they will, they will all disappear, they will disappear into the ugliness of our apathy. We cannot, we MUST not let it happen.

The concept of pharmaceutical care has empowered our profession to move beyond traditional roles & expectations to where we are now responsible for the outcome of a patient’s drug therapy. If this is true - if we are truly responsible, how can we stand by while the suffering of drug morbidity and poor access to care occurs all around us? You are called today, as you put on this white coat, to not stand idly by, for 20 miles away and 20,000 miles away precious lives are in the balance. As Dr. King has taught us: “There is no land that is so far away that we cannot hear the cry of the slaughtered.”

On this historic day . . . We, every single one of us, cannot hide in anonymity, we are called to effect a change. I’m reminded of a favorite phrase from Deacon Arthur Miller, who likes to say if God had one more commandment, the 11th Commandment would be: “Thou shall not be a bystander.”

I urge YOU not to be a bystander ...

Congratulations on your history-making day & we all look forward to witnessing you make history again.

Thank you and good luck.



Editorial Board:

➤ Amy Huie-Li, PharmD, CGP

➤ Kim Gilligan, PharmD

➤ Kevin Chamberlin, PharmD

➤ Brian Pelletier, PharmD, CGP

CT-ASCP Student Chapter Update

Christy Mathew

This past semester the student chapter has been busy recruiting new members and planning events for the coming semester. In trying to recruit new members we had a lunch and learn with Joanna Ceneri, a UConn graduate currently working for Omnicare. She was able to come in and talk to students about what a consult pharmacist does.

Through this event, we were able to inform many students about new possibilities in consulting pharmacy and what our ASCP student chapter can provide for them.

In November, five students had the opportunity to attend to the ASCP Annual meeting in New Orleans. The students had a great time. It was exciting to be able to network with students and faculty from other schools and learn about what activities other chapters are doing. We got some great ideas for events that we can do with the geriatric population in our local community and ways to get our whole school involved. One of these ideas was a "Senior Prom" and health fair, which we're hoping we'll be able to do in the Spring semester.



The upcoming semester should be full of more great events for the student chapter. We're looking into putting on a "Senior Prom" for local senior citizens with the help of other student groups within the School of Pharmacy. We'll also continue to shadow consultant pharmacists, as we started last

year. In the spring, the student chapter will also be looking to put on a "What Not to Wear" fundraiser, as we have done in the past. The student chapter was able to accomplish a lot this semester, and we're looking forward to doing even more next semester!

Picture of Students that attended the ASCP Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

CT-ASCP Legislative Report 2009

Kevin Hill

The Connecticut General Assembly convened its 2009 legislative session on Wednesday, January 7, 2009. The November elections brought many changes to the Connecticut State House. The Democrats increased their membership in the House of Representatives and now have a 114-37 advantage over Republicans. The Democrats also increased their Senate membership as well – with a 24-12 advantage.

This new political landscape brings some of the most difficult challenges the State has ever faced. Due to the continued failings in the financial and insurance markets throughout the world, the state has projected budget deficits of \$300+ million in 2009 and as much as \$2.5 billion for 2010.

State law mandates that it must have a balanced budget. Balancing the State's budget will result in raised taxes as well as cuts to spending programs such as Medicaid.

Medicaid is such a large portion of our State's budget that it is an easy

target for elected officials to cut or eliminate programs in Medicaid. Pharmacy programs in Connecticut are funded directly through the Medicaid program. Our goal in this legislative session will be to educate state officials and decision makers about the importance of pharmacy programs/services within our state; especially long term care pharmacy. We will work with legislators as well as agency officials to defend any pharmacy cuts to the Medicaid program.

During this legislative session we will need the help of CT-ASCP members more than ever before! We must begin to reach out and educate our elected officials about the importance of the pharmacy services provided to our senior patients. Please contact Kevin Hill at hill@lobbyct.com if you would like to get involved and help CT-ASCP at the legislative level this year.

Save This Date!

Your friends at the CT Chapter of ASCP
would like you to Save This Date:

April 23 & 24, 2009

10th Annual Senior Symposium

MGM Grand at Foxwoods

Kick-Off Dinner to be held Thursday, April 23th
Up to 10 CEU's available including Live Law CEs

Please refer to website for nursing & physician accreditation



Complete Symposium Agenda
& Registration Available at
www.seniorsymposium.com

For more information please call
860-640-0008

For hotel reservations please call
1-800-FOXWOOD



Reference ASCP & Group Code M11766

New This Year! Senior Symposium to be held
at the MGM Grand Hotel

Please visit www.seniorsymposium.com for complete agenda and registration information

Notes 'n Votes - January 2009 Board Meeting

Michel Fortin, RPh, CGP, CT-ASCP Secretary / Treasurer

REVIEW OF PAST MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 12-3-08 meeting. Approved as written.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

K. Hill stated the new Public Health Committee chair is John Harris past member of Human Services Committee from W. Hartford. The budget deficit may be 2.6B for the next fiscal year starting 7-09 and 2.7B the year after. He agreed to email a web link to legislator's email for our grass roots lobbying efforts. Mary Anne Hanley went to Higher Education Committee so the epilepsy bill may no longer be an issue. L. Sobel discussed the non-interchanging of Medicaid psychotropic medications which may be an opportunity for state savings. G. Memoli suggested we bring this idea to Mike Starkowski. The LPB&S contract will be renewed for another year.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE - Senior Symposium 2009(SS09) April 22 -23th

Website: www.seniorsymposium.com. G. Memoli stated the committee is on track for our 10th anniversary of Senior Symposium. They have a record number of companies exhibiting but the fees are coming through at lower sponsorship levels. Forest & Astra Zeneca, Walgreens have paid. A non-pharma company North Western Mutual Financial will be exhibiting as well. K. Chamberlin will represent CT ASCP at the CT Pain Initiative meeting.

NEWS FROM UCONN

The White Coat Ceremony will be held on 1-20-09. K. Chamberlin discussed the drug disposal program with the Southington Water Dept.. There is a drug collection and disposal program in place.

BYLAWS

The president's term will be changed in the bylaws to a 2 year term. Question whether to have the Pres-Elect as a 2 year term.

DONATION

The Board agreed to donate \$500.00 to the ASCP Foundation.

CHAPTER COUNCIL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

K. White will represent CT ASCP at the Jan 23 – 25 meeting. ASCP will be supporting the costs.

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

James Crozier & Vitalina Rosenfeld, PharmD from Watson were thanked by the BOD for their sponsorship of this meeting.

Guests: Kevin Hill from LPB&S

Next Meeting: February 2, 2009

Location Carmen Anthony's, 1770 Berlin Tpke, Wethersfield.

MEMBER NAME & TITLE	Nov	Dec	Jan
John Cannarella, President	X	X	
Gene Memoli, President-Elect/Chair Senior Symp./Legislative Committee	X	X	X
Sean Jeffery, Immed. Past-President / Educ. Chair	X		X
Michel Fortin, Secretary / Treasurer	X	X	X
Kevin Chamberlin, Board2007 / Communic. Committee	X	X	X
Brian Pelletier, Board2007/Communic. Committee	X	X	X
Paul Belcher, Board 2006 / PAC Committee	X	X	X
Kathy White, Board 2006 / Senior Symposium	X	X	X
Mark Wrabel, Board 2005 / Programs Chair	X	X	X
Amy Huie-Li, Board 2005 / Communic. Co-Chair	X	X	X
Anna Egle, Communic. Co-Chair		X	X
Larry Sobel, President Emeritus / Legislative Chair	X	X	X
Jim Conklin, Past-President / PAC Chair		X	
David Cooper, Past President / Sales Senior Symp.	X	X	
Dennis Chapron, Senior Symposium Committee	X		
Sandy Wojciechowski, Past President			
Mike Gemma, Senior Symposium Committee			X
Marlo Bish, Senior Symposium Committee			X
Kim Gilligan, Past-President Student Chapter, Communic. Committee		X	X

Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

Michel G. Fortin, Secretary/Treasurer