



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists

Winter 2016 Newsletter Update

Focus on Antibiotic Stewardship

Deborah Milito, PharmD, CGP

What is Antimicrobial Stewardship? It is a coordination of strategies to optimize the use of antimicrobial medications in order to improve patient safety and outcomes, decrease and prevent the development of antimicrobial resistance, and decrease unnecessary costs. **Key players in a stewardship program** include:

- Infection Control practitioner (who could be the Consultant Pharmacist in the future)
- Medical Director & Attending physicians
- Director of Nursing
- Consultant Pharmacist

What are the roles of these individuals?

- **Medical Directors:**
 - Set standards for antibiotic prescribing practices for all healthcare providers prescribing antibiotics. (including Podiatrist, Dentist, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant...)
 - Oversee adherence to antibiotic prescribing practices
 - Review antibiotic use data and ensure best practices are followed
 - The Right antibiotic at the Right dose for the Right amount of time
- **Directors of Nursing and Infection Control Practitioners:**
 - Establish standards for nursing staff to assess, monitor, and communicate changes in a resident's condition that could impact the need for antibiotics.
 - Use their influence as nurse leaders to help ensure antibiotics are prescribed only when appropriate
 - Educate front line nursing staff about the importance of antibiotic stewardship and explain policies that are in place to improve antibiotic use.
- **Consultant Pharmacists:**
 - Provide education to staff about the different types of antibiotics and their uses.]
 - Review antibiotic prescriptions as part of the medication regimen review for new medications and ensure they are ordered appropriately.
 - Establish laboratory testing protocols to monitor for adverse events and drug interactions related to use of antibiotics and other high-risk medications
 - Review microbiology culture results and provide feedback to prescribers on initial antibiotic selection (antibiogram) to let them know if it is the right medication to treat an infection or if the bacteria may be resistant to the antibiotic.
 - Recommend to switch IV antibiotics to the oral route when appropriate.
 - Antibiogram interpretation and IV switch criteria will be discussed in a subsequent newsletter.

Dr. Milito is a member of the ASCP Antibiotic Stewardship committee and is assisting ASCP in developing an Antimicrobial Stewardship webinar. She has conducted many inservices on this topic and is available to assist you with the development of your Antimicrobial Stewardship programs. Dr. Milito is the Director of Clinical and Consultant Services-Skilled Division at Diamond Pharmacy Services and is currently the PA ASCP Western Director.

Promote a Medication Safe Environment

Laura Finn, CGP, FASCP

Do health care professionals at **YOUR** long term care facilities read the monthly ISMP *Long-Term Care Advise-ERR*?

- Each month, the *Long-Term Care Advise-ERR* provides a variety of medications safety recommendations directed towards the long term care environment. Use the link below to learn more about this medication safety newsletter with a long term care focus and see how it can supplement your recommendations for safe medication use.

<http://www.ismp.org/Newsletters/longtermcare/>

From the ISMP website:

- “The ISMP *Long-Term Care Advise-ERR* is a medication safety newsletter designed specifically to meet the needs of administrators, nursing directors, and nurses who transcribe medication orders, administer medications, monitor the effects of medications on residents, and/or supervise those who carry out these important tasks. The newsletter may also be of interest to consultant pharmacists, pharmacy providers, respiratory therapists, and medication technicians that work with you in the long-term care setting. Free CEUs are available for nurses twice a year in January and July.
- **Currently provided FREE to those employed by U.S. long-term care facilities only (12 issues). One person from each long-term care facility is encouraged to subscribe. This subscriber may redistribute the newsletter to all interested staff who are employed by the long-term care facility or members of the medical staff who practice at the long-term care facility.** Corporate entities with multiple facilities must purchase a single subscription for each facility.”

Laura Finn is a member of the ASCP Educational Advisory Council (EAC) which is currently planning the 2016 Annual Meeting in Nov 4-6 in Dallas, TX. She is an independent consultant pharmacist and Adjunct Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy where she is adviser to the student ASCP chapter. Laura is currently the PA ASCP Southeastern Regional Director.

The Pennsylvania Chapter is reorganizing and looking for members interested in planning the future.

Several leadership positions are available and additional opportunities exist for committee chairs along with liaisons to Student ASCP chapters and other PA organizations such as AGS, PPA, PSHP and PAMDA.

- **President** – Scott Mark – scottmark16@gmail.com
- **President Elect** – open
- **Immediate Past President** – Lou Czechowski
- **Secretary/Treasurer** – open
- **Northeast Regional Director** – William Arcurie – bill.arcurie@gmail.com
- **Western Regional Director** – Deborah Milito – dmilito@diamondpharmacy.com
- **Central Regional Director** – open
- **Southeast Regional Director** – Laura Finn – laurafinnCGP@gmail.com

Please contact Scott Mark or any other officer if you are interested in getting more involved. An early March conference call is being planned.

Upcoming ASCP Events in 2016

Maryland ASCP Spring Spectacular	March 19	Columbia, MD
National ASCP Spring Forum	April 11-12	Baltimore, MD
Mid Atlantic Conference	August 5-7	Alexandria, VA

Contact laurafinnCGP@gmail.com if You are interested in working with Maryland chapter to plan Mid Atlantic.)

Information and registration for all meetings is available at: www.ascp.com/about-us/our-meetings

Do you struggle with policies to improve antipsychotic use for your residents with dementia?

Bill Arcurie, Pharm D

Check out the resources developed by the PA Partnership to Improve Dementia Care.

<http://www.upmc.com/Services/AgingInstitute/partnerships-and-collaborations/partnership-to-improve-dementia-care/Pages/resources.aspx>

On this website, you will find guides/templates, including a Policy and Procedure for residents with dementia that are prescribed antipsychotic medications. These resources may help the nursing homes you serve be better prepared for state survey and improve quality of life for your residents. Resources are available for you to adjust to fit your facility needs.

Bill Arcurie is a member of the Tools Committee for the Pennsylvania Partnership to Improve Dementia Care. He is Director of Consulting Services at Trinity Pharmacy Services in Bethlehem, PA and serves as the PA ASCP Northeastern Regional Director.

Focus on Inter-Professional Organizations

PMDA

The **Pennsylvania Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine** welcomes collaboration with all members of the Interdisciplinary Team. PMDA has a long history of working with pharmacists and PA ASCP. A particularly good avenue for interactions are the PMDA regional meetings, being held at 6:30 PM at 8 sites throughout the state in 2016.

(Norristown, Lehigh Valley, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, Lancaster, Harrisburg, Gettysburg, Pittsburgh & Erie)

Upcoming PMDA meetings in 2016 that pharmacists are encouraged to attend:

March 2 2016: EPGS/SE PA LTC Healthcare Professionals: Avoiding Federal Prosecution
(to be held at Phila. College of Physicians)

April 21 2016: PMDA regional meeting: Advanced Care Planning

Sept. 7 2016: PMDA regional meeting: Transfer Out of the Nursing Home

Oct. 14-15 2016: PMDA Annual Symposium Hershey Hotel Hershey

Please look at the PMDA website (<http://www.pamda.org>) or contact Dan Haimowitz MD at (215) 943-2222 or geridoc1@comcast.net for details.

PA Geriatrics Society - Western Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society invites PA ASCP members to:

Check out this interdisciplinary organization with a mission "to improve the health and wellbeing of older adults" Membership for pharmacists, including students and residents available at: <http://www.pagswd.org/wordpress/>

*Upcoming Conference: **24th Annual Clinical Update in Geriatric Medicine** April 7-9, 2016
<http://www.pagswd.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-Clinical-Update-Brochure.pdf>

The **Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society - Western Division** is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all older persons. It is a not-for-profit organization of physicians and other healthcare professionals committed to the provision of quality health care for the elderly. Founded by a small group of physicians in 1991, the Society serves as a regional affiliate of the American Geriatrics Society. The organization provides leadership for professionals, policy makers and the public in the area served. The organization aids in the efforts of the American Geriatrics Society in developing, implementing and advocating programs in patient care, research, professional education, public policy and public information for the Pennsylvania region. For more information on the Society, visit their website at www.pagswd.org or contact Nadine Popovich, Administrator by email to npopovich@acms.org.

ASCP Student Chapter Updates

Duquesne University Student Chapter of ASCP

The student ASCP chapter at Duquesne University School of Pharmacy has been very busy this academic year, providing direct service to seniors and sharing information with the community on senior care pharmacy. Some highlights include:

- 19 members participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's and raised over \$500.00 through pledges, T-shirts sales, and a bake sale
- Sponsored a Falls Assessment screening at the Annual Market Square Event supported by Duquesne University School of Pharmacy
- Participated in a Christmas Bingo at The Haven Nursing Home
- Created holiday mugs for distribution to residents at several nursing facilities
- Co-sponsored a Special Populations Trivia Night
- Hosted several speakers on careers in senior care pharmacy and geriatric residency programs

For additional information, please contact **President: Lindsey Jachim** - jachiml@duq.edu or **Faculty Advisor: Christine O'Neil** - oneilc@duq.edu

Philadelphia College of Pharmacy – University of the Sciences

- In October, a caramel apple and apple cider stand was held on campus to raise funds for the student ASCP team participation in the **2015 Walk to End Alzheimer's** in Citizen's Bank Park, Philadelphia. At the walk **PCP students** met with **Temple University students** to co-sponsor a walking team raising over \$2000 together. Several of the PCP ASCP members also were part of the **Alzheimer Advocacy** Volunteers.
- PCP students joined with students from six other pharmacy colleges last summer to plan the student track for the **2015 Mid-Atlantic ASCP conference in Gettysburg, PA**. Topics included networking, CV development and an interview workshop.
- ASCP students provided a 2nd year of service to seniors at the Annual Philadelphia Area Healthy Palooza
- Sponsored "What is a Consultant Pharmacist?" general meeting and "Geriatric Price is Right" Game Night
- Planned annual Star Harbor Senior Center Day this spring

Submitted by Dorothy Krzworzeka, President Elect PCP ASCP student chapter

Calling ALL Pharmacy Students and Chapter Advisors - Get involved with other student chapters

Join the Univ of Maryland student ASCP chapter in planning the Student Track of 2016 Mid-Atlantic
Aug 5-7 in Alexandria, VA. Contact: Annie Fulton, President Elect: annefulton@umaryland.edu

PA ASCP invites all student chapters to provide quarterly updates on events for this newsletter.

Newsletter prepared by: Laura Finn, CGP, FASCP, RPh Submit news for future newsletter to l.finn@uscience.edu