

Rx Montana Pharmacy TODAY

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MPA Members Vote to Pursue Legislation in 2011 Session

Resolutions Adopted on Medical Marijuana, Drug Importation & posted on MPA Website

During the recent MPA Business Meeting on June 5th at the NW Convention the members in attendance agreed to accept the Board of Directors recommendation the association sponsor the following legislative bills in the 2011 session:

Introduce and support a bill to lower the age when a pharmacist can provide an influenza vaccination to someone 12 years and older. The current law allows for vaccinations of individuals 18 years and older.

Introduce and support a bill to enhance the Doctor Shopping Laws in Montana to clarify when legal action can be taken against someone providing false information in order to obtain an illegal prescription. Plus modification to the current law to include drug rehabilitation as an alter-

native in the sentencing laws for violation of the Doctor Shopping Laws.

In addition to these bills MPA voted to support legislation that will be initiated by the Attorney General Steve Bullock to establish a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in Montana.

MPA members at the NW Convention also discussed, amended and ultimately voted in support of five Resolutions. These resolutions express MPA member's position on issues ranging from Medical Marijuana, Drug Importation, Medicaid Reimbursement, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and the Right of a Pharmacist to Not Dispense. For the complete language in each resolution go to MPA website at, www.rxmt.org and click on the Officers page button.

Montana Pharmacy Association Now on Facebook

Facebook users now have a new destination. The Montana Pharmacy Association has introduced a Facebook fan page, available through the association's website at, www.rxmt.org or if you are already on Facebook simply find us by searching for "Montana Pharmacy Association."

This new MPA feature will serve as a popular and easy way for members and anyone interested in Montana pharmacy relate issues to stay connected and updated on the latest Association information. Anyone can become a fan. Just click 'like' to become connected to hundreds of fellow Montana pharmacy people from across the country.

Contact the MPA office at, info@rxmt.org for more information about how to stay connected to the Montana Pharmacy Association through Facebook.



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Ernie Ratzburg Receives Pharmacy Award

The Montana Pharmacy Association is pleased to announce that Ernie Ratzburg of Polson has received the association's prestigious "Bowl of Hygeia Award" on June 5th at their Annual Business Meeting. Ernie is currently the Manager of Safeway Pharmacy in Polson, Montana.



Ernie was recognized during the presentation by his good friend Dale Stoverud who said, "Ernie is someone who has revealed himself as a selfless and dedicated to his family, his community and his profession. Ernie is very active in providing immunization and promotes good health habits while taking the time to counsel his patients. He also takes the time to give back by serving as a preceptor for interns and by promoting pharmacy to as many as possible by speaking at high school career days and allowing students to job shadow."

It was noted that Ernie is active in his local community where he is a member of the Elks Club, Masonic Lodge, Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in starting a soccer team in Polson. He also serves on the advisory

board to the School of Fine Arts and was on the advisory board at the School of Business at the University of Montana. Ernie is a 1964 graduate of the University of Montana's School of Pharmacy. Ernie and his wife Mary Lou reside in Polson.

The "Bowl of Hygeia" Award is presented annually by participating pharmacy associations in each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the ten Canadian provinces. The recipients are selected by their respective associations for their outstanding record of community service. The first Montana Bowl of Hygeia was awarded in 1959 to John J. Downey of Butte. Congratulations Ernie Ratzburg on being named this year's Montana Bowl of Hygeia winner!

Randall Domire of Havre Wins Pharmacy Technician Award

This year's MPA Pharmacy Technician of the Year is Randall Domire of Western Drug Pharmacy in Havre.

Kathi Tomsu, the MPA Pharmacy Technician Board Representative presented the award and said, "Randall makes customer service his number one priority, which he combines with an outstanding work ethic. He is someone who works to better his knowledge of pharmacy and works very well with his co-workers. Randall is extremely helpful with patients by helping setup wheelchairs, walkers, commodes and is always willing to go the extra mile. He has excelled in teaching patients how to use



Randall Domire pictured with Nominator, Dominique Preputin.

their DME products. In fact it was recalled that after Randy talked extensively with one patient on how to use her walker she hugged him saying, 'God Bless you honey, and thank you so much.'

More about Randall

Randall started working at Western Drug pharmacy as a Tech-in-Training in November of 2008. He caught on quickly and passed his Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam in February 2009. His commitment to excellences doesn't stop at the door of the pharmacy. He is active in the Havre Community and is a referee for the Havre Boys and Girls Club.

MPA Members Receive Free Listing on Montana Classifieds

Are you looking for work as a Pharmacist? A Pharmacy Technician? Do you need a Pharmacist or a Pharmacy Technician to work at your Pharmacy? Do you want to sell your Pharmacy? If the answer is yes to any of these, then we urge you to take a moment and consider using the Montana Classifieds free service through MPA.

The process is simple. Just go to the MPA website page at: www.rxmt.org/ad-form.html. Then type in your request and the details into the box and hit the 'Submit' button. There is no charge to MPA members for this service. Non-MPA members will be billed \$25 for each Classified Advertisement placed on this site. Ads will stay posted on rxmt.org for thirty (30) days, unless other arrangements are made with the editor. For more information contact MPA at, info@rxmt.org.

Pharmacy DAY

Mark Eichler & Vince Colucci Chosen Co-Recipients of “Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award”

The Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA) is pleased to announce that Mark Eichler of Helena and Vince Colucci of Missoula have been chosen as the co-recipients of the “Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award” during the Association’s 2010 Business Meeting.

Presenting the award to Mark and Vince was outgoing MPA Chair Starla Blank who said, “Mark and Vince were selected for their work in helping create, implement and refine the URx Prescription Drug Benefit Program for State and University employees. These two individuals have helped to design a drug benefit program that provides value to the state and its employees by incentivizing the employees to use cost effective medications. They have created an “Ask-a-Pharmacists” program using pharmacists and pharmacy students to educate employees about the most cost effective drug therapies and to provide tools so that the employees can talk to their physicians about their medications. Thanks to Mark and Vince their participation has helped to develop a program that is truly innovative in the delivery of prescription benefits and in recognizing the role that community pharmacists can play in optimizing patient care.”

The Montana Pharmacy Association congratulates Mark and Vince on receiving the Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award and for all they have done to advance the pharmacy profession in Montana.



Mark Eichler



Vince Colucci

Dean’s Column

by David Forbes

Dean, Skaggs School of Pharmacy, University of Montana College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences



As I mentioned in my last two articles, change is in the wind and I was referring to so-called health care

reform. Time will tell how that all shakes out, but I hope it has a better outcome than the BP oil spill! It is easy these days to be a pessimist!

The Skaggs School of Pharmacy now knows that our pharmacy program will be reviewed by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) via a self-study, which the faculty members have started, and then a site team visitation scheduled for September of 2011. In this newsletter, I will outline a bit of that process, which has changed considerably since our program was last reviewed.

First, I will point out that the faculty and I welcome the accreditation process and the positive aspects there from. It is always helpful for “fresh eyes” to review the academic process we have at UM. Sort of related is what I like about golf: the score is what the player actually did, not what he/she wanted to do or hoped to do or what ever! No, the relevant question is, what

is your score. However, it is important to keep in mind that the ACPE accreditation process is not as “cut and dried” as is a golf score. The new accreditation process has attempted to “wring out” some of the subjectivity, but in my opinion, there is no possible way to be totally objective. And, frankly, total 100 percent objectivity, while not possible, would not serve our profession very well.

The new process utilizes rubrics (statements) and I will share just two of the very many we will have to address. These two deal with student issues and they are: “The dean and a duly constituted committee of the college or school share the final responsibility for enrollment and selection of students” and “written and verbal communication skills are assessed for student admissions in a standardized manner.” The site team evaluators will, after reading the self-study document and interviewing faculty and students, check one of two boxes – either Satisfactory (S) or Needs Improvement (NI). Finally, we look forward to learning a good deal this next academic year while moving through the self-study process.

Please remember the welcome mat is always out for campus visitors and we enjoy a great deal providing visitors a tour of our outstanding facility.

David Forbes, Dean



The Pharmacist's Role in Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse

Starla Blank, PharmD, Past Chair, Montana Pharmacy Association

It may be difficult to believe, but pharmacists are actually on the front line of the prescription drug abuse problem, and as a result, they can be part of the solution. The majority of the prescription drugs that are abused and/or diverted come from a legitimate source, that is a prescription written by a physician (or other prescriber) and filled at a pharmacy.

With few exceptions, pharmacists that work in a setting where outpatient prescriptions are filled can identify customers that they suspect are abusing or diverting prescription medications because these customers exhibit drug seeking behaviors which may include:

- presenting prescriptions for controlled substances from multiple prescribers
- frequent visits to the emergency room to obtain prescriptions for controlled substances
- making frequent calls to the pharmacy to check on the status of their prescription
- paying cash for controlled substance prescriptions despite participating in a prescription plan
- utilizing multiple pharmacies
- requesting early refills on controlled substance prescriptions
- utilizing numerous controlled substances
- altering prescriptions for controlled substances by adding refills or changing the number of tablets to be dispensed

Because pharmacists are on the front line of the prescription drug abuse problem, and because they are familiar with drug seeking behaviors, they are well positioned to intervene to help their customers break the cycle of abuse. Unfortunately, most pharmacists have not received formal training for this type of intervention, and thus many pharmacists will avoid confronting a customer about this sensitive topic. Instead, pharmacists may simply

refuse to fill a prescription or they may notify the prescriber hoping that the prescriber will address the problem.

There are two important interventions within the pharmacy profession that need to be implemented to help pharmacists combat the prescription drug abuse problem in Montana. First, pharmacists and pharmacy students need education on how to talk to their customers if they suspect a drug abuse problem, and they need to know what resources are available in the community to help people with substance abuse problems. The School of Pharmacy, the Board of Pharmacy, and Montana Pharmacy Association should take an active role in providing this education. Second, pharmacists should support legislative efforts to implement a prescription monitoring program and encourage their customers and legislators to do the same. A prescription monitoring program is an electronic database accessible by prescribers and pharmacists which would help to identify customers who are utilizing multiple prescribers and multiple pharmacies to obtain controlled substances. Past efforts to implement a prescription monitoring program in Montana have been unsuccessful due in part to the lack of pharmacists' knowledge about the scope of the prescription drug abuse problem and pharmacists' misperceptions about increased workload and liability if such a program were implemented. A revised bill to implement a prescription monitoring program will be introduced at the 2011 legislature that addresses the concerns raised by lawmakers in previous sessions, and once again pharmacists should take a lead role in supporting this important effort.

While the above interventions are important, they will take time and a coordinated effort for successful implementation. In the meantime, there are critical steps that

pharmacists can incorporate into their current practice immediately to help prevent the abuse of prescription drugs.

- Pharmacists should educate their customers on the importance of taking controlled substances exactly as prescribed, and to notify their physician if the medication is not working instead of exceeding the prescribed dose.
- Pharmacists should discuss realistic expectations for the relief of pain when dispensing pain medications to their customers. People may have the misperception that taking a pain medication will completely relieve their pain which can contribute to misuse and abuse of pain medication.
- Pharmacists should educate their customers on the importance of proper storage and security of prescription medications in the home to avoid accidental ingestion or theft.
- Pharmacists should educate their customers on the importance of proper disposal of prescription medications. Unused or expired medications should not be saved, and they should not be flushed. Instead, they should be destroyed (crushed, mixed with coffee grounds or kitty litter, sealed in an opaque container) and discarded in the trash.

As one of the top most trusted professions, pharmacists are in an excellent position to educate the public on prevention of prescription drug abuse and to intervene when a drug abuse problem is present. Pharmacists are taking a leadership role in statewide efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse and they are easily accessible resources in the community to provide valuable information in preventing the serious problem of prescription drug abuse in Montana.

Pharmacy DAY

Jeannine O'Connor of Eastgate Drug in Missoula Receives Fitzgerald Pharmacist of the Year Award

The Montana Pharmacy Association announces that Jeannine O'Connor of Eastgate Drug in Missoula has received the association's "Fitzgerald Pharmacist of the Year Award." The "Pharmacist of the Year" award is presented annually by MPA to pharmacists who have demonstrated leadership and service to the pharmacy profession.



Jeannine was recognized by MPA board member Eric Shields along with his wife Kelly who stated, "Jeannine has always had patient care at the top of her list and has been instrumental in bringing immunizations into the pharmacy setting and as a result Eastgate

Drug was the first pharmacy in the state of Montana to be able to provide immunizations." They added, "Jeannine has also been instrumental in setting up long-term care management, setting up Doc-U-Dose and cholesterol screening. She is certified in Cardiovascular Care and loves to counsel patients on how to improve their cholesterol. Jeannine is a pharmacist who goes beyond the call of duty to improve the pharmacy profession and pharmaceutical care and we are pleased to recognize her as the 2010 MPA Fitzgerald Pharmacist of the Year."

More about Jeannie:

Jeannie attended the University of Montana School of Pharmacy and received her Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1969. She has been on the Missoula Cancer Peer Review Board for approximately 12 years. She was awarded the MPA Innovative Pharmacist of the Year in 2003 for her efforts to bring immunization into the pharmacy setting.

Kerry Haney and Mark Meredith Elected to MPA Board

We are pleased to announce that Kerry Haney of Missoula and Mark Meredith of Helena have been elected as our two new MPA Board Members. Kerry is Adjunct Faculty for the Pharmacy technology program at the UM College of Technology and Mark is the Pharmacy Services Director at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana. These two new board members were sworn in during the MPA Business Meeting on June 5th at the NW Convention in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho.

Rory Johnson of Family Pharmacy Wins Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award

Rory Johnson of Family Pharmacy in Stevensville has won MPA's 2010 Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award. Rory's award was announced at the Annual Business Meeting of the Montana Pharmacy Association. At the ceremony Rory was commended for his many accomplishments by Lori Morin who presented him with the award. She stated, "One co-worker reports that Rory is the most compassionate colleague they have ever worked with. He also works hard to provide exceptional patient care and meets regularly with local groups of independent pharmacists to discuss ways to enhance reimbursement procedures and to improve third party contacts and decreasing costs."



More about Rory Johnson, PharmD

Rory graduated from the UM School of Pharmacy in 2006 and is a member of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. He has helped develop an immunization program and has worked on protocols for initiating anti-coagulation programs. He also recently completed certified Diabetes training through the U of M and is helping develop a comprehensive education program at his place of employment.

Rory is also active in his community. He coaches kid's soccer and has participated as a counselor for Children's Sports Camp at the YMCA and served as a Recreation Opportunities Director or Spring Meadow Resources that is a program for developmentally disabled clients.

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Calendar of Events

July 13, 2010: Montana Board of
Pharmacy, Helena

October 10, 2010: Montana Board of
Pharmacy, Helena

January 3, 2011: Montana State
Legislature Convenes

January 14-16, 2011: MPA Winter CE &
Ski, Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

June 2-5, 2011: Northwest Convention,
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

MPA Website

www.rxmt.org

MPA members should visit our updated web-site at, www.rxmt.org. We are continuing to add new materials and urge members to visit frequently for legislative news, regulatory updates, CE updates and links to other useful sites.

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Pharmacy Association

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