

2009 President Carole Shelton Inaugural Address

I am honored to accept this opportunity to serve as the President of the Colorado Pharmacists Society with the mission statement that: "Colorado Pharmacist Society is committed to improving public health by advancing and supporting the professional practice of pharmacy while serving as the voice of pharmacy in Colorado."

I want to welcome the new members of the Board and thank them as well as the continuing members for their willingness to serve the organization. I would acknowledge the members of the CPS board. I echo the sentiments of Jim Stephens in that the society owes each of you a debt of gratitude for sharing not only your time and talents but also in fostering a vision of Colorado's pharmacy future.

We are currently in the midst of a profound period of change in our nation. We have seen our stock market nose-dive, our politicians scramble, and have seen intense public scrutiny of our current health care system. This scrutiny can be expected to continue and widen as our country struggles to determine its future. As Pharmacy professionals, we must continue to be vigilant during this time of change. Indeed, my friends the time to create our future is now.

I have spent a great deal of time reading in the past few months and was able to attend a leadership meeting with Val and the President Elect and Executive Director of State organizations from across the nation in May. I would like to share with you a few of the pressing topics.

Appropriate medication disposal and protecting our planet continue to be an agenda items within our state and nation. We must help to determine our role in this process as we sort through the information.

The role of the Pharmacy Technician within the profession and within our state will continue to be a discussion topic this year. The Colorado State Board of Pharmacy has published the report of the Pharmacy Technician Taskforce which recommends changes to the regulation and scope of practice of technicians in order to allow for pharmacists to continue providing expanded cognitive services.

Lastly, our national leaders are working to strengthen health care coverage as they also work to limit the costs and broad sweeping changes to our current method of providing care are possible in the near future. The proposed changes to come may benefit the profession of Pharmacy or may hinder our ability to continue to advance our practice and it is the duty of each of us to work to ensure that our profession will continue to advance. The Ashville project, Diabetes Ten City Challenge and other studies have shown the value of adding cognitive pharmacist services but we must continue to increase the number of practitioners

who participate in these projects. The Society must continue to broadcast the good work that is occurring in our state.

The Society has access to numerous tools such as Patient Centric Pharmacy and QA improvement via the Continuous Quality Improvement tool. We also have access to past grants from the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations/Merck such as a manual for Error Prevention, an educational program on collaborative practice agreements, and a Medication Therapy Management Toolkit that we would love to share with our membership. Our challenge is in getting these to the members for implementation of the programs. With such fantastic practitioners in our state, a dynamic Board, and such a strong Executive Director I have no doubt that we can accomplish these things but we must actively work together to bring these ideas to fruition. We also have the opportunity to apply for a similar grant with a funding capacity of up to 15,000. I encourage you to discuss the ideas that I've shared and to let myself, Val, or any of the Board members know your thoughts on these topics.