

## **The State of the Colorado Pharmacists Society**

President Mary Newell

Business Session – June 11, 2004

2004 Annual Summer Meeting

This afternoon, I have the privilege of speaking with all of you good friends as I complete one of my most enjoyable years ever immersed in service to our profession of pharmacy. Since I have been a pharmacist, Colorado born and educated and have served my patients for now for 33 years, I do have many years of experience to compare this year to. I want to thank all of you that had the faith in my ability to serve as your president and would like to share some of the successes that we have achieved throughout this year that went entirely too quickly.

At the conclusion of our discussion of this fine year, I want to offer some personal thanks to many of you.

We are three full years into this vibrant merged organization of the Colorado Pharmacists Association and the Colorado Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The melding and sharing of our ideas and goals has given us a fertile start in the project. As many of you know, this melding process was to be evaluated by the ASHP over a three year period, and we have successfully completed two of those years.

We have some challenges to meet in the next few months that we will eagerly pursue so that what we have done will only become better. This month, we have a meeting planned at the 2004 ASHP Summer Meeting with our Health Systems delegates from Colorado, including Board Member Paul Limberis and myself with Jill Nichols, the Regional Liaison to the ASHP so that we can be sure to make CPS grows even more and continues to meet the needs of each and every pharmacist in our state.

If you remember, one of the goals that I set for our organization during this last year was that each of us as pharmacists should give more to our patients and to our communities. I proposed that more pharmacists in Colorado should become involved in the Annual 9 Health Fair and outlying health fairs in our state. We were very fortunate that Catherine Jarvis, one of our board members and the Assistant Dean of Student Services at the CU School of Pharmacy, took the lead on this project by organizing meetings with pharmacy interns and interested pharmacists. These meetings were used to share ideas between pharmacy students and pharmacists on how best to help our patients when they attend a health fair. A very complete selection of papers and information was voluntarily prepared by some of our pharmacists and interns so that the different subject areas would be easily accessible to any pharmacist and intern volunteers wishing to participate in a neighborhood health fair. This eased the minds of many who where not sure what topics they should cover with patients, and also those who just wanted to have some generally helpful health information for patients wanting to discuss their medications and supplements with the pharmacist. This approach was very successful. Through e-mail and the internet, many volunteers accessed the hints and help available to them and proceeded to participate for the health fair.

In conclusion, this goal was met and really furthered other goals—

A: Our pharmacists and pharmacy interns did give back to the public and we had a greater than ever participation.

B: Our patients gained knowledge and confidence as they had some special time with us as health professionals.



C: This goal also completed our endeavor to partner with the CU School of Pharmacy so that we can be better mentors to the students and recent graduates. (In the past, the school had students that wanted to participate in the health fair and could not do so because they had to pair with a pharmacist. There were not enough of us volunteering.

. . . . I hope for next year that everyone who volunteered for the 9 Health Fair will continue to do so in the future and to involve yet more sites with pharmacists and to bring more pharmacy interns into this great project of sharing knowledge with our patients.

D. In the area of membership, we hope to continually make gains in numbers of active members and to increase diversity of membership and representation. I feel that we have done a good job trying to bring our message to all pharmacists that CPS is truly recognized as the premier pharmacy organization in Colorado, and that through recruitment of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians throughout our state and among all practice settings, we have continued to be the voice of pharmacy in Colorado. These goals encompass our mission and vision as an organization.

E. Last, because I have always lived in Colorado, I thought that we could reach more remote areas during this year and offer Social times and Continuing Education in areas of our state that many of you hardly ever hear about—during this year we have broadened our ability to reach many more pharmacists through our education goals. We have sponsored meetings with CE in Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Park Meadows, Lone Tree, Greenwood Village, Denver, Ft. Collins, Grand Junction and the northeastern areas of Colorado, when we held a May Law CE in Yuma, Colorado. The success of these meetings will continue to reap benefits, because we have gotten some new members, with different perspectives and challenges that they offer from their areas of Colorado. We have been able to do a broader base of recruiting, which can only serve to strengthen our organization. We have showed that CPS can offer much to pharmacists that are already affiliated with other state organizations and that we can work very efficiently to help each other. For example, we were able to get a CE accredited for a Southern Chapter meeting this year. They also attended our CE and agreed that our two organizations do not need to compete. It was exciting for me to be able to attend nearly all of these CE meetings for the year and to be able to talk with pharmacists all over the state. It was also nice that we could offer a CE in Yuma, offering our meeting and dinner to pharmacists that never see each other in all those little towns of Holyoke (where Benita Rumold, one of our Board Members owns a store), Wray, where my brother owns Foltmer Drug, Yuma, where we were fortunate to have Alan from Shop All and Jim Vincent, a long time pharmacist and philanthropist in the pharmacist community. Jim was a former president of NCPA. Pharmacists from Brush, Sterling, Ft. Morgan, Akron, Burlington, and Julesburg were also invited and many came. Rich Doyle, a Board of Pharmacy member, who owns Walker Drug in Sterling, was present. At that meeting we had 22 pharmacists and technicians and everyone came that RSVP'd. We were unable to procure funding and a program from a pharmaceutical firm for that CE, but we did it anyway. The next time we offer this CE, we most likely will be able to get funding, because of such good attendance. The eastern Colorado pharmacists and technicians were so appreciative as were others in the outlying Front Range and Western Slope Communities. Also, in the area of program diversity, we have been able to give some sponsorship to the technician academy and they have had a few very successful CE's this year—one in northern Denver Area, one in Colorado Springs, and one on the western slope.

In this next year I think we will be busy recruiting members and volunteers to make pharmacy more visible in our state. Additionally we will need to work to make the merged organization successful from all sides—from the national organizations' perspectives and from the perspectives of each of us as pharmacists. Our goal should continue to be one of giving and caring. Remember how fortunate we all are and just those small things we can do easily for patients and other colleagues and friends can make our year and theirs a much happier one. As we help others, we strengthen ourselves and this Colorado Pharmacist Society.

Now, to thank all of you that have made this year a success. First, there is Randy Knutsen, who has served very well as my assistant, always willing to help when needed, and offering new perspectives to many of our issues. Randy also volunteers time in other pharmacy venues, such as his appointment to the Board of Pharmacy. His directorship at Walgreens takes a little of his time also I think. Thanks, Randy for your service to the CPS and to Pharmacy in our state.

I would like to thank Doug Fish for his many years of service both to the CSHP and to the CPS. Your presidency was very successful and you have given much to these organizations, even though you are so busy at the University and with your small family. Thanks, Dong

I want to thank Jan Anderson, for help as a board member. Jan has offered perspectives that we don't see in our areas of practice. Jan has to do lots of traveling but still manages to come to most of our board meetings and help out with all of our projects and decisions that must be made. Thanks, Jan

Susan Downard, you have been great. Because of your national involvement with APhA, you have been able to keep us in touch with some of the national issues that are important to pharmacy. You have spent much time with us, even when you had to drive so far. We would not be as strong without you. Your insight into managed care pharmacy has been very helpful. Thanks, Susan

Our School of Pharmacy liaison and very special board member, Catherine Jarvis, is much appreciated. Cathy, you have been willing to chair our committee on the 9 Health Fair and you did a stellar job. Additionally, you can give us good ideas on how to partner with the pharmacy school on projects and give us good perspective on pharmacy education. Thanks much.

The Academy of Consultant Pharmacists always provides us with a very helpful board member. You have been no exception to that Claire Forsyth. We appreciate your efforts as you have helped us to grow as an organization this year. Even when you have so much to do, you have given what you can to help us out.

Another important board member is Sandy Alleckson, our technician academy member. Sandy has been very good at organizing the academy and getting volunteers to help with the CE's and communications within the tech academy. Sandy had been very active in our meetings as a liaison between the pharmacists and the pharmacy technicians. Thanks Sandy.

Well, to the hospital side, let me say that Paul Limberis is a joy. He does so much with ASHP and keeps us totally in touch with what that arm of our membership needs to be doing and what their goals are. He attends many health systems meetings, always sure to keep us in the loop as he prepares reports for our board meetings. Thank you Paul for your support this year.

Tim Mead, I have been happy to have you on the board. In addition to your welcomed ideas and thoughts, you try to keep me straight. I know that you have dedicated much time to this work and many have been benefited from your good energies. When you leave this board, I will still be asking you to come to the fundraisers! You won't want to think you are getting off easy. (Tim helps lots of pharmacy organizations out.) Thanks Tim

Well, now I get to Val Gheller. Val is a good thinker you know. He offers perspective only after studying the options for some time. We are lucky to have Val as a board member because he gives much of his time to help pharmacy and to help others. He is a great community pharmacist. Thank you Val for your willingness to serve as a board member.

Ron Kennedy, you are great as a board member. Your way to candidly and correctly frame an issue to open it for discussion is a good thing for our board. You are able to give us perspective on what consultant pharmacists need in their practice settings. Ron is always willing to help out with projects. We do appreciate your time and efforts Ron. Thanks.

To round out our geographic diversity and to lend thought to independent pharmacy, we have Benita Rumold. Benita is great. She drives from far away to come to our meetings. Holyoke is way out east by Nebraska and it is really small town. (even smaller than Wray, where I am from). Her car had to be re-trained to drive up here through all of the I-25 mess. Benita has good perspective on political issues and on reimbursement issues in pharmacy. She is always willing to voice her opinion after careful thought and help out with important pharmacy practice issues in our state. She has given much to our board and to the CPS. Thanks, Benita!

Well, managed care pharmacists always have new perspectives on pharmacy issues. We have been fortunate enough to have Dennis Thode in this board position. Dennis works hard to help us meet our goals. He has been a good recruiter for new members and is always willing to help out with things when needed. Your viewpoints are very important to us. Thanks, Dennis!

Well, here is a guy that gives a lot as well—Gerry Young. Gerry drives many miles, often many times a month, serving on our board of the CPS and on the State Board of Pharmacy. Gerry is our Independent Owner Board member and offers ideas and help to those of us that do not know how things work in smaller towns. Thanks Gerry for your years of dedication.

Now we get to Jim Stephens. Jim is just the best. When you have a question on budget—how you arrived at a total, or how you can tell we are doing well in CPS, or what we can afford when we have an important project that was not anticipated at the first of the budget year, He's the man! Thanks to you Jim, I know more about our finances than I did before. Jim also offers insight into Hospital Pharmacy Management as the director of Platte Valley Medical Center in Brighton. Jim also gets an award for many hours on the road to come to the meetings.

I believe this completes the list of our very qualified and dedicated board members. I want all of you to know that my presidency looks lots better because of all the expertise that surrounds me. Thanks to all of you and to your families for letting you give your time to the Colorado Pharmacists Society.

Millie Webb, you deserve a special thank-you. Millie is so special to all of us, because every convention we set up, Millie is right there to help us do the program and organization for that meeting. She keeps things on pace and gets them done. Millie through the years you are the one that deserves an award annually. Thanks Millie for all that you do. We do appreciate it. Millie is one of our technician members and has also served on our board.

Val and Daina Kalnins—what to say about the two of you. Partnering to direct this great Colorado Pharmacist Society requires so much. There is all of the office and organizational work to do, setting up and accrediting all of the CE meetings, helping us to plan the agendas for our meetings—conventions, and board meetings, and the liaison work you do with other pharmacy organizations in the state. Also, you must do communication and partnering with national organizations. All of us really want to thank you for the tireless efforts you put forth to help make this organization so successful. Certainly your guidance through this year has been very helpful. You know that sometimes my requests can be a challenge presented with little notice. The communications and support that you provide to CPS, professionally, politically, and socially, have been noticed and greatly appreciated. Thank you!

A very special couple is here today that I would like to recognize. For all the years that Jim and I have been pharmacists these two have been friends of ours for such a long time. They are a great support and have done so much for pharmacy in our state. Jim and I graduated back in 1971 from CU in Boulder and Jim worked as an intern for this pharmacist. We would like to recognize George and Annette Anderson as a very special couple. Thanks for all that you have done for pharmacy! Last, but not least, I would like to personally thank my family – especially Jim – for the continued support that he offers me as I continue to be so active in pharmacy here in Colorado. It takes much of my time. I would also like to thank King Soopers, especially the Pharmacy and Store at Orchard and Holly in Greenwood Village where I work full time as a pharmacist. Robert Weiss, my

Pharmacy Manager, has often turned his schedule upside down to accommodate my many meetings and Steve and Debbie my store managers, have also been so supportive. I appreciate them.

With this, I am going to turn the leadership of this organization over to a new and very qualified president and board of directors. I am certain that we can continue to be better, to serve and give more to our communities, and to strive to represent all pharmacists and pharmacy team members using diversity of geography, practice setting, and scope of positions as a plus as we continue choose board members and volunteers for our committees. This is the trademark of our organization—the Colorado Pharmacists Society-- that sets us above others.

As always, I am accessible. Please feel free to talk with me about any suggestions or concerns you have. We want to continue to get better. Communication is one way to help us to become a more effective CPS.

Thanks for a great year. Lets all keep up the good work. Also, remember to come to this summer meeting next year ! We want to be able to continue to have this summer meeting yearly. Tell your friends about it and get an extra family to come next year.

God Bless—Thanks again!