

# The Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology

## Association Canadienne de Pharmacie en Oncologie



### President's Message

This is the beginning of a new term for the CAPhO Exec. I am beginning my term as President; Gabriel Gazzé steps into the role of Past President. Lynne Nakashima has completed her term as Past President and in that regard I would like to extend our thanks to her for all the years of dedication to CAPhO. You will be missed, Lynne! This also means CAPhO is in need of a President-Elect. Nominations should be submitted to Gabriel Gazzé and elections will be held within the next few months.

NOPS was a great success this year with record attendance. On behalf of the membership, I'd like to thank Larry Broadfield and all the members of the NOPS Organizing Committee for all their hard work.

This fall the CAPhO Exec will be turning it's attention to the organization of additional education events for the winter/spring. I'd like to encourage everyone to review the new hope e-learning module on the CAPhO website: "Molecular Biology of Cancer and Promise of Targeted Therapy". These modules provide unique educational opportunities for CAPhO members and your participation will help ensure we are able to continue to offer these or similar programs. Feedback is welcome – please direct comments to our webmaster or education chair.

It has been several years since our Standards of Practice were released and it is time for a review. A small working group has been formed to complete a gap analysis and suggest revisions to the current document.

We have taken steps to partner with CANO and would welcome other partnerships with like-minded organizations. The goal of these partnerships is to expand CAPhO's national profile as well as expand opportunities for our members for education and other information sharing.

We continue to look for member participation on committees and the executive. CAPhO is your organization and it will be stronger and more vibrant with increasing member participation. I would welcome hearing from any members over the next year with ideas or requests. Let us know how we can improve services for you and expand CAPhO's activities!

Best wishes to all CAPhO members over the holiday season!

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### NOPS 2007 – Halifax

*Roxanne Dobish*

CAPhO's annual educational meeting, the National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium (NOPS) was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia in October 2007 and I would have to say that it was definitely a huge success. The program was fully booked with educational, networking, and social events from the wee hours of the morning to well into the evenings – highlighting again the need to consider extending the length of this popular annual meeting. I would like to take this opportunity, as a member of the planning committee and a regular attendee of NOPS, to thank all of the sponsors of the meeting.

NOPS is an extremely valuable opportunity for oncology pharmacy practitioners from across Canada to come together on an annual basis to share and disseminate the latest practice issues in oncology pharmacy. Without the support of our sponsors, this would not be possible.

NOPS 2007 boasted 2 new milestones: the largest attendance ever at the NOPS meeting and the first NOPS hosted social event on the Saturday evening. A bagpiper, piping in the trays of lobster

along with an entertaining Acadian band made for an enjoyable evening of Eastern Canadian hospitality that will be hard to beat in subsequent years to come!

The educational events over the 3 days were exceptional, as usual. Many Canadian oncology pharmacists presented on various topics and provided updates in areas such as managing toxicities, improving patient safety, and disease and drug specific topics. The theme of the conference was *Oncology Pharmacy in Your Community* and Larry Broadfield presented on the work that has been accomplished to date in Nova Scotia with respect to defining levels of care and designing the infrastructure for delivery of systemic therapy in various locations in the province. Many provinces have made the move to deliver systemic therapy closer to home for patients and his talk provided useful information on the model used in Nova Scotia for the provision of safe and appropriate cancer care in the various district health authorities in that province. Sharon Meeke provided a demonstration of the Regional Cancer Program Formulary System Software



Larry Broadfield, Co-Chair NOPS Organizing Committee

(RECAP-FS®) used in Ontario to standardize systemic therapy regimens at the Juravinski Cancer Centre and its outreach communities. Her presentation displayed how technology can be used to make information available to outreach centres and standardize practice. One of the highlights of the conference was the final panel presentation on A Day in the Life of an Oncology Pharmacist. Three pharmacists practicing in very different settings provided their perspectives on providing cancer care services to patients in their

provinces. Jackie Moulton from Newfoundland provided attendees with insight into the challenges and opportunities of a pharmacist practicing in a rural hospital setting, and the value in working closely with a tertiary care cancer centre in providing safe and appropriate chemotherapy services. Nancy Hallé presented on the rewarding and challenging role of the pharmacists who work at the Léon Richard Oncology Center in Moncton, New Brunswick. Darryl Boehm provided highlights of life in Saskatchewan and the oncology programs and services provided by the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and the Allan Blair Cancer Centre where he is the senior pharmacist and team leader. Learning about oncology pharmacy practice in other centres was very interesting and the planning committee was very pleased that Jackie, Nancy and Darryl agreed to share their experiences with the conference attendees.

In addition to the oral presentations, there were also poster presentations and exhibits from the sponsors which were well attended by conference registrants. I would encourage pharmacy practitioners to



Gabriel Gazzé presents the CAPHo Distinguished service award to Susan Walisser



Roxane Dobish presents to poster award winners Venetia Bourrier and Scott Edwards

consider presenting a poster at next year's NOPS meeting – it's a great way to promote and showcase the work that is being done in your centre. Overall the NOPS meeting was excellent, thanks to the hard work of the planning committee, the support of CAPhO Executive and the many sponsors, the outstanding presentations by the speakers, and last but not least, the interest of the conference registrants. Mark your calendars now for next year's NOPS to be held in Calgary, Alberta on October 17-19, 2008!

### **NCIC Report**

*Ing Collins*

The CAPhO executive has approved a continuation of support of members attending the National Cancer Institute of Canada Spring Meeting 2008 taking place in Toronto from May 1 to 4th at the Delta Chelsea Hotel. Notification for applications for five travel grants will be forthcoming in the new year. So, be on the look out!

### **Report from the Education Chair**

*Kim Stefaniuk*

Congratulations to the organizing committee for a record-breaking NOPS 2007! We had our best attendance ever, with an exciting agenda addressing issues of opportunities, and the fabled East Coast hospitality rounded off the experience. Thanks especially to the local organizing committee for scheduling the hurricane for the weekend AFTER NOPS! Check the



NOPS 2007 Organizing Committee

CAPhO website regularly at [www.capho.org](http://www.capho.org) for speaker slides that will hopefully be posted soon.

Western Canada steps up to the plate for NOPS 2008. Mark your calendars; the next NOPS will be held in vibrant Calgary, Alberta, October 17-19<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Other future locations for NOPS include:  
2009 Ottawa  
2010 Winnipeg

Also, be sure to mark on your calendar next year's ISOPP-HOPA meeting in Anaheim, California (June 18-21). See more details below.

Also at NOPS 2007, CAPhO hosted a brief open forum on technician certification programs. It was agreed this is a high priority issue and one which should be pursued at a national level. Stay tuned as CAPhO explores this issue further. If you are interested in helping shape a certification program, please send an e-mail with your contact information indicating your interest to [kimberley.stefaniuk@uhn.on.ca](mailto:kimberley.stefaniuk@uhn.on.ca)

CAPhO, in partnership with Merck, is pleased to present the next e-learning HOPE module, *Molecular Biology of Cancer and Promise of Targeted Therapy*. This excellent and timely educational program will introduce pharmacists and other health-care professionals to the primary concepts underlying the biology of cancer and explore the promise of targeted therapy. Free to CAPhO members, it can be accessed on the website, [www.capho.org](http://www.capho.org)

The CAPhO Executive is also pleased to announce continuation of the NCIC travel grants and also a travel grant to the joint HOPA/ISOPP meeting (Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association and International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners) to be held in Anaheim, California, June 18-21, 2008. Details of these competitions will be announced in the near future.

### **CAPhO Research Grants**

*George Dranitsaris*

Next year CAPhO will providing two research grants each up to \$5,000. The grants will be for oncology pharmacist initiated research in the area of clinical practice, pharmacoeconomics, health policy, cancer epidemiology, drug use evaluation and pharmacokinetics. To be eligible, applicants must be CAPhO members in the year the grant submission is made. Details to be announced in the new year.

## HOPA/ISOPP 2008 Joint Annual Conference

Wednesday-Saturday

June 18-21, 2008

- Anaheim Marriott •  
Anaheim, California

[www.hoparx.org](http://www.hoparx.org)

<http://isopp.org>



### ONLINE REGISTRATION:

E-mail [info@hoparx.org](mailto:info@hoparx.org) with "HOPA/ISOPP 2008 Registration" in the subject line and receive a notification e-mail as soon as online registration becomes available.

### ABSTRACT DEADLINES

There will be two abstract deadlines this year, an earlier one in January for completed research and a later one in March for research that will not be complete until the time of the meeting in June. Only pharmacy trainees (residents, fellows, or students) may use the later deadline. A call for abstracts with more details will be available at [www.hoparx.org](http://www.hoparx.org) and <http://isopp.org>.

Check for more meeting details at [www.hoparx.org](http://www.hoparx.org) or [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org) or call toll free at 001-877-467-2791

HOPA's 4th Annual Conference has combined with ISOPP's 11th Annual Conference for a 2008 Joint Conference extravaganza! We are planning nearly 40 hours of educational activities over 4 days, so mark your calendars for the biggest hematology/oncology pharmacy meeting of the year!

Special features this year include a technical track with 6 total hours of programs, 4 platform presentation awards, 3 different poster sessions, 7 concurrent workshops, and a gala social event on Saturday evening to end the meeting.

Premeeting activities will begin Wednesday morning and the

General Sessions will open on Wednesday at 3:00 PM.

The Anaheim Marriott is the preferred hotel for HOPA/ISOPP 2008; all programming will take place at the Marriott. A limited number HOPA/ISOPP rooms will be available at a discounted rate of \$165 USD per night plus taxes (single, double, triple, or quad).

Registration fees will be approximately \$450 USD for ISOPP or HOPA members and \$550 USD for nonmembers. There will also be an optional Saturday evening social event with an additional fee to be determined.

### A Few Words from Lynne Nakashima

This was my final NOPS meeting as part of the CAPhO Executive, as my term as Past-President is now complete. It is with a sense of sadness and regret that I leave the CAPhO Executive. It has been a rare privilege to work with the dedicated and keen oncology Pharmacists who have volunteered their services on the CAPhO Executive and it has been an honour to serve the oncology pharmacy community in this role for the past 6 years.

The organization has come a long way in the time I've been on the Executive Committee, and I truly marvel at how far it has come, particularly, when I know that most Pharmacists are working to their full capacity, and then volunteering their time for their profession. We have an outstanding professional meeting in NOPS, on-line learning modules, awards, standards of practice, a revised set of bylaws, a wonderful website and a membership that exceeds 300! It is amazing and I commend you all!

I know I am leaving the Executive in good hands. Dana Cole is an able leader, and with Gabriel Gazzé to provide support, the Executive will continue to grow and thrive! I want to thank each



Lynne receives the CAPhO Service Award

and every one of you for taking the time to support oncology pharmacy. I would encourage you to get involved, if you can. It is a wonderful experience and I would highly recommend it!