



## President's Message

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer so far. I'd like to share some updates on CAPHO activities and decisions from the Executive spring retreat.

I'm pleased to announce that Betty Riddell will be heading up a project to revise the CAPHO Standards of Practice. The contract for this project will ensure completion by September 2009. This will be 5 years from the initial publication date and will allow us keep the Standards up to date with changes in practice. The revisions will be circulated to the membership and presented at the AGM in 2009. A small group has been organized for the revisions but if you have comments, please pass these along on the website as a discussion thread will be established for gathering comments that may be useful to the project authors.

I would like to thank Colleen Olson and the work of the Awards Committee in tidying up some of the award policies, and for the proposal of new CAPHO awards. Stay tuned for terms of reference for the new awards. Our website will also be updated with past award winners.

I would also like to thank the Membership Committee for their hard work. They are working towards an organized membership database as well

as revising and expanding membership categories. I expect these new categories will be established by the AGM.

Finally, in response to the suggestions at the AGM last year, the Executive Committee has established a plan for turnover of the non-elected positions. After many years of service to CAPHO, Kim Stefaniuk and George Dranitsaris will both be stepping down from the Executive this October. Kim will be leaving the position of Education Chair and George is currently serving as a Member-at-Large. Please consider if you would be interested in sitting on the Executive Committee as we will be looking for two new members as of October. If you would like to discuss a position on the executive, please contact either myself or any member on the executive, we would love to hear from you!

I wish everyone a very relaxing summer!

Warm regards,

Dana Cole, CAPHO President  
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## Awards Committee Update

*Submitted by Colleen Olson*

At the spring retreat this year, the CAPHO executive approved the formation of an Awards Committee. The committee consists of myself (chair), along with Victoria Kyritsis, Flay Charbonneau and Susan Walisser. The committee members were chosen based on their past awards experience and expertise. In the future, as committee members are needed, there will be a call for volunteers sent out to members through the CAPHO forum.

The two winners of the ISOPP 2008 travel grant awards are Adeline Chau and Jennifer MacDonald. Look for an update from the conference from each of them in the Fall newsletter.

The committee has been working on developing two new awards, the Merit Award and the Distinguished Service to CAPHO Award, to recognize the achievement of members. The call for nominations for these new awards was already sent out to CAPHO members by e-mail at the end of June.

Thank-you  
Colleen Olson  
CAPHO Awards Chair  
[colleen.olson@saskcancer.ca](mailto:colleen.olson@saskcancer.ca)

## **NOPS 2008**

### **“NEW FRONTIERS IN ONCOLOGY PHARMACY” October 17-19, 2008, Hyatt Regency Calgary Calgary, Alberta**

*Submitted by Lee Gordon  
NOPS Co-Chair*

Greetings partners!

Thought you might like a brief update regarding NOPS 2008. As you are aware it will be held in Calgary October 17 – 19 at the Hyatt Regency. The theme is, “New Frontiers in Oncology Pharmacy”. Thanks to the diligence of an outstanding planning committee we are able to continue the tradition of presenting a dynamic educational program. Of particular note is the division of breakout sessions into clinical, technical and administrative themes. This has allowed us to present a broad spectrum of pharmacy topics catering to individual participant interests. We have also been able to attract vibrant presenters to discuss timely topics for our plenary sessions. The draft program is posted on the CAPHO website so take a gander under NOPS 2008 when you have a chance.

While passing through Calgary last week I stopped at a proposed site for the Saturday night NOPS social. We wanted something with a western flare and boy did this place have it. It was right out of the movies! It's hard to describe but my wife and I agreed it had lots of “character.” High-heels and ties are definitely out. No need to saddle up to get there either, just mosey across the street from our hotel.

Well something seems to be spooking the cattle so I'd better get back to work. See you in Calgary.

Yeehaa!

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### **NCIC Update**

*Submitted by Ing Collins,  
NCIC Rep*

The NCIC CTG Spring Meeting 2008 was held in Toronto at the Delta Chelsea Hotel from May 1st to 4<sup>th</sup>. A number of NCIC CTG abstracts were presented at the 2008 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>. See the web link below:  
<http://www.ctg.queensu.ca/publications/ASCO-2008.pdf>

News from the Pharmacist Network open meeting:

A number of vacancies for pharmacist representatives on the Disease Site Group and the Steering Group (SG) have opened.

- Maritimes representative for the Steering Group and
- Two Disease Site representatives – one each for Hematology and Lung Disease Site group

If you are interested in learning more details about these openings, please contact Biljana Spirovski, chair of the SG at [BSpirovski@hrrh.on.ca](mailto:BSpirovski@hrrh.on.ca)

An NCI approved *Drug Logs for Blinded Studies* have been posted on the website.  
[http://www.ctg.queensu.ca/private/pharm\\_net/default.html](http://www.ctg.queensu.ca/private/pharm_net/default.html)

- These logs would be used for blinded medication in studies sponsored by NCIC

CTG and for blinded drugs received from the NCI US.

The Central Office at the NCIC CTG is currently looking into a model whereby the issues regarding the Investigational Medicinal Products will be under the governance of one person within Central Office. Hopefully, this will assist the pharmacy staff in implementing clinical trials appropriately.

The 2 CAPHO sponsored members who attended the 2008 Spring Meeting expressed their thanks. They enjoyed the opportunity to network with fellow peers and learn a few things about NCIC CTG. See their summaries below of what they learned and how they will use that information to effect positive change in their pharmacy services for clinical trials.

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### **NCIC Spring Meeting Summaries of CAPHO Grant Winners**

*Submitted by Gillian McMurphy  
Cancer Care Manitoba,  
Winnipeg*

I was one of the very fortunate recipients of the 2008 grants for NCIC CTG in Toronto this spring. I first would like to thank CAPHO for accepting my application and giving me an opportunity to learn more about NCIC CTG and the challenges that go into our roles in the Clinical Investigations Dept.

I attended many, many hours of lectures over the weekend. I was exhausted with the knowledge but at the same time I couldn't wait to get to the next lecture or the next workshop. If the Study was something I had never heard of, I still managed

to walk away with something that I could use. We began with the introductions and overviews of CRAs and the expectations and requirements that go with the job. We had an opportunity to meet others who do the same types of jobs from all across the country.

I was very fortunate to sit in on a lecture by Dr. Falkson. He spoke of worldwide trends and how cancer has been visible since Egyptian times. He put forth questions about why trends are different around the world. He encouraged thought about our future in battling this disease. Dr. Falkson concluded his lecture with this very interesting thought "Are we all the same ..... if so, why do only some of us respond to therapies and treatments. Or..... are we all very different and unique and.... should we therefore be surprised when so many of us respond to the same therapies and treatments."

Another excellent lecture concerned Ethics and Regulatory Information. I realized that it is my own responsibility to stay current regarding Ethical and Regulatory issues. I learned to use the resources that have been made available. I need to ask for information when I need it and I need to know where to look for information when new questions come up. I need to stay up to date on who the contact people are and where to find them in a pinch. It was made clear that everything that we do can indirectly affect a person receiving care.

The whole weekend was a fantastic opportunity to learn and listen. The choices in

workshops ranged from Good Clinical Practice games to intense clinical results and progress updates. It was all so very interesting on a job relating level and on a personal level.

I have come away from the Spring Meeting with a better understanding of the larger picture of Clinical Trials. I believe that the more you understand the more you want to learn new things. If you are good in what you are doing in your day to day responsibilities, then you will naturally strive for excellence.

I do realize that my part in this whole process is a tiny one. But, every piece of the process is extremely important. I know that consistency is the key to success. I am also confident that I left Toronto with a better understanding of the importance of every role... big and small. I am confident that I will pass on that message in the future.

Once again, thank you so very much for giving me this amazing opportunity and maybe I'll see you all next year!

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*Submitted by Lori Douglas  
Pharmacy Technician  
BC Cancer Agency  
Vancouver Island Centre*

I would like to express a huge thank you to CAPhO for the grant enabling me to attend the NCIC Spring meetings in Toronto on May 1-4<sup>th</sup>.

The highlight of the trip was the Pharmacy Network meeting. It was nice to meet Pharmacists and Technicians from other Cancer Centres and discuss their concerns with different

studies, how they handle distribution of medications to patients who don't live close by, and how the disposal of returned and expired drugs are handled.

We were shown the new NCIC blinded dispensing log and how to use it. We discussed the CE5 study which involves different strengths of Temozolomide and the dispensing issues around it. We are not involved in that study but we are involved with CE6, which has the same issues, so it was good to hear that the procedures for dispensing have been clarified.

I had the pleasure of having dinner with pharmacists from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec. It was very interesting hearing about differences in procedures, workload, and drug coverage for patients at various centres in other provinces.

I also attended the Breast Disease Site meeting. It was very informative as we are involved in many of these studies. We have many patients on the MA17 trial who will be completing 5 years of treatment, and they will be eligible for the MA17R study. I was also interested in hearing updates on the MA27 and MAC12 Tailor X studies, both of which we are also doing at our centre. We will also be taking part in MAC9 and MA31, and it was interesting to get some insight into those studies before they open at our centre.

I appreciate CAPhO's assistance which allowed me to take part in the meetings which were very pertinent to my work in Clinical Trials. Thanks again!