Presidents Message

I am pleased to be able to report on another successful year for CAPhO. This year marks the eighth year for CAPhO as an organization, and we have taken some significant steps forward.

Our most significant achievement this year is the completion of the first edition of the National Oncology Pharmacy Standards. The task force, chaired by Betty Riddell, worked very hard to produce this first edition. It is currently available electronically on the CAPhO website and will be published in 2005.

We continue to provide a very high standard of education for our membership, and our National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium, held Oct. 23 and 24, 2004, was a huge success. Many thanks to Mario de Lemos and Victoria Kyritsis, our co-chairs for the 2004 event. I’m pleased to note that the 2005 NOPS will be held in Vancouver, BC. The CAPhO Executive also approved the following meeting rotation: 2006 Montreal; 2007 Halifax; 2008 Toronto.

CAPhO continues to represent you at the national level, with representation at the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control and the Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies. We are looking to continue to update our website, located at www.capho.ca and we are in the beginning processes for defining a national oncology pharmacy education program.

I look forward to continuing to serve you in 2005, and wish you and your families all the very best in 2005!

Lynne Nakashima

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NCIC Report
Submitted by: Susan Walisser

The NCIC Pharmacists Network continues to evolve to meet the needs of pharmacists involved in NCIC Clinical Trials. We have pharmacist representatives on the Executive of each of the major Disease Sites. They discuss pharmacy concerns with the study chairs and coordinators and act proactively to ensure that new trials do not replicate past difficulties. Also, we are in the process of developing information templates for pharmacy procedures, investigational drug information and patient information handouts that will be completed and posted on the NCIC Clinical Trials Group website for each new trial. Members can then use their passwords to access this information.

Some of our recent activities include:
Biljana Spirovski is chairing the Research subcommittee of the Network. At this point the committee is focusing on small, pharmacy-related research projects.

Jane Nagai has been working with the Quality Assurance Committee to review the existing drug logs and has proposed some changes that, once approved by the committee, should assist pharmacists to more easily comply with documentation expectations.

Lee Gordon has done a lot of work with the Education subcommittees of other disciplines within NCIC to enhance the educational opportunities available for pharmacists at the NCIC Spring meeting which will be held in Montreal, March 31-April 3, 2005. There are Clinical Research Associate sessions that would be of interest to those who are new to clinical trials, joint educational presentations with Research Nurses and the Canadian Association of Medical Oncology session which pharmacists may attend. The Open Meeting of the Pharmacists Network will also have an educational component. If you are involved in NCIC Clinical Trials you should plan to attend the Spring meeting to learn more about specific trials and to network with your pharmacist colleagues.

The Steering Committee will be reviewing the CAPhO Standards of Practice on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are reflective of the current practice of clinical trials pharmacists across the country.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the NCIC Pharmacists Network please feel free to contact myself - swalisse@bccancer.bc.ca or the co-chair of the Steering Committee Marlene Sellon - marlene.sellon@cdha.nshealth.ca.

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Oncology Specialist Credentialing Proposal

Submitted by: Gabriel Gazze

During the last couple of years, a colleague of mine, Edgar Goldstein, and myself have had many discussions about what is happening with our profession. We talked about what has changed, how everything that we were doing has become more and more complicated and that many pharmacists are not well prepared academically to deal with the changes that are occurring in the fields of hematology and oncology.

We came to the conclusion, which I am sure is shared by many oncology pharmacists nationwide, that our profession has become somewhat of a specialty and that it is not recognized as such in Canada.

Edgar and myself have drafted up a proposal during 2003 and 2004 regarding oncology pharmacy as a specialty practice which has been posted on the CAPhO website. The document was posted for comments and ideas from the CAPhO members to be brought back to the CAPhO executive.

Within the CAPhO executive, there seemed to be a consensus that oncology pharmacy has become a specialty but we just did not know how to go about getting it recognized as such at a national level. This appeared to be a huge project with many complications due to provincial legislation and specialty practices. We had many discussions yet we did not know where to start and how to tackle such a big project.

We felt that the first step towards specialization may be a National Oncology Pharmacy Education Program. We feel that CAPhO should be driving force behind this national project.

So for those of you that have been wondering about what has happened to our initial proposal: it has been put aside for now to be ultimately brought back on the table once the National Education Program becomes a reality for Oncology Pharmacy in Canada.
Website Improvements – Feedback Wanted

Submitted by George Dranitsaris

We would like to update our website in order to make it more user friendly and informative to our members. Some new features that we are interested in include a more dynamic first page, a comprehensive page with links to international, national and provincial organizations and clinical updates presented through the website. CAPhO members are encouraged to send us suggestions on what you would like to see added to the website. Once we have compiled a “wish list”, we will be making a request for proposals to various vendors.
The Standards of Practice Project

Submitted by Betty C. Riddell
Chairman, CAPhO Task Force

A survey of the CAPhO membership in the fall of 2001, identified Standards of Practice for oncology pharmacy as a first priority required to meet the needs of oncology pharmacists, regardless of practice site. In response to this request George Dranitsaris, CAPhO President of the day appointed Betty Riddell Chairman of a Task Force to accept responsibility for the assignment. It was also requested that Task Force members be representative of all areas of Canada.

Members of the Task Force included:

Dianne Kapty  British Columbia
Lee Gordon    Alberta
Kathy Gesy    Saskatchewan
Venetia Bourrier  Manitoba
Susan Poirier  Ontario
John Wiernikowski  Ontario (Pediatrics)
Lyson Haccoun  Quebec
Larry Broadfield  Maritime Provinces
Rick Abbott    Newfoundland
Betty Riddell    CAPhO (Chair)

The Task Force began its work by preparing Draft #1 early in 2002. Draft #3 was completed in time for the Task Force meeting held in 2003.

“Standards of Practice” reflect expectations essential to the contemporary practice of oncology pharmacy. “Enabling guidelines” are provided for guidance and/or interpretation of the intent and purpose of the Standard. Guidelines are also included to illustrate ways and means of complying with Standards.

The Standards were categorized in four major sections applicable to oncology pharmacy practice:

1. Oncology Pharmacy Administration
2. Oncology Pharmacy Distribution Service
3. Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs
4. Clinical Practice in Oncology Pharmacy

Section 1 documents Standards for Oncology Pharmacy Administration including: mission; goals and objectives; planning; organization and management; staff; policies and procedures; documentation; oncology drug advisory committee; treatment guidelines; medication safety; medication incident and medication discrepancy reporting; quality assurance; adverse drug reaction reporting; resource management; financial control; cost containment; medication use evaluation; and reporting systems.

Section 2 documents Standards for an Oncology Pharmacy Distribution Service including: oncology pharmacy distribution services; pre-printed medication orders; medication order review; labels; and checking medication preparation and labeling.

Section 3 documents Standards for Safe Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs including: handling cytotoxic drugs; policies and procedures; biological safety cabinets: equipment for drug preparation; personnel; receiving and storage of cancer chemotherapy drugs; preparation of cytotoxic agents; administration of cytotoxic agents (reference only*); transport of cytotoxic agents; and the handling of cytotoxic waste and cytotoxic spills.
Section 4 documents Standards for a Clinical Practice in Oncology Pharmacy including: professional knowledge and skills; teamwork; pharmaceutical care; patient care consultation; drug information; clinical trials and oncology pharmacy research; education and staff development; and clinical pharmacy practice in pediatric oncology.

The application of the Standards will vary depending on a combination of the nature of the practitioners involved and the nature of the practice site. While the Standards are voluntary, they provide a vehicle for provision of acceptable and prudent oncology pharmacy services which will ultimately contribute to optimal patient care.

Process
The Task Force members held one official meeting in October 2003, at the time of NOPS (all other work was carried out by email). Each Task Force member reviewed the document on five different occasions and provided valuable feedback and suggestions to the chairman who served as principal author. The final draft (#6) was prepared following receipt of comments from CAPhO members, when Draft #5 was posted on the CAPhO website.

Draft #6 Standards of Practice for Oncology Pharmacy in Canada Version 1 was accepted by the membership as the official CAPhO Standards at the Annual General Meeting held in Toronto, Ontario, October 23, 2004.

Reaching this endpoint was a long and sometimes complex process; in fact, reviews were often mixed. However, despite the imperfections, it is gratifying to realize CAPhO now has a document entitled “Standards of Practice for Oncology Pharmacy in Canada – Version 1.”

A sincere thank you is extended to each member of the Task Force, the CAPhO members who provided suggestions for the final review and to the CAPhO Executive for their encouragement and support. The results of this project are an example of a supreme volunteer effort that truly represents team work focused on the advancement of oncology pharmacy.

It was a distinct honour and privilege to serve as Chairman of the Task Force. The wonderful opportunity to be a team player, working on a project with outstanding oncology pharmacy practitioners has been an experience I will always remember.

Respectfully

Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology

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NOPS 2004

The 2004 National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium was held on 22-24 October, 2004 in Toronto. The conference theme was “Perspectives in Oncology Practice”. A total of 205 pharmacists participated in the 1 ½ day program. There were 19 sponsors from the pharmaceutical industry who contributed to the satellite symposia and exhibits. The preliminary financial summary showed an overall surplus of close to $40 000. This year, to assist with organization, the Sea to Sky Meeting Management Inc. (S & S) was hired by CAPhO to provide conference and registration management services.

It was decided at CAPhO Executive, that NOPS will be presented at different locations across the country. This should help with some members’ travel when NOPS happens to be close to home and gives us all a good excuse to see the country!
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>NOPS 2005</td>
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Meet the Executive of CAPhO:

President (Lynne Nakashima)

I’m honoured to be the CAPhO President for 2003-2005. I am currently the Pharmacy Professional Practice Leader at the B.C. Cancer Agency in Vancouver. I have been with BCCA for 14 years. My undergraduate training was done at the University of BC and I completed my Pharm.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

My involvement with CAPhO and oncology pharmacy professional organizations really dates back to my time with the NCIC Pharmacists Network, where I was involved with the first Steering Committee. I am also a member of the International Society for Oncology Pharmacy Practice, and these combined with my current role as the President help to keep me involved and informed about oncology pharmacy practice around the world!

On a more personal level, I am married and have two boys, Ben who is 9 years old and Sam who is 7 years old. I enjoy being involved in things, and this has led me to get involved with minor hockey in our community, where I sit on the Executive Board, as the ice scheduler. I also enjoy golfing, although I don’t have much spare time for that!

I believe that oncology pharmacy is an exciting and challenging field. I am amazed by the people who work in oncology; they are some of the most caring and compassionate people I have met. Oncology Pharmacists have made huge strides in the past few years to make their practice integral to the care and safety of the patient. Now, Oncology Pharmacists are moving into the research realm, and with this, will establish themselves further as part of the care team.

This year’s Executive is a strong group of dedicated Oncology Pharmacists who look forward to serving you this upcoming year. I’d encourage you to get involved more with CAPhO. We are a small but effective organization, and it is only with your participation, that we will continue to grow and provide invaluable services. I’d strongly encourage you to get involved!

NCIC Liason (Susan Walisser)

I've been a pharmacist more years than I care to admit and for most of my career have been involved in oncology in some capacity. I took my undergraduate degree at UBC and then a residency at Vancouver Hospital where I developed an interest in pediatrics. After moving to Victoria, I continued my clinical interest in pediatrics and began working with children diagnosed with cancer - attending care conferences, developing protocols and care plans for the families. I eventually joined the BC Cancer Agency's Victoria Cancer Clinic and after many years of clinical practice have now moved into a leadership role. I have been a member of the GI Tumour Group since 1997 and enjoy the challenges that the everchanging world of oncology brings.

On a personal note, I am married with a grown daughter who is now off in a variety of developing countries exercising her passion for travel and for the struggles of the third world. Her interests combine medical issues with those of public policy - her father's expertise. I love reading and would call myself a quilter except that I don't do it often enough to feel deserving of that title.

I very much enjoy the activities that my involvement in oncology pharmacy has brought me. I am the newest member of the CAPhO executive, having taken over from Gabriel Gazze as the NCIC Pharmacists Network Liaison and am looking forward to being a part of the achievements of this dedicated and accomplished group of professionals.

President Elect (Gabriel Gazze)

Gabriel has been working as a pharmacist at the McGill University Health Center in Montreal since 1992 as a pharmacist and working in oncology since 1994. I was a member of the of the NCIC Pharmacists Network Steering Group for a couple of years. I have been on the CAPhO executive for the last three years and am currently president elect. I have been the president for the last three years of the
Regroupement des Pharmaciens ayant un intérêt en oncologie de l'APESQ in Québec and have one more year to go. According to the people I work with I desperately need anger management sessions and need to be tapered off heavy metal music.

Past President (George Dranitsaris)

George Dranitsaris is the past president of CAPhO. He is an oncology research pharmacist with graduate training in biostatistics, health economics, decision analysis and clinical epidemiology. For 8 years, he was the Coordinator of Health Economics and Outcomes Research at Ontario Cancer Institute/Princess Margaret Hospital. He is currently a consultant to the pharmaceutical industry and public health care institutions such as Health Canada and Cancer Care Ontario. His areas of interest include the measurement of cost effective drug use and quality of life in the oncology setting, clinical trial design, the development and implementation clinical practice guidelines and the application of statistical modeling techniques for the evaluation of pharmaceuticals. He has over 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals and holds several national and international awards. He is also a Fellow with the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Secretary (Betty C. Riddell)

Betty Riddell is a Research Associate, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, University of Saskatchewan. She is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Betty is a co-investigator with Dr. Kaiser Ali, Director of Pediatric Oncology, Saskatoon Cancer Centre and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Saskatchewan on his research related to epidemiology and outcomes of childhood cancers. She has a special interest in patient outcomes related to drug therapy and other treatment modalities.

Betty is a former Director of Pharmaceutical Services at Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon, and has been actively involved with provincial and national pharmacy organizations. She is a Past-President of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists and the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association (now the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists). She served as a Board member of the Canadian Pharmacists Association and represented the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists on the University of Saskatchewan Senate. She is an honorary life member of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists, the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists and the Canadian Pharmacists Association.

At present, Betty is secretary of CAPhO and has chaired a Task Force responsible for the development of "Standards of Practice for Oncology Pharmacy in Canada". The Standards were approved as an official CAPhO document October 2004.

Member at Large- Newsletter (Dana L. Cole)

Dr. Cole grew up in beautiful Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia and completed her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. She went on to complete a Hospital Pharmacy Residency at the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax. In 1996, she moved west to complete her Doctor of Pharmacy at University of British Columbia. Dana has worked as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist with the Northern Health Authority and as an Oncology Drug Information Specialist with the BC Cancer Agency.

Over the years, Dana's clinical practice has focused on nephrology, oncology, women's health and anticoagulation. Currently, she provides clinical pharmacy services to the Cancer Care Clinic at PGRH and is the Residency Coordinator for the Hospital Pharmacy Residency Program at PGRH. She has also recently accepted a part-time position as Clinical Assistant Professor for the Northern Medical Program of UBC in Prince George, BC.
For recreation, Dana enjoys getting muddy in the pottery studio, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and hiking.
**Education Chair (Kimberley Stefaniuk)**

Familiar to many of you as NOPS co-chair for many years, Kim is currently CAPhO's Education Chair. A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, she is currently a palliative care pharmacist at Princess Margaret Hospital and Oncology Pharmacy Education Coordinator for Cancer Care Ontario. When not organizing conferences, Kim can be found in her garden, travelling, or playing the harp.

**Treasurer (John Wiernikowski)**

Bio not available.