

Hematology/Oncology History

The Hematology/Oncology (HMON) Practice and Research Network group was established in May 1994 with 50 members; Dr. William Petros of West Virginia University led it. The PRN membership has grown each year; currently, there are more than 500 members. A business meeting is held at each Annual Meeting together with a HMON PRN focus session. Resident and student research presentations and PRN-sponsored research are presented at these meetings. The Annual HMON business meetings together with the e-mail list communication help foster networking and member collaboration.

The Leaders Among Us

The PRN members are grateful to the individual members who have volunteered their time to chair the PRN in the past 14 years. These individuals are nationally recognized leaders in service and science whose contribution has enabled oncology pharmacy to grow as a recognized profession and a “force” in oncology. Past chairs (and chair-elects) include Drs. Timothy Madden (M.D. Anderson Cancer Center), Mary Reilling (St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital), Barry Goldspiel (National Institutes of Health), Amy Valley (Pharmacy Systems, Inc.), Shane Scott (Midwestern University), Phillip Hall (Medical University of South Carolina), Jill Kolesar (University of Wisconsin), Bill McIntyre (Central Washington Hospital), Val Adams (University of Kentucky), Lisa Davis (University of Sciences in Philadelphia), Cindy O’Bryant (University of Colorado), Scott Soefje (Cancer Therapy and Research Center), David Baribeault (Boston Medical Center), and Jodi Grabinski (The START Center for Cancer Care). Some of these individuals also served as secretary and treasurer of the PRN before becoming chair-elect.

Other members who have served as secretary and treasurer include Drs. Colleen Gilbert (Duke University Medical Center), Mark Holdsworth (University of New Mexico), Ashley Morris Engemann (Duke University Medical Center), Pamela Hallin, Suzanne Walton (Northside Hospital), LeAnne Kennedy (M.D. Anderson Medical Center), Kellie L. Jones (Purdue University), Stacy Shord (University of Illinois), Pat Willman (Candler Hospital Lewis Cancer Center), and Karen Smethers (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center).

Many of our past presidents have assumed other leadership roles within the BPS Oncology Council, International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners, and Hematology Oncology Pharmacy Association, as well as in other professional organizations.

Strength in Numbers

Among the key items the PRN members have been able to accomplish in the past 14 years are:

Continuing Education for Pharmacists at the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting

The Accreditation Council now accredits a majority of the sessions at the ASCO Annual Meeting for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The HMON PRN identified this opportunity to increase member benefits through key research relationships. Dr. William Evans, of St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, facilitated some of the initial discussions between the PRN and ASCO while

participating on the ASCO Education Committee. Pharmacists attending the ASCO Annual Meeting can now earn continuing education accredited by ACPE on completion of an ASCO evaluation and program booklet.

Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)

In 2004, the HMON PRN granted its support to the leadership of HOPA, recognizing that as our clinical profession grew, it would be necessary to support individual pharmacy specialists. ACCP and the PRN members continue to foster hematology/oncology-based education programs, as well as collaborate on legislative efforts to advance our profession and improve the care of patients with cancer.

Oncology Pharmacy Professional Development Program

Members of the PRN helped develop, and continue to participate in, an Oncology Review Course to prepare individuals for the Board Certification Oncology Pharmacotherapy (BCOP) Examination. The course content is based on the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS) domains and its related tasks and knowledge statements. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in conjunction with ACCP offers this specialty course yearly. BPS has also approved this program for BCOP recertification credit.

BCOP Recertification Program

A comprehensive recertification program for BCOP was established through the collaborative efforts of ACCP, ASHP, and the leadership in 2005. BPS approved this professional development program for use as an alternative to BCOP recertification by examination. The program consists of three components: an oncology pharmacy preparatory course, an oncology pharmacy home study syllabus, and live oncology pharmacy specialty sessions. ACCP in conjunction with ASHP and HOPA offers these popular continuing education opportunities.

Get Your News!

PRN members established a newsletter, published at least once a year from 1997 to 2000, which served as a primary means of member communication before the launch of the ACCP Web site in late 1997. This publication, which often started with “Words from the Chair,” contained a listing of upcoming meetings and events. Contents also included a summary of the ACCP oncology focus sessions, articles and editorials on controversial topics, and clinical pearls, as well as position listings for oncology pharmacists. Member accomplishments were featured together with updated contact information. The initial newsletter contained a request for study site participants in a trial highlighting the dedication of the PRN leaders to the development of a strong collaboration among the members. The newsletter later highlighted the expansion of the ACCP Web site to include current officers, past publications, links to oncology organization Web sites, and relevant sources of information for the practicing oncology pharmacist. The PRN extends many thanks to Dr. Lisa Holle of Syntax Communications for her role as editor of the newsletter during its 3-year existence.

Money...Money...Money

The PRN has sought support from the pharmaceutical industry for the Annual Meeting and Spring Practice and Research Forum. Supporters include Pharmacia-Upjohn, Smith-Kline-Beecham, and GlaxoSmithKline, as well as other pharmaceutical companies. The most recent donation, an educational grant from Genentech this past academic year, will support a FIT candidate pursuing cancer-based research. The main source of revenue appears to be from members; thank you, Members, for your continued support!

The PRN has also used the treasury to support mini-sabbaticals, travel awards, and the Frontiers Fund. The PRN has contributed more than \$15,000 to the Research Institute in the past several years. The travel awards have supported faculty, pharmacists, and trainees who contribute to the meeting.

Improving Our Science

In March 1999, the members of the PRN followed the example set by the Central Nervous System PRN and established a mini-sabbatical, the purpose of which was to enable members to learn a new skill or observe new services that they could adopt at their practice site. Recipients include Dr. Hong Xia Zheng, completing skills development in MDR1 haplotyping, and Dr. Cindy O'Bryant (University of Colorado), assessing biological correlates associated with the combination of a molecular-targeted agent, bortezomib. Dr. Jill Kolesar (University of Wisconsin) was awarded the most recent mini-sabbatical to work with Richard C. Brundage, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Preceptor, at the University of Minnesota to develop skills in population pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic modeling. She will present her research during the PRN meeting at the Annual Meeting in October 2009. Other recipients have also presented their research at our business and networking meetings.

Contributions to Programming

The PRN continues to contribute to the educational needs of its members and members of the College. At the Annual Meeting, as well as at some of the Spring Practice and Research Forums, the PRN has hosted a focus session to discuss current topics in oncology and hematology related to establishing new practice to therapeutic decisions. The members also provide time for short presentations of research, followed by open discussions at the PRN business meetings. These presentations permit PRN members to learn about the research being conducted by their colleagues and open opportunities for collaborations.

Collaborations with Other PRN and SIGS

The HMON PRN worked collaboratively with the Cancer Care SIG to present a focus session on Geriatric Oncology at the 2009 ACCP/ESCP International Congress on Clinical Pharmacy held in Orlando, Florida.

Summary

The HMON PRN has grown significantly during its 15-year history while supporting the practice of the hematology/oncology pharmacist. Because of HMON PRN member efforts, a majority of the sessions at the ASCO Annual Meeting are ACPE accredited, a specialty course to prepare for the BCOP Examination is offered yearly in conjunction with ASHP, and members can take

advantage of the BCOP recertification program at the ACCP Annual Meeting. Members also have found opportunities to improve patient care by supporting hematology/oncology research, collaborating with colleagues at ACCP meetings, and communicating through the e-mail list. The HMON PRN expects that membership will continue to advance the care of the hematology/oncology patient through interdisciplinary collaboration and support of practice-based research in the years to come.