



Spring 2006

RIPA Reporter

The Newsletter of the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association

From the President



Scott C. Lancellotta

Fellow Pharmacists,

Looking back over the past several months I am very pleased at what our association has accomplished thus far. At the end of the summer, the Council of Administration met and sketched a calendar of events for the year that will sustain the interest of our membership, entice new members to join, and generate necessary revenue to keep RIPA operating. I want to update the membership on what our Council has been involved.

Our continuing education programs have been very successful and well attended. In the fall, with the anticipation of the new Medicare Part D plans, the Council agreed that it would be an opportune time to conduct a CE program regarding the new benefit. On October 26, 2005, RIPA held a Medicare Part D Symposium. I am very proud of our CE committee for scheduling the key speakers and assembling such a quality program. The program also invited nurses and physicians, and provided them with CE/CME credits respectively. We had an outstanding turnout thanks to all of you who attended.

Another very successful event was our third annual Face of Pharmacy Day at the Statehouse. It was held on April 27th and was attended by pharmacists, pharmacy students, and state officials. The day included one hour law CE, in which we heard from various speakers, including Sen. Leo Blais, Rep. Elizabeth Roberts, and Governor Donald Carcieri. It is a very important event for our profession. Besides having the opportunity to showcase our abilities as pharmacists, we also have the chance to talk to our Senators and Representatives regarding specific legislation that may affect pharmacy business or the way we practice pharmacy. Again, thanks to great planning by our committee, we anticipate more participation next year.

Legislative issues that affect pharmacy practice and pharmacy business always seem to exist. We have continued to protect our profession by stating our concerns on the recent bill proposals and regulatory hearings. Most recently is the federal Budget Reconciliation Bill. This bill has numerous budget cuts in many different areas of federal and state funding. Our concern targets Medicare reimbursement and the effect it will have on pharmacists and pharmacy businesses. We also continue to pursue and support legislation that can broaden our scope of practice to provide better healthcare to our communities. Pharmacists must be proactive on this issue, so this year we will again pursue the Medication Administration Bill which will allow trained pharmacists to administer medication and immunizations. We are in the initial phases of what will be a multi-step process. I believe that the determination and support of our members will help us move closer to our goal.

Looking ahead we do have a lot planned for this spring. Our annual Spring Seminar is scheduled for May 31st and will offer 5 CE credits. RIPA's 8th annual golf tournament will

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RIPA at APhA

The American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting was held on March 17-21 this year in San Francisco, California. Rhode Island was represented by close to 30 practitioners and 23 of URI students. This year's meeting had a variety of offerings for attendees.

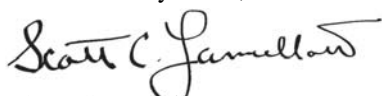
With more than 150 continuing education credits available, attendees had ample opportunity to earn their credits and learn about many interesting topics. The most popular programs all centered around three topics, immunizations, & metabolic syndrome. Regarding Immunizations, the basics regarding pharmacist based programs were covered as well as vaccine developments, the debunking of widely held myths, a 2006 immunization update, and the implications of pandemic flu, particularly the state of the healthcare community's readiness for it. For metabolic Syndrome attendees could learn about new treatments on the horizon and promising interventions pharmacists may be strategically positioned to initiate. Also covered were the epidemiology of obesity, the efficacy of current pharmacologic therapies for weight loss, and the recogni-

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be at beautiful Montaup C.C. on June 12th, and most importantly, our 132nd President's Dinner on June 23rd to honor yours truly and our pharmacy award recipients. Don't forget to buy a raffle ticket! If you need more information on these events visit our website www.ripharmacists.org. We are constantly updating our website, and plan to redesign it in order to serve as a communications and networking tool among our members.

I know many of you have been involved in one way or another, but there is still room for others and more work to be done. I encourage members to become more active in any way they can and look for feedback on things that need improvement or things we are doing right. Suggestions are always welcome, after all, it is **your** association.

Professionally Yours,



Scott C. Lancellotta
President

tion of the need to consider drug dosage adjustments for obese patients.

MTM is becoming a reality. This was another theme of the meeting. APhA has been focused on defining and communicating pharmacy's role in providing medication therapy management (MTM) services. Eugene Lutz, President of APhA said, "Building on the profession's definition, we collaborated with the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation to define the core elements of MTM in community pharmacy practice and worked to make sure that payers, patients, and other health care professionals understood our role in helping patients make their medications work."

The Rhode Island attendees also made time for celebrating victories, two in particular. First, the National Alliance State Pharmacy Associations sponsored a national competition that ranked the reach and effectiveness of student-driven Medicare Part D Outreach efforts. The University of Rhode Island's College of Pharmacy captured first place with their outstanding efforts of 637 hours counseling 5583 Medicare patients. Twenty-two URI pharmacy students were on hand as Jack Hutson, Executive Director of the RIPA, presented Jen Newell, former president of the URI chapter of the Academy of Student Pharmacists, with a plaque and a \$10,000 check, which will go toward student activities in the College of Pharmacy. Newell said, "The students were able to cover the entire state, especially through many of the programs offered by the outreach department at the college." It was a tremendous feat and worthy of the recognition.

Also an award recipient in San Francisco was Ron Jordan. Ron received the A. Richard Bliss Award from Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. It is presented annually to a member or non-member for a most extraordinary contribution to the Fraternity or the profession. It may be presented only at the discretion of the Fraternity's Executive Committee and

is considered to be the organization highest award. Congratulations to Ron!

As with every annual meeting, receptions were plentiful. The New England Reception, cosponsored by RIPA, had a spectacular turnout. Greetings were given by all states to an attendance of well over 60 people.



URI College of Pharmacy students and RIPA Leadership pose with the \$10,000 first prize for Medicare Part D outreach

Rhode Islanders stood out among the crowd. Also, the annual URI breakfast welcomed ## attendees with food and raffle prizes.

The APhA House of Delegates was a hotbed of controversy as it is every year. Sandy Rosa & Heather Larch served as the Rhode Island Delegates at both House Sessions. This year's issues surrounded APhA Policies concerning several subjects. New policies adopted that will now be official Association policies are the restructuring of the drug classification system, conversion of nonprescription products into drugs of abuse, cultural health beliefs and medication use and the continuity of care. New proposals that are now official policy addressed adding tobacco use to pharmacy patient records, and accreditation and advancement of residency programs. More information regarding the House of Delegates and APhA policies can be found at www.aphanet.org/hod.

In addition to the CE programs and receptions, the RI crew made sure to spend some time sightseeing and socializing. A popular place for St. Patrick's Day was Johnny Foley's Irish House. The URI students, faculty and others enjoyed the atmosphere of Guinness and shamrock's with live music. Fisherman's Wharf was also the place to be to check out the trolley cars, Golden Gate & Bay Bridge's, and shop. Others ventured out on to the bay for a boat cruise or took a drive to wine country for the day.

Advocating for your Profession: Don't Let Someone Else Make the Rules Without You!

3rd Annual Face of Pharmacy in Rhode Island

The 3rd Annual Rhode Island Face of Pharmacy was held on April 27th at the State House.

The day was a success thanks to the hard work of the planning committee. The committee worked to fulfill the three goals of the event: Educate practitioners & students about the legislative process, educate legislators about the role of a pharmacist, and make an impact on the issues currently affecting the profession of pharmacy.

More than 70 pharmacists and students flooded into the State Room for an engaging presentation from Rhode

More than 70 pharmacists and students flooded into the State Room for an engaging presentation from Rhode Island's political and pharmacy leaders.

Island's political and pharmacy leaders. Scott Lancellotta, RIPA President, hosted the program that included comments from Governor Carceiri, Senator Leo Blais, Senator Elizabeth Roberts, Michele Danish of RISHP, Cathy Cordy of the Board of Phar-

macy, and Dean Donald Letendre of URI's College of Pharmacy. The topics covered centered around the importance of professional involvement in the legislative process. To further educate attendees, they had an opportunity to meet with Senator Blais & Representative McNamara (pictured on the lower left praising pharmacists on the House floor) to discuss current issues in pharmacy and the importance of civic involvement.

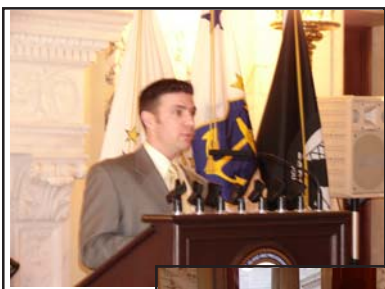
through displays at twelve tables. Each table highlighted an aspect of our profession that directly impacts the lives of patients. We provided free screenings to check cholesterol, blood pressure and diabetes. We displayed patient educational outreach efforts

through the Medicare Part D, smoking cessation, heartburn awareness, and drug information tables. Face of Pharmacy also included a table titled the "Making of a Pharmacist" to show the training and requirements involved in becoming a licensed pharmacist. Thank you to those who constructed and staffed displays and answered questions throughout the day!

Finally, to educate the legislators regarding this year's selected issues of merit we provided them with written materials that outline pharmacy's concerns. These issue sheets covered the areas of pharmacist immunization and Medicaid reimbursement. Copies of these documents and others to help you communicate with your legislators can be found out www.ripharmacists.org. Thank you again to all involved in yet again, another successful Rhode Island Face of Pharmacy!



The Faces of Pharmacy...



...In Rhode Island





R.I. Pharmacists Association
 1643 Warwick Avenue PMB 113
 Warwick, RI 02889

RIPA Calendar of Events



**8th Annual
 Rhode Island Pharmacist
 Foundation Golf Outing
 Monday - June 12, 2006**

Montaup Country Club, Portsmouth, RI
 Registration • 11:00 am to Noon • Lunch, Noon - 12:45pm
 Shotgun start 1:00 pm

Donation: \$150.00 per player
 \$600 per foursome
 SPONSORSHIPS WELCOME!

**Spring Seminar
 May 31, 2006**

Radisson Airport Hotel, Warwick, RI

**132st Rhode Island Pharmacists
 Association
 President's Dinner**

Friday, June 23, 2006

6:00pm
 Potowomut Country Club, Warwick, RI



RIPA RAFFLE - WHERE ELSE COULD YOU BUY A VACATION FOR \$100??

A nice vacation is only one thing you could do with an extra \$500. ONLY 250 tickets sold so your chances are pretty good. Either way you support the ongoing efforts of YOUR association to improve the profession of Pharmacy for all. Drawing held at 10pm at President's Dinner

First Prize \$5000
Second Prize \$1000
Third Prize \$500
Fourth Prize \$250