

From: New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists <nmsHP@nmsHP.org>
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 9:14 AM
To: Paul Davis
Subject: Latest New Mexico Hospital Pharmacy News

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NMSHP Pager

January 6, 2014

ON THIS DATE

On **January 6, 1838**, Samuel Morse's telegraph system was demonstrated for the first time in Morristown, NJ. In **1969**, New Mexico joined the Union, becoming the 47th State. In **1994**, athlete Nancy Kerrigan was attacked in Detroit two days before the Olympic trials. A man hit Kerrigan with a club on the back of her knee. Today's Birthdays: Joan of Arc (1412-1431, French heroine); Jedediah Smith (1798-1831, trapper/explorer); Carl Sanburg (1878-1967, poet and historian); Kahil Gibran (1883-1931, poet); Earl Scruggs (1924-2012, banjo player). Today's Trivia: 1. What was Nancy Kerrigan's sport and who was behind the attack? 2. Where and how did Jedediah Smith die? 3. For what biography did Carl Sanburg receive the Pulitzer Prize?.

NMSHP/ASHP

New NMSHP Exec Starts. Deanna Menesses, CAE, starts

today as NMSHP's new Executive Director, under its management contract with the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Following a nationwide search, she was hired by the TSHP Board of Directors in October.



Deanna, who originally hails from New Orleans, LA, has an extensive background in non-profit association management. During her 20+ year career, she has served as the Associate Director of the **Louisiana Pharmacists Association**, Executive Director of the **Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians**, **Tennessee Nurses Association**, and **Capital Area Medical Society**, and most recently as **President/CEO** of the **Florida Society of Association Executives**.

Deanna is a results oriented leader with a strong record of success in the delivery of services to associations. She credits this success to the strong partnership she develops with her volunteer leaders and the open, continued communication with the members.

She continues her professional development through her membership and participation in the American Society of Association Executives and state SAE. Deanna earned her Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation in December 2009, joining an elite group of approximately 3,000 professionals who have earned this prestigious certification in the United States.

Deanna considers her role in society to be that of a servant-leader. Her husband, Alan, is her best friend and her family is her source of joy.

Paul F. Davis retires today after serving as TSHP's executive since 2003, and the NMSHP CEO since June, 2010. He will serve as a consultant for a short period to assist in the transition.

STATE, NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

State Settles with GSK. New Mexico Attorney General Gary King has announced a **settlement** on behalf of the **State** in its lawsuit against **GlaxoSmithKline** over misrepresentations regarding **Avandia (rosiglitazone)**. The state should net nearly

\$19 million from the agreement. The State alleged that GSK downplayed or misrepresented the risk of cardiovascular disease associated with the use of Avandia. The settlement resolves the claims and returns about \$15 million related to consumer claims and about \$3.8 million to offset Medicaid expenditures. King said that the agreement represents what is believed to be the most money ever returned to New Mexico in a case of this kind.

Provider Status Amendment Not Adopted. An amendment to the “doc fix” bill that was moving through Congress at the end of the year would have **encouraged CMS** to designate **pharmacists** as **providers** of services and suppliers within Medicare ACOs. The amendment, drafted by **Sen. Charles Grassley** (R-IA) and **Sen. Tom Capar** (D-DE) was to be offered during the markup of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) legislation in the Senate Finance Committee on December 12. It was not one of the amendments added to the piece of legislation. The amendment would have recognized the important role that pharmacists play in medication management, med reconciliation, and chronic condition management. It is part of the cooperative effort by APhA, ASHP, AMCP, and NACDS to obtain provider status for pharmacists.

NECC Agrees to \$100M Settlement. **New England Compounding Center** (NECC) has agreed to pay more than **\$100 million** to **victims and their families** as a result of the fungal meningitis outbreak linked to the compounding pharmacy’s tainted steroid injectables. The tentative agreement is part of an overall effort to compensate victims and their families. The plaintiffs are also seeking money from dozens of medical clinics that administered the injections. Of the 14,000 who received injections in 2012, 64 died and about 700 others fell ill, according to CDC.

Survey Suggests Marijuana Sales in Pharmacies. A new survey finds that **53%** of Americans continue to **oppose legalization** of marijuana, but 69% say that assuming it’s legalized, it **should be sold at pharmacies**. 60% say that it should be sold at specialty stores. Other potential distribution points include liquor stores (39%), coffee shops (17%) and supermarkets (13%). Based on gender, 73% of men would approve of marijuana sales at pharmacies, compared to 62% of women. Meanwhile, State **Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino** (D-Albuquerque) announced last week that he will introduce a **proposed constitutional amendment** to make marijuana legal in New Mexico. The bill will be modeled after Colorado's legislation.

PRACTICE & PROFESSION

In Memorium. Pharmacist **Dina Socorro Torres** passed away at age 54 on **December 3** following a battle with breast cancer. Dina graduated from UNM with her pharmacy degree and began her career as an intern at UNM Hospitals. She held several positions over 30 years, and was **Director of Pharmacy Outpatient Pharmacy Services at UNM Hospitals**. She completed an MBA degree and dedicated her professional career to helping others, implementing a management style with a humanistic approach to patients and staff alike. She participated in numerous outreach projects and served as a certified Medical Spanish Interpreter. She was a giving, kind and loving person who will be missed.

State Drug Inspector Opening. There is an opening for the position of state drug inspector (RLD #3952) with the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy. If you are interested, apply online with the New Mexico State Personnel Office. Questions regarding the position should be directed to Mary James, human resources manager, Human Resources Bureau, Regulation and Licensing Department, 505-476-4501; 505-476-4511 (fax) or mary.james2@state.nm.us.

New NM BOP Officers. The **New Mexico Board of Pharmacy** has elected **new officers** for 2014. **Danny Cross**, R.Ph., Southeast District will serve as **Chair** and **Amy Buesing**, R.Ph., the hospital representative, will serve as **Vice Chair**. **LuGina Mendez-Harper**, R.Ph. Northwest District will be **Secretary**. Other Board members include Joe R. Anderson, R.Ph. Central; Allen Carrier, Public Member; Richard Mazzini, R.Ph. Northeast; Buffie Saavedra, Public Member; Chris Woodul, R.Ph. Southwest; and Anise Yarbrough, Public Member.

Hospital Med Errors Reduced by Pharmacists. A [study](#) presented at the **ASHP Midyear** meeting shows that **pharmacist-led medication reconciliation efforts** in hospitals **resulted in fewer medication errors** and **more accurate patient information** at the time of admission and discharge. When pharmacists took charge of gathering patient medication histories and included medication progress on patient charts, accurate and complete med reconciliation rose from 32.3% to 94.2%. According to the study, about 54% of patients experience one or more errors in their med

reconciliation in the hospital setting. Following the pilot study, the health-system approved adding 3.5 FTEs for pharmacists to perform 100% of medication reconciliations for hospital admissions.

Cancer Survivor Rate Hits New High. U.S. life expectancy for people with **cancer** has **hit another all-time high**, rising over 50 million life-years after diagnosis according to a study by the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest. The estimate is based on the number of additional years of life that each person diagnosed with cancer since 1990 has experienced as a result of advances in science and improved access to cancer therapy. Drug therapy accounts for 75% of the increase in life years. In 1990 there were about 6 million cancer survivors in the U.S., while today there are an estimated 14 million. In 1990, 57% of cancer patients could expect to live 5 years or more. Today that number is nearly 70%.

Healthcare Jobs will Grow thru 2022. The **retirement of Baby Boomers** will change the job market over the next 10 years. Predictions are that millions of new employment opportunities will be created in healthcare to care for the large group. Nearly half of the 30 fastest growing occupations from 2012 to 2022 will be healthcare related, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. While many parts of the state and nation will have fewer openings in healthcare jobs, several projected growth areas exist. See the *USA Today* [interactive map](#).

Chicken Breasts Source of Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. *Consumer Reports* says about half of the **raw chicken breasts** in a nationwide sampling **carried antibiotic-resistant** “superbugs.” The consumer group tested for **6 types of bacteria** in 316 raw chicken breasts purchased from retailers nationwide during July. Almost all of the samples contained potentially harmful bacteria, and **49.7%** of those tested carried a bacterium **resistant to 3 or more antibiotics**. **11%** had **2 types of bacteria** resistant to **multiple drugs**. *Consumer Reports* urges passage of laws to restrict 8 classes of antibiotics for use only to treat humans and sick animals. Chicken is the most widely consumed meat in the U.S., and Americans are predicted to consume nearly 84 pounds per person in 2014. Consumers should cook poultry to 165 degrees F to kill bacteria.

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Be a Better Leader in 2014. To grow as a leader in the year ahead, **set yourself a simple goal**, then **grade yourself daily** on the extent to which you've attained your target, Dan McCarthy suggests on [SmartBrief/SmartBlog on Leadership](#). Keeping a simple numerical grade helps you keep focused. As your grade improves, you'll be inspired to keep pushing yourself.

ADHD Drug Therapy Debated Again. Since 1999, conventional wisdom promoted the use of **medications** such as Ritalin or Adderall **over behavioral therapy** to deal with **attention deficit hyperactivity disorder**. However, even some of the authors of the study were concerned that the report **oversold the benefits of drug therapy**, discouraging home- and school-based therapy. The study was structured to emphasize the reduction of impulsivity and inattention symptoms, for which medication provides quick results. Less emphasis was placed on improving children's longer-term academic and social skills. Now more research is casting doubt on the long-term impact of medications compared to behavioral therapy. ADHD is **second only to asthma** as the **most frequent long-term medical diagnosis in children**, with more than 1 in 7 children in the U.S. receiving the diagnosis by the time they turn 18. Behavioral therapy, on the other hand, is used far less often in ADHD, largely because it is more time-consuming and expensive. A publication following the 1999 report indicated the value of a combination of medication and behavioral therapy, but it received little attention. And now a more recent study states that "using any treatment does not predict functioning 6 to 8 years later," leaving the original question unanswered – which treatment does the most good for long-term ADHD treatment?

More Evidence – Docs Opting for Employment. The *Kansas City Star* reports that **55% of physicians** in the Kansas City area are now **employed by hospitals**, opting for a life of employment rather than independent practice. **Flexible**

schedules and younger physicians choosing **personal lives as a priority** over career advancement are among the reasons why an increasing number of young physicians are choosing practice as a hospitalist. A starting hospitalist in the Kansas City makes about \$200,000 per year while their office-based counterparts earn about \$150,000. Added to that is the **debt burden** of new doctors, which averages \$175,000, and the estimated cost of \$150,000 required to start an independent practice, making lack of on-call and after-hours duty even more enticing to the younger generation. A final factor noted in the report is the **shift toward collaboration and teamwork in hospitals** and the growing recognition among doctors that a more inter-professional approach is necessary to improve quality of care and reduce costs.

NEW DRUGS & DEVICES

Drug Approved for Factor XIII A-Subunit Deficiency. FDA has approved Tretten (**coagulation factor XIII A-subunit [recombinant]**; Novo Nordisk) to **prevent bleeding in patients with congenital Factor XIII A-subunit deficiency**. The drug was studied in 77 patients with the disorder and was effective in preventing bleeding in 90% of the patients when administered monthly. Side effects include headache, pain in the extremities and at the injection site. It is the first recombinant product approved for this indication. Congenital Factor XIII affects an estimated 1 in 3 million people globally.

Hemophilia Prophylaxis Drug OK'd. FDA has approved **Feiba (Vapor Heated Anti-Inhibitor Coagulant Complex**, Baxter) for use to **prevent or reduce frequent bleeding episodes** in people with **hemophilia A or B who have developed inhibitors**. The product is a freeze-dried sterile human plasma fraction with Factor VIII inhibitor bypassing activity. The approval is based on a Phase 3 study that demonstrated a 72% reduction in median annual bleed rate with Feiba prophylaxis compared to an on-demand treatment. Feiba is already approved to control spontaneous bleeding or to cover surgical interventions in Hemophilia A and B with inhibitors.

Iclusig Sales to Resume. Ariad Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has announced that **FDA** has agreed to let the company **resume sales of Iclusig (ponatinib)** to a narrower patient population. The product will be available by mid-January. The revised labelling approved by FDA now states that Iclusig is **approved for patients with chronic myeloid leukemia who have failed to benefit from or are ineligible to take four alternative therapies in the same class of drugs**. (Iclusig had previously been approved for patients who had already tried just one other tyrosine kinase inhibitor). The company had suspended marketing of the drug on October 31 following an FDA

request as part of a safety investigation into serious complications including stroke and heart attack. There are approximately 6,000 new cases of CML in the U.S. annually.

FDA Rejects MS Treatment. FDA has rejected **Lemtrada (alemtuzumab, Sanofi)** as a treatment for **multiple sclerosis (MS)**. “Serious adverse effects” outweighed the benefits of the therapy, according to FDA. It has been approved for use by European regulators. Sanofi acquired the product during its takeover of Genzyme.

RECALLS, WARNINGS & SHORTAGES

[Baxter 5% Dextrose & 0.9% NaCL Injection Recalls.](#) **Baxter International** Inc. initiated a voluntary recall to the hospital/user level of **one lot of 5% Dextrose Injection (P285288), USP** and **four lots of 0.9% Sodium Chloride Injection (P297283, P292326, P293993 and P293514), USP** due to **particulate matter** found in the solutions. The 50 mL and 100 mL containers are primarily used for admixture of medication and as priming solutions. Products affected by this recall were packaged in flexible plastic containers with 96 containers per carton.

Novartis Recalls Samples Due to Contamination. **Novartis AG** is recalling about **5.3 million bottles** of medications that were provided as **free samples** to physicians’ offices, citing potential contamination by a packaging chemical. Products involved include **Exforge, Exforge HCT, Diovan, Tekturna, Tekturna HCT, Lescol XL, and Stalevo**. Routine testing found that trace amounts of an ink component on shrink-wrapped sleeves surrounding the bottles had migrated and affected some tablets contained in some lots of the samples. The company does not believe the issue poses a safety risk to patients.

[Muscle Growth Dietary Supplement Warning.](#) FDA is advising consumers to **immediately stop using** a product called **Mass Destruction**, marketed as a **dietary supplement** for muscle growth. The product is labeled to contain **at least one synthetic anabolic steroid** and has been linked to at least one reported serious illness. The product’s ingredients are undergoing further analysis by the FDA. The agency received a report from North Carolina that described a previously healthy 28-year-old male with liver failure requiring transplant after several weeks of product use. Mass Destruction is manufactured for Blunt Force Nutrition in Sims, N.C. and sold in retail stores, fitness gyms, and on the Internet. An investigation is underway to identify the product’s manufacturer. Consumers who suspect they are experiencing problems associated with Mass Destruction or other body building products should consult a health care professional, especially if they have experienced unexplained fatigue, abdominal or back pain, discolored urine, or any other unexplained changes in their

health.

INDUSTRY MATTERS

Abbott Labs Settles Kickback Claims. **Abbott Laboratories** has agreed to pay about **\$5.5 million** to settle **kickback allegations**, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. The department accused Abbott of paying physicians for speaking engagements under the expectation that the physicians would then arrange for their hospitals to buy Abbott's carotid, biliary and peripheral vascular products.

Merck to Overhaul R&D Unit. **Merck & Co.** is radically reshaping its **research-and-development unit** by creating international innovation hubs that tap into drug research outside of its labs. The hubs will be near **Boston**, the **San Francisco Bay area**, **London** and **Shanghai**, where the company will scout for promising biotechnology and pharmaceutical research that Merck could license or acquire in deals. Merck is also cutting its own research pipeline, with plans to sell off dozens of compounds under study such as experimental glaucoma treatments, antipsychotic and a male fertility drug.

RESEARCH

Antioxidant has Impact in MS. An **antioxidant to protect mitochondrial function** stopped an **MS-like syndrome** in mice, according to *MedPage Today*. **MitoQ** may provide neuroprotection against the central nervous system ravages of multiple sclerosis according to results from a study in mice. Mitochondrial dysfunction and the accumulation of reactive oxygen species have been implicated in the axonal damage of MS. Administration of mitochondrial CoQ10 in mice delayed and attenuated clinical and behavioral symptoms. MitoQ treatment also reduced inflammation in the CNS and spine and helped preserve neurons against demyelination and the cytotoxic events that can ensue.

ANSWER TO TODAY'S TRIVIA

1. *Nancy Kerrigan was an ice skater, with a promising Olympic future. One of her chief rivals for a place on the U.S. Figure Skating Team was Tonya Harding, whose ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, approached Shawn Eckardt about somehow eliminating Kerrigan from the competition. Eckardt set up a meeting with*

Derrick Smith and Shane Stant who agreed to injure Kerrigan for a fee. 2. Jedidiah Smith, a legendary figure in the American West, traveled extensively throughout the West, re-discovering a Native American trail across the Rocky Mountains, exploring the Great Salt Lake, and leading the first expedition to cross the Southwest to California – all before he was 30 years old. He retired from exploring in 1830 and became a trader. While leading a trading caravan along with Santa Fe Trail in 1831, Smith was killed by Comanche Indians near the Cimarron River in present day Southwest Kansas. 3. Sanburg won the 1940 Pulitzer Prize for History for “The War Years,” the second volume of his Abraham Lincoln biography.

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