

Report on the 2001 Pharmacy Technician Educators Council Annual Meeting

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The 2001 Pharmacy Technician Educators Council (PTEC) meeting took place July 7–10, 2001, at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto, Canada. Approximately 60 PTEC members attended the meeting, coming from locations throughout the US and Canada. Also present were representatives from other pharmacy organizations, including the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

The PTEC meeting began with the opening address given on Sunday afternoon by Ron O Nickel PhD, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Medical University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy. Ron discussed how the manpower shortage in American pharmacy, the apparent decline in pharmacy college enrollment, the pending inclusion of a prescription benefit in the Medicare program, and recent changes in pharmacy college curricula all have created an environment to place the pharmacy technician and technician education in the spotlight as never before.

Maria T Konold-Soto, Pharmacy Technician Instructor, Pharmacy Technician Program, Heritage College, Las Vegas, NV, gave a motivational presentation titled "Building Team Spirit." Maria discussed how increased self-awareness can help pharmacy technician instructors to foster a healthcare system team spirit among their students.

Peg Brownlee RPh, Program Director, Pharmacy Technician Program, Missoula College of Technology, University of Montana, Missoula, MT, presented a lecture on "Innovative Teaching Techniques in Pharmacology." She discussed how a wide variety of technologies, from simple overhead transparencies to the Internet, can be used to enhance student understanding of principles of pharmacology.

Sunday's final lecture was "Pharmacy Fun — Advanced Teaching Techniques," given by Kim Ballow CPhT, Director of the Pharmacy Technician Program, Heritage College, Las Vegas. Kim provided demonstrations of several different interactive activities, such as memory and trivia games, that engage pharmacy technician students' minds and enhance their ability to learn difficult material.

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The PTEC meeting continued on Monday with a presentation titled "Building a Web Page for your Pharmacy Tech Program" by Cheri Smith-Boggs, Program Director, El Paso Community College Pharmacy Technician Program, El Paso, TX. She described the importance of the Web to increase the exposure of pharmacy technician programs to potential students, as well as the basic technical and bureaucratic processes involved in creating and posting a technician program Web page on the Internet.

Carla Latorraca, Coordinator for the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Arapahoe Community College, Littleton, CO, continued the day's lectures with a presentation titled "Sailing New Frontiers, Charting On-Line Courses." Carla discussed the various aspects of using Internet-based course materials, including online course design and assessment, and placing interactive activities within technician training courses.

Lisa S Lifshin RPh, Manager of Program Services and Coordinator of Technician Program Development, ASHP Accreditation Services Division, reviewed the changes and methods of implementation of the second edition of ASHP's Model Curriculum for Pharmacy Technician Training. This key set of guidelines is the prototype for training technicians in all practice environments and geographic locations.

Major Jennifer Styles PharmD, Program Director, Pharmacy Specialist Technician Training Program, US Army Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, TX, gave an overview of the Army's Pharmacy Technician Training Program in her presentation, "The

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Army of One' Pharmacy Technician Training Program." She described student and program demographics, the curriculum, and the unique challenges involved in the Army program that trains up to 250 students annually.

Lisa Lifshin followed by moderating an open discussion among PTEC members titled "Forum on ASHP Accreditation Guidelines of Pharmacy Technician Training Programs and Promotion of Technician Education." The discussion focused on the essentials needed for the ASHP accreditation of pharmacy technician programs.

Tuesday, the final day of the PTEC meeting, began with an open forum among PTEC members. Attendees had a chance to discuss their feelings, concerns, and goals for PTEC and the pharmacy technicians' movement.

Tom George RPh JD, President, Drug Key LLC, and Department Chair, Pharmacy Technician Department, Mt. Aloysius College, Cresson, PA, then gave a presentation titled "New Technologies in Education: Escape from the Blackboard Jungle." Tom presented Web- and computer-based software to manage courses and present information to students.

Melissa Madigan PharmD JD, Professional Affairs Manager for the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), discussed the "Regulatory Evolution of Pharmacy Technicians." This included the events and occurrences related to the regulation and recognition of technicians by state boards of pharmacy and the NABP over the last 10 years.

Melissa Murer RPh, PTCB Executive Director, presented "Pharmacy Technician 2001: Tracking the Trends and PTCB Certification Overview." This discussion involved current and emerging pharmacy issues such as pharmacy manpower, workflow, and patient safety. The session concluded with an overview of the PTCB certification process.

Richard P Penna PharmD, Executive Vice President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

(AACP), gave an encouraging discussion titled "AACP — Building Stronger Bonds with PTEC." The PTEC meeting was then officially closed with inspiring remarks from PTEC President Noah Reifman RPh MS.

The PTEC Exhibitors' Buffet Luncheon was a tremendous success. Exhibitors included the American Pharmaceutical Association, ASHP, CBS Balance Systems, EMC Paradigm Publishing, Lab Safety Corp., Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, Morton Publishing, Technomics Publishing, and TriWay Computer Services. The National Pharmacy Technician Association and Pyxis Corp. were unable to send personal representatives, but had displays set up at the luncheon.

The PTEC Awards Banquet was held on Sunday evening, July 8th. This banquet featured the first presentation of two new PTEC awards. The Phil Naut Award will be presented annually to an individual who has provided tremendous support over the years to the pharmacy technician movement, but who is not a technician educator. This year's recipient was Ron Nickel. The Roy Kemp Award will be given each year to an outstanding technician educator. This year's award went to Kim Ballow.

At the banquet, the newly elected PTEC officers were announced. The president-elect is Larry Nesmith; Kim Ballow will continue her two-year term as vice president; Peg Brownlee was elected secretary; Valerie Wagner is the reporter; and the new treasurer is Lucien Van Elsen.

Next year's PTEC Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars, July 13–17, 2002, at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, MO.

I appreciate the contributions to this report by Noah Reifman RPh MS, President of PTEC.