



American Chinese Pharmaceutical Association Newsletter

美洲華人藥學會通訊

Editor: James W. Shaw, Pharm.D., M.S.

January 2002

Message from the President Jinn Wu, Ph.D.

Happy New Year to all ACPA members and friends! I hope that you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday season. I am honored to lead ACPA in 2002. Under the excellent leadership of past presidents, the Association has witnessed many major accomplishments and initiatives in the last few years. This year, we would like to continue the momentum and build upon our members' strengths to fulfill our short- and long-term goals. Last year, ACPA had four primary objectives:

- Promote global communication and networking among academia, industry, health care, government, and local and overseas Chinese communities
- Provide quality programs, conferences, and workshops, including local and international conferences as well as new programs
- Improve internet and e-mail communication with our members and potential members
- Strengthen our alliance with other professional organizations

I am satisfied that we were able to achieve each of these objectives.

I want to take this opportunity to announce the election results. Jonas Wang, Ph.D. has been elected as President for 2003. Elizabeth Yuan has been elected as Secretary for 2002. Also, I am very excited to have Shiew-Mei Huang, Ph.D. (FDA) accept the role of Chairperson for the Program Committee and Tony Yu, Ph.D. (BMS) the role of Chairperson for the Finance Committee. Let us congratulate and welcome these individuals as part of the executive team. With their help, I am sure that we can have an active and productive year.

Last year, our most memorable event was the 5th International Conference, which ran from May 27-31 in Singapore. I want to thank the many volunteers from the United States and Singapore who contributed to the conference's educational programs and workshops, assisted with fundraising, or facilitated local entertainment for attendees.

We have the following Executive Committee to serve our members in 2002:

- **President:** Jinn Wu (jwu@xbl.com)
- **President-Elect:** Jonas Wang (jwang@sycamorevc.com)
- **Immediate Past-President:** Marina Chang (changm@cder.fda.gov)
- **Executive Director:** Chester Lau (clau@chsnj.org)
- **Treasurer:** Van Doren Hsu (vhsu@rx.umaryland.edu)
- **Secretary:** Elizabeth Yuan (eyuan@osophs.dhhs.gov)

The members listed below have volunteered to serve on ACPA's standing committees in 2002. Others interested in participating on a standing committee should contact a member of the Executive Committee or the appropriate standing committee chair.

- **Communication Committee:** Francis Lam (Chair, lamf@uthscsa.edu); James W. Shaw (Newsletter editor, shaw@pharmacy.arizona.edu); Grace Hsu (Web page coordinator, ghsu@zefer.com); and Karina Kwok (kwok.sk@pg.com)
- **Finance Committee:** Tony Yu (Chair, yuc@bms.com)

- **Membership Committee:** Wendy Chou (Chair, chouw@cder.fda.gov); Elaine Chong (elchong@interchange.ubc.ca); and Jack Chen (jackchen@flash.net)
- **Program Committee:** Shiew-Mei Huang (Chair, huangs@cder.fda.gov) and Du-Shieng Chien (dschien@neurogen.com)
- **Nomination Committee:** Marina Chang (Chair, changm@cder.fda.gov)
- **Public Relations Committee:** Eddie Hong (Chair, eddieswhong@yahoo.com)

Eddie Hong played a very important role in organizing and recruiting members for attending our annual dinner meeting, which was held last year in Denver, Colorado. We are pleased to have Eddie chair the Public Relations Committee in 2002.

We are looking forward to working with any individuals who are interested in volunteering to serve our organization this coming year. ACPA is built upon the spirit of volunteerism. I urge all members to participate in the Association's programs and to show their support. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or comments, we would like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at jwu@xbl.com. Alternatively, you may contact one of the other committee members named above.

**Message from the President-Elect
Jonas C. T. Wang, Ph.D.**

Happy New Year to all my ACPA friends. I wish you all a very successful 2002! It is my great honor to serve as the ACPA President-Elect for 2002. In 2001, there were a number of major events—such as the terrible terrorist attacks of September 11, the entry of China and Taiwan into the WTO in November, and many others—that made the year memorable. While we are reacting to the past, it is also a time for us to strive for a better future. I would encourage all ACPA members to work together to help shape ACPA into a global Chinese pharmaceutical professional organization.

I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to support several ACPA programs organized by Drs. Jinn Wu, Shiew-Mei Huang, and others. Through my involvement with these programs, I have learned the importance of volunteerism. I respect the commitment,

enthusiasm, and dedication of ACPA's leadership. The organizational skills and professionalism of the Association's leaders have been critical to its success. To continue this tradition, I plan on working closely with our new President, Jinn Wu, over the coming year.

We will soon begin working on plans for the ACPA 6th International Conference, which is to be held August 1-3, 2003 in Taipei, Taiwan. This conference will be held concurrently with the 50th anniversary celebration of the National Taiwan University College of Pharmacy. The tentative theme for the conference is "Future trends and developments in the biotechnology/biopharmaceutical industry in Asia." I encourage all of ACPA's members to support this important event. A conference planning committee will be formed in February. For those who are willing to provide their valuable ideas and service to help make the ACPA 6th International Conference a successful one, please kindly contact Jinn Wu, Ph.D. at (609) 799-2295 ext. 203 or me at (609) 759-8888.

Since China and Taiwan entered the WTO in 2001, it is expected that many major changes will occur in how drugs are manufactured and pharmacy is practiced in both countries. ACPA will be playing a key role in helping to accelerate the transition in both China and Taiwan. We consider this a golden opportunity for the Association to strengthen the pharmaceutical profession in Asia.

I also believe that continued interest in ACPA, both as a professional society and as a provider of valuable educational programs, will help our organization to expand its international membership during the coming year. While we are actively planning for programs in 2002 and 2003, your suggestions and recommendations are most welcome. Again, please do not hesitate to contact me with your ideas at the number given above.

**Message from the Immediate Past-President
Marina Chang, R.Ph.**

Seasons greetings from Washington, D.C. I wish you and your family a prosperous New Year.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincerest thanks to all of the Executive Committee members (Shiew-Mei Huang, Jinn Wu, Chester Lau, Van Doren Hsu, and Anna Lee), committee chairs (Shiew-Mei Huang, Jinn Wu, Veronica Young, Francis Lam, Wendy Chou, and James Shaw), and other committee participants. You all have selflessly contributed your time and resources to ACPA. Without your support, the

Association would not have had a successful year. I also want to express my sincerest thanks to Keith Chan for his support and leadership at the 5th ACPA International Conference. Winston Town, who is not a member of ACPA, also contributed his time and resources to make the 5th ACPA International Conference a success. Your spirit of benevolence thoroughly reflects what this organization is about.

Jinn Wu will lead ACPA in 2002. I have supreme confidence that he will make 2002 an even more successful year for ACPA. As I have been saying, to make an organization a success, ACPA needs involvement from the membership. Please contact Jinn or the other Executive Committee members if you want to become actively involved in ACPA.

Report from the Communications Committee
Y.W. Francis Lam, Pharm.D.

For many of you, this is the second issue of the ACPA Newsletter that you have received via e-mail. We are interested in knowing what our members think about receiving the newsletter as a PDF file. By sending the newsletter to members as an e-mail attachment, the Association can realize substantial savings on printing and related expenses. In addition, this allows us greater flexibility in formatting the newsletter. Please contact the newsletter's editor, James W. Shaw, at shaw@pharmacy.arizona.edu to let him know what you think of the new format. Your comments and suggestions are most welcome! Also, if you did not receive the July 2001 issue of the newsletter as an e-mail attachment, we would appreciate it if you could contact Jim to let him know your current e-mail address.

As noted in the last issue, recipients using Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.0 or higher should be able to open the PDF file. However, we recommend downloading and installing the Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0, which is available for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Job Announcement

Kaye/Bassman International Corporation (KBIC) is proud to be associated with the largest pharmacy benefit manager in the country. We are searching for a few motivated pharmacists that have a genuine interest in providing clinical consulting services.

Home-based clinical positions are available in the following locations:

Fort Worth and Tyler, TX
Tampa and Fort Myers, FL
Atlanta and West Atlanta, GA
Chattanooga, TN
Springfield, IL
Columbus, OH
New Haven, CT

Title: Clinical Consultant

Duties and Responsibilities: The pharmacist will be responsible for scheduling face-to-face appointments with his/her physician base to educate doctors and staff members about new clinical programs. The goal is to make physicians and other prescribers within the office aware of formularies and clinical interchanges that will directly affect their prescribing habits and result in cost savings. Other duties involve making practitioners aware of new clinical programs that would have a direct effect on patient care. The pharmacist will be responsible for managing a database of 150 physicians and scheduling 30 appointments a week.

Goal: To educate and change the prescribing habits of the practice in order to cut costs.

Requirements: The candidate should have a B.S. or Pharm.D. degree, an active state license, two or more years of pharmacy experience, and should reside in the coverage area.

Salary and Bonus Structure: The base salary is \$70,000 to \$73,000, depending on experience. A 10% performance bonus will be paid annually. The pharmacist will receive mileage reimbursement (23 cents per mile) and a car allowance (\$400 per month).

Schedule: The pharmacist will work Monday through Friday (no weekends).

If you are looking for a higher caliber of existence, better work hours, opportunities for more clinical involvement, and the ability to work from home, then give us a call. Don't let this opportunity slip by! Please contact Peter Efthimiou, Director of Pharmacy Operations, KBIC, at (972) 265-5216. Mr. Efthimiou can also be reached by e-mail at pse@kbic.com.

**Choosing Between Ph.D. Programs in
Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Economics**
Meng-Ting Wang, M.S.

In 1990, I enrolled in a bachelor of science in pharmacy program at the National Defense Medical Center (NDMC), which is located in Taipei, Taiwan. After receiving my degree in 1994, I chose to work for NDMC as a teaching assistant for one year. Subsequently, I applied for and was accepted into the center's master's degree program in pharmaceutics. I completed my M.S. degree in 1997 and continued to work for the center as an instructor for the next several years.

Because of my strong interest in research, I wanted to pursue a Ph.D. degree in pharmaceutics or a related field. The Taiwanese Ministry of National Defense offers a scholarship to military employees that can be used to fund up to four and one-half years of doctoral-level education at NDMC or another institute of higher learning. Last year, I was awarded the scholarship to pursue my doctoral degree in the United States.

Initially, I wanted to pursue a Ph.D. in pharmaceutics. However, I was inspired and encouraged by Dr. Tony Yen-Huei Tarn to study pharmaceutical economics. Dr. Tarn is an associate professor in the school of pharmacy at NDMC and devotes himself to research in the fields of health outcomes, pharmacoeconomics, and clinical pharmacy practice. After reading several seminal papers related to pharmacoeconomics and auditing a number of courses taught by Dr. Tarn, I came to realize the importance of evaluating the costs and consequences of pharmacy services and medication use. Such information is of growing importance to health care decision makers in Taiwan. Health care expenditures have risen sharply in Taiwan in recent years. This has forced the ministry of health to develop a number of policies to make the provision of care more cost effective. Given the need to evaluate the impact of these policies, I believe that the demand for people with training in health economics and outcomes research will continue to grow in the foreseeable future.

In recent years, there has been much discussion about the need to reform pharmacy education in Taiwan. There is currently a discrepancy between the education received in schools of pharmacy and the professional skills required in clinical settings. Most schools of pharmacy in Taiwan have departments of medicinal chemistry, pharmaceutics, and clinical pharmacy. However, few have established a department that focuses on the measurement of economic or humanistic outcomes due to a shortage of trained

professionals. If courses on pharmacoeconomics were integrated into pharmacy education, then pharmacists would have an improved ability to evaluate the economic impact of pharmaceutical products and services.

While aware of the relative advantages and disadvantages of choosing to major in pharmaceutical economics, I had no idea how difficult the application process would be. I applied to doctoral programs in pharmaceutical economics at two universities in the United States. I had wanted to begin my studies in the spring semester of 2001; however, both schools were reluctant to admit me in the middle of the academic year. After being rejected for spring admission, I came to realize that my pharmaceutics research experience and related publications would be of minimal importance in determining my qualification for admission into a graduate program in pharmaceutical economics. I would need to compete with other applicants, many of whom held master's degrees in pharmacy administration or related fields. Though frustrated, I resolved to apply to a number of institutions for the fall 2001 semester. I took the TOEFL and GRE again and scored higher than I initially had. Two universities eventually accepted me for the fall semester. Ultimately, I choose to enroll at The University of Arizona because this was the school from which Dr. Tarn had received his Ph.D.

It has been a long and arduous process getting to the point where I am today. No one knows for sure whether choosing to major in pharmaceutical economics was the optimal choice. However, the die has been cast. Regardless of how others judge my decision, it was my choice, and I shall do my best to achieve my educational goals. Ultimately, time will tell whether or not my decision was the correct one.