

# From the Publisher...



## Pharmacy Informatics Education

A recent e-mail thread from the ASHP Informatics Group listserv grabbed my attention.

It discussed a survey of pharmacy school curricula that pointed to a lack of formal pharmacy informatics coursework. It seems there is a dearth of educational resources in this area, despite the growing need for pharmacy informatics in today's health systems.

As publisher of *PP&P*, I keep an eye on the quantity and quality of informatics presentations at national and state pharmacy meetings. I've found several meetings quite valuable—for example, the Pennsylvania Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists' 2004 Technology Symposium. At other meetings, I—like much of the audience—had a hard time sitting through presentations that were long on generalizations but short on helpful, practical tips.

So I pose these questions:

- Have you attended meetings that you felt did not provide the appropriate value for the time you spent out of the hospital?
- What kind of conference is worth the time away from work?
- What do you want to learn about available pharmacy technologies and vendor solutions?

Our team at *PP&P* magazine would like to hear about the types of meetings you'd like to sit in on. We've set up an online survey that will allow you to easily share your opinions with us:

[www.pppmag.com/informatics-survey/survey.php](http://www.pppmag.com/informatics-survey/survey.php)

Please take a moment to complete the survey.

With this issue of *PP&P*, we invite you to read about the safe use of automated decentralized distribution cabinets, with two relevant articles on the topic (see pages 2 and 6), and the latest in our series on <797> compliance (see pages 4 and 12). In addition to our regular features, you'll also find two articles on evaluating pharmacy informatics (pages 16 and 22), and the timely feature, "Unit Dose MarketWatch," on page 10.

We thank you for continually turning to *PP&P* for the latest information on pharmacy products and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Mitchell Halvorsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Mitchell Halvorsen  
Publisher