

Up Close and Personal

John Yanoschak, President-Elect

*NJSHP's cover story reflects a personal writing from a member of your board.
This month features John Yanoschak.*



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as President-Elect of the New Jersey Society of Health-System for 2004-2005. And now, for a quick history of my life.

attending a retro concert performed by groups mostly from my music era, the 70's.

I have been pleased and honored to serve NJSHP's Southern chapter as Secretary and President, as well as the state chapter's Director of the Council on Professional Affairs. Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our state society's membership in the coming years. I look forward to meeting and working with as many of you as possible on our organization's future.

I was born in Beth Israel Hospital on the Lower East Side of New York City's Manhattan Island, right around the time of the Blizzard of 1958. After moving from NYC as an infant (I didn't get to experience the nightlife of Manhattan) to Newark, (a short distance from Seton Hall University), my family eventually moved my sister and me to Nutley, in the close shadows of Hoffman-LaRoche.

I decided to follow in my dad's footsteps (St. John's 1957), and attend the Rutgers University College of Pharmacy. While at Rutgers, I met and married my bride, Barbara (RC '79). The juggling of married life and school life was never better exemplified than by my studying for a biochemistry exam while on our honeymoon in Williamsburg, VA. The results for the record: Honeymoon- A+; Biochem exam- B-.

After graduation in 1988, I did the "obligatory" stint in retail chain pharmacy, until I accepted a staff pharmacist position at Memorial Hospital Burlington County in Mount Holly, New Jersey. Early then I really think I found my niche in health-system pharmacy. Throughout the years, I've enjoyed the staff, supervisory, and clinical positions I've held and still maintain my love for the hospital practice setting.

In the pursuit for more knowledge, I received my MBA in Health Care Administration from LaSalle University in 1997 and moved into the world of pharmacy administration. I have been privileged to work as an Assistant Director at West Jersey Health System in Voorhees and in my current position as the Director of Pharmacy at Virtua-Memorial Hospital Burlington County.

Currently, I reside in Eastampton, New Jersey (no, not the Hamptons) with my wife of 24 years, Barb, our three children Suzanne, Natalie, and Christopher, and our two puppies, Molly and Sonja Henie. In my spare time, away from work and NJSHP, I enjoy trying to avoid cutting our lawn's 3/4 acres, vacuuming the pool, and cleaning the garage. Every now and then I do enjoy

2004 Poster Winners

Congratulations to this year's winners of the 2004 Annual Meeting Poster Session. Thanks to the special judging time and talents of Charles Arrison, Bob Fakelmann, Pat Leonard, Ted Sheppard, and Joe Walker.

WINNER #1

Evaluation of Darbepoetin Alfa as a Two Hundred Microgram Fixed Dose Every Two Weeks for the Treatment of Anemia Associated with Cancer Chemotherapy

Saint Barnabas Health Care System

Robert T. Adamson, Pharm.D.
Indu Lew, Pharm.D.
A. Scott Mathis, Pharm.D.

WINNER #2

Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Anemia: Creation and Implementation Within an Integrated Health Care System

Saint Barnabas Health Care System

Robert T. Adamson, Pharm.D.
Indu Lew, Pharm.D.

WINNER #3

Multidisciplinary Approach to Minimizing Inappropriate Use of Ciprofloxacin

Jersey Shore University Medical Center

Kathleen Casey, MD
Edward Liu, MD
Linda Houle Spooner, Pharm.D., BCPS



New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists
760 Alexander Road, P.O. Box 1
Princeton, NJ 08543-0001

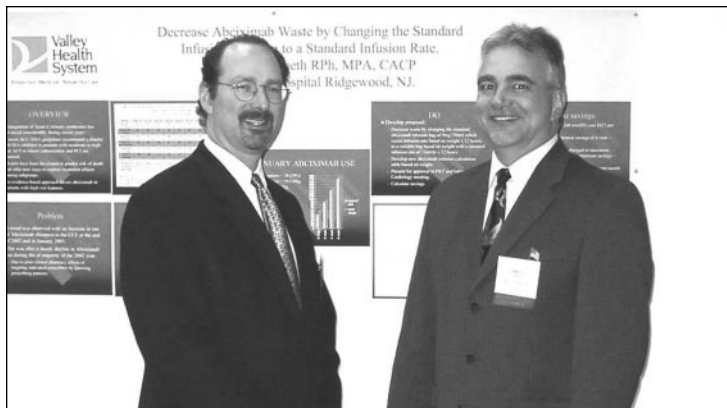
Change of Address: Please notify NJSHP at once to ensure uninterrupted membership service

NJSHP WELCOMES ARTICLES AND COMMENTS ON ANY ISSUE AFFECTING HEALTH SYSTEM PHARMACY AND ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO SPREAD THE NEWS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INNOVATIONS BY SUBMITTING TYPE-WRITTEN RELEASES FOR PUBLICATION IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE BULLETIN. PLEASE E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS TO STELLA WILLIAMS AT SWILLIAM@NJHA.COM

Highlights of the 2004 Annual Meeting, Exhibition & Installation Dinner

Pharmacy Practice...A Bright Future

March 25 at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick



Jeff Nemeth and Carlo Lupano (past president) visit one of the posters



2004-2005 State Director's being installed

NJSHP's premier meeting proved to be a great success and established a new record for member attendance. More than 225 members attended the dinner dance, up by 47 percent since last year. For the actual day portion of the meeting, 119 members attended which reflected a dramatic increase by 100 percent in member attendance since last year. Members took advantage of this once-a-year opportunity to gather with colleagues to network, exchange information, see the latest pharmaceutical products and technology innovations and earn continuing education credits.

The meeting opened with the College Bowl, a "jeopardy style" format, where students competed in teams to answer pharmacotherapy and pharmacy practice questions. Congratulations to PCP's winning team. Next and new to the meeting format was a series of 15-minute pre-

sentations that addressed recent papers that covered pharmaceutical care advances. NJSHP thanks presenters Linda Houle, Michael Kane, Michele Kohute, Nancy Lisowski, Helen LoSasso and A. Scott Mathis for contributing to this successful format.

Fifty vendors had a first hand opportunity to display and discuss their company's newest innovations and programs with members. Thirteen corporate sponsors supported this program as well. NJSHP thanks these vendors and sponsors for their continued support of this Society throughout the years.

If members weren't having fun yet, Marc Weintraub, the keynote speaker, made sure they were with his memorable presentation, *Humor for the Health of It: Life is Not a Stress Rehearsal*. NJSHP members destressed in a laugh and learn environment with a speaker who imparted tech-

niques that can help improve stress, fitness levels and organizational abilities.

This year's new Officers were installed during the dinner and NJSHP thanks Dean Collazzi for his assistance in this tradition. Throughout the dinner, a variety of door prizes were raffled off including hand held computer devices and free NJSHP memberships and passes to next year's meeting.

This meeting truly captured the energy and pride that's associated with being a health-system pharmacist and the bright future that's ahead for pharmacy practice. Feedback was excellent – see the accompanying letter from Former Student Chapter President 2002-2003 Kristin Dragotta. If you missed this day, you missed the opportunity to meet with great people in this industry. Mark next year's 2005 Annual Meeting for April 7 and we'll plan to see you there!

NJSHP teams with NJHA/Verizon Wireless for Savings on Cellular Phones

Great new savings on cellular phones! NJSHP members can take advantage of specially negotiated discounts on monthly access, accessories and equipment through the New Jersey Hospital Association/Verizon Wireless Cellular Phone Program. Over 28,000 healthcare employees in over 150 facilities are participating on this program and saving big each month.

For starters, NJSHP members will save 20 percent on monthly access on plans over \$34.99. Got a family share program? You'll even get a discount on the primary line. Equipment pricing in many cases is lower than current pricing on the web and at retail stores. Under this con-

tract, free phones are available, too! Accessory pricing is usually ten percent below retail.

Check out the current equipment listings on NJSHP's website, www.njsHP.org. For access plans, click onto www.verizonwireless.com. There's a convenient 1-888-6-UNWIRE number for you to place your order. The current representative for NJSHP members is Nick Collins and he can also be reached at 215-292-6437.

To get started saving is easy! If you are a current Verizon Wireless user and want to take advantage of this discount, you'll need to complete the form that says Employee User Agreement which

is available on the Members Only section of NJSHP's website and fax it over to Verizon with a copy of your NJSHP identification.

If you currently aren't a Verizon Wireless user, you can check out the plan that best fits your needs by browsing on www.verizonwireless.com. Check out the current promotional equipment matrix that's posted on the Members Only section on www.njsHP.org and either call Nick Collins or call 1-888-6UNWIRE to place your order.

NJSHP is sure you'll love this new member benefit and looks forward to your feedback!

2004 Annual Awards

NJSHP congratulates all of this year's award recipients for their distinguished service and commitment to pharmacy.



DEAN SCIARRONE AWARD

Daniel Abazia, a fifth year student at the Ernest Marion School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University, was the recipient of this year's Dean Sciarrone

Award. Dan exhibited exceptional leadership this past year as president of the Student Chapter of NJSHP. He coordinated chapter meetings which included guest speakers on various pharmacy-related topics. He also participated with members of his chapter in community events, including a visit to a local hospital pediatrics unit during Halloween which helped to brighten the day for hospital-bound children.

Self-described as a "Pharma-Geek," he is also active in pharmacy school leadership and has served as vice president of the Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity, and served as a Big Brother at the first-year student orientation picnic.

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN AWARD

Rochelle Van Mater of Jersey Shore University Medical Center was the recipient of the Pharmacy Technician Award. Described as a "department of one," by her co-workers, Rochelle's primary duties revolve around coordinating



purchasing activities, which support 500-plus inpatient beds, as well as many out patient services. Her peers note that this activity goes on with little supervision, but is completed quickly and efficiently, helping to maintain the smooth operation of the pharmacy department.

Roe has been known to go the extra mile for her co-workers and patients, volunteering for additional shifts on short notice and returning to work on off-hours to assist in the ordering of medications needed the next morning for critically ill patients. Her concern for patients and pharmacy operations made "Roe" a deserving recipient of this year's Pharmacy Technician Award.

PHARMACIST PRACTITIONER AWARD

This year's Pharmacist Practitioner of the Year Award was awarded to **Linda Houle Spooner**, Pharm.D., of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy and Jersey Shore University Medical Center. Linda's enthusiastic performance of her



duties as a clinical instructor and clinical pharmacist has contributed greatly to the lives of both pharmacy students and patients alike. She has been recognized for her efforts in providing education to medical staff and other healthcare professionals in many diverse areas of expertise, including bioterrorism preparation, HIV management, and has provided Grand Rounds presentations on numerous occasions. She works continually to monitor antibiotic usage at her healthcare facility to optimize antibiotic utilization, while reducing medication costs and resistance rates.

Linda is also a valuable resource to the internal medicine and infectious disease service ward teams, participating on daily rounds, and offering suggestions to optimize patient care through medication evaluation and monitoring. Her devotion to providing optimal patient care is evidenced by her creation of a program, which provides counseling of HIV patients in an outpatient clinic setting. Linda's professional devotion to her patients, colleagues, and students is an inspiration to those providing care at her healthcare institution and the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy.

GREGORY A. SANTORA – PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR LEADERSHIP AWARD

Joseph Walker, Pharm.D. MBA, Director of Pharmacy at Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital, was the recipient of the Gregory Santora Pharmacist of the Year Leadership Award. Joe's commitment to the profession of pharmacy is evidenced in many ways, including his service as president of both NJSHP's southern and state chapters. He has also served as a consultant to the Cerner Corporation and the New Jersey Hospital Association. His interest in both clinical and management principles provides his institution with a remarkable resource to not only deal with clinical and healthcare issues of the present, but to foresee trends and events in the practice of pharmacy, medicine, and patient care which may impact his institution in the future.



In order to advance pharmaceutical care, Joe has

always been an advocate for the use of technology as evidenced by his bringing the first pharmacy computer system in 1990 to Burdette Tomlin. He continues to campaign for bar coding and CPOE technology to be implemented in his institution, as a way to enhance patient safety. Joe's ability to communicate with his staff in a highly professional and caring manner make him a respected leader among his peers. Joe can quickly eliminate departmental turf issues and create team solutions. As a result of these outstanding qualities, Joe participates on several leadership committees outside of his department.

His pursuit of higher education, including his recent attainment of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, provides staff, administrators, and colleagues, with undeniable evidence of his commitment to the profession of pharmacy. His co-workers note that Joe is a proponent of continuing education for his staff. His commitment makes it easy for them to pursue innovative and creative ideas in patient care, which result in significant cost savings to institution, while enhancing both outcomes and the patient experience. Joe Walker is a leader who embodies the qualities of a dedicated leader and positive contributor to the profession of pharmacy.

Board of Directors Meeting Dates

Members are welcome to attend monthly board of directors meetings. Due to space restriction, please call the office at (609) 936-2205 to reserve a space.

All meetings will take place at the home office, NJHA Corporate Services, 782 Alexander Road, Princeton, NJ, and will be from 1PM - 3PM. (For faxed directions, please call (609) 275-4060.)

August 9, 2004

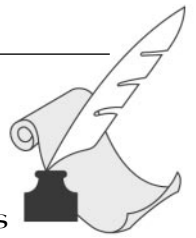
September 13, 2004

October 11, 2004

November 8, 2004

December – no meeting





Drug Reimportation Debate

Robert T. Adamson, PharmD, President and Former Director of Legal and Public Affairs

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) passed by Congress in December 2003 directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to lead a comprehensive study on drug importation and its potential impact, both positive and negative, on the health of American patients. As a result, the FDA created a task force to study this issue and is due to report its findings back to the Congress no later than December 2004.

- ▶ On April 8, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles E. Grassley (R-IA) introduced legislation called the Reliable Entry for Medicines at Everyday Discounts through Importation with Effective Safeguards (REMEDIES) Act of 2004 (S. 2307).
- ▶ This would immediately open the door to Americans who buy prescription drugs from Canada and would require the FDA to create a system to allow individuals, pharmacies, and drug wholesalers to legally import prescription drugs from registered foreign exporters.
- ▶ On April 21, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act (S. 2328) to legalize both personal and commercial importation of prescription drugs from Canada and later from the European Union and other nations with “advanced drug regulatory systems.”
- ▶ S. 2328 would allow consumers with legal prescriptions to immediately begin importing 90-day supplies of prescription drugs from FDA-approved Canadian pharmacies. The list of approved pharmacies would be published on the FDA website. Additionally, the bill would allow pharmacists and wholesalers to begin purchasing drugs from Canada within 90 days after enactment.

▶ If passed, this bill will require wholesalers and pharmacies importing drugs to register with the FDA and would assess levy fees on the importer to pay for increased safety and quality assurance monitoring by the FDA. Importers would also have to provide a full chain-of custody (pedigree) to track movement of the drug from the manufacturer to the sale to the consumer.

The Grassley REMEDIES Acts and bipartisan proposal are similar in terms of identifying allowed importers and what’s allowed to be imported. The key distinctions between the two proposals are related to:

- ▶ The means used to prevent manufacturers from circumventing importation by cutting supplies to foreign pharmacies that import product back into the US or through product alteration.
 - The bipartisan bill requires drug manufacturers to notify the FDA of any manufacturing changes that might serve to circumvent importation. Grassley’s bill uses tax credits and penalties to encourage manufacturers to accept legalized importation
- ▶ The financial resources obligated to fund FDA’s increased involvement with imported drugs.
 - The bipartisan bill requires domestic importers to register with the FDA and fund the agency’s enforcement efforts through user fees; Grassley’s bill would certify and charge the foreign exporters
- ▶ Timing
 - The bipartisan bill opens the US market to drugs from the European Union quicker.

The FDA has raised continued concerns with these new importation schemes. In particular,

the FDA notes that the bipartisan bill appears to place a new burden on them without providing requisite resources to ensure that drugs entering the US are safe. The FDA continues to be concerned that this could provide channels for counterfeit or improperly stored products to enter the US market. FDA officials claim the bill would also cause them to expend significant resources to deal with an onslaught of applications for minor drug formulation changes, including changes in drug color or a salt that would not change the intended effect of the drug.

Medicare Beneficiaries May Enroll in Drug Discount Programs in May; CMS will Provide Drug Price Comparisons on Medicare Website

Beginning on May 1, 2004, Medicare beneficiaries are now able to choose a drug discount card which the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) expects will save these consumers from 10 to 15 percent of their overall prescription drug costs.

- ▶ CMS has endorsed 48 general drug card programs (27 of these are national programs), and Medicare beneficiaries will have a choice of at least two drug cards where they live.
- ▶ Drug Discount Card programs will have a standardized enrollment form provided by CMS, and each card program can require an enrollment fee not to exceed \$30.
- ▶ Low-income Medicare beneficiaries can also receive a \$600 credit toward their prescription medications, and they will not be charged an enrollment fee.

Medicare beneficiaries without access to the Internet can obtain the same comparative information by calling 1-800-MEDICARE.

Congratulations to Cathy Hansen on her recent appointment as a member of ASHP’s Council on Legal and Public Affairs. Nominated by NJSHIP, Cathy is the second NJSHIP member to be appointed to an ASHP post (Eric Hola was NJSHIP’s first member appointed to the Council of Organizational Affairs and he is now ASHP Chair of the Board of Canvassers.)

The Council on Legal and Public Affairs is concerned with laws and government administrative regulations, proposed laws and regulations, and

pharmacy ethics. ASHP members have many opportunities to identify topics for policy development via open hearings, regional delegate conferences and through the House of Delegates in the form of Recommendations, Resolutions and New Business. In her one year role, Cathy and her peers will help review position statements, resolutions, and papers that have been submitted from ASHP members nationwide.

There’s an annual meeting in September in which this council as well as four others meet for two days of thoughtful deliberations. Each

council submits a report with policy recommendations that are acted upon the Board of Directors in November. Proposed new professional policies must be approved by the Board of Directors before they are submitted for House of Delegates action. The House of Delegates convenes annually at ASHP’s Summer Meeting. This meeting constitutes the culmination of the year-long policy development process that drives ASHP’s pursuit of its vision for hospital and health-system pharmacy.

Continued on back cover

News & Notes

NJSHP/ASHP Product Reseller Program Generates Revenue for Society

The ASHP Product Reseller Program is an avenue to help the Society generate additional revenue. To date, through this program, the Society has generated over \$4,000. Purchasing ASHP products through the Society is an easy way to financially support your State Chapter of Health-System Pharmacists. If interested, please call the office at (609) 936-2205 to request a copy of the product listing and product order form or visit our website at www.njshp.org.

NJSHP at Career Day 2004

Members of the student chapter and board represented NJSHP at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy's Career Day, held on Tuesday, February 24, 2004, at the Student Center on Busch Campus. The event was an excellent forum to meet with future professionals to discuss the advantages of becoming student members and NJSHP members at the conclusion of graduation. NJSHP is pleased about the number of students who joined/rejoined the student chapter. Also, thanks to the officers of the student chapter for scheduling programs and events in the community which help define the pharmacy profession.

A Tungsten Palm Pilot was raffled off after the program and the lucky winner was Ms. Christine Malati.

Pharmacy Technician Certification 2004 Exam Schedule

The 2004 schedule examination for pharmacy technicians seeking certification through the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) will be held on November 13th.

Individuals who meet all eligibility requirements and successfully pass the examination may use the initials "CPhT" after their names. Certification is valid for two years.

The next New Jersey exam will be administered at Rutgers University – Busch Campus, Science Engineering Resource Center, Room 111, Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway, NJ. For directions, visit www.rutgers.edu.

Application receipt deadline is September 17th. The application fee is \$120. For more information, call PTCB at (202) 429-7576 or visit their new website at www.ptcb.org. To obtain registration materials, call the NJSHP headquarters at (609) 936-2205.

SAVE-THE-DATE

New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists
2005
Annual Meeting/Exhibition & Installation Dinner

Thursday, April 7, 2005
From: 1:00PM - 9:30PM

Hyatt Regency New Brunswick
Two Albany Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey
(732) 863-1234

Please Mark Your Calendar!

NJSHP STATE PIN ORDER FORM

New Jersey Society of Health-System Pharmacists
760 Alexander Road, PO Box 1, Princeton, NJ 08543-0001
Telephone: (609) 936-2205 Facsimile: (609) 452-9372

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QUANTITY	PRICE EACH (\$10)	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Please allow 7-10 business days for delivery.

For Society Use Only

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Nominations for State-Level Offices Sought

NJSHP is now accepting nominations for state-level offices. If you or someone you know has ever been interested in getting involved with NJSHP, consider nominating yourself or them for one of the following opening positions:

President-elect (1): This leadership position offers the opportunity to direct NJSHP. The term for president-elect is for one year, after which the individual assumes the presidency.

Treasurer (1): Position serves to oversee the management of the day-to-day finances of the Society. Additional functions are secondary to the treasurer's participation in other activities.

Director-at-Large (2): Vacating positions include director of the council of educational affairs and director of the council of professional affairs.

For more information on serving as a state-level officer, contact Stella Williams, administrative director, at (609) 936-2205, John Yanoschak, president-elect, at (609) 267-0700 Ext. 43154, or online at www.njshp.org.

Correction Noted

Please note there was an error in the recent NJSHP Winter 2004 Bulletin under Mitch's Sobel's article, *NJSHP Call for New Members*. As per new regulations licensees are required to obtain at least 10 CE credits through didactic instruction **per biennial license renewal**; not 10 live continuing education credits per year as we noted erroneously. This error has been corrected on the newsletter on www.njshp.org. NJSHP thanks Donald Winters for calling attention to this error.

NJSHP OFFICERS

2004-2005

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North Central—John Otchy

Roche Laboratories Inc., (973) 762-8006

Central—Joan Perrone

Somerset Medical Center, (908) 595-2626

Southern—Beverly Wilt

Kennedy Health System, (856) 582-2531

Student Chapter—Diana Lee-Zisa

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

Congratulations to Cathy Hansen... continued from inside

So what's on Cathy's plate for the upcoming year? She'll be working closely with NJSHP's Board of Directors to communicate all of its opinions, with the Medicare Prescription Drug Act being a key focus. Cathy's personal goal is to work to assure that pharmacists will be reimbursed for their special knowledge while assuring that patients receive optimal drug therapy. As ever the articulate communicator, Cathy sums up her emotions about this new post and says "It's is such a privilege to represent my State and I want to adequately represent all the ideas of the NJSHP Board. I am very excited about the communication process that's involved in gleaning and meshing of all these ideas that will ultimately impact the overall medication management process for patients."

NJSHP Acknowledges These 2003 Corporate Sponsors:

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If your organization is interested in learning more about the benefits an NJSHP Corporate Sponsorship offers, please contact Stella Williams today at (609) 936-2205 or visit our website at www.njsHP.org.

June 30, 2004

Dear NJSHP Board:

I would like to take this time to thank you for organizing a wonderful 2004 Annual Meeting. As a student member in my final weeks of pharmacy school, the Annual Meeting was a great opportunity to meet pharmacists from around the state and learn what is new in my soon-to-be profession. I would especially like to thank you for the numerous raffle gifts that were given away at dinner during the meeting. Myself, along with a fellow student, won the Palm Pilot raffle and I wanted to let you know how incredible it was to win such a wonderful prize. As you all know pharmacy school can be quite expensive, and it was truly amazing to win such a valuable educational tool that I did not have the opportunity to purchase on my own. I have since acquired many references on my Palm and have found it very useful on rotations and even for personal use. Thank you for organizing a great meeting and for including all the students in the programs, dinner, and raffle. I have been an NJSHP student member for 4 years and I can truly say that this society has helped me develop into the pharmacist I will soon be in many ways. Please continue to incorporate the students into all you do, because after all, the students of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Myself, along with many of my peers that have had a positive NJSHP experience will continue to be members as pharmacists in the fall, and hopefully for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Kristin R. Dragotta