2002-2003 Elections

Chapter Dinner Meeting and Board Elections
Thursday, June 13, 2002
2002-2003 Elections

During the June dinner meeting the AMWA-DVC membership votes for officers for 2002-2003. Every year we vote for a President-Elect and whatever positions about to be vacated. The unopposed candidate this year is Ms. B. DeVinney (inside). This year the position of Secretary is being vacated by Lori De Milto and we will vote for a new Secretary. The unopposed candidate is Dr. Charles Sutherland. Meanwhile our 2001-2002 President becomes Past-President and our 2001-2002 President-Elect becomes President. AMWA-DVC President 2001-2002

Stephen Collins started medical writing as a freelance about 3 years ago after 16 years in sales and marketing. He has a Master of Science in Molecular Biology, and a life-long interest in Science and Medicine. Mr. Collins quickly sought out the camaraderie and networking provided by AMWA, and decided to play an active role because "AMWA delivers far more value to its members than any professional organization I have seen." In addition to serving as President, Mr. Collins has helped Brian Bass coordinate the chapter's last two Princeton Conferences. During his upcoming year as Immediate Past President, Mr. Collins plans to work to expand options for AMWA members to obtain health and other insurance coverage.

President 2002-3

Terry Ann Glauser, MD, is a Baccalaureate in Science from Johns Hopkins, has a Doctorate of Medicine from Thomas Jefferson University, is board-certified in Emergency Medicine and is a Master of Public Health. She moved to medical writing in 1995. She does regulatory, marketing and educational writing. Dr. Glauser has been a member of AMWA since 1996.

Dinner Meeting Program

Will Safety Be Undone By the Pen? Avoiding Dangerous Terms in Medical Writing

by Michael R. Cohen, RPh, MS, DSc

at Sheraton Bucks County Hotel, 400 Oxford Valley Road Langhorne, PA 19047
(215) 547-4100
networking, 5:30 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. program 7:30 p.m.

For information: contact Chuck Sutherland, 215-453-9084, skimmer@mail3.enter.net.

The June 2002 Dinner Speaker is Michael R. Cohen, RPh, MS, DSc, is President of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices. Dr. Cohen is co-editor of the ISMP Medication Safety Alert!, a biweekly alert system sent by fax or e-mail to over 560,000 health professionals. Dr. Cohen has authored a book, Medication Errors (APhA, August 1999) and is on the editorial board of several journals and national committees concerned with drug safety.
**Vale, Dr. Rhoads**

I never met Jonathan Rhoads, MD, but I certainly knew who he was. I was in the Physiology Department at the University of Pennsylvania from 1978 until 1996, and during that time information about Dr. Rhoads seeped into my consciousness. Maybe it was because during that time the old Gates Building at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania was torn down and new buildings were erected, and one was named the Jonathan Rhoads Building. I often saw his name on newsletters from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, saw his name on a school board, heard his name mentioned with respect by senior members of the Medical School Faculty. When I first put together this newsletter in January 2001, I saw his name on the mailing list. I always knew that joining AMWA-DVC was a smart thing to do; him being a member somehow proved it. Dr. Rhoads was a member since 1954. Dr. Rhoads continued his membership in AMWA until his death at over 90; he had lectureships and a foundation named after him as well as a building. He was a giant of a man and I wish I’d known him. Shirley Bonnem’s article in the AMWA Journal gives a personal story and lists some of his achievements. The Editor.

**Cephalon: The Story of the Genesis of a Delaware Valley Pharmaceutical Company**

“Biotechnology is a big word that means hope,” said Jeff Vaught, PhD, President of Research and Development at West Chester-based Cephalon, Inc. Dr. Vaught shared the story of Cephalon’s birth, development, and maturation at the March 12 AMWA-DVC meeting.

Established in 1987 with the goal of halting progression of devastating neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s, ALS, strokes, and head or spinal trauma, Cephalon develops innovative products to treat neurological and sleep disorders. The company went public in 1991 and had its first profitable year in 2001, becoming one of 12 profitable biotech companies out of approximately 1,200 nationwide. Last year, it also earned a spot on the NASDAQ 100 index, raised approximately $1 billion in capital, and consolidated worldwide rights to its flagship product,Provigil, a wakefulness-promoting agent.

“Cephalon decided that the best way to run the business was to accommodate risk, not run from it,” said Dr. Vaught. By recognizing and managing risk, and successfully raising capital, Cephalon has succeeded where many other biotechs have failed. Through partnerships with major pharmaceutical companies such as Schering-Plough and Johnson & Johnson, Cephalon built research expertise and balanced drug development costs.

Cephalon has three marketed products: (1) Actiq for breakthrough cancer pain; (2) Gabitril for seizures in epilepsy; and (3) Provigil for excessive daytime sleepiness. Alternative treatments produce hyperactivity, mood elevation, and other undesirable side effects. Provigil promotes “normal” wakefulness with minimal generalized central nervous system excitement.

Provigil is currently approved to treat excessive daytime sleepiness in narcolepsy. Cephalon hopes to expand its use to other sleep disorders such as sleep apnea and shift work, and possibly to other diseases such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s. The company is conducting a study of Provigil for night shift work, at FDA’s request, and a flight simulation study for the military.

Cephalon is not a mature company yet, according to Dr. Vaught. “We’ve come a long way, but we have a long way to go,” he said.

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