

**Summary of October 27, 2009 Meeting**

**Council members present:**

Bona Benjamin, (ASHP), Chair  
Rita Munley Gallagher (ANA), Vice-Chair  
Shawn Becker (USP), Secretary  
Beth Feldpush (AHA)  
Barry Dickinson (AMA)  
Lee Rucker (AARP)  
James Owen (APhA)  
Ann Gaffey (ASHRM)  
Carol Holquist (FDA)  
Michael Gaunt (ISMP)  
Frank Federico (IHI) via telephone  
Jean Krause (ACP)  
Eleni Anagnostiadis (NABP)  
Nancy Kupka (The JC) via telephone  
Marjorie Shaw Phillips, Vice Chair USP SMU Expert Committee via telephone  
James Burris, America Geriatrics Society  
Jane Kelly-Cummings, (SHM) via telephone  
Rosemary Cook, (PhRMA) via telephone  
Manisha Shah (NPSF)  
Puri Subramaniam, (VA)  
Paul Hoerner (DoD)  
Deborah Nadzam via telephone  
Diane Cousins

**Organizations not represented:**

APSF, NCSBN, GPhA

**Alternates attending as representatives of their organizations:**

Deborah Davidson (NCPIE)  
Tara Modisett (NASPA)  
Tom Clark (ASCP)

**Alternates attending with their delegates:**

Colleen Brennan (USP)

**Observers:**

Angela Long, Vice President, USP Healthcare Quality and Compendial Affairs  
Jacqueline Starkes, Project Manager, USP Healthcare Quality Standards Group  
Rick Schnatz, Scientific Liaison, USP Compounding Pharmacy Expert Committee

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed Council members, alternates, and guests. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the revised June meeting summary. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the agenda

for this October meeting.

The Chair stated that the NCC MERP has an abundance of opportunities that will be pursued during the next few years. With a new strategic plan the Council will support causes that will make medication usage safer for all of us.

**Secretary's Report – Shawn Becker**

- Calling tree and roster were circulated for updating
- Sal Peritore notified the Secretary that he will no longer represent GPhA on the Council. Gordon Johnston will replace Sal. The Council recognized Sal's longtime service to NCC MERP as the delegate from the GPhA.

*Action Item:* Ms. Becker will send a thank you note to Sal Peritore for his support to NCC MERP.

Membership Request – Shawn Becker and Bona Benjamin

Application for membership was received from The American College of Physicians Foundation, (ACP Foundation) whose goals appear to be in line with those of the NCC MERP. ACP Foundation improves patient health literacy, self-management of chronic disease and physician understanding of health literacy challenges.

Application for Individual Membership renewal was received from Deborah Nadzam.

The Council has extended a two year membership to:

- The American College of Physicians Foundation (ACP Foundation) renewed Deborah Nadzam, Ph.D., FAAN, as an individual member for two years.

*Action Item:* The Chair will send an acknowledgement and welcome to the new members of the Council.

Web site Activity Announcements:

Mr. Kuzer (USP Webmaster) presented NCC MERP Web Analytics Summary from January 2009 - September 2009. The total number of hits to [www.nccmerp.org](http://www.nccmerp.org) web site was 1,400,126. The average hits per day were 5,129, the average session per day were 381. The *Home Page* was the most viewed page with 44,543 hits followed by *About Medication Errors* with 24,830 hits. The *Home Page* had 35,447 hits, followed by *Dangerous Abbreviations* with 14,254 hits. The same two top sites were the most *Exit Points*. The top twenty referrals were also tracked which provides information on who is looking at NCC MERP. Those most interested are: government organizations, non-profits, educational institutions, military branches, and visitors from other countries.

Request for Permission to List Web Site on Consumer Page

Permission was granted to Sharon Rounds of S&R Photo Acquisitions for Nursing Fundamentals: Caring & Clinical Decision Making for use of the Dangerous Abbreviations List, and Drug Watch .com to link to NCC MERP website.

#### USP Request for Volunteers

USP is currently recruiting for the Chair positions for twenty expert committees. The Call for Candidates Timeline is as follows:

- Friday, December 18, 2009 to apply for the Chair
- Saturday, May, 15, 2010, Expert Committee Members applications are due
- Thursday, July 1, 2010, New Committees are formed and meetings begin

To apply visit USP Web site at [www.usp.org/goto/nominate](http://www.usp.org/goto/nominate)

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

##### Pediatric Medication Safety Subcommittee– *Deborah Nadzam and Marjorie Phillips*

Ms. Phillips reviewed the recommended text for NCC MERP website for *Pediatric Medication Safety*. It was suggested that NCC MERP wait to see what the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended on their website. NCC MERP should include a statement about weight-based dosing and consider metric dosage opposed to pounds. The websites listed below are for information only not guidance and are resources only. In addition, NCC MERP does not endorse any of the websites:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)
- Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP)
- Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG)
- National Association of Children's Hospital (NACH)
- Northwestern University, Institute for Healthcare Studies
- The Joint Commission
- United States Pharmacopeia (USP)

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to post the Pediatric Medication Safety links on NCC MERP web site under a new category called "Tools and Resources" once we have the report on AAP website.

*Action Item:* Manisha Shah will review American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) web site and provide NCC MERP with a statement on their recommendations prior to posting new information on Pediatric Medication Safety.

##### *Medication Error Rates vs. Medication Error Reporting Rates - Frank Federico*

Mr. Federico gave a presentation on Measuring Medication Safety. NCC MERP needs to clarify their position on how the council receives their information by considering the following questions:

- If we agree that we need more than medication error reports, are there implications to the Council's past work?
- What will be the purpose of the product?
- How will we validate our recommendations?

The Chair stated that she understands that more work needs to be done in this area but, there is considerable value behind clarifying some of the unresolved issues on medication error reporting, and interpretation of data that is reported. Reports have shown that people do not know what a medication error is nor do they understand what a reporting rate is vs. an actual rate. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) offers small grants

## *National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention*

(\$50,000.00) and large grants (\$100, 000.00) to assist in hosting a workshop to assist in pulling the right people from industry to assist NCC MERP in answering the questions listed above.

*Action Item:* Mr. Federico will write a proposal for an AHRQ Grant as described above. Mr. Federico will forward the proposal to the Chair for review by November 15, 2009.

### **NCC MERP Future Activities**

#### **Rules and Procedures/History Task Force – Diane Cousins**

Ms. Cousins discussed the history of NCC MERP from its beginning in 1995 and addressed how the Rules and Procedures were established. The Council was never chartered and never accepted dues.

*Action Item:* Review NCC MERP Rules and Procedures and make any recommendations, omissions or clarification on any of the rules and procedures. The Subcommittee findings will be discussed at the next NCC MERP meeting in February 2010. The subcommittee consist of Diane Cousin, Jean Krause, Tara Modisett, and Shawn Becker.

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Planning Task Force - Bona Benjamin**

NCC MERP will be planning its 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration. The planning subcommittee will be Rita Munley Gallagher, Deborah Nadzam, Manisha Shah, and Shawn Becker.

*Action Item:* Dr. Gallagher will put out a call for updating the 10 year anniversary document that appears on the NCC MERP web site.

#### **Strategic Plan/Task Force – Bona Benjamin and Rita Munley Gallagher**

The Council reviewed the list of project topics to determine which projects warrant Council action for the upcoming years. The top projects are as follows:

- Position paper on opposition to criminalizing medication errors
- Medication reconciliation
- Harmonizing AHRQ Common Formats with the NCC MERP Taxonomy
- Proposal for a National Alert Network for Serious Medication Errors
- Support document on use of the metric system for medication dosing

#### **Member Updates and Requests**

DoD request for alternative use of Category Index. LTC Hoerner asked if DoD could change the word “error” to “event when using the NCC MERP Category Index in the DoD reporting system. Permission was granted for the change in the word “error” to “event” in the DoD system.

#### **Next Steps**

The Council made a decision to change the meeting times to 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to accommodate its members.

Ms. Benjamin thanked the Council for a productive meeting. NCC MERP next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.