



The Pharmacist Activist

Volume 4, No. 12 • December 2009

Editorial

No Vacancy*

The weary transient
the prospering merchant
the pious priest
the strident, bitter, hopeless slaves;
—each well-engrossed within himself
preparing for the night.

Few noticed.
None cared
for the dusty, worried carpenter and
his pain-bewildered wife.

Thus it was the Creator came down—
oxen, donkeys, perhaps a stable-hand
beheld the birth
of the Prince of Peace.
God's Witnesses

The players change
—new names appear, and yet
men earn
and learn
and strive
and serve
and grimly long for peace.

While the Prince of Peace still waits
arms full of gifts for suffering men
whose wants
needs
works
piety
leave little room or time for Him whose
rule alone
can bring peace
to soul
or home
or world

But still He waits and knocks
beneath a glowing sign
NO VACANCY

*by Carlyle L. Saylor



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Congratulations and Appreciation!

For many years pharmacists ranked first in the annual Gallup polls in which participants were asked to rate individuals in various professions/vocations with respect to honesty and ethical standards. When nurses were added to the professionals being rated, pharmacists have consistently ranked second to nurses. The results of the 2009 Gallup poll have recently been announced. Pharmacists ranked second, following nurses, among the 22 professions/vocations identified in the survey. Approximately two-thirds of respondents rated pharmacists “very high” or “high” when asked about their honesty and ethical standards.

It is the pharmacists who are on the “front-lines” of practice who have the visibility and are known to those responding in such a positive manner in these polls. All of us in the profession of pharmacy are the beneficiaries of their excellent example and services to their patients and communities. We congratulate them and express our appreciation for their commitment to the highest professional and personal standards that has brought this recognition to our profession!

A recent example illustrates this commitment so well. Henrietta (Henny) and Dave Cole have owned a Medicine Shoppe in a Philadelphia suburb for 32 years. In a letter that he sent me that accompanied a gift in support of our White Coat Ceremony for our students, Dave made the following observations: “Recently, an oncologist from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania called Henny and told her that he has never had a pharmacy treat his patients with such professionalism and caring. One of these patients who is dying from pancreatic cancer brought her roses for her efforts in helping him cope with his disease. That makes it all worthwhile.”

Daniel A. Hussar

Author/Editor

Daniel A. Hussar, Ph.D.
Philadelphia College of Pharmacy
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia

Publishers

Christopher J. Polli • G. Patrick Polli II

Assistant Editor

John Buck

Publications Director

Jeff Zajac

Graphic Artist/Designer

Joe Monte

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The Pharmacist Activist
661 Moore Rd., Ste. 100, King of Prussia, PA 19406
610-337-1050 • Fax: 610-337-1049
E-mail: pharmacistactivist@news-line.com

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The
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Editor's Note

With this issue we mark the completion of the fourth year of publication of *The Pharmacist Activist* (all issues are available on the website, www.pharmacistactivist.com). The comments I receive from readers have been very gratifying and informative, and my only regret is that I am not able to respond to all of them on an individual basis. If you know pharmacists and pharmacy students who are not presently receiving this publication, please encourage them to go on the website and sign up to receive it.

NEWS-Line Publishing produces this newsletter at its cost, and I do not receive compensation for my responsibility as author/editor. However, there are considerable expenses in producing it and I wish to express my appreciation to my friend who is committed to the provision of editorial commentary that will stimulate discussion/debate, as well as objective information on new drugs, and who has provided financial support. I also wish to express my personal appreciation to Jeff Zajac, Chris Polli, Patrick Polli, John Buck, and Joe Monte for their expertise and enthusiasm in publishing *The Pharmacist Activist*.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season and a healthy and enjoyable new year!

Daniel A. Hussar

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to sign-up for a FREE subscription.

The Pharmacist Activist will be provided FREE via e-mail to interested pharmacists and pharmacy students who request a complimentary subscription by providing the information below. The opportunity to provide this newsletter without charge is made possible by the generous support of individuals who are committed to the provision of objective and unbiased information regarding new drugs, as well as editorial opinion about important issues facing the profession.

It is important that the development and distribution of *The Pharmacist Activist* be as cost efficient as possible. Therefore, we prefer to send the monthly issues to you via e-mail.

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New therapeutic agents marketed in the United States in 2009

Generic name	Trade name	Manufacturer	Therapeutic classification	Route of administration	FDA classification ^a	New Drug Comparison Rating ^c
AbobotulinumtoxinA	Dysport	Ipsen	Agent for cervical dystonia	Intramuscular	S ^b	3
Artemether/ Lumefantrine	Coartem	Novartis	Antiparasitic agents	Oral	1-P, 0	4
Asenapine	Saphris	Schering	Antipsychotic agent	Oral	1-S	2
Benzyl alcohol	Ulesfia	Sciele	Pediculicide	Topical	1-S	2
Bepotastine besilate	Bepreve	Ista	Agent for allergic conjunctivitis	Ophthalmic	1-S	2
Besifloxacin hydrochloride	Besivance	Bausch and Lomb	Antibacterial agent	Ophthalmic	1-S	3
Canakinumab	Ilaris	Novartis	Agent for Cryopyrin- Associated Periodic Syndromes	Subcutaneous	P ^b	4
Degarelix	Firmagon	Ferring	Antineoplastic agent	Subcutaneous	1-S	4
Dronedarone hydrochloride	Multaq	Sanofi-Aventis	Antiarrhythmic agent	Oral	1-P	4
Everolimus	Afinitor	Novartis	Antineoplastic agent	Oral	1-P	4
Febuxostat	Uloric	Takeda	Agent for gout	Oral	1-S	3
Fesoterodine fumarate	Toviaz	Pfizer	Agent for overactive bladder	Oral	1-S	3
Golimumab	Simponi	Centocor Ortho Biotech	Antiartihritic agent	Subcutaneous	S ^b	2
Iloperidone	Fanapt	Vanda	Antipsychotic agent	Oral	1-S	1
Lacosamide	Vimpat	UCB	Antiepileptic drug	Oral; intravenous	1-S	4
Milnacipran hydrochloride	Savella	Forest; Cypress	Agent for fibromyalgia	Oral	1-S	3
Ofatumumab	Arzerra	GlaxoSmithKline	Antineoplastic agent	Intravenous	P, 0 ^b	4
Pazopanib hydrochloride	Votrient	GlaxoSmithKline	Antineoplastic agent	Oral	1-S	3
Plerixafor	Mozobil	Genzyme	Hematopoietic stem cell mobilizer	Subcutaneous	1-P, 0	4
Pralatrexate	Folotyn	Allos	Antineoplastic agent	Intravenous	1-P	4
Prasugrel hydrochloride	Effient	Lilly	Antiplatelet agent	Oral	1-P	4
Rufinamide	Banzel	Eisai	Antiepileptic drug	Oral	1-S	4
Saxagliptin hydrochloride	Onglyza	Bristol-Myers Squibb; AstraZeneca	Antidiabetic agent	Oral	1-S	3
Sildenafil	Rapaflo	Watson	Agent for benign prostatic hyperplasia	Oral	1-S	3
Tapentadol hydrochloride	Nucynta	PriCara	Analgesic	Oral	1-S	3
Telavancin	Vibativ	Astellas	Antibiotic	Intravenous	1-S	3
Tolvaptan	Samsca	Otsuka	Agent for hyponatremia	Oral	1-S	4
Ustekinumab	Stelara	Centocor Ortho Biotech	Agent for psoriasis	Subcutaneous	S ^b	4
Vigabatrin	Sabril	Lundbeck	Antiepileptic drug	Oral	1-P	5

^a FDA classification of new drugs: 1 = new molecular entity; 0 = designated orphan drug; P = priority review; S = standard review

^b A biological approved through an FDA procedure that does not assign a numerical classification

^c New Drug Comparison Rating (NDCR): 5 = important advance; 4 = significant advantage(s); 3 = no or minor advantage(s)/disadvantage(s); 2 = significant disadvantage(s); 1 = important disadvantage(s)

The Top 10 New Drugs of the Decade (Millenium)

During the first decade (2000-2009) of the new millennium, there were 246 new therapeutic agents marketed in the United States. Some of the new drugs are the first and only medications for the treatment of rare disorders and are, therefore, of great value for the patients who have experienced these conditions. However, in developing the following list of the top 10 new drugs of the decade, primary emphasis is given to medications that are used more often and are of significant benefit for a large number of patients. The drugs are listed in alphabetical order.

Generic name	Trade name (Manufacturer)	Indication(s)
Bevacizumab	Avastin (Genentech)	Colorectal cancer; lung cancer; breast cancer
Exenatide	Byetta (Amylin, Lilly)	Diabetes mellitus
Linezolid	Zyvox (Pfizer)	Infections caused by gram-positive cocci (e.g.; staphylococci)
Lubiprostone	Amitiza (Sucampo; Takeda)	Chronic idiopathic constipation; irritable bowel syndrome with constipation
Memantine	Namenda (Forest)	Alzheimer's disease
Ranibizumab	Lucentis (Genentech)	Wet age-related macular degeneration
Raltegravir	Isentress (Merck)	HIV infection/AIDS
Tiotropium	Spiriva (Boehringer Ingelheim)	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Ustekinumab	Stelara (Centocor Ortho Biotech)	Psoriasis
Varenicline	Chantix (Pfizer)	Smoking cessation

Daniel A. Hussar

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Editor's Note: All issues of Volumes 1 (2006), 2 (2007), 3 (2008), and 4 (2009) of The Pharmacist Activist are available without charge at www.pharmacistactivist.com.