



The Pharmacist Activist

Volume 18, No.3 - February 23, 2023 SPECIAL EDITION

☆☆☆ SPECIAL EDITION ☆☆☆

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Colossians 3: 12-14

Editorial

Editor’s note: *On February 23, 2023, I was honored to be the recipient of the William Procter, Jr. Medal on the occasion of the 202nd anniversary celebration of the founding of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy of Saint Joseph’s University (Philadelphia). The following is my presentation at this event.*

The Bicentennial Plus Two Anniversary of the Founding of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy: Leadership, Success, Failure, and Opportunity

I am greatly honored to have been selected as the recipient of the William Procter, Jr. Medal, and I wish to thank the individuals who recommended and selected me for this recognition. Of those gathered here this evening, I recognize I am one of the oldest (I prefer the designation “chronologically-gifted”). Therefore, I have had many years to qualify for this recognition. I don’t want to embarrass the oldest alumnus by identifying him but his initials are GED. He is still on the faculty and, if only his middle initial was “O,” like for “omniscient,” we could appoint him as President of Saint Joseph’s University and conclude that search.

As honored as I am as an individual, *most impressive* are

the extensive cumulative accomplishments of PCP alumni, including the more than 10,000 for whom I have had the privilege of being one of their faculty, and it is on their behalf that I accept this honor.

I have been blessed in so many ways—

- through my Christian faith that has been a continuing source of encouragement and strength;
- through my parents, sister, and brother;
- through my wife Sue, whom I met and fell in love with at PCP and through the 55 years of our marriage;
- through our sons and their wives—

Visit www.pharmacistactivist.com for a FREE subscription

Eric and his wife Terra and their 6 children;
 Chris and his wife Carmen and their 3 children;
 Tim and his wife Cristina and their 2 children;

- through my mentors and colleagues whose advice and guidance have been of great value;
- through the personal and professional friends, including my students whom I hope learned as much from me as I learned from them. I highly commend Jack Korbutov, the recipient of the Young Alumni Award, for his professionalism and entrepreneurship that have resulted in his excellent and caring practice in such a short period of time since his graduation. His accomplishments and example bring great credit to PCP and our alumni.

My memory may be slipping some but William Procter, Jr. was one of my first students, and I recall thinking he would be a future star of our profession. In preparation for this occasion, I have done some additional reading about William Procter, Jr. – “the Father of American Pharmacy.” What I have learned is inspiring but also very humbling. I had not previously realized it but he was only 56 years old when he died. I have had 25 years more to *not even come close* to his wisdom and accomplishments. My humility is reinforced by the realization that I have most probably had more concerns and recommendations ignored, rejected, and even ridiculed than any other pharmacist.

I would like to provide some perspectives on the remarkable history, legacy, and future of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy (PCP). I will try to capture 202 years of history by highlighting seven notable events (or seven DAYS/dates). In tribute to the Catholic and Jesuit heritage of our much younger brother Saint Joseph’s University (SJU) of Philadelphia, I will also respectfully share what I think God’s perspectives have been:

Day 1. On February 23, 1821, 68 apothecaries, characterized by the beliefs, values, and motivation of the Quakers, convened in historic Carpenters’ Hall and created/founded the PCP. Among the founders were four members of the Wetherill family (whose descendants include alumni – the late Roger Wetherill and his son Sam Wetherill who have been recent leaders of our College), and Thomas Cave (whose descendants include Mary-Louise Lott Tice).

And God saw that it was good!

Day 2. On February 23, 1921, PCP observed its centennial and celebrated the accomplishments and leadership of the College and alumni such as William Procter, Jr. and Joseph Remington. (Incidentally, we have been able to confirm that Saint Joseph’s University was NOT named after Joseph Remington). Several science programs were added that year and the name of the institution was expanded to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (PCPS).

And God saw that it was good!

Day 3. On February 23, 1971, PCPS observed its sesquicentennial and celebrated the accomplishments and leadership of the College and alumni such as Linwood Tice.

And God saw that it was good!

Day 4. On July 1, 1998, the institution unveiled its new identity as the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia (USP) with PCP designated as the founding college. USP has also been known as USIP, USciences, USci, and Sciences in its misguided efforts to have the new identity recognized. Over the protests of some, it unveiled the new University mascot the “Devils” (personified as Drake the Devil).

And God said: “This is bad!”

And an era of severe challenges caused by the top leadership of USciences followed. PCP was a victim and its identity and leadership were suppressed! I and some others voiced concerns during this era but our concerns were rejected and we were ostracized.

Day 5. On February 10, 2021, the President of USciences and the President of SJU announced that the two institutions had entered into exclusive discussions regarding a merger.

And God asked: “Why?” and “Why St. Joseph’s?”

Day 6. On February 23, 2021, 30 PCPS alumni (the maximum number permitted because of COVID restrictions) convened in Carpenters’ Hall for a celebration of the Bicentennial. Past PCP Alumni Association Presidents Siobhan Duffy and Tiziana Palatucci Fox very capably planned the event that those who

attended will never forget. Will those who attended the Bicentennial celebration please raise their hands?

And God was unseen but present, and rejoiced in the celebration!

Regrettably, the USciences administration, perhaps paralyzed by COVID, did not hold any event to recognize the Bicentennial of the founding of PCP. The event at Carpenters' Hall had to be planned clandestinely, and no employee of USciences or PCP was invited, or could even be informed about it for fear that the USciences President would learn about it and find a way to have it canceled.

Day 7. On June 1, 2021, the President of SJU and the President of USciences announced that an agreement of sale, I mean merger, had been made and would be finalized in one year on June 1, 2022.

And God was resting on the seventh day but knew what had happened. Following the seventh day, He banished the USciences President to South Carolina (some say he retired with a golden parachute).

Subsequently, the SJU President decided to abandon his SJU "hawk" wings to be the President of Loyola University in Chicago, the identities of which have included a homeless person named Bo (I can't make this up!), a wolf, the Ramblers, and Sister Jean who has become a national celebrity at NCAA basketball tournament games. The former President of SJU will now have his choice of these for his new identity, with the exception of Sister Jean of course which would be contrary to the Jesuit beliefs.

With the rapid departures of the two Presidents who orchestrated the "merger," the hard work of integrating the two institutions, and making the very difficult decisions that have resulted in the termination of about 200 positions at USciences, had to be assumed by those who remained, with the most common title being "Interim."

The Devils are gone (and good riddance!). PCP may actually now be in a better home in SJU which loves God and can enable the conversion of the Devils to Saints, or at least Angels. We can hope that the claims that "the Hawk will never die" are validated.

With regard to the lost independence and autonomy of PCP and USciences:

It did *not* have to happen;

It *should not* have happened;

But it DID happen.

So how should we now respond?

There is great wisdom in a comment made by Mother Teresa: "Yesterday is gone; tomorrow has not yet come; we have only today, let us begin."

To the credit of PCP Dean and Alumnus Ed Foote and colleagues who worked with him, we are now convened for the celebration of the 202nd anniversary of the founding of PCP.

And I have some ideas! I call them "ideas" because it is less hurtful if they are ignored, rather than recommendations (although they are) and certainly not demands (as I am only "emeritus" which I have been told is Latin for "has been").

For Saint Joseph's University:

1. The still secret merger agreement should be revised to state that the identity and name of the PCP shall be protected in *perpetuity*. SJU was founded only 172 years ago, and I can't imagine that its administration and Board would ever permit a change in its name (e.g., to St. Victor's [as in Rossi] or St. John's [as in Gans], or even St. Mark's [as in Reid], St. Cheryl's [as in McConnell], or Loyola Philadelphia).
2. PCP should have its own enhanced and separate identity, rather than being a college within the SJU School of Health Professions.
3. There should be a free-standing PCP Alumni Association that functions in partnership with the SJU Alumni Association.
4. There should be a Recruitment and Admissions individual and an Alumni Relations individual who are selected by PCP.
5. There should be a separate publication dedicated to the activities of PCP and its alumni.
6. There should be transparency and accountability for funds provided by PCP alumni and other donors for PCP faculty, scholarships, and programs.

For the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy:

1. So that we never forget – *the students come first!*
There must be a strong commitment to provide the highest quality education and experiences for our students. PCP and its students should be among the highest level performers in available outcome measures (e.g., NAPLEX scores).
2. PCP faculty should be more prominent and visible participants in local, state, national, and international pharmacy organizations and activities, and aspire to hold leadership positions.
3. In addition to the faculty whose education and experience have been obtained elsewhere and are of great value for PCP, there should be more PCP alumni on the faculty.
4. PCP should protect and promote its alumni and other pharmacists who own independent pharmacies. The required APPE community pharmacy rotation should be in independent pharmacies in which students are exposed to and engaged in the provision of comprehensive pharmacy services, entrepreneurship, and community and professional involvement. The success and vitality of independent pharmacies are essential for rebuilding the pool of applicants who wish to pursue study and a career in pharmacy.
5. PCP should employ or retain the services of a pharmacist historian. There should be a required course on the history of PCP and Pharmacy in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum.
6. The murals that were removed from the lobby area of Griffith Hall should be restored and replaced. If there is any section that is of concern to some, it should be reviewed and, if necessary, not included.

has been suppressed, restricted, and diminished in its activities and visibility, PCP *alumni* have been the face and heart of our alma mater. Our alumni have independence, autonomy, and influence.

2. We should provide our experience, wisdom, time, and financial support for the benefit of PCP and its programs, which will also be of benefit for SJU. In counsel with PCP leadership, we should provide financial support for specific initiatives for which our gifts are used. Examples would be support to cover expenses for faculty to participate in professional meetings. On a larger scale, alumni could endow a new professorship to which a PCP alumnus would be appointed.
3. We should be aware of and monitor the position, prominence, and respect for PCP in the profession of pharmacy, our community, and beyond. If serious concerns emerge, we should be prepared to rescue our alma mater.

We are NOT the USciences College of Pharmacy.

We are NOT the SJU College of Pharmacy.

WE ARE THE PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY!

We must honor our history, protect our present, and fight for our future! Let us move from being a victim in USciences to being a STAR at SJU! We must be activists, or at least read *The Pharmacist Activist* (www.pharmacistactivist.com), written by an octogenarian PCP alumnus. Thank you for being here to honor and celebrate the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy!

For PCP alumni:

1. Particularly during recent years in which PCP

Daniel A. Hussar
February 23, 2023

DanH@pharmacistactivist.com

Free Subscription

Go to www.pharmacistactivist.com
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 signing-up online at:

www.pharmacistactivist.com

Author/Editor/Publisher – Daniel A. Hussar, Ph.D.
Dean Emeritus and Remington Professor Emeritus at
Philadelphia College of Pharmacy
Assistant Editor – Suzanne F. Hussar, B.Sc. (Pharmacy)

The Pharmacist Activist, 1 Boulder Creek Lane, Newtown Square, PA 19073
E-mail: info@pharmacistactivist.com

Distribution/Design Services provided by Jeff Zajac