We are Blessed!
To Whom Much is Given...

Notwithstanding the difficult challenges that pharmacy and some individual pharmacists continue to face with respect to our professional responsibilities, we have been blessed! There are times when I need to remind myself of that as it is so easy to become fully immersed with the problems encountered by our profession. It is important that I count my blessings throughout the year and not just during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

As pharmacists, most of us are productively employed, receive good salaries, and live comfortably. Most of us have more than we need. And it is all too easy to forget or ignore the admonition, “to whom much is given, much is required.” How have I/we responded? How have I/we shared our abundance?

Many pharmacists can respond that we give much to others by the very nature of our responsibilities in serving patients, providing important advice, and contributing to the maintenance and improvement of their health. As important as these services are, we are getting paid to provide them. To what extent are we engaged in activities to help others on our own time?

“Giving” is often defined in monetary terms (and I will come back to that). However, some of the most important things we can do for others do not cost us anything. All of us know individuals who would greatly appreciate a phone call, an email, or a letter with a message of encouragement. As I write this, my thoughts turn immediately to one of my former students, a young woman who is battling cancer that is considered terminal. I need to call her to let her know that she is in my thoughts and prayers. Less than two weeks ago one of our students died suddenly at the age of 19. I had not yet come to know him, but I know his father who was one of my former students. I need to call him without further delay to express my sympathy. Other situations also come to mind and I am certain that you can also quickly identify individuals who would value your encouragement.

We are also in a position to help individuals we do not even know. I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors of World Vision (www.worldvision.org). This experience has greatly expanded my awareness and sensitivity to the needs (starting with clean water) of a large fraction of the world’s population. World Vision’s primary commitment is to help children, and my wife and I have found that our sponsorship of several children (at a nominal cost) has been a very fulfilling experience. There are also many other ministries and humanitarian organizations that put our monetary gifts and our time to good use for the benefit of those with great needs.

What have we given back to the profession of pharmacy from which we derive our livelihood? At the very least, we have a responsibility to be members of the professional associations that we need as advocates for our professional role and services in optimizing drug therapy and protecting and improving the health of the patients we serve.
We can not eliminate the personal and professional problems that so many are experiencing. But there is great opportunity to help others (and ourselves) who would greatly benefit from the encouragement, hope, and good will we are in a position to provide. A Christmas letter we just received concludes with a verse with a wonderful message from Longfellow’s “I heard the bells on Christmas day...”

Yet pealed the bells, more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep:
the wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
with peace on earth, good will to men.”

We wish you a joyous Christmas season and a happy and healthy new year!

Daniel A. Hussar

Editor’s Note

With this issue we mark the completion of the second year of publication of The Pharmacist Activist. The response from readers has been very gratifying and your comments confirm what we have considered to be the importance of the topics we have selected for coverage. We would like to believe that there is a growing number of pharmacist activists. However, we need many more and this will be a continuing message in the editorials. Please encourage your pharmacist colleagues and pharmacy students to sign up (www.pharmacistactivist.com) to receive this publication free of charge.

I have been asked on a number of occasions how we make The Pharmacist Activist available free of charge. Although I do not receive compensation, and NEWS-Line Publishing produces this newsletter at its cost, there are considerable expenses in developing and producing it. I wish to express my deep appreciation to the benefactor who is committed to the provision of objective and unbiased information regarding new drugs, and who has provided the financial support necessary to cover the publishing costs. I also wish to express my personal appreciation to Chris Polli, Patrick Polli, Jeff Zajac, John Buck, and Joe Monte for their expertise and enthusiasm in publishing The Pharmacist Activist.

I am also asked about the availability of information regarding all of the new drugs. I have just completed a book (for which there is a charge) that provides the most important information about each of the 142 new therapeutic agents marketed during the 2002-2007 period. Additional information is provided at the top of page 3.

Daniel A. Hussar
## New Drugs of 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic name</th>
<th>Trade name</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Therapeutic classification</th>
<th>Route of administration</th>
<th>FDA classification*</th>
<th>New Drug Comparison Ratingb</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aliskiren hemifumarate</td>
<td>Tekturna</td>
<td>Novartis</td>
<td>Antihypertensive agent</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>1-S</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ambrisentan</td>
<td>Letairis</td>
<td>Gilead Sciences</td>
<td>Agent for pulmonary arterial hypertension</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>1-P, O</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bismuth subcitrate potassium</td>
<td>in Pylera with metronidazole and tetracycline</td>
<td>Axcan</td>
<td>Antulcer agent</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>1, 4-S</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doripenem</td>
<td>Doribax</td>
<td>Ortho-McNeil</td>
<td>Antibiotic</td>
<td>Intravenous</td>
<td>1-S</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eculizumab</td>
<td>Soliris</td>
<td>Alexion</td>
<td>Agent for paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria</td>
<td>Intravenous</td>
<td>P, O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ixabepiolone</td>
<td>Ixempra</td>
<td>Bristol-Myers Squibb</td>
<td>Antineoplastic agent</td>
<td>Intravenous</td>
<td>1-P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lapatinib</td>
<td>Tykerb</td>
<td>GlaxoSmithKline</td>
<td>Antineoplastic agent</td>
<td>Oral</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisdxemetamine dimesylate</td>
<td>Vyvanse</td>
<td>Shire</td>
<td>Agent for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>1-S</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maraviroc</td>
<td>Salzentrty</td>
<td>Pfizer</td>
<td>Antiviral agent</td>
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<td>Nilotinib</td>
<td>Tasigna</td>
<td>Novartis</td>
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<td>Oral</td>
<td>1-S, O</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Pulperidone</td>
<td>Invega</td>
<td>Janssen</td>
<td>Antipsychotic agent</td>
<td>Oral</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Raltegravir</td>
<td>Isentress</td>
<td>Merck</td>
<td>Antiviral agent</td>
<td>Oral</td>
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<td>Retapamulin</td>
<td>Altobax</td>
<td>GlaxoSmithKline</td>
<td>Antibacterial agent</td>
<td>Topical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rotigotine</td>
<td>Neupro</td>
<td>Schwarz Pharma</td>
<td>Antiparkinson agent</td>
<td>Transdermal</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sapropterin dihydrochloride</td>
<td>Kuvan</td>
<td>BioMarin</td>
<td>Agent for phenylketonuria</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temsirolimus</td>
<td>Torisel</td>
<td>Wyeth</td>
<td>Antineoplastic agent</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>1-P, O</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*FDA classification of new drugs: 1 = new molecular entity; 4 = new combination; 0 = designated orphan drug; P = priority review; S = standard review

*New Drug Comparison Rating (NCDR): 5 = important advance; 4 = significant advantage(s); 3 = no or minor advantage(s)/disadvantage(s), or advantage(s)/disadvantage(s) of similar importance; 2 = significant disadvantage(s); 1 = important disadvantage(s).

A biological approved through an FDA procedure that does not assign a numerical classification.
Index for Volume 1, 2006

January (No. 1)  The Sleeping Giant
       Editor’s Note
       New Drug Review: Pregabalin (Lyrica)

February (No. 2)  The Medicare Prescription Benefit??
       Letter to Senator Rick Santorum
       New Drug Review: Eszopiclone (Lunesta)

March (No. 3)  A Tribute and a Warning
       Letter to President Bush
       New Drug Review:ibandronate (Boniva)

April (No. 4)  Independent Pharmacists-The Front Line of our Profession
       Distinguished Leadership
       New Drug Review: Lubiprostone (Amitiza)

May (No. 5)  The Justice Department Should Not Settle with Medco!
       Inspiration
       New Drug Review: Varenicline tartrate (Chantix)

June (No. 6)  Shame on CVS!
       Target Provides some Good Examples
       New Drug Review: Insulin detemir (Levemir)

July (No. 7)  Pfizer Should Pay Pharmacists to Counsel Patients
       about Exubera
       Sesquicentennial
       New Drug Review: Insulin glulisine (Apidra)

August (No. 8)  When Price Controls are Established for Drugs, Big Pharma
       will have Only Itself to Blame
       A Positive Step
       New Drug Review: Rasagiline mesylate (Azilect)

September (No. 9)  September 11
       New Drug Review: Darunavir (Prezista)

October (No. 10)  Wal-Mart’s Generics Scam Ignores the Professional Role
       of its Pharmacists
       It is Almost Election Day! Do You Know What Your
       Candidates Stand For?
       New Drug Review: Ranolazine (Ranexa)

November (No. 11)  No More Excuses! Let’s Get Cigarettes Out
       of Pharmacies!
       Paying $155 Million Means Never Having to Say You are
       Sorry (or Admit to any Wrongdoing)
       New Drug Review: Sitagliptin phosphate (Januvia)

December (No. 12)  A Christmas Letter
       A Gift of Life
       New Drug Review: Telbivudine (Tyzeka)

Index for Volume 2, 2007

January (No. 1)  A New Year, an Old Theme
       New Drug Review: Paliperidone (Invega)
       Editor’s Note

February (No. 2)  Ten Thousand and One Pfizer Employees Lose Jobs — But the
       “One” is Very Different
       Editor’s Note
       The Gettysburg Address
       New Drug Review: Posaconazole (Noxafil)
       New Drug Review: Ranibizumab (Lucentis)

March (No. 3)  Pharmacy Must Demand Fair and Immediate Payment for
       Medications and Services!
       New Drug Review: Alikiren hemifumarate (Tekturna)
       The Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEIs)
       The Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers (ARBs)

April (No. 4)  The 20/20 Report on Pharmacy Errors — An Indictment of
       Some Chain Pharmacies
       The Right Way to Practice Pharmacy
       New Drug Review: Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate (Vyvanse)

May (No. 5)  Pharmacy Errors: Part 2 “More Prescriptions Faster”
       Policies of Some Chain Pharmacies Increase the Risk of Errors
       New Drug Review: Retapamulin (Altabax)

June (No. 6)  If CMS and AMP do not Turn Pharmacists into Activists, What
       Will?
       New Drug Review: Rofiotine (Neupro)

July (No. 7)  The Assault on Compounding Must be Rejected!
       New Drug Review: Bismuth subcitrate potassium (Pylera
       [with metronidazole and tetracycline])

August (No. 8)  Let Your Conscience be Your Guide! (but some pharmacists are
       being denied this right)
       New Drug Review: Levacetirizine dihydrochloride (Xyzal)

September (No. 9)  Save the Independent Pharmacists!
       New Drug Review: Maraviroc (Selzentry)

October (No. 10)  Behind-the-Counter (BTC) — Long Overdue but, Let’s
       Seize the Day!
       New Drug Review: Raltegravir (Isentress)

November (No. 11)  More Profits or More Blindness? Genentech Should
       Rescind its Action Against Compounding Pharmacies!
       New Drug Review: Lapatinib (Tykerb)

December (No. 12)  We are Blessed! To Whom Much is Given.....
       Editor’s Note
       New Drugs of 2007

Cumulative Index for Volume 1, 2006 and Volume 2, 2007

Editor’s Note: All issues of The Pharmacist Activist are available without charge at www.pharmacistactivist.com.

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