

ADD
2008
highlights

COMPOUNDERS ON CAPITOL HILL (CCH): A HISTORY OF AFFECTING CHANGE

For 13 consecutive years, IACP members have traveled to Washington, D.C. for a legislative conference—Compounders on Capitol Hill. This effort has resulted in tremendous strides over the past 13 years in educating Senators and Representatives about the compounding profession. Compounding has gone from being a little known practice to having a strong and steady presence in Washington, and compounding pharmacists are listened to by legislators and regulators.

2007

In 2007, IACP hosted its most successful Annual Meeting & Compounders on Capitol Hill in the history of the organization. Not only were there more attendees than ever before—404 to be exact— but the number of companies that exhibited was also a significant jump from previous years, with 30 companies participating. Perhaps the most exciting milestone of the Annual Meeting was the overwhelming success of Compounders on Capitol Hill. Of more than 285 Congressional offices visited, the overwhelming majority indicated that they had heard from patient and prescriber members of Patients and Professionals for Customized Care (P2C2) about the importance of compounding, and many Hill offices commented on the impact of P2C2. IACP hosted an inaugural PAC luncheon, which raised \$16,700 to directly benefit IACP's political action committee. And of course, the IACP Foundation's Rx Mixer Visits Woodstock was a huge accomplishment in raising money to fund research and education initiatives that benefit the compounding profession.

2006

The 2006 IACP Annual Meeting & Compounders on Capitol Hill was one of our largest meetings ever with roughly 300 attendees. IACP continued to offer excellent continuing education programming on quality, marketing, public affairs issues and more. The Rx Mixer grossed more than \$127,000 for IACP Foundation with more than \$15,000 dedicated for immediate funding for research. Pharmacists took to the Hill to talk to their Members of Congress about FDA Citizen Petitions filed by pharmaceutical companies to restrict the availability of BHRT and other compounded medications. Pharmacists circulated a model letter, which numerous Members of Congress sent to FDA to ensure that FDA did not unduly restrict access to compounded medications by supporting the recommendations of the Citizen Petitions.

2005

In 2004, IACP members took to the Hill objecting to FDA's veterinary compounding CPG. As a result of that meeting, FDA publicly agreed to revise its compounding CPGs. However, June 2005 arrived with no action by the FDA. Thus, at CCH 2005,

compounders visited the Hill highlighting FDA's failure to fulfill its promises and asking Congress to hold FDA accountable to revising and reissuing the promised CPGs. In total, 82 Congressmen and 26 Senators signed letters that requested FDA to explain to Congress the delay in revising the CPGs and to reissue the CPGs promptly. In addition, 5 Congressmen and Senators sent individual letters, bringing our grand total to 113 total supporters – an unprecedented success! IACP also offered two days of continuing education to more than 300 compounding pharmacists, which was a resounding success. Continuing education topics covered quality assurance, testing of compounded medications, legal issues relating to compounding and marketing your practice.

2004

During IACP's 10th Annual Meeting, compounders took the fight for animal compounding rights to D.C. Thanks to attendee dedication and persistence, IACP was able to secure support from 48 Representatives and 18 Senators who signed on to our respective House and Senate letters regarding the rescission of FDA's Veterinary Compliance Policy Guide (CPG). In addition, Senators Corzine (NJ), Cornyn (TX), and Nelson (FL), along with Representatives Boozman (AR-3), Franks (MA-4), and Tiberi (OH-12) sent their own copy of the letter. Continuing education involved updates on accreditation, USP and a visit from Small Business Administration National Ombudsman Michael Barrera.

2003

IACP's 9th Annual Meeting and Compounders on Capitol Hill was once again a success thanks to all of our dedicated members. More than 120 Congressmen and 80 Senators received the compounding message this year. Because of the amount of attendees, we were able to demonstrate strength in numbers on Capitol Hill to garner support for H.R. 2232, which would clarify application of the 1987 Prescription Drug Marketing Act (PDMA). We had nine legislators agree to co-sponsor this bill before the meeting was even over. IACP once again offered two days of continuing education that included how to avoid pharmacy compounding errors, marketing tips, media training and much more.

2002

Compounding pharmacists once again stormed the Hill in 2002 to garner support for H.R. 68 and S.1132, bills that offered relief from the proposed stringent Prescription Drug Marketing Act regulations. Pharmacists met great success this year, adding more than 40 names to the cosponsor list for the bills. IACP once again welcomed representatives from leading pharmacy organizations to offer their insight on how the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to strike down Section 503A would affect the practice of pharmacy. In addition to offering members access to their elected Representatives, IACP expanded its programming to include invaluable continuing education and offered participants access to vendors dedicated to meeting the needs of compounding pharmacists.

2001

FDA issued a final rule implementing the Prescription Drug Marketing Act (PDMA) that could have greatly reduced the number of active ingredients available for compounding pharmacists. More than 230 participants returned to Capitol Hill to secure support for H.R. 68, a bill designed to fix the PDMA regulations. As a result of the Hill visits, 20 new co-sponsors were added to H.R. 68 and a Senate Bill (S.1132) was introduced. In addition, a panel of organizations including USP, FDA, NABP, APhA, ASHP, NCPA, and PhRMA participated in IACP's Professional Connection Luncheon to address the future of regulatory environment for compounding in light of an Appellate Court decision that ruled the compounding section of the FDAMA is unconstitutional.

2000

In March 2000, more than 100 compounding pharmacists convened in Washington, D.C. for IACP's annual event, Compounders on Capitol Hill, to educate legislators about the issues affecting compounding pharmacists and how a compounding pharmacist promotes the health of patients. One of the issues that IACP pharmacists communicated to legislators was the regulation of Internet pharmacy. Now legislation has been introduced addressing health care in this new arena.

1999

Our education of Congress continued. "Compounders on Capitol Hill" in 1999 discussed the FDA's draft MOU, a particularly troubling example of "overreach" by the FDA. We urged the Senators and Representatives to notify the agency of their concerns with the arbitrary limits on dispensing compounded prescriptions. Within days of our lobbying, a discussion about the draft MOU took place on the Senate floor. Also, numerous Congressional letters were sent to FDA expressing concerns about the draft MOU. At a Senate hearing in October, in response to a question by Senator Tim Hutchinson, the FDA Administrator admitted that the FDA had "missed the mark" on the MOU and would be revisiting the issue.

1998

Having been successful in passing the bill, 100 pharmacists met for the 1998 "Compounders on Capitol Hill" to thank their Senators and Representatives for passing the legislation and to ask them to closely monitor FDA's implementation of the law. As a result of these meetings on the Hill, more than 60 Members of Congress sent letters to the FDA regarding the compounding provisions of the law, specifically addressing their concerns about the FDA Pharmacy Compounding Advisory Committee and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

1997

With Representative Brewster's retirement from Congress, compounding pharmacists enlisted Representative Richard Burr (R-NC) and Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-AR) to take the lead on the compounding legislation. Representative Burr introduced compounding legislation (H.R. 1060) in the House. For the first time, IACP gained a vocal supporter in the Senate. Senator Hutchinson was able to add language similar to H.R. 1060 in the broad Senate FDA reform package. With legislation being considered in both the House and Senate, more than 100 "Compounders on Capitol Hill" heeded Representative Burr's challenge that we continue to stand up for our rights and redouble our efforts to educate more Members of Congress. The Washington lobbying efforts, in tandem with the thousands of grassroots letters, faxes and phone calls, paid off—compounding preservation was passed and signed into law as part of the Food and Drug Administration Act of 1997 (FDAMA).

1996

The next year, 1996, saw sweeping FDA reform legislation introduced in the House of Representatives, with Representative Brewster's compounding legislation an important element of the package. More than 100 IACP members attended the second "Compounders on Capitol Hill," encouraging their members of Congress to co-sponsor the Brewster bill and urging them to pass FDA reform legislation. Because of these meetings, the number of co-sponsors shot up to 141. Although Congress did not pass the legislation in 1996, two years worth of IACP members' efforts with lawmakers had created broad awareness of the compounding issue and laid the ground work for passage in the next Congress.

1995

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) challenged compounding pharmacists' right to compound prescriptions. As a result, the profession began the process of asking Congress to enact legislation to protect our right to compound. The first ever "Compounders on Capitol Hill" took place in Washington with more than 100 pharmacists from 30 states answering this "call to action." Our mission—educate Members of Congress about our profession and the need for them to co-sponsor legislation to preserve our profession. Representative Bill Brewster (D-OK), a pharmacist, introduced The Pharmacy Compounding Preservation Act (H.R. 598) and by the end of 1995, thanks to the visibility of compounding pharmacists, the bill had attracted more than 70 co-sponsors.