



The

Faith Script

Winter, 2005

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In the News...

RU-486 Update

By Bert Wagner

On 15 November 2004, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced an important labeling change for Danco Laboratories labeling of Mifeprex (mifepristone, also known as RU-486). Mifepristone was approved in 2000 for the termination of early pregnancy, defined as 49 days or less, under a fast-track policy designed for rapid approval of life-saving experimental treatments for patients with lethal diseases, such as AIDS or cancer. According to FDA Commissioner Jane E. Henney, the decision to finally approve RU-486 was the result of "careful evaluation of the scientific evidence related to the safe and effective use of this drug." The regimen had not caused any fatalities and had been shown to be free from the risk of uterine perforation and complications caused by anesthesia in surgical interventions. The most commonly

reported side effects were abdominal pain and heavy menstrual-type bleeding for a short duration. However, since then, the FDA and Danco Laboratories have received reports of serious and sometimes fatal infections, bleeding, and ectopic pregnancies that have ruptured. These reports have led to the revision of the black box labeling.

The original black box warning only discussed the potential complication of incomplete abortion. The new information reminds health care providers that serious bacterial infection and sepsis may occur without the usual signs of infection, such as fever and tenderness on examination. Health care providers should be aware that prolonged, heavy bleeding may warrant surgical interventions. The label also warns that health care providers should be vigilant for patients with undiagnosed ectopic pregnancies (tubal pregnancies) as this condition may be missed by physical examination and ultrasound. Some of the symptoms of an ectopic pregnancy may mimic the expected

symptoms of a medical termination of pregnancy. Mifepristone is not effective for termination of these pregnancies.

For consumers, the Medication Guide states patients should contact their health care provider right away if they develop fever, abdominal pain, and heavy bleeding. Also, consumers are advised to take their Medication Guide to the emergency room or any health care provider they visit for the problem. This allows health care providers to understand that the patient is undergoing a termination of pregnancy, and assess risks associated with that condition.

The letter, label, and other information can be found on the FDA's Web site at: www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/mifepristone.

More information on the abortion drug RU-486 may be found at the National Right to Life Web site at: <http://www.nrlc.org/RU486/ru486info.html>.

Message from the President

Greetings to each of you!

It is hard to believe that half of the CPFI year is gone.

We had a very successful Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on Thursday, November 11, 2004 in Louisville, Kentucky, at the Southeast Christian Church. Fourteen members attended, and one high school student attended to take notes as one of her class projects.

Information and notes from the meeting:

- We were happy to hear that 75 pharmacists and 79 guests (spouses and children) attended our CPFI meeting in Glen Erie, Colorado in June, 2004.
- The 2005 annual meeting will be at Springmaid Beach, SC, in June--Sunday 12th thru Wednesday 15th. BOD and early arrivals will arrive on Friday, June 10th.
- Prayer Breakfasts will be held at the following meetings (and possibly others) during 2005: APhA – March, Orlando; ACCP – November, San Francisco; AAPS, November, Baltimore; ASHP – December, Las Vegas, plus state associations.

If your state association does not have a prayer breakfast, get in touch with Allan or me and we will help you make it happen for your state. The Florida Pharmacy Association held their first one in July 2004. Visit our web site at www.CPFI.org for more information.

- Our nominations committee is starting to think about nominations for 2005-2006. The following positions will be open and need your input: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and four board members. Please contact Dan Spadaro at 501-686-6491 or e-mail spadarodanielc@uams.edu and nominate yourself or a member of CPFI.

(Continued on page 3)

~ ❁ ~ Dispensing Hope and Encouragement ~ ❁ ~

CHRISTIAN PHARMACISTS FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

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I have been practicing retail pharmacy for the past eight years and as the years go by, I realize that GOD is incorporated in every cell of our body. His word manifests its life in regard to treating all ailments, present, past, and future.

There was a patient that had her anti-seizure medication filled for epilepsy. We began to talk and I learned that the epilepsy came from when she had a cyst removed from the temporal lobe of her brain. We began to pray that God would give her peace and easiness during her illness. I shared Matthew 17:14-18 about how Jesus healed a man believed to have a demonic spirit when He could have had epilepsy. Jesus healed the man and asked his disciples why they had so little faith. Over time, she began to have fewer and fewer seizures and has had a better sense of peace and happiness. She says it means so much to her that I came out and prayed with her in agreement that God's will be done.

Another patient recently had a stroke and she was scared that she didn't know who she was anymore because of the damage the stroke had done to the cognitive portions of her brain. So I shared that God knows every man creature and tree because He created these things in His image. I explained that

God knows her that intimately (Isaiah 40:26). We prayed that God would love her and wrap His arms around her and after we said the prayer she said she felt so much better despite being so sick with the stroke and other conditions.

Another patient had stomach problems in which she was constipated and nauseous. Neither the doctor nor the hospital could determine what was wrong with her. So I offered to pray with her putting my hand on the area of her stomach that was bothering her and prayed to God for healing (John 7:38). Each subsequent time I saw her not only did she not have any more stomach problems, but also she looked like she was more at peace with herself.

There was a patient whose hands were hurting because of carpal tunnel syndrome. She had to take strong pain medication to manage the pain. We talked and I held her sore wrist and said a prayer asking God to put life into the hand I was touching. (Ecc. 9:10) She later said that her hand felt better and she normally does not let people hold her hand, but when I touched her hand, she felt something special, like a warm feeling. Not only does God give life to hands, but to every bone in the human body. In Ezekiel 37:1-5, God's spirit speaks to a valley of dry

bones and these bones came back to life and thrived regardless of the ailment (e.g., arthritis, osteoporosis). God's word and spirit can breathe life into otherwise weak aching bones.

There was another patient who came into the pharmacy who had had two previous back surgeries which were unsuccessful. She experienced severe lower back pain along with numbness down both legs. She was scheduled to have a third surgery on a different section of her back. Before the surgery, I offered to hold her up in prayer and gave her 7 scriptures on healing (1 Peter 2:24, Isaiah 53:6, Psalms 107:20, Malachi 4:2, James 5:14, Matthew 4:24, Matthew 9:35). She had the surgery and said that the surgery was a great success because she has no more numbness in her legs. The doctor said that she could return to work in about 2-3 weeks. In Matthew 8:1, someone went to Jesus praying for healing for leprosy. At the time the passage was written, the term leprosy was used to describe a great many skin conditions. Jesus touched a man requesting healing and through the man's faith he was healed. If we ask Jesus to touch us on the inside and out He can heal any skin condition.

There is something in God's word for every ailment. In John 8:36, the Lord says the truth shall make you free. The more you know about the ailment and the part of the body it affects then you can apply this wisdom and knowledge in order to treat your condition. From here you can claim your healing through faith.

Matthew Green
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Annual Meeting June 10 - 15, 2005

The CPFI Annual meeting is back at Myrtle Beach. Attending this annual meeting is a must! There will be plenty of family activities, food, prayer, and of course CE! Come and enjoy a pharmacy program from a Christian perspective. Make sure and bring a friend (or two!).

I would like to join CPFI's Circle of Friends so that the Newsletter and Journal may continue to be published.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PLEDGE AMOUNT _____

We will acknowledge your pledge by name (not by amount) in upcoming issues of Faith Script, unless you wish to remain anonymous (check here). Please send this coupon to CPFI in the enclosed envelope. Thank you and God bless!

Please fill out the Circle of Friends Box and mail a check to CPFI, or send a check with "Circle of Friends" listed in the memo section.

Message From the President (Continued)

- General member dues will increase from \$50 to \$70 per year starting January 1, 2005.
- A number of missions trips are planned. If you have not been on one, please prayerfully consider going. It is a life changing experience. For information, please call Ron Herman, 319-354-2195 or e-mail at ronherman@mchsi.com
- Our BOD met in Louisville so that we could also attend the Medical Missions conference on Friday and Saturday, November 12th and 13th. This is the largest missions conference in the nation with 2300 in attendance. An added plus to the conference is the offering of Christian mission Continuing Education credits. (I obtained 6 hours credit on my pharmacy license requirements while

being blessed by good Christian teaching).

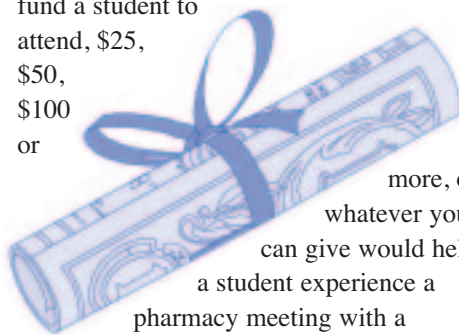
I look forward to seeing each of you and your families at the beach in June, and pray that God will continue to bless the work of CPFI and lead each of us in the way He would have us go. May we be open to His guidance.

In Christ's Name, Herb Hames

Help Introduce a Student to CPFI

The CPFI Board has set a goal of fostering greater student participation in our organization. We would like to see more students at our annual meeting, but for many, the cost is prohibitive. Please consider sponsoring a student to attend the CPFI Annual Meeting in Springmaid Beach, SC. The meeting brochure will have a section in

which you can send in a little extra to help fund a student to attend, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more, or whatever you can give would help a student experience a pharmacy meeting with a Christian focus. Even if you can't attend



the meeting this year, you can complete the sponsorship section of the meeting registration form and send it to CPFI. Students interested in attending the annual meeting must contact CPFI (cpfi.org) prior to the meeting if they wish to receive financial support. The available funds will be split equally amongst the students who attend the meeting. Help invest in the future of CPFI by supporting our students.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor, The Faith Script:

Two letters were written to the editor in the Fall 2004 issue of the Faith Script agreeing with the FDA's rejection of morning-after-pills for over-the-counter status. I too agree for many of the same reasons, but I must comment and expand on one of the statements made. "If indeed it (the morning-after-pill) prevents implantation of the fertilized egg, the use of it would in essence amount to an abortion.... On the other hand, if it prevents the occurrence of ovulation, it would be no different than standard contraception...."

Birth control pills, like morning-after-pills,

work in three major ways. By 1) preventing ovulation, 2) thickening cervical mucus to prevent sperm from traveling to the uterus, and 3) preventing implantation. This can be found in the prescribing information for all birth control pills, and the prevention of implantation is the primary mechanism of action for progestin-only contraceptives.

Since women can become pregnant on the pill, we know they can certainly ovulate. If they can ovulate, fertilization can occur and there will be a fertilized egg (which for me translates as "life") that will be unable to implant in the woman's uterus – a chemical abortion. Please, please re-look at the prescriber's information for these medications and then pray about it. I for one, conscientiously object to filling/dispensing/counseling on all medications of this sort.

If anyone is interested in more information about pharmacists practicing in retail environments that do not involve dispensing oral contraceptives, you can either contact me, or Lloyd Duplantis at www.lloydsremedies.com or call 1-888-872-5030.

Matthew Thill, Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate 2005, UW-Madison Marshfield, WI
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Editors Note: CPFI does not endorse any website listed in a Letter to the Editor. Content of suggested websites has not been reviewed for accuracy by the CPFI Editorial Staff.

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GLOBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATION MISSION TRIP CALENDAR



For more information on these mission trips, call 423-844-1000 or e-mail gho@cmdahome.org or The Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA)

You can also contact Ronald Herman, ronherman@mchsi.com to learn more about short-term mission trips.

2004 - 2005 Upcoming Project Schedule

JAN 13 - 29, 05
Ethiopia

JAN 13 - 29, 05
Ghana

General Surgery, Primary Med & Dentistry

JAN 15 - 23, 05
Panama

Prison Ministry, Needs Primary Caregivers

JAN 22 - FEB 5, 05
Ecuador

Needs Volunteers

FEB 12 - 20, 05
Honduras

Prison Ministry, No minors

FEB 12 - 26, 05
El Sembrador, Honduras

MAR 4 - 12, 05
Ecuador

MAR 11 - 20, 05

La Esperanza, Honduras

MAR 12 - 20, 05

San Salvador, El Salvador

APR 1 - 15, 05

Cameroon

APR 2 - 10, 05

Valladolid, Mexico

APR 9 - 16, 05

Palenque, Mexico

Urology Specialty

APR 14 - 25, 05

Moldova

GHO has the following Urgent Needs:

- Pharmacist - Honduras (PFI) - Feb. 12-20, 2005
- Pharmacist - El Sembrador, Honduras - Feb. 12 - 26, 2005
- Pharmacist - Cameroon Apr. 1 - 15, 2005
- Pharmacist - Valladolid, Mexico - Apr. 2 - 10, 2005

APR 15 - 29, 05
Guizhou, China

APR 16 - 21, 05

El Triunfo, Honduras

MAY 7 - 15, 05

San Rafael, Ecuador

MAY 7 - 21, 05

Ecuador

Obstetrics/Gynecology

MAY 21 - 29, 05

Villa Nueva, Honduras

JUN 17 - JUL 2, 05

Nigeria

Surgery

JUL 23 - 31, 05

Tela/Atlantida, Honduras

Family Trip

JUL 30 - AUG 7, 05

Guatemala

**All trips welcome Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants, Physical Therapists, Optometrists, Nurses, Techs, Students, Interpreters, and Non-Medical Volunteers unless noted as a specialty team.*



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PRAYER BREAKFAST

APhA2005 in Orlando, FL

April 3, 2005

7:30am - 8:45am

Tickets (\$15/person) can be ordered when registering for APhA conference.

