



The

# Faith Script

Fall 2005

Vol. 22 Issue 4

## In The News...

### Drug Advisory Warning on Mifeprex

By Bert Wagner

On July 19, 2005, the Food and Drug Administration issued a Public Health Advisory concerning the risk of sepsis and medical abortion involving Mifeprex (mifepristone or RU-486). The Mifeprex labeling has also been updated to reflect these concerns. The advisory was based on reports of four women in the United States who died from sepsis after medical abortion with mifepristone and misoprostol. The bacteria that caused the sepsis in two of the cases has been identified as *Clostridium sordelli*. Of concern is the fact that these patients had no fever and non-specific symptoms including weakness, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea with or without abdominal pain. As such symptoms are to be anticipated with mifepristone medical abortion, patients may not seek medical attention until it is too late. More information concerning this issue may be found at the FDA website (<http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/mifepristone/default.htm>). A similar case was reported in 2001 from a Canadian clinical trial of mifepristone in which a young woman died from *C. sordelli* septic shock eight days after initiating a medical abortion procedure despite intensive treatment, including broad-spectrum antibiotics (ampicillin, gentamicin, and clindamycin).<sup>1</sup>

Clostridia are part of the normal vaginal flora. Infections

with *C. sordelli* are rare with only 22 cases (8 in OB/Gyn patients) reported in the literature. The infections are uniformly fatal. Factors predisposing patients to this infection include trauma and necrosis of retained decidua. However, in cases of medical abortion, these cases may occur even when abortion is complete.<sup>1</sup> Patients with *C. sordelli* infections may initially present with non-specific symptoms including nausea, dizziness, abdominal pain, and tachycardia. Laboratory findings include leucocytosis with a left shift and elevated hemoglobin levels. Of note is a general absence of fever or purulent discharge. Hence, early recognition of this type of medical abortion complication is not likely to occur and the results may be fatal.

Abortion has been touted as another way for women to be free-spirited and safe from the bondage of motherhood. However, as with most matters related to pregnancy prevention or termination, women rather than men, find themselves shouldering the responsibilities and consequences thereof - a rather rotten deal for women.

1. Wiebe E, Guilbert E, Jacot F, Shannon C, Winikoff B. A fatal case of clostridium sordelli septic shock syndrome associated with medical abortion. *Obstet Gynecol* 2004;104 (Suppl 5):1142-1144.

## Should pharmacists refuse to fill prescriptions that conflict with their personal beliefs?

Medscape conducted an international poll from July 12 to 19, 2005 of the online users of their service asking whether pharmacists should reject medical prescriptions that conflict with their personal beliefs. The results were disturbing:

Yes, pharmacists should refuse to fill prescriptions that conflict with their personal beliefs... 22% (1219)

No, pharmacists should not refuse to fill prescriptions that conflict with their personal beliefs... 77% (4219)

**Total Responses: 5438**

However, Medscape admitted that they do not currently have a system that will allow them to capture responses from pharmacists only. This poll includes all health professionals. The only subcategories are physicians and nurses. Both physicians and nurses were strongly opposed with 85% and 87%, respectively. That means that other health professionals must

have answered "yes" more often to come up with the overall 77% "no" rate.

An article then appeared on August 16, 2005 discussing the results and listed many written responses that were received from pharmacists. Some comments were inspiring, but there were an equal number of disturbing ones. It would be worth your time to read the written comments in the article.

Medscape is a free service, you just need to register the first time you access their system. The exact link to the article for those already registered with Medscape is: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/510299?src=mp>

You can also join an online discussion of this topic at: <http://www.medscape.com/px/discussions/29d46bac>

From the poll and written comments, it looks like we have much opposition against us in our right to refuse fight. However, there are more pharmacists out there who agree with a pharmacist's right to refuse than the media has indicated. Stay strong, remember we have the Lord on our side.

~\*~ Dispensing Hope and Encouragement ~\*~

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**The Food and Drug Administration's** 60-day window for public comment on over-the-counter distribution of the "morning-after pill" (also known as emergency contraception or Plan B) without a prescription runs out on Nov. 1. There is increasing pressure on the Agency to quickly approve this nonprescription status despite moral implications and the lack of adequate safety information supporting such a decision. Please contact FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford and let him know how you feel about plans to make Plan B available over the counter. His contact information is:

E-Mail: [fda.commissioner@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:fda.commissioner@fda.hhs.gov) Web Site: [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)  
 Phone: (888) 463-6332 Fax: (301) 443-3100  
 Address: 5600 Fishers Ln., Rockville, MD 20857

## GLOBAL HEALTH OUTREACH MISSION TRIP CALENDAR

For more information on these mission trips, call 423-844-1000 or e-mail [gho@cmdahome.org](mailto:gho@cmdahome.org) or The Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA). You can also contact Ronald Herman, [ronherman@mchsi.com](mailto:ronherman@mchsi.com) to learn more about short-term mission trips.

<b>Oct 22 - 30</b> Honduras	<b>March 10-19</b> Hanoi, Vietnam	<b>June 2006</b> Obodu, Nigeria
<b>Nov 5 - 19</b> Ecuador	<b>March 11-19</b> Langué, Honduras	<b>June 23-Jul 7</b> Kitwe, Zambia
<b>Dec 3 - 11</b> Honduras	<b>April, 2006</b> Guizhou, China	<b>August 2006</b> Shenyang, China
<b>January 21-28</b> Valladolid, Mexico Applicants must be pre-approved by Team Leader	<b>April 1-8</b> Valladolid, Mexico	<b>August 2006</b> St. Marc, Haiti
<b>Jan 28 - Feb 11</b> Ethiopia	<b>April 13-24</b> Moldova	<b>August 2006</b> El Salvador
<b>Jan 28 - Feb 11</b> Vilcambamba/Cuenca, Ecuador	<b>April 22-30</b> El Paraiso, Honduras	<b>Sept 28 - Oct 14</b> Sogakope, Ghana
<b>Feb 4 - 11</b> La Esperanza, Honduras	<b>April 22 - May 6</b> Cuenca, Ecuador	<b>October 7-15</b> San Cristobal, Mexico
<b>February 11-25</b> El Sembrador, Honduras	<b>May 2006</b> Kabul, Afghanistan	<b>October 2006</b> Yuxi, China
<b>February 2006</b> Burkina Faso, West Africa	<b>May 2006</b> San Rafael, Ecuador	<b>Oct OR Nov 2006</b> Valladolid, Mexico
<b>February 18-26</b> Palenque, Mexico	<b>May 20-28</b> Villa Nueva, Honduras	<b>Oct OR Nov 2006</b> Mexico
<b>Mar 18-26</b> San Salvador, El Salvador	<b>June 16-24</b> Chimborazo Province, Ecuador	*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.
	<b>June 2006</b> Ndola, Zambia	

## 2005 Teachers of the Year Award

AACP recognized the accomplishments of outstanding faculty from U.S. member and affiliate colleges and schools of pharmacy during the AACP Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. Honorees were recognized at a special luncheon and at the closing banquet. Teachers were selected by students and faculty at their individual schools. CPFI would like to recognize our members that received this award:

Joel E. Hougum, South Dakota State University  
 Donald Nuzum, Wingate University  
 C. Wayne Weart, Medical University of South Carolina  
 Kristin W. Weitzel, University of Florida  
 Richard E. Wilcox, University of Texas at Austin

## School News

**Promotions:** Miranda R. Andrus, clinical associate professor, Auburn University

### Awards and Recognition:

Paul W. Jungnickel from Auburn University has been elected national secretary of the Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society  
 Sid Nelson from University of Washington was named to the Rho Chi Alumni Honor Roll

## Global Mission Health Conference

On November 11-12 of this year, CPFI, along with the Christian Medical and Dental Associations and 6 to 8 other Christian organizations are sponsoring the 10th annual Global Health Missions Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. If you have been involved in medical missions previously, or are interested to find out more about it, this conference is a must! It is only \$60 for pharmacists to register (meals are included) and Continuing Education Credits are available for an additional \$20. Students pay only \$20 with meals included. Free housing is available for students. All the details are available at: [www.medicalmissions.com](http://www.medicalmissions.com). See you in Louisville!

## GHO has the following Urgent Needs:

**Alianza/Valle, Honduras, Dec 3-11, 2005**

**Who:** Physicians (Family Practice, Internist, Peds, OBGYN), Dentists, Dental Assistants, Pharmacists, Nurses, Physical Therapists, Logistics (Non-medical helpers)

**Status:** Accepting applications

**Est. Project Fee:** \$1,600

**Team Leader:** Dr. Bill Sasser

## SPECIAL MEMBERS

### Contributing Member

Ralph J. Duff Sr  
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## In Remembrance: Mary Anne Sharbaugh

We are saddened to inform the readers that one of our former assistant editors, Mary Anne Sharbaugh passed away Friday evening, June 24th. She had been battling cancer since June of last year. According to Kim Whitney (Harvey Whitney's daughter), the service was very beautiful. "I can honestly say I have not attended a service with such an overwhelming presence of God. Mary Anne was truly a warrior for Jesus. All those attending were proof of how His light shined through Mary Anne and impacted everyone's life."

### In Memory...

### The following is from the local paper:

Family and Friends are invited to attend a Memorial Service Honoring Mary Anne's Life at Montgomery Community Church, 11251 Montgomery Rd., Montgomery, OH, Wednesday June 29th at 2pm. Beginning at 1:00pm the family will gather with friends at the church. Immediately following the memorial service family and friends are invited to a "Life Celebration" reception in the church fellowship area. Family requests that memorial contributions in memory of Mary Anne be directed to the American Cancer Society, Hamilton County Unit 2808 Reading Rd. Cincinnati, Ohio 45206.

## Prayer Breakfast Reports



### American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

Approximately 52 attendees enjoyed a stimulating presentation by Dan Brown entitled: "Moses, George Washington and the Golden Calf of Modern Times," concerning how our society is repeating some of the mistakes people made during

Moses' time and what we can do to reverse the trend. Look for a written version of Dan's presentation in the next issue of *Christianity and Pharmacy*.

### Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPhA)

"I feel certain that the prayers that were offered up on behalf of the meeting were effective indeed," writes Warren

Weaver, founder of CPFI. "We had a group of 35 people come to visit with their fellow sisters and brothers and listen to my presentation on Change...which was the theme of the overall convention. For a Tuesday morning after a shindig that lasted well into the evening previous, it is surely an answer to prayer when 35 show up the next morning to be at a 7 AM meeting. We had a nice buffet breakfast with all of our tables full of attendees. Esther as usual helped pass out info and greet the folks.

We also had an exhibit in the main exhibit hall for organizations and companies that promote their products and/or activities. The system at VPhA requires that all attendees who



wish to enter the grand prize must get a signature at every advertiser's booth....so we had a good time sharing and passing out candy and brochures and journals."

## Board Members

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423-844-0667, www.bigdawgdesign.com

## Calendar of Events

### Global Missions Health Conference and BOD Meeting

November 10 to 12, 2005  
Louisville, KY

### ASHP Prayer Breakfast

December 6, 2005  
Las Vegas, NV

### APhA Prayer Breakfast

March 19, 2006  
San Francisco, CA

### 2006 CPFI Annual Meeting

June 9 to 14, 2006  
Myrtle Beach, SC

### 2007 CPFI Annual Meeting

Date and location TBA



## Update on Harvey Whitney, former editor of *Christianity and Pharmacy*

Dad is progressing every day. I watched him in the standing position during physical therapy. He was able to remain standing without support for about 2 minutes. This is a great achievement! He has a motorized wheel chair which enables him to tool about the premises and absorb this exceedingly hot summer heat!

Speaking of heat, yesterday (August 2), on my morning trip to take Daddy his mail, upon entering his unit the smoke of something burning hit me right away. Everyone walked around saying, "Do you smell something burning? It smells like smores." As I entered his room the horrific smell of "something" burning was even more intense. My eyes were burning and the physical therapists assisting Daddy said they felt nauseous from the smell. About then a worker shouted, "Call the fire department!" Within minutes here they came. Nurses and aids were moving residents in a scurry to evacuate that wing of the Center. Daddy was relocated to the physical therapy room as I took some of his personal belongings to my car. Well, long to short everyone was okay and no one was injured. There was a small fire which resulted from a clean wash cloth placed on top of a light bulb of a medicine cabinet in a resident's bathroom! Good grief! Now here's the kicker. It was in my Dad's bathroom!!! It is a mystery of how it got up there. Poor Daddy said, "Why did it have to be MY bathroom?" So, I told him, "Well, Daddy, in your high school days at KMI you were known as the "Hell Raiser" and now in your senior years you have graduated to a pyromaniac!" If we can't find humor in the struggles of life then we might as well go insane. (My theory anyway).

Second, we are asking everyone to please pray for complete healing of Daddy's liver. He has cirrhosis of the liver as a result from the toxic shock. This has caused him to develop ascites. For those of you who are unfamiliar, this is a condition which is an accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity. He has to have his stomach tapped to relieve the pressure from the fluid which causes him to bloat.

We do not accept this! We have asked in the name of Jesus to heal Daddy completely and that is the only thing we will accept and patiently wait as it happens. Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good for those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

More good news! On Friday, August 5, at 10:30 AM Daddy took 7 steps during physical therapy! This was his second time. The first time was last evening. He took 3 steps forward and backwards! It was awesome! I thought I captured it on video but I guess I was so excited that I neglected to save it. Darn! Oh well, the next video will be of Daddy walking down the hall.

On September 12th, Dad attempted to stand (with assistance and his walker) and walk across the physical therapy room. The first two tries were tough. He had some trouble getting balanced. After a brief rest and a big prayer asking God to give him the strength to "move those feet and legs!" he stood and walked. Not only did he walk he walked out of the physical therapy room and down the corridor. This was a total of 28 feet! This was the most he has traveled! Hooray Daddy and thank you Jesus! We are simply amazed at how the old devil continues to try and defeat us. We will NOT accept this and together we will pray and fight until Daddy comes home!

Then today (September 29) another miracle. The therapists helped dad to a standing position and after finding his balance he walked without holding onto anyone or anything! I said he walked about 20 feet. My dad disagrees, however, being his baby daughter I'm entitled to be a little over zealous about his accomplishments! The therapists held onto the support belt but Daddy did all the work. What a marvelous day! I am sure most of you have heard of the writing Foot Prints in the Sand by Mary Stevenson. If I may I would like to share the part that expresses what I witnessed this week.

*So I said to the Lord,  
"You promised me Lord,  
that if I followed you,  
you would walk with me always.  
But I have noticed that during the most  
trying periods of my life  
there have only been one set of footprints in the sand.  
Why, when I needed you most,  
you have not been there for me?"*

*The Lord replied,  
"The times when you have seen only  
one set of footprints in the sand,  
is when I carried you."*

This is what I witnessed this week (and every day prior) our Lord holding up my dad, walking each step of the way with him, and giving him the strength to push a little harder each day. All of this has been a direct response to all of you who have continued to pray for my dad. We praise God for you!

Thank you all for your continued love and support. Without it, our lives would be so empty!

God bless,  
Kim Whitney

**Congratulations To Fred Eckel  
for winning the University of Sciences of  
Philadelphia Annual Alumni Award.**

### *Position Announcement*

Palm Beach Atlantic University is currently conducting a search for Dean of the Lloyd L. Gregory School of Pharmacy. Interested parties are referred to the full advertisement on the PBA website: [www.pba.edu/jobsite/joblist.cfm?category=Faculty](http://www.pba.edu/jobsite/joblist.cfm?category=Faculty)

### **Faith Script Newsletter and Christianity & Pharmacy Journal Submission Deadlines**

The deadlines for each edition of the newsletter and journal are listed below. We welcome articles with a Christian focus.

<b>Newsletter #1:</b> November 15	<b>Newsletter #3:</b> June 1
<b>Spring Journal:</b> December 1	<b>Fall Journal:</b> July 1
<b>Newsletter #2:</b> February 1	<b>Newsletter #4:</b> September 1