

VIETNAMESE PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION IN THE USA

Report of Biennial General Meeting & CE Program October 24, 2004

A combined CE Program and Biennial Meeting was conducted at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Garden Grove on October 24, 2004 for an audience of 51 pharmacists coming from various areas in Southern California.

I. CE PROGRAM

At 10:30 AM, Mr. Man Nguyen, VPhA-USA Board Member, welcomed the members, guests and attendees, and introduced the speakers.

- Christopher Duong Bui, MD, Specialist on Gastroenterology and Hepatology spoke on *New treatment of Hepatitis C*. In the lively talk, Dr. Bui provided practical hints to relay to patients and customers from the pharmacist's standpoint. Most of the information is found in the book "Living with Hepatitis" that author BXDuong graciously offered to all attendees.
- An D. Nguyen, MD, Specialist in Internal Medicine, Oncology and Hematology, presented on *Hepatocellular Cancer*. The discussion was comprehensive, covering from epidemiology, risk factors, diagnosis and staging of the cancer to treatment approaches including surgery, transplantation and chemotherapy.

Mr. Bal Villanueva from Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals, sponsor of the program, was acknowledged in person. Dr Bui is the spouse of pharmacist Christine Bui, and Dr. Nguyen is the son of Board member Nguyen Duy Ai and pharmacist Anh Phuong, all present at the meeting. The course material has been approved by the California State Board of Pharmacy for two hours of credit.

II. VPhA-USA BIENNIAL MEETING

While lunch was served, Mr. Nang Duc Nguyen, VPhA-USA Secretary and Organizer of the biennial meeting greeted all attendees and introduced Mr. Hieu Duc Tran, current term President.

A. RECAPITULATION OF PAST TERM ACTIVITIES

Due to unforeseen events, the 2001-2003 term has been extended to one year. Mr. Hieu Tran gave an overview of the term's activities, notably the

- Organization of annual Christmas and New year meetings,
- Continuing education meetings for practicing pharmacists,
- Periodic committee meetings,
- Publication of the Vietnamese Pharmaceutical Journal (in its issue #5 on Anemia) and

- Collaboration with Pharmacy students associations at the University of Southern California and Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, California, in health fairs and immunization programs for the community. The sponsorship of USC and WUHS student associations is a positive step towards involving the younger generation of pharmacists to gradually take over the leadership of the VPhA-USA.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT.

Mr. Nang Nguyen reported on the association's finances, on behalf of Treasurer Bich Van Nghiem, who could not be present due to a change in work schedule.

C. ELECTION OF 2004-2006 TERM MEMBERS

The current Board of Directors has ended. The General Assembly will elect members for the new term on this day.

According to the bylaws, one-third of the 15 Board Members (or 5) are to be replaced every term. Since Mr. Quang Quoc Bui resigned early during the last term due to moving out-of-state, and the position has been vacant, this term, six members will be elected.

The election committee was composed of the following pharmacists:

Thuy Phuc Le, Ph.D.: Chair

Binh Nhung Tran, Pharm.D.: Secretary

Buu Tap Nguyen Phuc, Ph.D.: Controller

Hien Manh Nguyen, R.Ph.: Controller

Results were as follows:

1. Thang Tat Chu, Pharm.D.: 42 votes
2. Bich Van Nghiem, R.Ph: 40 votes
3. Tung Van Vu, R.Ph.: 40 votes
4. Nang Duc Nguyen, R.Ph.: 35 votes
5. Dao Mong Tran, Pharm.D.: 33 votes
6. Khiet Bui, R.Ph: 31 votes

Nine members of the Board of Directors will continue their term of service:

1. Hieu Duc Tran, R.Ph.
2. Thu Hang Tran, PharmD
3. Binh Nhung Tran, PharmD
4. Anh Kim Bui, PharmD
5. Ai Duy Nguyen, Ph.D.
6. Nhan van Le, R.Ph.
7. Lan Thuy Tran, R.Ph.
8. Thanh Dong Mai, R.Ph.
9. Man Thuc Nguyen, R.Ph.

D. SERVICE AWARDS

Recognition plaques were awarded to Board members and ad-hoc committee members during the past term for their outstanding contribution to the growth of VPhA-USA.

Please see the list below.

III. ADJOURNMENT

After pictures of the whole assembly were taken, the meeting was ended at 2:00 PM. This Biennial Meeting marked a long stride forward for the VPhA-USA, as nearly half of the number of pharmacists was from the younger generation. Several graduates have completed their studies out-of-state, at Long Island University in New York, Temple University in Philadelphia, Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. There are six Pharmacy Schools in California, and a newer one in the Northern area for a total of seven.

The new Board of Directors will meet in November 2004, and designate members of the Executive Board to fulfill the association's mission and carry on the tasks already begun, as well as plan for future ones.

Reported by Binh Nhung Tran, PharmD
Election Committee Secretary
October 24, 2004

List of Pharmacists receiving plaques of recognition:

1. Hieu Duc Tran, R.Ph. (plaque presented by Mr. Chanh Thien Cao, former Pharmacist-Colonel)
2. Thuy Phuc Le, Ph.D., former Vice-President
3. Lam Truc Huynh, R. Ph. former Board Member
4. Buu Tap Nguyen Phuc, Ph.D., Publisher/Reviewer of Vietnamese Pharmaceutical Journal
5. Bao Son Xuan Nghiem, R.Ph.
6. Ai Duy Nguyen, Ph.D., Entertainment committee at various Gala Parties.
7. Dieu Hoa Ton-nu, R.Ph. former Board Member
8. Thai Duc Nguyen, Ph.D., Guest editor of Vietnamese Pharmaceutical Journal, issue #4
9. Thu-Hang Tran, Pharm.D, Vice-President for Internal Affairs
10. Binh Nhung Tran, Pharm.D, Vice-President for Professional Development
11. Anh Kim Bui, Pharm.D., Vice-President for External Affairs
12. Man Thuc Nguyen, R.Ph., Board Member
13. Thanh Dong Mai, R.Ph., Board Member
14. Ai Lucia Tran, R.Ph.
15. Thu-Cuc Minh Le, R. Ph.
16. Nang Duc Nguyen, R.Ph., Secretary General
17. Dieu Hoa Le, R. Ph.
18. Bich Van Nghiem, R. Ph., Treasurer
19. Anh Phuong Nguyen, R. Ph.
20. Hong thi Huynh, R.Ph.
21. Lan Thuy Tran, R.Ph., Board Member
22. Anh Kim Dinh, M.S., VPhA-USA Webpage master, www.vphausa.org