ICHP President, Linda Fred welcomed meeting attendees to the Spring Meeting Annual Meeting and provided a brief overview of the recent and planned activities of ICHP. The notes from this meeting and previous Town Hall Meetings are found on the ICHP website at www.ichpnet.org.

Linda encouraged attendees to offer comments and concerns they may have with the current activities and plans of the Council during this session.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Technicians – There was a request to provide more resources for technician members by providing programming related to issues technicians often struggle with or new areas of practice. What resources are available to technicians currently are:

- Free subscription to Pharmacy Tech Topics™, ICHP’s home-study program that provides 20 hours of ACPE technician continuing education every two years including at least one hour of pharmacy law and one hour of patient safety.
- Champion webinars every other month for technicians and pharmacists and three additional 30-minute webinars in 2015 specifically for pharmacy technicians.
- Access to Champion news-briefs monthly and 10 issues of the KeePosted.
- Discounts to the Spring and Annual Meetings which provide as much as 15 hours of continuing education.
- Some local affiliate programming in areas of the State where the local affiliate is active.

ICHP will continue to explore areas where it can provide additional resources to pharmacy technician members to help them advance their careers and improve the care they provide to the patients they serve.

Champions Program – There was some confusion and a general lack of knowledge by many of the participants about ICHP Champions Program. Many attendees were not aware of the program or whether or not their pharmacy department had a Champion.

The program was established in 2009 is intended to replace some of the lost benefits the local affiliates provided when pharmaceutical industry grants were more readily available. The program provides:

- Six 30-minute ACPE accredited webinars annually on contemporary topics. These webinars are recorded and available for home-study online at www.CESally.com
- Three additional technician specific webinars will be provided in 2015.
- The Champion is responsible for setting up phone and internet access for these free webinars (non-ICHP members may not receive ACPE credit but may participate).
- The ICHP Champion receives a monthly e-mail news-brief that may be printed and posted within the pharmacy department. The news-brief provides current ICHP activities and regulatory and legislative updates.

Local Affiliates – Several of ICHP’s local affiliates have been inactive for several years due to decreased program funding by the pharmaceutical industry and decreased volunteer involvement in serving on local affiliate boards of directors. Some affiliates have been able to continue providing ACPE accredited programing by working with the ICHP office for
accreditation and by using resident presentation for the subject matter. Some industry representatives have been able to support a reception prior to the programs but separate from the programs, offsetting food and beverage costs for the affiliate.

These local meetings often serve a different purpose than just the continuing education by providing networking opportunities and friendship building. Some of the value of lives meetings cannot be replaced by webinars and home-study. Those affiliates who continue to meet have found significant benefit for all area hospital pharmacy departments.

**Online Communities** – A question was raised about using ASHP’s Connect online community to expand information exchange among ICHP members. Unfortunately, ASHP has provided ICHP with only one Community on its Connect system and with the variety of sub-groups within ICHP who may want to network, this would not be a viable alternative.

However, ICHP is in the process of developing an RFP for a new website and following that an online community system of its own. Using the Connect model, the Board believes that the new online system will create and expand member to member communication exponentially. The three ICHP Networks already in existence: Pharmacy Directors, Clinical Specialists and Researchers, and New Practitioners will be the first ones established on the new site. Others will follow as soon as a nucleus forms.

**New Practitioners Network Activities** – The New Practitioner Network has been coordinating a variety of community service events over the past year plus. They include providing meals at the Chicago Ronald McDonald House, packing meals for “Feed My Starving Children” and walking in the JDRF Walk for the Cure in Chicago. The Network is trying to expand community service opportunities statewide and may coordinate this year’s Walk for the Cure in St. Louis as well as a few sites around the Chicago area.

In addition, the NPN was invited to Breakfast with the Leaders at the Spring Meeting for past several years. ICHP leaders such as Kevin Colgan, Stan Kent, Desi Kotis and Jennifer Phillips provided insight into what it takes to be a leader within pharmacy. At the ICHP Annual Meeting, a NPN Mixer was held last year on Friday evening and it will be continued this year as a result of the successful turnout.

The NPN continues to solicit participation on ICHP’s Divisions and Committees in addition to encouraging new practitioners to consider running for any of ICHP’s elected offices.

**Additional Member Input** – If you have a question or would like to provide feedback or input to the ICHP Board of Directors, you may do so at any time by contacting the ICHP office at (815) 227-9292 or e-mailing members@ichpnet.org.