

Paul Parker Award

I would like to begin by thanking the Committee for selecting me as the 2002 recipient of the Paul F. Parker Award. As you know, the award is for both former residents and individuals who have had an association with the residency program at the University of Kentucky. There have been two previous winners of the award who were not residents, Dr. Charles Walton and Dr. Ann Amerson.

My association with Paul began in 1962 when I responded to a posting on a College of Pharmacy bulletin board that the Department of Pharmacy and Central Supply (PCS) needed several part time pharmacy students to work to prepare for the opening of the University of Kentucky Hospital. At that time, Paul was the Director of Pharmacy and Dick Hall was the Associate Director. This was approximately six months before the opening of the hospital. Several staff pharmacists had already been hired at this time and included Ed Grief, Jerry Johnson, and Tom Samuels. I interviewed with both Paul and Tom Samuels and was picked along with around five other students to begin the preparation process in what was known as PCS or Pharmacy Central Supply. I was primarily assigned to Tom Samuels who was in charge of the Central Sterile Processing area as well as the pharmacy sterile manufacturing area as well as drug packaging. During those first months I learned a heck of a lot about autoclaves, steam sterilization, gas sterilization, and all of the quality control aspects of sterility testing and microbiology. We actually did all of our own sterility checking using spores of *Bacillus subtilis* for our gas autoclaves and *Bacillus stearothermophilus* for the steam autoclaves. Tom also taught me a lot about surgical instruments and the appropriate use of both the regular and flash steam autoclaves in the Central Supply areas. Other tools I learned included chemical disinfection and washing of the instruments as well as using ultrasound as a primary cleaning tool for instruments, and the depyrogenation of glassware using dry heat ovens. We

also made a number of sterile products in the pharmacy that I can remember including phenol in glycerin and several forms of parenteral therapy where the injection was made from the tablets. Examples of his included parenteral thyroid preparations which were not available commercially. Many ointments, solutions, elixirs, and sterile irrigation solutions were also made in the hospital pharmacy during the early 1960's. Once the hospital opened, we were kept busy with a lot of clinical non-drug services including helping the orthopedic surgeons with casting and the nursing staff with ventilators – all of which came from PCS. Frankly it was really fun to work there and the learning opportunities were many each day. Pharmacy services at this time were accomplished by the pharmacist going to the floor and ordering up to a five day supply of oral medications and a 24 hour supply of parenteral medications via a hand kept drug profile for each patient. We also interacted on a daily basis with both the medical and nursing staffs and many of the physicians would come down during the early days and spend a lot of time in the PCS Department. In fact, bridge was common with Paul and Peter Bosonworth being two of the regular players.

As a student, you always strived to get assigned when Paul was covering the evening shift (as I continually remind our residents today, the day shift was 10 hours, and the evening shift 14 hours) because Adie Kay would always bring him dinner which included enough for his student assistant. Those of you that have ever eaten at the Parkers know what I am talking about here. I graduated from the College of Pharmacy in 1963, in the first five year class and accepted a job as a staff pharmacist (P-6) at the great salary of \$7000.00 per year. I thought I had died and gone to heaven because my father always told me that if you give a man \$100 per week, he nor his family would ever want for anything.

Things went well until the mid 1960's until words such as “unit dose” and “pharmacy residencies” began to permeate the air in

Kentucky and then in the final years of the go go 60's – the word “Pharm D” began to be heard.

The University of Kentucky had the first hospital wide unit dose system in the world. There was no unit dose packaging available from industry – all tablets and capsules had to be strip packed in the pharmacy. This was again assigned to Tom Samuel who found a retired railroad engineer and he developed the first strip packager and labeler designed after a steam locomotive – it worked sometimes but the most difficult thing was the labeling - you had to make your own rubber mold label that had to be coordinated with the strip packager and inked. Cart filling was accomplished via machine punched IBM cards that were put through a keypunch machine, and then a sorter to obtain the 9 AM doses, 1 PM, 5 PM, and 9 PM doses, etc. The card sorter would frequently eat several hundred cards and all of these would have to be redone. Also during this time we began to make our own total parenteral nutrition solutions before they were actually available commercially. The whole pharmacy smelled like a microbiology lab because we used various hydrolysates as the source of protein and when heated, they really smelled up the place.

During these years as an underling, along with others, we all truly dreamed of being promoted to an assistant or associate director which really meant you could go out to lunch on Friday at around noon and participate in the weekly staff meeting with Paul, Dick Hall, Tom Samuels, later John Butler, Dave Burkholder who was the Drug Information Specialist, and Darryl Pearce, who was the Wyeth tubex salesman. The rules were – only two drinks for lunch, Darryl bought the drinks, but you had to buy your own lunch. We had a table reserved first at the Coach House Restaurant and later when the Coach House burned down, the Springs Motel Dining Room. Paul could function pretty well after two martinis but nobody else could and Friday afternoon was usually quite non-productive.

Dr. Charles Walton replaced Dr. Dave Burkholder as Drug Information Specialist in the mid 1960's and they worked together to plan and implement the residency, as well as the Pharm. D. program. Five staff pharmacists were selected to enter into a 2-3 year educational program leading to the Pharm.D. degree and I was one of those selected. Dr. Walton was my major professor in the Pharm.D. program. Dr. Walton made arrangements for us to take about the entire second year medical school curriculum including the pathophysiology course and he personally tutored both the five staff pharmacists and the early residents in pharmacology. My early partner in all of this was Greg Chudzid and we really had a great time together both studying with Dr. Walton as well as working those 14 hour night shifts. The residency of course began as a three year program at \$3000 per year and you finished after the three years with the residency certificate and the Pharm. D. degree.

Paul was always fun to work with as were the others in the PCS Department - other members of the faculty/pharmacy staff who were important in those early years included John Piecoro, John Butler, Pat Moynahan, Ann Amerson, Ken Record, and many, many others who contributed in many ways to the Kentucky program.

Some of the more memorable things that stick in my mind about the early Kentucky days are as follows:

The rotating visits of residents and preceptors from Ohio State, Wisconsin, and North Carolina, and Kentucky. At Kentucky entertainment was frequently provided by Stoney Creek – with the most memorable visit taking place in the Daniel Boone National Forest on a wonderful summer evening with music, beer, steaks and fresh corn on the cob.

Paul as the disciplinarian (frequently with me I might add) and his frequently used terminology of “you simply have to quit pissing on each others leg and learn to sit down and talk through the problem.”

Paul having to go down to the old Lexington Jail at 3 AM and get certain residents out of jail, including one who jumped from the patty wagon at 45 miles an hour.

There were many others but I think I will stop at this point and again thank the committee for selecting me, thank you for coming today, and to thank my wife Margaret for finally letting me get it right the third time.