



**Christian Pharmacists  
Fellowship International**  
Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

## **CPFI Educational Affairs Committee Report November 8, 2017**

This year has been a whirlwind of activity since the 2018 Conference closed in June. We have been able to reflect back on a truly blessed time with so many friends and colleagues, reviewing conference evaluations and suggestions for improvement. The committee has busily been preparing for an excellent conference this coming May in Myrtle Beach, SC.

This year's conference theme will center on Psalm 46: "God is Our Refuge and Our Strength -- Be Still and Know that He is God". Though the nations rage and the kingdoms totter, fear has no place because God is our very present help in troubling times. The Lord is with us and He is our Fortress. This suggestion came from Nena and as I read and re-read the passage, it became clear how well this dovetails with most of our conference topics. My hope is that each of the devotional times as well as our music will have strong ties to this theme as well. My prayer is that conference attendees will leave the conference with a strong sense of refreshed confidence, knowing -- even expecting -- that trouble will come, but also that God is truly with us and will show Himself faithful. We shouldn't count on simple comfort, but on beholding the works of the Lord as He delivers us through troubled times.

One area of concern that was raised by a number of Pharmacists who attended 2018's conference centered on acquiring CE credits. Of greatest concern were some lapses in CMETracker by Campbell related to granting of CE for about ten of our attendees. CPFI's CE committee members have reviewed the current arrangement with Campbell deciding that Nena Lindrose and Jeff Bates will work more closely with Campbell representatives this next year, anticipating some of the trouble spots associated with the 2018 conference. Further, after comparing the current Campbell arrangement to other options, it was noted that the cost increase to consider another CE provider would be quite substantial for CPFI. Again, this concern will be monitored very closely headed into the 2019 conference.

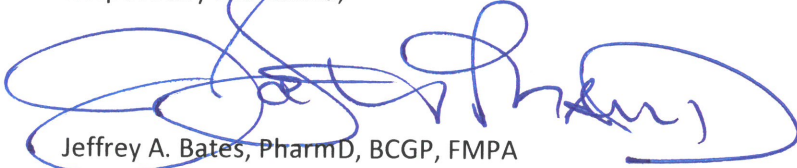
The feedback from last year's members was mixed regarding the additional CE offerings on Saturday afternoon. After prayerfully considering the attendee impact, the committee has decided to pull back from 15 credits of CE and again, offer 12 credits instead. This will again allow attendees to enjoy an afternoon exploring the Myrtle Beach area. Additional CE offerings may be considered in future years depending on speaker availability and the organization's desires.

Because of the shift to an earlier week for the 2019 conference, some of last year's speakers were unable to commit to attending this year. God has blessed us with a cadre of exceptional speakers who have committed to sharing their wisdom with our group this May, however. There is a nice blend of tried-and-true, familiar speakers/topics as well as number of newer faces too. Attendee evaluations and suggestions over the last few years have hinted at a need for more clinical and practice-application topics. So, a couple of very influential speakers have accepted invitations to consider speaking this year, adding a degree of freshness while remaining staunchly focused on our Core Values. Similar to last year,

a substantial list of those who couldn't attend the 2019 conference have offered to share with CPFI in 2020 instead.

Again, we have been very blessed thus far and look forward to an outstanding conference starting in late May. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ and our members in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Bates", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey A. Bates, PharmD, BCGP, FMPA  
Chair, Continuing Education Committee  
Member, Board of Directors