



Lee Ori, PharmD

While he was still in pharmacy school at Auburn University, Lee Ori decided he wanted to open his own compounding pharmacy. He realized his dream in January 2003 when **Specialty Pharmacy of St. Louis** opened in a 770-square-foot space. Located near five different hospitals and numerous medical professional buildings, the compounding-only pharmacy has been so successful that owner Lee Ori has expanded twice since then and now has a 3,850-square-foot facility. Since the most recent remodel, the pharmacy includes a compounding lab, a consultation room, and a 600-square-foot modular cleanroom.

A longevity physician practices in the pharmacy, treating menopause;

APOTHATIP

Ori's staff needed to utilize space better for storing their stock items, and their solution for capsules was a 6" x 9" clear plastic baggie with a hanger. Batch labels are attached to the bags, which are hung under a shelf in rows for easy access. A second label shows the identification number for each batch of capsules, making it easy to locate and check against the prescription for the compound. A colored dot (made with a non-toxic/food grade marker) is placed on the end of each capsule in the batch for easy identification, and a binder is kept with records of the color combination assigned to each compounded capsule. For instance, a white powder inside an orange-and-yellow capsule with a blue dot on the end indicates Bi-Est 80/20. This system has improved the staff's percentage of error, ease of filling prescriptions, and inventory control. It also frees up vital shelf space and makes the hanging items easily visible and accessible.

A Bright Future

Congratulations to Lee Ori, PharmD, of Specialty Pharmacy of St. Louis in Creve Coeur, Mo., for being named **PCCA's March Pharmacist of the Month**.

andropause; adrenal fatigue; nutrition and wellness; prescribing compounds and nutritional products to support these areas. The pharmacy includes a retail area where such nutritional and wellness products are sold, and Ori kept marketing in mind when planning the facility's layout. "We designed the lobby to accommodate small group presentations. The checkout counter is on wheels and easily can be rolled into the pharmacy to clear out the lobby. We also put a flat panel screen in the lobby. This allows us to play DVDs, PowerPoint® presentations, or present other advertising."

"I am a 100% PCCA supporter. I buy virtually all my chemicals, supplies, and equipment from PCCA," Ori says. "The value of PCCA's quality, service, education, consultants, networking and relationships justifies this expense. Everything I have in my pharmacy today is because of PCCA. When I opened the store I wanted to outfit the store with every piece of equipment PCCA has to offer, as I didn't want to have to turn a customer away or refer them to a competitor."

Ori was concerned with safety, so he installed a central vacuum system to help keep powders off the counter and floor. "This significantly keeps down particles and aids in clean-up," he says. In addition, he added an ultraviolet air cleaner and a humidifier to the pharmacy's HVAC system. Ori's staff uses PCCA PK Software,

including the compatible barcode scanner which adds a layer of safety by ensuring accuracy during compounding. Among its many functions, the scanner can be used to scan chemical bottles for accuracy and easier logging during compounding, and to help document for USP <795> and <797> compliance.

The pharmacy compounds for a wide variety of patients. They make numerous compounds for pregnant women and those who are trying to achieve pregnancy. "We compound anything from ginger/B6 lollipops for nausea to injectables to help prevent early delivery," says Ori. "Patients who have been trying to have a baby for years are finally able to do so with our help. It is truly rewarding to bring a new life into this world." The staff likewise treats many autistic patients. "Parents tell us that the medications we provide their children help them function better. We did a fluoxetine chocolate candy for an autistic patient who wouldn't take his medication. He now takes his medication every day and thinks he's getting a treat."

Ori's staff also treats non-human patients with unique medication challenges, such as a diabetic monkey for which they compounded a Coca-Cola®-flavored metformin suspension. In another case, they were asked to help a very special new mother: "We were contacted by the St. Louis Lactation Clinic regarding a 'suggested' dose of domperidone for a pachyderm," Ori recalls. The mother of a newborn baby Asian elephant that was born in captivity at the St. Louis Zoo was having trouble producing milk. The baby had lost weight and was malnourished. "We compounded 500 mg domperidone capsules for the mother." The treatment was suc-

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successful – the mother elephant’s milk production increased. The baby gained weight and thrived, and after a few months, the mother no longer needed the medication.

Ori’s efforts to educate physicians, patients and pharmacists about compounding include lectures given before Missouri’s State Podiatry Association, the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, and other lectures for patients. Ori is a member of the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists (IACP) and the Missouri Pharmacy Association, which helps ensure that compounders have a voice in regulatory matters. Ori has accomplished a great deal in a relatively short time, and has a bright future as he continues to help physicians solve problems and improve his patients’ quality of life.

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PATIENT QUOTE: “I mentioned to Lee how tired and irritable I felt, and he mentioned that BHRT might be the answer to my problem. He suggested several doctors and gave me some information on a CD-ROM. A nurse practitioner prescribed the BHRT and Lee’s pharmacy has been compounding for me ever since. I wouldn’t go anywhere else. His pharmacy is progressive and his staff is always polite and very efficient. I now feel great and have recommended Lee and his incredible pharmacy to many of my friends.”

– Maggie G.

PRACTITIONER QUOTE: “Lee is much more than a compounding pharmacist; he

is a partner in providing healthcare. He and the staff of Specialty Pharmacy of St. Louis are exceptional and offer the most efficient, customer-friendly, best practice, making them my first choice in compounding.”

– Kris Scalf, RNC, WHNP, MC

PRACTITIONER QUOTE: “Lee Ori is the consummate pharmacy professional. I find Lee and his staff to be very responsive to the needs of the patient as well as myself. I am confident that each prescription dispensed by Specialty Pharmacy of St. Louis is exactly what was ordered. The individualized care received by my patients has generated a great deal of trust in the pharmacist-patient relationship.”

– Michael S. Brandon, MD