

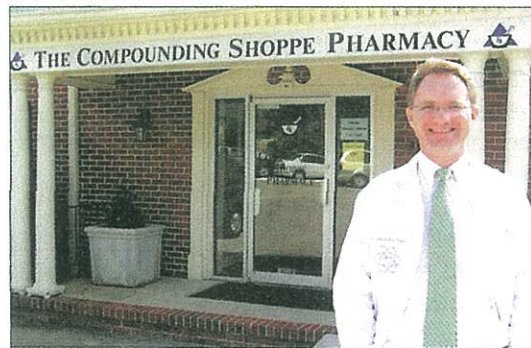
Old Meets New at The Compounding Shoppe

by John Becker

One of the first things you see when you enter The Compounding Shoppe in Birmingham, Ala., is the old penny scale that used to stand in owner Scott Wepfer's grandfather's Loyal, Wis., pharmacy. In a true case of old-meets-new, though, a closer look shows how Wepfer — a third-generation pharmacist — has creatively applied computer technology to the time-honored tradition of compounding prescriptions.

And Wepfer knows compounding. When he opened his 3,400 sq. ft. store in 1995, Wepfer was one of the first to open a compounding-only pharmacy from scratch. Three years later he became the first Alabama pharmacist to be named a fellow of the International Academy of Compounding Pharmacists, and in 2006 his was one of the first two pharmacies to receive accreditation from the Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board (PCAB).

Half of Wepfer's store is dedicated to the lab/dispensing area, the other half to patient care. The patient care area has a waiting room with a window into the lab, a semiprivate drop-off/pickup area, and a 300 sq. ft. "herb room" where the pharmacists keep herbal/nutritional products — the only OTCs in the pharmacy. Pharmacists often pull patients into this latter area for counseling or to recommend a companion product (Wepfer offers counseling to all patients receiving new medications, regardless



Scott Wepfer melded his expertise in compounding with technology to set his pharmacy apart.

of whether they request it). There are also two small, private rooms where consultations are done.

In the dispensing lab where prescriptions are filled, all workstations have seats for pharmacists or technicians. "I think it's crazy that we're in the 21st century and most pharmacists are still on their feet all day," Wepfer says.

The rest of the pharmacy is the compounding area, which consists of the main lab and separate hazard, wet, and sterile labs.

Technology Intensive

Wepfer's pharmacy management system is The Compounder Rx from PK Software, custom-designed for compounding pharmacies.