



Report of the Task Force on Expanding International Membership

Members Present:

Gayle Ziegler (ND), *chair*; Buford Abeldt (TX); Howard Anderson (ND); Malcolm Broussard (LA); Rich Cieslinski (WA); Brad Hamilton (ME); Cathy Lew (OR); Gene Minton (NC); Tejal Patel (DE); Phyllis Stine (TX); Cynthia Warriner (VA).

Others Present:

Rich Mazzoni, *Executive Committee liaison*; Deeb Eid (PTCB), *guest*; Carmen Catizone; Melissa Madigan; Eileen Lewalski; Maureen Schanck; Angie Rutkowski, *NABP staff*.

Introduction:

The Task Force met on November 8-9, 2016, at the DoubleTree by Hilton O'Hare Rosemont in Rosemont, IL. This task force was established in response to President Hal Wand's initiative to expand international membership.

Review of the Task Force Charge:

Task force members reviewed their charge and accepted it as follows:

1. Review the differences and commonalities of various international boards of pharmacy.
2. Explore the feasibility of allowing international boards to become active members.
3. Recommend, if necessary, amendments to the NABP Constitution and Bylaws for the Committee of Constitution and Bylaws to review.

Recommendation 1: NABP Should Create a Category for International Membership that Provides International Members with Rights and Privileges to Discuss and Decide on International Matters.

The task force recommends that NABP create a new International membership category that provides international members with rights and privileges to discuss and decide on international matters outside the current requirements of the NABP Constitution and Bylaws regarding license transfer, competency assessment, and the NABP Clearinghouse.

Background:

Task force members introduced the possibility of granting NABP associate members, specifically the international members, full membership and voting rights. The robust discussion that followed included the need to maintain quality standards while welcoming new members. There was also some discussion about why there has not been much participation from some associate members outside the United States. The group concluded that it could be due to limited resources, conflicts with holidays, and possibly relying on feedback from colleagues.

Task force members noted that pharmacy regulators around the world have shared purposes and that there is a need for increased global cooperation. Therefore, the essence and core principles of pharmacy regulation are not unique to any one country or jurisdiction. The Internet and other advances in technology have moved regulators from across the world closer together, leading to the realization that pharmacy regulation in one part of the world is likely similar to that in most other parts of the world. While pharmacy regulators across the world share similar experiences and challenges, there currently is not one organization that brings them together to share and learn from one another. This collaboration is especially important for such matters as competency assessment, discipline, and NABP's .pharmacy initiative.

In order to adhere to the quality standards that NABP is known for and to foster international collaboration, the task force members determined that the establishment of an international category of membership recognizes the contributions made by NABP's international regulatory colleagues and the benefits of collaboration. In order to facilitate this transition, the task force defined international membership as membership for a non-US jurisdiction with legislative or similar licensing authority to regulate the practice of pharmacy within its territory. The task force members concluded that restrictions based on geographic location should be removed to allow

international pharmacy regulatory boards to comply with criteria for active membership of NABP. Members agreed that existing associate members will become international members and that the associate member category will be reserved for any active member that fails to abide by the NABP Constitution and Bylaws.

The task force agreed that if an international member adopts the requirements of the NABP Constitution and Bylaws in regard to the transfer of licensure (reciprocity), competency assessment, and the NABP Clearinghouse, the international member will then become an active member board.

Recommendation 2: NABP Should Provide for an International Member to be Included on the NABP Executive Committee Who Will Be Eligible to Vote on International Matters in a Manner Consistent with the NABP Constitution and Bylaws.

The task force recommends that NABP provide for an international member to be included on the NABP Executive Committee to allow for elected representation from jurisdictions outside of

the state and territories of the United States who will be eligible to vote on international matters in a manner consistent with existing NABP Constitution and Bylaws.

Background:

In order to garner input and benefit from international regulatory authorities, the task force determined that the Executive Committee should include representation from international member boards. The Executive Committee may nominate candidates for the international member position on the Executive Committee who will then be elected at the NABP Annual Meeting by the full membership, consisting of active and international members. In addition, when it comes to voting on and participation in global issues of public concern, the level of involvement and input from the international representative may be determined by the Executive Committee. In time, the Executive Committee may choose to add a second international representative to the Executive Committee, depending on the size and needs of the Association's international membership.

If a jurisdiction outside of the US adopts the requirements for active membership, as outlined by the NABP Constitution and Bylaws, a member from that jurisdiction may be nominated from the NABP district to represent that district on the NABP Executive Committee.

Recommendation 3: The NABP Executive Committee Should Consider Proposing an Amendment to the NABP Constitution and Bylaws in Order to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force.

The task force recommends that the NABP Executive Committee consider proposing an amendment to the NABP Constitution and Bylaws in order to implement the recommendations of the task force regarding international membership.

Background:

The NABP structure, as outlined by the NABP Constitution and Bylaws, only allows for active members and associate member boards. Furthermore, the Constitution and Bylaws currently specifies that members on the Executive Committee should represent one of eight districts from which representative members of the NABP Executive Committee are elected. The task force members recommended that the Constitution and Bylaws be reviewed and amended to expand international membership and participation within the NABP Executive Committee.