Report of the Task Force on Accreditation

Members Present:

Robert J. Kelley (MT), Chairman; Fred S. Brinkley, Jr. (TX); Lee Gladstein (NJ); James Lill (VT); and Henri R. Manasse, Jr. (IL).

Others Present:

C. Douglas Chavous (SC), Executive Committee Liaison; John Creasy, Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada; Daniel A. Nona, Jeffrey Wadelin, Kimberly Werner, ACPE; Lester Hosto (AR), NABP Appointment to the ACPE Board of Directors; Carmen A. Catizone, NABP Executive Director; Mary Jo Hunst, Frances Peknik, NABP Staff.

Introduction:

The Task Force on Accreditation met on January 30, 1993, at NABP Headquarters in Park Ridge, Illinois. The Task Force was established by the Executive Committee in response to Resolution 88-3-92, which states:

WHEREAS, pharmacists educated in Canada wishing to practice pharmacy in the United States must pass a Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination (FPGEE) and, likewise, pharmacists in the United States will be required to take the comparable Canadian examinations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NABP organize a task force consisting of members of NABP, the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE), and their Canadian counterparts to study the acceptance of a degree from a university or college of pharmacy in order to negate the need for Canadian or United States educated pharmacists to take the FPGEE or its Canadian counterpart before the NABPLEX or its Canadian counterpart.

Review of the Task Force Charge:

Members reviewed the Executive Committee’s charge to the Task Force and, proposing no changes, it remained as follows:

The Task Force will examine the present status of educational accreditation standards in the United States and Canada and prepare a status report. The Task Force will also examine the possibility of creating international accreditation standards in regard to the North American Free Trade Agreement.
The Task Force was presented with status reports on accreditation programs within the United States and Canada by Daniel A. Nona, Executive Director of ACPE, and John Creasy, Registrar/Treasurer of the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC). Dr. Nona reported that ACPE is revising its present accreditation standards as announced and discussed with NABP and the profession. ACPE is assisting the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) in the development of a formal and centralized accreditation program for the nine Canadian schools of pharmacy. CCAPP anticipates implementing its accreditation process in 1994.

The Task Force also reviewed the licensing processes for graduates of U.S. pharmacy programs who desire to practice in Canada, and graduates of Canadian pharmacy programs who desire to practice in the United States. It was reported that most U.S. jurisdictions require graduates of Canadian schools of pharmacy to demonstrate educational equivalence to graduates of accredited U.S. programs by earning their Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) Certification prior to taking the licensure examinations.

Creasy reported that, currently, graduates of U.S. pharmacy programs may take the Canadian licensing examination directly upon graduation. The PEBC has been directed, however, to remove the apparent inconsistency whereby all other candidates educated outside Canada, except U.S. graduates, must pass an equivalency examination prior to taking the Canadian licensing examination. Therefore, Canadian regulations are being amended to require that candidates who graduate from U.S. pharmacy programs after 1995 must complete the Canadian counterpart of the FPGEC Certification.

**RECOMMENDATION TFA #1**

The Task Force on Accreditation recommends that NABP take the lead in facilitating discussions between United States and Canadian education, accreditation, and licensing organizations for the purposes of evaluating the accreditation standards of their respective pharmacist educational programs, and identifying any differences.

**Background**

The Task Force recognized that educational programs in the United States and Canada appear to be moving toward similar content and length, and overall educational outcomes. It was further recognized that CCAPP has established its by-laws, and is developing accreditation standards and guidelines, and a self-study guide based largely upon the ACPE model. However, since pharmaceutical education is undergoing rapid and significant changes in both countries, the Task Force recommended that a thorough evaluation of each country’s current and proposed accreditation standards be performed.

**RECOMMENDATION TFA #2**

The Task Force on Accreditation encourages the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education and the Canadian Council for the Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs to work cooperatively to develop equivalent educational and accreditation standards.
**Background**

In consideration of the similarities noted in the background to Recommendation TFA #1 above, the Task Force suggested that a single set of accreditation standards and guidelines could be developed and adopted by both accreditation agencies. If such standards are adopted by both organizations, the Task Force suggested that it would be appropriate for NABP to recommend that the State Boards of Pharmacy and the Provincial Boards of Canada qualify graduates of programs approved under these standards to take the licensing examination in either country. Until such standards may be in place, however, the Task Force agreed that NABP should continue to recommend that the State Boards of Pharmacy require FPGEC Certification of candidates educated in Canada.

**RECOMMENDATION TFA #3**

The Task Force on Accreditation recommends that NABP monitor the need for developing international education, experience, and pharmacy practice competency standards so as to anticipate and facilitate international reciprocity.

**Background**

Task Force members discussed provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and related federal initiatives. Recognizing that these provisions would create the largest geographic area of free trade exchange and seek to facilitate the movement of professionals across borders, the Task Force recommended that NABP be proactive in anticipating the effects of these initiatives and in developing solutions that adequately address the potential consequences to public health, safety, and welfare.