Good afternoon.

I am happy to see that so many National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP®) members were able to join us for the 107th Annual Meeting. Your dedication and interest in NABP is what makes this Association so strong. As this year’s theme suggests, the close relationship of NABP and the state boards of pharmacy make for a strong and unified organization. That strength and unity has taught me that much can be achieved when we work together and have the necessary resources. We have seen this over the last year with the new programs and services that NABP has been developing.

Before I discuss some of the accomplishments from this year, I would like to recognize a fellow member of District 7, Don Williams, formerly with the Washington State Board of Pharmacy, with this as my last formal presentation to the NABP member boards. This year marks the 30th year that my friend and colleague has been a member of NABP, and throughout those 30 years he attended almost every Annual Meeting. This is a special feat seeing as he had to spend 25 of those years with Carmen! But really, it is this kind of dedication that makes NABP the great organization that it is. Thank you Don, for your continuous support. You set a great example for all of us.

In addition to Don Williams, NABP is fortunate to have many dedicated members who are engaged in the Association and come to the Annual Meeting year after year, making a commitment to the regulation of pharmacy practice and the protection of public health. Included on that distinguished list are many members that are here today. Without your support, NABP would not be the thriving Association it is today.

**JCPP Vision Statement**

As leaders, we on the Executive Committee can set agendas and guide the Association, but without your support, moving forward is all but impossible. I saw this Vision Statement as an opportunity to expand the role of the pharmacist as well as regulate the practice of pharmacy within the scope of the boards of pharmacy and in the best interest of the patient.

Incorporating aspects of the Vision Statement into our state statutes and regulations is imperative to taking patient care and protection of the public health to new levels. But in the years that followed, this same resistance has kept this concept limited to “pockets of excellence.” I quickly discovered that this movement would again be relegated to theory and rhetoric because most practicing pharmacists were unaware of the Vision Statement and the positive implications for pharmacists and the practice of pharmacy.

However, I was encouraged upon taking this to the pharmacy organizations that support the Vision Statement, because they were enthused by your support and inspired to do more to take this message to their constituents.

One common misconception is that the NABP Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (Model Act) is prohibitive and restricts
incorporation of the JCCP Vision’s components. The NABP Executive Committee asked the Ex Presidents in Collaboration Subcommittee (EPIC Subcommittee) to review the Model Act in relation to the Vision Statement. Upon careful review, EPIC found that no part of the Model Act restricts implementation of the 2015 JCPP Vision Statement.

Now some of you may be asking what this EPIC Subcommittee is. EPIC was established in 2010 and is made up of the current chairperson of the Executive Committee, which is me this year, and the five most recent past presidents. The founding members of the EPIC coined this acronym as a moniker for the Ex Presidents In Collaboration. When I first saw their proposed naming, I thought about other possible derivations of the acronym and thought of including them in this report. However, knowing that the NABP censor would probably prevail and I would soon be joining this distinguished group, I decided to forego that temptation and to simply use this opportunity to thank the Ex Presidents In Constipation, sorry, couldn’t help myself, for all of their hard work. But I digress.

For those boards of pharmacy that are ready to move forward with implementing the JCPP Vision Statement into their state practice acts, the NABP Model Act is an excellent tool for comparison. If upon reviewing your practice act, you find barriers to implementing any aspect of the Vision Statement, please feel free to contact the NABP Government Affairs Department. This department was developed to help you with legislative issues that may be hindering progress related to advancing patient safety.

I understand the constraints that the ongoing lack of resources place on your boards. Staff and money are dwindling and this forces us to focus our days on the immediate and the short term. Planning for change is difficult and requires time and energy. But we must make the effort to create an environment in which pharmacists are enabled to expand their role as health care practitioners and be recognized by other practitioners as the medication therapy experts they are.

Community Pharmacy Accreditation

EPIC also studied how the proposed community pharmacy accreditation program that NABP is working with other stakeholders to develop fits in with the JCPP Vision Statement. I know that some of you are uncomfortable with linking community pharmacy accreditation with the Vision Statement. But after much review and discussion, EPIC agreed that it is vital for boards of pharmacy to recognize the JCPP Vision Statement and understand the support for this change in practice that can be realized with the community pharmacy accreditation program. Only then can significant progress in pharmacist care and advancement in the role of the pharmacist in patient care and public health and safety be achieved.

Earlier this month we began the community pharmacy accreditation program demonstration project to help define and validate the standards under consideration. I am confident that when this project is completed, we will have an even clearer view of what is possible for pharmacy practice and how accreditation can be a positive change factor. Several pharmacies are participating in the demonstration project representing a sizable community pharmacy presence. The demonstration project is focusing on patient care, adherence monitoring, and continuous quality improvement (CQI).

One component of the demonstration project is on-site surveys, which will be performed by experienced, pharmacist surveyors, whose expertise in analyzing pharmacy systems and operations will help us build a strong foundation for this program. During these surveys, pharmacies will demonstrate their quality and level of patient care to assess the standards and provide a baseline level of pharmacy practice in key areas of consideration.

After we have completed the demonstration project and review surveyor feedback and findings, in collaboration with other pharmacy stakeholders we will determine the next steps in order to operationalize the standards and program.

As you have heard since Rich Palombo first brought forth the concept of community pharmacy accreditation during his speech as incoming president in 2008, this program has, as a natural outcome, the wherewithal to support the boards of pharmacy and your mission to protect public health and promote patient safety.
In addition, recognizing the importance of the Community Pharmacy Accreditation program and CQI, the EPIC Subcommittee recommended to the Executive Committee that it explore the possibility of amending the Model Act to include CQI programs as a primary component. They also recommended that the Executive Committee consider amendments to the Model Act to address medication therapy management, adherence monitoring services, and other patient care services.

As you know, the community pharmacy accreditation program is the fifth accreditation program that NABP has developed. NABP launched its first accreditation program, the Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites® (VIPPS®) program, in 1999. Over the past 12 years NABP has learned much about accreditation and the related standards development. Up until now, our accreditations have focused on limited practice areas that have elevated safety concerns—Internet pharmacy, durable medical equipment, and wholesale drug distributors. With community pharmacy the idea is to advance further and create an accreditation that can be applied to the majority of pharmacy practice sites.

**Ensuring Examination Integrity**

Now I’d like to turn to a topic on which we can all agree: the significant responsibility the state boards have in determining competence and the assistance offered by NABP through our competency assessment programs. It was a busy year as volunteers and staff worked diligently to update the competency statements for the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination® (MPJE®) based on the results of a validation survey. The survey found that the application of pharmacy law had shifted within the practice of pharmacy. And based on this, the proportion of examination items was redistributed among the three competency areas and the competency statements were made more detailed. In addition, new competencies were added to address:

- the determination of a drug order’s legitimate medical purpose,
- the notification of requirements pertaining to a pharmacist’s license to practice pharmacy, and
- the identification of reasons and processes of disciplinary actions that may be taken against a practice setting.

The new competency statements, along with an updated passing standard, went into effect in January 2011. These changes reflect that boards of pharmacy are placing more emphasis on the importance of pharmacy jurisprudence as it applies to the practice of pharmacy and less on regulatory structure.

Also launched in 2011 was an improved online registration for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX®), NAPLEX score transfer, and MPJE. The registration was moved into a more robust system that provides additional functionality and status information for candidates. Now, candidates can see the status of their registration, rather than calling you or NABP. In addition, candidates can now make changes to existing applications, including adding jurisdictions or withdrawing the application entirely.

Another functionality that NABP now offers is online score results for the NAPLEX and MPJE. If the board of pharmacy chooses to participate, candidates may access their NAPLEX score for their primary jurisdiction of licensure as well as their MPJE score. Our goal for offering this feature is to reduce calls to board staff from candidates seeking score information. Currently, more than 20 states utilize this service. If you think this service can be used by your board, NABP’s Chief Operating Officer Robert Cowan will be happy to answer any questions you have.

**Thank you**

In closing, I would like to say how much I have enjoyed my years serving on the Executive Committee. The passion and dedication among you is inspiring and all your ideas and contributions are what propel NABP into the future, ensuring that the practice of pharmacy is a leading discipline in health care and patient safety.

As I step down from the Executive Committee this year, I look forward to working with all of you and with NABP in other capacities in the future.

Thank you.