Good afternoon.

Fellow National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) members and friends of NABP, I hope that you are all enjoying your time here in Anaheim. Today I stand before you, eager to share all that NABP has accomplished over this past year. But before I dive into our exciting program developments, I would be remiss if I didn’t thank all of you, the officers, the members, and the staff of the boards of pharmacy. Your daily leadership in the states inspires and drives the Executive Committee to work hard to address the issues that you currently face as regulators.

Your continued dedication to NABP has helped to enable NABP on a path of continued growth and success. I feel privileged to have shared this journey over the past six years, with such a devoted group of individuals.

As this year’s meeting theme states, Éureka! Partnering to Save Public Protection – Boards of Pharmacy and NABP, we must focus on coming together to maintain what is most important to our pharmacy practice, to promote patient safety, better patient outcomes, and protecting public health. With your assistance we have continued to support this mission, as we develop new programs and enhance existing ones. I’d like to take this opportunity to highlight a few of the many achievements that have occurred since last May.

**Community Pharmacy Accreditation**

As you may recall, during my presidency two years ago I asked for the support of you, our members, and the NABP Executive Committee in the development of a community pharmacy accreditation program. I am pleased to report that we have made, and continue to make, significant progress on this exciting initiative.

Recognizing the complexity and importance of this program, we have patiently researched and not rushed its development. I applaud President Gary Schnabel for continuing what began during my year as president and I am pleased to report that this summer, the NABP community pharmacy accreditation pilot program will begin.

Our goals for this exciting program continue to focus on improving patient care by recognizing and measuring objective data, and more importantly, the critical and expanded role of the pharmacist. Fundamentally, the program will develop standards for pharmacies to develop, implement, and enforce procedures for pharmacy staff to better monitor patient care and enhance their medication therapy management programs. The goal will be to define and measure the opportunity for better patient outcomes. Continuous quality improvement programs addressed by the accreditation standards will reflect current state requirements for continuous quality improvement (CQI) along with realistic and definable outcomes.

Over the time since our last Annual Meeting, NABP reached out to all of the national pharmacy organizations and federal agencies to inform them about the program and invited them to support and participate in this revision of pharmacy practice and regulation. With few
exceptions, we believe that these groups understand what NABP is trying to accomplish, and support the project conceptually. In some cases, they have agreed to serve as full partners with NABP. What is most exciting is the commitment we received from those pharmacies agreeing to participate in the pilot project. These pharmacies are BioScrip, CVS, Medco, and Walgreens. We have also reached out and are working with an independent community pharmacy that approached NABP and indicated their support for the accreditation program and their desire to become accredited.

Members of the Executive Committee and our pilot project participant pharmacies and state member boards, understand completely that this will be a difficult project and much of what is being attempted has never been attempted before in the real practice world. This groundbreaking initiative has the potential to have overwhelming positive effects on pharmacy practice and patient care. The risks are high, but the gains for patients, pharmacists, and the boards of pharmacy are even higher and will ultimately define the practice of pharmacy as it was meant to, and should be defined.

**Reporting to the Data Banks**

While on the topic of improving patient care, I’d next like to address our responsibility as health care providers to report adverse actions. As I’m sure you are aware, effective March 1, 2010, all licensing authorities must now report adverse actions taken against health care practitioners and entities to the National Practitioner Data Bank. In addition, the final rule states that all adverse licensure actions, not just those based on professional competence and conduct, must be reported. Prior to this new rule, the boards of pharmacy were only required to report to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB).

As many of us feel the strain of tightened budgets and reduced staff, these new requirements may seem extremely difficult to fulfill. The good news is that NABP will assist you and provide you with the tools for success. Since you already are reporting disciplinary data to the NABP Clearinghouse, it is a simple process to designate NABP as your reporting agent. Once NABP is so designated, we will send your reported data to the Data Banks.

We have strengthened our procedures currently in place as a reporting agent with the sole intent of supporting the state boards of pharmacy. With these new procedures, NABP will continue to assist in every way possible to ensure that your board remains in compliance with the new reporting requirements. To do this, NABP now provides a DCN, or document control number, for every report that is submitted to the Data Banks. As a receipt, this DCN assures you that your board’s actions have, in fact, been reported. In addition, we’ve enhanced our communication processes, alerting the boards of any upcoming expiration dates or renewal deadlines. All of these enhancements have been put into place to ensure that our partnership with you, the boards of pharmacy, as your reporting agent, will be successful and that all transmissions to the Data Banks are accounted for and complete.

Currently, 25 boards take advantage of this service. You can find the necessary forms by clicking on HIPDB in the Members section of the NABP Web site.

**VIPPS**

As we continue to partner with the boards and other stakeholders to promote our mission of protecting public health, our efforts have not gone unnoticed and have even spurred other companies outside of the health care field into action. Recently, Google revised its policy to assist in curbing the proliferation of rogue Internet drug outlets, announcing in February that the company would accept ads only from Internet pharmacies in the United States that are accredited through the VIPPS™ (Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites™) program. The revised policy assists in preventing rogue Web sites from offering counterfeit, tainted, and dangerous drugs to unwitting patients.

Because the VIPPS accreditation program exclusively addresses licensed pharmacies engaged in transacting a full range of pharmacy services online, NABP developed a complementary program to address other entities that were advertising the distribution or dispensing of prescription drugs on the Internet.
NABP developed NABP e-Advertiser Approval Program, which is a new program to approve online advertisers. This program targets Internet advertisers that offer only limited prescription drug related services online. NABP e-Advertiser Approval Program requires that these entities, if seeking to advertise through Google’s AdWords program, submit an application for NABP review and approval. Based on the service the advertised entity provides, NABP determines whether VIPPS accreditation or approval through the new program is required.

Ensuring Examination Integrity
As core services of the Association, NABP examinations and certification programs are constantly evaluated to maintain their integrity and enhance security. Earlier this year, the Executive Committee approved an amendment to the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee™ (FPGEC®) program requirements, making the Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet-based Test™ (TOEFL® iBT) the sole English language proficiency examination accepted for the program. We approved this change with the belief that maintaining one standard for English proficiency will further promote uniformity among all candidates seeking FPGEC Certification and address a security issue we uncovered involving the administration of the Test of Spoken English™. Likewise, to uphold consistent standards within the program, the FPGEC will now only accept TOEFL iBT score reports from Educational Testing Services test centers located in NABP member and associate member jurisdictions.

A statement of consent was also added to the FPGEC Application Scantron form, which authorizes the testing vendor to release candidates’ scores, if deemed necessary. Inclusion of this language into the application streamlines and expedites the receipt of scores and score cancellation information.

Web Site Redesign
I hope that you have had a chance to visit our redesigned Web site that we launched last month. The first phase of the new Web site is intended to increase the functionality of the application submission and processing and provide a streamlined navigation for items of interest and transactions. In the upcoming year, we will complete the redesign by enhancing the home page and complementing the site’s functionality.

Also recently launched is a new Members Only section of the Web site. Currently being piloted with the executive officers of the boards of pharmacy, this secure, password-protected site is a forum for exchanging ideas and information. We believe this forum will be a valuable place for networking, and plan to roll it out to state board of pharmacy members and board staff in the coming months.

We think both the NABP Web site and the Members Only Forum are excellent tools. We welcome your feedback, so please share your thoughts with us. And we encourage you to check the site often as more features are added in the coming months!

All of these improvements were made with the ultimate goal of maintaining the integrity of the NABP programs we provide to you.

EPIC Committee
Finally, I would like to inform you about a new initiative that the Executive Committee sanctioned, called the EPIC Subcommittee. Those serving on the EPIC Subcommittee are the last five NABP Past Presidents and the current NABP Executive Committee Chair. The members have a wealth of knowledge about NABP, diverse pharmacy practice experience, and a willingness to serve on special projects and tasks as determined by the Executive Committee.

Thank you
We would not be here as the Association we are today without your unwavering perseverance and dedication. It is with your assistance that we’ve been able to be at the forefront in protecting the public health through our growing programs and services.

As I conclude my speech today, and my tenure as chairperson comes to an end, thereby marking my six-year journey serving on the Executive Committee, I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge and thank those who have supported me along this incredible journey. First, thanks to all of you for allowing me the privilege to serve and represent you.
willingness to offer your help and most importantly the friendship to me and my family will never be forgotten.

I would also like to thank two good friends, Jerry Moore and Donna Horn, who had the confidence in me to offer a seconding speech in support for me to serve on the Executive Committee.

This year, I asked the Executive Committee to tackle a number of projects and I can’t thank you enough for all of your efforts. They worked tirelessly and long hours in support of this great association.

I am grateful for the help that the staff at NABP has provided me over the past six years. Carmen, thanks for keeping me focused, on-time for meetings, and overlooking my “beach bum” idiosyncrasies, like not wearing socks.

I need to also acknowledge my fellow board members on the “Jersey” Board of Pharmacy. They are dedicated to protecting the patients from the great state of New Jersey and I know it will come as no surprise to anyone, that we also manage to have some fun during the long days of our meetings.

Thank you to my colleagues at Medco, especially Jeff Sinko, Tracy Furgiuele, and the Regulatory Affairs team for their support. A lot of time was spent away from usual work responsibilities to attend numerous NABP meetings over the past six years, and I could not have done it without your support.

Finally, and most importantly, I want thank my wife Sandi for her continual support. She has only been able to make some occasional NABP meetings because of her teaching responsibilities, and has attended a number of family and friends special occasions on her own while I was away attending NABP meetings. In fact, just yesterday, she went to the wedding of a good friend’s daughter, while I was here chairing the EPIC Subcommittee meeting. She has always said, she understands the need for me to be at the NABP and Executive Committee meetings.

The good news is that now we both should be able to spend more time with our first grandchild, Lucia, who was born on Feb 15. I look forward to taking her to the beach, building sand castles, and collecting seashell treasures with her. Our two sons, Zach and Matt will make sure “Little Lucy” will be swimming by two, surfing by three, and lifeguarding on the beach by sixteen!

Well, it’s time to close this chapter of my life’s journey; serving on the Executive Committee, by saying it has been an AWESOME ride!

I look forward to working with all of you and with NABP in other capacities in the future. Thank you.