



NABP 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
May 19-22, 2012  
Philadelphia, PA

## President's Address

*Presented by:*

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Good afternoon.

I am pleased to see all of you here, and I am eager to share with you the

developments and accomplishments of the Association over the past year. It is fitting that we are here, in the Cradle of Liberty, to strengthen our bonds as state regulators. Our founding fathers came together in this city to create a nation that served the people, and we too strive to serve the people as we work to protect public health.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as your president, and I thank you all for the support you have given me this year. Your knowledge and distinctive sense of responsibility are the driving forces motivating the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy<sup>®</sup> (NABP<sup>®</sup>). I saw and experienced this firsthand at the District Meetings, at which I also valued the opportunity to meet and talk to many of you from across the Association. Your commitment to and involvement with NABP are

the reasons we are able to achieve the many things that we do.

I would also like to recognize those individuals who further supported NABP by serving as committee and task force members this past year. Through their leadership, expertise, and commitment, several significant issues were addressed. Our appreciation goes to the members of:

- the Advisory Committee on Examinations and all of the competence assessment content expert and review committees,
- the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws,
- the Committee on Law Enforcement/Legislation,
- the Task Force on the Control and Accountability of Prescription Medications,
- the Task Force on Pharmacy Practice Technology Systems,
- the Task Force to Review and Recommend Revisions to the Controlled Substances Act,

- the Task Force on Internet Pharmacy Practice Standards, and
- the newly formed NABP InterConnect<sup>SM</sup> Steering Committee.

Please join me in a round of applause for those individuals who gave up their time and provided us their expertise by serving the Association this way.

Last year when I stood before you as the incoming president, I proposed as my initiative a focus on our existing programs and increased support for those that were under development, including collaborations and opportunities beyond our national borders. I'm pleased to report that those thoughts of last May are coming to fruition. Our core programs and services, of which I will speak in just a few minutes, continue to operate effectively. There were revisions over the past year in response and anticipation of the new and changing needs of the member boards. In regard to the new programs, we are quite pleased with the successful launch of the NABP InterConnect and the implementation of the CPE Monitor<sup>TM</sup> service. Our focus on these programs enabled us to

address your needs as boards of pharmacy.

As I just mentioned, the enhancements and revisions of our existing and core programs were both necessary and proactive. Let us review some of those enhancements in greater detail.

### ***Linear Form Assembly***

One enhancement we have been working on over the past year is the revision of our test form assembly processes. Upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Examinations, the Executive Committee approved a change to the way our examinations are created, moving from computer adaptive forms to linear, in-house form assembly. This shift to linear examination form assembly will assist NABP in maximizing the usage of existing test item pools while controlling item exposure. Additionally, it will enhance examination security and help streamline publication processes.

The overall examination development process will remain the same, from item development and analysis, to scoring and reporting. But by following the processes for linear form assembly, NABP is able to assemble equivalent test forms that maximize the precision of the score at the defined passing standard while meeting all test specifications, resulting in the validation of the interpretation of the scores that boards will use to make licensure decisions. In addition, to regulate the amount of item overlap and item exposure among the distributed examinations, the new assembly process will create various sets

of test forms, thus providing increased control and security.

We have also improved the processing of applications for licensure transfer through our Electronic Licensure Transfer Program<sup>®</sup> service. Applications received by NABP are processed within 24 hours and the average time for a pharmacist to submit his or her application for licensure transfer and receive an NABP Official Application is four days. When you consider that this is unequalled among the other professions and particularly other health professions, it is a testament to the cooperation among the states and the confidence in the work that NABP performs for the states. When Executive Director/Secretary Catizone speaks on Monday, he will share with you how the NABP e-Profile system will reduce this time even further and move most processing of applications to real time!

### ***PARE***

A new service that NABP will be offering to states immediately after the Annual Meeting is the Pharmacist Assessment for Remediation Evaluation<sup>SM</sup>, or PARE<sup>SM</sup>. This assessment was created at the request of boards of pharmacy that were seeking an additional tool to help them make decisions in situations involving the need to assess pharmacists seeking to re-enter practice when there are questions pertaining to their practice ability or judgment. A Web-based assessment examination, PARE was developed to give the boards the flexibility to administer the exam at their office, in a proctored environment.

The assessment examination comprises three content domains: medication safety and the practice of pharmacy, professional ethics/pharmacist judgment, and clinical pharmacy practice. The PARE will provide the boards of pharmacy with an overall assessment score as well as a performance measure in the specific domain areas if a pharmacist does not meet the overall assessment score.

We are planning to go live with the PARE immediately following this Annual Meeting. More information on PARE can be found on the NABP Web site. Or feel free to contact Maria Boyle, competency assessment senior manager, if you have any questions.

### ***Task Force on Pharmacy Practice Technology Systems***

As I mentioned earlier, several task forces were held over the last year, some of which were the result of resolutions passed at our last Annual Meeting. All of the task force reports are posted on the NABP Web site upon approval of the Executive Committee. In these reports you can review the recommendations of those task forces as well as the background behind the task forces' recommendations. It is important to note some of the highlights from those task force meetings and recommendations. One of the first task forces to meet was the Task Force on Pharmacy Practice Technology Systems.

The task force members' diligent work resulted in several recommendations. The task force suggested that NABP work with the boards of pharmacy to recognize that technology can be

utilized to allow pharmacists to provide care that improves patient outcomes and to encourage the development and implementation of laws that are broadly written and place dual responsibility on the pharmacist and pharmacy permit holder for resulting outcomes.

The second recommendation of the task force was to encourage boards of pharmacy to require that specific topics be addressed when technology systems are implemented to ensure public safety. These topics include:

- training;
- security and confidentiality;
- record keeping and accountability;
- quality assurance;
- quality improvement;
- workflow processes; and
- emergency procedures.

The two remaining task forces were the Task Force on the Control and Accountability of Prescription Medications and the Task Force on Internet Pharmacy Practice, and they also resulted in excellent recommendations.

Held in October 2011, the Task Force on the Control and Accountability of Prescription Medications recommended revisions to the *Model State Pharmacy Act* and *Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (Model Act)* to address preventing drug diversion in pharmacies. These revisions related to access to controlled substances by unlicensed and unregistered staff, security and inventory control provisions,

and for board-specified criminal background checks to be required for all pharmacy owners and/or pharmacy permit holders, pharmacy staff, including pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy interns, and any other staff that has access to prescription medications.

Other important recommendations include:

- encouraging boards of pharmacy to incorporate existing *Model Act* language pertaining to the reporting of separation of employment for drug-related reasons;
- encouraging schools and colleges of pharmacy, boards, pharmacy associations, and employers to increase education and training focusing on the ethical and legal responsibilities of pharmacists-in-charge; and
- encouraging pharmacy employers to conduct initial and random drug screening on all employees who have access to prescription drugs and to verify that common carriers have in place security provisions, such as criminal background checks and random drug screens on its employees who have access to prescription medications.

The recommendations of the Task Force on Internet Pharmacy Practice, which was held in March of this year, include:

- continuing efforts to obtain the .pharmacy domain by seeking the boards' support and establishing relationships with global regulatory authorities;
- amending the *Model Act* with language that boards can incorporate into state laws and regulations to further enhance public protection against rogue Internet drug outlets; and
- encouraging state boards of pharmacy to require Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites<sup>CM</sup> VIPPS accreditation for Internet pharmacies providing pharmacy services to residents of their states.

The work of the task forces is further support for NABP's increased outreach and collaboration that President-elect Burelson will speak about on Tuesday.

### ***Tri-Regulator Meeting***

As part of this ongoing effort to collaborate with other health care professionals and foster an interprofessional team approach to patient care and health care, I would also like to remind you that the first ever Tri-Regulator Symposium will be taking place October 17-18, in Washington DC, and I encourage your board to participate in this important opportunity for inter-professional dialogue. Members from NABP, the Federation of State Medical Boards, and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing will participate in the symposium and discussion will focus on three

areas:

1. The history of state-based medical, nursing, and pharmacy regulation in the United States,
2. Current and future opportunities for inter-professional cooperation, and
3. Collective challenges faced by these three groups.

Attendance at the Tri-Regulator Symposium is limited among the three organizations. NABP will be represented by the NABP Executive Committee, as well as additional representatives from member boards of pharmacy.

Details and information on how your board can participate will be e-mailed to the executive directors in the electronic mailbag in the near future. Member participation will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, and up to 30 NABP members may participate.

### ***Interactive Forums***

I am pleased to say that this year marks the start of another round of Interactive Forums. Board of pharmacy members will again be invited to NABP Headquarters to discuss the challenges in their states and collaborate on possible solutions to these issues.

When these forums were first introduced in 2010 we had anticipated a three-year cycle with attendance rotating among board members, executive officers, and compliance officers. However, after seeing the enthusiasm of the participants of the first meeting and hearing how beneficial the meeting had been for the attendees, we began rethinking the three-year cycle. After the next

two highly successful forums – one for compliance officers and one for executive officers – we responded to attendees' feedback and condensed the schedule to allow more frequent meetings for the three groups.

This year, two forums will be held – one for members and one for executive officers. The forums are only open to NABP members to allow for open discussion.

As with the previous interactive forums, the meeting content will be built around the topics in which you are interested. Prior to the forum NABP will circulate a survey to determine what issues are important to you to ensure that the sessions are relevant to you. Also, NABP will again provide funding for travel, meals, and accommodations to facilitate participation by as many member boards as possible.

The two scheduled forums are:

- The Interactive Member Forum, to be held September 19-20, and the
- The Interactive Executive Officers Forum, to be held November 13-14.

Please be sure to send a representative to each meeting. These forums are a wonderful opportunity to interact with your colleagues – an opportunity we do not have often enough.

### ***Regulation on a Global Scale***

Before I close, I would like to return to one of my presidential initiatives: collaborating and opportunities beyond our national borders. This is an effort that NABP has fostered for some time.

As we have moved forward in our efforts to collaborate at home,

we have also moved forward in engaging on a global level. One of the priorities I discussed last year was the need to become more active in pharmacy regulation on a global scale. The first step toward this was attending the Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique meeting in Hyderabad, India this past September. While at that meeting I attended a session that discussed pharmacy regulatory and legislative changes across the world. Those in attendance concurred that there has been some reluctance for countries to agree to one set of standards. I think NABP is in an excellent position to take a leadership role in this discussion. As an organization comprised of 64 jurisdictions, we have much experience compromising and collaborating to come up with uniform frameworks for regulatory systems that allow enough flexibility for states to retain their independence and autonomy. As such, I told those at the session that NABP would be reaching out to international organizations to share ideas and best practices. The goal of this outreach is to begin a dialogue with other nations that wish to accomplish the common goal of ensuring appropriate medication use and safe access to medicines.

Another way that NABP has embarked on the goal of making pharmacy regulation more global is through its application to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to become the official registry operator of the new generic Top Level Domain – .pharmacy. Supported by a global coalition of stakeholders, we are pursuing this domain registry to ensure that only those legitimate online pharmacies

that abide by the pharmacy laws and practice standards of the regions in which they are doing business may utilize the new .pharmacy domain. The proposed plan for the registry also includes the implementation of both active and passive safeguards to ensure that dot pharmacy registrants continue to abide by the terms and conditions set forth in their registration agreement.

If approved as the registry operator, NABP, with the input of the global coalition, will develop guidelines for vetting each Internet pharmacy or related entity applying for a .pharmacy domain name, the best practices for the .pharmacy generic Top-

Level Domain (gTLD), and a consumer education campaign through AWA<sub>R</sub>x<sub>E</sub>® designed to raise awareness and build trust in the .pharmacy domain. Because each registrant will be thoroughly vetted, the .pharmacy domain will not provide a false veneer of legitimacy for rogue online drug sites. Rather, .pharmacy will provide a powerful tool to educate consumers, distinguish legitimate Internet pharmacies from the thousands of rogue Internet drug outlets, and reinforce the value of purchasing medications only from trustworthy online sources.

ICANN is currently processing and evaluating applications. And in June, ICANN will post on its

Web site a list of applicants and applied-for gTLDs. A public comment period is now open, and the results of ICANN's initial evaluation will be posted on November 12.

I am pleased to report that FIP has formally endorsed NABP's .pharmacy initiative and is in discussion with us to partner for the purpose of operationalizing .pharmacy on a global level.

I would again like to express my gratitude to all of you for continuing to make NABP a strong Association. I have enjoyed serving as your president during this exciting time. Thank you.