President’s Address

Good afternoon. Wasn’t that a great experience making music together with our keynote speaker Dr Boris Brott? It was truly a demonstration that working together, we can accomplish great things. It takes a tremendous amount of cooperation and coordination for an orchestra to produce beautiful music together. Making beautiful music always starts with the individual musicians, and their level of talent and dedication.

I have always been curious and, at times, intrigued by the sounds that musicians produce with their instruments, and wonder: What instrument created that sound? How many different instruments were used in that song? Did you ever wonder about that? There’s one Irish band that I’ve listened to over the years whose musical sounds have piqued my curiosity. Since I am of Irish heritage, I thought it would be fun to hear some of their musical sounds during our meeting. I’m not talking about Irish pub music or O Danny Boy. This is different. We’ll play little bits of their music when I am at or near the podium throughout our meeting. Here’s a little background about this ensemble. Their musical sounds most times are being generated from three, but never more than four musicians and their instruments. When you hear these little song intros let it be a reminder of what great things can be accomplished by a few, and a source of inspiration for what all hands on deck can accomplish.

Here is one of several clips from the band U2 that we’ll hear throughout the meeting. It has been an exciting and invigorating year serving as your president.

Last year I rolled out a pledge to take action in the fight against prescription drug abuse. I made it my priority to get our membership involved in solving the prescription drug abuse epidemic. Not just as another voice saying that there is a problem, but to be a resource and active participant in their practice settings, and communities, to make a difference. Asking pharmacists and others affiliated with pharmacy to take on the responsibility in their sphere of influence, in their pharmacies and in their communities, to educate and provide support to those in need. We have plenty of people talking. But the more people taking action, the more we can get done.

Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting in New Orleans were the first to take that pledge, and I am pleased to say that since that time thousands more have taken the pledge. We posted it on the AWARXE® Prescription Drug Safety website for people to sign online and we also made up wallet-sized cards to distribute to others at meetings and events. It can be easy to say the words, but much harder to take action and implement the pledge. So to support you in your efforts, we posted ideas and resources on the AWARXE website for you to use in living the pledge. Pharmacists, pharmacy students, and many others in the pharmacy profession have embraced the challenge and are doing their part to spread the word about the epidemic of prescription drug abuse and they are using AWARXE resources to educate...
and support patients in their community.

To date well over 30,000 pledge cards have been distributed. I congratulate all of you who are living the pledge and I urge you to continue the fight. For those who have not yet had a chance to take the pledge, the cards were also included in your registration packets. If you need additional pledge cards, please see me. And of course you can go to the Resources section for pharmacists on the AWARxE website and sign the pledge online.

I am also pleased to report that I had the opportunity to share this message at many meetings over the course of the year. Such meetings included the National Conference of Pharmaceutical Organizations, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Industry Meeting on Preventing Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse, the 2016 Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners meeting, the 2016 Prescription Drug Abuse Summit, the New Jersey Pharmacists Annual Convention, and of course the NABP/AACP District Meetings. The response from those in attendance was heartening and I saw many in the pharmacy community engaged and ready to do their part.

We have a long way to go in the fight against prescription drug abuse, as the problem is complex and the solution is a multi-faceted one. As our incoming President Hal Wand will mention in his remarks on Tuesday, NABP will continue to be active in this effort. I will continue in my role as Chairman to champion this effort, and I believe that if we all take an active role as regulators, pharmacists, and community members we can help to turn the tide in this epidemic.

Now I would like to go over the recommendations of two of the task forces that were held last year.

**Task Force Updates**

Held in response to a resolution from last year’s Annual Meeting, the Task Force on Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority was convened and charged with reviewing state laws and regulations on pharmacists’ prescriptive authority and relevant language from the *Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (Model Act)*. In addition, the task force members were asked to propose key messages that should be conveyed to boards of pharmacy, key stakeholders, and the public about the patient care benefits of granting pharmacists limited prescriptive authority. The task force made several recommendations that were subsequently reviewed and approved by the Law Enforcement/Legislation Committee and the Executive Committee.

During our review, we on the Executive Committee felt that the recommendations of the task force were focused on collaborative practice rather than prescriptive authority; therefore, we wanted to engage in our own research in order to develop recommendations for states to establish and recognize pharmacist prescriptive authority. Since that time, we have discussed this concept with the leadership of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) during an interim Tri-Regulatory meeting. We received valuable feedback concerning the concept of pharmacist prescriptive authority and critical issues for NABP to consider. You will hear much more about this topic during our last continuing pharmacy education (CPE) session, titled “Sailing to New Horizons – Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority: Point-Counterpoint.”

The first recommendation of the task force is for NABP to support pharmacists having limited ability to initiate, modify, and terminate drug therapy under certain circumstances including, but not limited to, collaborative practice agreements and state protocols. The members discussed today’s constantly changing health care delivery landscape as well as the current emphasis on expanding accessible, affordable, and quality health care, and how pharmacists are vital to fulfilling this need as the most accessible health care member. The task force further discussed new laws and regulations that have been enacted in some states that are bringing pharmacists exponentially closer to their professional goals of being provided greater opportunity and recognition.

Key messaging recommended by
the task force include such points as:

- Expanding pharmacists’ role on health care teams to increase patient access to quality health care, and
- Expanding use of collaborative agreements to improve outcomes by increasing patient access to timely and efficient care.

Additional key messages are listed on the screen. The task force stressed the importance of sharing these messages with the public and stakeholders to support the utilization of pharmacists’ expertise.

Also held in response to a resolution from last year’s Annual Meeting, the Task Force on the Regulation of Pharmacist Care Services was convened the following week. The members of this task force were charged with reviewing existing state laws and regulations pertaining to the provision of pharmacist care outside of the traditional pharmacy setting and, if necessary, recommending revisions to the Model Act to assist boards of pharmacy in the oversight and regulation of such services.

Recommended changes to the Model Act included streamlining the definition of the “Practice of Pharmacy” by making it more general and relevant to the evolving practice with room to grow. The task force noted that specific practice changes or additions should be made in the comments section of the definition so as to not clutter the definition itself with specific examples. Additionally, it was recommended that the term “Pharmacist Care” be changed to “Pharmacist Care Services” to make pharmacist clinical services more tangible and to include more than the dispensing of prescription drugs.

The task force also discussed that the state boards of pharmacy must set standards for licensure of medication therapy management that occurs outside of a pharmacy and recognize that the practice of pharmacy is occurring where the medication therapy management and patient counseling is occurring rather than a pharmacy site-specific location. Furthermore, as pharmacists are beginning to provide more primary care services, the task force recommended that the boards mandate documentation of these services and encounters to increase the accountability of pharmacists.

In addition to recommending changes to the Model Act, the task force recommended that NABP should encourage boards of pharmacy to expand the scope of activities that pharmacists may delegate to certified pharmacy technicians. The members agreed that such a change would enable pharmacists to increase their engagement in patient care services, concluding that this expanded delegation, provided that the certified pharmacy technician is qualified, should be determined by the pharmacist and/or permit holder.

The full reports of both of these task forces can be found in the Members section of the NABP website.

At this time, I want to acknowledge the work of the volunteer members who served on these task forces, as well as those who served on the committees you see listed on the screens.

Through their commitment, leadership, and expertise, these task forces and committees addressed several significant issues of importance to the Association.

Please join me in a round of applause to recognize the individuals who gave their time and expertise to serve the Association as members of these task forces, as well as those who served on the following committees:

- Advisory Committee on Examinations,
- Examination content and review,
- Committee on Constitution and Bylaws,
- Law Enforcement and Legislation,
- NABP PMP InterConnect®, and
- The .Pharmacy® Top-Level Domain executive board and advisory committees.

**Forum Invites**

In addition to giving us an opportunity to acknowledge such service, the Annual Meeting is a great place to meet up with colleagues and share information. Recognizing that once a year isn’t enough for these face-to-face networking opportunities, each fall NABP
offers interactive forums for executive officers, members, compliance officers, and board counsel.

The forums scheduled to be held in 2016 are:

- The Interactive Executive Officer Forum, to be held October 4-5, and the
- Interactive Member Forum, to be held November 30 to December 1.

I’d also like to note that the New Executive Officers Orientation Program is held in conjunction with the Executive Officer Forum, and provides an excellent opportunity for new executive officers to learn about all the programs and services that NABP offers in support of the boards of pharmacy.

Rather than me telling you what an excellent opportunity these meetings are, I’ll leave it to those who have attended. On screen you will see some of the comments they have made in addition to saying that the meetings are “very informative” and offer “great networking.”

The key to the success of these meetings is the participation of those who attend. We build the content of the meeting around topics that you are interested in. To do this, prior to the forum, NABP circulates a survey to determine what issues are important to the boards of pharmacy. In addition, plenty of time is made available for group discussion and networking.

This year, as in past years, NABP will provide funding for travel, meals, and accommodations to facilitate participation by as many boards as possible. Please be sure to send a representative to each meeting. As you can see on screen, these forums are a wonderful opportunity to interact with your colleagues.

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment all the NABP staff who made my time as President so rewarding. I want to recognize our NABP conductor Carmen Catizone for his 30 years of leadership.

Carmen surpassed the 30-year mark of exceptional service to our Association during my year as President, and I’d like to publicly acknowledge his achievement, and I ask you all to be mindful of the stewardship Carmen has provided this Association as you listen to Treasurer Waggener’s report which will follow. Carmen recently received noteworthy recognition that I’d like to share with the membership.

This past month Carmen was the recipient of the FSMB’s prestigious Award of Merit, which “recognizes activities and contributions that positively impact and strengthen the profession of medical licensure and discipline, and help enhance public protection.” Specifically, Carmen and the now retired CEO of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Kathy Apple, were recognized for their remarkable, extraordinary, and sustained efforts over the last several years to work with the FSMB’s CEO Hank Chaudhry and their leadership to support the establishment of a Tri-Regulator Collaborative. The Collaborative consists of the staff and board leadership of the FSMB, NCSBN, and NABP, with the purpose to advance interprofessional regulation and promote collegiality and consensus development on a range of issues of mutual interest impacting the nation’s doctors, physician assistants, nurses, and pharmacists. The collaborative has been very successful in holding two well-attended Tri-Regulator Symposia, both in Washington, DC, that have literally enabled dozens of state medical, nursing, and pharmacy regulators to meet – many of them for the first time, despite their proximity within their own state – collegially and constructively to promote, protect, and preserve the state-based regulation of our respective health professions.

I would not have had the opportunity to stand before this body without the support and encouragement of my fellow past and present New Jersey Board of Pharmacy members.

I want to thank them, the past presidents of NABP who have offered their wisdom, and the entire Executive Committee for their enthusiastic support of my initiatives. Lastly, I’ve been very blessed to have an awesome and remarkably loving life partner and best friend by my side for 43 years. We’ll celebrate our 39th wedding anniversary in July. Our four children, spouses, and granddaughter Norah B. made the journey from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania to be with us here in San Diego. All of our kids and their spouses are accomplished in their chosen professions, and their presence here to share this time with me is
humbling and much appreciated. I hope that many of you in the audience take the opportunity to meet my family before they head back to their very busy lives.

Thank you all for providing me the privilege to serve as your President. Let’s all continue to work together to accomplish great things. Thank You.