Good afternoon.
I am honored to stand before you as the incoming NABP president.

When I reflect on NABP and the past year’s achievements, and consider the years ahead, one word comes to mind – “teamwork.” As reflected in the Annual Meeting theme “All Hands On Deck,” teamwork is vital to the success of the Association’s goals. My presidential initiatives focus on the power of teamwork and are meant to expand our horizons and open up new opportunities for the membership.

As you’ve heard throughout the meeting, we must all work together to make the changes that are in the best interest of the public that we are all protecting. Though it often seems like the world of pharmacy regulation is slow to change, with so many outside forces making rapid changes, it is moving more quickly than ever before. And the NABP Executive Committee wants to ensure that the Association is positioned to help your boards in the necessary capacities.

As I developed my initiatives, I looked to both the past and the future. It is important to recognize and retain the valuable work of those who have come before me, as innovations can inspire and build new opportunities. We must also acknowledge that rapidly changing technology has contributed to great changes in the practice of pharmacy and pharmacy regulation. In addition to creating efficiencies and increasing access to pharmacy care for patients within the United States, it has also brought about some dangerous complications as Carmen discussed yesterday. Luckily, our predecessors had the foresight to recognize the importance of attaining an international perspective.

**International Members and Recognition**

You probably didn’t think you would be faced with a history quiz at this meeting, but we know we have a smart group here. I’m sure you all have your phone handy. If you were at the first business session on Sunday you are already set up to participate in the poll. If not, text the code “NABP 111” to the five-digit number 22333. You will only have to do that once. After that you will simply need to text the letter of your answer to the number 22333 whenever we ask you a poll question.

Now for your question:

When did NABP welcome its first international colleague as an associate member?

If you think the answer is 1953 text “A” to 22333.

If you think the answer is 1965 text “B”.

If you think the first international associate member was added in 1976 text “C”.

Or if you think the answer is 1982, text “D” to 22333.

The answer is B, 1965. That was the year NABP welcomed its first international colleagues – the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia – into the organization as an associate member. Today, we have a total of nine Canadian provinces, Australia, The Bahamas, and New Zealand as associate members.
Over the years we have benefited from the ideas and experiences of our international associate members. This is exemplified in this year’s choice of Ron Guse as Honorary President. And I see the mutual benefits growing in years to come as the .Pharmacy® Top-Level Domain Program continues to grow, and as we see more mergers of United States pharmacy corporations with international corporations.

Per the NABP Mission Statement:

NABP is the independent, international, and impartial association that assists its member boards and jurisdictions for the purpose of protecting the public health.

As President of NABP, I believe it is important to embrace fully the NABP Mission Statement, particularly its reference to NABP as an international association. Therefore, I seek to focus on strengthening relationships with current international member jurisdictions and establishing relationships with potential new international member jurisdictions. Furthermore, I would like to convene a task force to explore the feasibility of allowing international boards to become active members.

For those of you who are new to the Association, the NABP Constitution defines Active Member Boards as:

… those member boards that have formally approved the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, and that require the use of the NABP Clearinghouse for all candidates for the purpose of transferring licensure both into and out of the state as provided by the Bylaws of this Association.

An additional distinguishing feature of active member boards is their ability to vote in the various proceedings at this meeting.

As you can see, there are some aspects of active membership that are particular to US boards and would not be relevant to our international colleagues … today. For example, the required participation in the Electronic License Transfer Program®. As such, the task force will explore the differences and commonalities and make recommendations on how to incorporate international boards as active members without endangering the century old bond between the US jurisdictions and NABP.

What I have suggested may seem controversial to many, but we are now in an age when the largest hospitality company owns no hotels, and the largest taxi service owns no cars. It is time for us explore the boundaries of membership we set for ourselves a century ago to see if they still fit the world we live in today.

**Member Board Survey**

I am confident there are many areas where NABP can facilitate an additional focus on teamwork to add value for member boards of pharmacy. Back in 2005, Dennis McAllister, the incoming NABP President who was also from the great state of Arizona, stood before the membership at the Annual Meeting describing his initiatives. One of those initiatives was a member satisfaction survey that was conducted to obtain direction for improvement of NABP programs and services.

It is the goal of the Executive Committee and Association staff to stay in constant conversation with you, the members, so that we continually provide you with the support and services you need. But as we all know, much has changed over the past 10 years. And not just in the practice of pharmacy and the number of NABP programs. The speed at which technology advances is mind blowing. And for many of our states, keeping up is a challenge. We’ve also seen many long-time members take their leave. The insight of these colleagues will be missed, but we welcome the new ideas and energy that our new members bring to the Association.

Through it all, NABP has received positive feedback on how well it has been able to keep up with trends. However, as your incoming president, I believe it is time, once again, to survey NABP members. It is important for me and the Executive Committee, as well as NABP staff, to understand what the member pharmacy boards need. I also want to find out how NABP can provide programs and services to address those needs. To do this, NABP will conduct the needs assessment survey of the member boards of pharmacy this summer.
Through this survey we are looking to hear about ALL of your needs. And we want to know if you think NABP is the appropriate entity to provide the program or service that will support that need. Just as it is important for us to know how we can assist you, we also want to know at what point you think our scope of responsibility ends. Understanding where this point is for the majority of boards will be a vital decision-making tool when program development requests come through to the Executive Committee.

We on the Executive Committee were elected to serve as your representatives. But we do not read minds. We do not have crystal balls. To serve as your representatives we need to ask you your thoughts and opinions. My colleagues have done an excellent job of this over the years by connecting with members both inside and outside their districts. But I think it is time for a comprehensive survey where we can get feedback from all the members at once.

Obtaining quality survey results will definitely take that team effort, and I encourage all those who receive the survey to take the time to participate. I understand the many deadlines and demands that you face each day and that, comparatively, filling out a survey would appear to be a low priority. However, this survey could have a huge impact on your board. This survey is not being conducted so we on the Executive Committee can hear what a great job NABP is doing. It is being conducted so you can tell us what NABP can do better to support your board. So don’t hold back. Tell us what you really think.

**Prescription Drug Epidemic**

That talent and ability to meet any challenge was tested and responded admirably in regard to the prescription drug abuse epidemic gripping our nation. I would like to continue the efforts begun by Joe Adams and Ed McGinley and work to combat the prescription drug abuse epidemic in this country within the scope of state boards of pharmacy and NABP.

There is no disputing that the majority of American families have been impacted by this epidemic. In my own family, my nephew has served more than one term in the Arizona state prison because of circumstances related to methamphetamine addiction. There are so many victims of drug abuse. From those struggling with addiction, to their family members trying to help them overcome the disease, and of course to those whose lives have been lost as a result of overdose.

Please join me in a moment of silence for all the victims and the painful losses so many families have endured.

In 2015 Ed worked tirelessly to have the Pledge he created become a true call for action. And, as he said on Sunday, if you don’t know where to start in the fight against prescription drug abuse, the AWARxE® Prescription Drug Safety website has some helpful tips in the Pharmacist Resources section. When we take action as a team, we can make a difference. As President, I will ensure NABP will continue to make the Pledge available and provide resources via the AWARxE website. However, recognizing the scope of public and patient education is far beyond NABP’s resources and expertise, and we will seek partnerships with organizations already in these areas and making a difference.

**Task Force and Committees**

Making a difference has always been a goal of NABP and its members. When talking about what the boards of pharmacy and NABP are facing, the first question asked is “Where do we start?” And consistently the answer is “By getting involved.”

Serving on a task force or committee is not only an opportunity to contribute your expertise on important regulatory issues facing the boards, but is also a valuable opportunity to collaborate with other board of pharmacy members – to get involved and make a difference.

Now here is another polling question for you. It is teamwork that has the greatest impact. How many of you here have participated on an NABP task force or committee in the past? If you have participated on an NABP task force or committee in the past, text “A” to 22333. If you have NOT, text “B” to 22333.

I will be appointing members to task forces as well as standing committees soon. If you want to help shape the future of NABP, please send a brief letter of interest and a current resume to my attention at the NABP.
headquarters in Mount Prospect, Illinois, by June 3. Or, e-mail your letter of interest and résumé to me in care of exec-office@NABP.net.

Kudos to Carmen and the NABP staff. If the members knew how much they do to make me look and sound good, there would be an arrest for me as a poser. Also I’d like to thank the membership for providing me the opportunity to serve them for the past 10 years. Last, but most importantly, thanks to Llyn Lloyd and Dennis McAllister for their examples and mentoring. I look forward to working with the member boards and serving as your president over the coming year.

Thank you.