Good afternoon. Once again, I stand before you humbled to have served on your Executive Committee, a privilege I have held for the past ten years.

In my time serving as an officer on the NABP executive committee, I have also had the privilege to address you, the membership, on topics including compounding safety, online pharmacy safety, your responses to my survey assessing NABP member needs, and reassessing how to better connect with our international members. Together, as the members of NABP, we have accomplished much in each of these areas. And, as our meeting theme reflects, we need to continue our forward momentum if we are to keep achieving significant and necessary results. We need to think forward, in order to climb upward.

Before I share the Association’s achievements in these areas since our last annual meeting, I would like to let you know that once again this year we will be incorporating some questions into the officer speeches, and asking for your participation via your phone. I will provide instructions just prior to the first polling question, so if you would like to leave your phone out, but on silent, you will be ready to participate.

**Compounding Safety**

The boards of pharmacy and NABP have made much progress in advancing initiatives to ensure the safety of compounded medications, including those distributed across state lines. In these endeavors, NABP has partnered closely with FDA, ensuring that the voices of the state boards were represented as the agency rolled out compounding-related provisions of the Drug Quality and Security Act. Board of Pharmacy members also came together to share insights with the agency at the 50 State Intergovernmental Meeting to Discuss Pharmacy Compounding, which took place in September of 2017.

Members also continued to discuss the latest developments of compounding regulatory challenges at the fall NABP Interactive Forums, both at the meeting for executive officers and the meeting for compliance officers and legal counsel. The latter meeting also kicked off with a two-day training provided by FDA that reviewed the agency’s rules and processes related to the inspection of outsourcing facilities, as well as USP 797 standards and good manufacturing processes.

Further, in 2017, members continued to utilize NABP resources related to inspection and licensure of pharmacies that practice compounding, including non-resident pharmacies.

A key resource is the Multistate Pharmacy Inspection Blueprint Program, which assists state boards of pharmacy in utilizing uniform inspection processes and sharing inspection and licensure information. Currently, there are 15 state boards that have become blueprint states and several other state boards are in the process of becoming blueprint states. Blueprint states have taken the steps shown on the screen.

NABP Member Relations and Government Affairs staff continue to assist boards on the
path to becoming a Blueprint state. Doing so signals that sterile compounding pharmacies that ship product out of your state are being routinely inspected and that the resulting report reflects robust standards, uniform among the states.

The Verified Pharmacy Program® (VPP®) also continues to serve as a resource supporting the boards, as VPP pharmacy inspection reports are available to boards through e-Profile Connect. Forty-five states recognize VPP inspections, with two additional states recognizing VPP inspections for certain circumstances.

To support board staff training, in 2017 NABP made available two grant programs for inspectors to complete compounding training. One grant, offered through a partnership with The Pew Charitable Trusts, provided funding for inspectors from seven boards to complete the CriticalPoint training in 2017, and will provide funding for 11 more boards to have an inspector complete the training this year. In addition, NABP now offers a scholarship to cover tuition for the CriticalPoint training for one inspector or compliance officer per state per year.

.Pharmacy Verified Websites Program Update

Over the past two years, I’ve had the pleasure of serving on the .Pharmacy Executive Board. During that time I’ve seen great progress in the program. NABP has been a leader in providing consumers with a way to protect themselves when buying medicine online since 1999, and we continue to find new and innovative ways to help patients stay safe. Before I share information on these accomplishments, it’s time for our first polling question. To join the poll, simply text NABP114 to 22333. You will receive a confirmation that you have joined the poll. Now, when you are ready simply text the corresponding letter of your response to the same number. Here is your first question:
What is the percentage of not recommended websites selling medications without requiring a valid prescription? Is it,
A) 60%
B) 70%
C) 80% or
D) 90%
The answer is D, about 90% of sites reviewed by NABP and determined as not recommended sell prescription medications without requiring a valid prescription. I ask this question to remind you all of the urgent public health threat driving the need for NABP’s online safety initiatives.

The .Pharmacy Verified Websites Program saw an increase in .pharmacy registrants and expanded its consumer education campaigns.
In 2017, domain name registrations grew 92%, from 263 on January 1 to 505 on December 31.
To build on this momentum, marketing staff prepared press and promotional materials for entities to share their achievement of earning a .pharmacy domain with their customers and stakeholders. .Pharmacy entities are also encouraged to promote the newest .pharmacy PSAs by sharing the links to these videos.

Let’s take a look at the PSA now.
In addition to educating consumers, the program has made further headway in protecting consumers from fake online pharmacies. Specifically, several online platforms have updated their advertising policies to require NABP verification.

Only online pharmacies and drug information sites accredited by NABP’s .Pharmacy Verified Websites Program and VIPPS® program are permitted to advertise with Microsoft Bing, Google, and Yahoo! In 2017, Twitter also updated its advertising policies to require NABP verification for online pharmacies. In addition, both Visa and Mastercard require .pharmacy verification for card-not-present online purchases.

Further, the Association continues to collaborate with pharmacy and health regulators across the world. NABP has a memorandum of understanding with the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities for that organization to verify licensure and disciplinary history for Canadian applicants, as well as recognition of the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Health Products for their good work in protecting Spanish patients who are seeking to purchase medicines online. In addition, we have informal relationships with
regulators in Australia, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Ireland, and Spain to evaluate applications from applicants located or doing business in those countries.

**Workgroup on International Membership**

Speaking of international partnerships, I would also like to share an update on the international membership initiative I asked the Association to explore when I served as your president in 2016. I asked the membership to examine how we might increase the involvement of non-US pharmacy jurisdictions in the Association’s decision-making processes.

A task force on the topic convened in 2016 and was charged to review the differences and commonalities of various international boards of pharmacy, explore the feasibility of allowing international boards to become active members, and recommend, if necessary, amendments to the NABP Constitution and Bylaws.

Prior to the Annual Meeting last year, the Executive Committee reviewed the recommendations of that task force and identified a number of issues that required further consideration before determining if constitutional amendments should be proposed. The Executive Committee asked NABP staff to conduct an impact analysis on the recommendations of the Task Force for presentation to the membership at this Annual Meeting.

Staff collected information from other associations with non-US jurisdiction members and examined the impact of the Task Force’s recommendations across all aspects of the Association.

A specially commissioned panel, deemed the Workgroup on International Membership reviewed the impact analysis. The workgroup was charged with providing input on the feasibility of the Task Force’s recommendations and any other alternatives identified by NABP staff. The Workgroup met on January 10, 2018 at NABP Headquarters and made three recommendations, which are shown on the screen.

First, the Workgroup recommended that NABP should maintain the current active and associate membership categories. Workgroup members agreed that participation under current membership categories is mutually beneficial and membership category expansion would not significantly enhance the benefits to non-US jurisdictions nor to NABP.

The workgroup also noted that currently, Associate Members, including non-US jurisdictions, are

- afforded the privilege of the floor to speak on any matter under consideration during the Business Sessions at the Annual Meeting,
- that they are included in all NABP’s meetings and Forums, and
- that they are eligible to host District Meetings and serve on individual District Meeting governance committees and leadership (separate from NABP).

The Workgroup also noted the difficulty with assessing what constitutes an “international matter” within and outside the current operations of license transfer, competency assessment, and the NABP Clearinghouse.

Second, the Workgroup recommended that NABP maintain the current composition of the NABP Executive Committee.

Third, the Workgroup recommended that the Executive Committee should establish an ad hoc International Advisory Committee to explore global issues pertaining to the regulation of pharmacy, and establish a process for the Advisory Committee to provide input to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee agreed that such an Advisory Committee would allow NABP and the membership to further engage in conversation on global issues, and help to strengthen the partnerships with international pharmacy regulators. It was viewed as a critical first step for NABP to increase its international involvement and collaboration.

With our work on compounding safety regulation, online pharmacy safety, and strengthening partnerships between US and non-US members, NABP certainly continues to think forward together. And though I am completing my service on your executive committee, I will look to the future as we climb upward together.

Thank you.