



Report of the President

NABP 115th Annual Meeting
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Presented by:

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Ah yes, a very very very fine house . . .

One year ago, I shared with you the renovation of the house

the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) built, illustrating the remodeling and expansion executed to position NABP for the growth of programs and services to meet the evolving needs of our customers tomorrow and beyond. Today, I am deeply honored and humbled as NABP president to provide an update of our ongoing “home improvements” over the past year yet remaining true to the “bones of our house,” the mission and vision that have sustained us for over 100 years with our stellar reputation of integrity and expertise.

As I prepared for this year’s meeting, I thought back to last year and my message as president-elect. The renovation of the NABP Headquarters served as a metaphor for NABP and the future of NABP and its members. The photos of the

modernization served as my backdrop.

I asked the membership to join me in embracing NABP’s vision statement, “Innovating and collaborating today for a safer public health tomorrow,” using a team-based approach to maximize and reinforce the Association’s long-standing programs and services. I asked the Association to team up to fuel and strengthen resources and tools that will help us respond to the many changes facing pharmacy practice today. The concept of keeping NABP the “same” (defined as remaining true to the attributes that got us to this point), but also becoming even “better” (current, competitive, relevant, and responsive) was my theme.

Today, I am privileged to report on the status of our house. I can confidently say that “the same, only better” was applied to every interaction with NABP members and collaborations with our valued partners. Because of your support and dedication, NABP was made better while retaining what defines our core. Woven into my narrative today, you will

repeatedly hear the words innovation, collaboration, and teamwork. The core strength of NABP has always been its membership, and the experience of witnessing this over the past year as president has been truly inspiring.

One area of responsiveness to changing customer needs is evident in this very meeting.

A show of hands, how many of you longtime attendees keep thinking today is Sunday? I know I do! Last year, I spoke of the need for NABP to be nimble in our customer responsiveness. The scheduling changes to the Annual Meeting are an example of listening to your feedback regarding travel and time constraints.

Although we may have to shift our mind-set on what day of the week it is, much of the meeting remains the same, but with a more compact and slightly revised schedule to better serve your needs and requests. The meeting still has valuable networking and continuing pharmacy education (CPE) opportunities, the same three business sessions, and the same exciting optional events. But we

revised the timeline to a three-day format that makes the best use of our weekdays and ends on Saturday so that attendees may return home during the weekend or tack on an extra day of “R&R” before returning to work and home. We hope you find the new format is beneficial, allows for more precious family time, and minimizes time away from ever-increasing work commitments.

We encourage feedback on the new format from all of you. You will have an opportunity to share your thoughts on this revised schedule in the post-meeting survey that will be distributed via email in the coming weeks. Please share what worked, what did not, and anything else you would like to see with future programming. We hope you will agree that the meeting is the same, only better suited to busy schedules. And although contracting necessitates the same format for next year, your feedback will tell us if further tweaking for future meetings might still be desired. So, please be as specific and detailed as possible in your comments so we can continue to better meet your needs.

Another core strength of NABP is the depth and scope of the data we warehouse. Concerted efforts have been made in the past year to make that data repository even more robust and meaningful to our member states. This can be maintained only with your cooperation. NABP needs, and I underscore needs, for you to be an active member of this data sharing team with the Verified

Pharmacy Program® (VPP®) and the Multistate Pharmacy Inspection Blueprint Program. Currently, there are 47 boards that recognize VPP as meeting state inspection requirements for nonresident pharmacies and a growing number require VPP as a component of licensure in some cases. Member boards understand that inspections are important to protecting the public health and ensuring that pharmacies are operating in compliance with state laws and safety standards. This is especially critical to meeting your mission of public protection as it applies to nonresident pharmacies servicing patients in your state. NABP understands that oftentimes member boards are challenged with a lack of resources to conduct timely and robust inspections. The Verified Pharmacy Program, both by itself and in combination with state resources, can help bridge these gaps that boards encounter. The inspection reports produced through VPP are also available to fellow boards via NABP e-Profile Connect. So, this is an example of the shared rewards of teamwork and collaboration, as these reports can also be accessed by other boards.

Innovation was realized with our systems upgrade and the launch of the CPE Monitor® plus subscription, which has taken off beyond the initial projections. The use of data by customers for licensure and continuing education compliance continues to grow. This innovation was driven by a market of young pharmacists looking for

immediate data access via smartphone technology and a desire of our organizational customers to consolidate their compliance monitoring.

As part of my presidential initiative, I asked the Executive Committee to commission a team of past presidents and content expert members to serve as a customer focus group to help assess the formation of a new limited liability company that will provide consulting services to accreditation applicants. This consulting service, an “addition” to the NABP house known as NABP Solutions, will be discussed in more detail by incoming President, Jay Campbell during his report to the membership on Saturday. The wealth of insight and spot-on recommendations coming from this group was so strong that the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to use such a model again for future organizational considerations. I thank each member of the focus group for lending the talents and expertise that allowed the concept of the addition to our NABP house to take form.

The focus group, task forces, and committees are a true testament of our core commitment to the use of teamwork and collaboration to keep pace with changes in pharmacy practice and thus, our customers’ needs. Examples of the latter are a task force formed to address mutual licensure recognition, which you will hear more of later at this meeting, and another to define a process around suspicious

orders, giving states yet another tool to battle the opioid crisis.

And as the role of pharmacy continues to evolve beyond the boundaries of dispensing of product, it is necessary for state boards of pharmacy to be positioned to respond to public safety concerns that do not involve placing the wrong drug in the prescription vial, but for example, cognitive services such as team-based care and prescribing by protocol. Another task force tackled this issue with solid commitment. The Task Force to Develop Regulations Based on Standards of Care was charged with exploring the feasibility of adding to existing prescriptive rule-based regulations a model that defines regulation through a standard of care process. Task force members were also charged with discussing the tools necessary for boards to develop and implement such a paradigm shift.

Using a team-based approach, invited guests at the table included representatives from the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, as regulations for both of these professions have long been based on a standard of care model and their representatives could guide the pharmacy task force members in understanding and applying the concept. I am therefore so pleased that the ongoing support and collaboration of these two organizations is being recognized with an award at this year's meeting – a great celebration of collegiality and teamwork.

Recognizing that health care delivery and pharmacist roles have evolved beyond the traditional delivery model, task force members recommended that NABP encourage member boards to review their regulatory language to revise or eliminate such rules that may be creating barriers to providing effective patient care.

The task force also recommended that NABP team up and collaborate with state boards of pharmacy and other health care regulatory groups to identify, monitor, and share outcomes of care-based regulatory enforcement to member boards. Additionally, task force members recommended adding a definition of “standards of care” that is evidenced-based to the *NABP Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy* to foster uniformity.

Additional key messages from the task force are listed on the screen. The full report from this task force is available in the Publications and Reports section of the NABP website.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the work of those volunteer members who served on NABP task forces and committees this past year. The volunteers who served are shown on the screen. Please join me in a hearty round of applause to recognize these individuals for their commitment, leadership, and expertise.

Last year, I also spoke of the great importance of strengthening our collaborative

relationships with key stakeholders and ensuring that NABP remains at the table when issues critical to our mission of public protection are discussed. I am pleased to share that NABP has been invited to participate in a large-scale, national, multiorganizational collaborative to address the challenges that practitioner burnout poses to the profession. As NABP's representative to the steering committee group on this initiative, I hope to also shine a light on the risk that practitioner disengagement places on the safety of patient care delivery. Though it is not fully clear what role we as regulatory boards play in promoting pharmacist wellness and resiliency, I am proud that NABP has been invited to explore solutions and I look forward to bringing back consensus recommendations for further thought and discussion with our member boards.

Internally, many of NABP's meetings remain designed to be highly collaborative and team-based. We learn most from each other. A great example is our fall interactive forums. In 2019, there will be an interactive forum for executive officers and one for board of pharmacy compliance officers and legal counsel. These forums are a great opportunity to network, with the advantage of a smaller, informal setting to openly dialogue on challenges and opportunities facing us as regulators and pharmacists.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to attend one of the NABP forums, I encourage you to do so. Attendees consistently

rate these as our most beneficial meetings. From my own experience, I can say that I always learn something new from other states and provinces, coming away with resources and tools that make me a stronger state board member. Testaments from past attendees are shown on the screen. These meetings are structured around topic suggestions from all of you and the panel discussions are led by you, our member boards.

I would like to quickly shout out kudos to the districts and their annual meetings. As president, I had the opportunity to witness the regional commitment to staying current through education and the passion of contributing to the NABP team through submitting thoughtful resolutions for deliberation at our Annual Meeting.

I hope what I have shared in this limited time illustrates that

this year, we have achieved our service goal of “the same, only better.” As we look forward, I invite all of you to help us explore how the NABP team can continue to innovate and collaborate for a safer public health tomorrow.

Ah yes, a very very very fine house indeed. Thank you for the honor of serving as a member of the fine household we call NABP.

And in closing, I reflect on the team theme central to my presidential platform. We are stronger than the sum of our parts. I therefore cannot think of a better way to conclude my time with you today than to have the privilege of announcing that consistent with our belief that we excel through teamwork and collaboration with our membership and key stakeholders, a new NABP award has been created by the Executive Committee. Named

the “Esteemed Collaborator Award,” it is designed to celebrate a career exemplifying a shared commitment to the vision of NABP. It will not be an annual award, but reserved for those whose collaboration has been truly outstanding and impactful. As the words of the NABP vision statement, “Innovating and collaborating today for a safer public health tomorrow” have been especially meaningful in my tenure, I consider it a privilege to present the inaugural Esteemed Collaborator Award to Dr Peter Vlasses, who as the executive director of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education has consistently embodied a spirit of collegiality, collaboration, and alignment with public protection. He has been a friend of NABP in the truest sense and we are proud to celebrate him today.