



117<sup>th</sup> NABP Annual Meeting  
May 13-14, 2021



While it is unfortunate that I am addressing all of you from our computer monitors, in many ways, it feels extremely appropriate as I have spent the

majority of my presidency behind this small camera lens. At last year's meeting, I will admit to feeling disappointment at not seeing you all in person. I was also concerned: How would I achieve the goals I have set out for this Association with new roadblocks, event cancellations, and being at the mercy of Zoom for every meeting?

If you had told me last May that we would achieve the initiative I set out for NABP, and also would be attending more meetings and collaborating with more people, I likely would have said you need to cut back on the Zoom happy hours.

Our success, during this past year, illustrates something I have always known to be true about this great Association – that NABP and its member boards of pharmacy perform, develop, and innovate at their best when faced with crises. A great example of this innovation is a result of the work NABP completed with its member boards to create the NABP Emergency Passport, which helped facilitate emergency licensure.

Things change. Plans change. How we handle that change is up to us.

# Report of the President

***Presented by:***

Timothy D. Fensky, RPh, DPh, FACA

Throughout this year, my initiative as president has been focused on expanding the role of boards of pharmacy in promoting pharmacists as vital members of teams providing medication-assisted treatment, or MAT, for patients diagnosed with opioid use disorder (OUD).

As we all know, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has intensified the opioid crisis for those with OUD, making access to treatment more challenging than ever before. And these barriers further highlight something we have all routinely advocated time and time again – that pharmacists are the providers most accessible to patients, and that boards of pharmacy are in the best position to create regulations that ensure pharmacists' ability to provide treatment. During this past year, we have been educating legislators and practitioners on these issues.

In September 2020, I was fortunate to participate in several virtual Capitol Hill meetings, along with Executive Director/Secretary Lemrey "Al" Carter, PharmD, MS, RPh, to discuss the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act, or MAT Act, with committee and legislative staff and to highlight how the MAT Act would benefit patients struggling with OUD. The discussions led to more than a dozen meetings with members of Congress. We also met with staff from the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Our role in these meetings was to encourage

passage of the MAT Act, which would eliminate the requirement that practitioners must apply for a Drug Enforcement Administration waiver to offer MAT, thus, reducing barriers and expanding access to care.

Last year, we also launched an educational video on this issue. We educated viewers about the value and efficacy of MAT for the treatment of OUD, explained the barriers that limit patient access to treatment, and provided information on what the boards of pharmacy and NABP are doing to eliminate these barriers. More importantly, this video educates viewers on what pharmacists can do to support those suffering with an OUD.

We also took advantage of educational opportunities through various webinars this year and details are on the NABP website.

Last year, we established the Task Force on Medication-Assisted Treatment in response to my initiative. Task force members convened to review current federal and state laws and regulations related to MAT, and examined language in the *Model State Pharmacy Act and Model Rules of the National Boards of Pharmacy* to recommend amendments that may improve pharmacists' abilities to be key leaders in opioid safety and patient care.

I would like to personally thank all those members who volunteered to serve on this task force and share their expertise on the topic.

We also held three other task forces this year related to medication reuse and pharmacy technician practice and education.

In October, the Task Force on Medication Reuse convened. It addressed the overarching question of whether it is ever appropriate to re-dispense unused drugs to individuals who are unable to afford them.

Members agreed it is appropriate and were adamant that it is crucial that pharmacists use their best professional judgment to assess the integrity of returned and/or donated medication prior to reuse. Members also stressed the need for a minimum standard for medication return and reuse, such as those established in Arizona and Ohio.

Lastly, we held two task forces related to pharmacy technician practice and education – both of which were established in response to a 2019 resolution approved by the membership at the Association's 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Of note, this 2019 resolution was also the impetus for three other pharmacy technician task forces held in 2019.

In September 2020, we held the Task Force on Pharmacy Technician Practice Responsibilities. Task force members decided that boards should refrain from being prescriptive in listing the technician's permitted duties, but rather should focus on a standard of care model that is based on an individual's training and competence as determined by the supervising pharmacist.

In December 2020, we convened the Overview Task Force on Pharmacy Technician Education, Practice Responsibilities, and Competence

Assessment, which was the second meeting of the Overview Task Force that resulted from the same 2019 resolution. The task force reviewed the reports of the previous task forces as well as the 2020 Report of the Committee on Law Enforcement/Legislation. To accomplish their charge, the members focused on each of the task force's recommendations, discussing them at length in order to synthesize them into one consolidated set of recommendations that addressed all aspects of pharmacy technician regulation. Members agreed that it was crucial to require certified pharmacy technician candidates to complete an accredited education and training program to increase standardization across the country. The task force also reiterated the previous task forces' conclusions that the training component must be site-specific, as that is essential for a candidate to become competent and to further progress and become certified.

At this time, I would like to also recognize all our members who chose to volunteer this year by serving on a committee and task force. These task forces and committees are a true testament to what we can achieve when we collaborate with one another and learn from each other's own unique professional challenges and experiences.

Task force reports are available on the NABP website.

NABP has fostered key relationship building experiences for its members, not only through task forces and committees, but through several other meetings held throughout

the year. For the past 11 years, NABP has held interactive forums geared toward different groups within our membership, including executive officers, board members, board compliance officers, and legal counsel. Forums for executive officers and board members are held annually, and the forum for board compliance officers and legal counsel are held biannually.

Like the Annual Meeting, the forums provide great opportunities to network and take advantage of a smaller, more informal setting.

If you have not had an opportunity to attend one of the forums, I encourage all of you to find the time.

Another great way to network within this Association is through the district meetings. Most of the business conducted at the Annual Meeting starts at the district level, including nominating candidates for open Executive Committee member positions and developing proposed resolutions that are brought forth for all to discuss and vote on.

In closing, I want to personally thank all of you for supporting me throughout this year. And, more importantly, I want to thank you for reminding me of everything I admire and respect about this Association. I have learned and continue to learn from so many of you. It has been an honor and privilege serving as your president this year – even through your small laptop screens. On behalf of the NABP Executive Committee, I thank you all for attending this year's meeting. I look forward to the days ahead where we can all meet again in person.

Thank you.