

117th NABP Annual Meeting May 13-14, 2021

Report of the Executive Committee

Presented by:

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Welcome to December 164th, 2020. Obviously, I am disappointed that I come to you remotely again this year. But I am pleased to see so many of you here today

for what we all hope will be the last virtual NABP Annual Meeting.

Serving as the chairperson of your Executive Committee during this weirdest of times has made me reflect on what it means to be resilient as an organization and as a leader. I suspect many of you have asked the same question as you lead your boards of pharmacy, pharmacy staff, or other public health protection efforts.

Some of you know that I am a World War II history buff. General and later President Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower provides a good lesson on how to be resilient in crisis by carefully managing time and focusing on the most critical issues of the moment. Ike developed the Eisenhower Matrix – a system to organize issues into four quadrants keyed to levels of urgency and importance. Quadrant One issues – those most important and urgent in the moment – got Ike's personal, daily attention.

It is fair to say that, since early 2020, we have all been consumed with Quadrant One coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic issues. That has certainly been true at NABP. But NABP's leading technology

and active members have kept us resilient and responsive to our Quadrant One issues. Chief among our Association's successes this year have been:

- continued development and deployment of the NABP Emergency Passport Program;
- in cooperation with Food and Drug Administration (FDA), launch of the Compounding Pharmacy Information Sharing Network; and
- further leveraging the Association's e-Profile system with improved data exchange among NABP and our member boards.

Last spring, NABP adapted quickly to help our member boards navigate the COVID-19 crisis. As the challenges of the pandemic intensified, our Association continued those efforts, including periodic calls bringing together our member boards to share information about the latest developments and to help each other manage rapidly changing emergency state and federal laws, regulations, and guidance.

During last year's meeting, I reported the successful launch of the NABP Emergency Passport Program. That program continued to serve a vital role, meeting member boards' COVID-19-triggered needs to stabilize pharmacy service availability and to bolster vaccination efforts through cross-border practice. Emergency Passport similarly supported member boards' response to Hurricane Laura.

The Emergency Passport effort laid a foundation on which to build a more comprehensive program, one that will give our member boards a solution for unique and changing practice needs in the post-COVID landscape. Passport is not, and will not be, a license to practice. But it will be a credential that assures participating boards that NABP has verified that the pharmacist has a license in good standing and has been screened for disciplinary actions. NABP will verify this data every year that the pharmacist renews their qualification. A member board will be able to apply that credential, and the reassurance it brings, to any need that the board identifies.

Let me turn to our collaboration with FDA to monitor and improve the safety of compounded medications distributed across state lines. In October, FDA published the final version of the memorandum of understanding (MOU). FDA also approved a three-year grant to fund the NABP Information Sharing Network, which will collect compounding pharmacy data, information, and complaints. You may recall that the Information Sharing Network effort grew, in part, out of robust discussion at the 2018 NABP Interactive Executive Officer Forum.

The network builds on the e-Profile system by adding compounding-specific functionality. The network will increase the quantity and quality of compounding information available to member boards and FDA. That will

better position regulators to respond effectively to compounding concerns.

The network will simplify tasks required of member boards that sign on to the MOU. Pharmacies may enter compounding information required by the MOU directly into their e-Profile or in an application for certain NABP accreditations and inspections. Member boards can monitor and review this information, as well as use the network to create and file MOU-required reports, including those about adverse events or quality issues relating to compounded drug products.

NABP's initial assessment of the Information Sharing Network will include 150 compounding pharmacy inspections to vet self-reported data accuracy. To encourage participation, NABP will offer a free Verified Pharmacy Program® (VPP®) inspection to those pharmacies selected.

Our association continues to leverage its groundbreaking data systems in other ways – all designed to support our member boards in carrying out their public health protection mission.

NABP further enhanced the e-Profile system's data-sharing capabilities with member boards. The goal is to ensure that e-Profile data is current, complete, and easier to access. That allows member boards to leverage the system efficiently and carry out their public protection mission by, among other things, automating certain licensure and other processes – bringing operational savings in time, money, and personnel.

NABP has enhanced the e-Profile system in other ways – improving the user experience for board staff and schools of pharmacy, as well as pharmacists, technicians, and businesses who have NABP e-Profiles.

For example, in 2020, NABP fully launched the business e-Profile program. Pharmacies, wholesale distributors, third-party logistics providers, manufacturers, and other

licensees can easily create e-Profiles – and do so at no cost. NABP worked with member boards to direct businesses to this opportunity. And its uptake allows the centralization of information such as demographics, licensure, business hours, pharmacy business activities, inspection and accreditation histories, and ownership information.

This streamlined business e-Profile system makes it significantly easier for member boards' staff to access and review data relevant to licensing and enforcement operations. It also simplifies the application process for business entities seeking multiple NABP accreditation and inspection programs.

No association does a finer job anticipating the needs of its members. No association works harder to leverage its strengths to benefit its members. And make no mistake, our association is a world-class information and data service provider. Because of that, our member boards are continually able to improve operational efficiency and efficacy. Our responses to Quadrant One challenges this year will help us address future crises. I am thankful for the collaboration that brought us through.

With that, friends, I conclude seven years' service to you as a member of the Executive Committee and as an NABP officer. While the "COVID year" has seemed . . . well, a bit long . . . the others have flown by. It has been the highlight of my professional life to spend time in "the room where it happens." And so much happens in this vibrant, innovative association.

I was lucky to be in that room with both former NABP Executive Director/Secretary Carmen A.
Catizone, MS, RPh, DPh, and current NABP Executive Director/Secretary Lemrey "Al" Carter, PharmD, MS, RPh. Lessons in leadership, grace, and diplomacy abounded. Seeing that critical leadership transition proceed so smoothly was both unsurprising and confidence inspiring.

While singling out individuals inevitably risks inadvertent omission, I am grateful to my predecessors Jeanne D. Waggener, RPh, DPh, of Texas, and Susan Ksiazek, RPh, of New York, who supported me, challenged me, and showed me that effective leadership comes in many styles - so long as kindness and compassion are at its core. Thank you, NABP Associate Executive Director Josh Bolin, for your ability to help me understand global regulatory strategy and the tactics needed to execute that strategy. I thank NABP staff Dana Oberman and Lisa Janso, into whose care all Executive Committee members are delivered . . . and are much the better for it.

To NABP President Tim Fensky, RPh, DPh, FACA; NABP Presidentelect Caroline Juran, BSPharm, DP (Hon); NABP Treasurer Reginald B. "Reggie" Dilliard, and NABP **Executive Committee members** Bradley S. Hamilton, RPh; Tejal J. Patel, MBA, PharmD, RPh; Jeffrey J. Mesaros, PharmD, JD, RPh; Fred M. Weaver, RPh; Shane R. Wendel, PharmD, RPh; Lenora S. Newsome, PD; Nicole L. "Chops" Chopski, PharmD, BCGP, ANP; and Kamlesh "Kam" Gandhi, PharmD, RPh - your dedication and service in this strangest of years was above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you - perhaps most of all for your patience with, and tolerance of, your

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to the members and staff of the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy – past and present. My service here was possible only with your support. And you gave it completely.

I opened this report with a reference to Ike. I close with one as well – a slight paraphrase of his farewell address: I thank you for the many opportunities you have given me for public service in time of calm and crisis. I trust that in that service you find some things worthy; as for the rest of it, I know you will find ways to improve performance in the future.