



117th NABP Annual Meeting
May 13-14, 2021

Report of the Executive Director/ Secretary

Presented by:

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Unfortunately, for a second year, I present to you virtually; I promise, I do exist! And I am very optimistic that in-person meetings are in our near future!

As I look back on my official, yet unpredictable, first year as NABP's executive director/secretary, there is a lot to reflect on. One thing is for certain, coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has brought challenges that we may never see again in our lifetimes and has forever altered health care practice and regulation. However, during this life-altering event, we never missed a beat. We all responded with innovation and solidarity, and we did so with speed and expertise by enacting emergency orders, reducing or removing barriers to accessing pharmacy care services, or facilitating more interstate pharmacy practice with temporary licenses. The changes made by the pharmacy regulatory community to enable the provision of needed care to this nation's patients and the protection of public health were nothing less than remarkable.

As we all continue to serve and protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, three themes come to mind for me: resilience, collaboration, and resourcefulness.

Resilience is the ability to withstand adversity and adapt to difficult situations, and NABP and its

member boards have shown the ability to confront challenges head on. As exam testing facilities closed, and then opened, and then closed again, NABP was able to coordinate with Pearson VUE to increase the number of permanent test sites to ensure that candidates had the earliest opportunity to sit for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination[®] and Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination[®]. NABP also worked with the schools and colleges of pharmacy to provide online Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment[®] exams in lieu of in-person exams.

We also worked with states and pharmacies to continue the work of our accreditation and inspection programs in states that allowed in-person surveys. For the first time, we provided virtual inspections to help pharmacies seeking renewal in states with lockdowns.

In addition, I would be remiss if I did not mention, as NABP Chairperson Jack W. "Jay" Campbell IV, JD, RPh, stated, the NABP Emergency Passport. As you are aware, most state emergency orders required the verification of a "license in good standing" for a pharmacist to temporarily practice in the state. NABP quickly responded to eliminate that workload for your staff by launching NABP Emergency Passport. It has been, and continues to be, utilized by several states during these challenging times. While we all work to end this pandemic,

NABP is continuing its efforts to develop a permanent Passport program that can be utilized by states to streamline the Electronic Licensure Transfer Program[®] (e-LTP[™]) process and assist them with other credentialing opportunities.

And, finally, the initiative of NABP President Timothy D. Fensky, RPh, DPh, FACA, focused on medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD). During this pandemic, NABP got creative in its approach to showing the true value of pharmacists in protecting public health, particularly with regard to opioid and substance use disorders. This creativity, along with the assistance of consultant Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, led to the support and reintroduction of important MAT legislation in the United States Congress. The proposed legislation seeks to provide broader access to services and treatments for OUD and also provide the capability for pharmacists to play an important role in combating the opioid epidemic. This effort has not been tackled alone by NABP, but through collaborative efforts with many other organizations, which leads me to my second theme – collaboration.

This year of the pandemic has not only shown our resiliency, but it has also shown the power of collaboration. And it all started with you, our member boards of pharmacy, through weekly and monthly calls to address issues in your respective states. Through

your support and direction, we have continued our ongoing collaboration with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the compounding memorandum of understanding. We also continue to collaborate regularly with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy on changes that impact the colleges of pharmacy, such as score reports and transcript requirements. During this time, NABP began collaborating with more than 15 major pharmacy associations and federal agencies on a weekly basis to share, coordinate, and communicate efforts to address COVID-19. These weekly meetings have led to further solidification of pharmacies' and pharmacists' role in the community and in health systems. By working in partnership with these organizations, we have been able to share with you important communications addressing federal emergency declarations that impacted regulatory oversight by the states.

Many of the collaborative efforts I mentioned come at a time of unexpected change, and it is NABP's intent to continue to strengthen these collaborative efforts and continue to implement regularly scheduled discussions with all of you to provide any, and all, resources needed to protect public health.

This leads me to my third theme, and that is the resourcefulness of NABP. During this pandemic, on your behalf, NABP has met the moment, providing information and expertise to FDA on many issues – old and new – including those addressing compounding pharmacies and physicians' offices, delivery of specialty medications, drug shortages due to the pandemic, and COVID-19 vaccines. We also used this resourcefulness to increase engagement with the US Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Office of National Drug Control Policy regarding such matters as the increase in rogue internet pharmacies taking advantage of the pandemic and selling fraudulent items, the utilization

of telehealth and telepharmacy, drug disposal opportunities, and prescription drug monitoring program enhancements to better recognize opioid misuse.

However, the most important group that we continue to resourcefully serve is you, our membership. NABP continues to partner with our member boards of pharmacy to develop creative solutions that will help reduce some of the burdens that have been placed on all of you. Whether it is the extension of NABP Passport, collection of official college of pharmacy transcripts to assist with exam eligibility requirements, implementation of state inspection programs, completion of continuing pharmacy education audits, or just making ourselves available to address any question that you may have, NABP is here to help you work through any challenges and hurdles you face, while serving our shared mission of protecting public health.

I would now like to pivot to an update on my three-year strategic vision. During the 116th NABP Annual Meeting, I provided you with information about my three-year strategic plan for NABP. I would like to report that we are well on our way through the first year of this journey. As you may recall, my three-year vision focused on digitalization, data integration, and building relationships. While COVID-19 has sidelined opportunities to build relationships with many of you this year, it has given me the opportunity to focus on the other two areas of this vision. Our data integration initiatives are well underway with the implementation of new data retention policies, a renewed focus on data governance and data cleanup, and the development of licensing and compliance dashboards that will streamline reporting into the NABP Clearinghouse and National Practitioner Data Bank and assist with e-LTP processes.

With regard to our digitalization initiatives, we continue to make progress on all initiatives intended to streamline processes, remove redundancies, and provide a higher

level of customer service and care. To that end, NABP has implemented a universal application for our accreditation programs, along with a platform for virtual inspections, and we are working toward digital enhancements to provide better efficiencies for our surveyors and provide a more efficient application process. As mentioned previously, we are working on a permanent NABP Passport solution that will better align with the e-LTP process and will set the foundation to better equip boards to regulate future pharmacy practices. Implementation of this new version of NABP Passport is scheduled for early 2022.

As in-person meetings and conferences are scheduled for this fall, I look forward to resuming the part of my three-year plan that focuses on building new relationships and strengthening current relationships. I have started developing relationships with many of the associations with whom we partner on different initiatives. I look forward to understanding how we all can continue to work together to provide a safe environment for our pharmacists and pharmacies, with a focus on serving the mission to protect public health.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank Chairperson Campbell, President Fensky, and the entire Executive Committee for their flexibility and creativity during this "virtual" year. I also would like to recognize and thank former Executive Director/Secretary and Senior Adviser Carmen A. Catizone, MS, RPh, DPh, for his guidance and support during my first official year. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to the incredible NABP staff, many of whom I still have not met in person, but hope to do so soon. You have been the definition of resilience, collaboration, and resourcefulness, and you have made what would have been an otherwise very challenging first year a very special one. Thank you.