



118<sup>th</sup> NABP Annual Meeting  
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# Report of the Executive Committee

## ***Presented by:***

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Good morning. It is a pleasure to stand before all of you, back on the stage, in person, for the 118<sup>th</sup> National Association of Boards of Pharmacy<sup>®</sup>

(NABP<sup>®</sup>) Annual Meeting. Over the past year, we have seen a lot of cherished events return into our lives, with many references that these events are “back.” Whether it is “Thanksgiving is back,” “Graduations are back,” or in my home state, for Boston Marathon hopefuls, “Racing is back.” So, let me be the first to proclaim that the NABP Annual Meeting IS BACK.

And I should note that we are back better than ever. The NABP Executive Committee has put together a robust meeting agenda, including several enhancements to incorporate more time for networking and sharing information, as well as completing the Association’s business. For example, I hope you came down to enjoy some conversation and coffee with fellow attendees during this morning’s Networking Café; the Café will take place each morning of the meeting. I would also like to highlight a few other meeting enhancements. New this year, we are spotlighting our keynote address as part of a luncheon event taking place right after this business session. I know there is a lot of excitement about this

year’s speaker, as we have former United States Surgeon General Dr Jerome Adams here today. We will also be celebrating the recipients of the NABP leadership awards at a special luncheon honoring their contributions, set to take place on Friday afternoon. So that you have more opportunity to connect with and congratulate these leaders who have furthered NABP’s mission over the past year, we will be announcing the names of the award recipients during this business session. And, while some of the other networking opportunities are not new, it is exciting that we can finally hold them in person after two years of virtual meetings. These include this evening’s President’s Welcome Reception and educational events such as the poster session and table-top displays. These events are sure to get us back to the much needed in-person, face-to-face interaction that we have all eagerly awaited.

But it is not just events, it is all of you that create this positive environment. While pandemic-related challenges remain, as well as many other issues impacting the regulation of pharmacy, I see so much hope within this room today. As regulators, as pharmacists, and as citizens, we have endured a lot and continue to do so. Knowing everything that is going on back home in your offices and in your pharmacies, your minds may wander. But I really encourage you to leave it all behind this week and take this time to step back and refocus, so that when you return home from this

meeting, you have the necessary tools to keep going, to keep up the good fight on the pressing issues impacting public health and, increasingly, the well-being of pharmacy practitioners.

One of these important issues, of course, includes our collective efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. Over the past couple of years, the Association has expanded its vision beyond efforts to prevent misuse and has begun focusing on efforts to increase access to treatment for patients struggling with opioid use disorder, or OUD. As some of you know, this is an issue that is near and dear to my heart and is what has been driving me on the legislative front. Specifically, during my presidential term last year, I 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 OUD.

To that end, NABP continues to call for the passage of the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act, or MAT Act, to remove barriers that prevent those with OUD from accessing vital, lifesaving treatment. This bipartisan legislation seeks to end outdated limits imposed through the so-called “X-waiver,” which has restricted health care providers from prescribing buprenorphine, a safe and proven treatment of OUD. And while the Biden Administration has scaled back the “X-waiver” requirements as of April 2021, NABP

continues to push for Congress to pass the MAT Act so that all practitioners are included in this exemption.

In addition, in the fall of 2021, NABP and three other state board associations launched the Opioid Regulatory Collaborative, or the ORC. The ORC held its first conference in March, bringing together senior leaders from NABP, the American Association of Dental Boards, the Federation of State Medical Boards, and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to discuss current trends, pressing needs, and developments and strategies to address the opioid epidemic. The ORC is focused on three primary goals, including:

1. Making sure regulatory boards are keeping up on trends and developments in OUD;
2. Seeking better alignment of opioid-related guidance and policies across regulatory boards to increase effectiveness in addressing opioid issues; and
3. Partnering with and supporting the initiatives of other health care organizations aimed at the opioid epidemic, including the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Countering the US Opioid Epidemic.

By uniting the key health care professions that prescribe and dispense prescription medications, the ORC hopes to bring a new focus to the nation's ongoing efforts to curb opioid misuse.

Aside from these legislative and stakeholder efforts, NABP continues to support state prescription drug monitoring programs, as we know these to be a vital component to combating the opioid epidemic. This is why NABP PMP InterConnect®, which celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2021, will continue to be offered to participating states at no charge in order to facilitate secure prescription monitoring program (PMP) data sharing across state lines. Enhancements to PMP InterConnect continue to be developed and implemented to

make it easier for users to monitor the system and get reports and other vital information when they need it. Today, PMP InterConnect links 52 out of 54 state PMPs, as well as the Defense Health Agency. NABP is committed to growing this network to ensure that as many providers are connected as possible.

Now, I'd like to turn your attention to another important matter that the Association has been focused on over the past year – compounding. Like its member boards, NABP continues to expand its vision to include safeguarding compounded medications.

In partnership with Food and Drug Administration (FDA), NABP initiated the Compounding Pharmacy Information Sharing Project to improve the transparency and oversight of compounding activities and, ultimately, to reduce the risk of patient harm from improperly compounded drugs. As part of the project, NABP developed the Information Sharing Network for boards to access and share data relating to compounding pharmacies in their states.

This project was initiated in large part to help the boards comply with the FDA memorandum of understanding (MOU), which sets out data collection and reporting requirements commensurate with Section 503A of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Boards can use the Information Sharing Network, which is accessible via NABP e-Profile Connect, as a tool to aid in meeting the obligations outlined in the MOU.

As many of you are aware, several compounding pharmacies contested the FDA MOU in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. As a result of the court's decision, FDA has made the decision to re-implement the notice and comment rulemaking process for statutory provisions on certain distributions of compounded human drug products, including the MOU.

In the meantime, FDA plans to further extend the period during which FDA does not intend to enforce the statutory 5% limit. NABP will

continue to work with FDA through this rulemaking process and evaluate the best ways to use the NABP Information Sharing Network in support of public health.

Meanwhile, the NABP e-Profile system continues to accept voluntarily submitted compounding data from pharmacies that compound human drug products, and NABP will continue to operate the Information Sharing Network to assist boards that choose to use it.

NABP will continue to keep its members abreast of any issues surrounding the status of the MOU. The NABP staff are here to help answer any questions you may have.

The project with FDA is just one way the Association is leveraging its robust e-Profile system to enhance its data-sharing capabilities with third-party systems and support boards in carrying out their public health protection mission. Since 2019, the Association has been working with several member boards of pharmacy on a new method for improved data sharing in order to keep e-Profile Connect data more up-to-date, complete, and easily accessible to the boards.

Some of the benefits of participating in these data exchanges include:

- decreasing data inconsistencies and errors,
- reducing manual processes,
- increasing timeliness of continuing pharmacy education audits,
- allowing easier, faster access to candidate exam information, and
- expediting disciplinary reporting and monitoring.

Participating in these data exchanges may also allow NABP to serve as your board's backup for data that might be lost in case of catastrophic events, such as natural disasters, and may help states better adapt to future public health crises.

Of course, the more states that participate in these data exchanges, the greater the benefits will be for all our member boards. Please know that NABP can partner with a board's

licensing software provider or IT staff to help integrate the Application Programming Interfaces needed for these exchanges. And NABP also has technical guides available to help make the implementation easier.

I think we can all agree that anything that makes our jobs easier could not be more needed in times like these. I highly encourage boards who are not already participating in these data

exchange projects to take advantage of this member benefit with NABP. This is what the Association does best – we are here to help and make your day-to-day operations easier in pursuit of public health protection.

Before I leave you all today, I want to share my sincere appreciation for all the support and trust you have granted me on the NABP Executive Committee over the past six years.

It's been my pleasure serving this great Association, and I could not be more proud of the work we have accomplished together during these challenging and heavyhearted times. Thank you for all the hope you have instilled in me, and I wish you all a very successful Annual Meeting. Thank you.

