



119<sup>th</sup> NABP Annual Meeting  
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# Report of the Executive Director/ Secretary

**Presented by:**

Lemrey "Al" Carter, PharmD, MS, RPh



Good afternoon. It is truly a pleasure to see you all here at the 119<sup>th</sup> NABP Annual Meeting, and I am delighted to be able to address you

today, as the executive director and secretary of NABP. Each year, the Annual Meeting gives us an important opportunity to come together to accomplish Association business, learn from one another, and expand our connections and friendships. It's also a good time to reflect on the vital work we have accomplished together in the past year, and to plan how we will focus our work in the coming years.

And so now I'd like to turn our attention to our strategic initiatives and efforts we've made to expand and enhance NABP's offerings for you, our member boards of pharmacy.

These offerings include our ongoing data integration efforts to provide data exchange and application programming interface services to connect boards with NABP data that can help ensure that licensee information is up-to-date, complete, and accurate. NABP data, accessible through the NABP e-Profile system, includes CPE Monitor activity data, inspection data, and licensure data obtained from programs such as NABP Verify. We have also added

some new examination offerings specific to technicians and to colleges of pharmacy. Finally, I will provide an update on NABP's efforts related to diversity and inclusion in the health care landscape.

Our newly released [Year in Review video](#) is a good place to start for a high level overview of NABP's key accomplishments over the last year.

Now, I'd like to delve a little deeper and share some more details on some of these key initiatives. One major area of focus for NABP since I joined the Association has been to ensure that the boards of pharmacy have modern solutions for keeping their licensee data accurate and up-to-date. There are multiple projects NABP has worked on in pursuit of this goal, but some of the most visible have been the data exchange and integration projects.

Data exchange and integration are key to ensuring that the information in e-Profile Connect is accurate, complete, and easily accessible. Because of the importance of accurate data, we have three options for data sharing, either through secure file exchange, one-way data pushes, or through back-and-forth communications with software applications. We created a variety of options – from simple to complex – to make data exchange not only technologically easier, but also to help remove the administrative burden. Ultimately, our goal is to make managing licensee information as seamless and efficient as possible for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Automated data sharing can reduce the need for manual reporting and monitoring of data such as verified education, examination, continuing pharmacy education, licensure, and disciplinary data. For example, NABP offers three services to assist member boards of pharmacy in auditing compliance with CPE requirements using CPE Monitor data.

First, boards may choose to access licensee CPE Monitor data in e-Profile Connect, which allows board staff to search for and view transcripts for individual licensees.

Second, boards may request audit assistance for specific board licensees. Audit results are based on the current statuses and licenses in the e-Profile database.

A third option provides analysis of CPE Monitor data as a part of online license renewal.

This option was implemented by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and utilized for their pharmacist license renewals at the end of 2022 and for their technician renewal period this year. The CPE audit was integrated into the board's license renewal application. One of the prompts in the application triggered a check of the applicant's CPE activity by drawing on CPE Monitor data. When the licensee was compliant, they were able to continue the application. If they were not compliant, they were prompted with next steps to meet their CPE requirements.

Data exchange and integration can help by enabling boards of pharmacy to focus on their core responsibilities. While some boards may possess advanced software and an established technical team, others may have limited technical support and outdated systems. As a result, integration options may be constrained. We recognize this reality and offer multiple integration options tailored to meet the specific needs and resources of each board. Our goal is to ensure that every board has access to a seamless and efficient system that enhances their ability to manage their responsibilities effectively.

In the area of examination services, NABP also stays responsive to the needs of member boards and the schools and colleges of pharmacy.

For example, in April 2023, NABP launched the Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination for Technicians, or PJET, in New Hampshire. The board requested this examination to help ensure the competency of technicians applying for advanced practice certification in the state.

Over the last several years, NABP has collaborated with ACPE and AACP regarding the ability of schools and colleges of pharmacy to utilize the PCOA as a curriculum assessment for their students. While value was identified by many over the years, there were also challenges, and certain needs still were not being met. The pandemic brought the issue to a head, and ACPE made the decision to no longer require the PCOA. In light of these many factors, the Executive Committee made the difficult decision to sunset the PCOA as of July 2023.

However, through these discussions, new opportunities were discovered as NABP surveyed deans and administrators of the pharmacy schools to get a deeper understanding of the needs of the faculty and students. And I'm happy to announce the development and launch of a new optional service for pharmacy schools: NAPLEX

Advantage. Schools can provide their students with a practice exam that simulates the experience of taking the NAPLEX. In addition, schools will receive aggregated data to help them evaluate the preparation of individual cohorts of students, as well as detailed student Performance Reports to help students with their study plans. These reports are modeled after the Performance Report currently available to NAPLEX candidates who fail the exam. NAPLEX Advantage will be available to colleges of pharmacy starting next month, and details will be available on the NABP website soon.

At last year's Annual Meeting, membership approved Resolution 118-3-22 resolving that NABP examine the development of a national standardized pharmacy jurisprudence examination for the state boards of pharmacy to assess for competence for licensure. Additional discussions occurred last November at the Executive Officer Forum and with the Executive Committee during our December meeting. These discussions have led to the formation of a steering committee that will first meet in June to begin the framework development of a national jurisprudence exam. The development of this exam will be another option for our members looking for different ways to evaluate competency while addressing workforce challenges. We will continue to update the membership on progress made with this committee.

I'd now like to provide an update on the diversity and inclusion initiatives NABP has pursued in recent months. Since the fall of 2021, NABP and several other organizations have been working on a three-year Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion project funded by a grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The goal is to increase the number of practitioners and leaders in racial and ethnic minority groups working in health care professions and to improve health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority populations.

The health care workforce lacks diversity, according to the *Journal of the American Medical Association Network*. People who are Black, Hispanic, and Native American are underrepresented across 10 health care professions, as well as in the educational pipeline for these professions.

As part of the grant project, NABP hosted a workshop with other pharmacy and health care organizations to explore issues surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion, or DEI. From that meeting, we released a joint position statement that encourages all health care organizations and regulatory authorities to examine how their policies and regulations affect racial and ethnic minority populations and identify where improvements can be made. This position statement, which was signed by NABP and eight other health care organizations, outlines specific recommendations organizations can take to create change.

For example, it recommends promoting racial diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of health care, including regulatory boards, the workforce, education, and patient care. This will help enhance professional opportunities and health outcomes for individuals from all backgrounds. Leaders and practitioners need to understand the issues affecting their patients to effectively support them.

We are looking at our own membership as well. As part of the grant, we developed and distributed a survey for our member boards of pharmacy. It seeks to ascertain the extent to which the demographic makeup of the boards reflects that of the populations they serve. With the information gathered, we can assist policymakers in recognizing whether inequitable representation contributes to health disparities.

The Association will call on its member boards of pharmacy and other pharmacy stakeholders to further evaluate and assess how to foster equity in health care at

all levels. Minority populations face obstacles to leadership within health care that begin during their education and continue throughout their professional careers. To achieve these goals, work must be done to identify and remove these obstacles, and to make appropriate changes in policies and practices.

In conclusion, as we look to the future, it's important to remember that NABP's key accomplishments over the last year are a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone in this room. As we continue to expand and enhance NABP's offerings, we must remember the importance of collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity. To quote

Nelson Mandela, "It always seems impossible until it's done." Let us continue to strive for excellence and work together to make the impossible possible. Thank you for your time and commitment to this Association and our shared mission.