

NoDak

# PHARMACY

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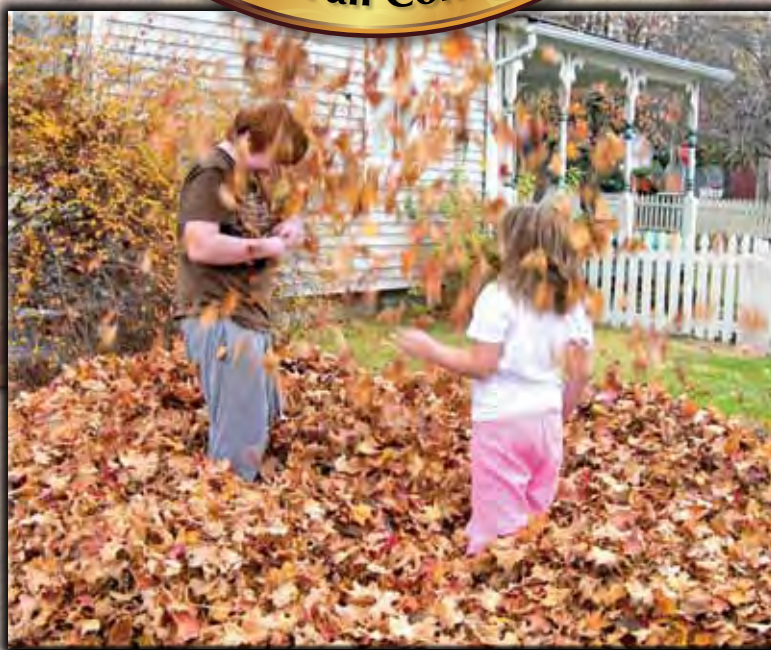
August 2012

Celebrating

20<sup>th</sup>

NAPT

Annual Fall Conference



If you did not receive the last issue of the NoDak Pharmacy, it can be viewed on our website at [www.nodakpharmacy.net/Previous-Nodak-Pharmacy-Editions.html](http://www.nodakpharmacy.net/Previous-Nodak-Pharmacy-Editions.html) Click on the **May 2012** link. If you would like to receive a hard copy, contact Lorri at 701-258-4968 or email: [ndpha@nodakpharmacy.net](mailto:ndpha@nodakpharmacy.net). We have a few available on a first come basis.

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# Table of Contents

NDPhA Board of Directors .....	inside front cover
News Around the Pharmacy Community .....	i
Keep Howard Anderson in your thoughts .....	1
Corner Drug .....	1
Message from the Pharmacy Board .....	2
Adherence-It Only Takes a Minute .....	4
Message from the NAPT President .....	5
NAPT's Mission Statement .....	5
Meet your NAPT Board of Directors .....	6
Celebrating 20th NAPT Annual Fall Conference .....	7
Pharmacy Time Capsules .....	10
Katy's Kids .....	11
NDPhA - About the Patient .....	13
RX AccuForms .....	13
NDPhA PAC Fund Pledge .....	15
ND Information Technology Department .....	16
Pharmacy Students .....	18
Faculty honored at college awards ceremony .....	19

## SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

RX Healthmart .....	3
BNG .....	8
McKesson .....	9
Outcomes .....	12
PQC .....	14
Pharmacist Mutual .....	17
Dakota Drug .....	Back Cover



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# CALENDAR

## 2012

### September

#### Labor Day

Sept 3 NDPhA Office Closed

#### NDSU College of Pharmacy Nursing & Allied Sciences

Sept 13 NDSU Career Fair & Scholarship Program, Fargo Dome

Sept 14 Pharmacy Interview Day, NDSU Memorial Hall

### October

#### October is Pharmacy Month

#### NAPT

Oct 5-6 NAPT Fall Conference, Doublewood Inn, Bismarck

#### NCPA

Oct 13-17 NCPA Annual Convention, San Diego

#### ACCP

Oct 21-24 Annual Meeting Hollywood CA

#### ASCP

Oct 31- Nov 3 Annual Meeting Boston MA

### November

#### Don't Forget to Vote

Nov 6 Election

#### Remember Our Veterans

Nov 11 Veteran's Day NDPhA Office Closed

#### NASPA

Nov 15-17 Fall Symposium, Loews Ventana Canyon, Tucson AZ

#### Thanksgiving

Nov 22-23 NDPhA Office Closed

### December

#### ASHP

Dec 2-6 Midyear Clinical Meeting Las Vegas NV

### January

#### ND Legislature

Jan 8, 2013 ND 63rd Legislative Assembly Convenes

### February

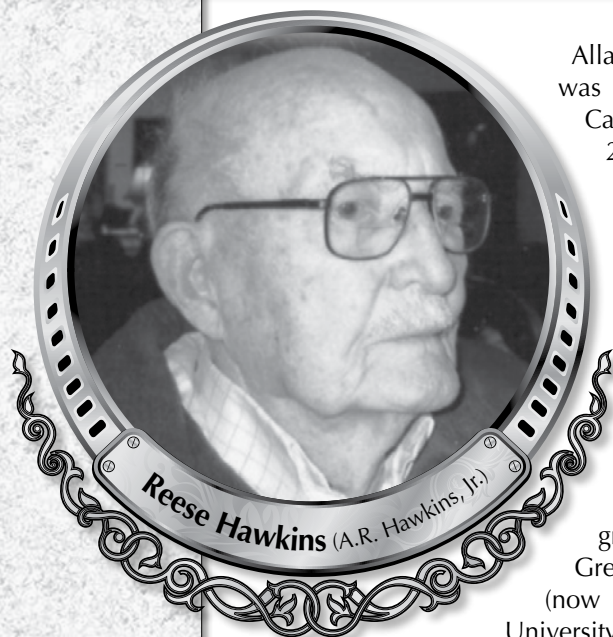
#### Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social

Feb 14 Pharmacy Legislative Day/Ice Cream Social

### April 26-28, 2013

#### NDPhA 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

Grand Dakota Lodge Dickinson ND



Allan Reese Hawkins, Jr. was born in Greer, South Carolina, on December 22, 1916, and died peacefully on June 23, 2012. As a boy he spent many happy hours on his grandfather's farm in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and in his hometown of Greer. After the Depression he graduated from North Greenville Junior College (now North Greenville University) and then received a B.S. Degree in Chemistry from Furman University in 1943.

He joined the Service during World War II, becoming a Naval Officer aboard the Destroyer, USS Roe. He saw combat in the Pacific Theater. While in port in California, Reese met Margaret Benson, a Red Cross social worker at the U.S. Navy Hospital on Mare Island. They were married in the living room of her parents' home in Bottineau, North Dakota, in 1946.

Reese earned a degree in Pharmacy from North Dakota Agricultural College (now North Dakota State University) in 1950 and became the owner and floor mopper of Guilford Drug in Guilford College, North Carolina. He worked seven days a week until they decided to sell the store and move to North Dakota. After spending a year as a pharmacist in Bottineau, Reese bought Clinic Drug in Jamestown, North Dakota. He became the owner and manager, renaming it Hawkins Drug (now Walz Pharmacy).

Reese was an enthusiastic and active participant in the life of Jamestown. He was President of the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, the Jamestown Lions Club, and the Metropolitan Dinner Club of Greater Jamestown. An amateur actor, he enjoyed being a member of Shoestring Productions, was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, and a former member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Greer and Trinity Lutheran Church in Jamestown.

He played basketball in college, and golf in later years, while continuing to cheer on the Duke Blue Devils in basketball and watch sports on television.

A great pleasure in Reese's life was his friendship with the frontier writer Louis L'Amour. When Louis came to North Dakota with his family to receive the Rough Rider Award, the friendship began. The travels and conversations they shared inspired Reese to write his first book, *Remembering Louis L'Amour*. Having become an author in his eighties, Reese then wrote a second book, *Grandmother Alice*, based on the journals of his grandmother. It tells stories of life in South Carolina from before the Civil War to the 1930's. Along with his wife Margaret, Reese was very active in promoting tourism. They contributed three buildings to museums that preserve North Dakota history -- two to the Rugby Museum and a schoolhouse which was the first building at Frontier Village in Jamestown. Many tourists stopped to visit with Reese at the village's Writer's Shack, where he shared the memories of his experiences with Louis L'Amour.

In 2000 Reese and Margaret received the Outstanding Citizens Award from the Jamestown area Chamber of Commerce, then the North Dakota Travel and Tourism Award in 2001, and the Greater North Dakota Chamber of Commerce Tourism and Recreational Development award in 2004. This spring the 2012 North Dakota State Pharmacy Convention was dedicated to Reese.

He is survived by his daughter Meredith Hawkins Wallin, his son Allan Hawkins, granddaughters Taresa Neale, Tamarie Sayger and Jessica Mace, and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial Service: 11:00 a.m., Thursday, July 5, 2012 at Williams-Lisko Funeral Chapel, Jamestown.

Interment: Melankton Cemetery, rural Bottineau, North Dakota.



Please keep Howard Anderson in your thoughts and prayers!

On July 15th, Howard had an aneurysm in his left leg which led to amputation of the leg.

Howard's CaringBridge website:

[www.caringbridge.org/visit/howardandersonjr](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/howardandersonjr)

## CORNER DRUG FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE



**Paul and Lee Ann Folden have lived in Wahpeton for over 50 years and as owners of Corner Drug,** they have been loyal supporters of NDSCS during that time. Paul and Lee Ann attended Concordia College; Paul went on to UNLV and NDSU where he received his Pharmacy Degree. They have four children, Dustin who lives in Lafayette, IN, with his wife Trisha and children Mackenna and Sawyer. Braden, who after serving four years in the Navy and four years in the Army with the 82nd Airborne, is now attending MSUM. Alexandra is also at MSUM, and son Turner graduated from Faith Christian School in May of 2012.

The Folden's stated that during the past 10 years, Corner Drug has benefited greatly from the Pharmacy Technician program, participating in internships to hiring graduates. Paul commented that, "NDSCS is a vital part of the professionalism we are able to offer our customers by having the Pharmacy Technician program available as a resource to us." Those of us here at Science want to say thank you to Corner Drug and the Folden's for their many years of support and service to the Pharmacy Tech program and to NDSCS. Congratulations to Corner Drug, a deserving 'Friend of the College' Award winner.

*Reprinted With Permission NDSCS Alumni Review*

## Why can't you fill my vicodin early?

We continue to see and hear concerns from prescribers that prescriptions for certain controlled substances are being refilled earlier than they should be. This is causing concern both because their treatment goals for those patients are not being met, and because this can often present a risk to the patient's health.

In two cases brought to our attention, prescriptions were written for #60 Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen 10/650 mg, 1/2-1 tablet by mouth every 4-6 hours. At this dosage, the patient should have been taking a maximum of six tablets daily for a minimum ten day supply. In both cases, these prescriptions were consistently refilled anywhere from three to five days early. Refilling this prescription after seven days three times would result in a patient receiving a 30-day supply of medication in 21 days. Besides the obvious risk of diversion and abuse, that patient would be taking 5.57 grams of acetaminophen daily for 21 days if they were to use the entire prescription.

In a more extreme example, prescriptions for 200 Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen 10/325, 1 tablet by mouth every 6 hours and 200 Hydrocodone/Ibuprofen, 1 tablet by mouth every 6 hours, were both written for 50-day supplies with three refills. However, these prescriptions were refilled many times after less than 15 days.

In these situations, it is important to consider the prescriber's treatment goals before refilling these prescriptions. Because of their potential for abuse as well as the health risk they can present to patients, controlled substances need to be monitored closely when refilling. If a patient is requesting an early refill, it is important to look at the reason for their request and in many cases to contact the prescriber to get their consent for the early refill.

Often, the prescriber will include on the prescription note on the dosage (e.g. "Max 6 per day," or "Not to exceed 4 tablets daily," or "No early refills"). In these cases, you must follow the letter of the prescription; early refills are not allowed.

In the cases of controlled substances and tramadol is it important we, as pharmacists, use the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program to monitor a patient's fill history at other pharmacies. The diversion or abuse of narcotics can easily be detected by running a direct access patient query to view the fill history at other pharmacies.

The decision to refill a controlled substance prescription early should never be based upon when the claim will go through the insurance. Pharmacists, along with the practitioner, have a corresponding responsibility to ensure that you are providing the best patient care. It is always best to work together with those involved in the patient's care to make sure that happens.



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## ADHERENCE—IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE



### Engaging Questions

Here's a startling statistic: Most patients forget up to 80 percent of what their physician tells them as soon as they leave the office, and nearly 50 percent of what they do remember is recalled incorrectly.

While often it takes hearing the same message several times for something to sink in, the source can make all the difference. In an attempt to demonstrate their commitment to adherence, several chain pharmacies have rolled out sophisticated technologies for refill reminders, including automated phone calls. Could you imagine receiving a prerecorded call from a nameless, faceless electronic voice telling you a prescription you never ordered is ready for pick-up?

This is where community pharmacists thrive, by taking care of patients with high-touch service. To borrow a mantra from Fritz McGinnis, "Do what we do best, and do it better than anybody else." It doesn't have to be in the form of an in-depth counseling session; simply having a dialogue with your patients at the counter about their health can make all the difference. Let them know you're not there simply as an extension of the prescriber to tell them what to do. Instead, you're available as a trusted resource with genuine interest in their well-being.

By engaging your patients in such conversations, you will empower them to take charge of their own health. The following are some simple questions you can ask your patients to gauge how much (and well) they understand their therapy, whether it's the first or fifteenth fill:

- What did your doctor tell you the medication is for?
- How often are you taking this medication?
- How were you told to take this medication (and what do you do if you miss a dose)?
- What were you told to expect from the medication (side effects, improvement of symptoms, etc.)?
- What have you experienced so far?

Tell your patients, "I'm on your team. If I have to sound like a broken record for you to stay on your medications, I will." Something tells us they'd prefer the sound of your voice to an automated message any day.

**Reprinted with permission from National Community Pharmacists Association in the October 2010 issue of *America's Pharmacist*. For more information about NCPA, visit [www.ncpanet.org](http://www.ncpanet.org)**

### Simple Methods to Improve Adherence

**By David D. Pope, PharmD, CDE**

Did you know that a patient living with diabetes visits the pharmacy 48 percent more than the average customer? As independent pharmacists, we have a huge opportunity (and responsibility) to assist our diabetes patients in improving adherence with taking their medications.

At Barney's Pharmacy in Augusta, GA, we use several methods to improve medication adherence. Quality counseling at the time of the first dispensed prescription is one of the keys to success. For example, if a pharmacist effectively explains to a patient that metformin may cause stomach upset and that it usually improves with time, how do you think that patient will react once those symptoms occur? I would submit that the patient would be much more likely to stay the course and trust the pharmacist in continuing to take the medication instead of reducing the scheduled doses.

Patients living with diabetes may also struggle with keeping up with multiple medications. Try creating a simple "My Meds" form, in which a member of your staff

writes down an overview of their current medications. At a minimum, the My Meds form should include the name of each medication (brand and generic preferred), the usual directions, and the time of day they should take the medication. Encourage your patients to use this form when ordering refills to ensure they aren't overlooking any essential medications.

Also attempt to get the patients' refills on a once-monthly schedule. Many patients will neglect to refill their medications if they have to take multiple trips to the pharmacy each month.

Finally, consider using a prescription packaging system (such as blister packages) or medication timers for elderly patients living alone.

From the improved outcomes of the patients to an improved bottom line of the pharmacy, adherence is worth your investment of time and energy. Pharmacies that do so will set themselves apart from the competition and will begin competing on a different playing field!

**\*NielsenHealth Ailment Panels**

**Reprinted with permission from National Community Pharmacists Association in the November 2010 issue of *America's Pharmacist*. For more information about NCPA, visit [www.ncpanet.org](http://www.ncpanet.org)**

# Message from the NAPT President

Greetings to all fellow technicians! I hope you all have been enjoying your summer with family and friends.

I have the opportunity to attend the 30th Annual AAPT National Convention in Memphis, Tennessee this summer. I am very excited to be visiting Memphis the birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll! There is a variety of continuing education scheduled for the weekend. I am looking forward to joining fellow pharmacy technicians for fellowship, networking and Continuing Education. I will have an update on the convention in the next issue of the Nodak.

Mark your calendars!! Join us in Celebrating our 20th Annual Fall Conference in Bismarck on October 5th & 6th. The conference is a great opportunity to get continuing education and meet your fellow technicians. It is your involvement that makes the conference a great success. I look forward to meeting you at the fall conference.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Donna Kisse  
NAPT President

## NAPT'S MISSION STATEMENT

The Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians primary objectives are to provide leadership, continuing education and interaction among technicians and other health care providers in all aspects of the profession of Pharmacy. These goals are best achieved through a process that brings technicians together in a positive manner.

The Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians will consistently strive to meet all of the expectations of those it serves and to promote Pharmacy Technicians as an integral part of the Patient Care team.

Our Association is imperative to the success of each of us. Thus, it is important to have a Board of Directors to represent and oversee its activities to ensure continued success and growth. It is the board's responsibility to maintain the overall well being of the Association.

There are many benefits to being a member of the board of directors. As a member of the board, you will be welcomed into a whole new network of people. The individuals you will meet are very fascinating with stories and experiences that will enhance friendships throughout the professional community. The experience and wisdom they have will bring a myriad of new things that make your professional and personal life more rich and rewarding. Additionally, being a member will give you a new level of appreciation for the different facets of individuals that make your profession strong. Most importantly, you will help make a difference in our community.

If you have considered or thought about being a member of the Board of Directors for NAPT come forward, take a chance and get involved. Don't hesitate to contact myself or any of the Board Members with any questions you may have. We would be happy to answer your questions.

Donna Kisse  
NAPT President

## NAPT

### *Board of Directors*

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## President

Hi! My name is Donna Kisse, I am your new NAPT President. Last year I was NAPT Vice-President and the year before served as a member at large. I am also a member of AAPT. I work for Thrifty White Pharmacy based out of Fargo as a Regional Pharmacy Support Manager. I have worked as a registered technician for 17 years. I enrolled in the PATSIM program through NDSCS in 1995 and I have been a PTCB Certified Pharmacy Technician since November 1998.

I am married to Gary and we celebrated 25 years together this April and live in Fargo. I have two children Christopher and Erica. Christopher and his wife, Cheray are both in the Air Force stationed at Hill AFB, Utah and have 3 children. Erica has graduated from Minnesota State University, Moorhead with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and is currently working in Layton, Utah.

In my spare time I enjoy reading, spending time with my grandchildren (not often enough they live too far away), and being outdoors enjoying the opportunities each season brings like fishing, gardening, riding bike, walking, skiing and snowmobiling. Fall is by far my favorite time of the year with all the beautiful colors.

I look forward to serving on the NAPT Board of Directors as President and will dedicate my time to making our Association one that we are proud of. Please feel free to call me at 701-269-8747 or send an email to [dkisse@thriftywhite.com](mailto:dkisse@thriftywhite.com) if you have any questions, concerns or you are interested in becoming a board member.

## Vice President

Vacant

## Secretary

My name is Sharon Kupper from Mandan; secretary of NAPT. I have been a Certified Pharmacy Technician since 2000. I worked retail pharmacy in Williston until starting with ND Workforce Safety & Insurance in Bismarck - July 2011. One of the responsibilities with this position is assisting pharmacies in processing prescriptions for injured workers.

I have been married to Dave for 34 years, We have 3 daughters, 3 son-in-laws and 7 grandchildren.

Some of my hobbies include quilting, reading, riding local bike trails with my husband and working in the flower beds at our home. I enjoy attending school activities of our grandchildren, reading to them and teaching them to bake goodies.

## Treasurer

Hello my name is Bobbie Hauck. I work at Irsfeld Pharmacy in Dickinson ND. I started there in October 2002. I went through NDSCS Pharmacy Tech Program. I love my job and I work with a great group of people. My main responsibility is LTC which I really enjoy. I invite all of my fellow techs to join us at conventions. We have great CE's and it's a great way to promote our profession. Hope to see you all at our fall convention.

## Parliamentarian

My name is Barb Lacher and I am a Graduate of NDSU and a PTCB certified Pharmacy Technician. Began my career as a pharmacy technician at what was then St. Luke's Hospital in the late 1970's and am currently employed by NDSCS as the Assistant Program Director for the Pharmacy Technician Program. I am an active member of ASHP currently serving on the Support Staff SAG for ASHP as well as an Accreditation Team reviewer for Pharmacy Technician Programs. I have three children and three grandsons as well as a husband. We live just south of Fargo, yes along the banks of the Red River but on the dry side of the proposed diversion. I have been an active NAPT member since its inception having served on the Board in many different capacities. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at my office:

NDSCS Pharmacy Technician Program  
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## Member-at-Large

My name is Luci Koepplin from Dickinson, ND. I have been a Certified Tech for 2 years and currently employed with Irsfeld Pharmacy.

I'm also a Licensed Practical Nurse and have worked in the Geriatric field in various positions from Charge Nurse to Director of Nursing, Director of an Alzheimer's facility.

My husband and I own and operate Koepplin Construction here in Dickinson. We have two children a son who works construction with his dad. Our daughter currently is employed with a local lumber yard working in the office. Oh I can't forget my Yellow Lab "Bailey" she works with the guys too. Lastly I'm the proud grandma of 3 dogs.

## Member-at-Large

My name is Jennifer Joyce and I live in Mapleton ND with my husband Donnie and my brother Eric who is attending NDSU. We all are originally from Redfield SD. I have been a technician since 2002 and have worked both hospital and retail. I am currently the technician at the Arthur Drug telepharmacy in Arthur ND. In my spare time I enjoy doing activities with my niece Keira.

## Immediate Past President

Hello to my fellow Technicians! My name is Kristina Foster. I am currently the past president of the NAPT board. I work and Thrifty White Drug in Mohall ND. I have been a technician for the past 6yrs. I just recently transferred from Thrifty White in Fargo to our store in Mohall. So I relocated to Bottineau ND and commute to Mohall. I always wanted to work in a Tele-pharmacy so I reached my goal when I transferred to Mohall. It is amazing to work in a Tele-pharmacy. I enjoy working as a technician and helping promote our careers through the NAPT board. This is my 3rd year on the NAPT board. It has been a wonderful experience! I enjoy traveling and reading on my spare time. I also have worked for Easter Seals Goodwill for the past 11yrs. I worked with special needs people which I truly love. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

# Celebrating

## 20<sup>th</sup> NAPT

### Annual Fall Conference

Greeting from your 2012 Fall Conference Committee,

On behalf of the committee and the NAPT Executive Board, we would like to take a few moments of your time to tell you about YOUR fall conference.

Come join in Celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual NAPT Fall Conference. In Celebration the registration fee will be \$20.00 for the weekend. Mark your calendar and watch your mail for the registration forms coming in August.

The conference will be held at the Doublewood Inn in Bismarck, ND, on October 5 and 6, 2012. In celebrating 20 years of the NAPT Fall Conference, we hope to have a very exciting line up of presenters that would score a 20!

Friday, October 5, will begin with registration and the first CE will begin at 6 pm. Friday we will have 3 separate speakers, including:

- Brendan Joyce from ND Medicaid
- Dr. Steve Nagel from Nagel Family Chiropractic & Wellness.
- TBA

Saturday, October 6, will begin with breakfast and registration and the first CE will begin at 8 am. We have a variety of topics and presenters.

- Colette Rudolph from St. Alexius Medical Center will present on home hospice and their services.
- Julie Skaret along with Dr. Sara Horner from Archway Mental Health will speak on post partum depression.
- Howard Anderson, Jr. has once again agreed to present the law qualifying presentation.
- Kristi Pfliger-Keller with the Education department of St. Alexius will present on work related stress.
- Paul Lehman with Cetero in Fargo will be presenting on device clinical trials.
- Mike Roehrich, RPh, will speak on medications used in the operating room.

We are hoping to be able to provide 10 -10.5 hours of CE, including 1 in law. Please keep in mind that the schedule may change due to conditions beyond our control, but we will do our best to make it an enjoyable conference.

Thank you for all you do in and for your profession! We hope to see you in October!

Bismarck Fall Conference Committee

Nicole Gerjets and Jodi Hart, Co-chairs

**Registration info and additional conference information to follow in the September Journal, electronically & direct mail.**



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- Acuvue launched by J&J was the first disposable soft contact lens.

### 1962—Fifty Years Ago:

Trivalent oral polio vaccine (Sabin) was licensed in the U.S..

Rite-Aid (Pennsylvania), Meijer's Michigan), and Wal-Mart (Arkansas) were formed.

### 1937—Seventy-five Years Ago:

- Cook County Hospital in Chicago, Illinois was the site of the first blood bank, set up by Bernard Fantus.

### 1912—One hundred Years Ago:

- Phenobarbital (Luminal) first marketed by Bayer in 1912.

### 1887---One hundred twenty-five years ago:

- The National Institutes of Health established. The National Institutes of Health traces its roots to 1887, when a one-room laboratory was created within the Marine Hospital Service (predecessor agency to the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS).

**By: Dennis B. Worthen Lloyd Scholar, Lloyd Library and Museum, Cincinnati, OH**

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Through collaboration between the NDPhA North Dakota Pharmacy Services Corporation and NDSU College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Sciences, training in Medication Therapy Management and Diabetes Management is now available as an on-line course.

The About the Patient-MTM and Diabetes Management course is designed for practicing health professional interested in enhancing skills in the delivery of Medication Therapy Management (MTM) and Diabetes Management. Through interactive cases, the participant will review general concepts of Diabetes, Medication Therapy Management, cognitive services documentation, the health provider role in motivating patients, and promotion of cognitive services to payers. This course is accredited by ACPE.

Pharmacist may obtain up to 10 CEU for successful completion of this course. The cost is \$75.00.

This program meets the initial credential requirements for pharmacists to participate in the About the Patient Diabetes Management Program Sponsored by NDPERS or can be used for maintaining certification. Any pharmacist wishing to further their education on MTM and Diabetes Management is encouraged to participate in this course. There is no obligation to participate in the About the Patient Program by completing the course.

To register pharmacist will visit the NDSU Distance and Continuing education website:

[https://epayment.ndus.nodak.edu/C22800\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=4137&SINGLESTORE=TRUE](https://epayment.ndus.nodak.edu/C22800_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=4137&SINGLESTORE=TRUE)

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# **North Dakota Information Technology Department**

600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept 112 • Bismarck, ND 58505-0100 • (701) 328-3190

## **Direct**

The implementation of the North Dakota Health Information Network (NDHIN) is being rolled-out in a phased approach. These phases are: Phase 1 – Direct and Phase 2 – HIE (Health Information Exchange).

Phase 1 - Direct provides a mechanism for the transmission of information, both unstructured documents and structured files, from one provider to another through a secure, encrypted email service. Direct is a web-based application so no additional hardware is required and there are no limits to the number of users that can be enrolled for a Direct email account.

We are currently accepting participation agreements for Direct. Direct is a tool you can use so SECURELY send information to other participants in a structured (i.e. HL7) or unstructured format (i.e. PDF, Document, Image). If you would like more information on Direct and its functionality, please go to: <http://www.ndhin.org/services/ndhin-direct/training>. If you are interested in participating, here is the link to the agreements that must be signed: <http://www.ndhin.org/services>. To see who has signed participant agreements, please go to: <http://www.ndhin.org/providers/participating-providers>. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please send an email to: [ndhin@nd.gov](mailto:ndhin@nd.gov)

Phase – 2 HIE makes available the robust exchange of health information through query technology. This technology provides secure push-pull functionality, meaning patient information can be ‘pushed’ for sharing with other providers as well as ‘pulling’ or ‘querying’ protected health information such as prescription medications, labs, allergies or advance directives from other providers. , NDHIN will begin implementation of Phase 2 – HIE by piloting the query technology with a small number of healthcare providers. After successful pilot testing, the technology will be rolled-out statewide.

## **E Prescribing**

During May 2012, 94% of the pharmacies in North Dakota have accepted at least one electronic prescription compared to 79% in May 2011. In the month of May, almost 1,500 providers sent an electronic prescription with approximately 200,000 transactions. This has increased from approximately 900 prescribers with 100,000 transactions in May 2011. Thank you all very much for your hard work and dedication which allowed such a dramatic increase from one year to the next.

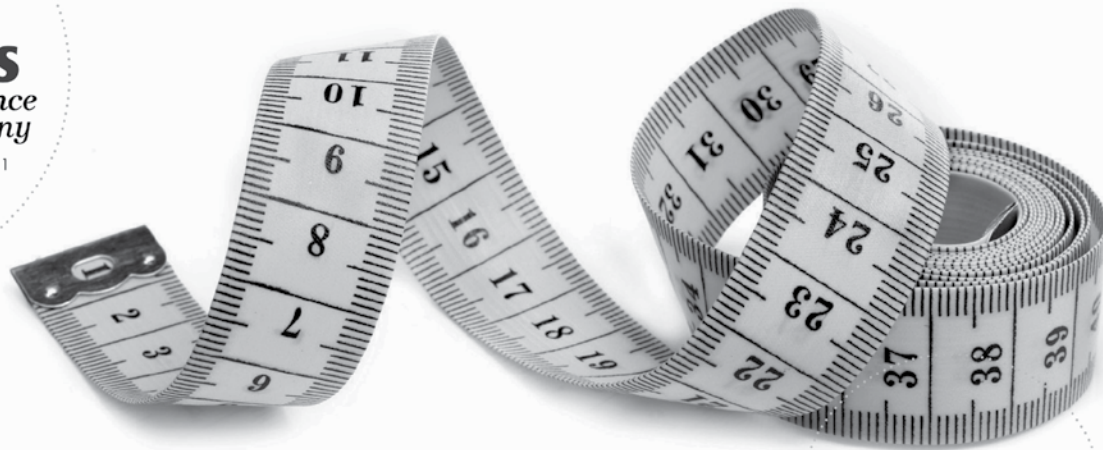
Even though this is great news, we have received reports that providers are sometimes selecting an incorrect prescription or sending prescriptions to multiple pharmacies, as the patient is not sure which pharmacy they wish to go to. We understand that multiple orders and unfilled prescriptions are a direct cost to the pharmacy and have sent out reminders to our stakeholder list and the REACH program to educate providers on these two issues to help keep transaction costs down. If there are other areas of concern that you are seeing, please let Sheldon Wolf know at [shwolf@nd.gov](mailto:shwolf@nd.gov). I hope that through education we can address these issues.

## **Domain Workgroups**

The Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) has several domain workgroups that are working on the North Dakota Health Information Network (NDHIN). The workgroups include, legal and policy, finance, technology, communication and education, and clinical. The workgroups help develop policies, technical infrastructure etc. and make recommendations to the HITAC who is the formal governance group for the NDHIN. We would greatly appreciate participation in any of the workgroups. Please let Sheldon Wolf know ([shwolf@nd.gov](mailto:shwolf@nd.gov) – 701-328-1991) if you have questions about a workgroup or are interested in participating. The time commitment is roughly an hour or two per month.

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# Pharmacy Students

## *Experience Medical/Dental Mission in Guatemala*

### Summary Article

Jen Hildahl and Sierra Roecker

7/17/12

While filling a patient's prescriptions, Jen Hildahl stops to wipe the sweat from her brow. It's only 11 am and already the temperature is at least 90°F in the village of La Felicidad in southwestern Guatemala. The working conditions in this pharmacy are less than ideal. The make-shift clinic has been set up in a local school: the classrooms have no glass in the windows and are wide open to everything from insects to wild dogs. There are no fans, let alone air conditioning, although the average high temperature in this area is 93°F. The pharmacy consists of plastic tubs filled with bags of medications sitting atop children's desks, a stark contrast to the perfectly-arranged, alphabetized shelves of medications at a typical pharmacy. Yet through the heat and the chaos of filling and counseling in Spanish on over 500 prescriptions in only seven hours, there is little complaint. The entire group works together harmoniously in order to achieve what had been set out to do – provide treatment to patients normally unable to seek or afford medical care.

Jen Hildahl and Sierra Roecker are both fourth-year pharmacy students who, through an application essay and an interview process, were selected as the 2012 Guatemala Medical Mission's pharmacy students who would accompany a team of about 30 individuals with various skills on the annual trip, which also fulfills the requirements of their first advanced pharmacy practice experience. The team members included physicians, a cardiologist, a nurse practitioner, a nurse, a pharmacist, a dentist, dental assistants, medical, pharmacy, and nursing students, linguists, and other general helpers. They served patients in five clinics from June 25, 2012 to June 29, 2012 in Guatemala, including the city of Xela and in the villages of Nuevo Chuatuj, La Felicidad, and Pachaj.

In addition to partaking in the actual medical mission trip, Hildahl and Roecker were also in charge of organization and preparation prior to the Guatemala medication packaging event held by the College of Pharmacy each

spring. Pharmacy students, faculty, and staff volunteered to gather in mid April to count, package, and label thousands of medications including analgesics, vitamins, antibiotics, anti-hypertensives, and numerous other medications that would be given out during the medical mission trip. Once

all of this was completed, the various medications and medical supplies were spread out between 16 duffel bags. The 50-pound duffel bags were then dispersed among the team members in order to get all the medications and supplies safely to Guatemala.

Upon arrival in Guatemala City the team members met the bus drivers, who they would end up becoming very close to by the end of the 10-day trip. They were taken to the city of Xela where their Guatemalan partners, the Episcopal priest/physician and his church were and where the team would be stationed for the week. The actual clinics were generally laid out the same, although each was tailored based on the day's location and facility. First and foremost, patients were required to check in and register. Following registration, a nursing station recorded blood pressure readings and blood glucose levels in addition to other appropriate lab work. Patients then proceeded on to see the next available provider, where they were able to receive a general check-up, express their health concerns, and receive a routine anti-parasitic medication. Upon completion with the providers, patients continued on to the pharmacy where their prescriptions were filled and counseled to them by the pharmacist, Dr. Amy Werremeyer, or a pharmacy student. Finally the patients finished at a nursing station where they received a review of their medications, extra instruction if indicated by the provider, and a supply of vitamins. In addition to medical care, there was also a dental team providing tooth extractions and fluoride varnishes.

By the end of the five days of clinics, the team saw 925 patients, dispensed 1,529 prescriptions (not including vitamins and anti-parasitic medications that all patients received), performed 124 tooth extractions, and provided 716 patients with fluoride varnishes.

Even though the care provided by the medical mission team had a large impact on the patients served, it can be argued that this experience made an even bigger impression on the team members. Hildahl and Roecker were astounded at the gratitude patients showed them, which included countless hugs and kisses from patients and heart-felt verbal thanks as well. Working in less-than-ideal conditions in a third-world country may not sound appealing to many; however, Hildahl and Roecker feel extremely blessed and fortunate to have been a part of this extraordinary experience.



Charles D. Peterson, Pharm.D., FASHP  
Dean and Professor / College of Pharmacy,  
Nursing, and Allied Sciences  
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## NDSU College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences

### Faculty honored at college awards ceremony

The College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences recently announced several faculty awards. College faculty awards were presented at a special College Awards Ceremony held May 1 in Sudro Hall. Pharmacy program faculty awards were presented during the Pharmacy Hooding Ceremony May 11 in Festival Concert Hall.

College awards are based on nominations of faculty by peers with the final selection by a faculty College Awards Committee using predetermined criteria. Pharmacy program faculty awards are selected by students enrolled in the pharmacy professional program.

### College awards

Steven Qian, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received the Dean's Award for Excellence in Research, which recognizes a faculty member in the college who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in research including excellence and innovation in their scholarly work. Qian's research is focused on the lipid peroxidation and its implications in cancer, as well as the potential of fatty acids and lipid-metabolizing enzymes to prevent liver damage related to chronic alcohol abuse.

Qian has been a leader in free radical chemistry and free radical biology. He has developed a novel technique combining high performance liquid chromatography, electron spin resonance and mass spectrometry to identify the detailed structures of free radicals formed from lipid peroxidation. Qian has published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers in major journals and brought more than \$1.5 million in research funding to NDSU from the National Institutes of Health.

Donald Miller, professor and chair of pharmacy practice, received the Mary Berg Award for Excellence in Teaching, which recognizes a faculty member who is an outstanding teacher as defined by the ability to inspire and engage students in learning, who has demonstrated knowledge of pedagogical principles and who has been creative and innovative in approaches to teaching. According to nomination letters, Miller demonstrates a passion for teaching that resonates throughout all of the classes he teaches. Classes are centered on active learning activities including discussion, group exercises in class, clicker-based questions and multiple examples from media sources and journals.

Miller also offers annual teaching workshops for new faculty and residents for the entire college.



Alicia Fitz, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Advising, which recognizes an individual in the college who has demonstrated exceptional advising skills and who has had a positive impact on students. According to nomination letters, Fitz has the students' best interests at heart and combines a unique balance of mentoring, academic advising and career planning with each student advisee.

### Pharmacy program faculty awards

Amy Werremeyer, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, received two awards, including the 2012 Teacher of the Year Award for the Pharmacy Program, which recognizes a faculty member who has been chosen by students in the professional program for their outstanding performance and commitment to teaching. She also received the 2012 Preceptor of the Year Award for the Pharmacy Program, which is an award selected by students in the fourth professional year of the program that represents outstanding performance and commitment in instruction of pharmacy students on clinical rotations by a full-time faculty member.

Chip Storandt, a home infusion pharmacist practicing at Sanford Health Broadway Pharmacy in Fargo, received the 2012 Adjunct Preceptor of the Year Award, which is selected by graduating seniors and represents outstanding performance and commitment in instruction of pharmacy students on clinical rotations by a practicing pharmacist who volunteers their time to provide clinical instruction of pharmacy students.

"We are pleased to recognize and honor the outstanding achievements of these faculty," said Charles Peterson, professor and dean of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences. "Thanks to their dedication and commitment to excellence, the quality of our academic and research programs is both regionally and nationally recognized."

NDSU is recognized as one of the nation's top 108 public and private universities by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.





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