

NoDak Pharmacy

Volume 25, No.3

June 2013



2013 Bowl of Hygeia Recipient

Laurel Haroldson

& Family

• Convention Exhibitors/Sponsors . . .

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Pharmacists Mutual
Purdue Pharma

This Year we raised over

• \$18,000 allowing the PhAC to award
• ten \$1,500 Scholarships.

Special thanks to the many
individuals and firms that
donated special handcrafted items
and other valuable objects to the
scholarship auction.

Table of Contents

Sponsors.....	inside front cover
2013 NDPhA Award Recipients.....	ii-3
Annual Convention Report.....	5-7
Government Affairs Committee Report.....	8
Message from the NAPT Presedent.....	10
NDSCS Pharmacy Technician Program Report.....	11
Annual Board of Pharmacy Report.....	12
Dean's Report.....	13-16
2013 Legislative Update.....	18-20
Hub on Policy and Advocacy.....	22-23
NDPhA In the News.....	25
Thank you to Dakota Drug.....	26
NDPhA Board of Directors.....	27

Support Our Advertisers

BNG.....	4
McKesson.....	9
Healthmart Pharmacies.....	17
Pharmacists Mutual.....	21
PQC.....	24
Dakota Drug.....	Back Cover



COLLEGE OF PHARMACY,
NURSING, AND
ALLIED SCIENCES



2013 Calendar

JULY

July 4 **Happy Independence Day**

AUGUST

August 7 **NDPhA Board of Directors**
Tentative Date NDPhA Board Meeting

April 8-10 **NABP District V**
NABP District V Inn at the Forks
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CA

SEPTEMBER

September 2 **Labor Day**
September 11 **Pharmacy Opportunities Night**
NDSU Career Fair
September 12 & Pharmacy Scholarship Program
September 13 **Pharmacy Interview Day**

OCTOBER - October is Pharmacy Month

NAPT
October 11-12 NAPT Fall Conference Fargo
NDSU Homecoming
October 12 Homecoming Bison Vs Missouri State
NCPA
October 12-16 NCPA Annual Convention
Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL
NASPA
October 12-14 Fall Symposium
Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL
ACCP
October 13-16 Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA

NOVEMBER

ASCP
November 20-22 Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA

DECEMBER

ASHP
December 8-22 Midyear Clinical Meeting,
Orlando, FL

APRIL 2014

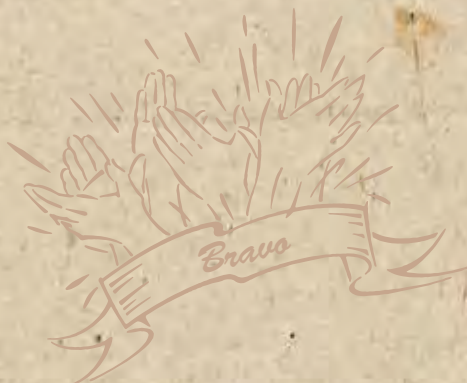
NDPhA 129th Annual Convention
April 4-6, 2014 Ramada Plaza Suites
Fargo, ND



Gary Dewhirst with Al Doerr
Recipient Gayle Ziegler



Eric Jacobsen, ASP President recognizes
the dedication of Harvey Hanel & Jim
Carlson (not pictured) for their years of
support and auctioneering contributions
that help make the scholarship auction not
only successful but entertaining as well.



Vern Dickerson, Boehringer Ingelheim
presents Bowl of Hygieia Recipient
Laurel Haroldson



Donna Kisse, NAPT President presents
Friend of NAPT Award to Mike Schwab



Shane Wendel receives the Leadership
Award from NDPhA President Elect
Joel Aukes



Sheila Welle Pharmacist Mutual with
Distinguished Young Pharmacist recipient
Scott Frank





Gary Dewhirst presents Thrifty White Stores with the Excellence in Pharmacy Award. Accepting the award for Thrifty, Tim Weippert and Justin Heiser



Sheila Welle with the Pharmacist Mutual Distinguished Young Pharmacy Technician Award recipient Anne Revier



Mike Riepl was the recipient of the Cardinal Health Generation Rx Champions



Technician of the Year
Darcy Speidel



Patricia Olson receiving the Pharmacy
Technician Diamond Award



Clinic Pharmacy, Devils Lake (05-30-2013) Full-Time Pharmacist Opening

– **No Weekends!** Clinic Pharmacy has an immediate opening for a motivated, goal-orientated full-time pharmacist. We are an independently owned, Health Mart retail pharmacy located within the new addition of Altru Clinic in Devils Lake, ND. We offer a very flexible schedule, competitive wages, and an excellent insurance package. Our store hours: M-W 830-7, Th-F 830-530, No Weekends, No Holidays and No On-Call. Qualified applicants are asked to contact Becky Fletschock or Sally Dahl at 701-662-4427, or send resume to: Becky Fletschock c/o Clinic Pharmacy, PO Box 1100, Devils Lake, ND 58301 or email bfletschock@hotmail.com

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April 4-6, 2014
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North Dakota Pharmacists Association Annual Convention Report

Prepared by: Michael D. Schwab, EVP

First, I would like to thank our members, board members and others who volunteered their time this past year. Your knowledge, insight and dedication are greatly appreciated. You should be proud of yourself and your profession for another successful year.

Below is a summary of the activities, services and opportunities made available to you and completed on your behalf, through the ND Pharmacists Association.

Collaboration and Networking: Over the past year, members of NDPhA and staff have represented the Association at a number of functions. This representation provides an avenue for the sharing of knowledge, best practices, new opportunities, timely information, and the promotion of the profession. Listed below are some of the areas Association staff and members participated in this past year.

- Liaison with the NDSU College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Sciences including but not limited to the Career Fair, Opportunities Night (sponsor), White Coat Ceremony, Student Scholarship Awards, pharmacy student rotations, Hooding Ceremony and the Telepharmacy Project.
- Liaison with the ND Department of Health.
- Liaison with the ND Department of Human Services. Represent the Association on the ND Medical Advisory Committee – Modernizing Medicaid and also attended Drug Utilization Review Committee meetings.
- Liaison with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and Minnesota, which also includes Prime Therapeutics.
- NDPhA continued their involvement with the ND Rural Health Association. Currently, I am the President Elect for the ND Rural Health Association.
- Liaison with the ND Board of Pharmacy.
- Participated on various national conference

calls and attended national meetings such as American Pharmacists Association, National Community Pharmacists Association, National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations. Joined many webinars/conference calls hosted by CMS, FDA, DEA, NCPDP, PQC, etc...

- Continue to develop numerous national contacts in various areas of pharmacy.
- Continued our partnership with ND Health Care Review, Inc. and their Reducing Adverse Drug Events project. We also participate on the ND Health Care Review's Quality and Safety Advisory Council.

Professional Development and Education:

Over the past year, the Association worked to enhance the pharmacy profession, improve patient care, provided educational opportunities and promoted public health by showcasing the value of pharmaceutical care. These include:

- Provided ACPE accredited continued education programs during convention, home study models and in the Nodak Journal with the help of NDSU College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Sciences.
- Helped in promoting innovative pharmacy practice initiatives such as the expansion of our About The Patient program. Please see the About The Patient Report for a quick overview.
- NDPhA promotes and encourages pharmacies to not only participate in the About The Patient program, but to also participate in the MTM opportunities offered by other entities such as Outcomes and Mirixa.
- NDPhA continues to hold discussions with ND Medicaid regarding the implementation of pharmacist lead MTM and DSM services for an identified Medicaid population base. These discussions are ongoing and we hope to have certain phases implemented in the fall of 2013.
- District meetings utilized as a support and

services outlet and opportunity to advance to board leadership positions.

- Provided opportunities to elect or participate in leadership roles for the Association and its committees.
- Provided important information and updates on some of the following topics and/or updates to our Association members: (1) DME accreditation and attestation requirements; (2) Medicare Part B audits; (3) DME National Mail Order Competitive Bidding process; (4) Reimbursement for diabetic testing supplies under Medicare Part B; (5) DEA and FDA alerts/updates; (6) provider status; (7) CMS updates; and (8) Medicare Part D updates
- Provided free and discounted certification and training programs.
- Aired announcements via a number of radio stations throughout the year promoting the profession of pharmacy and the value of pharmacy services - Drug Abuse Awareness Week, Drug Take Back Program, October as Pharmacists Month, etc...
- Continued to promote and expand the Pharmacist Quality Commitment Program in ND and its use by ND pharmacies. This will be an area of focus during 2013.
- NDPhA has entered into an agreement with NAPT as an academy of NDPhA. NDPhA will provide NAPT with office support, teleconferencing capabilities, website hosting, selected pages in the NDPhA's Nodak Pharmacy Journal, space for meetings and other support as necessary and appropriate. In addition, during 2013, NDPhA will become the fiscal agent for NAPT.

Public Policy Advocacy and Education Efforts:

During the past year, the Association provided advocacy efforts regarding a number of federal and state issues. During 2012, the ND Legislature was not in session. NDPhA participated in a number of working committees throughout the year. We worked closely with the ND Health Information Network (NDHIN) in looking to launch their Virtual Health Record and the Direct System. We also participated on a workgroup focusing on E-Prior Authorization and another regarding healthcare reform.

- NDPhA provided advocacy and education

regarding a number of federal pharmacy-related pieces of legislation and policies such as:

- HR 4215 – Medicare Pharmacy Transparency & Fair Audit Act of 2012
- HR 5651 – FDA Reform Act
- HR 5842 – Repeals provisions in healthcare reform to allow healthcare savings accounts to be used for OTC products
- HR 1936 – Exempt community pharmacies from mail order competitive bidding process
- Medicare Part B – Audits, mail order restrictions, reimbursement for diabetic testing supplies, etc...
- CMS Call Letter Comments – preferred networks, mail order, Part D audits, etc...
- Sent comments related to Community Pharmacy Accreditation Standards to APhA and NABP committee
- A lot of work was done during 2012 in preparation for the 2013 Legislative Session. Numerous communications and meetings were held with legislators and other public officials as we worked on drafting our PBM MAC bill. We also engaged in numerous discussions regarding a number of other pharmacy-related pieces of legislation.
- HB 1363 – Our PBM MAC bill!
- HB 1274 – Related to e-prescribing and e-prior authorization
- SB 2066 – Related to the prior authorization of antineoplastic agents (cancer drugs)
- SB 2190 – Related to bio-similar biological products
- SB 2342 – Related to medical gas and DME distributors and wholesaler fees
- There were a number of other pharmacy related bills. The Governmental Affairs report outlines each of them in more detail.
- As in the past, in conjunction with the NDSU College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Sciences, we held a Legislative Day at the Capital during the session as well.
- NDPhA participated in various legislative socials and fundraisers during the year to promote the role of pharmacists as active

healthcare providers. The Association also provided advocacy and education on various other pharmacy issues and concerns to non-profit organizations, ND State Departments, and social clubs regarding the value of pharmacist delivered care and other pharmacy issues and concerns.

Looking ahead to the 2013-2014 interim legislative session, NDPhA will participate in a number of legislative and policy related functions and will monitor the interim legislative committees as we prepare for the 2015 legislative session.

Products and Additional Services: Over the past year, the Association continued to expand the products and services that are offered to members of the Association. We created a document that outlines the benefits of becoming or staying a member of the Association, which can be found on our website (www.nodakpharmacy.net). Some products and services include:

- Promotion of Pharmacists Mutual Group as a preferred vendor.
- Promotion and outreach activities regarding PACE Alliance Buying Group.
- PharmAccount Financial Services.
- Email and fax blast Alerts and Updates.
- BNG Holdings – credit card processing discounts
- Publication and distribution of a Bi-Monthly Nodak Pharmacy Journal.
- Helped to facilitate member communications.
- The PharmAssist Program is maintained by the Association.
- Drug TakeAway program discounts for NDPhA members.
- NDPhA website - online credit card processing, Legislative Alert section and convention section are some of the features.
- Provide systems and individual advocacy and education on behalf of the profession at a local, state and federal level.
- Ability to participate in NDPhA Academies such as the Community Practice Academy (CPA) and the Northland Pharmacy Technician Academy (NAPT).

- Pharmacy Quality Commitment program (PQC) and Compounding Adverse Drug Event Reporting (CADER) discounts for NDPhA members.

Financial Report (Overview): Over the past year, NDPhA has taken various steps to improve the Association's financial position and to improve the transparency of such finances. A brief overview is below:

- NDPhA budgeted roughly \$188,000 in total general fund revenue. We ended up with actual general fund revenues of a little more than \$181,000 in 2012.
- NDPhA budgeted roughly \$185,000 in general fund expenses and had general fund expenses of \$193,000 in 2012.
- Excess or (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses was (\$12,000). Keep in mind this financial information is for the general accounts and does not include restricted accounts.
- Total Net assets at the beginning of the year were \$191,000 and net assets at the end of 2012 were \$180,500.

Moving Forward in 2012 and Beyond!

We encourage you to become active, get involved and make your voice heard! If you are not a member, we invite you to become a member. Moving forward, your Association will continue to build on relationships and promote the profession of pharmacy when ever the opportunity presents itself. NDPhA will continue to provide state and federal education and advocacy. NDPhA will continue to be fiscally responsible. We will also hold firm to our commitment to advancing the ABC's of pharmacy (Association, Board and College). I look forward to working with all of you moving forward. It is truly a pleasure working for all of you.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael D. Schwab

THE COMMITTEE WAS COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Steve Boening, Jeff Lindoo, Matt Paulson, David Olig, Bob Treitleine, Joel Aukes, Rick Detwiller, Dennis DelaBarre, Lance Mohl, Harvey Hanel, Mark Hardy, Howard Anderson

Our initial meeting was on October 30th, 2012. At this meeting we narrowed our focus from 8 bills down to 2, which were the PBM mac legislation bill and a bill having to do with mandatory mail order.

Our second meeting on Dec 13th, the committee decided to drop the mandatory mail order legislation and to focus our efforts on the PBM mac legislation.

After several e-mails discussing the wording of the proposed bill, we held a short conference call on December 27th and then followed that up by an email vote of the committee. Target deadline for the email vote of the committee was January 4, 2013. Once the bill was drafted, Mike had to find bill sponsors.

The following representatives and senators were the sponsors of HB 1363:
Representatives: Keiser, N. Johnson, Kasper, Pollert, Weisz, Mock, M. Nelson
Senators: Klein, J. Lee, Heckaman

With the help of many members who were able to attend the legislative hearings and testify in support of the bill, as well as contacting legislators in our communities and the guidance of our executive director Mike Schwab, the bill passed in the House 93-0 and in the Senate 45-0. This is a reinforcement that bringing bills to the table that make sense for ND pharmacies can be passed even when battling giant PBM's.

Thanks you to everyone that participated in the process. Testifying in Bismarck is extremely important, but doing the little things in our communities also makes a huge difference, from helping with campaigns, contributing to legislators, writing e-mails and letters and inviting legislators to your business to discuss our issues. Any time we have an opportunity to promote our profession we are taking part in the process.

Steve Irsfeld, RPh Governmental Affairs Committee Chair



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Message from the NAPT President

NAPT

Board of Directors

NAPT President

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Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians

President's Report 2012-2013 NAPT President, Donna Kisse

The Executive Board had a busy and exciting year. It was a year of learning about NAPT and providing leadership to ensure continued success and growth of the association. I would like to thank my fellow board members and liaison members for volunteering their time this past year. Sharon Kupper-Secretary, Bobbi Hauck-Treasurer, Kristina Foster-Outgoing President, Barb Lacher-Parliamentarian, Luci Koepplin and Jennifer Joyce-Members-at-Large, Diane Halvorson-ND Board of Pharmacy Liaison, Mike Schwab-NDPhA Liaison and Barb Lacher-NDSCS Representative and ND Technician CE Provider. Your knowledge, insight and dedication to the Pharmacy profession are greatly appreciated. Much "THANKS" to all of you for your support and dedication to NAPT this past year.

Executive Board Meetings: The NAPT Executive Board had 6 Board meetings throughout the 2012-2013 term discussing various topics. The following is a summary of topics the Board focused on during our scheduled meetings throughout the year.

Policy & Producers Manual: We started the year off by spending a weekend going through each section of the manual and by-laws reviewing and making a few adjustments. We updated the history section with mile stones of NAPT from the past few years. We formed a committee for any recommendations to the Constitution & Bylaws and brought the recommended suggestions to the General Membership at our fall conference.

Fall Conference: The 2012 Fall Conference was held in Bismarck, ND on October 5 & 6 with a total of 60 plus participants attending. This year was a mile stone for NAPT as it was our 20th annual fall conference. The fall conference offered 10 CE credits. The continuing education topics presented were: ND Medicaid, The Perfect Storm: the Neurology Behind Neuro-Developmental Disorders, Treatment Aimed at Casual Factors, Respiratory Therapy, Pharmacy Law, Understanding Medication Management in Home Health and Hospice, Postpartum Depression: An inside Look & Clinical Overview, There is more to Sleep than counting sheep, Customer Service: It is all about Relationships, Teamwork in OR: Pharmacy or Anesthesia. In celebration of our 20th annual conference we had a trivia contest based on the history of NAPT, reduced fee for attending and all attendees received a water bottle in celebration of the 20th annual conference. I would like to extend a great big "Thank You" to the Fall Conference Planning Committee for their hard work in planning a successful conference. The 2013 Fall Conference will be held in Fargo, ND with the date TBD. We are looking forward to another successful and motivating conference.

Pharmacy Technician Certification Requirements: A lot of focus this year has been on the upcoming North Dakota requirements for certification of technicians. The NAPT Board focused on getting this information out to all ND technicians throughout the year. The awareness has been available throughout the year through several different sources: Nodak publications, NAPT flyers/mailers, BOP newsletters, BOP website, CE presentation provided at the 2012 NDPhA convention to help prepare for the PTCB exam and a CE presentation by PTCB is offered at the 2013 convention in Dickinson. We want to make sure all North Dakota technicians are aware of the following requirements for North Dakota-licensed pharmacy technicians.

- PTCB certification is required and must be obtained before registration for new technicians, who graduated from an ASHP accredited program, and must be obtained, by current technicians by March 1, 2014. The only exception to this requirement will be for those technicians registered on or prior to August 1, 1995, these technicians will be grandfathered. Information about the certification test can be found at www.ptcb.org.

CPE Monitor: The CPE Monitor is another area of prominent focus this year. CPE Monitor is a national online continuing pharmacy education (CPE) tracking service that will keep track and store data for completed CPE credits received by pharmacists and technicians.

- CPE Monitor, through the collaborative efforts of NABP, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and ACPE providers, allows you to electronically keep track of CPE credits from ACPE-accredited providers. To view and track these credits, you must first set up an NABP e-Profile, obtain your NABP e-Profile ID, and register for CPE Monitor. You may do so by visiting MyCPEmonitor.net to register for your e-Profile ID. ACPE-accredited providers will ask for your e-Profile ID and your date of birth in order to properly record your CPE credits through the system. We recommend all technicians move forward and register for CPE monitor and obtain their e-Profile ID.

Academy Update: We are in the process of revising our current financial process. We are embracing our academy status with NDPhA and have requested to have the Executive Director of NDPhA be the bookkeeper of NAPT's financial books. The request has been approved by the NDPhA Board and the process has been initiated.

With the help and guidance from Executive Vice-President of Pharmacists Association, Mike Schwab, we have initiated the process to file our name and logo with the Secretary of State as a registered trademark. This will ensure us that no other entity uses the name.

Moving Forward in 2013: I encourage all technicians to become active and get involved in NAPT. It is a great opportunity to network, get together with friends and colleagues to learn about new ways facing the industry, which you can take back to your pharmacy. Through your involvement you will gain many friendships throughout the professional community.

It was an honor and pleasure to serve as the NAPT president this past year and I am looking forward to working with all of you moving forward in 2013.

North Dakota State College of Science Pharmacy Technician Program Report to the 128th Annual Convention of the North Dakota Pharmacists Association

Dickinson, North Dakota April 2013

Greetings to everyone from the NDSCS Pharmacy Technician Program. We are very pleased to report to the Convention that we have a fine group of quality students on campus in Wahpeton, and our PATSIM and on-line programs continue to be strong and popular.

Once again we have 100% of our on-campus students passing the PTCB national certification exam. Additionally, 100% of applicable graduates have obtained employment. We worked with the PTCB to obtain three different identifying numbers for our graduates to help us track areas we may need to improve. The PATSIM students, the on line students and the traditional face to face students will all have different numbers to key in when taking the exam. This will help us identify areas of weakness in one delivery method over another, allowing us to better modify our curriculum in those areas. Since we are the only program in the country with multiple accredited programs, this was a unique issue for them.

We currently have twenty-six students enrolled on campus, of which fourteen are graduating this Spring and Summer. Twenty three PATSIM students completed the program since we last reported to you. We have another five on the last module or with only one module left. With another 108 students at various points in PATSIM, we have approximately 139 enrolled on campus or in the PATSIM at this time. Included in this number are eight students who completed unaccredited programs and will be allowed to test out of the majority of the modules and seventeen nurses with the Department of Human Services. We currently have six potential students for whom Mrs. Lacher has done evaluations on past education and have not yet registered in the modules. Our on-line enrollment is difficult to pin down, since many on-campus students take some courses online, but we have twenty students either completely or hybrid on-line. We also have six military students completing our AAS degree option under the SOCAD agreement we have with the Army. This gives us a total of approximately 165 students in all of our programs at this time. This number is approximate because we have many of the students enrolled in the modules who may or may not intend to complete them. Often when students leave their employment they are not reported to us. We try to clean out files that have been inactive for a period of time, often only to get a request then for an extension. You could all help us with that if you would report to us when one of your students is no longer employed by you.

The Department participated in a number of outreach and recruitment activities this year. NDSCS Allied Health Departments held its 12th annual Health Career Fair last fall as well as a Career Exploration day for high school students. We hosted about 90 high school students this year. Our college also hosted a MarketPlace for Kids on campus. We participated in Career Fairs and high school visits. We are also one of four Allied Health departments to participate in a week long Career Awareness seminar for high school counselors and instructors. March of 2013 we hosted sixty high school students from Bismarck, the students participated in "hands on lab activities" plus received a wealth of information regarding our health careers.

We continue to need and appreciate your support in encouraging people to pursue a career as a Pharmacy Technician. We have program options to fit almost anyone's personal situation from as short as two semesters on campus for a Certificate, four semesters for an Associate Degree, and off-campus programs of the paper-based PATSIM as well as the Associate Degree on-line with only a few Saturdays spent on campus. We are exploring ways to assist pharmacists and technicians in their efforts with the PATSIM program to make it even more user-friendly and provide more support for both preceptors and students from the College. We have found that the vast majority of students stay in or return to their home areas, so your efforts to promote technician education can have a great impact in your community. Please do not hesitate to contact our office for assistance or more information.

We want to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our programs, especially the Pharmacists and Technicians of our Advisory Committee, the State Board members, Dr. Peterson and the College of Pharmacy, our loyal faculty and those of you who serve as Externship preceptors for our experiential sessions. Without the support of all of you, our students and graduates would not enjoy the successes they have achieved. Thank you very much!

Ken Strandberg, MBA, RPh,
Program Director

Barbara Lacher, BS, RPhT, CPhT,
Assistant Program Director

Annual Board of Pharmacy *Report*



STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

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 State of North Dakota
 Jack Dalrymple, Governor
 Mark J. Hardy, PharmD, R.Ph, Assistant Executive Director
 Howard C. Anderson, Jr, R.Ph. Executive Director

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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 Telephone (701) 328-9535
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2013 NDPhA Annual Convention April 26-27-28, 2013 Grand Dakota Lodge – Dickinson, ND

Current Statistical Data		
2012		2013
951	Active status Pharmacists	995
51	In-Active status Pharmacists	58
1,060	Out-of-State status Pharmacists	1,032
102	Lifetime – 50 Year Pharmacists	120
		2,205
	Delinquent – yet to renew	
	Pharmacists	69
<hr/>		
656	Active Pharmacy Technicians	665
78	In-Active Pharmacy Technicians	44
230	Technicians-In-Training	217
		926
	Delinquent – yet to renew	
	Technicians	81
<hr/>		
INTERNS		
360	NDSU PharmD Student Interns	360
91	Pre-Pharmacy or Other PharmD Students	128
<hr/>		
Pharmacies		
248	North Dakota Pharmacies	253
385	Out-of-State	420
<hr/>		
926	Wholesale Licenses issued	976

CURRENT STATISTICAL DATA 2013-2014 Lifetime Pharmacists

Issued June 1, 1962

RPh2602 DuWayne A Baranyk
 2000 St Joseph Drive
 Bismarck ND 58501-1573

RPh2603 Francis F Bures
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RPh2632 John M Gahley
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RPh2633 Merlyn O Gunsch
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RPh2634 Gerald F Houle
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College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences

**Charles D. Peterson, Dean and Professor
128th NDPHA
Annual Convention,
April 26-28, 2013
Dickinson, North Dakota**

Executive Summary

The College has had another very busy and productive year. On September 13th, the College held its 12th Annual Career Fair at the Fargodome with numerous exhibitors representing the professions of pharmacy, nursing, and allied sciences including various healthcare facilities from the state, region, and nation. Both pre-professional and professional students as well as area high school juniors and seniors attended the event exploring careers in pharmacy, employment opportunities, and internships. It was a tremendous success and the day was capped by our Annual Scholarship Recognition program which the College disbursed \$250,518 in scholarships to deserving students. The College awarded 210 scholarships, from 98 total donors (65 private individual donors and 33 corporate donors), with the average scholarship award being approximately \$1,100 (range \$250 - \$14,750). I would like to thank all the alumni and corporate friends of our College who have given so generously to help us support our students. Thanks to you, our scholarship program is alive and well. Next fall, the 13th Annual Career Fair and Scholarship Recognition Program will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2013 at the Fargodome. So mark your calendars and plan to attend. Like last year, North Dakota Opportunities Night will be held the evening before the Career Fair on Wednesday, September 11th. Come join us for these awesome events! To register for any of these events or for more information, contact Sara Wald, Director of Advancement, at (701) 231-6461 or email at Sara.Wald@ndsu.edu.

North Dakota State University is a student focused, land grant, research University catapulting to new heights. NDSU has joined the nation's prestigious top 108 public and private universities in the nation in the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education's elite category of "Research Universities/Very High Research Activity." NDSU's annual research expenditures this past year exceeded \$134 million. This has placed NDSU on a very prestigious list with other universities in the "Very High Research Activity" category include Cornell University, Georgetown University, Harvard University,

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ohio State University, Princeton University, Stanford University, Texas A&M University, University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Notre Dame, University of Southern California, University of Wisconsin, Vanderbilt University and Yale University. NDSU is the first and only University in North Dakota to ever achieve this prestigious status among research Universities nationally.

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) sent a five member Evaluation Team on April 3-5, 2012 to evaluate our pharmacy program for the purposes of continued accreditation. The Evaluation Team report found us compliant with all 30 standards with a few requiring continued monitoring. This evaluation of the program was reaffirmed by the ACPE Board of Directors during its January 16-20, 2013 meeting. Recommendations for program improvements were given and included: addressing space needs of the program; strengthening faculty and staff in areas such as experiential program, ambulatory care, pre-pharmacy advising, career planning, and residencies; accelerating implementation of the new curriculum; revising the program's strategic plan; and enhancing program financial resources. An interim progress report was submitted by the Dean on October 15th to address the program's progress in addressing these areas. An additional onsite visit is being planned by ACPE for April 2014 to evaluate the progress of the program in addressing these areas.

As a result of the recent accreditation visit by ACPE and their recommendations for addressing areas of improvement, the University recently gave approval for the College to hire an architect to develop preliminary designs and cost estimates for a new building addition to Sudro Hall to address long-term space needs of the program. This new building addition will be submitted by the University to the Chancellor of the NDUS for his consideration as a priority capital request from NDSU for incorporation into the Higher Education budget for the 2015-2017 biennium. If approved, this capital request could receive consideration for funding by the 2015 North Dakota State Legislature. Satisfying the ACPE accreditation expectations and requirements on space, and addressing needs for new space to accommodate program growth including a new inter-professional simulation/assessment/patient care training laboratory, additional faculty and administrative offices, additional conference and break-out rooms, and expansion of research facilities will be priorities. Additional faculty and staff to support the experiential program, pre-pharmacy advising,

and ambulatory care practice have already been hired or are in the process of being hired. The College this past year also developed a new College Strategic Plan which defines future goals and priorities for our College and its programs. To view the College's new 2013-2016 Strategic Plan visit the following link at: http://www.ndsu.edu/pharmacy/college_information/strategicplan/.

Our new Master of Public Health degree program was successfully implemented during the 2012 Fall Semester with the first inaugural class. There are a total of 14 students at NDSU currently enrolled in this new MPH degree program in four specialization tracks including health promotion, community health sciences, infectious disease management, and American Indian public health. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2013 Fall Semester. It is hoped that 20 students will be admitted in this next year's class. Additional information can be obtained by visiting our North Dakota MPH website at <http://www.ndsu.edu/pubweb/ndmph/index.html>.

In addition, the College has been working on developing a certificate training program in public health for practicing pharmacists to be delivered by NDSU to pharmacists nationwide. This 20-hour noncredit CEU certificate training program is being targeted for possible implementation during the Fall of 2013 and is being developed in partnership by NDSU, University of Maryland, and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP).

We are also very excited and pleased about the collaborative partnership between our College, NDPhA, and NDPSC regarding the state-wide About the Patient Program. In November of 2011, our College entered into a formal agreement with NDPhA/NDPSC to provide a NDSU faculty clinical coordinator for the state's About the Patient Program. Dr. Wendy Brown, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, is the clinical coordinator for the NDPhA/NDPSC's About the Patient Program. This collaborative partnership between the State Association and the College will help further build and expand medication therapy management (MTM) opportunities and services for practicing pharmacists across North Dakota, and it will also allow the College to build an education and research component into the program including residencies, student rotations, and explore research opportunities in MTM, telepharmacy, public health, and other areas. This collaboration shows that the ABC's of pharmacy in North Dakota are alive and well. We look forward with great anticipation what training programs and practice innovations will result from this important state-wide partnership.

Since 2003, Ann Rathke, has been the Coordinator of our North Dakota Telepharmacy Project. During this time, North Dakota's telepharmacy program has seen unprecedented growth and success, and has developed into the largest and most recognized program of its kind throughout the US and abroad. North Dakota has established a total of 81 telepharmacies across the state (53 community sites and 28 hospital sites), many states now have adapted telepharmacy rules similar to North Dakota, it is estimated that our community pharmacy telepharmacy sites have filled over 4,639,000 prescriptions to patients in medically underserved rural communities, national medication error rate is approximately 2% vs medication error rate in North Dakota telepharmacies 1% or less, has received more than \$3.3 million in federal grant support from HRSA, has generated at least 23 publications to date in various formats, has received the Outstanding Rural Health Program Award from the Annual Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health, has been featured in over 100 national media outlets including CBS news, US News & World Report, USA Today, Modern Medicine, ND Blue Book, AJHP, J Pharm Technol, Telemed J E Health, The Common Wealth Fund, and Medpac Commission, and has been established or pursued in several other countries including Australia, Canada, UK, including having our entire North Dakota telepharmacy website recently translated/converted into Ukrainian. Sadly, Ann will be leaving her position as Telepharmacy Coordinator at the end of June. On behalf of the College (and the profession of pharmacy in North Dakota), I want to extend a most deserved congratulations and thank you to Ann for helping us make this program such a smashing success which has brought much national and international recognition to the profession of pharmacy in North Dakota. Thank you, Ann for a job well done and best wishes to you in the future. .

The College's Sudro Society annual giving program continues to grow thanks to the generous support of our alumni and friends. Sudro Society recognizes individuals who make annual contributions to the NDSU pharmacy program of \$1,000 or more. These annual investments help provide a critical base of funding which allows the College to respond to new initiatives, urgent program needs, and special projects that would not otherwise be funded through the College's annual budget. Funding from annual alumni giving supports many areas of the college including: the College Student Ambassadors Program; travel expenses for students to attend regional and national pharmacy conventions; support and upgrades for our Thrifty

White Concept Pharmacy; the latest advances in instructional technology; classroom innovations and renovations; student scholarships; faculty and staff development opportunities; recruitment of new faculty and staff; alumni relations activities including reunions, social events, and our alumni newsletter; computer and software upgrades; our visiting scientist program; and many other areas. The financial support received from Sudro Society helps us sustain our tradition of excellence and it also allows us to pursue new areas in need of funding. We greatly appreciate your past support of this vitally important program and we hope that you will continue partnering with us by renewing your membership or by becoming a new member of our Sudro Society. Your support will have a great impact on our pharmacy students and it will help us fulfill our dreams for the future. For more information about Sudro Society, including renewing your membership or becoming a new member, contact Sara Wald, via email at Sara.Wald@ndsu.edu or call Sara at (701) 231-6461.

The College is currently launching a new fund-raising effort to increase the number of scholarship endowments within our program. More than 60% of our annual scholarship funds are in-and-out funds from annual gifts requiring them to be solicited and renewed yearly. We desire to increase the number of endowed scholarships which will provide more secure and stable funding of scholarships annually to deserving students. A scholarship endowment of \$25,000 will provide a \$1,000 scholarship annually. Scholarship endowment gifts to the College are tax deductible. Individuals and/or businesses with ND taxable income can qualify for a 40% state income tax credit on gifts of \$5,000 or more to a qualified endowment. Taxpayers need to file a Schedule ND-1QEC tax form with their tax return to receive the tax credit. For more information about pursuing this opportunity and establishing a permanent scholarship endowment within the College, contact Sara Wald, via email at Sara.Wald@ndsu.edu or call Sara at (701) 231-6461.

The pharmacy program is currently in the process of evaluating applications for admission to the pharmacy professional program for the 2013 Fall Semester. There are currently 131 applications (down from 162 in 2012) in this year's applicant pool and 85 students are expected to be admitted for this coming 2013 Fall Semester. Of the 123 students recently invited for formal interviews, the average selected GPA was approximately 3.70 (unchanged from 3.71 in 2012); and the average PCAT score was approximately 60.34% for those interviewed (relatively unchanged from 60.38 in 2012). The change in the number

of applications is likely due to the fact that the 77-credit pre-professional curriculum takes effect this year. As a result, a number of our students have decided to delay their application until the following year. However, the quality of our applicant pool remains very high. Preference is given to students with demonstrated leadership skills; a commitment to community service; completion of some or all pre-professional coursework at a North Dakota University System (NDUS) institution; and residency in North Dakota. Although admission to pharmacy schools remains fiercely competitive, students (and especially North Dakota residents) applying to NDSU currently have a much greater chance of being admitted to the pharmacy professional program than other schools in our region. Over the past five years, NDSU has admitted between 50-60% percent of the total applicant pool, compared to an average of 20-25% for other pharmacy schools regionally and nationally. The pharmacy program has admitted more than 73% of North Dakota residents applying to the program. Student tuition and fees for students enrolled in the pharmacy professional program at NDSU for the current 2012-13 academic year are approximately \$13,203/year compared to much larger tuition and fees charged at other schools regionally and nationally. So NDSU continues to be one of best quality and best value programs for a pharmacy education nationally.

Based on a survey of 74 (81%) of our 2012 pharmacy program graduates, the following are the most recent employment statistics of our graduates: 40.6% became licensed in North Dakota, 60.9% became licensed in Minnesota, 24.7% became licensed in all other states; 27.5% received job offer in North Dakota, 26.1% received job offer in Minnesota, 15.9% received job offer in all other locations; **30.4% had no job offer at the time of graduation; size of community** they will be practicing = (7.25% <5,000; 5.8% between 5,000-14,999; 4.3% between 15,000-24,999; 15.9% between 25,000-99,000 and 36.2% 100,000 and above; and 30.4% no current job offer), type of practice setting = 8.7% Independent Community Pharmacy; 27.5% Chain Community Pharmacy; 10.1% Health System Pharmacy, and 20.3% postgraduate residency; starting salary = (18.9% <\$50,000; 8.7% between \$50,000-74,000; 11.6% between \$75,000-99,000; 27.5% between \$100,000-124,000; and 2.9% >\$125,000). I would like to thank Dr. Daniel Friesner, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Faculty Development for conducting this annual survey of graduates and compiling these important statistics for our pharmacy program.

Dr. Cynthia Naughton has been promoted to the

position of Senior Associate Dean for the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, & Allied Sciences. Dr. Naughton will be taking on more responsibilities at the College level including providing administrative oversight for the entire College in the absence of the dean. The departments of pharmacy practice and allied sciences will directly report to Dr. Naughton and she will continue to be administratively responsible for all matters related to academic affairs and assessment for our College. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Naughton in her promotion.

Noteworthy pharmacy awards from this past year include: College Awards – Dr. Steven Qian, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences received the 2012 Dean's Award for Excellence in Research; Dr. Donald Miller, Professor and Chair of Pharmacy Practice received the 2012 Mary Berg Award for Excellence in Teaching; Dr. Alicia Fitz, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacist-in-charge of NDSU Student Health Services Pharmacy, received the 2012 Dean's Award for Outstanding Advising; and Pharmacy Program Awards – Dr. Amy Werremeyer, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Pharmacy Practice, received the 2012 Teacher of the Year and Faculty Preceptor of the Year Awards; and Mr. Chip Storandt, home infusion pharmacist at Sanford Health Broadway Pharmacy in Fargo, received the 2012 Adjunct Preceptor of the Year Award. Please join me in congratulating these award recipients.

The NDSU Pharmacy Program Graduation Hooding Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 10th at 10:00 am at Festival Concert Hall on NDSU campus. The keynote speaker for this year's hooding ceremony will be Brad Trom, 1972 BS graduate of our College, and CEO Retail Pharmacy, Lovelace Health System, Albuquerque, New Mexico. NDSU will hold its University commencement exercises at the Fargodome on Saturday, May 11th at 10:00 am. We invite everyone to come join us for these celebrations to honor this year's graduating class.

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2013 PHARMACY-RELATED LEGISLATION GRID

North Dakota Legislature

Updated: 4-4-13

BILL	DESCRIPTION	HOUSE COMM	HOUSE HEARING	COMM ACTION	HOUSE ACTION	SENATE COMM	SENATE HEARING	COMM ACTION	SENATE ACTION
HB 1070	Related to the Scheduling of Controlled Substances	Judiciary Committee	9:40 1-14-13	Do Pass 12-0-2	Passed 93-0	Judiciary Committee	9:00 2-25-13	Do Pass 7-0	Passed 47-0
HB 1071	Related to licensing procedures to obtain a registration under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act	Human Services	10:00 1-28-13	Do Not Pass 13-0	Failed 0-91				
HB 1072	Addition to Justin's Law from 2009 – criminal penalty for the middleman in bringing a buyer and seller of drugs together via the Internet	Judiciary Committee	10:00 1-14-13	Do Pass 14-0	Passed 91-0	Judiciary Committee	9:00 2-25-13	Do Pass 6-1	Passed 44-3
HB 1101 FN	Relating to Opioid treatment programs	Human Services	11:00 1-14-13	Do Pass 13-0	Passed 91-0	Human Services	9:00 2-19-13	Do Pass 5-0	Passed 47-0
HB 1108	Related to medication administration in correctional facilities	Human Services	11:00 1-14-13	Do Pass 13-0	Passed 88-1	Human Services	11:00 2-19-13	Do Pass 5-0	Passed 47-0
HB 1133	Related to the controlled substance analogs	Judiciary Committee	9:40 1-21-13	Do Pass 12-0-2	Passed 93-0	Judiciary Committee	9:30 3-13-13	Do Pass 7-0	Do Pass 46-0
HB 1165 FN	Relating to the ND immunization information system	Human Services	9:00 1-21-13	Do Not Pass 7-6	Failed 34-58				
HB 1274 FN	Relating to electronic drug prior authorization *Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee*	Human Services	10:30 1-30-13	Do Pass 13-0	Passed 94-0	Business and Labor	2:30 3-12-13 11:00 4-1-13	Do Pass 13-0	Passed 45-0
HB 1363	Relating to maximum allowable cost (MAC) lists for pharmaceuticals	Human Services	9:00 2-6-13 2-20-13	Do Pass 15-0	DO Pass 93-0	Human Services	10:30 3-26-13	Do Pass 5-0	Do Pass 45-0 (2 absent)
	SENT TO SUBCOMMITTEE		11:00 2-18-13	Do Pass 3-0					

SB 2066	Relating to the prior authorization of antineoplastic agents	Human Services	10:30 3-26-13	Do Not Pass 12-0	Failed 92-0	Human Services	9:30 1-14-13	Do Pass 4-1	Passed 30-17
SB 2089	Relating to state board of pharmacy prescription drug monitoring program	Human Services	9:15 3-19-13	Do Pass 12-0-1	Passed 82-10	Human Services	9:30 1-16-13	Do Pass 5-0	Passed 47-0
SB 2190	Relating to bio-similar biological products	Human Services	10:30 3-11-13	Do Pass 10-3	Passed 76-17	Human Services	11:00 1-21-13	Do Pass 3-2	Passed 26-20
SB 2340	Relating to penalties for theft of prescription drugs **Amended to create an interim study**	Judiciary	2:30 3-19-13	Do Pass 13-1	Passed 91-1	Judiciary	9:00 2-4-13	Do Pass 7-0	Passed 47-0
SB 2342 FN	Relating to wholesale drug distribution ***Sent to Senate Appropriations***	Human Services	9:00 3-20-13	Do Pass 11-2	Passed 63-28	Human Services	9:00 2-11-13	Do Pass 5-0	Passed 44-1
					Returned to Senate to concur or send to conf. comm.	Senate Approp-	3:00 2-18-13	Do Pass 11-1-1	
House Resolution No. 3005	Relating to Initiated Constitutional Amendments of the Constitution of ND	Political Subdivision	10:30 2-8-13	Do Not Pass 13-2	Failed 24-69				
House Resolution No. 3011	Relating to the fiscal impact of initiated measures and requirements for the circulation of initiatives and referendum petitions *Amended*	Judiciary	10:00 3-6-13	Do Pass 9-3-2	Passed 75-17	Judiciary	10:30 4-1-13	Do Pass Amended 4-3	Do Pass 25-20 Returned to the House to concur or send to conference committee

2013 Legislative Session

I know most of you are seasoned veterans at this process but I figured I would include the following link.

How a Bill Becomes a Law: <http://www.legis.nd.gov/files/resource/miscellaneous/bill-law.pdf>

The **Legislative Council website** has been re-done and it is very easy to navigate. You will find the **homepage** at: <http://www.legis.nd.gov/>.

The following link will take you directly to the 63rd Legislative Assembly Regular Session main page. You can find members of committees, House/Senate bills, Resolutions, Daily Committee Calendars/Schedules, Bills by Sponsors, etc... <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/63-2013/regular>

If you don't know who your Legislators are, or you want to help someone else find out who their Legislators are, there is a nifty **"Legislator Locator"** which you can find at: <https://www.legis.nd.gov/lcn/assembly/constituentViews/public/findmylegislator.htm>. You will need only your address and zip code. Pretty slick!

Please read below for Committee Rooms and which days they typically hold hearings.

FN = fiscal note;

M-Monday, T- Tuesday, W-Wednesday, Th-Thursday, F-Friday

House Hearing Rooms (not all of them):

House Human Services Committee typically meets in the Fort Union Room (M, T, W,)

House Judiciary Committee typically meets in the Prairie Room (M, T, W,)

House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee typically meets in the Peace Garden Room (M, T, W,)

House Education Committee typically meets in the Pioneer Room (M, T, W,)

House Appropriations – Human Resource Division typically meets in the Roughrider Room (M-F)

House Agriculture Committee typically meets in the Peace Garden Room (Th., F)

Senate Hearing Rooms (not all of them):

Senate Appropriations Committee typically meets in the Harvest Room (M-F)

Senate Education Committee typically meets in the Missouri River Room (M, T, W,)

Senate Human Services Committee typically meets in the Red River Room (M, T, W,)

Senate Agriculture Committee typically meets in the Roosevelt Room (Th., F)

Senate Industry, Business, and Labor Committee typically meets in the Roosevelt Room (M, T, W,)

Senate Judiciary Committee typically meets in the Fort Lincoln Room (M, T, W,)

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State-level lessons on provider status

Krystalyn Weaver and Diana Yap

A survey of state pharmacy association executives conducted by the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) showed that attaining payment for services and thus a viable and sustainable business model, is related to, but not the same as, legislative recognition of pharmacists as providers.

Currently, less than half of states recognize pharmacists as “providers” in state law, according to the NASPA survey; this recognition usually appears in the state insurance code but sometimes can be found elsewhere, such as in general laws or the health professional practice code. Not being recognized in statute does not exclude pharmacists from receiving payment

sociations and state legislators—who have seen the value of pharmacists’ services for their constituencies—have provided a means for patient access to pharmacists’ patient care services in a small number of states. This access was accomplished through intensive and innovative approaches and outreach efforts.

The high variability in state-level legislative provider status and state-based payment for pharmacists’ services, according to the NASPA survey, has resulted in limited public access across the country to these valuable services. For pharmacists to be used effectively to improve health outcomes and lower overall health care costs, a national solution is needed for patients and the health care team to have consistent, reliable access to pharmacists’ services.

- NASPA surveyed state pharmacy association executives.
- High variability in state-level legislative provider status and state-based payment for pharmacists’ services has resulted in limited public access to these valuable services.

in that state. Many states and the District of Columbia pay pharmacists for at least one professional service—though many offer very limited services such as only immunization administration.

Few states pay for their Medicaid enrollees to have access to medication therapy management (MTM); even fewer states pay for other services such as smoking cessation services, and only one state pays for comprehensive pharmacists’ services. For more information on the NASPA survey, contact Rebecca P. Snead, BSPHarm, NASPA Executive Vice President and CEO, at rsnead@naspa.us.

High variability, limited access

Without “provider status” at the national level in Medicare Part B of the Social Security Act, state pharmacy as-

care services delivered in collaboration with other health care providers. For more information, visit www.pharmacist.com/providerstatusrecognition.

Here’s a look at how provider status and payment have played out in several states.

MTM in Minnesota

Minnesota has what is probably the most robust state-based MTM program. The Medicaid program in Minnesota includes MTM for patients taking four or more medications to treat or prevent two or more chronic medical conditions, or for patients referred by a physician. Enacted in 2005, the Minnesota MTM Care Law defines the MTM component of pharmaceutical care services and recognizes qualified pharmacists as providers, according to a 2007 final report evaluating the effectiveness of the Minnesota MTM Care Program.

Minnesota Medicaid has a statewide network of pharmacists, “so there’s pharmacists around the state who have taken it up” in all types of practices—chain, independent, clinic, hospital, and so on, said former APhA President Lowell J. Anderson, DSc, FA-PhA, FFIP, Professor at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. The fee schedule is “pretty reasonable,” based on the CPT code system, and billed electronically on a CMS medical form.

When the MTM program “went through the legislature, it had a negative budget impact,” Anderson told *Pharmacy Today*. “Which means in Minnesota that if they were to cut the program, they would have to add money to the budget because this was anticipated to save money for the state. Which in fact it has. So that was kind of key, and it is almost an insurance policy that that program will stay in place.”

Tying the Minnesota experience to the national push for provider status, Anderson cited an argument made in the 2011 U.S. Public Health Service pharmacy report to the U.S. Surgeon General that there are numerous studies to document the value of pharmacists. “We don’t need another study,”

Top priority

The profession’s vision for pharmacists is articulated in the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP) 2015 Vision of Pharmacy Practice: “Pharmacists will be the health care professionals responsible for providing patient care that ensures optimal medication therapy outcomes.” One of the barriers to achieving the JCPP vision is the lack of a widespread, viable, and sustainable business model. Recognition of pharmacists as nonphysician providers within the Social Security Act would be an important step toward access for patients and the health care team to pharmacist-provided patient care.

APhA, hand in hand with other national and state pharmacy associations, is actively working to gain recognition and coverage for pharmacists’ patient

he said. "We need people going out and taking the studies and going to the policy people. That's what we did in Minnesota."

Limited payment in Montana

Under the Montana PharmAssist Program, \$6,000 was initially allocated this fiscal year to cover comprehensive medication management services provided by pharmacists. When that amount was exhausted within 6 months, the funding was increased to \$12,000. That funding was established through a bill in a legislative session in 2005 and is paid for through tobacco tax revenue. The PharmAssist program is not through Medicaid; it is a stand-alone program.

Under the program, \$200 per patient per year is allocated for comprehensive medication management services—a complete medication review at the initial visit and then one or two follow-up visits—and pharmacists decide how to divide that up based on a patient's needs. "That very much limits the number of patients we can actually help," said Carla Cobb, PharmD, BCPP—a psychiatric pharmacist at RiverStone Health Clinic in Billings, MT, and a cofounder of Merit Medication Consultants, a private practice—who has likely done more medication reviews through the PharmAssist program than any other pharmacist in the state.

"With the national push for provider status, I'm seeing a lot more pharmacists in our state energized about what they can do to get involved," Cobb said. "I'm seeing more pharmacists who are stepping up to the plate [who] are now getting engaged in the discussions but still are limited because of limited payments," she added, "and really are not always at the table when it comes to those discussions because of lack of provider status."

Private payer in Tennessee

Tennessee is an example of how to advance provider status by working within the health care marketplace to gain recognition for pharmacists as providers of patient care services. The Tennessee Pharmacists Association (TPA) worked collaboratively with BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

(BCBST) to develop a process to credential pharmacists who are compensated as health care providers through the BCBST medical payment system for the provision of immunizations to eligible beneficiaries.

Tennessee pharmacists who complete the BCBST application and credentialing process can receive reimbursement for certain vaccines and administration of those vaccines; these pharmacists are compensated for these services through the same mechanisms and at rates identical to any other health care provider, including physicians, according to TPA Executive Director Baeteena M. Black, DPh, and TPA Director of Professional Affairs Micah Cost, PharmD.

"The notion of pharmacists as providers is not a new concept. Pharmacists have provided care and services not directly related to the dispensing or delivery of a medication to their patients for decades," Black and Cost told *Today*. "However, there has not been a structure and process in place to recognize this provision of care and services. It is important for pharmacists to identify and share success stories like this project here in Tennessee to help pharmacists gain national recognition."

Provider bills in Massachusetts

Like California (see page 71 of April *Today* for more information), Massachusetts has introduced new legislation to recognize pharmacists as providers. Two bills, HB 2060 and SB 484, both titled "An Act Recognizing Pharmacists as Healthcare Providers," are now working their way through the 2-year legislative session that began on January 1, said David Johnson, Executive Vice President of the Massachusetts Pharmacists Association (MPhA).

HB 2060 simply would include pharmacists in the definition of a health care provider, but wouldn't require any public or private payer to compensate pharmacists. SB 484 also would add pharmacists to the definition of a health care provider but would require any blanket insurance plan to provide benefits for services of a registered pharmacist acting under the authority of a collaborative practice agreement.

This bill was filed through the efforts of MPhA in the previous legislative session.

"Fighting for provider status in Massachusetts is also a way of contributing to the effort to recognize pharmacists as providers under the federal Social Security Act," Johnson added. "As the 'laboratories of democracy,' states that have gained provider status and are climbing the mountain to secure compensation for services as providers will help convince officials at the federal level to yield to the inevitable."

Provider status law in Virginia

Pharmacists have had provider status recognition in Virginia for about 15 years—the law defines pharmacists as practitioners—but this recognition has not really resulted in payment. Some state payers tend to list the providers eligible for payment instead of referring to the state's practitioner definition. With Virginia Medicaid, pharmacists are almost never listed as providers, according to Timothy S. Musselman, PharmD, Executive Director of the Virginia Pharmacists Association. With the state employee plan, through a new MTM program, payments will start July 1. "It's open to all providers," he said. "Leaving it open and generic to all practitioners—obviously, with us [having] practitioner status—does allow us to be eligible to provide the services to state employees."

Many payers, including Medicaid and private insurers, don't necessarily default to the state status; they default to federal standards, Musselman told *Today*. "Federal listing, I think, will open it up." But the true objective of "provider status" recognition of pharmacists will take not just listing but also action "like us getting MTM for the state employee plan; working with the Medicaid program on payment models," he added.

"Getting listed is an important first step," Musselman said, "but that's only part of the battle."

Krystalyn Weaver, PharmD

APhA Foundation Executive Resident

Diana Yap

Senior Assistant Editor, *Pharmacy Today*

**"I'M ALWAYS
WATCHING OUT
FOR MY PATIENTS,
BUT WHO'S
WATCHING OUT
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Gary Dewhirst, RPh, Elected to Serve as Member of Executive Committee at Association's 109th Annual Meeting

Gary Dewhirst, RPh, was elected to serve a three-year member term, representing District 5, on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) during the Association's 109th Annual Meeting, May 18-21, 2013, in St Louis, MO.

Mr Dewhirst has been a member of the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy since 1999 and has served as the Board's president. In addition, he is a pharmacy manager for Thrifty White Drug in Hettinger, ND. Previously he owned and was general manager of Hettinger Drug, LLC, in Hettinger for over 20 years. His pharmacy was recognized as an Independent Superstar Retail Pharmacy by *Drug Topics* in 1989.

As a member of NABP, Mr Dewhirst has made many contributions to the NABP District 5 meetings, including serving on the Resolutions Committee. Mr Dewhirst is also an active member of the North Dakota Pharmacists Association.

Further, Mr Dewhirst is active in health and education related organizations. He is a member of the Advisory Committee for Dickinson State University Department of Nursing. He has also

(— more —)

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Gary Dewhirst, RPh, Elected to Serve as Member of NABP Executive Committee at Association's 109th Annual Meeting Page 2

served as a member of the West River Health Services Board since 1999. Active in community organizations, Mr Dewhirst received the Wyeth-Ayerst Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service in 1995. He was also recognized with the Al Doerr Service Award for community service in North Dakota in 1997.

Mr Dewhirst earned his bachelor of science degree in pharmacy from North Dakota State University. He also holds certifications in pain management, immunization, and medication therapy management.

NABP is the independent, international, and impartial Association that assists its member boards and jurisdictions in developing, implementing, and enforcing uniform standards for the purpose of protecting the public health.

- 30 -



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