Good morning. It is my pleasure as NABP President to be here today in Iowa, host site for the District 5 Meeting of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. I’d like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the District 5 chairs this year, the Iowa Board of Pharmacy and the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy.

I have been involved in NABP for many years as the executive director of the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy, and in the other capacities I have held at the board. And throughout those years I attended many District 4 meetings. Now, as NABP President, I have the opportunity to attend the meetings of all eight districts. I look forward to the new experiences this will bring and the opportunity to talk to board of pharmacy members from across the country.

Before sharing the latest news from NABP, I would like to take a moment and recognize the District 5 chair and your representative to the NABP Executive Committee, Lloyd Jessen, Executive Director of the Iowa Board of Pharmacy. Lloyd, the Executive Committee and I have enjoyed serving with you and appreciate the leadership and input you bring. I also want to acknowledge another distinguished member of District 5, secretary Howard Anderson, executive director of the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy, who was selected as this year’s Honorary President. Now Howard and I, and our wives Joan and Betsy, who by the way are here with us today, have been friends and meeting time travel companions since my first term on the NABP Executive Committee in 2001-2001. Howard has been a good friend to me, an exceptional leader for pharmacy regulation and the profession of pharmacy, and a quality person who cares about everyone and everything. Will you join me in recognizing Howard with a round of applause, please?

I also ask that if there are any other Honorary or Past Presidents of NABP present at this meeting to please stand and be recognized.

Also attending with me are Carmen Catizone, executive director of NABP, Maria Boyle, NABP competency assessment senior manager, and Dana Oberman, NABP executive meeting planner supervising coordinator. If staff or I can assist you in any way here at the meeting or in answering questions about NABP, please do not hesitate to ask.
Finally, on behalf of the NABP Executive Committee, I would like to extend our thanks to this year’s AACP chair, Jeffrey Reist, Assistant Professor from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and acknowledge that we look to and depend on the expertise and guidance of AACP to move forward and address key issues impacting pharmacy practice, education, and regulation. We appreciate and congratulate AACP on the critical role that it plays with the colleges and schools, and these district meetings.

**JCPP Vision Statement and Board Challenges**

It is gratifying to see so many of you here at your district meeting. These meetings are important to NABP because of the direction and leadership you provide. They also provide an excellent opportunity to meet with colleagues you would not normally see, giving you a chance to work together to protect patient health.

And today it is more important than ever for us to work together. The financial climate of the country, although improving, is not much farther along than it was two years ago when everyone realized we could no longer avoid admitting that we were in a recession. As employees of state governments, we know the realities of our struggling economy all too well. Budgets continue to be slashed and staffing is being cut to impossible levels. Some of us have even seen the autonomy and decision-making of our boards decreased or removed and the elimination of critical services, including those provided by the boards of pharmacy.

The timing of these difficulties is extremely unfortunate as we strive to continue our efforts as state boards of pharmacy and prepare for the future by making such initiatives as the Joint Commission on Pharmacy Practitioner’s Future Vision of Pharmacy Practice 2015 a reality. As Gary Schnabel, NABP Past President and current Chair wisely stated when he made this his presidential initiative, these changes are necessary to move pharmacy forward to better serve the needs of patients and further enhance public health and safety. And Gary knew that to ensure the Future Vision is met, we need to revise our pharmacy practice acts and regulations as they pertain to the roles of pharmacists and technicians. He recognized your challenges and approached them in a realistic and progressive manner. Building on Gary’s work I have made it my initiative to empower the boards of pharmacy, and position NABP to support the continued, strong alliance among the boards.

**Empowering the Boards**

Due to the conservative fiscal approach of the NABP Executive Committee, the Association, despite these tough economic times, is in an excellent position to
provide support and resources to the boards of pharmacy so that they may continue to focus on and protect public health. As part of my goal to empower the boards of pharmacy, NABP will be taking a proactive approach to learn about your board’s needs and challenges and how the Association’s existing programs and services can address them. To do this, NABP’s government affairs efforts will be expanded so as to assist member boards in reaching out to and responding to the many groups who look to them or seek direction from them. NABP staff will work with you to determine what the Association can do to meet your needs. We will become more active in exploring and analyzing the issues that impact the individual boards so that we can provide you with more facts and information about your state and others to bring to your legislators. NABP will even be available to present your board’s position to anyone who interacts with your board of pharmacy, including legislators and government officials. Simply put, NABP will partner with you to support you in your endeavor to protect public health.

In just a few weeks NABP is also hosting the Interactive Member Forum. Each board of pharmacy was invited to send one board member, at NABP’s expense, to NABP’s headquarters for one intensive day of discussion and networking focusing on critical topics facing the boards of pharmacy and identified by the boards as important. The Forum will be held September 22-23. To date, 45 boards of pharmacy have designated a board member to participate in this new and innovative outreach as part of our empowerment effort.

We are excited about the Forum and helping you in any way because NABP’s mission is the same as yours: to protect public health. And today, with all the challenges we face, it is more important than ever for us to partner together, complementing each other’s limitations and building off of each other’s strengths.

NABP will find other ways to assist you and support you including increasing our presence and efforts at the District Meetings. To this end, we will be conducting a survey of everyone present to learn what we can do to improve our participation and support and what we need to do that we aren’t doing now. We will also survey those executive officers, board members, and compliance officers who are not able to attend the District Meetings to ensure that the input we receive is as widespread as possible so that we do not leave any stone unturned.

**Community Pharmacy**

NABP believes that one of the empowerments it has to offer the boards of pharmacy sooner than later is the community pharmacy accreditation program that it began developing under NABP Past President, Rich Palombo’s leadership. This program, which is expected to launch in 2011, can fill some of the gaps in the boards’ resources by assisting boards of pharmacy in ensuring that community
pharmacies implement and maintain effective systems for measuring and improving patient care. The benefits of this voluntary accreditation program are wide spread. It offers additional regulatory support for member state boards of pharmacy, encourages community pharmacies to expand the role of pharmacists in providing patient care and services, and gives pharmacists and other pharmacy staff additional resources to prevent medication errors by engaging them in continuous quality improvement programs.

Focused on patient care, the program will include several patient care and patient safety initiatives as part of its accreditation standards. Pharmacies must also implement and maintain continuous quality improvement programs and develop and enforce policies that guide and monitor patient data collection and patient privacy. All of these aspects of the program coalesce to provide an objective credential for pharmacies that have met predetermined criteria and standards for pharmacy practice and patient care, in accordance with statutes and regulations.

The practice standards will be tested in the upcoming months through a number of demonstration projects and will be reviewed and monitored through a Steering Committee that has been formed with APhA, NASPA, CVS, Walgreens, Wal-mart, Medco and RiteAid. NABP believes that the boards of pharmacy and profession will find these practice standards and the accreditation program to be valuable tools towards establishing national practice standards and providing patients across the country with a uniform standard of care no matter where they live.

**PARE and NAPLEX**

One of the core responsibilities of the boards of pharmacy is its oversight of pharmacists’ competence to practice. We have excellent processes for awarding new licenses and our license transfer system is without compare. And all the boards take seriously the decisions of what actions to take against a disciplined pharmacist. When it comes to remediation or reinstatement of a license however, board members must often rely on information that may not directly measure the desired competence or outcome when determining if a pharmacist is ready to reenter practice.

To empower the boards of pharmacy in cases of remediation or as part of their decision making process when considering reinstatement of a pharmacist’s license, the Executive Committee recently approved the development of a new assessment tool. The Pharmacist Assessment for Remediation and Evaluation, or PARE, will provide boards with the evidence they need to make informed decisions about whether a pharmacist’s license should be reinstated. With the use of this tool, boards of pharmacy will be able to determine if the education or training they prescribed resulted in a change, thereby securing confidence in the capabilities of practitioners.
The PARE is an examination intended for experienced practitioners, not-entry level pharmacists, and provides evidence that the pharmacist is operating at a level commensurate with the required level of competence. The content domains will include: clinical pharmacy practice, medication safety management, and professional ethics. Developed using standards as defined by the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education, the PARE is expected to be available in 2011.

Whereas the PARE is appropriate for those whose license is under consideration for competency issues, the NAPLEX can serve as a decision making tool for other relicensure considerations. The NAPLEX was developed as a marker to determine the competence of entry-level pharmacists, but the depth and breadth of content in the examination make it an excellent measure of any pharmacist’s knowledge, skills and ability to practice. Boards can be assured that returning pharmacists who take and pass the NAPLEX are sufficiently knowledgeable about current pharmacy practice.

Conclusion

Today I’ve discussed just a few of the tools that NABP provides to support the boards of pharmacy. NABP was founded to assist and serve the boards of pharmacy so that they can develop, implement, and enforce uniform standards for the purpose of protecting the public health – and each one of the Association’s programs must embody this mission. So please look to NABP and its programs and services when you are faced with the possibility of cutting a critical service. One of these programs may fill your needs.

As I mentioned earlier, it is my goal as your president this year to empower you and your boards as you strive to move issues forward in your states and function as dynamic boards of pharmacy. I look forward to the results of NABP’s new proactive approach to providing you with the means to succeed. The Executive Committee and I recognize that it is extremely important to know what you need, thus NABP must explore and analyze the issues that impact the individual boards. But we are not asking you to do all the work. We simply ask for your hospitality as NABP staff reach out to work directly with you, even attending your board meetings, to understand your needs. The Executive Committee and I hope that you are anticipating this enhanced partnership as much as we are, for we believe that through this partnership, we will be able to overcome the many challenges that we face today.
I appreciate your consideration and support of this proposal, and your support of me as president. What I have presented today represents my thoughts and hopes on what my presidency and the Executive Committee may contribute to the state boards of pharmacy and NABP to ensure that they continue to be recognized as vital to the practice of pharmacy and protection of public health.

Thank you.