

**Pax Pharmacia\***  
**Report of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy**  
**Gary A. Schnabel, NABP President**

Good morning. It is a pleasure as President of NABP to be here today in Omaha, Nebraska the host site for the District 5 Meeting of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) and American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). I'd like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the District 5 Chairs this year, Kevin Borchert of the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy, and Charles Krobot, Associate Dean of the University of Nebraska, College of Pharmacy.

I have been involved in NABP for a number of years as the Executive Director of the Oregon Board of Pharmacy and formerly as Compliance Director for the Oregon Board. During those times I attended a number of the District 7 meetings and have had the opportunity to visit other districts as well. I am looking forward to my attendance at this year's District Meetings as President, the new people I will meet and the new experiences that will surely come my way.

I did some research before this meeting, so I wouldn't feel like a total stranger when I came before the District. I learned that Nebraska's state motto is "Corn, college football, and um ... more corn" and that Nebraska gets its name from the Oto Indian word "nee-ba-sah", which means, "Are you SURE we're not still in Iowa?" I also discovered that Omaha is home to the world's largest coffee pot. I made a note of that one to make sure I figure out how to tip the world's largest waitress!

Before sharing with you the latest news from NABP, I would like to take a moment and recognize the District 5 representative to NABP, Lloyd Jessen. Lloyd, the Executive Committee and I have enjoyed serving with you and appreciate the input you bring. We hope that you will continue to serve on the Executive Committee. Additionally, Rich Palombo, NABP Chairperson, is here in attendance and I thank him for the guidance and support he has provided throughout the years.

I would also like to recognize 2 past NABP Executive Committee members, Howard Anderson from the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy and Curt Barr formerly from the Nebraska Board of Pharmacy. Additionally, I'd like to ask that if there are any Past or Honorary Presidents of NABP present at this meeting to please stand and be recognized.

Finally, also attending with me are Carmen Catizone, executive director of NABP, and Sarah Fowle, Executive Coordinator. If Sarah, Carmen, or I can assist you in any way here at the meeting or in answering questions about NABP, please do not hesitate to ask.

I do have one request. An important task for our exam programs is validation of the content blueprints. In this regard we are asking compliance officers and board members to complete a blueprint survey for the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (the MPJE). This survey is critical to the validity of the MPJE. Please see Carmen or Sarah to get copies of this survey, and take them back to your board members and compliance staff. Thanks so very much.

As I mentioned, I am excited about this year's District Meetings. The District Meetings are important to NABP because of the direction and leadership you provide, as well as the opportunity to meet with our colleagues from the colleges and schools of pharmacy and AACP. It seems that hardly a day goes by when there is not an issue before us that draws upon the colleges and schools and AACP. We appreciate and congratulate AACP on the critical role that it plays with the colleges and schools, and these District Meetings. On behalf of the NABP Executive Committee, I extend our thanks 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.

### **Embracing a New Vision for Pharmacy**

One of those key issues is the revision of state practice acts to embrace the emerging concept of pharmacist care. Before I assumed the office of President-elect at last year's Annual Meeting, I spent a lot of time soul searching and asking myself, "If I was successful in becoming President of this prestigious organization, what could I do to make a difference?" I thought about the path began by Oren Peacock and Rich Palombo, and others before them, to revise the practice and regulation of pharmacy. I also thought about all that NABP does to assist the state boards of pharmacy. I felt overwhelmed. However, it soon struck me that it is important for NABP to continue the efforts of Oren, Rich, and others and bring the revision of pharmacy practice to the centers of the boards of pharmacy.

The revision which these previous leaders of NABP called for focuses on patient safety and the need to recognize the provision of pharmacist care as a viable and necessary component of pharmacy practice and the much larger arena of health care. It is based upon the concept of pharmacist care or medication therapy management, a concept that has been around for a long time, albeit in different shapes and forms. Although the concept was first introduced under the banner of "clinical pharmacy" in the early 1970's, its definition and integration into pharmacy practice and regulation has been less than swift and could even be described as somewhat disjointed, even chaotic. I am hopeful that working together with all of you, NABP can change that and advance a vision of pharmacy practice that is critical to comprehensive and quality patient care.

For this, we look to the practice acts and to the vision that has taken root within the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP), a coalition of the major national pharmacy organizations first established in 1977. As proposed and defined within the JCPP Vision Statement, pharmacists will have the authority and autonomy to manage medication therapy and will be accountable for patients' therapeutic outcomes. In doing so, they will communicate and collaborate with patients; care givers, health care professionals, and qualified support personnel. As experts regarding medication use, pharmacists will be responsible for:

- rational use of medications, including the measurement and assurance of medication therapy outcomes;
- promotion of wellness, health improvement, and disease prevention; and
- design and oversight of safe, accurate, and timely medication distribution systems.

In short, working cooperatively with practitioners of other disciplines to care for patients, pharmacists will be:

- the most trusted and accessible source of medications, and related devices and supplies;
- the primary resource for unbiased information and advice regarding the safe, appropriate, and cost-effective use of medications and
- valued patient care providers whom health care systems and payers recognize as having responsibility for assuring the desired outcomes of medication use<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> JCPP. JCPP Future of Pharmacy Practice, Preamble, 2008.

Complementing the revision of statutes and regulations to address the pharmacist and pharmacist care are NABP's efforts to assist the states reach consensus on the recognition and utilization of pharmacy technicians. The Model Act some time ago blazed the trail for the initial recognition of technicians by recommending that all states register or license technicians and by defining the distinction between *certified* and *non-certified* technicians. We are now entering the next phase of technician recognition and regulation.

### **Forces of Change in 2009**

That next phase will address the roles of the pharmacist and technician in the overall initiative to incorporate the Vision of Pharmacy Practice 2015 into state practice acts and regulations. Although doing so seems natural and necessary, it does present a number of significant challenges. Few of us can escape the reality in our professional and personal worlds that the present economic situation is simply not good. I could probably describe it better and in more sophisticated or descriptive terms, but "not good" seems to capture it all and keep this speaker's blood pressure in a reasonable range.

For states, and state boards of pharmacy in particular, the "not good" translates into budget deficits nationally in the billions of dollars and cut backs in staff and services that are devastating already depleted resources.

I and NABP are concerned that boards of pharmacy face an unprecedented crisis in providing even the most basic patient protection services. What makes the situation even worse is that there does not appear to be any relief from this crisis in the future, near or far.

Or maybe there is ...

As President of NABP, it is my goal to begin the process to revise pharmacy practice acts and regulations to empower and incorporate the Vision of Pharmacy Practice 2015 in a realistic and progressive manner. Now, I know some, if not many of you, are thinking to yourself "We can't even deal with pharmacy practice 2009, how are we going to change for 2015 with our limited resources and a struggling economy?" That's a great question and one that I didn't anticipate having to answer when I first decided to run for President-elect! Sometimes, I guess, timing is everything.

NABP believes that it has a way to assist the boards and states. The initiatives which Oren and Rich and others have begun - multistate licensure and pharmacy practice accreditation - provide a solid foundation for NABP to assist the states through public-private partnerships that not only continue the present services and safety nets offered by the boards of pharmacy but can expand and improve them. Imagine being able to tell your governor or state legislature that the pharmacy board will not have to cut services or staffing and may even expand its present protections because of its partnership with NABP.

The NABP Executive Committee met just a few weeks ago and structured a concept and implementation plan to help the state boards of pharmacy fill those regulatory and patient safety gaps created by cuts in funding and changes in the governance of the state boards. The concept is revolutionary and will draw upon the solid foundation laid by the community pharmacy accreditation program and vest back in the boards of pharmacy and pharmacists the ability to determine the appropriate and necessary standards for pharmacy practice. It hopes to revolutionize how state boards of pharmacy are funded and help to improve and expand the services currently provided. For a laid-back guy like me from the left coast, that even makes *ME* pretty excited.

In the upcoming weeks, NABP will be releasing more information about these opportunities and looking to you for ways to partner with all of the interested stakeholders. A

more detailed announcement and plan will be released at this year's Annual Meeting in Anaheim.

### **Increased Communications and Interactions with the Districts and Members**

Another major initiative of the Executive Committee – increasing the interactions and communications with the Districts, member boards, and board members – is high on our agendas and critical to the daunting agenda for change that I just proposed. I cannot emphasize enough that we need your help and suggestions. One of the charges as President that was given to me by the Executive Committee is to reach out to you at the District meetings and ask the question, “How can we better interact with you and learn more from you?” And so, I am asking the question to each and every one of you, “*How can NABP better interact with you and learn more from you?*” If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let me know or send them to me or Carmen at NABP.

### **Proposal for Change**

I am hopeful that you will support my and the Executive Committee's proposal for change that looks to the following:

- develop an implementation plan for NABP to integrate relevant components of the JCPP Vision Statement 2015 into NABP's strategic planning; and
- make available to the state boards of pharmacy public-private partnerships that sustain and increase the services and protections provided by the boards of pharmacy.

The Executive Committee is optimistic that working together we can empower boards of pharmacy to function as they once did and assist state legislatures and governors in their critical missions to support the boards and protect the public health. The new order proposed by NABP is a vehicle that will help inspire passion back into pharmacists and board members on behalf of the patient and improved pharmacy practice.

I appreciate your consideration and support of this proposal and your support for me as President. What I have presented in these few words represents my thoughts and hopes on what my Presidency and the Executive Committee may provide to you, and the contributions we hope to make to the state boards of pharmacy, NABP, the practice of pharmacy and ultimately, the public health and safety. I look to you for leadership and strength and ask that you join me in this journey.

Lastly, I'd like to encourage you to attend the NABP Symposium that will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Tucson, Arizona, at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Hotel. Topics of discussion in which attendees can earn CPE are: Medical Marijuana and Public/Private Partnership.

We hope to see you there!

Thank you!

\* The ***Pax Romana***, or Roman Peace, is a Latin term referring to the Empire in its glorified prime. This period refers mainly to the great Romanization of the western world. The Roman legal system which forms the basis of many western court systems today brought law and order to the provinces. The Legions patrolled the borders with success, and though there were still many foreign wars, the internal empire was free from major invasion, piracy or social disorder on any grand scale. The empire, wracked with civil war for the last century of the Republic, and for years following the Pax Romana, was largely free of large scale power disputes.

***Pax Americana*** (Latin: "American Peace") is an appellation applied to the historical concept of relative liberal peace in the Western hemisphere and, later, the Western world, resulting from the preponderance of power enjoyed by the United States of America starting around the turn of the 20th century. Although the term finds its primary utility in the latter half of the 20th Century, it has been used in various places and eras, such as the post United States Civil War Era in North America and globally during the time between the Great World Wars.

***Pax Britannica*** (Latin for "the British Peace", modelled after *Pax Romana*) was the period of relative peace in Europe when the British Empire controlled most of the key naval trade routes and enjoyed unchallenged sea power. It refers to a period of British imperialism after the 1815 Battle of Waterloo, which led to a period of overseas British expansionism. Britain dominated overseas markets and managed to influence and almost dominate Chinese markets after the Opium Wars.