

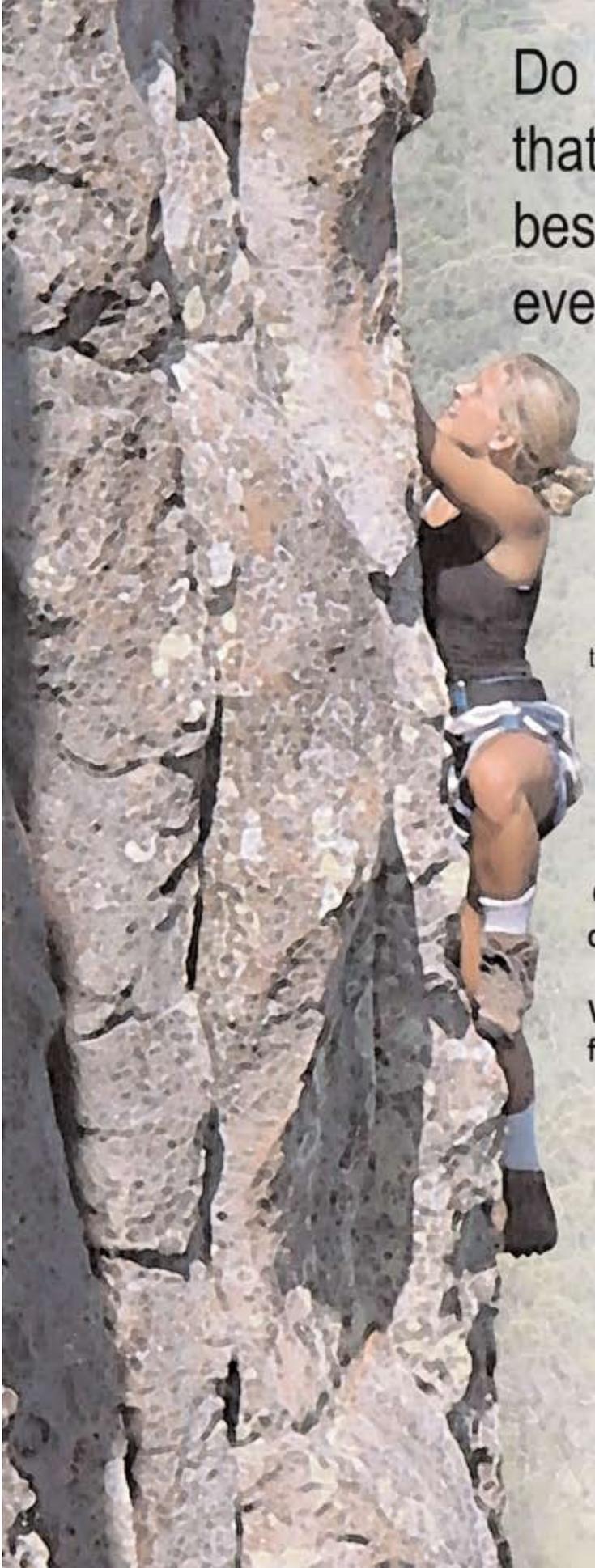
NoDak Pharmacy



R Moving
Forward

Annual
Meeting
Information
INSIDE!

Volume 22, No. 2, May 2009

A woman in athletic wear is climbing a vertical rock face. She is positioned on the left side of the frame, reaching up with her right hand. The rock is textured and greyish-brown. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape.

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Mark Your Calendar

May Calendar

May 15, 2009

North Dakota State University Hooding & Graduation
Fargo, ND

May 23 - June 13, 2009

Pharmacy Advancement Corp Scholarship Auction
Online at www.nodakpharmacy.net

June Calendar

June 13, 2009

NDPhA Annual Meeting
Carrington, ND

June 14 - 17, 2009

ASHP Summer Meeting
Chicagoland, IL

July Calendar

June 18 - 22, 2009

AACP Annual Meeting
Boston, MA

August Calendar

August 8 - 11, 2009

NACDS Pharmacy & Technology Conference
Boston, MA



The journal is supported by contributions from the Independent Pharmacy Cooperative (IPC) Community Pharmacy Commitment Program, Dakota Drug, Inc., McKesson Pharmaceutical and by the North Dakota State University College of Pharmacy, Nursing & Allied Sciences.

NDPhA Intern

Micah Rothmann, University of Mary

My name is Micah Rothmann and I am a senior at the University of Mary majoring in business communication. I am currently working at the North Dakota Pharmacy Association as a communication intern. My internship lasts for thirteen weeks. While I am interning I have been busy with a variety of duties and tasks. I have been responsible for making brochures, making flyers, organizing events, taking pictures, working on the bi-monthly journal, attending a few legislative sessions, and designing the booklet for the 124th Annual Convention.

As a communication student it is important to have numerous networking connections, which allow for future opportunities in the business world. Throughout the weeks of being here, I have had the privilege of working with individuals from out-of-state, printing companies, pharmacies, legislators, board members, and (along with) other businesses around Bismarck.

Designing brochures and booklets for NDPhA has allowed me to learn a great deal about NDPhA and pharmacies in North Dakota. The printing process has taught me how important communication is in every business realm. I have learned that an effective communicator is one who listens more and talks less.

I have also had the opportunity of collaborating on projects for the Association with individuals outside of Bismarck. I am currently working on a project with an individual from Minot and also another from Washington State. Communication is very important to collaboration and is therefore very important for the Association. I use very little or no face-to-face communication with these individuals simply

because of the distance. As a communication student it is important to utilize the technology you have on hand, so in this instance we rely on telephones and e-mails to keep in contact with each other.

As an intern majoring in Business Communication at NDPhA, I have learned the importance of patience in the design and printing process, a great deal about legislative sessions, the complex pharmacy bills, and the great networking opportunities and connections that can come from an internship. This internship has opened my eyes to the endless possibilities within the Business Communication world.

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NDSU Pharmacy Intern

Courtney Smith, NDSU PharmD Student

Top 5 Things You Should Do To Complete Your Role As A North Dakotan Pharmacist:

5. Explain to an out-of-state pharmacist that its negative 41°F and you are expected at work because the wind chill is still quite bearable.
4. Make some sort of over-the-counter recommendation to a distant relative which you have never talked to outside of medication questions.
3. Tell a pharmacy joke to a room full of co-workers and get a great response, then go home and repeat your joke to your family who stares at you blankly.
2. Be a preceptor for or spend time with a NDSU pharmacy student, you might be surprised how similar they are to you.
1. Have a strictly leisure coffee break with Howard Anderson, Jr. Executive Director of the ND Board of Pharmacy at least once in your career (Mr. Howard, I apologize for cramming your already tight schedule, but I know how much you like coffee!)

Unfortunately I have yet to complete that list, which most likely why Dr. Peterson has yet to sign my diploma (with the exception of the hundreds of hours I still need). But with all joking aside, this Top 5 barely encompasses what I have learned on my journey. Besides the typical required hospital and retail rotations, I have had the great opportunity of spending time with the North Dakota Pharmacist's Association. Unfortunately I missed being a part of the Association during the ever-heated debate of the Ownership Law, but even with that quieted down, I had much to do.

As it seems like most rotation students that spend time with NDPhA, I started the position being quite clueless as to my role in this profession in the great state of North Dakota. But over the last 5 weeks I have gotten to see an entirely new perspective of pharmacy. I was able to learn about the bills and legislation being passed and discussed not only in North Dakota but also in Congress. I was unaware of how the face of pharmacy continually changes, and yet encouraged by pharmacists who continually strive for patient concern and safety. I learned of internet pharmacies and the dangers they hold for consumers, of the different prescription assistance programs that the state offers for underinsured and uninsured North Dakotas, and how the need for change sparks a time-consuming process of legislation and discussion.

This rotation not only gave me new pride in being a pharmacist but encouraged a greater satisfaction in being a North Dakotan. There are many opportunities and experiences that North Dakota provides for students and pharmacists, that can't be found in other parts of the nation.

North Dakota Pharmacists Association

2008 Annual Convention Report

Prepared by: Michael D. Schwab, EVP

It is hard to believe another year has gone by already. First, I would like to thank our board members and other members who volunteered their time this past year. The profession of pharmacy encountered many new challenges and requirements during 2008, but once again all of you took everything in stride and made your voices heard. You have a lot to look forward to and celebrate moving forward in 2009. From developing new partnerships, to collaborating on new program initiatives, to expanding your role as healthcare providers, to providing education and advocacy, the profession of pharmacy in ND is alive and kicking! I am proud to be working for an Association whose members are actively engaged and make their voice heard when appropriate.

I want to thank all of you for your time commitments and hard work throughout the past year. It is greatly appreciated! 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. We have various levels of membership to fit your needs and desires.

NDPhA was very active this past year. Below is a summary of some of those activities, services and opportunities made available to you, 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 the past year.

- Attended NDPhA District meetings
- Liaison with the NDSU College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Sciences includes but not limited to the Career Fair, Opportunities Night (co-sponsor), White Coat Ceremony, Student Scholarship Awards, pharmacy student rotations, and the Telepharmacy Project (all are ongoing).
- NDPhA and its members also partnered with the NDSU Health, Nutrition and Exercise Department's Dining with Diabetes Project in providing them with funding for A1C kits for their patients that attended the group educational meetings.
- Liaison with the ND Department of Health. NDPhA partnered with the Department of Health and NDSU in participating in their Folic Acid Campaign. NDPhA also partnered with the Department of Health in promoting the Department of Health's Flu

Vaccination Campaign through the use of "stickers" and other reminders at participating pharmacies covering the state of ND.

- Liaison with the ND Department of Human Services. Represented the Association on the ND Medical Advisory Committee – Modernizing Medicaid (ongoing) and also attended Drug Utilization Review Committee meetings.
- Liaison with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and Minnesota, which also includes Prime Therapeutics (ongoing). Also participate on ND BC/BS Pharmacy Advisory Work Group.
- Participate on the Rural Health: Health, Information & Technology workgroups.
- NDPhA was also invited and accepted to participate in the creation of the ND Rural Health Association. We currently have a seat on their board of directors and they just received IRS 501 c3 designation status as an organization.
- We continue to participate on the ND Diabetes Coalition, which also just received IRS 501 c3 designation status as an organization. We also participate on the ND Diabetes Prevention Team and Executive Committee of the ND Diabetes Coalition when time permits (ongoing).
- Participated on the ND Chamber of Commerce's Healthcare and Insurance Task Forces in preparation for the 2009 legislative session.
- Liaison with the Board of Pharmacy, and collaborated on projects, programs and activities throughout the year. Such as the education and credentialing of pharmacists in diabetes care for our disease state management program and ongoing CE requirements needed.
- Participate on various national conference calls such as American Pharmacists Association, National Community Pharmacists Association, National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, and Community CCRx – Mirixa calls (ongoing).
- Attended the National Community Pharmacists Association's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. and met with our Congressional Delegation regarding various federal pharmacy issues of concern.
- Attended the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Association's Fall Symposium in conjunction with Pharmacists Mutual Annual Meeting in Arizona. Continue to develop numerous national contacts in various areas of pharmacy.
- Participate on the Catholic Health Initiatives 24/7 Telepharmacy Project for rural critical access hospitals. We participate on their Advisory Committee. This is a continued effort to expand Telepharmacy services when and where appropriate in the state.

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 with the help of NDSU College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Sciences.
- Helped in promoting innovative pharmacy practice initiatives (ex: DSM and further expansion of DSM and MTM services). Currently, we are working on developing a MTM protocol and will continue to expand the current DSM program beyond the two groups we already have (NDPERS and CHAND).
- 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 on some of the following topics to Association members: (1) Fraud, waste and abuse training for Medicare Part D; (2) Tamper resistant prescription pads for Medicaid prescriptions; (3) DME accreditation for Medicare Part B; (4) updated immunization protocol; (5) federal directions and timelines for e-prescribing initiatives; (6) Prescription Drug Monitoring Program; and (7) information on IAS approved vendors for flex card utilization at the point of sale. As you know, this list could go on for quite some time!
- Provided free and discounted training programs that are required by CMS (ex: Learn Something Network, which also provides revenue to the Association).
- Aired announcements via a number of radio stations regarding the value of pharmacy services.
- Association helped to secure over \$50,000 for Disease State Management program costs and expansion. A \$50,000 grant from NACDS was granted to the Association for DSM efforts. This will help offset the costs associated with the program and expansion of such.
- Secured funding to offer FREE training and certification to over 200 pharmacists wanting to provide DSM services of diabetes through the DSM program that is now available to pharmacists for patients with diabetes.
- Continued to promote and expand the Pharmacist Quality Commitment Program in ND.

Public Policy Advocacy and Education Efforts:

During the past year, the Association provided advocacy efforts regarding a number of federal and state issues. During 2008, the ND Legislature was not in session, but a number of Interim Committee hearings took place regarding ND's pharmacy ownership law, rural pharmacy services and the professions integrated membership. There was also some preparation work that needed to take place prior to the 2009 legislative session starting. Because the Interim Industry, Business, and Labor Committee was conducting a "study of pharmacy" in ND, most of our preparation work for the 2009 legislative

session was already completed in 2008 during the Interim session. Below are some areas of advocacy and education the Association participated and/or provided during 2008.

- Attended the National Community Pharmacists Association's Governmental Affairs Conference in Washington, DC. While in DC, meetings were held with each of our Congressional Delegates. The following issues were discussed: (1) AMP and Medicaid; (2) Part D Prompt Pay – all three delegates are co-sponsors of promote pay legislation (HR 1474 and S 1954); (3) Business negotiation rights – retail pharmacies having the rights to negotiate similar to chain pharmacies (HR 971 and S 2161); and (4) PBM areas of concern (exclusive contracts and audits). This communication is ongoing.
- Attended Interim Industry, Business and Labor Committee hearings, Human Services Committee hearings, Employee Benefits Committee hearings, and communicated with Legislative Council members. Our Association also provided testimony on three separate occasions during the Interim Industry, Business and Labor Committee's study of HB 1299. A complete listing of all Association testimony can be found on-line on the Association's website.
- Held meetings with the Insurance Commissioner's Office and the Governor's Office regarding a number of issues and anticipated legislation for the 2009 legislative session.
- 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 various organizations, Departments, and clubs regarding pharmacy issues and concerns.
- Collaborated with the Optometrists Association on legislation they planned to introduce during the 2009 legislative session.
- Worked with the Attorney General's Office, The Board of Pharmacy, The Medical Association, The Board of Nursing, and others in preparing legislation similar to Justin's Law recently passed in MN regarding Internet pharmacies.
- There were many other legislative issues that were discussed and presented in preparation for the 2009 legislative session. Mark Hardy the Chair of NDPHA's Governmental Affairs Committee will be providing a more detailed report of the preparation work the Association's Governmental Affairs Committee completed in preparation for the 2009 legislative session.
- Continued to work with FTC to come up with a more reasonable solution to a pending inquiry. Continued a contract with David Balto, an antitrust attorney out of DC, to help in this effort. A meeting was held at the offices of the FTC in DC during May of 2008. This was an informal meeting to discuss the FTC's

position regarding the inquiry due to communication that was sent to our office back in the spring of 2008. No agreement was reached, but we are going to continue to communicate and work with the FTC to bring this to a conclusion in the future.

- Attended NABP and ACCP's District 5 Regional meeting in Fargo and also attended the Rural Health Care Program Conference in MN.

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 additional 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.
- Publication and distribution of a Bi-Monthly Nodak Pharmacy Journal.
- Helped to facilitate member communications.
- Added the PharmAssist Program information to our website.
- Provide systemic advocacy and education on behalf of the profession.
- "About the Patient" website has been developed and working out great for our Disease State Management Program. A big thank you to Frontier Pharmacy Services for getting this up and running! This website is owned by the Pharmacists Association and advertising revenue is shared with FPS.
- The Community Practice Academy was recently developed to help promote the value and role of community pharmacists and to provide an avenue for shared experiences among members. Please refer to the Community Practice Academy's Annual Report for further details regarding what they have done in such a short period of time.
- Northland Association of Pharmacy Technicians Academy was also started during 2008 to promote the value and role of pharmacy technicians and to provide an avenue for shared knowledge among members. Both academies are new to the Association.

Financial Report:

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 few main areas that we would like to mention include:

- A budget was prepared and approved. This budget was then published and distributed to members via our Nodak Journal. The yearly budget was distributed at the beginning of the fiscal year.

This was done to bring about a better awareness of

the Association's finances to its members. We will continue to do this moving forward at least annually.

- During the end of 2007, the Board of Directors unanimously made the decision to change the Association fiscal year to coincide with the ND Pharmacy Service Corporation fiscal year (Jan-Dec.) and to file a joint for-profit 1120 tax return form. The PSC unanimously voted to move forward with the recommendation as well. This will help to alleviate the new IRS 990 tax changes regarding the "flow of finances" between a non-profit and a for-profit entity. NDPhA would still be considered a non-profit for general business purposes but will file a joint for-profit tax return. The proper paper work was filed during 2008 for this change to take place starting the 2009 calendar year. **We will more than likely be collecting membership dues starting in October of 2009 for the 2010 calendar year since that will be our new fiscal cycle.**

Financial Overview (Highlights):

NDPhA budgeted about \$175,800 in total revenue. We ended up with actual revenues of more than \$184,000. This was mainly due to some increased agreements that were reached that provided additional revenue and the convention made slightly more than anticipated.

NDPhA budgeted roughly \$155,000 in expenses but had actual expenses of \$157,100. This was mainly due to increased accounting fees and increased NDPhA committee expenses.

Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses was a little over \$27,000. Net assets at the beginning of the year totaled about \$79,000. Net assets at the end of the year totaled about \$106,900. Keep in mind this financial information is for the "general accounts." We also have "restricted" monies that are not included in this information. Overall, we were on target and did not over spend in the main general accounts or the restricted fund accounts.

Moving Forward in 2009 and Beyond!

Moving forward, NDPhA will continue to build 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 also provide professional development and education opportunities (DSM expansion) for its members and 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 has been a pleasure so far.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael D. Schwab, NDPhA - EVP

Disease State Management Program Annual Report

Jayme Steig, Clinical Coordinator

It has been an eventful first year of the DSM program. It is commendable to everyone involved that at this time last year the program was just in the development stage and now we are providing care to 300 patients across North Dakota.

Last April, contracts were executed with Medication Management Systems (MMS) to provide data management and Frontier Pharmacy Services to provide clinical coordinator services. An agreement was completed with NDPERS to provide diabetes DSM to their members. Provider certification also occurred during this time, as over 200 pharmacists and pharmacy students from over 80 different pharmacy locations completed the 16 hour training course consisting of at home modules and a live training session. One live training session was offered in Bismarck at the annual state convention and other was offered shortly thereafter in Fargo.

May and June saw the development of the diabetes DSM program completed, approval from the ND Prescriptive Practice Committee, and the About the Patient website completion. July involved the launch of patient enrollment for NDPERS and the loading and training of participating pharmacies on the MMS Assurance software system. The clinical coordinator, Jayme Steig, made presentations in August and September to the Dakota Diabetes Coalition, ND chapter of the American College of Physicians, and to the NDPERS board regarding the program. In October, a grant proposal was submitted to the NACDS Foundation to assist in the costs of developing the program. The grant was funded in December by NACDS. December and January also involved working with CHAND to create a proposal for a CMS grant to expand the program to up to 180 diabetic CHAND subscribers (340 total diabetic patients in the CHAND program). This grant was approved by CMS and a service agreement was executed with CHAND.

The NDPERS program currently has seen almost 300 patients to date receiving care at over 70 different locations. Approximately 15% of the NDPERS diabetic population has enrolled in the program. We have worked with NDPERS to look to expand program promotion to enroll more members. We are still receiving and accepting enrollments. The data entered in the software has shown encouraging results. There have been reductions in hemoglobin A1c across the entire population. Significant improvements have been seen in patients initially not at recommended goal in A1c, LDL, HDL, blood pressure, total cholesterol, and triglycerides. Patient satisfaction surveys reveal high satisfaction with the program.

The CHAND program is just now in the beginning stages of enrollment. There are some differences between the program for CHAND subscribers and NDPERS members. CHAND subscribers receive a health credit

incentive for every visit they attend as opposed to the co-pay reimbursement given to NDPERS members. CHAND subscribers are automatically enrolled in the program based on their claims history and can choose to opt-out, whereas NDPERS members must opt-in to the program. The six visits with a provider are the same for CHAND subscribers as they are for NDPERS members, however the visits occur over 9 months as opposed to the 12 month time period in the NDPERS program.

A Peer Review Committee has been established to set criteria for provider certification and recertification as well as provide program oversight. There have been criteria established for additional pharmacists and other healthcare professionals to become certified. There have also been continuing education requirements set for providers to retain their certification. The criteria allow for a well trained network without placing a tremendous burden on the provider.

The About the Patient website has received thousands of hits from patients and pharmacists. We have had inquiries from pharmacists throughout the US and Canada regarding our program. There is much interest in the outcomes of the program.

There have been successes and challenges faced by the program in its first year. The successes include the development and launch of the program, an above anticipated response from pharmacists and pharmacy students leading to a broad provider network, the NACDS Foundation grant, addition of the CHAND group, and encouraging initial clinical data. The challenges include outreach to additional patients to enroll in the program, distribution of the NDPERS patient co-pay incentives, and provider understanding of the data management system. Steps are being taken to continue the successes and overcome the challenges as the program keeps moving forward.

Future development consists of working to expand the diabetes DSM program to more patients and groups, continue to assess the program outcomes, expand and strengthen our provider network, strengthen our collaborative relationships with other healthcare professionals, and develop additional DSM/MTM programs.

Thank you to everyone involved for your efforts and dedication to the program and profession. This program is possible due to the efforts of numerous individuals.

Respectfully submitted,



Jayme Steig, PharmD, RPh
Clinical Coordinator

NAPT President's Report

Jodi Hart, NAPT President

Executive Board Meetings

The NAPT Executive Board met five times throughout the 2008-2009 term to discuss various topics. The following is a brief summary of the topics the Board focused on in these scheduled meetings and throughout the year.

NDPhA Academy Status

NAPT officially became an Academy of NDPhA at the Annual NDPhA Convention on April 27, 2008 in Bismarck. The transition was a relatively smooth one and NAPT has been participating in various NDPhA functions such as the Annual Convention Planning Committee and Board of Directors meetings.

NAPT Fall Conference

The 2008 Fall Conference was held in Fargo, North Dakota on September 26-27 with a total of 85 participants in attendance. This year saw a different format than past years with Friday's activities taking place at the NDSU College of Pharmacy and Saturday's activities taking place at the Skills and Technology Center. Continuing education topics presented at the conference included a telepharmacy update, aseptic technique, round table discussions which included a tour of the Concept Lab at NDSU, an update on the latest street drugs by the Fargo Police Department, intervention, herbal supplements and pills for weight loss, positive communications/customer service, and a motivational discussion on an increased tolerance for chaos. The General Business meeting also included the presentation of the first "Friend of NAPT" award to Dr. William Grosz. We were also fortunate enough to have a representative from the American Association of Pharmacy Technicians (AAPT) in attendance to give an update on AAPT as well as learn more about NAPT. I would like to once again extend a great big "Thank You" to the Fall Conference Planning Committee for putting on an excellent conference and for doing a wonderful job! The 2009 Fall Conference is scheduled to be held in Devils Lake, North Dakota with the dates TBA. We are looking forward to another successful and interesting conference!

Traveling Meetings

Once again this spring the Executive Board of NAPT conducted open forum meetings. We traveled

to all eight districts of the state during the challenging weather of February and March! Our focus was to provide Pharmacy Technicians of North Dakota the opportunity to share with the Board any issues that would enhance our profession as well as provide them with a 1 hour Law CE. Considering the dismal weather conditions, overall attendance was good. The information shared will assist the NAPT Executive Board with short and long term goal setting.

In summary, it was a busy and exciting year for the NAPT Executive Board. It was an honor and pleasure to serve as President. I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their participation and dedication to the Pharmacy profession as well as all of their assistance to me during this learning process. Angela Buchanan, Vice President/President-Elect, Kristen Striha, Secretary, Becky Prodzinski, Treasurer, Brittany Muchow, Outgoing President, Diane Halvorson, Parliamentarian, Josie Olson and Kerri Ring, Members-at-Large, and Barb Lacher, NDSCS Representative and North Dakota Technician CE Provider. I hope to continue my involvement with NAPT in the future and wish all of you the very best of luck in your future endeavors!



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State Board of Pharmacy Report

Howard C. Anderson, Jr., R.Ph., Executive Director

Opportunity knocks! Recent events in our legislature have pointed out once again that North Dakota wants the licensed pharmacist in charge of the profession of pharmacy in North Dakota. We have a myriad of opportunities before us. Some of these opportunities are offered to us through the use of technology.

The Federal Stimulus package will provide funding for electronic medical records, both within in our institutions and to provide connectivity between our institutions and health care providers. Pharmacy is a very important part of that network. In our hospitals, I would encourage our hospital pharmacists to keep pressure on management to keep pharmacy involved in the access to the total patient chart in the hospital. Take this opportunity to tell your management that you need to counsel *every* patient prior to discharge. Be certain that medication reconciliation is available to every outpatient pharmacist caring for the patient once they leave the hospital or clinic. On the retail pharmacy side we should also be sure that medication reconciliation information is available to the hospital pharmacist when the patient enters a hospital or clinic. This will likely only happen if pharmacists step up and say *“this is a necessary part of health care.”*

In our institutions, let's step up the pressure to make sure that the pharmacist has the opportunity to review every order prior to administration of the medication to the patient. We see increased pressure from venture capitalists manufacturing and selling dispensing machines to by pass the pharmacists and dispense directly through the physician's office. IF, as research continues to demonstrate, that the pharmacist's review of the order is important to the patient's care, we must demonstrate this by being sure that we do it at every opportunity. Out telepharmacy tools offer the opportunity for our hospital pharmacists to extend their reach to every portion of their facility. The electronic order can be reviewed by the hospital pharmacist, the message of approval or modification can be sent back to the prescriber at the patient location, and when leaving the hospital these patients can be counseled by the pharmacist.

Patient counseling and pharmacist review of the order *cannot* be just at our convenience. We must make the extra effort to be sure that we make pharmacists available for these services at all times. Technology gives us the tools to accomplish this if we will step forward, *insist upon it*, and provide the service.

Our hospital telepharmacy project is working hard to provide pharmacists services to all of our smaller hospitals. The project may even be providing additional services to some of our 24 hour / 7 days a week hospital pharmacies, when needed. Pharmacist Shelly Johnson, her staff, the NDSU College of Pharmacy and the partners at Catholic Health Initiatives are working hard to make this project a reality and extend it's reach to every hospital and every

patient who desires this service.

Our retail telepharmacy project continues to be a model for the nation. Our rules have been copied and written across the country and in foreign countries as well. The NDSU College of Pharmacy's involvement in our research program gives us the confidence and the world the data to demonstrate that our model for telepharmacy and pharmacy technician education and training is the way things should be approached.

Our Board of Pharmacy has been discussing a transition to the minimum requirement of an ASHP Accredited Program and subsequently the addition of a National Certification for each of our pharmacy technicians to become registered in North Dakota. Acceptance of a certification will allow us to rely upon a certification agency to maintain the technician's continuing education according to their standards. It is incumbent on each of us, when we have pharmacy technicians-in-training, to work hard to be sure that they are getting the help and tutoring they need to be successful in the accredited training program.

Counseling on every patient's prescription continues to be the standard in North Dakota. Some of the testimony I heard during the recent legislative debates from people saying that they had gotten prescriptions both in North Dakota and from other states and that they could not tell the difference between the services they received from the pharmacists. These may have been only a few instances, but, each one of them causes me concern. Each of us, and each of our management teams, need to review our processes and work flow strategies to be sure that the pharmacist is placed in a position where they can talk with every patient.

I continually get questions from clinics asking who can dispense the medication, such as samples. My response is always that the pharmacist or the practitioner should be the one to hand the medication to the patient. The questions invariably come back, what is the difference if the nurse hands the medication to the patient in the hospital, emergency room, clinic or the technician or supportive personnel hands the prescription to the patient in the pharmacy? It is incumbent upon **us** as pharmacists and technicians to make this designation clear. ***“If the patient can't tell the difference, what difference does it make”***.

If **we** are going to claim that we have a higher standard of professional service for the patients of North Dakota in our hospitals and in our retail settings, we must make every effort to ensure that it is true. The laws and rules of North Dakota put each pharmacist and technician in the place and position to make the proper choice for the patient. It is up to us to make that choice. Again, ***“If the patient can't tell the difference, what difference does it make”***.

North Dakota's rules and laws on the Prescription Drug Repository [donation] Program are being copied

as an example around the country. Please, take the opportunity to provide patients with these free drugs when they are donated. Not every pharmacy in North Dakota has signed up as a participant. I would encourage you to take a look at our website and consider this opportunity to help your patients to take advantage of these free drugs whenever possible. Obtain them from other pharmacies for them, **make yours services to your patients indispensable and they will not dispense with you.**

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in North Dakota is well received by all those who utilize it. Kathy Zahn, if you have not already met her, is here at this convention, and is granting login and password access to pharmacists, physicians and other prescribers who request them. The request forms can be obtained by contacting Kathy at the Office.

In summary, if you do not like the laws and rules of Pharmacy we have in North Dakota, ask your Board of Pharmacy Members to change them. Until they are changed, please comply with them in the best interest of your patients. Remember, ***“If the patient can’t tell the difference, what difference does it make”.***

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP - 2009-2010 RENEWAL YEAR

Originally issued June 25, 1958	Originally issued Nov. 14 th , 1958
2404 Ronald M Rogers, R.Ph. 8888 Hunter’s Bay Road Alexandria, MN 56308-6211	2430 Loretta Aipperspach, R.Ph. 1344 2 nd Street SE Jamestown, ND 58401-3715
2413 Patricia M. Churchill, R.Ph. 103 West Ave B Bismarck, ND 58501	2435 Jerome F. Dufault, R.Ph. 602 N Victoria Rd #M 166 Donna, TX 78537-9747
2419 Richard E McElmury, R.Ph. 801 1 st Street NW Bowman, ND 58623-4466	2442 James W Parkin, DDS, R.Ph. 103 41 st Street NE Bradenton, FL 34208
2422 Mary Ann Pfeiffer, R.Ph. Pfeiffer Pharmacy Box 367 Pequot Lakes, MN 56472-0367	2443 Kenneth J. Ryan, R.Ph. 3162 Sterlingshire Drive Las Vegas, NV 89146-6225

CURRENT STATISTICAL DATA

2008		2009
782	Active Pharmacists	817
54	In-State In-Active Pharmacists	51
1096	Out-of-State Pharmacists	1216
107	Lifetime	103
2,039		2,187
145	Delinquent / yet to renew	114
541	Registered Pharmacy Technicians	584
51	Delinquent / yet to renew	46
137	Technicians-In-Training	194
369	Licensed Interns – NDSU PharmD Students	365
89	\$10 Pre-Pharmacy Interns	90
233	In-State Pharmacies	236
412	Out-of-State Pharmacies	425
775	Wholesales	45

North Dakota Medicaid, Pharmacy Services

Brendan Joyce,

PharmD, Administrator, Pharmacy Services

MMIS

As many of you are aware, ND Medicaid is in the midst of designing and building a new Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). The MMIS is the system that processes claims. With this system, we will also be getting a new pharmacy system. It is a time intensive project, and that can impact my ability to return phone calls in a prompt manner. I sometimes can return e-mails faster than phone calls, so feel free to send e-mails. Remember, I only need the ID number and date of service – when I look up the claims, I’ll usually be able to tell what claim you are calling about.

Prior authorization and other edits

The DUR Board has been busy. Recent decisions have included smoking cessation coverage changes, limitations on carisoprodol, and triptan prior authorization. We will be mailing out some letters in the near future regarding ADHD medications as well as separate letters regarding tablet splitting. We are always looking for more input regarding possible edits to improve efficiencies. For instance, we were able to change programming to allow the birth control products Seasonale and Seasonique to be billed with the proper days supply. We’ll be adding Depo-Provera to that list. If anyone has any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Budget

This was our first legislative session with enough post-Part D data to finally start showing some trends. We will see the results of the legislative session when they finish in April. Here are some general data facts.

Average weekly payments to pharmacies	\$582,796
Average weekly number of utilizers	3780
Average prescription cost (paid to pharmacies)	\$54.41
Average generic	\$22
Average brand	\$169
Average number of scripts per week	10,724

Thanks

Once again, thank you to all pharmacies and staff. It is a pleasure working with you every day.

Chairman of the Board Report

Jerome Wahl, NDPhA Board Chair

The Board met four times this past year, 5-31-08, 9-3-08, 12-3-08 and 3-4-09.

Budgets were approved for NDSHP (\$9,175.00), NAPT (\$6,230.00), and The Academy for Community Pharmacy (\$3000.00).

DSM: Jayme Steig, Frontier Pharmacy has been hired as the clinical coordinator for the NDPERS DSM project. Throughout the year Jayme provided updates on the DSM project and The About the Patient website and logo. Jayme has done an excellent job of coordinating and providing feedback on the DSM project.

Aboutthepatient.com Website: The board approved allowing vendors to advertise on our website as long as the ads provide a benefit to the patients. The board recommended that the Association not endorse any advertising that is done by the vendors.

FTC: Still no closure on this issue.

NCPA Legislative Conference: Mike and Lance attended the NCPA conference in Washington, DC. The big message from this conference was, "contact your legislators and get involved".

IBL Committee hearings: There were three IBL Committee hearings during the Interim (August, Sept, and Oct). During the 2009 session, the House introduced the pharmacy ownership bill and it was sent to the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee to be heard. There was excellent testimony from several NDPhA members regarding the Pharmacy Ownership Law. I believe the IBL Committee members and the House of Representatives were able to see through the spin presented by the opposition.

The bills for the 2009 legislative session were presented by the NDPhA Governmental Affairs Committee and then reviewed and approved at the December board meeting. There was good discussion on what legislative issues the association should concentrate on. The two issues with the greatest importance to the association were the pharmacy ownership law and mandatory membership.

Board of Directors Policies and Ethics

Protocol: The board agreed that there should be some additional "stated" policies in place that each board member has to sign upon taking office that

outlines their responsibilities as a board member (outlining the risks and fiduciary responsibilities as board members).

The board approved the hiring of a University of Mary Business Communication Major, Micah Rothmann, to assist Mike for four months. Some of the projects she worked on were the Nodak Journal publication, convention booklet, convention posters, mailings, updating the website, and working on building public relations on multiple fronts.

Life Time Membership Awards were approved to go to Pat Churchill, Richard McElmury, Lorretta Aiperspach and Kenneth Ryan. These awards will be presented at the 2009 annual convention.

There still are challenges that we as an association need to address. The Pharmacy Ownership Law will either go to a statewide vote or will reappear in the legislative session in 2011.

We need everyone to step up to the plate and educate their patients and legislators.

The other major challenge will be maintaining membership in the association at its current levels.

Finances: General operating income and expenses were right in line with expectations. Overall, the 2008 financials look good and there were no concerns. Mike will be providing a more detailed compilation of the financials in his report.

The association will be altering its calendar year to January 1 to coincide with the NDPSC. This is being done due to IRS changes. The association will be classified as a taxable non-profit and will file a joint return with the NDPSC.

Because of fiscal year change, dues notices will be mailed out in October. My recommendation would be that instead of prorating the dues that the dues starting January 1, be \$100.00. Moving forward we will need to evaluate further dues further.

In closing, it has been a rewarding experience to serve as your Board Chair. I particularly want to thank the board members for their support as well as their dedication to the association.

Sincerely,

Jerome J. Wahl
NDPhA Board Chair

Topics for Technicians

North Dakota State College of Science Pharmacy Technician Program Annual Report

*Ken Strandberg, MBA, RPh, Program Director
Barb Lacher, BS, RPhT, CPhT, Assistant Program Director*

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, our PATSIM program continues to be strong and popular, and our on-line degree program is successfully operational.

Once again we have 100% of our on-campus students passing the PTCB national certification exam, although we did have one distance student fail this year, a first for us. Additionally, the preceptor reports regarding the summertime internships have been quite positive, and 100% of applicable graduates have obtained employment.

We currently have twenty students enrolled on campus, of which sixteen are expected to graduate this summer. Thirty PATSIM students completed the program in 2008, seven so far in 2009, and we have one hundred and twenty-four enrolled at this time. Four on-line students received their degrees in 2008, and we currently have eight enrolled of which four are expected to graduate in 2009. All for a total of one hundred and fifty-two students in our programs at this time.

We are now offering an on-campus IV training program for off-campus students who would have issues accessing a local training site. The didactic portion of this course is now in an on-line format utilizing the same instructor that the on-campus and on-line programs use. For students that have issues utilizing a local site for the “hands on laboratory” portion of the class they can now attend NDSCS for that part of the course, which consists of an intense eight hours of lab. The students will have access to the beginning “how to” sessions via video that will be loaded on the NDSCS server, so once they arrive they are ready to begin with very little explanation required. We have kept the tuition the same, absorbing our instructor fees within our Distance Education budget.

Next fall we will conduct a formal comparative analysis of industry needs and our curriculum. While our Advisory Board serves in this capacity in an on-going, continuous aspect, this one-day meeting utilizes an independent facilitator and an ad hoc committee of our advisory board members and other pharmacists and technicians to conduct an intense analysis seeking to fine-tune our curriculum contents and degree offerings to better address current and future industry needs. This is a new process that NDSCS is applying to all of its programs, and we volunteered to be in the first round.

We continue to need your support in encouraging people to pursue a career as a Pharmacy Technician. We have educational 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 that can be completed as quickly as the student wishes but have a 24-month limit. We have found that the vast majority of students stay in or return to their home areas, so your proactive efforts to promote Technician education can have a great impact in your community. If your local school district has health occupation courses or sponsors career fairs, please ask them to invite us! We are eager to present our programs, but the rules are we must be invited to attend, so contact your local high school administration about this and help us promote Pharmacy Technician education opportunities. Please do not hesitate to contact our office for more information.

We want to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our programs, especially 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 summer experiential sessions. Without the support of all of you, our College and these students and graduates would not enjoy the successes we have achieved. Thank you very, very much.



FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Administration

How to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance

Often the first step to recovery is making sure your employees are ready and able to come back to work. In counties designated for Individual Assistance, homeowners and renters can apply for FEMA assistance. The toll-free number is the same for both states. For Minnesota, the toll-free number is open 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. CDT, and for North Dakota residents, the toll-free number is open 6 a.m. to 12 midnight CDT. Online registration is available any time. To apply by phone, call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) (TTY 1-800-462-7585) or apply online at www.disasterassistance.gov. Multi-lingual operators are available.

Please have the following information available when you call:

- Pen and paper to record your registration number
- A phone number and a reliable alternate phone number in case we need to call you back
- Address of the damaged property
- Brief description of damages
- Social Security number
- Insurance information (if you have insurance)
- Current mailing address
- Bank account information (if you are eligible for disaster assistance, you may choose to have the assistance check deposited directly into your bank account)

FEMA disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate you for your entire loss. If you have insurance, the government may help pay for basic needs not covered under your insurance policy. Some disaster aid to individuals does not have to be paid back, while other assistance may come in the form of loans.

FEMA provides multi-lingual products and services to Limited English Proficiency residents and support services for residents with special needs in order to ensure that all residents receive information needed to apply for assistance. If your employee(s) need assistance, please email us for Minnesota at FEMAPrivateSector-DR1830MN@dhs.gov and for North Dakota, email FEMAPrivateSector-DR1829ND@dhs.gov

Applicants are not required to visit a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). However, a visit to a DRC provides an opportunity for residents to meet face-to-face with representatives from state and federal agencies and find answers to questions they may have about the recovery process.

NORTH DAKOTA: As of April 14, 2009, Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) opened in Bismarck, Fargo, and Linton. The DRCs are staffed by FEMA, the SBA and other federal and state agencies, and are open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice.

BISMARCK :

Gateway Fashion Mall
2700 State Street, Suite F5
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

FARGO:

Cass County Court House Annex
1010 Second Ave. S
Fargo, North Dakota 58108

LINTON:

Linton Community Center
101 First St. NE
Linton, North Dakota 58552

BEULAH:

Beulah Civic Center
120 7th Street NE
Beulah, North Dakota 58525

The SBA Business Recovery Centers are specially designed to provide a wide range of services to businesses physically and economically impacted by the flooding.

NORTH DAKOTA:

West Acres Shopping Center, 3902
13th Avenue South, Suite 5237
Fargo, North Dakota 58103

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays
and Fridays: 9 am to 6 pm
Wednesdays: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.



FACT SHEET ABOUT U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA) DISASTER LOANS

Incident: NORTH DAKOTA SEVERE STORMS & FLOODING

Disaster: ND-00016 Declaration: 11707/11708

occurring: March 13, 2009 & continuing

Application Filing Deadlines:

Physical Damage: June 9, 2009

Economic Injury: January 11, 2010

Whether you rent or own your own home, own your own business, or own a small agricultural cooperative located in a declared disaster area, and are the victim of a disaster, you may be eligible for financial assistance from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

What Types of Disaster Loans are Available?

- Home Disaster Loans – Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster damaged real estate or personal property owned by the victim. Renters are eligible for their personal property losses, including automobiles.
- Business Physical Disaster Loans – Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non-profit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible.
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) – Are working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.
- EIDL assistance is available only to entities and their owners who cannot provide for their own recovery from non-government sources, as determined by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

What are Mitigation Loans?

If your loan application is approved, you may be eligible for additional funds to cover the cost of improvements that will protect your property against future damage. Examples of improvements include retaining walls, seawalls, sump pumps, etc. Mitigation loan money would be in addition to the amount of the approved loan, but may not exceed 20 percent of total amount of disaster damage to real estate and/or leasehold improvements, as verified by SBA to a maximum of \$200,000 for home loans. It is not necessary for the description of improvements and cost estimates to be submitted with the application. SBA approval of the mitigating measures will be required before any loan increase.

What are the Credit Requirements?

- Credit History – Applicants must have a credit history acceptable to SBA.
- Repayment – Applicants must show the ability to repay all loans.
- Collateral – Collateral is required for physical loss loans over \$14,000 and all EIDL loans over \$5,000. SBA takes real estate as collateral when it is available. SBA will not decline a loan for lack of collateral, but requires you to pledge what is available.

What are the Interest Rates?

By law, the interest rates depend on whether each applicant has Credit Available Elsewhere. An applicant does not have Credit Available Elsewhere when SBA determines the applicant does not have sufficient funds or other resources, or the ability to borrow from non-government sources, to provide for its own disaster recovery. An applicant, which SBA determines to have the ability to provide for his or her own recovery is deemed to have Credit Available Elsewhere. Interest rates are fixed for the term of the loan. The interest rates applicable for this disaster are:

	No Credit Available Elsewhere	Credit Available Elsewhere
Home Loans	2.187%	4.375%
Business Loans	4.000%	6.000%
Non-Profit Organizations	4.000%	4.500%
Economic Injury Loans	4.000%	N/A

What are Loan Terms?

The maximum term is 30 years. However, the law restricts businesses with credit available elsewhere to a maximum 3-years term. SBA sets the installment payment amount and corresponding maturity based upon each borrower's ability to repay.

What are the Loan Amount Limits?

- **Home Loans** – SBA regulations limit home loans to \$200,000 for the repair or replacement of real estate and \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Subject to these maximums, loan amounts cannot exceed the verified uninsured disaster loss.
- **Business Loans** – The law limits business loans to \$2,000,000 for the repair or replacement of real estate, inventories, machinery, equipment and all other physical losses. Subject to this maximum, loan amounts cannot exceed the verified uninsured disaster loss.
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)** – The law limits EIDL(s) to \$2,000,000 for alleviating economic injury caused by the disaster. The actual amount of each loan is limited to the economic injury determined by SBA, less business interruption insurance and other recoveries up to the administrative lending limit. SBA also considers potential contributions that are available from the business and/or its owner(s) or affiliates.
- **Business Loan Ceiling** – The \$2,000,000 statutory limit for business loans applies to the combination of physical and economic injury, and applies to all disaster loans to a business and its affiliates for each disaster. If a business is a major source of employment, SBA has the authority to waive the \$2,000,000 statutory limit.

What Restrictions are there on Loan Eligibility?

- **Uninsured Losses** – Only uninsured or otherwise uncompensated disaster losses are eligible. Any insurance proceeds which are required to be applied against outstanding mortgages are not available to fund disaster repairs and do not reduce loan eligibility. However, any insurance proceeds voluntarily applied to any outstanding mortgages do reduce loan eligibility.
- **Ineligible Property** – Secondary homes, personal pleasure boats, airplanes, recreational vehicles and similar property are not eligible, unless used for business purposes. Property such as antiques and collections are eligible only to the extent of their functional value. Amounts for landscaping, swimming pools, etc., are limited.
- **Noncompliance** – Applicants who have not complied with the terms of previous SBA loans are not eligible. This includes borrowers who did not maintain flood and/or hazard insurance on previous SBA or Federally Insured loans.

Is There Help Available for Refinancing?

- SBA can refinance all or part of prior mortgages that are evidenced by a recorded lien, when the applicant (1) does not have credit available elsewhere, (2) has suffered substantial uncompensated disaster damage (40 percent or more of the value of the property), and (3) intends to repair the damage.
- Homes – Homeowners may be eligible for the refinancing of existing liens or mortgages on homes, in some cases up to the amount of the loan for real estate repair or replacement.
- Businesses – Business owners may be eligible for the refinancing of existing mortgages or liens on real estate, machinery and equipment, in some cases up to the amount of the loan for the repair or replacement of real estate, machinery, and equipment.

What if I Decide to Relocate?

You may use your SBA disaster loan to relocate. The amount of the relocation loan depends on whether you relocate voluntarily or involuntarily. If you are interested in relocation, an SBA representative can provide you with more details on your specific situation.

Are There Insurance Requirements for Loans?

To protect each borrower and the Agency, SBA may require you to obtain and maintain appropriate insurance. By law, borrowers whose damaged or collateral property is located in a special flood hazard area must purchase and maintain flood insurance for the full insurable value of the property for the life of the loan.

For more information, contact SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at
(800) 659-2955 or disastercustomerservice@sba.gov
www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance

2008 Recipients of the “Bowl of Hygeia” Award



Wyeth Pharmaceuticals takes great pride in continuing the “Bowl of Hygeia” Award Program developed by the A. H. Robins Company to recognize pharmacists across the nation for outstanding service to their communities. Selected through their respective professional pharmacy associations, each of these dedicated individuals has made uniquely personal contributions to a strong, healthy community which richly deserves both congratulations and our thanks for their high example.

Wyeth
Pharmaceuticals

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*2008 recipient awarded in 2009

Membership Structures Vary Among State Pharmacy Associations: *But all strive to strengthen pharmacy profession*

*Kylie Blanchard,
Clearwater Communications*

Prior to the 2009 North Dakota legislative session, active licensed pharmacists in the state were automatically integrated as members of the North Dakota Pharmacy Association (NDPhA) through a legislated agreement with the State Board of Pharmacy. This year, however, Senate Bill 2039 eliminated the mandatory membership law in North Dakota.

This change creates a new challenge for NDPhA, but also provides an opportunity to take a fresh look at the association's membership structure. NDPhA is actively researching other state associations to identify a membership structure that would strengthen and provide increased efficiency for NDPhA. "A membership committee will review potential structures and work with the current membership to identify a beneficial option for our association," says Mike Schwab, NDPhA executive president.

NDPhA dues will not change for the remainder of the year as the committee looks into potential membership structures. Annual dues will remain at \$100 for licensed pharmacists, \$35 for associate members, and free for those with fifty years of pharmacy licensure.

Schwab reassures members that as this process moves forward, NDPhA will continue its focus on serving current members and promoting the pharmacy profession throughout the state.

A National Perspective

Molly Skinner, executive resident of the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, says state associations are the voice of the profession. "The associations preserve and advance the interests of the profession. They advocate the role of the pharmacist as an essential provider of health care and support pharmacists in providing optimal patient care."

To provide NDPhA members a sample of other

associations' membership structures, the following information covers four states from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Region 8. Within this region of North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Montana, there are differences in membership structures, but a shared goal of building membership and strengthening the pharmacy profession.

Colorado

"We have education programs, an annual meeting and various social events," says Val Kalnins, R.Ph., executive director of the Colorado Pharmacists Society. The Society is open to pharmacists licensed in Colorado, pharmacy technicians and associate members.

Membership dues for licensed pharmacists are \$165 per year, \$150 for associate members, and \$45 for pharmacy technicians. Special rates include \$100 for pharmacy residents and first-year graduates, and \$125 for retired pharmacists. "We do have honorary membership determined by the Board of Directors," says Kalnins of the two members selected for this category. In addition, lifetime members were grandfathered into the organization in a merger with the Colorado Pharmacy Association.

Membership is not mandatory and Kalnins says "around 20 percent" of the state's licensed pharmacists have joined the organization. A committee of three to seven members focuses on membership recruitment and retention.

Kalnins says there are three main advantages to Society membership: "education, communication and representation." Fifty hours of continuing education is offered yearly; websites and newsletters communicate issues and changes in the profession; and members are represented on the professional board, and in state and national political arenas.

Additional information on the Colorado Pharmacist Society is available at www.copharm.org.

Utah

Reid Barker, executive director of the Utah Pharmacists Association, says people can join the organization online, by fax or through a mailed form; but the association also takes a unique approach to adding members. "We also make them a member by signing up for our convention," says Barker. When non-members register for one of the organization's conventions, their fee includes membership. "That just made sense," he says.

The Association is open to pharmacists licensed in Utah, pharmacy technicians, and associate members. “We also have an out-of-state opportunity,” says Barker. Pharmacists holding a Utah license, but living outside of the state, can join for \$50.

The state’s licensed pharmacists can join annually for \$150, pharmacy technician dues are \$50, and associate member dues are \$95. Retired pharmacists dues are \$50 dollars, and newly graduated pharmacists pay a reduced rate of \$40 their first year out of school and \$70 their second year. Currently, a lifetime membership is also available for \$1,500. A 20 percent discount is offered if three or more individuals from the same organization sign up for or renew their memberships at the same time.

Barker says less than 25 percent of Utah’s 1,500 licensed pharmacists are association members. The organization offers 29 hours of continuing education, and activities to promote the organization. “We try to promote different things around the year, mostly for students who are going to be graduating.” This includes events with the pharmacy schools, Pharmacy Day at the state capitol, and conventions. “We hope they go away saying ‘maybe this is a valuable association to be a part of.’”

Wyoming

In Wyoming, 10 percent of pharmacists are association members; but Kara Beech, executive director of the Wyoming Pharmacy Association, says it is easy to become a part of the organization. “They just need to join,” she says.

Association membership is not mandatory, but is open to pharmacists and technicians licensed in Wyoming, retired and out-of-state pharmacists, and pharmacy students. Dues are paid yearly and are \$140 for pharmacists, \$25 for technicians, \$50 for retired pharmacists and \$10 for students.

Beech says she would like to see mandatory membership in the state because so many benefits are available to association members. These benefits include professional development and promotion; newsletters and e-mails; legislative representation on the state and national level; and employment opportunities. There is also an online WPhA Forum to discuss professional issues and a “Members Only” website section containing Wyoming specific information to aid pharmacy professionals.

The association also holds yearly events to bring members together. “We have our annual convention in June, winter continuing education in January and

the technician continuing education in September,” she says.

Additional information on the Wyoming Pharmacy Association is available at www.wpha.net.

Montana

The Montana Pharmacy Association has a variety of membership categories available for professionals looking to join the organization. The Association is open to licensed pharmacists, technicians, pharmacies, and associates. The membership dues for practicing pharmacists are \$150. First-year pharmacists pay \$50 and second-year pharmacists pay \$75; and pharmacists that are also married pay a joint rate of \$225. Retired pharmacists can also join for \$75 and out-of-state pharmacists pay \$50.

The membership dues for technicians are \$30, and pharmacies can join the association for \$195. Associate memberships include \$200 for a basic membership and \$700 to \$1,200 for memberships that include conference registrations, exhibits and advertising.

The Montana Impaired Pharmacist Program is a unique feature of the association and is a joint effort between recovering pharmacists, the Montana State Board of Pharmacy, and the Montana Pharmacy Association. It is designed to help those in the pharmacy profession recovering from chemical dependency to re-enter the practice as competent professionals.

According to Stuart Doggett, executive director, association membership is not mandatory and approximately 30 to 35 percent of the state’s pharmacists are members. He says the association works to recruit and retain members “by mail, e-mail and membership drives.” In addition, the association meets yearly. “We hold an annual winter continuing education and ski meeting,” he says.

Doggett says there are many benefits to being a member of the state’s association including advocacy on the state and local levels, continuing education opportunities, communications and cost savings opportunities.

Additional information is available on the Montana association’s website at www.rxmt.org.

Pharmacist licensure requirements

In addition to a variety of membership structures and rates, the cost and requirements of pharmacy licensure differs among these states as well.

Colorado pharmacist licensure fees are \$281 every

two years. All licenses expire on October 31 of odd-numbered years, and 24 hours of continuing education is required prior to renewal.

First-time Utah pharmacist licenses cost \$235. This cost includes the pharmacist license and a Utah controlled substance dispensing license. Licenses have to be renewed before September 30 of each odd-numbered year, and 30 hours of continuing education is required every two-year cycle. The cost for renewal is \$131.

Wyoming pharmacist licenses for new graduates cost \$75 plus \$50 for a background check. In addition, no continuing education is required the first year of licensure. Renewal of a Wyoming pharmacist license costs \$100 and needs to be renewed by December 31 of each year. Twelve hours of continuing education are required each year to receive license renewal.

The application fee for a first-time Montana pharmacist license is \$120. Current licensed pharmacists can renew their state license for \$110, which must be done by June 30 of each year. Fifteen hours of continuing education is required each year to renew this license.

Strengthening the profession through association membership

Although exact figures are unknown, Skinner says it is often quoted only 25 percent of the nation's pharmacists belong to any state or national association. She says many state associations have membership committees, but struggle with retaining members.

Despite the change to mandatory NDPHA membership, Schwab hopes current members will remain with the pharmacy association and continue to help recruit additional members.

Rebecca Snead, executive vice president and CEO of the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, says it is important for pharmacy professionals to get involved in their state associations to further strengthen the profession.

“Without a strong and viable state pharmacy association, someone other than the pharmacist speaks for the profession of pharmacy,” says Snead. “State pharmacy associations are essential for the profession to control their own destiny and to advocate for optimal patient care.”

A strong membership base in the NDPHA means a strong voice for the pharmacy profession well into the future.

Community Pharmacy Academy's Report

Dan Churchill, President

The Community Pharmacy Academy was established in 2008 as an Academy home for those pharmacists whose primary focus is community practice. The mission statement of the academy reads as follows:

“The mission of the Academy of Community Pharmacy Practice is to advocate and promote the practice of community pharmacy. This will be accomplished by providing networking opportunities, legislative activity, public awareness, and practitioner collaboration.”

Some of the first acts of the Academy included naming an interim board of directors including a President, Jayme Steig, a Vice-President/President-Elect, Steve Boehning, and a Secretary-Treasurer, Dan Churchill. The board is currently working on increasing membership and participation in the academy.

Some of the actions of the Academy in the last year include distributing information on establishing immunization services in community pharmacies, producing and distributing posters promoting the practice of pharmacy and medication therapy management using the “About the Patient” theme, and general communication activities between community pharmacists and pharmacies via the CPA listserv.

Future potential activities include further development of programs including immunization, long-term care, compounding, lobbying and other programs promoting the advancement of community practice.

If you are interested in joining the Community Pharmacy Academy please contact the NDPHA office for instructions

Respectfully submitted

Dan Churchill

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Empowering Healthcare

NDPhA Annual Meeting/CE

When & Where

June 13, 2009

Chiefton Inn

60 4th Ave S Carrington, ND 58421



A block of rooms have been reserved under North Dakota Pharmacists Association. These rooms will be held until **May 24, 2009**. Call **(701) 652-3131**.

Agenda

9:30 -11:30

Diabetes CE - About the Patient Diabete Management Roundtable Discussion: Jayme Steig, PharmD,RPh, Coordinator Diabetes Disease State Management Project UPN:047-999-09-120-L01-P (0.2CEU)

11:45-12:30

1st NDPhA Business Meeting

12:30-1:30

President's Awards Ceremony
Lunch- Sponsored by Roche

1:45-3:15

2nd NDPhA Business Meeting

3:30-4:30

Law CE - What does the inspector want now? Howard Anderson, Executive Director, ND Board of Pharmacy, Compliance Office, ND Board of Pharmacy UPN: 047-000-09-112-L03-P (0.1 CEU)

Registration Fees:

Pharmacist	\$50
Technician/Students	\$25
Non-Members	\$75

Registration Fees will increase after June 5, 2009.

NDPhA Annual Meeting/CE

Saturday, June 13, 2009
Chiefton Inn, Carrington, ND
Starts 9:30 am – Ends 4:30 pm

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip

PHONE: _____
Work Home

EMAIL: _____

POSTMARKED

Registration Fees:

BEFORE

June 5, 2009

AFTER

June 5, 2009

Member Pharmacist	\$50	\$100
Member Technician	\$25	\$50
Non-Member Pharmacist	\$75	\$125
Pharmacy or Technician Student	\$25	\$50

REGISTRATION TOTAL _____

Make Checks Payable to: *NDPhA 2008 Annual Meeting/CE*

Mail Completed Forms and Payment to:

NDPhA
1641 Capitol Way
Bismarck, ND 58501
Or
fax to 701-258-9312

Type of Payment (circle one): Check Visa Mastercard

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***Registration is due before June 5, 2009.**

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that drives industry
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Please contact:
Lynn Swedberg
701.371.3849
lynn.swedberg@mckesson.com

Pharmacy Advancement Corporation Student Scholarship Online Auction

Due to the convention cancellation, we will be holding the Pharmacy Advancement Corporation (PhAC) Student Auction online. The auction site will be accessible on the NPhA website at www.nodakpharmacy.net starting Monday May 25, 2009 through Friday June 12, 2009.

If you do not have an item for the auction, consider making a small monetary **FREE WILL** donation or challenge classmates to match your donation. These funds are used strictly for NDSU College of Pharmacy Student Scholarships. The Pharmacy Advancement Corporation has provided funds for 8 scholarships for the past 2 years (a total of 16). Help us continue the tradition and support the future pharmacists of North Dakota.

A few items to bid on include: Handmade quilt, homemade chokecherry syrup, handcrafted necklace, antique stock bottles, Dave Olig handcrafted pen, mortar and pestle and 3 Fred Paavola photos. Check out the website to view these items and more.

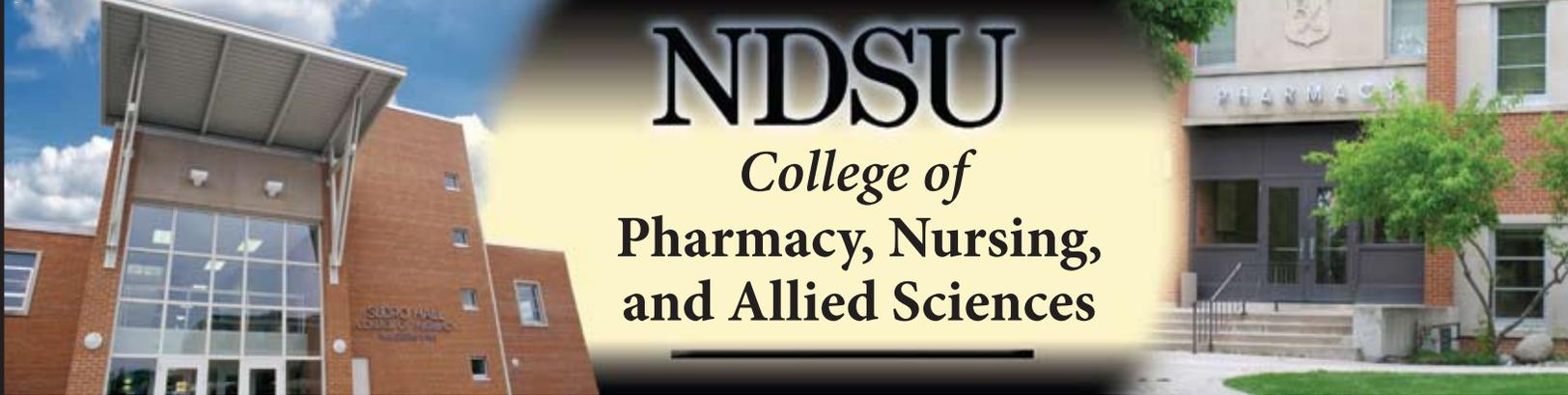


Make Checks Payable to: **PhAC**
Send to:

Pharmacy Advancement Corp
C/O North Dakota Pharmacists Association
1641 Capitol Way
Bismarck, ND 58501

Amount of Donation \$ _____

If you have any questions call Lorri at 701-258-4968 or email lgiddings@nodakpharmacy.net



NDSU

College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences

Charles Peterson, Dean

NDSU College of Pharmacy

A Message from the Dean

Executive Summary

The College has had another very busy and productive year. On September 18th, the College held its eighth Annual Career Fair at the Fargodome with 76 booths, 154 exhibitors, 61 companies in attendance 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 \$236,626 in scholarships to deserving students. The College awarded 208 scholarships, from 84 individual and corporate donors, with the average scholarship award being approximately \$1,225 (range \$250 - \$13,600). 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 9th Annual Career Fair will be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009 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 16th. Come join us for these awesome events! To register for any of these events or for more information, contact Sara Tanke, Director of Advancement, at (701) 231-6461 or email at Sara.Tanke@ndsu.edu.

The State of North Dakota recently established a Center of Excellence Program (COE) to promote and encourage linkages between academia and the private business sector to enhance economic development within the state through adding new businesses, new jobs, and new commercialization. The 2005 Legislature set aside \$23 million to invest in the COE program managed by the Department of Commerce. As a result of its strategic planning efforts, the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Sciences in July 2008 submitted an application to the State to develop a Center of Excellence within the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at NDSU called the Center for Biopharmaceutical Research & Production (CBRP). After going through the formal COE due diligence process, on September 26th, the College was notified by the North Dakota Department of Commerce

that its Center of Excellence application had been approved for funding for \$2.0 million. The following are the goals, objectives, and plans for the College's new state-supported Center of Excellence in biopharmaceuticals including vaccines: The CBRP COE will develop a comprehensive vaccine cluster that is capable of performing all aspects of vaccine research & development right here in North Dakota (basic science research and discovery, animal testing, screening and manufacturing, and even human trials). NDSU has been involved with vaccine research and development for more than a decade and we would like to build this area further. The CBRP COE will utilize or capitalize on the strengths that already exist in North Dakota in the life sciences, biomedical fields, pharmaceutical research, biotechnology, robotics, and nanoscience, combining the strengths of academia with private sector partners such as Aldevron, Pracs Institute, ParaClin, MeritCare, Clinical Supplies Management, etc. all working together toward a common goal. These are well established private sector partners that have excelled in their respective fields that have a track record of excellence in the health care industry. Specifically, the CBRP COE will create a basic science research laboratory at NDSU including hiring a high profile "star" vaccinologist which will build the basic science foundation for vaccine R & D for the participating private sector partners with the goal of developing new vaccines, and other biopharmaceuticals which will: (a.) enhance the life sciences business sector in North Dakota; (b.) attract new biotechnology companies to North Dakota; (c.) expand and retain existing companies (like Aldevron) in North Dakota; (d.) create new jobs (estimate initially 40 high paying jobs); (e.) train and generate a highly skilled biotechnology workforce for private sector partners/businesses in North Dakota (workforce development); (f.) enhance economic development and sizable revenue to North Dakota through grants, contracts, commercialization, IP, patents, private investment (vaccine market current \$22B/year will grow to \$36B in next 5 years); (g.) provide us the opportunity to work on some of the most challenging health problems in North Dakota and the world (global connections). Bioterrorism, Bird Flu, West Nile, Malaria, HIV, Cancer, TB, others. Solving global health issues will bring recognition and revenue to North Dakota. Solving

State health issues like West Nile Virus will directly benefit North Dakotans; (h.) allow North Dakota to become a market leader through use of innovation in the ways and means by which target vaccines are discovered through use of high throughput processes, robotics, biotechnology, nanotechnology (already strengths at NDSU). Through these innovative approaches to vaccine development, North Dakota will have an opportunity to set a new industry standard for the marketplace for how vaccines are developed. The College is currently conducting a national search for the CBRP COE Director and it hopes to have this individual on board by January 1, 2010. In addition, the College is currently developing plans with a local private sector partner for a new building (up to 75,000 sq. ft. facility) in the NDSU Research and Technology Park to support the College's new CBRP COE.

As a result of its strategic planning efforts, the College has identified new growth opportunities for the future. Recommendations from our Pharmacy National Advisory Board, and new ACPE accreditation standards for the pharmacy professional program, have helped the College identify the area of public health as a future priority and growth opportunity. The pharmacy accreditation standards as well as the profession of pharmacy desire (and see the importance of) pharmacists in their practices to play a more active role in advancing public health within the community. As a result, the Department of Pharmacy Practice has forwarded a request to the Graduate Council and University Senate, for the development of a new Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) degree program. This program will be uniquely different than other M.P.H. programs, in that, it will train health professionals (pharmacist, nurses, physicians, other disciplines) with the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver meaningful public health (ie. health promotion, disease prevention, intervention, and education) to patients at the point of care. This discipline-specific (applied) M.P.H. training program will allow pharmacy, nursing, medicine, and other disciplines to create their own discipline-specific curriculums (tracks) to help integrate public health into the various health professions practice environments. North Dakota does not currently have a public health school or a North Dakota developed M.P.H. program. The College has been working this past year with Dr. Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer, to design an innovative curriculum, developed by North Dakota, for North Dakota. Once approved, the College plans to offer public health training programs to students and practicing pharmacists which will have a convenient distance education mode of delivery, and offer various flexible options, including credits toward pharmacists continuing education, credits toward a formal public health certificate program, and even allow pharmacists to pursue their public health training all the way to a full Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) graduate degree. The College sees this future public health degree (and training program) as a wonderful opportunity for the profession of pharmacy (and practicing pharmacists) to work with the State Health Officer to identify and help resolve numerous public health concerns currently facing North Dakota citizens, with the ultimate

goal of improving their overall health and wellness. Through this program, pharmacists in the future will have opportunities for participating in public health programs, services, education, and research activities, all of which, it is anticipated, will provide opportunities for reimbursement. Clinical practices and clinical training sites (and preceptors) will need to be developed within the State to support the program, including opportunities for residencies in public health. If all goes well, the College anticipates the program could begin in the Fall of 2010. In addition, the College has been asked to write a book chapter on rural health for a new APhA textbook focusing on public health which will be released at the 2010 APhA National Convention.

During the 2008 Spring Semester, the College was given permission from NDSU to hire an architect to develop preliminary plans to define its future space needs. T. L. Stroh Architects & Interiors, Ltd was hired by the College. The architects met with the College's Administrative Council who based on the College's and Department's recent strategic planning efforts, developed a list of future space needs to support future growth. Space priorities included faculty/staff offices, classrooms, research laboratories, and additional conference rooms. The architects recently completed preliminary designs and drawings of the College's future space needs. The space plans included a multistory 62,410 sq. ft. building addition to Sudro Hall including 25 offices; 13 semi-private workstations for part-time faculty/staff; 3 large classrooms with seating capacity of 180, 200, 240, respectively; five new research laboratories; six new conference rooms; a new student lounge with 18 computer workstations; and a new Dean's Office. In addition, an additional floor shell space is available for future expansion if needed. The space plans were presented to the faculty and staff of the College on September 29, 2008 and to the Pharmacy National Advisory Board on October 3, 2008 during Homecoming. The space plans include space for nursing and allied sciences departments. These space plans will now be reviewed by University Central Administration and Facilities Management to determine how these plans fit with the greater University's Master Space Plan recently created by an outside consultant firm. The University will determine a priority list of capital projects from the University Master Space Plan which will allow certain projects to go forward. If the University approves the pharmacy program space plan, it would then require approval from the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education and the State Legislature.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy released the 2008 national rankings for National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for pharmacy schools. Out of 112 schools of pharmacy, NDSU's pharmacy program was ranked 13th in the United States for the percent of doctoral faculty with National Institutes of Health funding. NDSU has 42 percent of full-time equivalent pharmaceutical sciences faculty receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health. NDSU's percentage of pharmaceutical sciences faculty with competitive NIH funding exceeded many other prestigious research universities including the

University of Maryland, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The Ohio State University, University of Minnesota, University of Iowa, and the University of Florida. NDSU ranked 38th nationally for total NIH grant dollars awarded per full-time equivalent faculty, just behind the University of Minnesota (34th) and the University of Iowa (35th). National Institutes of Health research grants are the most difficult, most competitive, and most prestigious research grants awarded in the United States.

On September 1, 2008, the North Dakota Telepharmacy Project receive additional federal funding of \$805,399.00 from HRSA/OHIT/OAT for developing a telepharmacy program that will provide 24-hour pharmacist staffing and pharmacy services to small rural hospitals in North Dakota. Many rural hospitals have limited pharmacist coverage or pharmacy services which greatly impacts their ability to deliver even the most basic pharmacy services. There is a critical need to provide access to pharmacists and pharmacy services especially after hours (evenings, weekends, holidays, vacations, sick days, professional meetings) for remote rural hospitals including critical access hospitals in North Dakota. Telepharmacy services can provide these hospitals with 24/7 access to a pharmacist to deliver high quality pharmacy services. It is our hope that the new OHIT/OAT federal funds will help North Dakota establish a national model for delivering telepharmacy services to small rural hospitals that will make North Dakota a national leader in delivery of pharmacy services to rural hospitals and rural areas. With the new grant funds, Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) is currently establishing a central order entry facility in Fargo to deliver 24/7 pharmacist staffing and pharmacy services to rural hospitals in need. Over the next two years, the goal of the project is to establish the central order entry site, and develop services to at least nine remote rural hospitals in North Dakota. Other telepharmacy news includes: In September of 2008, the Associated Press published a news article on North Dakota's telepharmacy program which was published in over 100 national media outlets including CBS News, US News and World Report, USA Today, Modern Medicine, The Boston Globe, Houston Herald, etc. In addition, in May 2008, the CommonwealthFund, Commission on a High Performance Health System published a 34-page report on "The North Dakota Experience: Achieving High-Performance Health Care Through Rural Innovation and Cooperation, which featured the North Dakota Telepharmacy Project (access report at: http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/1130McCarthy_North_Dakota_experience.pdf?section=4039). With the assistance of Senator Byron Dorgan, the NDTP thus far has received more than \$3.3 million to support its efforts. As of September 1, 2008, the North Dakota Telepharmacy Project now has developed (or in the process of developing) a total of 72 telepharmacy sites in North Dakota, 51 retail sites, and 21 hospital sites. Ann Rathke serves as our Telepharmacy Coordinator, and Dr. David Scott serves as Co-PI for Assessment for the project. For more information contact Ann Rathke at Anne.Rathke@ndsu.edu or visit our telepharmacy website at

<http://www.ndsu.edu/telepharmacy>.

In the Summer of 2007, the College hired an outside consultant (Bernard Consulting, Group, Inc.(BCG), Kansas City, Missouri) to assist the College in the development of a new strategic plan. The new plan was approved by the faculty on August 21, 2008. This document will pave the way for the future success of our College over the next 5-10 years. As we begin further developing and implementing our strategic plan including all the exciting new ideas that we want to be pursuing to keep NDSU students on the cutting edge nationally for pharmacy education, financial resources will be of critical importance to help us realize our goals and priorities for the future. This past fall, the College launched a new annual giving program called "Sudro Society". This new annual giving program replaces the previous Dakota 100 Club. Sudro Society recognizes individuals who make annual, unrestricted contributions to the NDSU pharmacy program of \$1,000 or more. The annual investment helps 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: College Student Ambassadors Program; travel expenses for students to attend regional and national pharmacy conventions; support and upgrades for the Concept Pharmacy; instructional technology; classroom innovations and renovations; faculty and staff development opportunities; recruitment of new faculty and staff; alumni relations including events and our alumni newsletter; annual career fair and scholarship program; computer and software upgrades; visiting scientist research lecture series; and many other areas. The financial support received from Sudro Society will help us sustain our tradition of excellence and it will also allow us to pursue new areas in need of funding. We would greatly appreciate it if you would consider partnering with us by becoming a full Sudro Society member. Your support will have a great impact on our pharmacy students and will help us fulfill our dreams for the future. For more information about Sudro Society, including becoming a member, contact Sara Tanke, via email at Sara.Tanke@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 2009 Fall Semester. There currently are 126 applications in this year's applicant pool and 85 students are expected to be admitted for this coming 2009 Fall Semester. Of the 110 students recently invited for formal interviews, 106 applicants were actually interviewed, the average selected GPA was approximately 3.69; and the average PCAT score was approximately 69.20 for those interviewed. Preference is given to students with demonstrated leadership skills; work or volunteer experience in a health-related area; and residency in North Dakota. An ethics exam is now also part of the admission's assessment. Although, admissions to pharmacy schools remains fiercely competitive, students 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 two years, NDSU has admitted 67% percent of the total applicant pool, compared to an average of 20-25% for other pharmacy schools regionally and nationally. In 2008, the pharmacy program admitted 82% 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 2008-09 academic year are approximately \$11,490.00/year. The 2009 North Dakota Legislature infused an additional \$8.2 million into the North Dakota University System this session which will be targeted to help lower student tuition increases over the next biennium. As a result, tuition increases will be limited to 4% per year for North Dakota's four year schools, and there will be no tuition increases for two year programs over the next biennium.

The College had four students graduate from the pharmacy professional program on December 20, 2008. We will have 78 pharmacy students graduating during Spring Commencement on May 15, 2009 at the Fargodome. The NDSU Pharmacy Program Graduation Hooding Ceremony will be held at Festival Concert Hall on NDSU campus at 10:00 am Friday, May 15th, with a reception to follow. The keynote speaker for this year's hooding ceremony will be Tony Welder ('61 BS in pharmacy from NDSU), who will address this year's graduates with the topic, "It's your future, create it". In addition, this year the University will have two commencement exercises, a graduate commencement for graduate degrees (and doctoral professional degrees), and an undergraduate commencement for undergraduate degrees. The NDSU Graduate Commencement exercises will be held on Friday, May 15th at 4:00 pm at the Fargodome, which will include students graduating with graduate degrees from the Graduate School, and also those with professional doctoral degrees, including the College's doctor of pharmacy graduates. The NDSU Undergraduate Commencement exercises will be held on Saturday, May 16th at 10:00 am at the Fargodome, which will include students graduating with undergraduate degrees. We invite everyone to come join us for these celebrations to honor our students.

Noteworthy pharmacy awards from this past year include: Dr. Sanku Mallik, an Associate Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, received 2008 Teacher of the Year Award; Dr. Tara Schmitz, an Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Practice, received the 2008 Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award; and Mr. Nathan Schlecht, store owner and community pharmacist practicing at Forman Drug in Forman, North Dakota, received the 2008 Adjunct Preceptor of the Year Award. Congratulations, to these outstanding award recipients ! The College's Pharmacy Alumni Newsletter also received a national award this past year for graphic design from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

The North Dakota Board of Pharmacy and the College hosted the 71st Annual NABP/AACP District V meeting at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo, August 7-9, 2008. On Thursday evening there was a special continuing education program featuring Jason Dorsey, best selling author,

nationally acclaimed generation Y speaker, and award winning entrepreneur. Jason Ryan Dorsey has been featured on 60 Minutes, 20/20, NBC's Today Show, ABC's The View, in Fortune Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, and USA Today. The title of Jason's presentation was "Bridging the Divide: Connecting Four Generations of Pharmacists in the Workplace" including how to recruit, retain, and satisfy employees from four different generations with different values, interests and priorities in life. A social was held Friday at Bonanzaville and featured a charcoal art presentation of the History of North Dakota by Steve Stark, and music entertainment by the Fauske Fiddlers. Overall, the meeting was a smashing success thanks in large part to our staff (Sara Tanke and Lori Peterson) who did the lion share of the work in facilitating the coordination of this major event. Nice job, Sara and Lori !

On January 20, 2009, the College bused approximately 50 students from the professional program to Bismarck to participate in Pharmacy Legislative Day. The College held a legislative training session for students prior to the event. Students learned about the legislative process in North Dakota, how a bill is passed in the Legislature, what bills were being introduced which may impact the profession of pharmacy, and how to appropriately address a legislator. As a result of this event, students learned a great deal about the political process, they learned the importance of becoming politically involved as part of their future role and responsibility as a pharmacist, and they learned about what impact students and pharmacists can have in becoming actively involved politically, and in helping advance the profession of pharmacy through the legislative process. In addition, students had an opportunity to sit with their local legislators during a General Assembly (in session), they also had their picture taken with Governor Hoeven, they provided general health screening and heart burn awareness education to legislators (between sessions), and they participated in the annual ice cream social and had an opportunity to interact with individual legislators. Overall, it was a great day for our students ! Related to other student news, there are approximately 15 NDSU students attending this year's APhA Annual Meeting in San Antonio. In addition, the College welcomed 17 new members to the College student ambassadors program this past year. Students apply, are interviewed, and selected from their peer group. The College has a total of 44 student ambassadors which represent all disciplines within the College. The College student ambassadors help promote the College through a variety of events, including White Coat Ceremony, Discover NDSU, Expanding Your Horizons, and the Career Fair. The student ambassadors also help give tours of the College and campus to prospective students and parents. Our students also demonstrated great leadership in public service this past year. More than 150 students, faculty, and staff of the College, prepared and packaged more than 5,000 medications in less than four hours for people with medical needs in northwestern Guatemala (for Dr. John Baird for the Guatemala Medical Missions Trip). Our students continue to represent us well at all levels. They are truly, "The Pride of North Dakota".

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