Good morning. It is an honor to be here at the District 5 Meeting and especially rewarding to be across the border with our colleagues in Canada. As you may be aware it has been a bit of an unusual and extremely hot summer for most of the United States. And, I am referring strictly to the weather and not our political climate regarding the Budget. On behalf of the Executive Committee and staff of NABP, I bring you well wishes and thank you for the opportunity to meet with you. It is a distinct privilege to appear before you as President of NABP and formally begin my year as President. Our special thanks to this year’s co-chairs, Ray Joubert, Registrar of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists and David Hill, Dean of the University of Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. As Secretary of the NABP/AACP District 6, I can appreciate the hard work that is involved in planning and chairing a meeting.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee I mentioned that I was excited to be attending this year’s District Meetings because over all of the years that I have been involved with NABP I’ve only had the pleasure of
attending the meetings of Districts 6, 7, and 8. As someone who appreciates the adventure of new places and experiences, I was anxious to travel to other Districts and interact with members of NABP and other stakeholders that I have never had the pleasure of meeting. What is also interesting is that as I was being briefed on the organization and flavor of each District Meeting by Past President Winsley and other past presidents, I realized the uniqueness of each District. What I also learned and discovered is that the uniqueness of the Districts exists and is supported but also the individual Districts are united and assimilated into one voice through NABP. We are a powerful blend of independence and unity.

I also want to acknowledge the co-sponsor of the District Meetings, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Over the many, many years of collaboration and partnership AACP’s leadership and contributions as educators to the lifeblood of pharmacy practice, students, have been invaluable. At last year’s District Meetings, then AACP President Rod Carter spoke about his critical issues agenda and the important items he placed before AACP for review and consideration. This year we look forward to the message delivered by now Past President Carter and his vision for AACP and pharmacy education and our continued
collaboration on the Pharmacy Manpower Project, JCPP Vision Statement, and support for the quality of pharmacy education.

Before sharing the latest news from NABP, I would like to congratulate Ray and the College on the celebration of their 100th Anniversary. That is quite an accomplishment not only for the College but any organization. One does not achieve this milestone without leadership, dedication, and perseverance. These are qualities that Ray and the members of the College exhibited over the past 100 years and will continue for many years to come I am sure. On behalf of the Executive Committee and staff it is my pleasure to present this congratulatory plaque to Ray and the College. Ray would you be so kind as to join me at the podium to accept the plaque and be recognized by NABP and District 5. Ray?

I also want to ask your indulgence in recognizing some other individuals that are present at this meeting and tirelessly contribute to NABP and the protection of the public health through their service on boards of pharmacy. One such individual is the District 5 representative to the NABP Executive Committee, Lloyd Jessen, Executive Director of the Iowa Board of Pharmacy. Lloyd, the Executive Committee and I have enjoyed serving with
you and appreciate the leadership and insight you bring to the Executive Committee and NABP. In addition, here on behalf of his employer, we have Bill Cover, member of the Indiana Board of Pharmacy and District 4 representative to the NABP Executive. I also want to acknowledge another distinguished member of District 5, Secretary Howard Anderson, executive director of the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy, Honorary President of NABP, and a pharmacy icon.

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

Also attending with me are Carmen Catizone, executive director of NABP and Dana Oberman, NABP executive meeting planner. If staff or I can assist you in any way here at the meeting or in answering questions about NABP, please do not hesitate to ask.

Prescription Monitoring Programs and NABP’s PMP Interconnect

As with all of you, it has been a busy year for NABP. What is both exciting and disturbing is that prescription drug abuse continues to be a topic of primary concern for boards of pharmacy, Governors’ offices, other state and
federal agencies, and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The exciting part is that prescription drugs and their appropriate use are central responsibilities of the boards of pharmacy. The disturbing side is of course, the tragedy and toll prescription drug abuse takes on for everyone involved that are affected by this serious problem. Statistics released by the ONDCP indicate that in 17 states deaths from prescription drugs exceeds the former number one cause, automobile accidents. In other states, deaths from prescription drug use and abuse ranks in the top 3 or 4 depending on the state following deaths from automobile accidents, heart attacks, and gun shots. Those are frightening statistics.

As pharmacists and regulators, we must engage ourselves in this problem as we would any other health epidemic. Tools that are available to assist practitioners, pharmacists and prescribers, and law enforcement officials in dealing with this crisis are prescription drug monitoring programs (PMP’s). At the present time 46 states have implemented or are in the process of implementing a PMP with 36 of those states having active or almost active programs housed either with the board of pharmacy or other state agency. Louisiana’s program is housed within the board of pharmacy, and we have been operational since January of 2009.
About 5 months ago NABP was approached by several PMP administrators with the request for NABP to become involved in the efforts to develop a system and architecture for interstate interoperability. To be quite honest it was an area that NABP had looked at almost two years earlier through a task force and deferred to other groups. However, the requests that we received spoke about an urgent need for NABP to get involved. The Executive Committee heeded these requests and met with all of the stakeholders involved and presented a proposal to build an infrastructure for interstate interoperability in 5 months at no cost to the states and federal government. As part of the operating plan for the NABP PMP Interconnect (PMP I), NABP also is developing a clearinghouse for reporting entities that will allow the PMP I to become self sustaining so that states would have to bear no or little cost to operate within the NABP PMP Interconnect for the next five years and hopefully longer.

I am pleased to report that the PMP Interconnect is built and operational as promised by NABP. We have executed 9 memorandums of understanding with states to share PMP data and have another 10 MOU’s under review and consideration. We anticipate that by the end of the year some 20-25 states
will have signed MOU’s with NABP and be operational for the interstate sharing of PMP data. On Friday, we announced that live PMP data is now being exchanged between Indiana, Ohio and Virginia. This is an exciting milestone. As new states are readied and displayed, the sharing of interstate will expand accordingly. There are many more details and specifics about this exciting initiative that I wish we had more time to discuss. Lloyd, Carmen, and I will be here throughout the meeting to address some of those specifics and will be presenting more information during one of the upcoming sessions.

CPE Monitoring Program

Assuming another portion of our time these past months is the collaborative effort with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) to improve the recording and reporting of participation in pharmacy and technician continuing education programs. Again, we could spend an entire session on this topic and initiative.

Please let me assure you that the new system will help pharmacists and technicians better manage their continuing education and allow providers to eliminate the need for paper. The system promises to be more efficient, less
costly, and, the magic word that everyone seems to be talking about, green. 

Briefly, pharmacists and technicians will create individual profiles or activate their existing NABP E-profile to begin the process. Once the E-profile is created or active, the NABP e-Profile number assigned to the pharmacist or technician will be used and required for participation in any continuing education program offered by ACPE-accredited providers. The provider will use the NABP e-Profile number to report participation to ACPE. ACPE will in turn submit corresponding data to NABP in order to update the pharmacist’s or technician’s E-profile. Once the profile is updated, it now serves as a validated report of CPE participation that state boards of pharmacy are agreeing to use to replace or supplement audits and other processes employed in the states to monitor compliance with CPE requirements.

Although the new system has received overwhelming praise and support from individual pharmacists, a small number of pharmacist and some pharmacy groups are not as supportive of the concept and new system. Questions have been raised about the need for such a system, the lack of notice to providers, and the costs that may result for providers having to convert their present systems. There are a myriad of needs and reasons for
ACPE and NABP developing this program. The discussion has taken place over the past 5 years and involved various stakeholders at different points and to different degrees in the discussions. Some state boards of pharmacy report and documented CPE fraud as high as 25% of the pharmacists audited. Quite frankly the present system for reporting and recording CPE participation is outdated and needs revision. In regard to the need for social security numbers, I can assure you that the NABP systems are of the highest order of security, differ significantly from other systems that have been compromised, and are appropriately insured and financed to manage any compromise or breach that would occur and adversely impact any individual enrolled in the program. Presently, of the approximate 300,000 licensed pharmacists in the US, over 200,000 have NABP e-Profiles. That is a staggering number of pharmacists and the system is not yet fully implemented.

Community Pharmacy Accreditation

Please allow me to change gears and move to another significant project underway at NABP, Community Pharmacy Accreditation. A more detailed presentation on this topic is scheduled for later in the meeting and so my comments will touch upon the highlights. NABP with other interested
stakeholders are moving steadfastly forward to bring this initiative to completion. We are presently conducting live demonstration projects in the pharmacies of those organizations that have agreed to participate in the project. The demonstration projects are gauging aspects of the draft standards – are they appropriate and can they be measured - as well as establishing a base line for future reference for the actual accreditation programs. Discussions with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) continue concerning their involvement in the project. We are optimistic that the program will be operational in 2012 and have a profound impact on the practice of pharmacy and quality of care.

Presidential Initiatives

At this year’s Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, I expressed my desire to fortify NABP’s existing programs and services rather than inaugurate any substantial new initiatives in light of the aggressive agenda we have set for the Association and are working to complete. What I just mentioned to you, PMP I, Community Pharmacy Accreditation, CPE Monitor, are but a few segment of the activities that are occurring at NABP.
My aspirations as President are to facilitate these efforts and the ongoing efforts of our new Government Affairs outreach to assist and support boards of pharmacy. But, I am also asking the Executive Committee to look beyond the horizon of our state-centered world and to the lands beyond our borders. Just as we once looked at our individual states as separate and isolated sovereignties and were rather skeptical at interstate activities, the world continues to grow smaller. The Internet and enhanced communications often remove the borders that define countries such that our ability to share information and work with colleagues outside of our own country has become almost limitless.

I have had the privilege of participating in meetings and other activities of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) for 10 years. It is my hope that the regulatory agencies from across the globe will be able to establish a mechanism within FIP to collaborate and begin to examine the issues of global practice and regulation. I know that all of us are struggling within our own countries with practice and regulatory issues. Within the day-to-day need to maintain our current presence as regulatory agencies is the battle to obtain the appropriate resources and support to remain relevant and effective. To look outside of our borders and invite a myriad of new and
unknown challenges may seem improbable at this time. However, if we do not begin to plan now, then before we are aware of it, the future and global practice will be upon us. I believe in proactive planning rather than retroactive reaction and believe that the more information we can assemble and the more contacts we can make, the better prepared we will be to understand and manage future practice challenges. In this regard, NABP will increase its activities in FIP and the outreach to our colleagues across the world.

**Interactive Forum**

Finally, I want to close by speaking about our upcoming Interactive Forum for Executive Officers. Last year, Bill Winsley and the Executive Committee instituted a new meeting, an interactive forum, to increase the dialogue and outreach to all members of the boards of pharmacy. The meeting in 2010 was dedicated to board of pharmacy members. NABP underwrote the participation expenses of one board of pharmacy member from every state. This year the focus is executive officers of the state boards of pharmacy. An electronic invitation was e-prescribed to every executive officer for this year’s Forum which will be held at NABP Headquarters in the Chicago land area on September 21 and 22. A third Forum for
Compliance Officers will be held at NABP Headquarters in December of this year.

We are excited about this year’s Forum and the topics of interest we have received from the states for the agenda. To those Executive Officers at this meeting, we hope that you will attend. More information about the meeting is available from Carmen and Dana.

Again, best wishes on a successful meeting and if there is anything that I or NABP staff can do to answer any of your questions or help in any way, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Thank you!