

AACP REPORTS

Aligning Aspirations with Inspirations: Address of the 2015-2016 President to the Opening General Session at the AACP Annual Meeting

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Colleagues. Welcome to the 2016 AACP Annual Meeting. We have literally gone coast to coast since we last met in Maryland in 2015. It has been quite a remarkable year for the Association. My goal is to provide perspective on our work over the past year, and I will have a little time at the second general session for a lighter reflection on lessons learned and expressions of appreciation.

There are four primary opportunities at the Annual Meeting to hear about the major initiatives of the Association including this address, the President-elect's address and the Treasurer's report at the first House of Delegates, and the CEO's report at the second House session. I encourage you to attend both House of Delegates sessions.

At National Harbor in 2015, I had explained my focus on "Capitalizing on Foundations in Citizenship."¹ I almost took past president Cindy Raehl's approach to create no new charges, but instead decided to focus on timely, foundational areas for AACP. By capitalizing, we are building long-term assets, and we gain by turning pharmacy education into an advantage as we prepare pharmacists and scholars for the future, leveraging all our stakeholders.

Our AACP foundation stands on our values, principles, and collective enterprise. We support our new proposed mission to advance pharmacy education, research, scholarship, practice and service, in partnership with members and stakeholders, to improve health for all.

I think of citizenship in the broadest manner. A citizen is a member of a community. We may be citizens of our country, but we are also citizens of our schools, our profession, and our organizations. A citizen belongs and is vested with privileges and duties. We are called to action where we live, work, volunteer, and vote especially this election year.

Here is a recent example of AACP citizenship. Last fall, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) announced its commitment to address opioid abuse and heroin use. AACP needed a specific statement of educational policy to support our communications with ONDCP. AACP staff developed three statements of commitment with comments from the Pharmacy Practice Section and the Substance Abuse Education and Assistance and Public Health Special Interest Groups. The AACP Board of Directors took the unusual step to approve

the policy in February, with a vote at the upcoming House of Delegates as required in the bylaws. AACP is taking an active role in supporting this initiative with approximately 100 schools/colleges and counting stepping up for the local efforts. We capitalized on our network, supported by the work of volunteers and partners, to engage as citizens in our communities. On the screens you will see a photo from opioid response training at my school in May where I was certified along with many students. I care about this because I remain convinced that my husband John, a Navy veteran with disabilities, died from an untended opioid overdose as he sought help and care through Veterans Affairs and local providers. It looks like disaster training, because it is. And we need to be prepared.

One of my favorite memories of my presidential year was the Standing Committees and Board of Directors meetings last November in Toronto. We were in Canada because Toronto is recruiting AACP for a future annual meeting. After reviewing the lists of AACP committee volunteers and working extensively with staff on assignments and letters of acceptance, I was delighted to see the talented, enthusiastic committee members in person as they began their important work. As I rotated among the meeting rooms, I knew their dedication would pay dividends to AACP.

President-elect Joseph DiPiro and the Strategic Planning Committee have met the challenge to draft a bold and aspirational strategic plan which will be voted upon by the House of Delegates at its second session. The committee also created a refined mission and vision to guide and inspire us. Dr. DiPiro will share the plan in more detail at the House of Delegates immediately following this session.

Chair Stuart Haines and the 2015-2016 Academic Affairs Committee comprehensively examined foundational Entrustable Professional Activities (Core EPAs) for pharmacy graduates as they transition from completion of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences into practice and post-graduate opportunities. Not without controversy, these Core EPAs and supporting tasks have generated debate, discussion, and refinement at the AACP Interim Meeting, American Pharmacists Association convention, the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners meeting, and others. Dr. Haines is proud of the committee's efforts to seek and receive feedback from a variety of

stakeholders to craft Core EPA statements to articulate what pharmacists do every day. As noted in the report, "Trust is a core concept in health care delivery."² This effort was too substantial to be completed in one year, and the 2016-2017 Academic Affairs Committee will advance this work.

Chair Daniel Robinson and the 2015-2016 Advocacy Committee created the report, "Demystifying Advocacy: Moving Faculty and Students toward Citizen Engagement."³ Thank you for your initiative to define citizen engagement. The committee states, "Preparing one's self for citizen engagement requires the active, conscious development and maintenance of personal and professional relationships that allow one to effectively channel knowledge, skills, and passion toward improvements in the community or health care environments."³ The key word among the citizen exemplars is passion.

The 2015-2016 Professional Affairs Committee with Chair Cathy Worrall studied current relationships among the schools/colleges of pharmacy, our volunteer preceptors, and the organizations that employ them.⁴ Dr. Worrall is proud that they pulled off the preceptor and employer focus groups at the APhA meeting, receiving great feedback and a lot of validation regarding topics the committee discussed through these focus groups. She affirmed that pharmacy employers really want to be engaged to provide optimal experiences for students and want more input at the curriculum level to produce pharmacists who are practice-ready. The delegates will consider two Professional Affairs Committee policies regarding precepting in all settings and a transition from a transactional model to reinvestment in experiential education.

Thank you Chair Natalie Eddington and the Research and Graduate Affairs Committee for your contributions over two years.⁵ The House of Delegates will vote on three policy statements proposed by your group, and the work will continue with a new committee for 2016-2017. The policies focus on professional development for graduate students and postdoctoral trainees, external peer reviews of graduate programs, and training for careers in academic pharmacy.

I appreciate Chair Rod Carter and the 2015-2016 Argus Commission's report "Examining the Foundation of AACP."⁶ Your efforts will promote a robust, professional Association through foundational organizational processes such as improved board orientation, assessment, and conflict of interest declaration, as well as EVP goal-setting, five-year review, and succession planning. Your proposed bylaws change for primary and secondary membership in special interest groups will advance member/citizen engagement by letting members decide their level of involvement. In Dr. Carter's typical understated manner he said, "The wisdom of our recommendations will be determined by future meeting and membership evaluations." I com-

mend the report to all current and incoming leaders. We can build upon this foundation.

Thank you 2015-2017 Special Task Force on Diversifying Our Investment in Human Capital and Chair Carla White. While your full report is expected in 2017, your group is energetic and laser-focused on new, contemporary approaches which define underrepresentation from a local perspective. The task force has submitted a proposed policy statement for the House of Delegates dedicated to improvements in health equity and development of faculty, pharmacists, and scientists whose background, perspectives, and experiences reflect the diverse communities they serve.

Capitalizing on this foundation, the 2015-2016 Bylaws and Policy Development Committee with Chair Raylene Rospond has received the business for the House of Delegates. This is an especially dynamic year with a proposed strategic plan, dues increase proposal, several significant policies from committees and a task force, and a bylaws proposal.

I want to bring all of this together with this example. In my Leadership and Advocacy course over many years, I have used an exercise which has new meaning to me now in the context of my AACP presidential term of office. In light of contemporary pharmacy issues, I ask students to reflect on statements from Remington Honor Medal addresses and to guess the year. I will paraphrase one honoree who noted, "that the time has come for us to recognize the fundamental changes which have and are taking place in the theory and practice of this profession. Some of these changes result from increased scientific knowledge; some are caused by economic changes adjusting to technology; and others are requirements of modifications in practice. . . ."⁷ What year would you guess?

This 1944 Remington Medalist was H. Evert Kendig, a pharmacist and physician, established educator in medical and pharmacy schools, and dean of the Temple University School of Pharmacy. His work led to the establishment of the U.S. Army Pharmacy Corps in 1943, and he served as AACP president (1940-41). I wish we could talk about his aspirations for improved general education and graduate education in pharmacy and his inspirational advocacy for the pharmacy corps. He wrote, "The mere fact that medical practice is becoming more and more dependent upon the research scientist leaves pharmacy no choice, if it is to survive as a professional pursuit and take its rightful place among the public health professions, except to put its educational house in order."⁷ Through the wonder of Google Scholar, he speaks from the *Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association*, "The easy accessibility to the pharmacist and a confidence in his (her) integrity, fostered by the exact function (s)/he performs, give to the pharmacist the greatest opportunity for useful service

afforded any American citizen. . . .The educated citizen today- and in a peculiar manner as I have pointed out, the pharmacist- is the custodian of a priceless heritage- American democracy.”⁸ Do we aspire so grandly? Dr. Kendig’s leadership legacy can inspire today more than ever.

Our schools are distinctive with unique attributes, much like states within the United States or regions within our states. Pharmacy schools and colleges are stronger together through this Association. We need each other as we re-imagine, re-invent, and re-ignite pharmacy education to improve health for all.

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