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Cleveland, Miss., Pharmacist Robert P. Wilbanks Honored for Outstanding Community Service

Washington, DC – The Mississippi Pharmacists Association (MPhA) has selected Robert P. Wilbanks as the recipient of the 2015 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Wilbanks was presented with the award at the 144th Annual MPhA Convention and Trade Show on Sunday, June 21. The Bowl of Hygeia is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation, the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations and the American Pharmacists Association with support from Boehringer Ingelheim.

Wilbanks is the Director of Pharmacy at Bolivar Medical Center in Cleveland, Miss., and a preceptor for the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. He earned his pharmacy degree from the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy.

Wilbanks' community involvement is extensive and reaches a wide range of organizations and causes. He has served in several capacities at the First Baptist Church in Batesville including serving with the Board of Deacons, working with the youth ministry, and teaching Sunday School. He has traveled extensively as a worship leader and pharmacist on 18 domestic and international Christian Medical Mission trips and helped form the ministry of Primera Bautista Hispanic Mission. He also works with several other community groups such as Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club, Chamber of Commerce/City Beautification, and the Genealogical Society.

Since moving to the Delta region, Wilbanks has taken on a number of leadership roles, including president of the Crosstie Arts Council, Delta Arts Alliance, and Sunny Seniors Alzheimer's Support Board of Directors. He has worked with the Canterbury College Ministry and is an active member of Calvary Episcopal Church. He has also served on the event committees for Delta State Year of the Arts, Fashion Rules and Music Rocks by Pat Kerr Tigrett Gala, Grammy Museum Mississippi, Bolivar County Library System's Grape Expectations, and Art and Soul for Hayes Cooper School.

Wilbanks is a long-time member of the Mississippi Pharmacists Association and has served on the Alumni Advisory Board for the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy for 12 years. He is currently Foundation Chairman of the Rotary Club and was awarded the President's Award by the Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce and the Mercy Award by Bolivar Medical Center for extraordinary service to the community.

Established in 1958, the Bowl of Hygeia Award recognizes pharmacists who possess outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities and encourages pharmacists to take active roles in the affairs of their respective communities. The award is presented annually by participating state pharmacist associations, including those in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In addition to service through their local, state and national pharmacy associations, award recipients have devoted their time, talent and resources to a wide variety of causes and community service.

The Bowl of Hygeia is the most widely recognized international symbol for the pharmacy profession and is considered one of the profession's most prestigious awards. The Bowl of Hygeia has been associated with the pharmacy profession since as early as 1796 when the symbol was used on a coin minted for the Parisian Society of Pharmacy. The bowl

represents a medicinal potion and the snake represents healing. Healing through medicine is precisely why the pharmacy profession has adopted the Bowl of Hygeia symbol.

About the American Pharmacists Association Foundation

The APhA Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., is a trusted source of research demonstrating how pharmacists can improve health care. The APhA Foundation's mission is to improve people's health through pharmacists' patient care services. The APhA Foundation is affiliated with the American Pharmacists Association, the national professional society of pharmacists in the U.S. For more information, please visit the APhA Foundation website www.aphafoundation.org. Follow the APhA Foundation on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for the latest updates.

About the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations

The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) promotes leadership, sharing, learning, and policy exchange among pharmacy leaders in all 50 states and Washington, DC, and provides education and advocacy to support pharmacists, patients, and communities working together to improve public health. NASPA was founded in 1927 as the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives (NCSPAEE). For more information, please visit the NASPA Web site www.naspa.us.