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Bismarck Pharmacist Kevin J. Oberlander Honored for Outstanding Community Service

Washington, DC – The North Dakota Pharmacists Association (NDPhA) has selected Kevin Oberlander as the recipient of the 2015 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Oberlander was presented with the award at the NDPhA 130th Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 25. 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.

Oberlander is the owner of Dakota Pharmacy, an independent pharmacy in Bismarck, N.D. He earned his pharmacy degree from North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D.

He has a long history of involvement with the North Dakota Pharmacists Association, having served as president in 1999 and as a member of various committees. He has also been active in the Sixth District of the association. Oberlander's dedication to the profession of pharmacy has earned him a number of awards throughout his career, including Young Pharmacist of the Year (N.D.), Innovative Pharmacist of the Year (N.D.), Al Doerr Service Award (N.D.), and Compounding Pharmacist of the Month (national). He is often asked to be a presenter for public and group programs related to pharmacy, and specializes in the fields of hormone replacement therapy, nutritional issues, and compounding of medications.

Oberlander's community involvement is extensive. He has volunteered with the Dakota Zoo since 1992, is actively involved in the Parent Teacher Organization at his children's school, and has taught Sunday School classes for many years. He has served on the board of directors for the Gateway to Science Center since 1997 and is currently vice president. As a long-time volunteer with Gateway to Science, he has worked to design and construct interactive exhibits, served as a program presenter for hands-on classes, and participated in public relations and fundraising efforts as a member of the External Relations Subcommittee. His commitment demonstrates his interest in providing informal STEM opportunities to children of all ages. Oberlander is also a supporter of the Dakota Humane Society.

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.