**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Iowa Pharmacist Michele Cooper Honored for Outstanding Community Service**

**WASHINGTON, DC –** The Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA) has selected Michele Cooper, RPh, as the recipient of the 2018 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Cooper was presented the award at the Iowa Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting Awards Banquet on Friday, June 8, 2018. 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.

Cooper has contributed to her community since graduating from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in 1979. She is the independent community pharmacy owner of Eagle Grove Pharmacy and is dedicated to family, profession, and community. She has owned Eagle Grove Pharmacy for 34 years and goes above and beyond to help her patients.

Cooper has served on the Wright County Board of Health, and is a strong supporter of the Eagle Grove school system. She is an active member of the Eagle Grove Chamber of Commerce, and a Sunday school teacher. For the past six years, Cooper has traveled on medical mission trips to Haiti to provide medications to thousands of Haitians.

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 an active role 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](http://www.aphafoundation.org/). Follow the APhA Foundation on [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/aphafoundation) and [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/aphafoundation) 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 (NCSPAE). For more information, please visit the NASPA website [www.naspa.us](http://www.naspa.us).