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Media Contacts:
Michelle Fritts
Sr. Manager of External Communications
American Pharmacists Association
mfritts@aphanet.org
(202) 429-7558

Nancy K. Longest
Awards Coordinator
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations
awards@naspa.us
(804) 285-4431

Billings, Montana Pharmacist, Carla Cobb, Honored for Outstanding Community Service

Washington, DC – The Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA) has selected Carla Cobb as the recipient of the 2013 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Cobb was presented with the award during the Annual Northwest Pharmacy Convention, May 30 – June 2, 2013. The Bowl of Hygeia is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations with support from Boehringer Ingelheim.

Carla Cobb is a board certified psychiatric pharmacist with over 20 years of experience in educating healthcare professionals and caring for people with mental illnesses. She has been a psychiatric pharmacist at RiverStone Health and the Montana Family Medicine Residency (MFMR) since 1998. Cobb is a clinical associate professor in pharmacy practice with the University Of Montana School Of Pharmacy, precepting about 15 pharmacy students and residents each year. She also educates primary care residents and faculty on the appropriate use of psychiatric medications in didactic and clinical settings in the MFMR. She is active in professional activities at the state and national level, including the Montana Pharmacy Association and the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists, serving as board president in 2008/2009. Cobb is active in NAMI-Billings including being a past-president of the NAMI -Billings board of directors. She started the Prairie Winds Bike Ride, an annual fund-raiser for NAMI-B that continues annually. Outside of pharmacy, Cobb is the team mom for football, baseball and wrestling teams and enjoys being the official scorekeeper at Little League Baseball games.

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.

Information regarding contributing to the Bowl of Hygeia future is available by contacting the APhA Foundation at 202-429-7565 or info@aphafoundation.org.

About the American Pharmacists Association Foundation
The APhA Foundation is affiliated with the American Pharmacists Association, the national professional society of pharmacists in the U.S. The APhA Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., is a national leader in designing programs to help patients with chronic healthcare conditions by optimizing medication use through coordination with pharmacists, the medication experts. The APhA Foundation’s mission is to improve people’s health
through pharmacists’ patient care services. For more information, please visit the APhA Foundation website www.aphafoundation.org.

**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 Web site www.naspa.us.