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Missoula Pharmacist Gayle A. Hudgins Honored for Outstanding Community Service

Washington, DC – The Montana Pharmacy Association (MPA) has selected Gayle A. Hudgins, PharmD, as the recipient of the 2015 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Hudgins was presented with the award at the MPA Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, May 30. 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.

Hudgins is an employee of the University of Montana School of Pharmacy. Her pharmacy expertise is centered on geriatrics, and she is dedicated to creating a safer, healthier environment for seniors. She applied for and was awarded a five-year Geriatric Education Center grant from the federal government, which has provided funding to elevate the education of all healthcare professionals on gerontology.

Hudgins is a member of the Montana Pharmacy Association. Her leadership in the statewide association formerly known as the Montana Society of Hospital Pharmacists during the 1970s and 1980s includes serving as chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (1984-86), president (1979-80), president-elect and program chairperson (1978-79), member of the Program, Membership, and Continuing Education Committees (1977-79), and member of the Steering Committee (1976-77).

She has been involved with several pharmacy organizations at the national level. She has served with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in a number of roles, including reviewer for the 2002-2003 New Investigator Program, Women Faculty SIG and Geriatric SIG member, member of several committees, Council of Faculties member, and Board of Directors member. She has also been involved with the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education and the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists. At the state level, Hudgins has been involved with the Area Health Education Council Advisory Committee, Diabetes Control Project Advisory Coalition, Montana Gerontology Society, Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, Continuing Education Advisory Council of the Montana State Board of Pharmacists, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services for the State of Montana, and Tripartite Committee of the School of Pharmacy, MSPA and Montana State Board of Pharmacists.

Her community involvement is extensive and spans a variety of organizations. Hudgins has served on the advisory council of the National Senior Service Corps, Pain Task Force of the Missoula Demonstration Project, Board of Directors of the Sentinel Kiwanis, Board of Directors of Partners in Home Care, Board of Directors of Health Care Solutions, Inc., Steering Committee of Partners in Home Care's Caregiver Respite Program, and Advisory Committee of the Healthier Living Cable TV Project.

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 (NCSPA). For more information, please visit the NASPA Web site www.naspa.us.