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Villalba Pharmacist Idalia Bonilla-Colon Honored for Outstanding Community Service

Washington, DC – The Colegio de Farmacéuticos de Puerto Rico has selected Idalia Bonilla-Colon as the recipient of the 2015 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Bonilla-Colon was presented with the award at the Bowl of Hygeia Ceremony on Thursday, August 20. 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.

Bonilla-Colon is the owner of Farmacia Villalba in Villalba, Puerto Rico. She earned her pharmacy degree from the University of Puerto Rico School of Pharmacy.

Bonilla-Colon is actively involved in the pharmacy profession in a variety of roles. She is part of a community pharmacy practice that is highly committed to its patients and is an active member of Farmacias Aliadas, a group of independent community pharmacies in Puerto Rico that is dedicated to strengthening community pharmacies through programs and collective initiatives. She is also the current president of the Association of Community Pharmacies and a member of the Colegio de Farmacéuticos de Puerto Rico. She has succeeded in keeping patient care as a foremost priority while also launching an entrepreneurial career and initiating new and innovative strategies.

In addition to her pharmacy contributions, Bonilla-Colon leads health clinics, participates in Relay for Life, and serves as a mentor to students, seniors, and others in her community. She has provided scholarships through Smiling Angels and is a donor to local sports and other community programs.

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.