

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP MEMBERS GATHER IN PHOENIX FOR THE 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Phoenix, AZ – The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, Inc. (NCPDP) held its 29th Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, March 18-22, 2006. The conference theme was “Building New Technologies” and drew over 850 attendees representing virtually all sectors involved in the pharmacy services sector of healthcare. The conference featured Technical Work Group meetings, award presentations, accredited educational programs, social events and a trade-show exhibition hall.

The conference kicked off with two days of the NCPDP Joint Technical Work Group meetings, which are held quarterly. NCPDP currently has twelve active work groups, which develop and maintain electronic communication standards for the pharmacy segment of healthcare, including the Telecommunication Standard and SCRIPT Standard for e-Prescribing.

On Monday, March 20, attendees enjoyed the conference Keynote Speaker, Mike Eruzione. Eruzione, who made the winning goal against the Soviets in 1980 Olympic Hockey action, discussed his role in the historic gold medal run. He also autographed hockey pucks in the exhibition hall after his speech.

On Tuesday, March 21, attendees saw the Passing of the Gavel Ceremony. This event marked the change of leadership from outgoing NCPDP Chair, Marla Brickley of Actelion Pharmaceuticals, to Vice Chair Carol Cerney, R.Ph., MBA, of Per-Sé Technologies.

Attendees also participated in the Industry Executive Roundtable discussion. Dr. Holly Atkinson, Editor of Healthnews, moderated the panel. The panelists included Scott French, M.D., MBA, of Reden & Anders, Donald Gravlin of Accenture Health Plan, Tom Groom of RxHub, Scott MacKenzie of Per-Sé Technologies, Thomas Morrison, R.Ph., of CVS Pharmacy and Rick Ratliff of SureScripts Systems, Inc.

The conference concluded on Wednesday, March 22, with the Wednesday Breakfast and Closing Panel. Comedian Greg Hahn entertained attendees during the breakfast event. The Closing Panel

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discussion was titled, "A Panel Discussion on Disaster Preparedness: Lessons Learned From Mother Nature."

The panelist roster included moderator Ross Martin, M.D., MHA, of Pfizer, Inc., Don Amarasio of Aetna, Inc., Barry Boudreaux of Medco Health, Bob Dufour of Wal-Mart Stores, Thomas Savage of Texas State Medicaid and Scott Tierney of CVS Pharmacy.

The 2007 NCPDP Annual Conference will mark the 30th Anniversary of the standards setting organization. The conference will move in 2007 to the Westin Kierland resort in Scottsdale, Arizona, May 7-10, 2007.

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with approximately 1500 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry. Our diverse membership provides leadership and healthcare business solutions through education and standards, created using the consensus building process. NCPDP has been named in federal legislation, including HIPAA and the MMA. NCPDP members have created standards such as the Telecommunication Standard and Batch Standard, the SCRIPT Standard for e-Prescribing, the Manufacturers Rebate Standard and more to improve communication within the pharmacy industry. Our data services include the NCPDP Provider Identification Number, a unique identifier of over 68,000 pharmacies and HCIda, "*The Prescriber Identity Solution*". For more information about NCPDP Standards, Data Services, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncdp.org.

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