

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 07, 2007

CONTACT: Dennis Kitterman
(480) 477-1000 ext. 109
dkitterman@ncpdp.org
www.ncpdp.org

NCPDP ANNUAL CONFERENCE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF INNOVATION

Scottsdale, AZ – The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) held its Annual Conference, May 5-10, 2007, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Over 800 healthcare professionals attended the conference, which featured Technical Work Group Meetings, social events, a trade-show style exhibit hall, keynote speakers, award presentations and educational track sessions. Enhancements for this year's conference included a silent auction for charity, the introduction of the NCPDP Corporate Cup Golf Challenge and a new resort venue setting.

The conference events began on Saturday, May 5, with the First Annual NCPDP Corporate Cup Golf Challenge. RESTAT, a Prescription Benefit Management company based in West Bend, Wisconsin, was the team that captured the 2007 Corporate Cup. The beautiful Kierland Golf Course was the setting for the tournament, which featured 68 participants.

The conference included two days of Technical Work Group Meetings. NCPDP has fourteen current, active work groups. The new WG17 RFID/Auto Identification met for the first time at the conference. WG17 identifies the intersection and gaps between RFID/Auto ID standards and healthcare industry requirements. NCPDP has also created WG15 Sample Management and Reporting Transactions for Safety and WG16 Property and Casualty/Workers' Compensation within the past year.

Another change included a merger of two work groups. The NCPDP Board of Trustees approved a merger of WG4 Provider/Member Enrollment and WG5 Payment Reconciliation. The two groups now form WG45 External Standards Assessment, Harmonization and Implementation Guidance.

The General Session program on Tuesday, May 8, began with a presentation featuring highlights of historical milestones of NCPDP and significant news events through the 30-year history of the organization. NCPDP President, Lee Ann Stember, addressed the attendees and asserted the importance of an active membership.

"Even though our services and products have become very ingrained in industry processes, there is still a drastic need for your active participation," Stember said. "Without sustained active member

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participation, we would struggle to find new solutions that will help take healthcare to new, unfound levels of efficiency.”

Two awards were presented during the Tuesday General Session. The Rising Star Award, which recognizes the contribution of a new member who has been involved for less than two years, was presented to Sharon Gruttadauria, Manager, Managed Care Performance from CVS Pharmacy. The Benjamin D. Ward Distinguished Member Award is one of the top honors of the Council and named after one of the founders of the organization. The recipient of that honor was Roger Pinsonneault, R.Ph., Senior Consultant from Total Pharmacy Solutions.

The namesake of the award, Ben Ward, was on stage for the award presentation. He also invited NCPDP Chair Carol Cerney, R.Ph., MBA, Pharmacy Consultant for RelayHealth and Vice Chair Bob Beckley, Senior Vice President, Alliances and Product Strategy from SureScripts, on stage where they honored Stember for her 25 years of service with the organization.

The program also recognized the 2006 NCPDP Work Group Co-Chairs.

The conference Keynote Speaker was basketball legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar, a 19-time NBA All Star, six-time NBA MVP and member of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. A silent auction featuring items autographed by Abdul Jabbar raised funds to benefit the American Cancer Society.

The Individual Member Excellence (TIME) Award was presented at the President’s Dinner, a black tie event. The award recipient was Thomas R. Bizzaro, R.Ph., Vice President, Sales and Marketing of First DataBank.

The members of the 2006 NCPDP Board of Trustees were recognized during the Wednesday General Session program. Also, the attendees witnessed the Passing of the Gavel Ceremony, where the leadership as Board Chair is officially transitioned to the Vice Chair. Cerney, the 2006 NCPDP Board Chair, passed the gavel and Chair position to Bob Beckley.

The Industry Executive Roundtable Panel Discussion was focused on recommendations from the American Healthcare Information Community (AHIC). The panel moderator was veteran journalist, Mary Alice Williams, one of the pioneers of CNN. The panel roster included Kelly Cronin of the Office of the National Health Information Technology Coordinator, John Halamka, MD, MS, of CareGroup Health System, Kevin Hutchinson of SureScripts and Alisa Ray, MHSA, of the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology.

Attendees were able to attend a number of other accredited educational track sessions. Track session topics included workers’ compensation, personal health records, formulary management, the National Drug Code (NDC), regulatory issues and many more.

Comedian Tom Ryan provided the entertainment for the Closing Breakfast event, which was followed by a panel discussion. The panel discussion, titled “The Changing Landscape of Pharmacy Reimbursement”, featured Don Bell, II, from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), Dana Felthouse, MBA, of Pharmacy Benefit Management Institute, and George Saunders, Pharm.D., of AmerisourceBergen Corporation. The panel moderator was Thomas R. Bizzaro, R.Ph., of First DataBank.

The 2008 NCPDP Annual Conference will be held May 5-8, 2008 at the Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona.

About NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization with over 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 75,000 pharmacies, and HCidea, *"The Prescriber Identity Solution"*. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Data Services, Educational Programs and Work Group meetings, go online at www.ncdp.org or call (480) 477-1000.

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