

NEWS RELEASE

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NCPDP ANNOUNCES RECIPIENT OF THE 2003 BENJAMIN D. WARD DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

SCOTTSDALE, AZ -- The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) has announced the 2003 recipient of the Benjamin D. Ward Distinguished Member Award. **Jo Ellen "Cookie" Orescanin**, of Longs Drug Stores, Inc., was announced as the award winner during the NCPDP Annual Conference, held in Phoenix, Arizona in March. The award was presented by NCPDP President **Lee Ann Stember** and **Bing Cagungun**, of Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., the award sponsor.

This annual honor, established in 1999, is presented to acknowledge individual NCPDP members who have accomplished an outstanding achievement or who have shown exemplary leadership and service on behalf of NCPDP. Each year, the award recipient is elected by the NCPDP membership.

The namesake of the award, **Benjamin D. Ward**, is one of the pioneering founders of NCPDP, which was formed in 1977 as a standards setting organization, working with the pharmacy related sectors of the health care industry. Ward is known as the innovator behind the creation of the Pharmacy Benefits Management segment of the health care industry.

Orescanin is a Senior Pharmacy Business Analyst for Longs Drug Stores, Inc. Previously, she served as a Health Care Project Manager for CVS Pharmacy and also held various other positions at Longs Drug Stores prior to working with CVS.

Orescanin has been a member of NCPDP since 1991. She served as a Co-Chair of the NCPDP Work Group 1 Telecommunication and played an active role in the development of the NCPDP Telecommunication Standard Version 5.1, which is named in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) legislation. She also serves on the NCPDP Awards Committee.

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ABOUT NCPDP

Founded in 1977, NCPDP is a not-for-profit, ANSI-accredited, Standards Development Organization (SDO). With over 1350 members representing virtually every sector of the pharmacy services industry, NCPDP has made great strides over the last 25 years. NCPDP has established HCldea, a new company that will create

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a health care identifier for individual health care prescribers. The NCPDP Provider Identification Number provides over 69,000 pharmacies with a unique identifying number for interactions with federal agencies and third party processors. NCPDP has 11 active Work Groups dedicated to the technological advancement of pharmacy through standards development. NCPDP's Telecommunication Standard Version 5.1 and Batch Standard Version 1.1 were named the official standards for pharmacy claims in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's Final Rule. For more information about NCPDP Standards, Educational Programs and NCPDP Work Group meetings, visit the NCPDP web site at www.ncdp.org.