Welcome to the new look and format for the NCAP E-News. In 2020, as members you will see some changes in our communication media. We hope to bring a little more diversity to our E-News by consistently including, along with general information, news on practice advancement, continuing education opportunities, technician initiatives, events, partnerships and vendor relations. We plan to publish the NCAP E-News monthly. We will also provide a separate electronic publication dedicated to advocacy. The first advocacy publication was emailed out to members on 1/16/20 and can be accessed here, if you missed it. We will also continue our quarterly electronic publication of our journal, The North Carolina Pharmacist. Finally, for more time-sensitive announcements and alerts, we will utilize our online communities and list serves.

First NCAP Board Meeting of 2020

With the turn of a new year, we also see changes in our Board of Directors (BOD). Immediate Past President Debra Kemp (Durham VAMC) is the Chairperson, and David Phillips (Blue Ridge Pharmacy Asheville) is our new President. New to the BOD are: Beth Mills, President-Elect; Matthew Kelm, Secretary; Ann Marie Nye, Chair-Chronic Care Practice Academy; Courtney Bradley, Chair-Community Care Practice Academy; Ryan Mills, Chair-Health-Systems Practice Academy; Brianna Berish, Chair-New Practitioner Forum; and At-Large Members Ouita Garton and Vinay Patel. Returning to the BOD are: Tom D'Andrea, Treasurer; Jennifer Wilson, Chair-Ambulatory Care Practice Academy; Shannon Brown, Chair-Student Pharmacist Forum; and At-Large Member Holly Nunn. The BOD met on January 22 and covered a variety of business items including programming and logistics for the upcoming spring conference, charges to committees and special project teams, plans for strengthen relationships and forming partnerships with local regional pharmacy groups, discussion about a new meeting model in 2021, and beginning the approval process of the 2020 NCAP budget. The next BOD meeting is scheduled for February 19th.

Year 2020, NCAP Turns 20!

The official merger of the separate pharmacy associations in our state to form one voice for the profession as the NC Association of Pharmacists happened 20 years ago this month. We have much to be thankful for and throughout this year we will be celebrating our Association’s birthday by sharing special acknowledgements, our history and reminiscing on our accomplishments. The NCAP Staff wish to thank the following members who volunteered to help with our 20th Anniversary plans: Paige Brown, Stephanie Jean, Debra Kemp, and Mollie Scott.

2020 Committees and Committee Charges Finalized

With the January Board meeting behind us, we now have official approval of committee charges for the year. In October 2019, the Board of Directors approved the NCAP 2020-22 Strategic Plan. Charges for the committees are assigned to help our Association in carrying out our strategic plan goals and objectives, as well as to assist with our operations. Everyone who responded to the various ‘calls to volunteer’ over the past few months has been assigned to one or more committees, task forces or special project teams. If you have not yet received an email from your Chair or the NCAP staff, and you know you volunteered...
or if you now know you want to volunteer, then please email madelyn@ncpharmacists.org by no later than Feb 7th. We want all committees to begin their work by no later than late February, and the Chairs will need time to organize conference calls.

**Scope Sign-on Letter to CMS**

This month NCAP signed onto a letter with other state pharmacy associations, in collaboration with APhA, ASCP, ASHP and NASPA, in response to the CMS call for recommendations and comments on regulations, which present barriers or impede healthcare providers from practicing at the height of their degree. CMS did not mention pharmacy specifically, but our profession rallied strongly to present evidence and robust comments in support of practice advancement for pharmacists. The letter we submitted to CMS addressed the following: a) implementation of general supervision vs. direct supervision for services delivered by highly-trained pharmacists; b) alignment of Medicare service requirements with the most robust pharmacist state scopes of practice; c) allowance for incident-to billing for services by pharmacists to be billed at levels higher than evaluation and management code 99211; d) address challenges for pharmacists and pharmacies to deliver diabetes self-management services; e) allowance for pharmacists to initiate electronic prior authorization; and f) allowance for pharmacists to be Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 waived providers.

**Emerging Leaders Book Club for New Practitioners**

At a previous NCAP Annual Convention we hosted a workshop for emerging leaders. That workshop was very well received and suggestions were made for NCAP to explore additional ways to foster leadership development. At this time we are checking with our members who are in the first seven years of their career to see the degree of interest in NCAP hosting an emerging leaders book club. If you are interested in participating please email Brianna Berish, Chair of the New Practitioner Forum at brianna.berish@gmail.com. Also, if you are a more ‘seasoned’ pharmacist and you would like to participate as a facilitator for one of the leadership book discussions, please email our Executive Director at penny@ncpharmacists.org.

**Independent Pharmacy Network**

**Northwest Region:** The NCAP Independent Pharmacy Network (IPN) needs a couple of independent pharmacists or a pharmacist and technician in our northwest region to serve as coordinators/leaders for this area of the state. The NW region includes counties from Ashe south to Yancey and Burke, and east to Alleghany, Wilkes, Alexander and Catawba. If you work in an independent pharmacy located in this 12-county region of northwestern NC, and you would be interested in serving or learning more about the NCAP Independent Pharmacy Network, please email penny@ncpharmacists.org.

**Southeast Region:** This month on January 13th, the Southeast IPN Region held a very successful fundraising event for Representative John Bell and Senator Jim Perry. Both of these legislators are very strong allies for pharmacy. The NCAP staff extend a special thank you to Beth Cave ness (Hampstead) and Miranda Hill Wiggins (Kinston) who serve as this region’s IPN leaders, and were co-coordinators for the event.

**NCAP To Partner With SafestDrug.Org**

Over the past couple of months, Executive Director Shelton, has had a few meetings with the non-profit, Safestdrug.org, based here in NC. Safestdrug.org is interested in partnering with pharmacies and pharmacists to enable and empower consumers to directly report adverse drug reactions to the FDA. This month, safestdrug.org soft launched a consumer information campaign, “Ask, Read, Report”. They have counter or lobby display information and are seeking community pharmacies and ambulatory care pharmacists who would be interested in providing access to their information for your patients. In addition, Safestdrug.org is also interested in working with community pharmacies to coordinate and run drug take back events. They find that pharmacies are often interested in holding drug take-back events, but seldom have the time to plan and run the event. If you are interested in participating in the “Ask, Read, Report” campaign or their drug take back services, please contact NCAP at (984) 439-1646.
The 2020-22 NCAP strategic plan includes a number of initiatives to improve our engagement with and representation for pharmacy technicians. This year’s Technician Task Force has been charged with generating some technician specific educational programs, exploring the interest and support for an NCAP-hosted pharmacy technician conference, establishing formal criteria and a process for our technician-of-the-year award, and practice-centric campaigns to increase technician membership within NCAP. The task force will be chaired by Nick Gazda and task force members include: Deb Hewitt, Stephanie Jean, Nita Johnston and Alex Lux. Interested in serving? Email Madelyn@ncpharmacists.org to have her add you to the team.

As NCAP becomes more active across the state and as we take on more projects and initiatives, as well as offer more opportunities and benefits to members, we don’t just do these things in a silo. We have many other organizations, companies and groups that we work with along the way. This month we want to acknowledge the powerful partnership that we have with the NC Governor’s Institute (GI). GI is a non-profit that was founded in 1990 to improve how the health care professions, particularly physicians, prevent, identify, and treat substance use disorders. Over the past few years, GI has partnered with NCAP and provided grant funding, which helps shine a light on the role that pharmacists have in helping meet their mission and improve the care of patients at risk from substance misuse and substance use disorders. Currently we are working together on expanding harm reduction services and piloting a community pharmacy clinical service for medication for opioid use disorder.

If you are a pharmacist specializing in the area of chronic care or health-systems, we have an awesome event planned for you! It is time for our annual 2020 Chronic Care/Health-System Spring Conference. It will take place March 5th and 6th at the beautiful Rizzo Conference Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. If you were able to join us there last year, you know how great it is; if you couldn’t make it, you should definitely plan to be there this year. We have excellent programming planned for both days that will enhance your practice in your field of pharmacy. You will not only enhance your practice as a pharmacist, but you will also satisfy 5 hours each day of required CE credit. That’s a total of 10 hours if you come both days! Believe me, you will definitely want to come both days!
The Rizzo has beautiful overnight accommodations, wonderful staff and great food (they literally fed us all day long). Also, this is an incredible time to connect with friends you know and make new friends from all across our great state. Last year’s private reception in the Kenan-Shaffer Lounge was a fun highlight at the end of the first day of our conference and we will do it again this year.

If you are a leader in the health-system practice, we have a special meeting planned for you on March 5th where you will receive instruction from best practice, award-winning recipients from right here in North Carolina. Our state is leading the way in best practices; hearing from some of the recipients will be an opportunity you don’t want to pass up. On March 6th, you get to join other health-system as well as chronic care pharmacists for sessions you’ll be glad you attended. (By the way, you can get 5 hours of CE credit each day, too.)

To register for the conference and to book your room at the Rizzo, click here.

Practice Advancement

Chronic Pain Initiative

In 2020, NCAP continues to create a vision for the future of our profession, leveraging community pharmacies delivery of Chronic Pain services that focus on “Breaking the Cycle of Inappropriate Pain Management, One Patient and Family at a Time”. Recruitment is still open for pharmacies interested in participating in this landmark initiative. Participants can also earn up to $1300 to support implementation.

Caring for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder: A Certificate Training for Pharmacists

Are you wanting to take your Opioid Training to the next level? Have you thought about partnering with Primary Care in the delivery of Medications Used for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) or starting an MOUD outpatient service in your pharmacy? Then this training is for you!

Imagine your name Here!

If interested, please contact Cheryl Viracola at cheryl@ncpharmacists.org or phone 984-439-1646 for more details on how you can get started TODAY!

This ACPE accredited Training provides 16 hours of online training and a live webinar session to create a virtual learning environment from the convenience of your own home.

Visit https://www.ncpharmacists.org/content.asp?contentid=318 for more details.