2016 TPA Award Recipients, from left to right:
- Distinguished Pharmacy Technician: Greg Elko, RPhT, Omnicare of Fort Worth;
- Distinguished Student Pharmacist: Yasmine Alhasan, Pharm.D., Texas Tech University HSC School of Pharmacy;
- Distinguished Young Pharmacist: LCDR Sandra Mathoslah, Pharm.D., United States Public Health Service;
- Pharmacist of the Year: Gay Dodson, R.Ph., Texas State Board of Pharmacy;
- Bowl of Hygeia: Nathan Pope, Pharm.D., University of Texas College of Pharmacy

Advancing the Practice of Pharmacy to Enhance the Delivery of Quality Health Care to All Texans
The State of the Association

Well, the national elections are over. There will be a new president and many difficult changes are anticipated. For the Texas Pharmacy Association, what will happen in 2017 is yet to be determined. And what took place in 2016 now is history.

On behalf of TPA, we want to share some of that history with you. We are very pleased with our many activities and important contributions that TPA and its family of companies made to the profession of pharmacy. We are especially proud of our three leading initiatives (see page 20).

This report includes brief issue updates and lengthier reports about our key initiatives and public policy priorities for the upcoming 85th Session of the Texas Legislature in 2017.

And there is much more to come! After all, that’s why TPA is here. All we need is you!

Finances

TPA has experienced a very difficult financial year during 2016. The organization must turn the corner in 2017! The chart (left) shows the results since 1997. From 2010 through 2016, expenses have dropped by more than $1.2 million and have been held below $2 million during each of the last five years.

Unfortunately, TPA revenues have been problematic and still have significant hurdles blocking its financial viability. Membership attrition continues. Attendance at educational programs—especially our Annual Conference & Expo—is less than in years past.

These two areas have undermined the potential of your professional organization. The TPA Board continues to review and consider innovative ideas to address these challenges.

Creation of a For-Profit Subsidiary

There is a new addition to the TPA family of companies. The Texas Pharmacy Association Services, Inc. was incorporated earlier this year to pursue projects that enhance the practice of pharmacy and create new sources of revenue. TPAS’ objectives are to:

> Create innovative business models that enable pharmacists to provide and be paid for delivering community based patient care services.
> Leverage opportunities and third-party technologies to create competitive advantages for Texas pharmacists and stakeholders.
Eventually, TPAS also will deliver services through a preferred network of pharmacists to various payers. The services offered will focus on providing solutions to medication therapy problems to assure appropriate therapy outcomes. Primarily, pharmacist services focus on medication reconciliation and reducing patient adherence issues.

**Pharmacy Practice**

2016 progress included major advancements in services to support pharmacist practices.

Vaccination Insights, Texas Pharmacy Association’s vaccination-focused newsletter, launched in October. The free newsletter brings unbiased, peer-reviewed vaccination news to almost 10,000 pharmacists, technicians and vaccine advocates.

TPAS has created a network of community pharmacists in Northeast Texas that will help non-adherent patients manage their medications. The efforts are partially supported by funding from Texas Department of State Health Services and the Community Pharmacy Foundation. At least 150 patients will be referred by their physician to this new network. Results are expected by mid-2017, at which time the network may be expanded into other areas in Texas.

Three pharmacy students chose TPA as an elective rotation site in 2015. Tyler Manning, Pejman Yazdani and Bryan Jackson were directly involved in TPA’s daily activity. They helped in the early stages of the development for the TPAS Pharmacist Network, various meetings at the legislature and state agencies.

In addition to the student rotations, four students completed a summer elective class at TPA, in conjunction with The University of Texas College of Pharmacy. Feefe Yorka, Shane Kyral, Hau Ho and Monica Garza combined their creativity and efforts to create a unique article about the value of Associations. This work laid the groundwork to programming and other efforts that culminated during the 2016 Annual Conference & Expo in Austin.

**Office Location**

TPA soon will celebrate its first year in our permanent offices. The Association-owned office condo is located in Austin at 3200 Steck Avenue, Suite 370. Related monthly expenses dropped dramatically.

**The Texas Legislature**

TPA is prepared! Priorities have been identified! Action plans are being finalized. And it’s only a few weeks until the 140-day Texas legislative session begins on January 10, 2017, a time when “No man’s life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session” (Mark Twain). There will be many legislative initiatives that will impact pharmacies and pharmacy professionals. Read more in other areas of this report.

**Bylaws Changes – Will Academies Return?**

There are various recommended changes and updates incorporated in the proposed version of the TPA Bylaws. The document is available on-line at www.texaspharmacy.org.

**Organization**

2016 has been a very active year for the TPA Board of Directors, the three Association Councils, various Committees and Task Forces. In more than 30 meetings, more than 100 members contributed to the direction of the Association.

**Staff**

A special thanks to the TPA staff for their dedication, creativity and hard work during 2016.
A FOCUS ON ENHANCING PHARMACY PRACTICE IN TEXAS

Three Areas of Service . . .

Texas Pharmacy Association

Advocacy
Advocate within the legislative, regulatory and political arenas as well as with the general public and pharmacy practitioners to promote and advance the pharmacy profession in Texas.

Knowledge
Develop and provide effective communications as well as ACPE continuing pharmacy education by being an accredited ACPE provider in Texas.

Pharmacy Practice
Design, develop and implement projects and services that promote and advance innovative pharmacy practice in Texas.

Three Professional Initiatives . . .

TPA has three initiatives. Each initiative, while unique, overlaps and supports the other initiatives. This synergistic approach provides efficiencies and enhances results.

➤ Saving Lives Initiative
Professional Recovery Network (PRN)
Epinephrine Application
Naloxone Dispensing
Increased Patient Access to Pharmacy Clinical Services

➤ Innovative Practice Initiative
Patient Vaccination History Portal
Transitions of Care / Adherence Monitoring

➤ Effective Practice Environment Initiative
Patient Safety
Workplace Issues

And within each initiative, the interaction of three areas are considered when designing, developing and implementing activities. All three interact to determine the project’s success. For more details, see the TPA website.

“Advancing the Practice of Pharmacy to Enhance the Delivery of Quality Health Care to All Texans”
TPA Launches Saving Lives Initiative

HB 1550
(Pharmacist-administered epinephrine)
The Texas Pharmacy Association started out 2016 with a bang—as January 1 rolled in, so did the implementation of HB 1550. TPA continued a long tradition of moving the profession forward and positioning our pharmacists to play an ever greater role in improving the life and health of their patients. On January 1, Texas’ new pharmacist-administered epinephrine law went into effect and the media took notice. News outlets around the state and even the nation highlighted this essential new law as an important step in saving lives as well as emphasizing the greater role pharmacists can play as members of the healthcare team.

The media attention that pharmacy received was tremendous and represented a great way for the public to start seeing pharmacists as not just dispensers of medication, but instead as highly educated and trained healthcare professionals. In addition to reshaping how the public saw pharmacists, it cannot go unsaid that because of this law and the actions taken by pharmacists around the state, people are alive today who may not have otherwise.

Naloxone Standing Order
As if that media attention and public recognition alone weren’t enough, TPA continued our “Saving Lives” Initiative with the implementation of a first-of-its-kind statewide standing order that is available to every pharmacist across the state. With a continued focus on saving lives, TPA announced the implementation of an expansive physician-authorized “standing order” regarding the dispensing of naloxone/narcan—a fast-acting antidote that can be administered to someone who is actively overdosing on opioids.

The public has come to understand that deaths due to opioid overdoses affect our entire population. People often think that prescription and over-the-counter drugs are safer than illicit drugs. But they can be as addictive and dangerous and put users at risk for other adverse health effects, including overdose—especially when taken along with other drugs or alcohol.

“The release of this standing order by the Texas Pharmacy Association is a landmark moment in the fight against opioid overdose. Thanks to this effort, pharmacists will be empowered to save lives all across this great state. Furthermore, this initiative will serve as another way to highlight pharmacists as key healthcare providers,” said Lucas G. Hill, Pharm.D. Clinical Assistant Professor at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy in a press release issued at the time.

TPA Shapes Pharmacy’s Legislative Priorities
TPA began the year with added focus as we set our eyes towards the 2017 Legislative Session. We have spent much of the year developing, reviewing and fine-tuning pharmacy’s legislative priorities for the coming session. While some concepts fell together quite easily, others took hundreds of hours of analysis, discussions and revision. The challenge here is only exacerbated by the need for immediate change, as discussed in the Session is Fast Approaching article on page four of this magazine.

TPA Launches Saving Lives Initiative

2016 Annual Report
TPA Pharmacist-Driven Legislative Priorities in 2017:

- **Legislation supporting pharmacists as providers** – As in the 84th Session, TPA is seeking a statutory change that will declare that pharmacists are healthcare providers in the state of Texas. While the issue in Texas is very different than the federal Provider Status bill, it is important that the legislature clearly declare that pharmacists are healthcare providers and able to provide healthcare services.

- **Establishing pharmacists’ right to be paid for the services they provide** – All too often pharmacists are not paid for the services that they provide, even when the payors are paying other healthcare providers for the exact same service. This inequity can no longer stand, and TPA will seek a statutory requirement that payor must pay pharmacists when they provide a service that the payor is already paying other providers.

- **Legislation addressing patient safety and the workplace** – Fatigue is a serious concern impacting pharmacists’ ability to safely carry out their duties. There have been numerous surveys and findings that indicate that pharmacist fatigue contributes to an increased risk for dispensing errors. To address this risk, TPA may be seeking a statutory requirement that a pharmacist shall not work more than a twelve-hour shift in the practice of pharmacy, followed by no less than eight hours between scheduled duty periods. In addition, pharmacists shall take a minimum of two fifteen-minute breaks within a twelve-hour shift.

- **Increasing patients’ right to receive services from their pharmacist** – As the demand on healthcare continues to grow, so must the points of care. With eight to 10 years of education, pharmacists represent a greatly under-utilized segment of the healthcare profession within the healthcare team. Additionally, countless studies and findings have shown pharmacists can and do provide a significant return on investment when they proactively engage in a patient’s healthcare. In order to meet the growing demand by patients for points of care, TPA seeks to establish the authority for a pharmacist to furnish a limited number of medications, based on the use of C.L.I.A. Waived tests and those medications that do not require a diagnosis through a physician protocol.

- **Regulating Pharmacy Benefit Managers in the state of Texas** – This piece of legislation is set to be filed by the Alliance of Independent Pharmacists of Texas (AIP). TPA has committed its full support and resources to this crucial effort to finally place pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) under state regulation. It is unreasonable that an entity that plays such a significant role in the treatment of citizens across the state has continued to go unregulated and unchecked. TPA is proud to be working with AIP on this, and is ready for the long struggle ahead as we seek to pass this legislation.

2017 will be a busy year in advocacy, which will be full of challenges and struggles, but the time for change is now. These are ambitious goals and only with your full support can we hope to make any of these goals a reality. TPA is committed to continuing to fight every day for you and for your profession.

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**Your profession TRULY needs your support.**

United, we can make a difference.

Please give to PharmPAC today!

Don’t forget that . . .

- Texas public policy makers are shaping the future of your profession and determining what you can and can’t and must do.
- The Texas legislature will be examining every law and regulation impacting your profession and practice as the Texas State Board of Pharmacy goes through sunset review in 2017.
- PharmPAC is a voluntary, non-profit, non-partisan organization of Texas pharmacists interested in promoting good government, effective health care policy and political involvement.
- PharmPAC is pharmacy’s voice with those elected or wishing to be elected to the Texas legislature or statewide offices.

www.texaspharmacy.org/?PharmPAC
2016 Conference & Expo in Austin
Approximately 600 people convened in Austin at the Renaissance Hotel July 15-17 for the 2016 TPA Conference & Expo. Not only were all the required CE sessions available, the education sessions provided many takeaways for attendees, from stress management skills to expanding pharmacy services. The event was well received, and included numerous social activities. Thank you to all of our excellent speakers, our conference sponsors, and the Education Advisory Committee that helped plan the event—Meghan Lawson, Kathryn Merkel and Sharon Rush.

New Events Introduced
The first Chain Pharmacy Symposium was held at the Grapevine Convention Center, March 29-31. The event, which attracted about 160 attendees, included exhibits and CE on immunizations and Texas law. Exhibitors educated the pharmacists on the most recent vaccines and asthma medications available.

TPA also introduced an online webinar, Naloxone Harm Reduction for Texas Pharmacists, allowing pharmacists to obtain a Standing Order to dispense or administer the opioid antagonist naloxone. Hundreds of pharmacists have applied for the Standing Order. Thank you to Nile Barnes and Lucas Hill for presenting this program as a part of our Saving Lives Initiative.

Continuing to address the opioid epidemic, The Pharmacist’s Role in the Opioid Abuse Epidemic seminar was held in Austin on October 23, and attracted numerous pharmacy professionals as they sought to better address Texas’ opioid addiction crisis.

MEMBERSHIP

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(As of December 1, 2016)
The Professional Recovery Network is the peer assistance program for the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. 2016 was a busy year, as we received a total of 62 new referrals concerning potential impairment of healthcare professionals due to substance use or mental health. 35 healthcare professionals joined our program, resulting in PRN supporting and monitoring 250 participants throughout the year.

Success Rates

Each year, PRN undergoes a performance audit. The audit is important because it measures the success of our program participants and thus, shows us the effectiveness of PRN monitoring. The audit looks at two separate measures. The first measure is the 1-Year Completion Rate. This measure represents the percentage of individuals who entered the Program in the prior fiscal year (FY2015) and successfully participated in the Program for one year with no relapse. For the FY2016 audit, PRN had a 1-Year Successful Completion Rate of 71.4%. The second measure is the 3-Year Recidivism Rate. This measure represents the percentage of individuals who relapse within three years of successfully completing one year in the Program. For FY2016, PRN had a 3-Year Recidivism (Relapse) Rate of only 15.6%. These outcomes are phenomenal in comparison to success rates of people without monitoring in place and shows that support and monitoring by PRN greatly enhances one’s chance of success and safety to practice as a healthcare professional.

Outreach

PRN had the opportunity to educate pharmacists and future pharmacists in a multitude of ways in 2016. PRN met with pharmacy students at Texas A&M Health Science Center Irma Rangel College of Pharmacy, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy, University of Houston College of Pharmacy, and University of Texas College of Pharmacy. As a result, we’ve seen a large increase in the number of students seeking help for addiction.

The Texas Pharmacy Foundation officially created its first PRN Scholarship for Texas Pharmacy students to attend the APhA Institute on Alcohol and Drug Dependencies. Students travel from all over the nation and must be accepted to attend, and this year we saw an incredible number of students accepted from Texas. For 2016, the Texas Pharmacy Foundation was able to award 3 scholarships.

PRN has collaborated with our participants to give them the opportunity to share their stories of addiction and recovery with others. These stories have been published in TPA’s Texas Pharmacy quarterly magazines. For Fiscal Year 2016, PRN saw a 22% increase in enrollment for our pharmacy participants.

Media Outreach Success

Communications & Marketing has seen an active year, with broader outreach of our flagship publication, Texas Pharmacy magazine. We now include all 50 state pharmacy associations in our mailing list. We’ve also seen great success in our external communications and dissemination of news to media outlets. Numerous Texas newspapers, as well as radio/TV stations and national print and online media outlets have picked up our stories, especially concerning HB 1550 (the epinephrine bill) and our Standing Order for Naloxone.

Website/Newsletter Redesign

To better inform our members and to improve our communications, we have made significant changes to both the look and functionality of the TPA website, www.texaspharmacy.org. Additionally, we’ve made changes to our weekly e-newsletter, Texas Pharmacy Today, to make it easier for you to use. All TPA members receive the newsletter via email; if you access it directly from the website, you’ll need to login.

As we head into the 2017 Texas Legislative session, it’s especially important to take advantage of these resources!