



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2011

Media Contacts:

Michelle Fritts
Manager of External Communications
American Pharmacists Association
mfritts@aphanet.org
(202) 429-7558

Nancy K. Longest
Awards Coordinator
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations
awards@naspa.us
(804) 285-4431

Lee's Summit, Missouri Pharmacist, Benjamin M. Bluml, Honored for Outstanding Community Service

Washington, DC – The Missouri Pharmacy Association (MPA) has selected Benjamin M. Bluml as the recipient of the 2011 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Bluml was presented with the award during the 2011 MPA Annual Convention, June 9-12, 2011. The Award is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations.

Ben Bluml is the Vice President for Research at the American Pharmacists Association Foundation. In this position, he works with pharmacists, physicians, payers, research organizations, and technology companies across the United States to design and implement innovative collaborative practice programs and health care service delivery systems. He has also been the principal architect for the clinical and technology structure and process models for the Foundation's patient care programs. Bluml also serves at the University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) School of Pharmacy.

Bluml has been actively involved in national and international efforts that establish and promote pharmacoinformatics standards that promote improved medication use and health information exchange. He was a founding participant in the development of the Pharmacy Practice Activity Classification (PPAC), a national taxonomy for practicing pharmacists, and coordinated PPAC publication with the National Library of Medicine. He served as a member of the White House Roundtable on the National Pharmaceutical Supply Chain for the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion. He led the American Pharmacists Association 2004 activities that resulted in a consensus definition for Medication Therapy Management from eleven national professional Pharmacy organizations. He is a recognized expert in patient confidentiality systems, collaborative practice and in establishing practice-based research networks. He received his BSP Pharm from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Established in 1958, the Bowl of Hygeia Award recognizes pharmacists who possess outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities and encourages pharmacists to take active roles in the affairs of their respective communities. The award is presented annually by participating state pharmacist associations, including those in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In addition to service through their local, state and national pharmacy associations, award recipients have devoted their time, talent and resources to a wide variety of causes and community service.

The Bowl of Hygeia is the most widely recognized international symbol for the pharmacy profession and is considered one of the profession's most prestigious awards. The Bowl of Hygeia has been associated with the pharmacy profession since as early as 1796 when the symbol was used on a coin minted for the Parisian Society of Pharmacy. The bowl represents a medicinal potion and the snake represents healing. Healing through medicine is precisely why the pharmacy profession has adopted the Bowl of Hygeia symbol.

Information regarding contributing to the Bowl of Hygeia future is available by contacting the APhA Foundation at 202-429-7565 or info@aphafoundation.org.

About the American Pharmacists Association Foundation

The APhA Foundation is affiliated with the American Pharmacists Association, the national professional society of pharmacists in the U.S. The APhA Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., works to design solutions to medication use problems in America. The APhA Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of consumer health outcomes affected by pharmacy. For more information, please visit the APhA Foundation website <http://www.aphafoundation.org/>.

About the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations

The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) promotes leadership, sharing, learning, and policy exchange among pharmacy leaders in all 50 states and Washington, DC, and provides education and advocacy to support pharmacists, patients, and communities working together to improve public health. NASPA was founded in 1927 as the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives (NCSPAEE). For more information, please visit the NASPA Web site www.naspa.us.

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