Recognizing the value and extraordinary contributions pharmacists provide to improving the vaccination rates in their communities

AWARDS 2017

Presentation and Reception

Sunday, March 26, 2017
San Francisco, California

The APhA Immunization Champion Awards program is supported by Merck and Seqirus for 2017.
About the APhA Immunization Champion Awards

The American Pharmacists Association established these special awards in 2008 to recognize the value and extraordinary contributions pharmacists provide to improving the vaccination rates in their communities. Across the country, more than 300,000 pharmacists have completed training as immunization providers. In all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, pharmacists have the authority to administer vaccines. Pharmacists and student pharmacists have assumed one or more roles as immunization educators, facilitators, and vaccine administrators, thereby reducing vaccine-preventable morbidity and mortality across the lifespan.

Pharmacists, in collaboration with physicians, public health officials, and other immunization stakeholders, are recognized as important members of the immunization neighborhood. Millions of vaccines are administered by pharmacists each year. The profession’s dedication to meeting the public’s immunization needs and protecting people from vaccine-preventable diseases is evident in the work of this year’s nominees and the many thousands of immunizing pharmacists practicing in communities nationwide.

The APhA Immunization Champion Awards consist of six categories of recognition, including individual practitioners, friend of pharmacy’s immunization efforts, corporation/institution, partnership with other health care providers and public health, community outreach, and pharmacy team member. Nominees were evaluated based on the areas of impact, collaboration, originality, and overcoming challenges, as well as for creating opportunities for pharmacists. The nomination packets received this year described the work of innovative immunizing pharmacists, practices, and community leaders. Many of the nominees provided services and outreach that expanded beyond influenza vaccination and focused on implementation of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC) Standards for Adult Immunization Practice. APhA applauds all pharmacists who are working toward improving the health of the people in their communities. APhA also recognizes Merck and Seqirus for their support of this awards and recognition program.
PROGRAM

Sunday, March 26, 2017

5:30 PM  Reception Opens
5:45 PM  Opening Remarks
5:55 PM  Presentation of Awards

INDIVIDUAL PRACTITIONER

Honorable Mention
Mihran Chaprazian (Belmont, MA)

National Winners
Jeff Jackson (Richmond, KY)
Alanna Isobe (Honolulu, HI)

CORPORATION/INSTITUTION

Honorable Mention
Walgreen Co. (Deerfield, IL)

National Winner
Norton Sound Health Corporation (Nome, AK)

PARTNERSHIP

Honorable Mention
Michigan Pharmacists Association (Lansing, MI)

National Winner
Margie Padilla (El Paso, TX)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

National Winner
Duquesne University School of Pharmacy (Pittsburgh, PA)

PHARMACY TEAM MEMBER

National Winner
Celia Sadler (Franklin, VA)

6:40 PM  Reception Continues
7:00 PM  Adjournment
Individual Practitioner Past Recipients

2016:
National Winner
–LCDR Holly Van Lew
Honorable Mention
–Deanne Hall, Anne Skoe

2015:
National Winners
–Kelechi Aguwa, Kenneth McCall
Honorable Mention
–Mary Choy, MAJ Brandi Schuyler, Maria Young

2014:
National Winners
–Eric Crumbaugh, Julie Gambaiani
Honorable Mention
–Carlisha Gentles, Todd McWilliams, George Veltri

2013:
National Winners
–Donald Auwinger, Kerri Okamura
Honorable Mention
–Carl Wright

2012:
National Winner
–Marty Feltner
Honorable Mention
–Karen Horbowicz, Paras Chokshi, Dan Heller

2011:
National Winners
–C. Derris Hurley, Michelle G. Johnson
Honorable Mention
–Ruben D. Atencio, Ashley Branham, Monali N. Majmudar

2010:
National Winners
–Dennis C. Galluzzo, Katherine Schmoll Probst
Honorable Mention
–Louis Carl Fontana, Adam C. Welch

2009:
National Winners
–Vincent A. Hartzell, Paul A. Schiavi
Honorable Mention
–Edward Christofano, Joe Heidrick
Individual Practitioner

Honorable Mention

Mihran Chaprazian, BSPharm
Star Osco Pharmacy, Belmont, MA

Mihran Chaprazian, pharmacy manager at Star Osco Pharmacy in Belmont, MA, is committed to ensuring that members of his community have access to the immunizations that they need. Chaprazian helped the health services department at a local university identify gaps in the immunization services they offered so that it could better meet the needs of the campus’s large foreign population. He educated university nursing staff on the importance of HPV vaccines for college-age women and men. Through this partnership, nurses now screen students and refer them to Chaprazian for immunization as necessary. This year, Chaprazian and his team have administered more than 190 HPV vaccines to college students. He and his team visit nursing homes to educate residents on the importance of Prevnar13 vaccines. They have also organized more than 20 flu shot clinics in nursing homes, schools, businesses and health fairs through which they immunized more than 1,250 people during the last flu season.
Individual Practitioner

National Winner
Alanna Isobe, BSPharm
Safeway, Honolulu, HI

Alanna Isobe, BSPharm, is pharmacy manager at Safeway Pharmacy in Honolulu, HI, a top-performing pharmacy in the number of flu shots it administers every season. Last year Isobe led the store to break its own record, increasing flu shots by 20% over the prior year. Isobe played a key role in helping to contain a food-borne hepatitis A outbreak last year. She partnered with a state health plan and the Hawaii Restaurant Association to ensure that restaurant workers were vaccinated against the virus. She and her team worked extended hours during the outbreak so that everyone who needed the vaccine could obtain it. Representing Safeway in media coverage of the outbreak, Isobe raised awareness of food safety and vaccine-preventable disease. As a result, area restaurant owners have begun to encourage their employees to proactively seek hepatitis vaccination. Many of those workers get immunized at Isobe’s store, where she administered 3,908 hepatitis A vaccines last year.
Individual Practitioner

National Winner

Jeff Jackson, PharmD
Meijer Pharmacy, Richmond, KY

Jeff Jackson, PharmD, CIP, is pharmacy manager at Meijer Pharmacy in Richmond, KY. He partners with public, private, government and health-care stakeholders to make certain that he has the greatest possible reach as an immunizer. These partnerships facilitate routine administration of influenza, shingles, Tdap, pneumococcal, hepatitis, and meningitis vaccines at 60 locations. In addition to offering vaccines to the public at his community pharmacy practice, Jackson vaccinates police officers, firefighters, school teachers and staff, public officials, government workers, business professionals, factory workers, health-care workers, and international travelers at off-site community programs. He travels up to 60 miles to bring immunizations to Kentucky’s rural poor. Last year, nearly 70% of the 3,300 vaccines he and his team administered were provided off-site. His reputation as a trusted, knowledgeable immunizer garners referrals from area health care providers, human resources departments and first responders. Jackson embodies what it means to be a part of the immunization neighborhood.
Corporation/Institution Past Recipients

2016:
National Winner
– Giant Eagle Pharmacy
Honorable Mention
– Realo Discount Drugs, SUPERVALU Pharmacies

2015:
National Winner
– Walgreens Co.
Honorable Mention
– H-E-B Pharmacy

2014:
National Winner
– Safeway
Honorable Mention
– Osterhaus Pharmacy

2013:
National Winner
– Target
Honorable Mention
– CVS Caremark

2012:
National Winner
– Rite Aid
Honorable Mention
– Children’s Medical Center-Dallas, TX

2011:
National Winner
– Walgreens
Honorable Mention
– Tim Mitchell Medical, Inc.

2010:
National Winner
– The Kroger Co. Family of Pharmacies
Honorable Mention
– West Milford Pharmacy

2009:
National Winner
– Safeway
Corporation/Institution
Honorable Mention
Walgreen Company
Deerfield, IL

Walgreens consistently expands its portfolio of immunization programs to provide all adult and adolescent vaccines recommended by CDC. A testament to its commitment to increasing immunization rates, the company conducted over 39,000 off-site vaccination clinics in schools, workplaces, libraries, hospitals, community centers, senior centers and polling places around the country last year. Among those were mass vaccination clinics in response to meningitis outbreaks on college campuses, including at Santa Clara University and Rutgers University. Walgreens immunizers vaccinated thousands of students against the infection. In partnership with Vote & Vax, the company offered flu shots at polling places located in areas of high need in all 50 states on Election Day. With industry partners, Walgreens drove awareness of herpes zoster and pneumococcal vaccines among older adults nationwide. Walgreens educated health care providers on pharmacists’ role as immunizers in order to stimulate referrals; supported direct-to-consumer marketing of vaccines; and trained community pharmacy team members on customer engagement. The initiative resulted in a 30% increase in herpes zoster and pneumococcal vaccines administered at Walgreens Pharmacies.
Corporation/Institution

National Winner

Norton Sound Health Corporation
Nome, AK

**Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC)** in Nome, AK, takes its immunization efforts far beyond clinic walls and into some of the most remote parts of the U.S. NSHC scheduled some 34 flu vaccine clinics during the months of October and November 2016 in multiple locations including 14 remote Alaskan villages. NSHC flew pharmacists and student pharmacists over 1,500 miles to offer over 10,000 Alaskan villagers the opportunity to get flu shots. When flights were cancelled, due to weather conditions, community partners quickly coordinated efforts to reschedule clinics and alert villagers to the new date. When gas shortages prevented pharmacists and villagers from traveling to the clinics, community stakeholders organized carpools. In the villages, pharmacists visited schools and elders’ homes to make sure everyone who wanted a flu vaccine had access. Pharmacists also offered weekend clinics in their home city of Nome so patients who are unable to visit the pharmacy during the week would not miss out on receiving a vaccine. Community Health Aids spread the word about the flu clinics in their communities, called patients about the clinics, directed them to the pharmacy on clinic days, and often provided patient transportation.

Anthony Shelton, PharmD
Partnership Past Recipients

2016:
National Winner
– Maryland Partnership for Prevention
Honorable Mention
– Cape Fear Clinic

2015:
National Winner
– Garth Reynolds, Illinois Pharmacists Association

2014:
National Winner
– White County, Arkansas Local Health Unit
Honorable Mention
– Lifetime Health Medical Group

2013:
National Winner
– The University of Texas at El Paso Student Health Center
Honorable Mention
– IPHARM

2012:
National Winner
– University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Pharmacy
Honorable Mention
– Tieton Village Drugs

2011:
National Winner
– The Buffalo Psychiatric Center, New York State Office of Mental Health
Honorable Mention
– USPHS/ISH/Phoenix Indian Medical Center

2010:
National Winner
– Touro College of Pharmacy
Honorable Mention
– Washington State University College of Pharmacy

2009:
– Oregon Pharmacists Association
Partnership

Honorable Mention

Michigan Pharmacists Association
Lansing, MI

**Michigan Pharmacists Association** partnered with regional chain SpartanNash Pharmacies to conduct a pilot project, funded by American Cancer Society’s HPV Vaccination Roundtable, focused on HPV vaccination administration in community pharmacies. MPA collaborated with the regional chain to develop a workflow and train pharmacists and technicians at ten pharmacies to screen for, counsel on and administer HPV vaccines. The association assembled an advisory committee of stakeholders from nine organizations to provide input and guidance throughout the pilot program. The pilot program allowed for collaboration with area physicians and education of patients, parents and health care providers. While the number of vaccinations provided through this project was modest, pharmacists made a significant impact on parent and patient education. More than 2,000 patients and parents received information and more than 400 returned screening forms. Another key outcome of the project was the discovery of crucial barriers to HPV vaccination that all members of the immunization neighborhood must work to overcome. Project participants confirmed that HPV vaccines are a “tough sell” compared to flu shots. Counseling patients can be more difficult because of the stigma associated with this vaccine.
Margie Padilla, PharmD, CDE, chair of the El Paso Immunization Coalition, has been instrumental in growing the coalition from just a few members to a group that now has representation from some 20 organizations. A researcher with a focus on influenza vaccination in the Hispanic community, Padilla believes that teams are more effective than silos in the effort to increase vaccine awareness and vaccination rates. Driven by that belief, Padilla organizes and leads monthly coalition meetings to lead the group towards achieving its vision to contribute to the eradication of all vaccine-preventable diseases in El Paso and the surrounding areas. In her faculty role at the University of Texas at Austin/University of Texas at El Paso Cooperative Pharmacy Program and The University of Texas at El Paso School of Pharmacy, Padilla seizes every opportunity to model and teach immunizing to her student pharmacists.
Community Outreach Past Recipients

2016:
National Winner – Pratik Patel
Honorable Mention – West Penn Hospital Immunization Clinic

2015:
National Winner – Mayank Amin
Honorable Mention – Safeway Pharmacy

2014:
National Winner – Monali Majmudar
Honorable Mention – Allison Dering-Anderson

2013:
National Winner – University of California-San Diego Student-Run Free Clinics
Honorable Mention – University of Oklahoma

2012:
National Winner – University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy

2011:
National Winner – Pequod Pharmaceutical Network (PRxN) FluCru
Honorable Mention – University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

2010:
National Winner – Ukrop’s Pharmacy
Honorable Mention – Share Our Selves Free Medical Clinic

2009:
National Winner – HEB
Community Outreach

National Winner

Duquesne University School of Pharmacy
Pittsburgh, PA

Duquesne University School of Pharmacy established its Center for Pharmacy Care as a vehicle for outreach to the poor and elderly population in the surrounding community. Prior to creation of the center, the community lacked adequate access to vaccinations and other clinical pharmacy services. The School of Pharmacy filled a significant void. Initially offering only influenza vaccines alongside its other pharmacy services, the center is now a full-service vaccine clinic and travel health center, offering 18 vaccines in addition to other patient care services. Every day a staff member and student pharmacist travel to outreach events at health fairs, food banks, churches and shelters, where they arrive prepared to screen and immunize any willing and eligible candidates. Staff members often take vaccination supplies to areas where homeless people gather and ensure that they are up to date on vaccines. Since its inception, the center has provided more than 13,000 vaccines while establishing the community’s “immunization neighborhood.”

Suzanne Higginbotham, PharmD, BCACP
Pharmacy Team Member
Past Recipients
2016: Kathie Smith
2015: Louis Jimenez III
2014: Marianne Reed
2013: Debbie Isakson
2012: Michelina Gleason
Pharmacy Team Member

National Winner

Celia Sadler
SUPervalu Pharmacies, Inc., Franklin, VA

Celia Sadler, CPhT, is a committed patient advocate in the SUPERVALU Pharmacy where she practices. Sadler is well known by community members in the rural Virginia area that she serves as a health care resource and trusted friend. In this role, she encourages patients to stay up to date on vaccines whenever appropriate. A champion for immunizations, she is instrumental in reaching out to community groups who need assistance providing flu shots to the people they serve. Last year, Sadler organized three flu clinics for such community groups. She has also expanded the types of vaccinations that her pharmacy offers at these off-site clinics. She coordinated three Zostavax clinics at a local senior residential facility. Without her intervention, assisting patients individually and coordinating immunization clinics, many who received vaccines last year would have otherwise gone without.
Friend of Pharmacy
Past Recipients

2016: Bruce Gellin, MD, MPH
2015: Paul Jarris, MD, MBA
2014: William Schaffner, MD
2013: Carolyn Buxton Bridges, MD
2012: Deborah Wexler, MD
2011: Elizabeth Rosenblum, MD
2010: RADM Newton E. Kendig, MD
2009: Litjen “LJ” Tan, PhD

Friend of Pharmacy: an individual who is a non-pharmacist and has supported, facilitated or advocated for pharmacists’ role in immunizations. Individuals could include a coalition leader, community leader, policy maker, physician, public health official, reporter, etc.
Examples of Immunization Activities From the

• Our pharmacy is located on an island reached only by boat or plane. We also have a unique Collaborative Drug Therapy Agreement with our local clinic that allows us to diagnose and prescribe 23 different conditions. We utilize a full electronic medical records system to document and record all our interventions.

• Most of our vaccinations are done on appointment basis and we pre-screen 100% of our patients for completeness of their vaccination history.

• Our pharmacist has reached out to nearby churches to promote the importance of travel health vaccinations for church mission trips.

• The pharmacist oversaw several vaccine clinics and coordinated a large clinic that took place in three separate towns outside of his community. For these clinics, he worked with pharmacists at other stores to help coordinate vaccine administration and protected over 350 patients.

• The pharmacist continually checks the state immunization registry to ensure the patients he services are up-to-date. He engages his entire pharmacy team to help promote vaccinations and reach as many patients as possible.

• The pharmacist took some extra time to help one of his customers and they ended up discussing the difficulty she was having getting someone from the community to come on-site to her place of work to administer flu shots. This customer worked for a local retirement community and was particularly concerned about the residents who were unable to leave the premises to get a flu shot. The pharmacist promptly volunteered and has been supporting all immunization needs for this facility ever since.

• The pharmacist has found creative ways to provide outreach and increase vaccination rates. He writes and delivers overhead store announcements throughout the day and provides water bottles and cookies to vaccine recipients. He takes a proactive approach and personally contacts patients for follow up when they are due for an immunization.

• The pharmacist hosts frequent in-store meet and greet events promoting flu shots and other immunizations. This has allowed him to be successful in providing immunizations to customers who do not use his pharmacy on a regular basis.

• The store director (a non-pharmacist) attended a community outreach event personally to show his support, and he raffled off gift cards during the event to keep attendees smiling. He understands the importance of protecting his community and often incentivizes pharmacy team members during flu season with employee gift cards and team lunches for strong flu number weeks. He and the other department managers at his store put together a pharmacy appreciation day to let all employees know how much community pharmacists and pharmacies contribute to the overall value of the shopping experience.

• The pharmacist has worked to increase vaccination rates within the behavioral health population, primarily serving children and adults with developmental disabilities. She has worked with the site’s medical director to tailor flu vaccines based on the individual needs of the patients, set up off-site flu clinics for partner agency employees, and continues to offer vaccines during normal operating hours. In addition to her exemplary initiative to improve influenza vaccination rates every year, she sets the stage for collaborative care by notifying primary care physicians of vaccine administrations.

• Every year, the pharmacist provides vaccination clinics for the schools, utilities, public offices, and fire and police departments. She is willing to go on-site to as many places as possible to protect her community.
Examples of Immunization Activities From the More Than 50 Award Nominations Received

• Through the months of September and October, the pharmacist travels around the state providing immunization services to rural communities. She has worked with local dentist offices, veterinary clinics, the local YMCA, and other business offices to ensure maximum outreach in the community in which she serves.

• At every immunization clinic, the pharmacist makes available to patients not only the influenza vaccine, but the option to get the Tdap booster, pneumonia vaccine, and Zostavax. While for storage reasons Zostavax is not on hand, she does offer to pick it up at the pharmacy and take it to the patient, further illustrating the accessibility of the community pharmacist. She provides outstanding customer service which yields special requests to have her come back year after year.

• The pharmacist held a flu clinic at the local school district where for the past two years, she has given over 350 flu vaccines.

• Every customer that comes to the pharmacy is evaluated for needed immunizations and she stresses the importance of immunizations to all her customers. She has gone into the community to talk to seniors about the importance of both shingles and pneumococcal immunizations and to provide immunizations.

• The pharmacy began engaging in friendly competitions to screen customers. The friendly competition sparked the employees’ drive and they came up with some creative ideas to bring in new customers. Some of their creative ideas were to work hand-in-hand with the other services in their community—the senior center, the hospital, the base, churches—and also by screening every customer that either calls or visits the pharmacy. “If they take a walk I say to talk to at least one customer to find out if they use our pharmacy and if they are interested in any immunizations that we have to offer.”

• To promote other immunizations, the pharmacist developed and recorded specific voice calls that played in the stores to encourage customers to get their immunizations.

• The pharmacist empowered her technicians with knowledge to ask every single customer, whether on the phone, at the drive through or at the counter, if they were up-to-date on their immunizations.

• The pharmacist volunteered to immunize underserved populations at a local shelter. The shelter was in another town from her store, but she quickly volunteered to help.

• The pharmacist used her resources and skills to set up a clinic to protect the entire retirement village from Streptococcus pneumonia. In a one day clinic, with the help of an intern, 100 seniors 65 plus received a vaccination for Prevnar 13. This clinic was a huge success and was followed by a smaller clinic in September for 15-20 additional Prevnar vaccines. The week leading up to the clinic, insurance and billing information was secured to eliminate cost barriers and assure that residents would have access. With help from the nursing staff, consent from Power of Attorneys were received before-hand and individuals in the Alzheimer’s care units were able to receive their vaccination. For individuals who were bed bound, she went room to room, unit to unit, in efforts to break down any barrier and immunize as many residents as she could.

• The pharmacist created a “Flow chart to make Immunization Recommendation at the Pharmacy Counter”. The specific vaccination recommendation flow chart incorporates many practical aspects of pharmacy practice.

• The pharmacist volunteers to provide immunizations to school-age children who are at risk for being dismissed from school. This happens every 6 months and she personally gives up to 45 vaccines in each outreach.
Thank you to the more than 300,000 trained pharmacists who are improving the public health of their communities.