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

2013 Awards

Presentation & Reception

Sunday, March 3, 2013 • Los Angeles, California

Awards and reception supported by
About the APhA Immunization Champion Awards

These special awards were created in 2008 to recognize the value and extraordinary contributions pharmacists provide to improving the vaccination rates of their communities. Across the country, more than 200,000 pharmacists have completed training as immunization providers for their communities. 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 of the roles as immunization educators, facilitators, and vaccine administrators, becoming integral immunization stakeholders in their communities. Pharmacists, in collaboration with physicians, public health officials, and other immunization stakeholders, are increasing public access to vaccines across the lifespan. Millions of vaccines each year are administered by pharmacists.

The APhA Immunization Champion Awards consist of six categories of recognition, including individual practitioners, friend of pharmacy’s immunization efforts, corporation/institution, partnerships with other healthcare providers and public health, community outreach and pharmacy team member. Nominees were evaluated based on the areas of impact, collaboration, originality, and overcoming challenges and creating opportunities for pharmacists. More than 80 nomination packets describing innovative immunizing pharmacists were received this year. APhA applauds all pharmacists and practices who are working towards improving the health of their communities. APhA also recognizes Merck for its support of the awards and reception.
Awards Program
Sunday, March 3, 2013

5:30pm Reception open
5:45pm Opening Remarks
5:55pm Presentation of Awards

INDIVIDUAL PRACTITIONER CATEGORY
Honorable Mention
• Carl Wright (Rockton, IL)

National Winners
• Donald Auwinger (Sonora, CA)
• Kerri Okamura (Hilo, HI)

FRIEND OF PHARMACY
National Winner
• Carolyn Bridges (Atlanta, GA)

CORPORATION / INSTITUTION
Honorable Mention
• CVS Caremark (Woonsocket, RI)

National Winner
• Target (Minneapolis, MN)

PARTNERSHIP
Honorable Mention
• IPHARM (Missoula, MT)

National Winner
• The University of Texas at El Paso Student Health Center (El Paso, TX)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Honorable Mention
• University of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK)

National Winner
• UCSD Student-Run Free Clinics (La Jolla, CA)

PHARMACY TEAM MEMBER
National Winner
• Debbie Isakson (Cloquet, MN)

6:40pm Reception continues
7:00pm Adjourn
Individual Practitioners

National Winner

Donald Auwinger, BSPharm
Safeway Pharmacy

Despite practicing in a town of 4,000 residents, Auwinger and his pharmacy, Safeway, gave over 1,200 flu shots and close to 600 Zostavax shots in 2012 alone. When Auwinger discovered the independent pharmacy near his home did not offer vaccinations, he immediately contacted that pharmacy and made arrangements to immunize the patients in their pharmacy. Auwinger’s intent was not to steal business away from the independent operator but to stand united with his professional colleague and provide this much needed service. Auwinger has been conducting a flu clinic for this independent pharmacy yearly. In addition to his local efforts, Auwinger has reached out to remote areas as well. He has conducted numerous flu clinics for Safeway in remote areas stretching from the Monterey Bay Peninsula to the Sacramento Valley. As Auwinger points out, “we as pharmacists have a professional obligation to promote health and wellness not only to our patients in the pharmacy but to the community as a whole.”
Individual Practitioners

National Winner

Kerri Okamura, BPharm
KTA Super Stores

Okamura is the Pharmacy Director for KTA Super Stores in Hilo, HI. Okamura has been a pharmacist for nearly 20 years and she has delivered thousands of individual vaccines. She has taken her role as an immunizer far outside the confines of the pharmacy walls; each year she coordinates many on-site flu clinics for local employers. Earlier this year, she partnered with the Kanoelehua Industrial Area Association, a local business association, to increase member awareness and immunization rates through free individual medication reviews, which always included a review of the patient’s immunization history and recommendations for vaccine administration when appropriate. Practicing in a small island community often presents the challenge to remain competitive with other, large chain pharmacies, but Okamura has managed to stay ahead of the curve by personalizing service, intimately connecting with patients and becoming deeply involved in community affairs that truly make a difference.
PAST RECIPIENTS

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. Schiav

Honorable Mention
Edward Christofano,
Joe Heidrick
Individual Practitioner
Honorable Mention
Carl Wright, PharmD
CVS

Wright manages the CVS/pharmacy in Roscoe, IL and was among the first pharmacists in this area to start administering vaccinations. Although his store is in a small town of about 10,800 people, Wright has led his region of CVS/pharmacy stores in the number of flu shots administered for the past four years and received awards for his efforts. During the 2011-2012 flu season, Wright’s store administered 1,003 flu shots, about 50 pneumonia shots and did 27 off-site clinics in the Rockford Metropolitan Area. Thus far in the 2012-2013 flu season, his store has given about 1,900 flu shots and is expected to exceed 2,000 shots by the end of this flu season. Wright also facilitated 71 off-site flu clinics, 47 of which he personally executed, including 7 low-income housing facilities, 9 retirement facilities, 51 schools and 4 businesses.
PAST RECIPIENTS

2012
Deborah Wexler, MD

2011
Elizabeth Rosenblum, MD

2010
RADM Newton E. Kendig, MD

2009
Litjen “LJ” Tan
Friend of Pharmacy
Carolyn Buxton Bridges, MD
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Bridges is the Associate Director of Adult Immunization in the Immunization Services Division at CDC. Dr. Bridges leads the ACIP working group on adult immunization and co-chairs the National Influenza Vaccine Summit, National Adult Immunization Summit and the CDC Pharmacy Stakeholder Advisory Group. In each of these activities she is a strong advocate in support of the immunization neighborhood and the active role pharmacists play. Dr. Bridges has given numerous talks and interviews regarding the expanding immunization role of the pharmacist and has publicly advocated and sought ways for pharmacists to work with the public health and medical community to increase vaccination rates within our country.
Corporate/Institution

National Winner

Target Corporation

Target Pharmacy has made a commitment to being a trusted partner in its guests’ health. This means going above and beyond to ensure that their guests receive the best experience and comprehensive care at Target Pharmacy. This year, Target Pharmacy focused on expanding its immunization reach by expanding its vaccine portfolio, offering all Target guests the opportunity to protect themselves from flu and other infectious diseases, removing common barriers for receiving vaccinations, and working with community partners to respond to whooping cough outbreaks and prepare for future infectious diseases. As a result of these efforts, Target Pharmacy has seen a 20% increase in immunizations delivered over last year. In working with multiple payers, Target Pharmacy was able to increase the number of guests with insurance coverage for vaccines received at Target by over 50%. Target Pharmacy is committed to increasing vaccination rates across the country, as demonstrated by the way they engaged guests in vaccine selection, helped to identify the best vaccine formulation for the individual, and worked to remove barriers and increase access and information.
PAST RECIPIENTS

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
Corporate/Institution
Honorable Mention

CVS Caremark

CVS Caremark is a company that is reinventing pharmacy for better health and immunization delivery plays an important role in keeping people healthy. Through the collaboration of the company’s business units, CVS Caremark is constantly striving to find ways that continue to improve vaccine access and availability to patients throughout the US. The most visible part of those efforts can be seen throughout the company’s retail locations. Vaccines are available by both CVS Immunizing Pharmacists in all of the company’s stores and from MinuteClinic practitioners in stores with a clinic. By offering vaccines in both settings, patients are provided a high quality, cost effective service that allows them to most effectively use their insurance plans and reduce their out-of-pocket costs while reducing the health plan’s cost and improving quality measures. CVS Caremark provided more than 3.5 million vaccinations, including influenza, pneumococcal, Tdap, meningococcal and zoster, to patients in 2012 and the number administered has continued to increase annually as the program has grown. Through the combination of the varied resources of CVS Caremark, the company is uniquely positioned to provide support for pharmacist immunization delivery in many ways. Whether through administration by company providers or by the immunizers across the Pharmacy Benefit Management network, the solutions that are created will only enhance the value that a pharmacist brings to their community.

Mike Sherry
Manager, Retail Clinical Operations
Partnership

National Winner

The University of Texas at El Paso Student Health Center

The collaborations and efforts this interdisciplinary team has made to improve HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) vaccine rates are truly commendable. The University of Texas at El Paso is designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution that seeks to provide excellence and access to higher education to the city and surrounding region of El Paso, TX. Since June 2011, Jacquelyn Navarrete, PharmD, the Center’s clinical pharmacist/ and UT at El Paso Clinical Assistant Professor, has provided HPV vaccinations in the pharmacy (including follow-up doses) with additional HPV vaccinations provided by nurses in the clinic. Student pharmacists also benefit from this unique practice when they are placed with Navarrete as they learn the immunization workflow, identify different services to help pay for pharmaceuticals such as Patient Assistance Programs, as well as reinforce knowledge of HPV and immunization administration. Navarrete currently collaborates with and has full support of the UTEP Student Health Center clinic staff including the Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and overseeing physician. Together, they meet regularly to discuss problems as they arise. Through the Student Health Center, Navarrete has started a collaboration with UTEP’s Student Engagement and Leadership Center for an “HPV Vaccination Drive for Greek Life” to vaccinate about 200 members of sororities and fraternities. The Student Health Center also has representation in the community through the presence of Navarrete on the Steering Committee of the El Paso Immunization Coalition.
PAST RECIPIENTS

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

**IPHARM**

The administrator of the Montana University System (MUS) wellness department approached IPHARM and Donna Beall, PharmD, Professor, Pharmacy Practice at the University of Montana and Project Coordinator for the IPHARM project, mid-summer to provide influenza vaccines to MUS faculty, staff, retirees and covered spouses on all campuses across Montana. One of the goals of the IPHARM program is to deliver health screening services to rural and frontier Montanans. This program has logged over 100,000 miles performing over 20,500 tests at 455 events since its inception in 2003. Beall precepts students in a four-week Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) elective in pharmacy administration during the summer semester and used this opportunity to integrate student involvement. Working closely with Beall, the APPE students developed five distinct routes from Missoula that could feasibly meet the needs of vaccinating all campuses in a five week period. The program was a success with an increased vaccination rate from 2011.
Community Outreach
National Winner
University of California, San Diego (UCSD) Student-Run Free Clinics

The student-run free clinics are a collaborative effort of the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and the School of Medicine, providing health care to 3,500 multicultural and multilingual, underserved, underinsured and homeless patients at four sites in the San Diego community. Under preceptor Eduardo Fricovsky, PharmD, volunteer Director of Pharmacy Services at the USCD Student-Run Free Clinics, student and resident pharmacists participate in the administration of flu vaccines each year. Each year approximately 400-450 patients are provided with their annual influenza vaccine at the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinics. In addition to providing individual patient care and public health, Fricovsky’s model and practice has engaged collaborations from physicians, nurses and other health professions, and social sciences volunteer students. The annual influenza immunizations combined with the 24,000 prescriptions that the pharmacy students dispense under his direction, contribute to improved health outcomes for those who would otherwise have least access to health care.

Eduardo Fricovsky
Director of Pharmacy Services, UCSD Student-Run Free Clinics
Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
SKAGGS SCHOOL of PHARMACY
and PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National Winner</th>
<th>Honorable Mention</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Pequot Pharmaceutical Network (PRxN) FluCru</td>
<td>Share Our Selves Free Medical Clinic</td>
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Community Outreach

Honorable Mention

The University of Oklahoma

In early 2010, the University of Oklahoma (OU) Health Sciences Center announced they would no longer provide free influenza vaccinations to employees due to budget cuts. Two OU pharmacy faculty members, Tracy Hagemann, PharmD, FCCP, Associate professor and Director of Clinical Affairs and Susan Conway, PharmD, BCPS, CACP, Associate professor, led an initiative to develop and implement influenza vaccination clinics for the fall 2010 year to fill this void. The College of Pharmacy-led influenza vaccination clinics had a large impact with administration of 2,309 vaccines in 2010, 2,805 in 2011 and 3,292 in 2012. Student pharmacists and residents served as the primary vaccinators in the clinics. The program supported substantial training with a total of 350 hours for 47 students and 51 total hours for pharmacy residents in 2012. The students reported that the participation in the influenza clinics was a valuable opportunity to be actively involved in providing patient-directed services and improved their knowledge, skills and confidence with influenza prevention and vaccination.

Susan Conway
Associate Professor

The University of Oklahoma
College of Pharmacy
PAST RECIPIENTS

2012
National Winner
Michelina Gleason
Pharmacy Team Member

National Winner

Debbie Isakson
Thifty White Pharmacy

Isakson is a Certified Pharmacy Technician and site manager at Thrifty White Pharmacy in Cloquet, MN. She has taken immunization programs to employer groups, Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities, churches, schools, clinic systems and the entire surrounding community. She has accomplished this by creating and maintaining relationships while educating key decision-makers on the importance of immunizations and the accessibility of pharmacists as providers. Isakson has been with Thrifty White Pharmacy for 27 years and has held various positions during her tenure. This year, Isakson will exceed 3,000 immunizations administered to patients, holding immunization clinics at 22 Long Term Care facilities, 44 employer groups and 6 public clinics. Her collaboration efforts include letters, emails, phone calls and personal meetings with over 400 organizations in her region offering immunization services. Isakson is now working on expanding immunization programs to other vaccination as she did with the flu programs.
Examples of Immunization Activities from the 80 Award Nominees

- The pharmacist asks every single patient about getting a flu shot and explains the benefits of getting immunized.
- The staff pharmacists promote the profession by presenting to local high school students about the rewarding career of a pharmacist and the opportunities the career offers.
- The pharmacist volunteers to vaccinate underserved populations, allowing access for these people and affording student volunteers opportunities to understand the needs of the population.
- The pharmacist hosts flu shot clinics at non-pharmacy stores within her organization so that employees do not miss the benefits of getting their yearly flu shot.
- The pharmacist has supervised Brown Bag Medication Review events, where students travel to senior living facilities to educate patients on current medications, herbal remedies, and life-style changes.
- The pharmacist and staff have created a Top 5 Common Myths about the Flu Shot document to distribute at all clinics to help combat common misperceptions.
- The pharmacy faculty facilitated immunization training to over 1000 pharmacists and students and coordinated vaccination clinics to over 1000 patients per year within their clinical practices and various community settings.
- Student pharmacists created a “Vote & Vax” program where they provide immunizations near polling sites on election days.
- The pharmacist designed personalized informational flyers which have been distributed at stores as well as community outreach events providing patients with simple and convenient access to their vaccines. His skill at coordination and facilitation has led to the completion of over 40 flu clinics in both community and private settings throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.
- The pharmacist encouraged other pharmacists to participate in discussions with legislators and other medical professionals to discover ways to improve relations. She also met with the State Health Commissioner promoting pharmacists as providers and supporters of immunizations.
- The pharmacist works in an underserved hispanic community in Spanish Harlem, and has been an advocate for immunizing with her patients, and rallied her staff to support her efforts. She started by getting her team to get immunized, so they could spread the word to customers, and share their experience getting the flu shot. She also participated in 10+ outreach events this flu season in the community and continues to do so, (office buildings, community centers, churches) to bring the flu shot to those in need.
- After beginning an immunization program five years ago with only 2 immunizing pharmacists, this pharmacist is happy to report that the program has expanded to 15 immunizing pharmacists how had delivered approximately 1,000 flu shots between January and August of 2012.
- This pharmacist has gone above and beyond to support his pharmacy’s immunization program by being the lead market immunization trainer in Florida. His expertise and assistance to other pharmacy staff members ensure that all staff are up to date on clinical immunization practices.
• This pharmacist is an advocate for providing educational assistance to promote health and wellness for patients in the community.

• The pharmacist set up golf tournaments to make individuals and organizations aware of the need for vaccinations and also to make these organizations aware of where those vaccinations are available.

• This pharmacist has held annual vaccination clinics at local schools, businesses, banks, nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She has used the relationships she developed within the community to educate the public about vaccinations and increase vaccination rates. In addition, she has used her walk-in clientele as an opportunity to screen, educate and promote all of our vaccine services including pertussis, tetanus, meningitis, and zoster.

• This pharmacist has demonstrated her commitment to the advancement of pharmacy practice by the implementation of Travel Immunization services in her pharmacy and has seen over 300 travel patients.

• This pharmacist gives over 1,500 flu shots each flu season by traveling around and executing flu clinics. With each flu shot she screens each patient for opportunities to update their immunization record. By offering comprehensive immunization services for adolescents and adults on a walk up basis her pharmacy contributes to the health of the community, raising awareness and improve vaccination rates.

• This pharmacist takes time on his days off and travels to area businesses to develop relationships with off-site employer groups to help them understand the importance of vaccinating. He has been so successful with this that he is now recommended to other major companies by word of mouth.

• This pharmacist conducted a health fair, seven flu clinics, two shingles clinics within a five week time span. She really taught her student to think out of the box when it came to increasing awareness regarding immunizations. She organized Flu clinics at the typical senior centers, however, she also reached out to church associations, convents and assisted living facilities to administer the influenza and shingles vaccination.

• This pharmacist makes the time to provide the extra service of offering to bring over any paperwork ahead of time to the client to allow the participants to complete their information prior to a flu clinic. This is not a normal policy of ours but she always looks for ways to make the experience smoother and more positive in any way possible. This is one way she could have participants comfortably decide to get a flu shot then get any information needed so they were prepared when it was time to get the shot. She also does courtesy follow up prior to the clinic to ensure all is prepared and she does this on her own time with the understanding that as busy as we are in our pharmacy, it is a quality level of customer service that doesn’t fall short while on her watch.

• This pharmacist has coordinated the administration of more than 5000 influenza vaccines, 100 pneumococcal vaccines, and 500 zoster vaccines since April 2011. Of these, she has administered more than 500 influenza vaccines herself in addition to both pneumococcal and zoster vaccines.

• This pharmacists takes the time to sit down one-on-one with patients in her store and discusses which immunizations are right for them. She is very active in the community and goes out of her way to hold flu clinics at local businesses. While I was on rotation with her, I went to at least 4 off-site clinics as well as promoted it within the store. I was shocked by how many people decided they wanted to get their vaccinations up-to-date. She always has informational handouts available and she really educates her staff on the immunizations as well.