AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY
I am pleased to share with you this book describing the rich history of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) headquarters building. Over the years, APhA has made countless contributions to improving medication use and advancing patient care and much of our story has unfolded during our time in the American Institute of Pharmacy on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The headquarters has now completed an impressive renovation and expansion. I believe this revitalized home for pharmacy in our nation’s capital recognizes the distinguished history of our profession and epitomizes the future of pharmacy. This building serves as a place where the profession can coalesce, explore new opportunities, foster partnerships, and demonstrate the importance of pharmacists to the public, policy makers, and other health care stakeholders throughout the nation.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Menighan, Pharmacist, MBA
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer
Kidwell’s Meadows

In 1858, APhA President John Lawrence Kidwell operated a pharmacy in Washington, DC, near the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 14th Street. He subsequently became known as the “Quinine King” because of the large volume of drugs that he sold to the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1869, Kidwell obtained rights to marshland including part of the property where APhA headquarters was later to be built. The swampy land became known as Kidwell’s Meadows (later as Potomac Flats) and it remained in the ownership of Kidwell until he died in 1885.

By this time, Kidwell’s Meadows had been completely filled in, becoming a segment of Potomac Park. This led Congress to order in 1886 that the federal government should determine the ownership of the land. In October 1895, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against more than 50 persons claiming various portions of the land that comprised the whole of Potomac Flats. In the judgment on Kidwell’s Meadows, the Court ruled that it “was undoubtedly acquired for speculative purposes, and for the government to part with its land to promote such purposes was against public policy.”

By the turn of the 20th century, Smithsonian Institution Secretary Joseph Henry had prodded a reluctant federal government to “fill in the canals, drain the marshes, and perfect the roads” in Washington, DC. The Potomac Canal that ran from 7th to 23rd Streets was completely filled in becoming B Street. The Fine Arts Commission then announced plans to convert B Street (later named Constitution Avenue) “into a monumental thoroughfare leading from the Capital westward to the Potomac.” Construction of the Lincoln Memorial was commenced in 1915 on former marshland, once owned by Kidwell, and it was dedicated in 1922. The National Academy of Sciences building on B Street was started in 1922 and dedicated in 1924.
An Association Home

Since its founding in 1852, APhA headquarters had moved from the office of one secretary to the office of a new secretary. In November 1912, APhA General Secretary James Hartley Beal called for "an Association home" to house its archives, library, and a "suitable laboratory for the National Formulary." However, it was not until 1921 that APhA moved forward with plans for "the securing of a permanent home for the central offices of the Association," and Beal was made chairman of the newly appointed Committee on a Permanent Home for APhA. Beal reported that "offers of help were abundant," but by the time of the 1923 Annual Meeting a scant $21,000 had been pledged for the building. Henry Armit Brown Dunning, chairman of the board of the Baltimore firm of Hynson, Wescott and Dunning Company, described these efforts as "a ridiculous amount considering that there are in the U.S. some 52,000 druggists," and he proceeded to outline a course of action for raising $500,000 "to erect a headquarters building for APhA."

APhA officers were quick to accept Dunning's offer, and he was named chairman of the APhA All-Pharmacy Headquarters Building Campaign. Dunning launched an aggressive program in April 1924, and appointed Edwin Leigh Newcomb, then editor of Northwestern Druggist, as director of publicity. By May 1926, $500,000 had been subscribed. Through a succession of three ballots mailed to APhA members over a four-month period in 1927, Washington, DC, was selected as the location for a permanent home for APhA.

On February 23, 1928, Dunning personally made a down payment on a plot of land directly opposite the Lincoln Memorial and adjacent to the National Academy of Sciences for the location of the APhA headquarters building. He recommended it to APhA as an "ideal site" for what he was calling the American Institute of Pharmacy.
It took Congress to close Upper Water Street cutting diagonally across the front of property APhA purchased. The 1932 Act of Congress also declared that the use of the building “shall be limited to organizations and institutions serving American pharmacy on a nonprofit basis.”

1932 Act of Congress

There was still an obstacle for APhA to overcome. Upper Water Street cut diagonally across the front of the property that was purchased by APhA. In 1929, APhA officials met with Fine Arts Commission Chairman Charles Moore asking him to urge Congress to close Upper Water Street. Moore appealed to U.S. Senator Henry W. Keyes for such authorization, but before Congress would agree to close Upper Water Street, APhA had to buy the remaining lots to extend the property from 22nd Street to 23rd Street. Within months, APhA purchased the additional lots. In May 1932, Senate Joint Resolution No. 50 was passed by the House of Representatives and signed into law by President Herbert Hoover authorizing the closing of Upper Water Street and the transfer of a strip of land now owned by APhA to the U.S. government to widen 23rd Street “as an approach to the Lincoln Memorial.” The final clause of the Congressional action has since resulted in numerous legal interpretations as to whether APhA could ever sell its headquarters building; the 1932 Act of Congress states that the agreement is conditional on the understanding that the use of the building “shall be limited to organizations and institutions serving American pharmacy on a nonprofit basis.”
Enter John Russell Pope

APhA found an architect ideally suited to design the American Institute of Pharmacy: John Russell Pope. He was responsible for some of the most famous structures in Washington, DC, including Constitution Hall, the National Archives, the Jefferson Memorial, and the National Gallery of Art. Pope’s design was not created expressly for the APhA headquarters building.

APhA solicited proposals from many architects for the building design. The above design had been submitted in 1907 by John Russell Pope for Abraham Lincoln’s birthplace memorial in Hodgenville, Kentucky. However, the design was not accepted, and Pope submitted the design below in 1929 for the American Institute of Pharmacy, which APhA accepted.
His first major museum commission in 1907 was to design a memorial for Abraham Lincoln’s birthplace in Hodgenville, Kentucky, to enshrine Lincoln’s original log cabin. Pope’s 1907 design proved too expensive to build, and he was forced to create a less expensive structure that stands today at Lincoln’s Farm. Since it was a common practice for architects to recycle unused designs, Pope submitted his design as the plan for the American Institute of Pharmacy.

While government records clearly show the origin of the APhA building design, nary a word is said about it in any APhA publications of the day; some said that pharmacy leaders of the period felt it was beneath the dignity of pharmacy to reveal that the design was not created expressly for APhA. However, it appears that the history of the building’s design stirred a myth perpetuated for decades by taxicab drivers and tour guides in the nation’s capital. They told visitors that the American Institute of Pharmacy was originally built for Lincoln’s tomb; the creators of the myth apparently misunderstood that it was to have been a memorial for Lincoln’s birth, not Lincoln’s death. Taxicab drivers subsequently called the American Institute of Pharmacy the tomb of “the unknown pharmacist.”
George A. Fuller & Company won the bid for construction of the American Institute of Pharmacy. Erection of the building took slightly more than one year with cost override because the government required APhA to use Danby Imperial Vermont Marble for the building facing.

APhA President Samuel Louis Hilton broke ground for the American Institute of Pharmacy on July 1, 1932. Most of the living APhA past presidents and their spouses attended the ceremony. The identity of each person can be seen on page 90 of 150 Years of Caring.
The American Institute of Pharmacy was not dedicated until May 9, 1934, so the ceremony could be held during the APhA Annual Meeting. A highlight of the ceremony was a letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt reading: “I regret that the press of Executive duties has made it impossible for me to greet you here personally, but through this message I express my appreciation of the great work you have accomplished.”

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) Secretary H.C. Christenson, had earlier recommended that all American pharmacy associations should be housed in the new building. Then in 1936, APhA President Patrick Costello urged NABP to “remove its central office” to the American Institute of Pharmacy, and expressed the hope that “the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy would do likewise.” However, none of the existing national pharmacy associations ever moved their offices into the American Institute of Pharmacy.
There was still a problem to overcome. A parking lot was behind the Pope building, but on the corner of C and 23rd Streets stood Conger’s Laundry, which was spouting foul fumes on a daily basis. On July 20, 1955, APhA Secretary Robert P. Fischelis testified before Congress supporting the General Services Administration recommendation that the government purchase the lots and get rid of the unsightly laundry building. Since the new Department of State building would have faced this repulsive structure, the laundry was condemned by the Court and forced to sell its lots.
Even as the new State Department was under construction, plans were underway to construct an annex to the Pope-designed building. Land was exchanged with the government in 1958 providing adequate space for the expansion.

Land Exchanged for Annex

Expansion of the American Institute of Pharmacy commenced in 1956 with plans to build both an east and west wing because the property immediately behind APhA had been purchased by the National Association of Life Underwriters to erect its headquarters. When the underwriters association withdrew its plans and sold the lot to the government in 1958, APhA sought and obtained agreement to exchange land with the government to permit an annex to be built immediately behind the Pope-designed building.

Exchange of land took place in the fall of 1958, and the government agreed to convert the land immediately behind the annex of the original building into a park as an approach to the new State Department, which had been dedicated in 1957. Ground breaking for the annex took place on July 14, 1959, but a steel strike delayed construction plans. The annex was dedicated during the APhA Annual Meeting on August 16, 1960.
Ground breaking for the annex took place July 14, 1959. APhA Secretary Robert P. Fischelis pretends as operator of a bulldozer to clear the area, while William S. Apple plays the role of supervisor.

Preview of the new annex was held August 16, 1960, on the 23rd Street side of the structure during the APhA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Newly installed APhA Secretary William S. Apple took hundreds of members in attendance on a verbal tour of the new building.

On August 1, 1984, APhA Chief Executive Officer John Schlegel and APhA President Herbert Carlin admire the cake that was served to 500 invited guests at the 50th anniversary of the American Institute of Pharmacy.

On August 1, 1984, APhA celebrated the 50th anniversary of its headquarters. Four years later, glass front doors were installed so that when the brass front doors are open the Lincoln Memorial can be seen, and a new lighted sign was placed in front of the American Institute of Pharmacy.
Acquiring the C Street Property

In 1994, APhA Executive Director John A. Gans convinced the House of Delegates to authorize APhA to review the possibility of acquiring the C Street property from the General Services Administration for the expansion of the APhA headquarters building. In August 1998, the APhA Board voted to pursue fundraising with the final appraisal of the C Street property set on April 29, 1999, at $2,600,000. In 2001, Congress provided funding for the Department of State to occupy a portion of the building. Thus, the lease of excess office space could provide a reduction of maintenance cost and an increase of building security.

Plans were officially unveiled at the APhA Annual Meeting held March 16-20, 2001, in San Francisco to purchase the land behind APhA headquarters all the way to C Street and replace the annex with a new and much larger building. APhA President Thomas E. Menighan stated that “by the time we meet in Philadelphia for the APhA Sesquicentennial meeting in 2002, we will have broken ground.” However, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on America, and the time required to negotiate the approval of multiple government authorities, delayed plans for another four years.

Approval of the New Building

After some concerns expressed by several government agencies on the proposed building, the Fine Arts Commission approved in 2002 the concept that would have the new building interface with the original Pope building that had been listed in 1977 on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2004, the Fine Arts Commission approved a revised six-story building consisting of 322,000 square feet.
Hartman-Cox was selected as architect and construction was awarded to Tishman. For the first time since the APhA staff moved into the Pope building in 1934, APhA vacated its headquarters on June 23, 2006, to permit construction. Staff moved into temporary offices in the center of Washington, DC, at 15th and L Streets. Congress authorized the sale of the C Street property, and on July 26, 2006, the closing of the General Services Administration parcel was completed. APhA was now the owner of the land they had been trying to acquire for years.

Construction of the building shown here proceeded according to schedule. The APhA staff, who had been located in temporary offices for three years, moved back into the new headquarters building on May 4, 2009. The dedication ceremony was scheduled for November 13, 2009.
The new six-story building, consisting of 322,000 square feet, now interfaces with the Pope building that was listed in 1977 on the National Register of Historic Places, and provides ample space to better serve APhA and the profession of pharmacy.

On September 14, 2006, the ground breaking ceremony for the new building was held in front of the Pope building. The ceremony honored the building campaign co-chairs Fred Hassan and Calvin H. Knowlton, as well as the honorary co-chairs Gloria Niemeyer Francke and Joseph D. Williams. Construction of the building proceeded according to schedule, and the APhA staff moved back into the new headquarters building on May 4, 2009. The formal Headquarters Dedication Ceremony was scheduled for November 13, 2009.
The Flagpole Memorial in front of the Pope building is dedicated to all pharmacists who have served their country in times of war. The flagpole was installed May 7, 1948, and updated on May 25, 1993, to recognize pharmacists who served in conflicts since World War II.

On May 3, 1941, a bronze statue of William Procter Jr. was unveiled in the rotunda of the American Institute of Pharmacy. The statue, honoring the "Father of American Pharmacy," was designed by William Marks Simpson of Baltimore, Maryland.
Other Building Features

The new building was designed to achieve a Gold rating under the U.S. Green Building Council’s standards for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is 25 percent more energy efficient than a conventional building in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. Carbon dioxide monitors adjust the amount of fresh air depending on building occupancy levels to help ensure occupants have adequate fresh air at all times. A green housekeeping program minimizes exposure of staff to harmful chemicals and reduces the environmental impact of building operations. Low-emitting materials such as paints, adhesives, carpet, and wood products help to prevent the introduction of unwanted chemicals inside the building thereby enhancing the air quality. Underground parking and light-colored roofing materials keep the site cool.

The Potomac View Terrace offers a panoramic view of the U.S. Capitol and Washington Monument to the east; the Lincoln Memorial and Jefferson Memorial to the south; and the Arlington House, the U.S. Air Force Memorial, and the Potomac River to the west. The Botanical Garden at the west side of the building features plants that have medicinal and healing properties.

The rotunda in the Pope building, whose design is similar to the Tate rotunda in London, still features the William Procter Jr. Memorial that was installed May 3, 1941. Renovations to the rotunda were made possible through a gift from Dr. Ernest Mario, include new lighting and improved acoustics plus two bronze sculptures that depict the pharmacist’s role in health care.

In the front of the Pope building stands the Flagpole Memorial that is dedicated to all pharmacists who served in the wars of our country. The original flagstaff was dedicated on May 7, 1948, as a gift from H.A.B. Dunning. It was updated on May 25, 1993, to recognize pharmacists who served in conflicts since World War II.
The purpose of the APhA headquarters building remains in accordance with the inscription engraved in stone above the entrance of the building:

**American Institute of Pharmacy**

Dedicated to those who contributed their knowledge and endeavor to the preservation of public health and the advancement of science in pharmacy.

The bas-relief at the front of the American Institute of Pharmacy represents the advancement of pharmacy. The youth depicts the progressive step while the senior represents the pioneer, observing the improvements made as fruits of the earlier research. The sculpture was designed by Ulysses A. Ricci of New York City.