I would like to thank you all for your interest and involvement in the Michigan Pharmacy Political Action Council (PAC). Second, I would like to congratulate you on making a difference in pharmacy! A passion of mine has and will always be to help people, and that is exactly what Michigan Pharmacy PAC does!

I have served as the chairman of Michigan Pharmacy PAC for many years. Through my experience in political activism and my role within PAC, I believe this is an exciting time for pharmacy. We have to be united and committed in our profession and to the people we serve. I not only envision this to be true, but I live this proclamation each day through my commitment to pharmacy, my community and my country. From my years of service as a pharmacist and pharmacy owner in the Grand Rapids area, to serving as Lt. Col. of the Michigan Air National Guard and Reserve, to my involvement in the political realm for more than 30 years, I have learned that you have to make a difference for a difference to be made.

Our united voice and our individual passion has helped pharmacy become what it is today! However, there is much more to do and we can’t stop now. We have the beginning of a bright future in Michigan and it is imperative that we keep the momentum going through grassroots efforts, contributions to Pharmacy PAC and advocacy at every level!

Thank you for all that you do! Each and every pharmacy professional who decides to be engaged and involved is giving back to their profession now and for years to come! This is an outstanding time for pharmacy, as we had the busiest legislative session in 2014 that we have had in decades. On behalf of Michigan Pharmacy PAC, I would like to thank the donors and advocates for making the year a success!

HANK FUHS, R.PH.
2014 Michigan Pharmacy PAC Chair
Advocacy is important for the advancement of pharmacy and the continuation of doing what is best for Michigan residents. In order to keep patients well and safe, we must be advocate leaders, working to educate policymakers on the important health issues. There are two distinct ways to get involved in advocacy through Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA): committing time or dollars. Either way, you are making the commitment to be a part of a greater good. Thank you!

**MICHIGAN PHARMACY PAC**

Michigan Pharmacy PAC is a voluntary, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that actively seeks to promote positive public health policy through the building and maintaining of relationships with candidates and decision-makers. PAC was established in Michigan in the 1960s and has been working diligently every year to ensure that the voice of pharmacy at the state and national level is heard by policymakers.

**PHARMACY ADVOCACY RESPONSE TEAM**

The Pharmacy Advocacy Response Team began in 2014 as a way to get pharmacy professionals involved in advocating for their profession at the local level. We have PART pharmacy professionals in all legislative districts across the state committed to advocating for their profession.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Lick, MPA manager of advocacy, governmental and regulatory affairs, at (517) 377-0254 or Amanda@MichiganPharmacists.org.
Michigan Pharmacy PAC had a busy and successful year! We hosted, sponsored and attended many events to advocate for pharmacy. Here are some of this year’s highlights.

**Michigan Pharmacy PAC Luncheon**

Each year, Pharmacy PAC honors legislators who work diligently for the advancement of good public health policy that keeps Michigan residents well and safe. We also acknowledge members who have gone above and beyond for their patients and advancing pharmacy. The 2014 award recipients are all individuals who are highly committed to making pharmacy the best it can be in Michigan!

**Legislator of the Year Award**

Sen. Mike Green and Rep. Tim Greimel

**Good Public Health Policy Award**


**Hank Fuhs Good Government Award**

Dana Beaman and Casey Sullivan

**Year in Review**

Michigan Pharmacy PAC had a busy and successful year! We hosted, sponsored and attended many events to advocate for pharmacy. Here are some of this year’s highlights.

**Above:** Pictured (left to right): Amanda Lick, Hank Fuhs, Rep. Lyons, Larry Wagenknecht and Eric Roath

**Top:** Hank Fuhs and Rep. Cavanagh during the Michigan Pharmacy PAC Luncheon at the 2014 MPA Annual Convention & Exposition

**Right:** Pictured (left to right): Hank Fuhs, Eric Roath, Dana Beaman, Larry Wagenknecht and Amanda Lick
NCPE LEGISLATIVE EVENT
The National Community Pharmacists Association
Conference on National Legislation and Government
Affairs in Washington, D.C. was successful.
Representatives from MPA and Michigan Pharmacy
PAC as well as Association members met with 14 out of 16 U.S. Congressional leaders and staff. We advocated for pharmacist provider status, open networks and fair business practices. We also took the opportunity to present lifetime achievement awards to Congressmen Dave Camp and Mike Rogers as well as Sen. Carl Levin.

TOP: Pictured (left to right): Congressman Bill Huizenga, Jeff Rowe, Congressman Dave Camp, Hank Fuhs, Tony Lin and Larry Wagenknecht

MIDDLE: Pictured (left to right): Tony Lin, Wayne Seilers, Amanda Lick, Congressman Dan Kildee, Jeff Rowe and Hank Fuhs

BOTTOM: Larry Wagenknecht meets with the legislative staff of Carl Levin
MICHIGAN PHARMACY FOUNDATION AND MICHIGAN PHARMACY PAC GOLF CLASSIC
At the 2014 golf outing, we achieved a record high number of sponsors and contributions. It was incredible to see how many pharmacists and pharmacies came out to support our mission. We are so thankful to everyone who contributed and we hope to see you next year! We would like to thank all of our sponsors, especially the putting green sponsor Southwest Pharmacists Association and the driving range sponsor Northern Michigan Pharmacists Association.

Sponsors
- Clarkston Pharmacy
- Diplomat
- Drug Max
- Fred’s Supermarket Pharmacy
- Genesee County Pharmacists Association
- Healthway Compounding Pharmacy
- HomeTown Pharmacy
- Karoub Associates
- Macomb County Pharmacists Association
- MatchRx
- Monitor Pharmacy Inc.
- Northern Michigan Pharmacists Association
- Oakland County Pharmacists Association
- OptiMed Pharmacy
- Patterson Sav-Mor Pharmacy
- Pharmacy Care Inc.
- Riverside Sav-Mor and Gibraltar Sav-Mor
- Rx Professionals
- Schmidt & Sons Pharmacy
- Southwest Michigan Pharmacists Association
- SpartanNash
- Thompson Pharmacy and Medical
- University Compounding Pharmacy
- Walker’s Pharmacy
- Wilcox Pharmacy
PHARMACY DAY AT THE CAPITOL
AND THE MEDICATION DISPOSAL
EVENT @ THE CAPITOL
This event boasts the pride of pharmacy and highlights what pharmacists do best, applying their skills to increase health and awareness, keeping communities safe and educating others. In 2014, we had a record number of attendees and collected more medications than we ever have before.

VIRTUAL PHARMACY TOWN
HALL MEETING
MPA and Pharmacy PAC held the first-ever Virtual Pharmacy Town Hall Meeting, which was complimentary to MPA members and recent Pharmacy PAC contributors. Attendees were given the opportunity to pre-submit questions on recent law changes, including pharmacy technician licensure and compounding, that would be answered in real-time. The Virtual Pharmacy Town Hall Meeting had 182 participants. After the program, members were given the opportunity to access a recording of the webinar as well as answers to questions submitted prior to and during the webinar focused on the topics covered.

During Pharmacy Day at the Capitol, 292 people were educated on the valuable roles of pharmacy professionals.

Pharmacy Day at the Capitol Sponsors
City of Wyoming
Diplomat Pharmacy
Genoa Healthcare Pharmacy
HomeTown Pharmacy
Kroger
Meijer
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
SpartanNash
SRS Pharmacy Systems
Walgreens
Wal-Mart
Yellow Jug Old Drugs

689 pounds of medications were collected at the Medication Disposal Event @ the Capitol.
Michigan Pharmacy PAC and many pharmacy professionals hosted and sponsored fundraisers throughout 2014 in an effort to support legislators who make pharmacy and the health of Michigan citizens a priority.

Terri Lynn Land Meet and Greet at the 2014 MPA Annual Convention & Exposition.

Pictured (left to right): APHAN President Steve Simenson, Terri Lynn Land and Larry Wagenknecht

Michigan Pharmacy PAC held an event for Sen. Rebekah Warren in Ann Arbor. Approximately 30 people attended and we were able to meet our fundraising goal, so the event was successful.

Pictured (left to right): Frank Ascione, Mindy Prasad and Beverly Schmoll

MPA and Michigan Pharmacy PAC sponsored an event with the Michigan Dental Association for Gary Peters, who was a Congressman at the time. As a result of our interaction and follow-up with Gary Peters, now a Senator, he signed on to support the pharmacist provider status bill at the federal level.

Pictured (left to right): Larry Wagenknecht, Pang Hang, Amanda Lick, Congressman Gary Peters, Ashley Buita and David Kalis

Pictured (left to right): Amy Parker, Ashley Buita, Sen. Rebekah Warren, Jenika Nguyen, Jennifer Liang, Pang Hang and Elizabeth Laswell
Pharmacist Bill Walker and his wife Tina held an event at their home for Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

MPA and the Arab American Pharmacists Association held an event for Sen. Jim Marleau in the 12th district. Although the Senator had always held in-district events at this local bocce restaurant, he had never been able to take the time to play. We made an impression by taking the time to challenge him in a bocce ball game (he won).
SCOTT POPYK

Since 1996, Scott Popyk of Health Dimensions has been doing what inspired him. Since Scott was younger he has always been passionate about making things. Compounding pharmacy is a perfect profession that fuels that passion. As a compounding pharmacist, Scott feels like he is making a difference for each of the patients he and his pharmacy serve, making specific pharmaceutical drug as that meet the individual needs of each patient that comes to his pharmacy. Scott stepped up when given the opportunity to voice his opinion on Senate Bill 704 by getting a national organization involved as well as attending a hearing and testifying. Scott wanted to make sure that the compounding practices he holds dear, the ones that make a difference in so many patients’ lives, would not be subjected to unwarranted limitations. He worked hard to advocate for his patients and fellow compounding pharmacists by engaging the professional organizations that he is a member of, interacting with decision-makers and taking advocacy opportunities when they were presented to him.

Advocacy Tip: Scott believes that advocating for your profession is important. As he put it, “you have to [advocate]; if you don’t, you may not like the circumstances you are dealt.”

MIKE AND JOANN SANBORN

Mike and JoAnn Sanborn purchased their pharmacy in 1982. For more than 30 years, Hudson Pharmacy has been delivering exceptional patient care. The Sanborns are pharmacists, entrepreneurs and advocates who care about their profession and the patients they serve, and it shows. Over the years, they have both been engaged with their legislators such as Rep. Nancy Jenkins, U.S. Congressman Tim Walberg and Sen. Bruce Caswell advocating for issues like Senate Bill 656, which focuses on Maximum Allowable Cost pricing transparency. It is through their relationships that they are able to educate and advocate for fair business practices in pharmacy.

Advocacy Tip: “If you don’t advocate, you’re part of the problem.”

ELIZABETH LASWELL

Elizabeth Laswell, 2015 Pharm.D. candidate, was chair of the Student Pharmacist Executive Council and a member of the MPA Executive Board during her P3 year in 2014. She knew she had limited time as a student on the Board and had to make it count. Elizabeth called up her Representative’s office and worked with them to arrange a coffee shop meeting with Rep. Jim Starnas to discuss Senate Bill 92 (pharmacy technician licensure). Elizabeth had been on a few legislative visits, but this was her first one-on-one. “I was nervous that I might say the wrong thing and misrepresent the Association, myself or pharmacy technicians across the state,” she said; however, she was well prepared. After discussing her upcoming meeting with the MPA advocacy team, and reviewing the bill and talking points provided by the Association, Elizabeth was able to conduct a successful legislative visit.

Advocacy Tip: Her advice on conducting one-on-one visits: “Let the staffer know which bill or topic you’d like to discuss so that the legislator isn’t caught off guard.” In addition, “be able to summarize the bill in their terms.”

ANDREW REEVES

Andrew Reeves has always been pushing the limits of pharmacy as a forward-thinker, and when you walk into his pharmacy, it’s immediately obvious. OptiMed Pharmacy, which began in 1994, strives to meet the needs of each and every patient. For those patients who need basic health and wellness to those patients who have complex disease processes and require specialty medications. The pharmacy is a perfect combination of community pharmacy to modern outreach such as wine and art events. With a state Senator and Congressional leader working across the street, Andrew has the opportunity to engage policymakers on his lunch hour. He took advantage of that opportunity by connecting with Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker and encouraging her to introduce a bill package focused on the regulation of pharmacy benefit managers and fair business practices.

Advocacy Tip: “Who is the loudest person advocating against you? Set up a private meeting to talk with them.”
Mike Collins is the owner of Healthway Compounding Pharmacy in Saginaw. In 2007, Healthway Pharmacy became the first pharmacy in Michigan to become accredited by the Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board (PCAB). Mike is an individual who is beyond committed to making a difference in his profession. He testifies at hearings, writes letters and invites legislators to his pharmacy. But, most of all, he understands the importance of his role in health care, in helping the patients he serves and how his relationships with other providers greatly impact patient outcomes and his business. Mike played an integral role in advocating for amendments made in the final hours during the passage of new compounding regulations in 2014. Although we were not able to get all the changes that we would have preferred, without Mike and other compounding pharmacists there to testify, legislators would not have heard about the critical impact that the legislation could have caused, including barriers to care.

Advocacy Tip: “If you don’t toot your own horn, someone will use it as a spittoon” – Author unknown

Chris Smith is incredibly active in advocacy and leadership in the Association. Chris worked with Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons on legislation that would amend the Michigan Sales Tax Code to clarify that over-the-counter (OTC) medications pursuant to a prescription are exempt from sales tax collection. This legislation passed during the 2013-2014 legislative session as Public Act 211. Due to the passage of legislation, it was estimated that together pharmacies across Michigan would save up to $1 million dollars. Although Chris was successful in his advocacy efforts, advocacy has not always come easy. The first time he tried to advocate for the OTC sales tax fix, he and others were not successful. However, due to his passion for pharmacy and for making a difference, Chris never gave up. He made sure that in the end he worked hard to effectively communicate the impact that this issue would have on Michigan residents, not only as taxpayers, but as people. In Chris’s experience, every legislator he has worked with cares about the people and, after feeling like voting wasn’t enough, he decided to get involved with policy issues, ensuring that his voice was heard.

Advocacy Tip: “Don’t be afraid. Lawmakers put on their pants the same way you do.”
The year 2014 was one of the most successful legislatively that our association has ever had. That is due in large part to the commitment of our members, partners and contributors as well as other relationships that have been built. The following is a list of legislation that we worked on and were successful in passing during the 2013-2014 legislative session:

- Public Act 167 of 2014 dealing with Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) pricing issues. The passing of this legislation signifies the first time MAC pricing concerns have been addressed by the Michigan Legislature.

- Public Act 285 of 2014 was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder on Sept. 30 and requires licensure for pharmacy technicians. Applications were made available on Dec. 22, 2014, and the enforcement of this policy will begin on June 30, 2015.

- Public Act 280 of 2014, the compounding and pharmacist in charge legislation, became effective on Sept. 30, 2014. Although this legislation puts more regulation on pharmacists in Michigan, it also allows for the state to have the ability to go after those individuals or entities that provide products in the state. MPA and members of the Association were successful in having many amendments passed through our advocacy efforts with the bill sponsor, the Michigan Attorney General’s office and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

- Public Act 211 of 2013, sponsored by Rep. Lisa Lyons, provides exemption for collection of sales tax on prescriptions written for over-the-counter medications. This legislation was signed by Gov. Snyder on Dec. 21, 2013.


Other Issues we Focused on:
- Naloxone Access
- Enhanced Pseudoephedrine Regulations
- Open Pharmacy Networks
- Pharmacist Provider Status (Federal)
- Medicaid Claims Reversal
- Expedited Partner Therapy
- Biosimilar Substitution
- Audit Practices

Issues we Blocked:
- Pharmacy Provider Tax
- Increase in Pharmacist Licensure Fee
- Unreasonable requirements of the pharmacy technician license
- Reclassification of Hydrocodone Products at the State Level
**STATE FOCUS**

**Compounding Regulation and Patient Access:** Working to gain clarification and guidance on issues related to compounding and specialty pharmacy that would increase patient access to lower cost therapeutic treatment.

**Reimbursement:** Educate policymakers on health care reimbursement and work to facilitate fair business environment by promoting legislation that addresses issues such as Maximum Allowable Cost pricing, fair audit practices, mandatory-mail order programs and pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) transparency.

**Nonpunitive Medication Error Reporting:** Educate policymakers on the overall negative impact on health care that occurs when punitive measures are taken on health care professionals who report medication errors. Additionally, educate policymakers on the potential negative impacts to health care that occur when medication errors are not reported due to a punitive environment.

**Expunged Records:** Work together with other health care professionals to ensure that providers are held accountable for actions in a fair and equitable environment, which ultimately is best for patient safety and public health.

**Specialty Medications:** Work with the state of Michigan and specialty medication stakeholders to ensure fair pricing and quality standards for patients and pharmacy professionals.

**Biosimilars:** Educate policymakers on the importance and necessary substitution of biosimilar medications for patients.

**Prescription Drug Abuse:** Work with stakeholders to create and pass public health policy that decreases diversion, improving the safety of the public while maintaining access to medications for appropriate use.

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**FEDERAL FOCUS**

**Provider Status:** Work with national organizations and pharmacy stakeholders to support the recognition of pharmacists as providers under Medicare Part B.

**Pricing Standards:** Work with national organizations to establish a voluntary, multidisciplinary alliance to address reimbursement and Average Wholesale Price.

**Open Networks:** Educate policymakers on the importance of open networks in pharmacy to improve patient access and to decrease health care silos.

**PBM Regulation:** Continue to work with national organizations and leaders to identify and highlight the negative impacts of PBMs on patient care and the health care system.
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William Drake
William Walker
*Members of the Governor’s Club

Michigan Pharmacy PAC had 393 donors in 2013 - 2014

Apple device downloads for the new law mobile app that features a searchable copy of the Pharmacy Law Update Service (PLUS)

Number of Bills Introduced: Approximately 10
Bills Successfully Passed: 5
Issues Blocked: 3

Michigan Pharmacy PAC and MPA were invited to more than 500 fundraising events in 2014. We attended approximately 75 of those fundraising events.

7,886 total page views for The Advocate blog, available at mpaadvocate.blogspot.com
TOP CORPORATE DONORS

City of Wyoming
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Drug Max
Fred’s Supermarket Pharmacy
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SRS Pharmacy Systems
Thompson Pharmacy and Medical University Compounding Pharmacy
Walgreens
Walker’s Pharmacy
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Wilcox Pharmacy
Yellow Jug Old Drugs
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