



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Michigan Pharmacists Association
(517) 484-1466

Bates, Christensen and Schalk to be Honored with Fellow Designation

Jeffrey Bates, Heather Christensen and Heather Schalk will receive the Fellow of Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) designation during the Association's Annual Convention & Exposition, held Feb. 26-28 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

The Fellow of Michigan Pharmacists Association designation recognizes achievements and dedication to the practice of pharmacy, the community and MPA. The distinction signifies the recipient's actions well beyond the regular practice toward the advancement of pharmacy. The fellowship is divided into three areas, all of which help define a well-rounded pharmacist.

Bates currently serves the Ferris State University (FSU) College of Pharmacy as interim assistant dean/department head and also as director of student professional and academic success. Working diligently over the last 13 years to guide the college's efforts in assuring positive health outcomes, he helps to advise hundreds of students each year regarding emotional, physical, financial, relational and spiritual balance in their lives. In 2013, Bates founded the Ferris Pharmacy Care Clinic. Located inside the college, this pharmacy assures comprehensive care to underserved patients in and around Mecosta County and has helped hundreds of students hone their clinical care skills. Further, he continues to share clinical responsibilities in Ferris' Interdisciplinary Diabetes Clinic, facilitating experiential and inter-professional learning for pharmacy, optometry and nursing students. Bates is a past president of the Consultant and Specialty Pharmacists of Michigan. He also served as a member of the MPA Executive Board from 2003-2005 and he was inducted into the MPA Hall of Honor in 2005.

Christensen has been serving her community and the profession of pharmacy for 17 years. For the past nine years, she has practiced as a pharmacist, including eight years with Spectrum Health. Currently, Christensen practices as a clinical pharmacy specialist for Spectrum Health Medical Group. In this role, she provides direct patient care to optimize medication use for patients through a collaborative practice agreement within the primary care setting. Christensen previously served as the director of pharmacy and oncology services for Spectrum Health United and Kelsey Hospitals. She continues to actively cultivate the profession of pharmacy by serving as adjunct clinical faculty and as a Pharmacy Alumni Board member for FSU College of Pharmacy. In addition, Christensen served on the MPA Executive Board from 2008-2010 and the Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists Board of Directors from 2013-2014.

Schalk is a clinical pharmacist at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, where she also completed a pharmacy practice residency after receiving her Doctor of Pharmacy from FSU in 2006. At Sparrow, she is an active member of several Committees, including Pharmacy & Therapeutics and Residency Advisory, as well as the Stroke Clinical Practice Team. In addition, Schalk serves as the editor of the *Pharmacy Capsule* newsletter and she precepts both residents and student pharmacists. Additionally, she is a reviewer for the *American Journal of Hospital Pharmacy* and she has assisted in numerous clinical trials in collaboration with the MSU Stroke Team. Schalk currently serves as a member of the MPA Local Association Development Committee. She is also active in her local organization, the Capital Area Pharmacists Association (CAPA) and is a past president of CAPA. Over the years, Schalk has assisted in organizing numerous CAPA events, including community education and awareness activities surrounding Michigan Pharmacy Week and National Poison Prevention Week.

Michigan Pharmacists Association, representing the nearly 9,000 pharmacists and 15,000 pharmacy technicians in Michigan, strives to serve members by providing support, advocacy and resources that ultimately improve patient care, safety, health and the practice of pharmacy. For more information, visit www.MichiganPharmacists.org.

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