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Feb. 24, 2017

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Klepser Awarded Executive Board Medal

Donald Klepser, Ph.D., M.B.A., of Omaha, Neb., will be presented with the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) Executive Board Medal at the MPA Annual Convention & Exposition, Feb. 24-26 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

The Executive Board Medal Award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary personal commitment to MPA. It is only one of two awards that may be given to a non-pharmacist by the Association. The award was developed to recognize individuals who have been instrumental to the MPA Executive Board and to the Association in advancing pharmacy's agenda.

Dr. Klepser is a leader in the profession for his ability to both innovate and implement effective changes in pharmacy practice that expand the role and services of the pharmacist. Dr. Klepser began his educational journey at the University of Michigan where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications in 1993. From there Dr. Klepser earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Minnesota in 1997. Dr. Klepser, using his previous education as the foundation, then went on to earn his Ph.D. in Pharmacy from the University of Iowa in May 2005. With his array of experience, and an interest in pharmacy that stemmed from his parent's pharmacy in Bay City, Mich., Dr. Klepser began positively impacting the profession of pharmacy.

In the midst of one of Michigan's worst public health crises, Dr. Klepser was instrumental in the implementation of a safe and effective pharmacy point-of-care test to gauge blood-lead levels in the residents of Flint, Mich. impacted by the unsafe lead levels in the city's water. In this pilot program, Dr. Klepser organized the funding for a formal leasing agreement between the participating Flint pharmacies and the blood analyzer companies. This pilot program demonstrated, without a doubt, the essential services pharmacists and community pharmacies provide patients, as well as pharmacists' ability to effectively serve the community during emergency and crisis situations.

Dr. Klepser was well poised for the Flint pilot program as he has spent his pharmacy career improving patient care and pharmacy-based services that include point-of-care testing. Over the last 10 years, he has committed his research and energies on pharmacy point-of-care testing, serving as one of the developers of the National Association of Chain Drugstore's Point-of-Care Testing Certificate Program as well as developing pharmacy-based HIV and HCV screening programs.

Currently, Dr. Klepser is an Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Pharmacy as well as the primary investigator on a grant working to understand how local and state health departments perceive pharmacists who conduct point-of-care testing. He is also collaborating with MPA in developing community antimicrobial stewardship training along with Michigan pharmacist, and brother, Mike Klepser. Dr. Klepser's contributions to the profession of pharmacy both in Michigan and nationally will be the building blocks from which the profession continues to evolve.

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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