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Public Relations Award Presented to Shafie

Saad R. Shafie of Ann Arbor will receive the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) Fred W. Arnold Public Relations Award during the Association's Annual Convention & Exposition, held Feb. 24-26 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

The Fred W. Arnold Public Relations Award, sponsored by the Michigan Pharmacy Foundation, recognizes an MPA member showing outstanding achievement and dedication to the pharmacy profession through community education and awareness.

Often one of the biggest barriers to patient care is a patient's access to their own care and medications. Shafie is being recognized for this award for his ongoing and continual commitment to patient care and service both within the pharmacy and the community, all with the ultimate goal of increasing patient access to quality medical care.

Shafie earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy in 1974 from the University of Cincinnati. Since 1989, Shafie has owned and operated Heyden Pharmacy, a local Detroit pharmacy in operation since 1960. He continues to practice to this day at Heyden Pharmacy which over the last several years has expanded pharmaceutical services to include group homes, consultation for health professionals and training of direct care workers. Outside of his independent pharmacy, Shafie has also served on the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Pharmacy Advisory Committee to help ensure the concerns and needs of pharmacists are part of the conversation as well as the advisory board for Team Mental Health Services of Detroit. Shafie has also been a fierce advocate for MPA, serving on the Pharmacy Response Network as well as representing the Association and its members in the community.

One of the primary reasons for Shafie's recognition is his continual service to the community with the goal of providing exceptional patient care. Shafie regularly volunteers and administers vaccinations at local churches, senior centers and other organizations throughout Detroit. Part of this work involves him and his staff conducting training for staff at mental health facilities regarding medication administration and disposal. In this environment, Shafie is able to train and educate student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and other healthcare providers regarding how to best serve their patients.

Shafie has spent his career becoming a resource and beacon of light for those in need. He is frequently called on by mental health providers to assist in medication management and education for patients, regardless of patients' healthcare coverage and the associated care costs, understanding that serving the community often means not serving the self. Shafie has been recognized by the Adult Well-Being Services of Detroit in 2011 as well as a "thank you" from Development Centers, Inc. in Detroit for an injectables donation and his ongoing work that keeps the city and communities of Detroit healthy. Shafie embodies what a pharmacist provides the community – local, personal and effective healthcare services.

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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