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Feb. 23, 2018

Contact: Kristina Bird, MPA director of communications
(517) 377-0232

Generation Rx Champions Award Presented to DeVuyst-Miller of Grand Rapids

Susan DeVuyst-Miller of Grand Rapids will be honored with the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) Generation Rx Champions Award during the Association's Annual Convention & Exposition, held Feb. 23-25 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

The Generation Rx Champions Award, sponsored by Cardinal Health Foundation, recognizes a pharmacist who has demonstrated excellence in community-based prescription drug abuse prevention. The award is intended to recognize outstanding efforts within the pharmacy community to raise awareness of this serious public health problem. It is also intended to encourage educational prevention efforts aimed at patients, youth, and other members of the community. The award recipient receives a \$500 donation to the charity of his/her choice.

"As trusted healthcare providers, pharmacists are uniquely positioned to play a key role in fighting the epidemic of prescription drug misuse," says Betsy Walker, community relations director at Cardinal Health and co-director of Generation Rx. "In that role, Susan DeVuyst-Miller has demonstrated great commitment to her community. The Cardinal Health Foundation is honored to join with the Michigan Pharmacists Association in congratulating and thanking her."

DeVuyst-Miller has dedicated her career to working with underserved populations directly impacted by the opioid epidemic and substance abuse. First earning her Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Central Michigan University in 1993, DeVuyst-Miller went on to spend several years working in mental health and specialized foster care, learning firsthand the positive impact healthcare and healthcare education can have on patient populations. In 2010, she completed her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ferris State University (FSU) and finished a PGY1 community pharmacy residency with Meijer, FSU and Pfizer in 2011. Currently DeVuyst-Miller is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at FSU.

Since earning her pharmacist license, DeVuyst-Miller has devoted time inside and out of the classroom to educating patients and the public about the dangers of opioid abuse as well as participating on several community boards and initiatives all working to prevent drug abuse and misuse. Notably, in cooperation with Farah Jalloul, Pharm.D., M.B.A.; Ryan Stankey, Pharm.D.; Michigan Pharmacists Association and Pharmacy Services Inc., she contributed to *PrO₂NE: Prescription Opioid Overdose Naloxone Education*. This reference text is an educational book for healthcare professionals and provides important information about opioid overdoses and naloxone, the opioid reversal agent. This resource also explains how to communicate important information about opioids and opioid overdoses to patients, family and friends. A portion of the sales of this resource go to support the Grand Rapids Red Project, which DeVuyst-Miller has been involved with since 2014 and where she currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors. The Grand Rapids Red Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing access to health-related services for patient populations in need and working toward preventing and reducing the risk of HIV.

Outside of this work, DeVuyst-Miller involves herself with several professional organizations and societies. She has served as the treasurer for the Kent County Pharmacists Association since 2012, served on multiple committees and advisory boards for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, chairs the Michigan Pharmacy Foundation Board of Trustees, is a member of the Kent County Opioid Task Force and many more. She has provided numerous presentations regarding pain-management, identifying at-risk patients for opioid overdoses and naloxone distribution programs. DeVuyst-Miller has given her time and attention to ensure patients in Michigan are informed and understand the risks of drug abuse and misuse.

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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