

Sandra Taylor Installed as Michigan Pharmacists Association President

Sandra Taylor will be installed as the 134th president of Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) during the Association's Annual Convention & Exposition, held Feb. 23-25 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. During the Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Feb. 24, Taylor will address MPA members at the largest state pharmacy association convention in the country.

Sandra Taylor received her Bachelor of Science degree at Wayne State University, graduating in 1981. It was before graduation and during an internship at a small community hospital in Detroit that Sandra realized hospital pharmacy was the direction she wanted to pursue. Sandra says her hospital director, "...took me under his wing and taught me the many facets of hospital pharmacy operations. He was a great mentor." This experience, coupled with her work as a part-time unit secretary in a hospital, demonstrated to Taylor the importance of a healthcare team saying, "I witnessed and realized the significance of interdisciplinary healthcare professionals working together to optimize patient care and outcomes."

After graduating with her Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State, she took a position at Mount Carmel Mercy Hospital in Detroit. It was not long after she began working at Mount Carmel Mercy that she was offered a position in management. She then returned to school attending Walsh Business College to receive her Master of Science in Finance to provide her with the foundational knowledge in business and finance to best assist her in her new position. Over the years, Taylor's career has grown and developed throughout hospital and pharmacy leadership and she currently serves as the pharmacy director at Beaumont Hospital, Wayne.

Like many of our members, Sandra became involved in Michigan Pharmacists Association at the encouragement of her supervisors. It is through the Association that pharmacy professionals are able to collaborate on initiatives that will ensure the continued evolution of the profession to stand against the constantly changing healthcare landscape. For Taylor, the Association has also helped her accomplish many goals she now considers high points in her career. Namely, she considers joining the Association and one of MPA's recognized locals, the Wayne County Pharmacists Association, as well as her involvement in a state-wide medication safety awareness initiative through the Association, as some of her biggest career highlights. She was also involved in the implementation of decentralized clinical pharmacy services and medication history technician programs, expanded the scope of practice for clinical pharmacists by incorporating them on multidisciplinary rounding teams and participated in quality and safety teams to provide optimal patient outcomes. She also led the pharmacy cutover for the conversion to a computerized physician order entry system as well as the successful merging of two pharmacy teams on two separate occasions, first at Mount Carmel and Grace Hospitals in Detroit and later at Grace and Siani Hospitals in Detroit. She also considers her time precepting pharmacy students and providing educational and professional support as one of her career highlights, knowing that mentoring the next generation of pharmacy students is necessary to ensure its continued strength.

During her tenure as president, Taylor would like to support MPA staff and membership to achieve the goals of the four strategic focus areas: membership, legislative, education and advancing the profession. But overarchingly, Taylor wants to assist in promoting the value of the pharmacist as an integral part of the healthcare team.

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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