



Michigan Pharmacists

A S S O C I A T I O N

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALEDONIA PHARMACIST RECEIVES INNOVATION AWARD

Sarah Lessard of Caledonia received the 2005 Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award from the Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) during the association's Annual Convention & Exposition, held Feb. 18-20 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

To be deserving of this award, which is sponsored by Elan Biopharmaceuticals, a pharmacist must demonstrate an innovative pharmacy practice program that results in improved patient care.

Lessard received her Doctor of Pharmacy from Ferris State University (FSU) College of Pharmacy in 2004. She is currently a resident with Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids. Lessard received the award for her participation during pharmacy school in a project to improve diabetes care.

The project, which used an interdisciplinary approach to diabetes care involving students of pharmacy, nursing and optometry, has evolved into an ongoing diabetes clinic at FSU's College of Optometry. Patients participating in the project receive medication counseling, eye examinations and nursing care, including foot exams, in a clinic setting. The project resulted in the proposal "The Development of a University-Based, Interdisciplinary Approach to Diabetes Care in a Rural Community Setting," which earned the students who participated the Secretary's Award for Innovations in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Lessard has been a member of MPA since 2004. She is a former president of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists student chapter at Ferris State University. In 2004, she received the Professional Practice Award from the Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

The MPA, serving over 3,500 pharmacy professionals, strives to be a leader in professional and scientific advancement by following its mission of encouraging and supporting its members as the professionals responsible for the delivery of patient-oriented pharmaceutical care.

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