



*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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## **LEXINGTON MAN NAMED PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR**

Stephen Ehardt received the 2005 Pharmacist of the Year Award at the Michigan Pharmacists Association's (MPA) Annual Convention & Exposition, held Feb. 18-20 in Dearborn. This award is Michigan's highest honor in the pharmacy profession.

The MPA Pharmacist of the Year Award is given to a pharmacist who demonstrates professional excellence and exemplary service to the profession in advancing public health at either the state or local level and displays all the traits and characteristics of someone with a true commitment to advancing the pharmaceutical profession and public health.

Ehardt, a member of MPA for 26 years, has been extremely active in the association. His service and dedication to MPA, the pharmacy profession and the public make him most deserving of this prestigious award. His involvement includes being a delegate to the MPA House of Delegates on multiple occasions, serving the membership as an Executive Board Member, with one year as chairman of the Executive Board, and serving on the Michigan Society of Community Pharmacists Board of Directors. Additionally, he was on the Pharmacy Services Inc. Board of Directors and the MPA Public Affairs Committee and is a member of the Michigan Pharmacy Foundation Gold Mortar and Pestle Club.

Ehardt might best be recognized for his ongoing political activity and advocacy for patients and the profession of pharmacy. He was initially elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1998 and was reelected to successive terms in 2000 and 2002. Ehardt was elected by the Republican House caucus to the leadership position of Associate Speaker Pro Tempore for two terms, ending in 2004. In addition, he was chairperson of the House Health Policy Committee, and served on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Insurance and Financial Services, Health Insurance, Conservation & Outdoor Recreation and Land Use and Environment Committees. During the 1999-2000 legislative session, Ehardt was vice chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee. He was also selected as vice chair of the House Task Force on Health Care, House Liaison to the Michigan Workforce Development Board and the Michigan Center for Rural Health.

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A 1978 graduate of Ferris State University (FSU), Ehardt received the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Distinguished Achievement Award in Community Pharmacy Practice in 1997, the APhA Hubert H. Humphrey Award for Public Service in 2003, was inducted into the MPA Hall of Honor in 2001 and was made a Fellow of MPA in 1991. He is president and CEO of Ehardt's Pharmacy, which has locations in Lexington, Croswell, Port Sanilac and Brown City.

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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Note: An electronic photo of the recipient is available upon request.