

National Association of Specialty Pharmacy Holds 4th Annual Meeting & Expo in Washington, D.C.

The National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP) held its 2016 Annual Meeting & Expo in Washington D.C., Sept. 26-28.

The meeting was attended by senior executives, pharmacy directors, staff pharmacists, consultants and other management level personnel from specialty pharmacy providers, infusion pharmacies, pharma/biotech manufacturers, institutional pharmacies, managed care organizations, GPOs, distributors and suppliers to the industry.

U.S. Congressman Earl “Buddy” Carter (Ga.-1), was one of four keynote speakers who spoke during the three-day event. During his address, titled “Specialty Pharmacy & National Policy,” Congressman Carter reaffirmed to an enthusiastic audience his commitment to supporting Specialty Pharmacy in Congress.

The only pharmacist in Congress, Congressman Carter noted that several pieces of important legislation pertaining to Specialty Pharmacy are currently pending in Congress including bills to address provider status, MAC transparency, and the issue of “Any Willing

Provider.” Another bill addresses “DIR fees” which NASP feels are confusing, misleading and economically debilitating to many specialty pharmacies.

“While I am the only pharmacist in Congress, these bills make clear that pharmacy has many friends on Capitol Hill and that it is important,” said Congressman Carter. “But, we need to grow the ranks of legislators who support our profession.”

“NASP is immensely proud to have the support of Congressman Carter,” said NASP President Zweigenhaft. “It is Members like him that understand the importance of Specialty Pharmacy to the millions of patients we serve, and who without the support of our industry would not have the successful service delivery it has today.”

Other keynote speakers included:

- Dan Mendelson, President of Avalere Health who spoke on “Health Trends Affecting Specialty Drugs.”

- Martin Mattei, Vice President, Clinical Product Innovation, MedImpact Healthcare Systems, Inc., who spoke on “A Prospective on Pharmacy Benefit



2016 NASP President Burt Zweigenhaft, left, and NASP Board of Directors Member Mike Agostino, on stage at the group's Annual Meeting.


Management: The Rise & Role of Specialty Pharmacy.”

- Douglas Long, Vice President, IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics, who presented “The Specialty Pharmacy Industry Report.”

Over the course of the three days, attendees were given the opportunity to choose from 30 CE courses.

New this year was NASP's sold-out Legal Day, which drew more than 250 practicing lawyers in the healthcare space who previously had been unable to receive Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits specific to their area of practice. These attendees were able to obtain 8 to 9.5 credit hours, including an ethics credit, as required by most states.

When not attending educational sessions, attendees accessed the exhibit hall where a plethora of vendors demonstrated some of the latest products and services available.

The 2017 NASP Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 17-20 at the Washington Marriott, Wardman Park, Washington, D.C. 



NASP Board Member Mike Agostino, left, with Amber Pharmacy team members. Amber hosted the Customer Appreciation Cocktail Reception.



Richard Lewis of ProCE, left, helps man the NASP booth in the Exhibit Hall.



NASP's Burt Zweigenhaft, left, Mike Agostino, second from right, and Roy Bigler, ACHC, far right, present the Specialty Pharmacy of the Year Award to, from left to right, Avella Specialty Pharmacy's Leslie Yendro, Nathan Downhour, Kelly Mathews, Todd Speranzo, Abby Kaplan, and Eric Sredzinski.



Presenting the Distinguished Service to Specialty Pharmacy Award to Sheila Arquette are, from left, Burt Zweigenhaft, NASP, Mike Agostino, NASP, and Roy Bigler, ACHC.

Two Prestigious Awards Presented at NASP Annual Meeting

Kicking off the fourth annual National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP) meeting, the 2016 President of NASP, Burt Zweigenhaft, announced the industry's two much-anticipated awards recognizing the best in the business of specialty pharmacy — the Specialty Pharmacy of the Year Award and the Distinguished Service to Specialty Pharmacy Award.

"This year's NASP award winners are exemplary representatives of the specialty pharmacy industry," said Zweigenhaft. "Specialty Pharmacy provides a crucial and unique service to the most vulnerable patients in the country, ensuring they have access to the life-changing medications they need, along with the necessary support to endure complex treatments.

Specialty Pharmacy of the Year

Of the 1,200 corporate association members, Avella Specialty Pharmacy


was selected as the Specialty Pharmacy of the Year for embodying the practice of pharmacy in the field of Specialty, based on community involvement, patient satisfaction, cost management, quality/performance improvement initiatives, and innovation in the field, which includes patient care and outcomes, disease state and therapy management, and patient engagement.

"Every day, we're searching for new medications and technologies to ease the burden of care for thousands of patients and families suffering from rare, chronic and debilitating diseases," said Todd Speranzo on behalf of Avella Specialty Pharmacy. "The entire healthcare system will benefit from the advances we've made this year, but in Specialty Pharmacy, the patient comes first. I proudly accept this award on behalf of Avella, and we remain committed to facilitating the highest quality care available for specialty pharmacy patients nationwide."

Distinguished Service to Specialty Pharmacy Award

Sheila Arquette, Director of Pharmacy Services for Independent Health, was honored with the Distinguished Service to Specialty Pharmacy Award, recognizing her exceptional and sustained leadership within NASP and the specialty pharmacy industry.

"Sheila is an extremely hard worker and has done so much for Specialty Pharmacy even answering emails at 4 a.m.," said Zweigenhaft. "We can't thank her enough for her commitment to this industry."

"I am humbled and honored to accept NASP's Distinguished Service Award," said Arquette. "The patient-centric model that drives specialty pharmacy should serve as a model for the health industry as a whole, and I am dedicated to bolstering NASP's efforts to make that happen." 


Rebecca M. Shanahan to Lead NASP in 2017

The National Association of Specialty Pharmacy's Board of Directors has named Rebecca M. Shanahan as President for the 2017 term. She succeeds Burt Zweigenhaft, Operating Partner, BelHealth Investment Partners, who becomes Immediate Past President for 2017. Both currently serve on the NASP Board of Directors and on the Board's Executive Committee.

Shanahan is currently Chief Executive Officer at Avella Specialty Pharmacy and brings extensive health-

care and specialty pharmacy experience to Avella Specialty Pharmacy and to NASP. She served as executive vice president and head of the Aetna Specialty Pharmacy from 2005-2007 and as a member of Avella Specialty Pharmacy's Board of Directors from 2010-2013.

Prior to joining Avella Specialty Pharmacy, Shanahan was president of Shanahan Capital Ventures, LLC, (SCV) a consulting firm that built strategic business initiatives and programs for a number of healthcare entities in the United

States and Canada. SCV clients included Cardinal Healthcare Specialty Solutions, Shoppers Drug Mart, Rite Aid Pharmacy, US BioServices, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Inspirational Biologics, MedSolutions, and Reliant Rehabilitation. 



Rebecca M. Shanahan