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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ARKANSAS PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION HONORS INDIVIDUALS WITH 2017 AWARDS**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR** – The Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA) with other sponsoring organizations, presented eleven awards to deserving individuals on Thursday, June 8, during its 135th Annual Convention held at the Little Rock Marriott Downtown from June 8-10.

APA 2017 Award recipients include:

**2017 Pharmacist of the Year:** Laura Lumsden, Pharm.D., of Little Rock. This award recognizes pharmacists for outstanding contributions to the profession and the advancement of pharmacy.

**2017 Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year:** Joshua Bright, Pharm.D. of Harrison. This award recipient must have graduated from pharmacy school less than 10 years ago and be active, involved and interested in the future of the profession.

**2017 Bowl of Hygeia Award:** Sue Frank, PD of Little Rock. The award, sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, with support from Boehringer-Ingelheim, was established to honor pharmacists who have contributed to the progress of their community through community service.

**2017 Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award:** Jody Smotherman, Pharm.D., of Batesville. This award was established by the APA in cooperation with the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations to recognize a pharmacist who has demonstrated a prominent spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in the practice of pharmacy.

**2017 Cardinal Health Generation Rx Award:** Rob Christian, Pharm.D., of Little Rock. This award honors a pharmacist who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to raising awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse among the general public and among the pharmacy community.

**2017 Guy Newcomb Award:** Senator Jason Rapert and Representative Clint Penzo. This award recognizes individuals who, by their legislative influence and leadership, have distinguished themselves as political friends of Arkansas pharmacy.

**2017 Charles M. West Leadership Award:** Ms. Meggan Edmondson, fourth-year student at the UAMS College of Pharmacy, received an award to recognize her leadership skills and contribution to the profession of pharmacy. Mrs. Mary Bradley and Mr. Ahmed Salem also were awarded Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation Endowed Scholarships.

**2017 Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation Award:** Ms. Schrell Crockett, fourth-year student at the Harding University College of Pharmacy, received an award from the Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation to recognize her leadership skills and contribution to the profession of pharmacy.

*The Arkansas Pharmacists Association, founded in 1882, is the statewide professional association representing approximately 2,200 pharmacists in Arkansas. APA strives to further the professional advancement of pharmacists, advocate the value of pharmacy, and safeguard the health and well-being of every Arkansan. Its mission is to advance a professional and business environment for Arkansas pharmacists to be successful and fulfilled in serving patients.*

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