**Excellence in Innovation** **Award Speech**

The Excellence in Innovation Award is a national award coordinated by the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, and generously sponsored by Upsher-Smith Laboratories, LLC to recognize and honor a qualified pharmacist who has demonstrated significant innovation in their respective practice, method or service directly or indirectly resulting in improved patient care and/or advancement of the profession of pharmacy.

The tradition of designing innovative pharmaceuticals has been the commitment of Upsher-Smith Laboratories and is driven by the ever-changing needs of patients, physicians, pharmacists, and healthcare organizations. Their perspective is not “more products,” but the right products that make people’s lives better. At every level of their business, they are driven to be the best.

The pharmacist receiving this award is a Past President of our association and in fact continued as president beyond her term to serve for two years. This pharmacist is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the University Of New Mexico College Of Pharmacy while in a shared position as a Walgreen's pharmacist.

She received the 2013 Next Generation Pharmacist Patient Care Provider of the Year!   She is one of two instructors who developed the “New Mexico Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority for Naloxone Protocol” training which allows New Mexico Pharmacists to prescribe naloxone to patients at risk for opioid overdose.  She is involved with several organizations working to reduce the New Mexico opioid prescription drug overdose death rates.

Her dedication in providing Immunizations throughout the state of New Mexico is truly amazing! She has provided patient information as well as thousands of vaccinations at community health fairs around the state.

She has been involved in the development of pharmacist prescribing protocols and in updating the existing protocols to maintain current practice standards. She is currently working on a protocol to allow pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraception.

This pharmacist has also been instrumental in bringing pharmacist’s participation to the Dental Associations “Mission of Mercy,” held in three New Mexico cities. The Mission of Mercy program provided free dental care and free dental related medications to thousands of New Mexico residents who have no insurance or ability to pay for dental care. This 2020 Recipient’s ongoing innovation & adaptability of performing COVID-19 testing make her the obvious choice in receiving this award!

**Please join me in congratulating this year’s recipient, Amy Bachyrycz.**