

FSMB 2021 Annual Meeting Will Be Virtual

After many weeks of deliberation, the FSMB has announced that the 2021 FSMB Annual Meeting will be held virtually in late April 2021. The FSMB made the decision due to the recent surge in COVID-19 cases around the country and the expectation by public health officials that the rate of infection is likely to remain high throughout the winter.

The 2021 meeting was scheduled to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, April 29–May 1. Plans are currently being formulated for the kick-off time and duration of the virtual version of the event, and for programming and content that will be offered to online attendees.

“We are disappointed that we will not get to physically gather in person as we have in years past, but we are already hard at work developing a robust virtual program that will build off of the success of the 2020 virtual House of Delegates business meeting and educational series,” said FSMB President and CEO Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MACP. “The program will feature keynote speakers and opportunities for networking and information-sharing on a wide range of issues related to medical regulation.”

More information about the event will be made public as it becomes available. Questions about the meeting should be directed to Kelly Alfred, Director of FSMB Education Services, at kalfred@fsmb.org.

Influential FSMB Chief Executive Dr. Bryant Galusha Mourned

Bryant L. Galusha, MD, who played a pivotal role in FSMB’s growth and future as the organization’s chief executive officer in the 1980s, passed away on Nov. 5, 2020. He was 92.

A long-time member of the North Carolina Medical Board, Dr. Galusha served on numerous FSMB national committees before being elected as the organization’s president in 1981. During his tenure as president, the FSMB held its first free-standing annual meeting in New Orleans in 1982, a significant event in FSMB’s history as it began to gain prominence in the national health care community.

In 1984, Dr. Galusha was named FSMB’s Executive Vice President. During the next five years he was instrumental in enhancing the visibility of the FSMB nationally, modernizing its infrastructure, and advocating for the development of a single medical licensing examination pathway for all U.S. physicians, which culminated in the establishment of the United States Medical Licensing Examination in 1991. As a result of Dr. Galusha’s many contributions, the FSMB established the annual Dr. Bryant L. Galusha Lecture at its 1990 Annual Meeting.

Former Alabama Board of Medical Examiners Executive Director Larry Dixon passes away

Larry Dixon, the former executive director of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners, passed away from complications of COVID-19 Dec. 4. He was 78.

During his lengthy career in medical regulation, Mr. Dixon distinguished himself as both an administrator and a public servant for the advancement of medicine and the medical regulatory process. He joined the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners as the board’s Executive Director in 1981 and subsequently led numerous initiatives to enhance the board’s licensing and disciplinary processes and improve patient safety and welfare in the state. He retired from the board in 2016 after 35 years of service.

He served four terms on the FSMB Board of Directors and he was active in Administrators in Medicine for many years, serving as the organization’s first president from 1984 to 1986. He received the FSMB’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. During most of his tenure with the medical board, Mr. Dixon simultaneously served his state as a member and leader in the Alabama Legislature, holding office for 28 years before stepping down in 2011. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey issued a directive that flags be flown at half-staff at the State Capitol in Montgomery in his honor.

Pennsylvania Medical Board Member wins iPad for JMR Survey Participation

Ron Domen, MD, Vice Chair of the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine, is the lucky recipient of a new iPad for participating in the recent *JMR* Readership Survey. Dr. Domen’s name was selected in a random drawing



from the many members of the state medical board community who participated in the survey.

Dr. Domen, who joined the Pennsylvania board in March 2019, is a Professor of Pathology, Medicine and Humanities at Penn State Health and College of Medicine, Hershey, Pennsylvania.

The survey, which allowed recipients to voice their opinions about the editorial quality, content and design of *JMR*, has provided invaluable feedback to *JMR* staff to help them better serve readers' needs in the future. An analysis of survey results will be included in a future issue of *JMR*.

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission Elects New Officers

During the recent annual meeting of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (IMLCC), new officers were elected. The new leadership slate includes:

- Nebraska Commissioner Jesse Cushman was elected Chair.
- Nevada Commissioner Edward Cousineau was re-elected Vice Chair.
- Maryland Commissioner Christine Farrelly was re-elected Treasurer.
- Maine Commissioner Timothy Terranova is now serving as Past Chair.

Committee membership and committee chairs are being assigned in accordance with the IMLCC Bylaws. All IMLCC committee meetings are open to the public. Information about IMLCC meetings can be found on the IMLCC's webpage, at www.imlcc.org/imlc-commission/public-notices-agendas-and-minutes/.

New NABP Consumer Website Dispenses Medication Safety Information

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) has launched a new, redesigned version of its website, www.safe.pharmacy, which provides information and other resources aimed at helping prevent prescription drug abuse, including how to safely use medication, how boards of pharmacy and pharmacists

can serve as resources for consumers and where to find permanent drug disposal locations.

The newly redesigned site includes information from the NABP's Pharmacy Verified Websites Program as well as NABP's Awarxe® Prescription Drug Safety Program. Consumers can use the website to find a safe online pharmacy by searching a list of NABP-verified websites.

According to NABP, patients are increasingly turning to the internet for convenience and cost savings when buying their prescription medications. The trend is concerning because the NABP estimates that 95% of websites selling prescription-only medicine are doing so illegally.

The rogue websites are not licensed to dispense medication in the United States, dispense without a prescription, and distribute medications that are foreign, unapproved, substandard and counterfeit, according to the NABP.

Substandard and counterfeit medications may contain too much, too little, or none of the active pharmaceutical ingredients that patients need.

Some illegal online pharmacies pretend to be based in Canada to give the illusion of more stringent regulation and safer drugs, but they may be based in countries without the regulatory safeguards found in the United States and Canada, according to the NABP.

The NABP's newly updated website also includes sample social media posts and newsletter and blog articles that state medical boards can use to inform their licensees of online prescribing dangers and about these new resources for their patients.

The NABP is one of the three partners—along with the FSMB and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)—in the Tri-Regulator Collaborative, an initiative launched several years ago to better align medical, nursing and pharmacy regulators. The three organizations represent various state boards that together regulate more than 5 million physicians, pharmacists and nurses in the United States.

To learn more about the NABP website, visit <https://safe.pharmacy>. To see resources available from NABP for state medical board licensees, visit <https://safe.pharmacy/online-pharmacy/>.