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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **APA'S CRUMBAUGH RECEIVES NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARD**

LITTLE ROCK, AR (March 30, 2014) –The Arkansas Pharmacists Association’s (APA) Director of Clinical Programs, Dr. Eric Crumbaugh, was named the national winner of the 2014 American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Immunization Champion Award recognizing the value and extraordinary contributions pharmacists provide to improving the vaccination rates of their communities. The award was presented on Sunday, March 30, during the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Orlando, March 28-31, 2014.

APA President and CEO Mark Riley, Pharm.D., said “Eric’s work has contributed to a healthier Arkansas as he trains pharmacists to provide more immunizations to our citizens. We’re proud of his efforts and of the tremendous increase in pharmacist-administered vaccinations since 2012. We hope that program will continue to grow.”

APhA’s awards recognized six categories including individual practitioner, friend of pharmacy’s immunization efforts, corporation/institution, partnerships with other healthcare providers and public health, community outreach and pharmacy team member. Nominees were evaluated based on the areas of impact, collaboration, originality, overcoming challenges and opportunities created for pharmacists. These awards highlight contributions to the immunization neighborhood by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies.

Crumbaugh’s nomination for the individual practitioner award cited the following efforts. “Over the last five years, Eric Crumbaugh has emerged as a leader in Arkansas for pharmacist-delivered immunizations. Crumbaugh was hired in February 2012 as the Arkansas Pharmacists Association’s immunization grant coordinator. The program’s goal was to achieve a 10 percent increase in the number of pharmacist-administered adult influenza, herpes zoster and pneumococcal vaccinations by August 2013. This goal was achieved through Crumbaugh’s leadership, working with insurers, the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, the Arkansas state immunization registry and Arkansas pharmacists. He also was instrumental in establishing an interdisciplinary state immunization action coalition and working with Arkansas pharmacies in improving immunization rates of pharmacy staff members. He has assisted pharmacists in developing, implementing and delivering immunization services and has traveled statewide to educate pharmacists and student pharmacists. Crumbaugh has been

involved in a successful media campaign throughout Arkansas, highlighting the role of pharmacists in delivering immunizations. In addition to developing program materials for pharmacists, Crumbaugh is an active contributor in the quest to increase vaccination rates in Arkansas and has personally administered thousands of vaccinations.”

The 2014 APhA Immunization Champion Awards program is supported by Merck and Novartis Vaccines & Diagnostics. More than 80 nomination packets describing innovative immunizing pharmacists and pharmacy personnel were received in 2014.

*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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