

The pharmacists of the USPHS have had a vital role in protecting the health of our Nation for over 100 years. Whether serving as clinicians in the Indian Health Service or Bureau of Prisons, conducting research at the National Institutes of Health, working on the drug approval process at the Food and Drug Administration, assisting in the Department of Homeland Security or conducting disease surveillance activities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USPHS pharmacists continue this proud tradition. USPHS pharmacists were directly involved in response efforts after the attack on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and at the site of the plane crash in Somerset County, Pennsylvania; as well as participating in the mass antibiotic prophylaxis campaigns in Washington D.C. and New York after potential anthrax exposures. More recently, pharmacists played key roles in the efforts to support the Hurricane Isabel disaster and continue vital roles in preparedness efforts to terrorist threats.

Today we face a public health crisis in America with the rise in obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. With the advent of these new public health challenges, pharmacy students are more and more involved in finding innovative ways to address these challenges. The Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award is meant to identify these pharmacy students and recognize their contributions.

A USPHS Pharmacist identified as the point of contact (POC) for your university will be in contact with you throughout the awards process to help facilitate any questions or concerns you may have. We have updated the awards process to include a later closing date for nominations and an electronic application. Hopefully, this will give you more time to decide upon on a nominee and will allow us to plan for a pharmacist to present the award at your awards ceremony.

Directions for the Award Process, Nomination forms and Checklist are also available on this website. Identification and selection of the nominee is the responsibility of each pharmacy school. **Nominations will be accepted no later than close of business on 01 March 2004.** We request that you submit the completed nomination application electronically to LT Kristen Maves at klmaves@anmc.org, by **01 March 2004** to allow time for processing and preparation. The final selection will be conducted by the USPHS Awards Committee. The selection process will be a limited competitive process.

I hope that you will be able to participate in our awards program in order to recognize students for their contribution and dedication to public health. If you have any questions about the awards program, please contact your POC or LT Kristen Maves at 907-729-2159 or via email at klmaves@anmc.org.