

Thanks, Mitzi!

It's my privilege, on behalf of the AMCP Foundation, to present this year's Steven G. Avey Award.

Of all the duties assumed by a Foundation Board President, handing out the Avey Award at Annual Meeting is easily the most enjoyable. Yet, for me this year's ceremony is a tad bittersweet. That's because tonight marks completion of my four gratifying years as "El Jefe" of the Board and thus my last chance to be Presidential!

Without doubt, the Avey Award is managed care pharmacy's highest accolade. Its winners have demonstrated exceptional service to the profession. They are thought leaders. They advocate for medication management in clinical practice, in research and in benefit administration. And they are role models for the next generation of practitioners who will spearhead the growth of managed care pharmacy in the future.

The Avey Award recognition of pioneers and leaders in managed care pharmacy is clearly in harmony with the Foundation's mission. The Foundation Board hopes it will inspire others who work in our field!

I want to express gratitude, not only to my colleagues on the AMCP Foundation Board, but also to AMCP members, to donors, and to our funding partners, Upsher-Smith and MedImpact -- they have all made tonight's Avey Award celebration possible.

I would like to ask Past Avey Award winners to please stand up and be recognized! *[lead APPLAUSE]*

And now, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the 2019 Steven G. Avey Award winner...**Steven G. Avey!**

Although Steve acquired his pharmacy education in Utah and now lives in Arizona, he is really a Californian – born and raised in the heart of Los Angeles! In his teens, Steve’s family moved to Simi Valley where – lucky for him – he met his wife Colleen, a transplanted Canadian from Vernon in British Columbia’s Okanagan Valley. The high school sweethearts married in 1971. Now, almost 48 years later, they dote on their four children – two girls, two boys -- and 18 grandchildren. None of Steve and Colleen’s offspring are pharmacists but ironically two of them work for PBMs – one as a health educator and another in systems quality control.

Steve originally aspired to be an architect. But as a teenager, he took a part-time job at a neighborhood pharmacy where a young “relief” pharmacist took Steve under his wing and made him “fall in love with pharmacy as a career.”

At the University of Utah in Salt Lake City Steve earned Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Master of Science in Pharmacy Administration degrees, laying the foundation for his distinguished career.

Steve was a marathon runner in his younger days, with eight full marathons and 15 half-marathons to his credit. These days he enjoys playing golf...when he and Colleen aren't indulging their love of travel to favorite destinations like China, Israel, Egypt, Switzerland and Norway!

I can't really plumb the full depths of Steve's contributions to the pharmacy profession in this brief introduction. However, I must salute his extraordinary achievements with AMCP, especially during his six years as the Foundation Executive Director from 1999 to 2005.

To Steve, his proudest accomplishment as the Foundation ED was to shepherd the development and broad dissemination of the *AMCP Format for Formulary Submissions*. This was key in accelerating pharmacy management as a fundamental strength and core competence of managed care.

But wait...there's more! Steve also oversaw creation of the P&T Competition in 2000 and the Best Poster Competition in 2002...programs that continue to grow and thrive, and have provided inspiration and guidance to countless student pharmacists over the past two decades.

So, what do you give a guy who has everything? Why not the managed pharmacy career accolade that has borne his name since 2005 when the Foundation re-named its Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize Steve's contributions to enhancing the medication assessment process for health plan formularies.

Fortunately for us, Steve's contributions to the profession have continued unabated in the 15 years since the Foundation paid tribute for a singular accomplishment. This year, his colleagues decided it was high time he be recognized for a lifetime of outstanding contributions to managed care pharmacy.

As he comes up to accept the 2019 Avey Award, please join me in congratulating Steve on this eponymous honor!!!