



## *Aaron P. Webb, PharmD, MS*

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### **Legacies Aren't a Burden, But a Blessing**

As the son of an influential pharmacy couple and a graduate of the prestigious University of Wisconsin Masters of Science program, Aaron is no stranger to legacies and “bigger-than-life” role models. When he was a student pharmacist at the University of North Carolina where his parents have strong connections, he realized that having powerful legacies carries high expectations. Rather than begrudging his legacy, Aaron chose to embrace it, leveraging a strong network to his professional advantage and viewing it as a challenge to achieve his own career success.

Aaron P. Webb received his PharmD at the University of North Carolina Eshelman College of Pharmacy and his MS in Pharmacy Administration at the University of Wisconsin. He completed a 2-year residency in hospital pharmacy administration at the University of Wisconsin Hospital & Clinics. He is currently Pharmacy Manager of Inpatient Pharmacy Operations at UWHealth and Clinical Instructor at the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy. Aaron is responsible for providing leadership and oversight for all aspects of the pharmacy operations in the main hospital. An active member of the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin and ASHP, Aaron was appointed to the Board of Pharmacy Specialties Sterile Compounding Practice Analysis Taskforce.

Aaron's advice is: ***Develop a career vision, with the ultimate professional goal of ensuring a body of work that constitutes a legacy of your own.***



#### ***Dear Young Pharmacist,***

As a young pharmacist, I received sage advice from a mentor to develop and maintain a continuous professional development (CPD) plan so that I would have a blueprint for how I wanted to reach my career goals. This mentor was

clearly in a great position to offer such advice being an icon in pharmacy himself. He encouraged me to think about what I wanted my legacy to be as I developed my CPD plan. A CPD plan is important in managing your own development to better understand where you are in your career and where you want to be in the future. Part of this CPD plan was to develop a career vision, with the ultimate professional goal of ensuring a body of work that constitutes a legacy of my own. For me, that involved leaving my “imprint” on the people and organizations with whom I work throughout my career.

People who know me from my undergraduate days would say that this is like an orange tiger paw on the road that leads into the football stadium at Clemson University. I want to create a legacy that demonstrates a positive impact to those I interact with in my professional and personal life. When I was younger, the thought of a legacy was not very important to me. It still didn't seem important as I transitioned into the young professional phase of my life, and in some ways the thought of a legacy made me feel uncomfortable. Now I realize how fast life and career seems to fly past and how important it is to focus on your goals and legacy, especially early in your career. In fact, it should be the ultimate goal for most professionals to leave an organization and the people around them in better shape than when they arrived.

One of the very first steps I took was to reach out to mentors whose legacies I admired to figure out how their own paths evolved. They challenged me to think about what has made me successful to this point, both professionally and personally, and why a legacy is fundamental to my larger career vision. I believe part of the basis for my perspective is that legacies of many types have always been a part of my professional life because both of my parents are pharmacists with impactful careers. This has helped me in many ways, but it has also presented challenges.

The upside of my legacy is that from a young age I was exposed to many opportunities in pharmacy as well as a broad network of successful pharmacists. This vast network afforded me the opportunity to meet great leaders in our profession. It also made me aware that there were many career paths in pharmacy and that it was a great profession. I always knew someone who could help me learn more about various areas of pharmacy or make the right connections. My supportive parents knew and understood the trials of several years of school followed by 2 years of an administrative residency. The values they instilled in me and their support nurtured a foundation on which my preceptors and mentors could build.

The downside of my legacy is a combination of expectations and preconceptions, which have always made me uncomfortable and sometimes even made me push my legacy away. At times, I have avoided letting my family connections be known. However, it seems that everywhere I go in pharmacy I meet people who can share