



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ryan C. Costantino Selected  
as 2022 Recipient of  
Albert B. Prescott Pharmacy Leadership Award  
for Early-Career Leadership**

**December 8, 2021, South Lyon, MI** - In the 36<sup>th</sup> annual presentation, the Pharmacy Leadership and Education Institute (PLEI) has named U.S. Army Major Ryan C. Costantino, PharmD, MS, BCPS, BCGP, CPHIMS of San Antonio, Texas, the 2022 recipient of the Albert B. Prescott Pharmacy Leadership Award. Dr. Costantino is recognized for his outstanding leadership in organizing the Department of Defense Opioid Registry, Virtual Data Environment, and Digital Biobank, and serving as an advocate and pioneer for pharmacy quality measures within the Military Healthcare System. Major Costantino currently serves as the Director of Data Innovation for the Enterprise Intelligence and Data Solutions Program Management Office within the Defense Healthcare Management Systems Program Executive Office at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. Costantino is an expert in palliative care and has written several peer-reviewed publications and book chapters on diverse topics early in his career. Dr. Costantino is a strong advocate for patients and seeks out contemporary issues that directly affect patient outcomes in his leadership roles. Dr. Costantino will receive his award and deliver a scholarly address during the APhA Annual Meeting in San Antonio in March 2022.

The Albert B. Prescott Pharmacy Leadership Award recognizes a pharmacist fewer than 10 years past graduation for demonstrating exemplary leadership qualities indicative of someone likely to emerge as a major leader in pharmacy over the course of his or her career. It evolved from an award first presented in 1987 by Phi Delta Chi to recognize leadership by a young pharmacist. It is currently coordinated by the Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute (PLEI), with major support from the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society. In conjunction with accepting the award, each recipient delivers a scholarly lecture on issues such as pharmacy as a profession, leadership, or future trends in pharmacy practice or education.

The selection committee was chaired by PLEI Board Member Dennis Worthen and included PLEI Board Member W. Michael Heath; Phi Delta Chi President Andrea Bourque; Phi Lambda Sigma President-Elect Anthony DeClue, and the previous four recipients of this prestigious award: Robert Pugliese, Joey Mattingly, Lindsay Kunkle, and Jennifer Bacci.

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### **About U.S. Army Major Ryan C. Costantino, PharmD, MS, BCPS, BCGP, CPHIMS**

Dr. Costantino received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences in 2012. He holds two master's degrees from the University of Maryland focused on Palliative Care and Pharmaceutical Health Service Research and has completed a Fellowship in Palliative Care.

Dr. Costantino was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army following his PGY1 residency and currently holds the rank of Major. He was deployed in early 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide pharmacy services at an Army Field Hospital deployed to Seattle, WA. His work in forming the Department of Defense (DOD) Opioid Registry created a capability that screens and alerts clinicians to a person who meets DOD criteria for naloxone. Since December 2020, this tool has been used over 115,000 times and is used with 70% of patients receiving opioids at an Army Military Treatment Facility.



Additionally, he has worked on implementing point of care intervention and clinical documentation tools, as well as volunteering to chair various quality related committees within the Defense Health Agency (DHA). His work directly improves the execution of DHA's \$7.4 billion pharmaceutical budget and the lives of 9.4 million Tricare beneficiaries. With the Enterprise Intelligence and Data solutions program office, Dr. Costantino leads a number of data science activities including the creation of a Department of Defense Digital Biobank to house and analyze bacterial and human genomic data, a virtual nationwide military health system data environment, and a project to improve DOD health data quality.

Dr. Costantino holds academic appointments as an affiliate Assistant Professor for the University of Maryland School Of Pharmacy and as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Military and Emergency Medicine at the Uniformed Services University. He served as the Clinical Science Section Chair of the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science (APhA-APRS) and currently serves on the Council of Pharmacy Management within the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). He has also held leadership positions in Phi Delta Chi, ACCP, the Civil Air Patrol, and the Defense Health Agency Pharmacy Operations Division.

### **About Albert B. Prescott**

Albert B. Prescott was Dean of Pharmacy at the University of Michigan from 1870 to 1905. A maverick, he was rebuffed by APhA for his heretical view that pharmacy should be an education-based profession – not an experience-based trade. The credentials committee at the 1871 APhA convention rejected Prescott as unworthy of being seated as a voting delegate. But Prescott persevered. By the 1890s, Prescott's vision and convictions were proven correct. The rest of the country began to follow Prescott's lead. Ironically, he was eventually elected president of APhA in 1899, and became the first president of the organization we now know as the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), when it was founded in 1900.

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### **About the Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute, Inc. (PLEI)**

The Pharmacy Leadership & Education Institute (PLEI) facilitates engaging professional leader development activities, to enable personal growth that will transform the delivery of healthcare. In 2021, PLEI established its [Academy for Leader Development](#) that offers on-line training to develop leaders, enhance teamwork, and drive success through personal, interactive sessions. PLEI coordinates the Prescott Pharmacy Leadership Award, Leader Development Seminars, Leader Development Institute, the *Lead←Grow→Shape* leadership workbook, and other educational events for pharmacists and student pharmacists across the country. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recognizes PLEI as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization; EIN 58-2296988. You can learn more about PLEI at [www.plei.org](http://www.plei.org).

### **About Phi Lambda Sigma**

Phi Lambda Sigma was established in 1965 to develop leadership qualities among pharmacy students and pharmacists and to recognize leaders in the profession. Today, the Society's National Executive Committee, and 134 collegiate chapters, build upon this foundation and work to cultivate leader development and inspire transformational change within pharmacy. Phi Lambda Sigma hosts an annual Leadership Summit each summer and utilizes the GiANT Worldwide platform as its primary leader development program through the year in order to equip and empower the next generation of pharmacy leaders. More information can be found at: [www.philambdasigma.org](http://www.philambdasigma.org).

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