



Remarks from the 2010 USP Beal Award Recipient

Thomas S. Foster, Pharm.D.

(as prepared for delivery)

2010 Convention

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Friday, April 23, 2010

Dr. Bravo, thank you so much for that warm and generous introduction. Members of the Convention, Board of Trustees, Expert Committee Colleagues, Dr Williams, USP Staff, Guests and Friends, I am honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award in honor of the Beals whose pioneering commitments to a public standard setting process were the foundation for the volunteer spirit and commitment essential and unique to the success of the United States Pharmacopeia. I also want to thank the Beal Award Nominations Committee for their consideration in naming me recipient of this prestigious award. Unlike the Academy Awards and the Oscars ceremonies where there is an element of mystery and surprise with the naming of the winning candidate, the Beal Award announcement came in a telephone call from Roger Williams late last fall followed by an announcement on the USP website and a broadcast email to all of the USP family. Since that time I have received numerous congratulatory telephone call, e-mails, cards and letters. Many, many thanks to all of you for your kind and thoughtful words.

I know that that there were many outstanding candidates considered by the Committee for the Beal Award, many of whom I have had a chance to work with at USP over many years. I am privileged to stand in tall timber. This is what makes the award so special, to be considered in the company of these extraordinarily hardworking and dedicated professionals that have so ably served USP over countless years.

I want to take time to express my sincere appreciation to the individuals who nominated me for the Beal Award. They came from the ranks of the Expert Committees I have had the privilege to serve on. I learned that the principal nomination came from Ms. Vivian Grey representing the Biopharmaceutics Expert Committee. I have had the good fortune of working with Vivian for over 20 years. My first encounter with her was in 1990 when she then served as USP staff liaison to the Dissolution and Bioavailability Subcommittee. She was and continues to be a spitfire, an enduring spirit and a gifted colleague who is recognized world-wide for her expertise in dissolution technology. She continues to train me on the science and subtleties of this in-vitro drug product performance test. Her co-nominators were Drs. Eli Shefter and Tom Reinders. Dr. Shefter and I go back to Buffalo in the late 60's where he was a young assistant professor of pharmaceuticals and I was one his first students. His wit and dry humor coupled with a fabulous mind and enormous grasp of pharmaceutical science were very helpful in the learning process in those early years of pharmacy training and were the stimuli for considering doctoral training in the clinical and biopharmaceutical sciences. It has been a great pleasure to have his continued input and advice as a member of the DBA and currently the Biopharmaceutics Expert Committee. Tom Reinders and I are kindred souls. We came from similar training grounds and joined the USP family at about the same time. We learned together the structure and processes of USP, especially with regard to nomenclature. It has been a privilege to serve with Tom as

he has participated and currently chairs the Nomenclature Expert Committee. He is a steady hand who has the unique talent of being able to calmly and wisely navigate the essential nomenclature committee functions.

I am a sailor and have a great first mate, my wife Marijo has been my compass and companion for 40 plus years. Without her, none of this would be possible. She has been overwhelmingly supportive of my professional activities over the years and has encouraged my association with USP and its programs and services.

Yes, as I mentioned earlier, USP is a family and an extraordinary one at that. During my professional career, I have had the good fortune of serving in leadership positions in many professional and regulatory organizations. None have been as professionally satisfying and rewarding than that of USP service. I am sure that many of you who have contributed to the USP mission have similar feelings. The impact of the public standard setting process is monumental and is a critical underpinning to assuring safe and effective medications are available to the citizens of the United States and increasingly to people around the world.

I have alluded to the strong mentoring and professional nurturing relationships that have shaped my career and ultimately commitment to USP programs and activities. Many of these relationships grew similar to a “daisy chain,” a figurative term I like to use denoting associated things or people or experiences. My interest in USP began early in my residency training at Kentucky. My mentor, Dr. Paul Parker introduced us to the USP mission early in residency training. Paul served as the USP treasurer for many years. I fondly remember his urging me to consider application to serve as a USP volunteer shortly after concluding training and assuming a faculty position at Kentucky. His introductions to folks like Bill Heller and Jerry Halperin, former USP leaders and Jordan Cohen, former colleague, Dean of College of Pharmacy at Kentucky and former DBA Expert Committee chair undoubtedly permitted opportunity and access to early volunteer work in biopharmaceutics related to special USP committee work that ultimately culminated in election to expert committees of the Council of Experts where I have had the opportunity to serve for 20 years.

Volunteer service is the cornerstone of the success of USP over the past 180 years. I am assured that the continuous mentoring and collaborative spirit of the volunteer base, the hallmark of USP, will continue and I look forward to contributing to that continued evolution and “internationalization” of USP. Undoubtedly one of my favorite “jobs” during the past 15 years has been to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Nominations Committee for the Council of Experts. In this position the chairs of this committee and the USP CEOs have permitted me great latitude to experiment with strategies to attract the “best and the brightest” to join the USP Expert Committee ranks. My reflections on the process are all positive and have been considerate of the generational spans that encompass the potential USP expert pool.

The “Silent Generation,” those scientists born and raised prior to and during the second world war have attributes of being trusting, civic minded, followers and above all great volunteers. I have watched and been mentored by them. Folks like Herb Carlin, Bill Wright, and Charles Barnstein come to mind. Incredibly gifted, hardworking, knowledgeable and sharing people.

I come from the “Boomer Generation.” We are the generation of revolution, causes and confrontational leaders. We question everything! This group too has proven to be a great target for USP volunteers.

“Generation X” often referred to as the lost generation of the mid 60’s through the 80’s, are tagged as individualistic, apathetic and adverse to volunteerism. They are the best educated and trained of all previous generations. They have been a challenge to recruit as USP volunteers. But when you show them the potential and the contributions they can make, they are quick to sign on.



Ahh, but now, especially as educators, we experience the “Millennials,” the newest generation, many of which are in or will soon complete professional or scientific training. They will become the lifeblood of USP in the coming years. They are tradition minded and have the renewed spirit of volunteerism, an essential quality of a successful USP expert volunteer. I look forward to a seeing a great reservoir of millennial talent joining the USP ranks. We must aggressively nurture, pursue and recruit them.

In this context, I have decided that the monetary component of the Beal Award be designated to the Paul F. Parker Endowment at the University of Kentucky where the funds will be used to support post-doctoral training in clinical and translational science. My hopes and dreams are that the 2015-2020 and 2020-2015 cycles expert committee nomination pools will include scientists being trained in this or other programs similar to it.

Once again, many thanks to all of you for your support and friendship. I share this Beal Award with you. I look forward to continuing this incredible and rewarding journey with USP.





2010 USP Beal Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service

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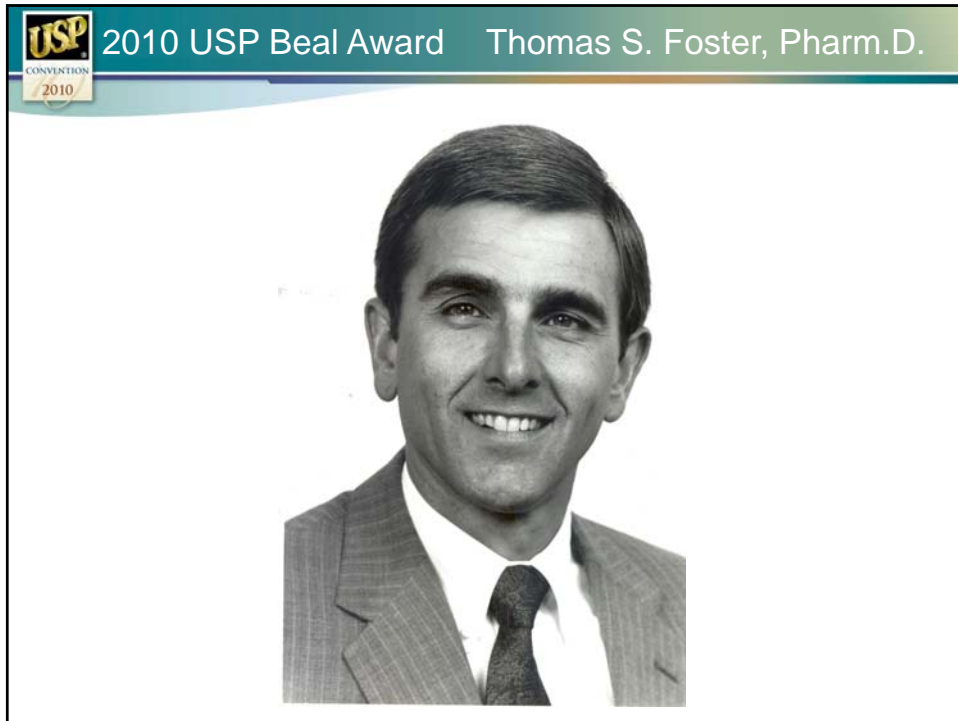


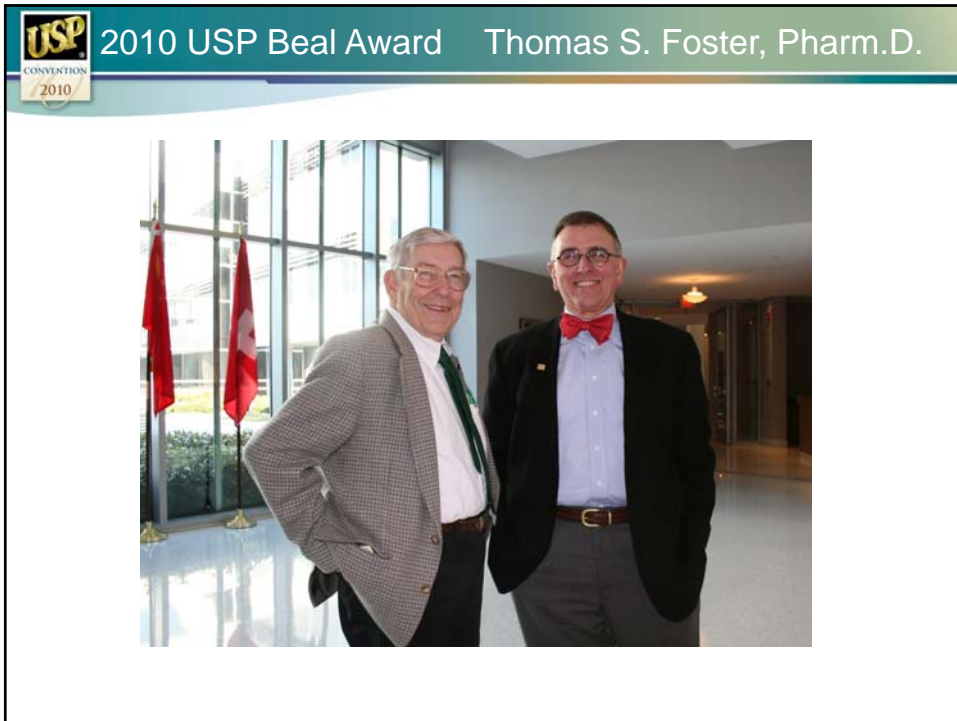
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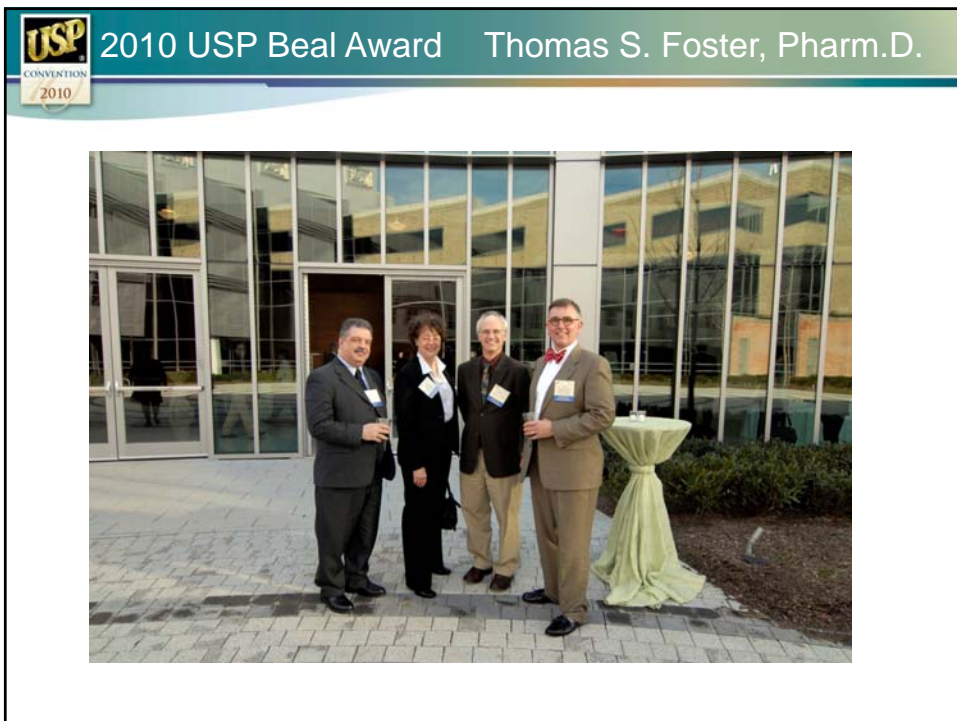




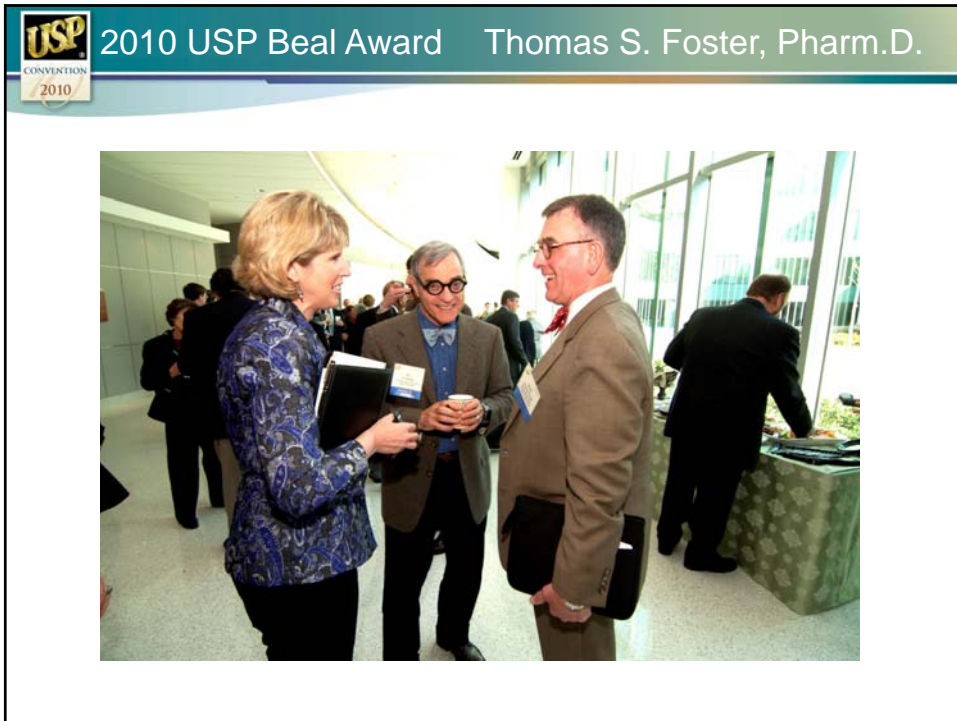














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