

A decorative graphic in the top left corner, composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent blue triangles of varying shades, creating a dynamic, abstract shape.

Truth in Transformation

Episode 1: Transforming an Inaugural Address into a Podcast Series

Description of Podcast Topic: In this first episode of *Truth in Transformation*, host Paul Abramowitz, ASHP CEO, talks with incoming ASHP President Tom Johnson about the challenges of writing his inaugural address during rapidly changing times. The ASHP leaders also speak to listeners about how themes from Tom's inaugural address will be explored during a series of upcoming podcasts.

Paul: Thank you for joining us for the first episode of *Truth in Transformation*.

My name is Paul Abramowitz, the CEO of ASHP, and I will be your host.

With me today is incoming ASHP President Tom Johnson.

So Tom, I know today was the day you were scheduled to deliver your inaugural address at the ASHP Summer Meetings.

I was once an ASHP President myself, and I can tell you that giving the inaugural address is one of the things I most looked forward to in the lead up to taking on the office of ASHP President.

We at ASHP didn't want this opportunity to pass us by, so today we're kicking off a series of podcasts that will explore themes from your inaugural address.


Tom: First of all, thank you Paul, for working with me to do something different this year. From the start, I wanted to do something unique. But I really didn't expect that we would end up here.

As we discussed options for how to deliver the inaugural address, I felt like asking people to watch a video of me reading my inaugural address wasn't the right approach.

The ASHP Official Podcasts already have a great following and helps us reach a lot of members. I'm glad it worked for the two of us to meet up virtually and do this.

Paul: I greatly appreciate the chance to do this as well. It gives us a chance to discuss issues important to you, to me, and to the profession in a more informal environment.

Tom: I agree. For anyone that knows me well at all, they know I'm very informal, so breaking down my inaugural address into a series of podcasts just seemed natural.

A blue geometric graphic is located in the top left corner, consisting of several overlapping triangles in various shades of blue, creating a dynamic, abstract shape.

Paul: Tell us about the topics from your inaugural that you'd like to discuss in this podcast series.

Tom: Transformation has been the theme of my inaugural all along, but I never guessed we—meaning you, me, pharmacists, and the profession — would be at this level of transformation.

During these podcasts, we're going to look for the truth in transformation.

What does that mean? We'll be talking about some of the key elements of transformation including servant leadership, self-reflection, different types of transformation, the concept of Transformational Presence, and how you and the staff of ASHP have been supporting and will continue to support members.

And I'd like to talk about some of the things I see as key to ensuring that pharmacy services can help lead the transformation we all need to achieve.

Paul: One of the first significant structural decisions related to COVID-19 that ASHP made was to move the Summer Meetings to a virtual format — including the House of Delegates, educational sessions, and networking events. What was your first thought when you realized that things were going to be a bit different this year?

Tom: I had a lot of initial thoughts and emotions really. I was disappointed we wouldn't all be together to conduct the business of ASHP and see so many good friends from around the country. And I'll admit I was personally disappointed that all of the events that occur along with becoming ASHP president were not going to happen. So for a while, I just simply quit working on any inaugural address. I really had no idea what I was going to say at that point—especially with the profession changing so fast in the face of COVID-19.

Paul: I think you weren't alone in feeling uncertainty in what the future might look like—on a personal level or a professional level—in the early days of the pandemic. What was your inspiration for writing an inaugural with such timely and relevant messages for the pharmacy profession?

Tom: One of the things that I talk about in the inaugural is personal transformation, the idea that you have to stand in your truth. Well, nothing like a pandemic to push you to stand in your truth.

We'll explore this bit more in a future podcast, but this concept of standing in your truth was key to my personal transformation—to working *with*, instead of *against*, barriers to achieve the outcomes we seek.

Once I came to that realization, I overcame my writer's block, and the idea of looking for the truth in transformation on multiple levels — personally, professionally, and during a pandemic — took hold.

Paul: Well, if that's any indication of what's to come, it sounds like we're going to have some very interesting conversations. Can you highlight a few more of the most impactful points in your inaugural?

Tom: Sure. First, we'll talk about servant leadership. One of the things I have told students and residents for years is that our success as pharmacists is tied to convincing other people to do things they may or may not want to do. I believe you need to approach that with a servant mentality. Then we'll talk about self-reflection – how to “Stand in your truth” – and I'll offer some insights into some of the truths I see in our profession. Then we'll get into the different types of transformation and the concept of transformational presence. And finally we'll talk about action steps we can all take to transform – how to “Act on your truth.”

Paul: I hope that as we talk through this together, we can help others find and act on the truth in their transformation as well. I encourage everyone to read Tom's inaugural address, which is published online at ashp.org.

That's all we have time for today. Thanks Tom for sharing your thoughts and insights about transformation. Join us next time when Tom explores the topic of servant leadership.

###