

**USP Open Forum**

# **Improving the Pharma Environmental Footprint**

**Virtual Meeting:**

February 21, 2023 • 9:00–11:00 am EST



**USP Open Forum**

# **Improving the Pharma Environmental Footprint**

**Welcome!**

Darcy Gentleman, Ph.D.

Senior Manager,  
Stakeholder Engagement



# Welcome!



- ▶ Agenda
  - Opening remarks and USP focus
  - Panel discussion
  - Interactive discussion
  - Closing thoughts
- ▶ Idea generation, sharing knowledge of initiatives
- ▶ Help us identify what questions need answers



**USP Open Forum**

# **Improving the Pharma Environmental Footprint**

**Opening Remarks**

Jennifer Devine, J.D.

Senior Vice President  
Documentary Standards  
& Compendial Policy





# Our mission



**To improve global health through public standards and related programs that help ensure the quality, safety, and benefit of medicines and foods.**



# Collaborating to achieve our mission



USP Experts &  
Convention Members



Global regulatory  
entities and other  
pharmacopeias

Access to  
quality  
medicines

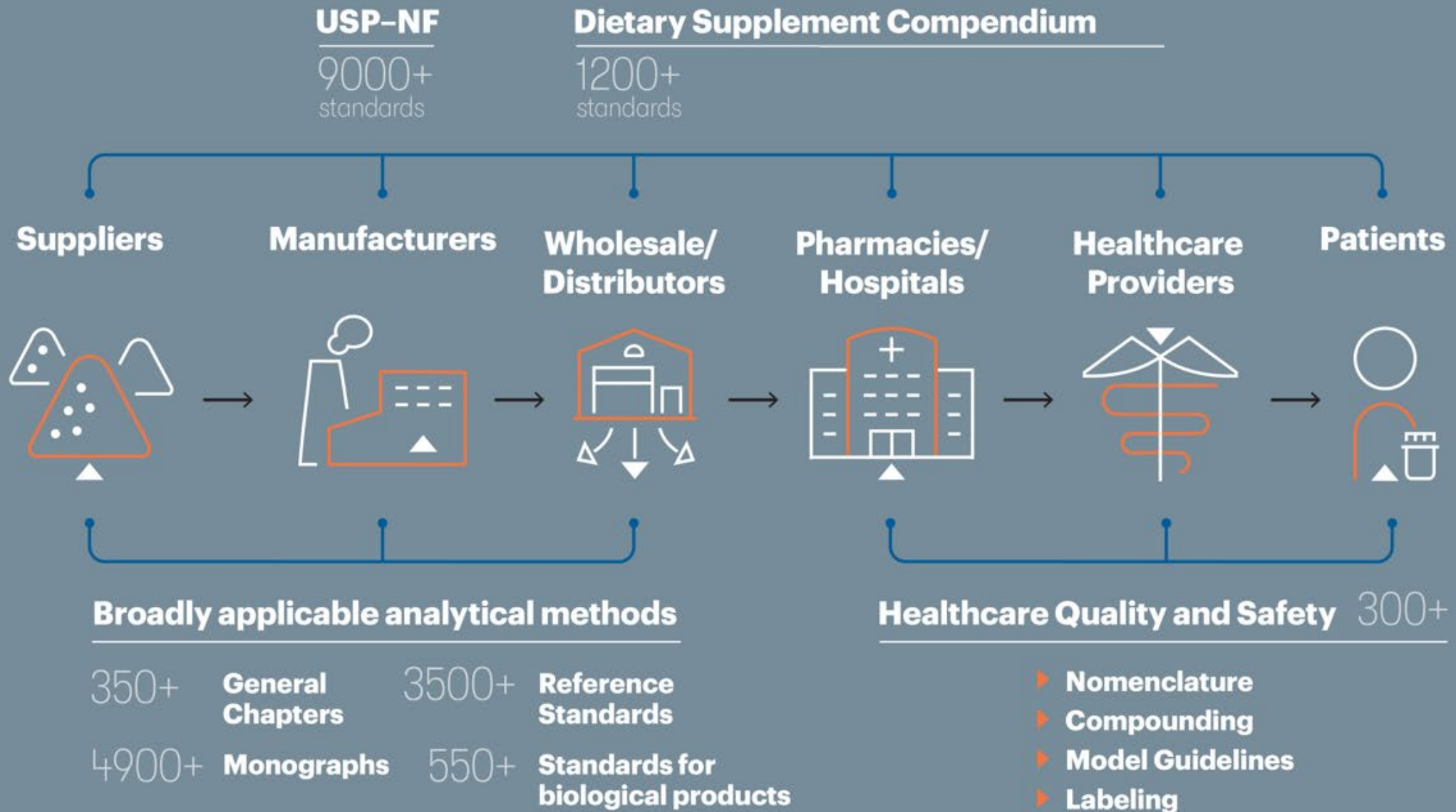


Scientific,  
healthcare stakeholder  
communities, including  
industry & academia

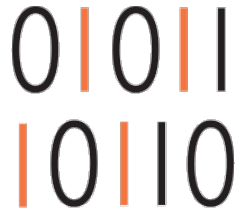




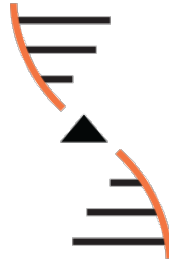
# Global impact across the supply chain



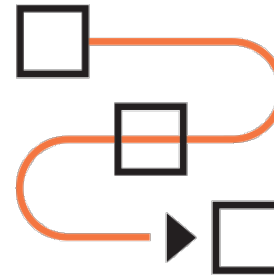
# Disruptors shaping our evolution



**Digitalization,  
analytics & informatics**



**Explosion of  
new therapies**



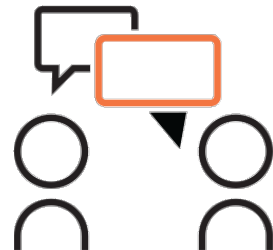
**Complex, globalized  
supply chain**



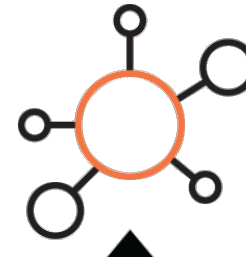
**New quality paradigms  
and technologies**



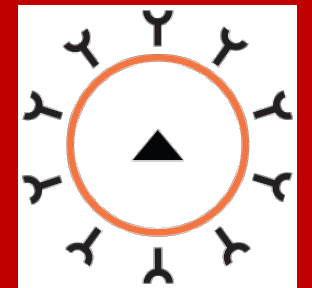
**Climate change**



**New ways of  
engaging scientists**



**Medical information  
& knowledge**



**Pandemic(s)**



# Standards, quality, and strategic design



- ▶ Quality by design
  - Standards to inform green/sustainable chemistry's “benign by design” paradigm
- ▶ Efficiency
  - Public standards for scale and consistency
- ▶ Global perspective





# Contribute ideas, respect all inputs





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# **USP's journey in reducing the pharma environmental footprint and future impact possibilities**

**Speaker:**

Gabriel I. Giancaspro Ph.D.

Dist. Scientific Fellow/Compendial  
Policy Head, USP



# USP started this journey three decades ago



## USP Convention Resolution

### Environmental Concerns (1995)

The USP is encouraged to initiate a program to protect the environment by adopting standards and analytical methods for pharmaceuticals, containers, and other articles that reduce the amount of reagents and materials used in pharmaceutical tests and assays that have the potential to cause harm to human health and the environment.

Source: Resolutions Adopted by the USP Convention, 1975 — 2015



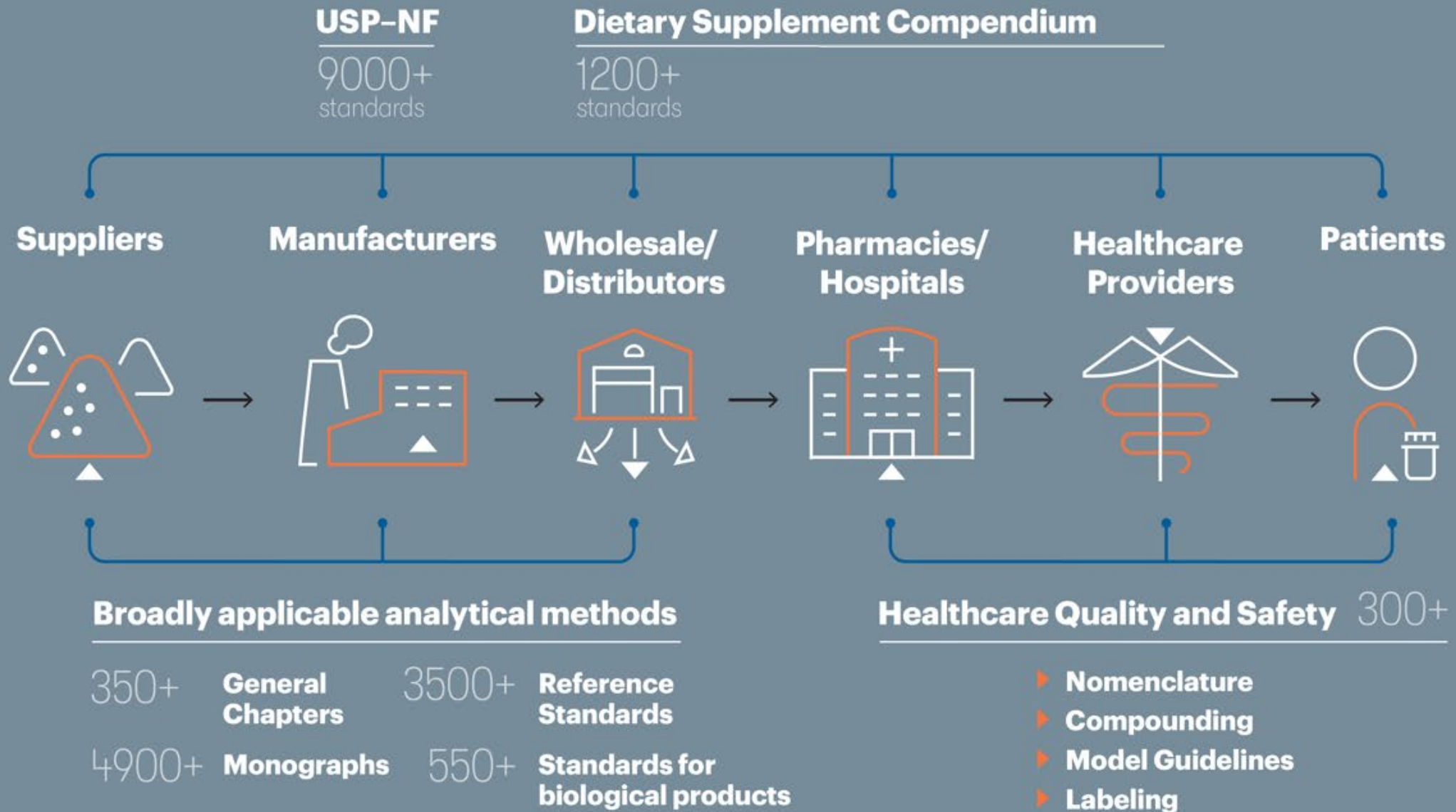


## 1995 Resolution on Environmental Concerns

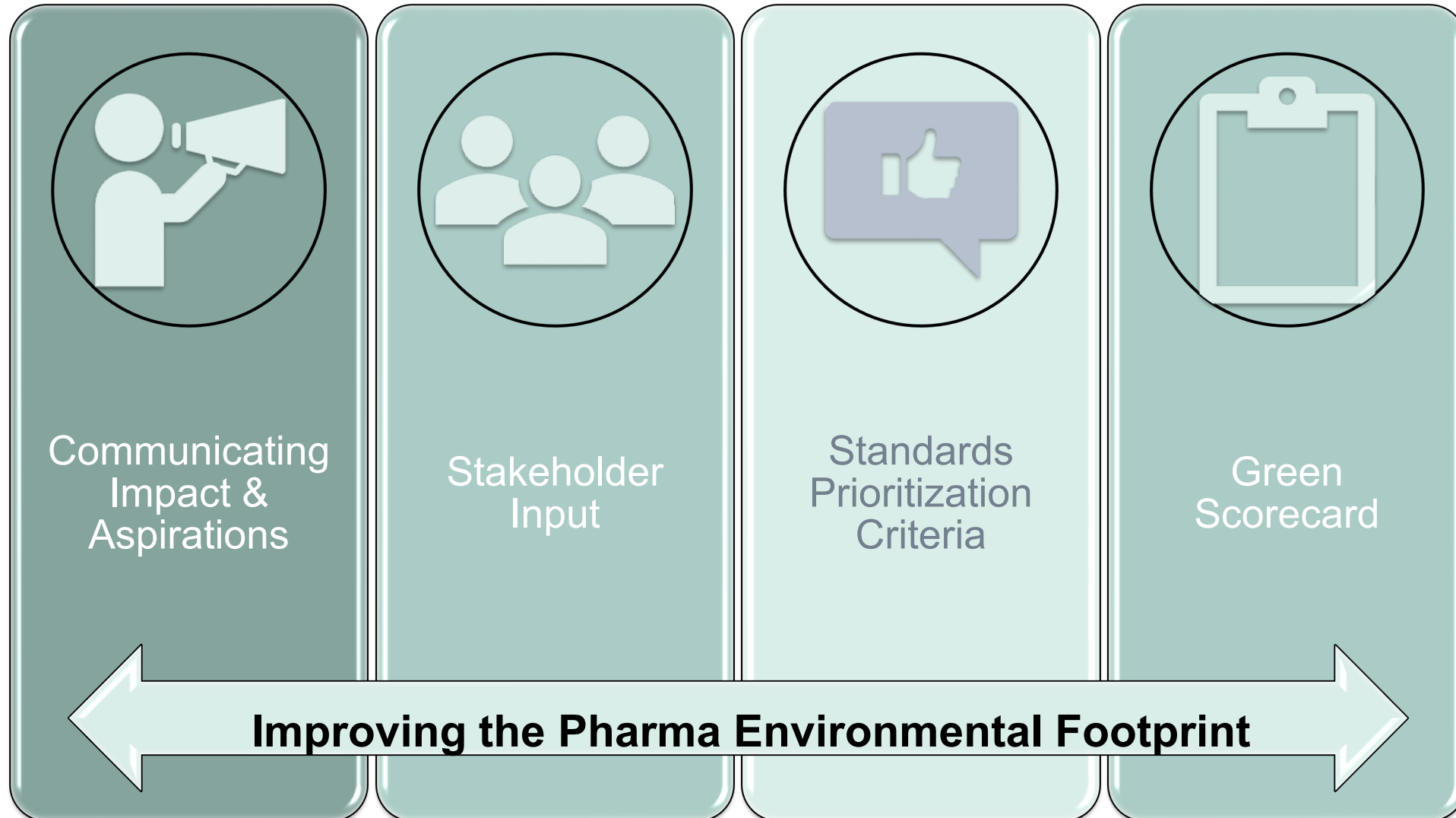
- ▶ Reduction of dissolution medium acid normality
- ▶ Stimuli article in 1999 regarding disposal of drugs
- ▶ Publication on proper disposal of monograph formulations, given Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- ▶ Elicit help from industry to revise tests using unusually large amounts of hazardous solvents
- ▶ Encourage use of lower-volume, higher efficiency separations via a chapter on capillary electrophoresis (CE)
- ▶ Reduce/eliminate environmentally objectionable solvents; also hydrogen sulfide
- ▶ Eliminate use of cats for testing Depressor Substance test



# Global impact across the supply chain



# Our journey continues



# USP has impacted the pharma environmental footprint mainly through two initiatives



## Modernization (official and unofficial)

- ▶ Lowering / eliminating / substituting use of hazardous and toxic substances
- ▶ Incorporating new methods and technology that are more efficient and less wasteful

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## Harmonization

- ▶ Improving alignment of quality standards with global pharmacopeias
- ▶ Moving towards a vision of prospective global convergence in recent times



## USP Convention Resolution

### ***USP-NF* Monograph Modernization (2015)**

USP will meet the needs of U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), industry, and other stakeholders for modern monographs within *USP–NF*. USP will work to eliminate the existing backlog of monographs in need of modernization and proactively evaluate and update monographs to maintain their relevance given scientific advances and evolving manufacturing and regulatory approaches. USP will work with industry and FDA to explore new strategies for sharing analytical methods and specifications needed to modernize monographs.

# Modernization efforts



## Lower/eliminate/substitute hazardous substances

- ▶ Benzene
  - Avoid (Class 1 solvent)
  - Decrease use in compendia by >80%
- ▶ Carbon tetrachloride
  - Class 1 solvent
  - Decrease use in compendia by >96%
- ▶ Amoxicillin
  - Strict limits on methylene chloride led supplier to explore enzymatic synthesis
- ▶ General Chapter <800>
  - Guidance on environmental quality & control in healthcare settings

## Incorporate new methods and technologies to increase efficiency

- ▶ Chromatography
  - Column equivalencies
  - GC over LC
  - Reverse phase uses less of toxic solvents
- ▶ Explore emerging analytical methods
  - Pharmaceutical continuing manufacturing (PCM)
  - qNMR
  - Biotechnological methods

# Pharmacopeial Discussion Group (PDG)



- ▶ What environmental or sustainability initiatives do your organizations have underway?
  - What opportunities to connect?
- ▶ What more can PDG do together to....
  - **Inventory** the efforts and impact of PDG – and broadcast successes for others to adopt?
  - Bring environmental impact to the table as **criteria** for harmonization?
  - Incorporate green scorecard(s) and modernization priorities to **choose tests**?
  - Encourage **greater industry involvement**?
  - Other?



# Encourage smaller volumes



## General Notices and Chapter revisions

- ▶ Solution preparation
  - Recommend lower volumes with equivalent accuracy
- ▶ Chapter <31> Volumetric Apparatus
  - Companion informational <1331> Calibration and Verification of Volumetric Apparatus
  - Including micropipette considerations
- ▶ Chapter <41> Balances
  - Companion informational <1251> Weighing on an Analytical Balance
  - Including microbalance considerations



# Other ongoing projects



- ▶ Evaluation of endotoxin recombinant factor C (rFC) for absence of pyrogen assurance
- ▶ Phasing out calomel electrodes (mercury [II] chloride)
- ▶ Replacing outdated wet chemistry methods using hazardous reagents
- ▶ Eliminating odor/taste aka “organoleptic” tests
- ▶ Continuing elimination of toxic solvents
- ▶ Analytical quality by design (AQbD) concepts to include reduction in waste generation



## Resolution

### Research and Innovation Within USP

USP will explore the development of quality standards and other fit-for-purpose solutions to help stakeholders safeguard the quality of promising healthcare innovations that address patient and public health needs.

- ▶ FY2022 Update:
  - “USP conducted studies aimed at optimizing dissolution testing using a reduced volume of dissolution media [to] **reduce the environmental impact of dissolution testing while accelerating the process and expanding test applications** ... particle-induced velocimetry studies ... along with computational fluid dynamics results, may provide further guidance ... **to improve analytical sensitivity while reducing the volume of solvents used.**”

# Pillars of interest = start of a potential USP framework



Good global  
citizens



Energy &  
emissions



Waste



Water  
stewardship



Biodiversity  
conservation



Employee (lab)  
health & safety

# Panel discussion



## Moderator:

**Darcy Gentleman, Ph.D.**

Senior Stakeholder Engagement  
Manager  
USP

**Lina Bader, Ph.D.**

Lead, Equity, Sustainability Policy, and  
Development  
International Pharmaceutical Federation  
(FIP)

**Isamir Martinez, Ph.D.**

Scientific Alliances & Business  
Engagement Manager  
Green Chemistry Institute,  
American Chemical Society

**Jane Weitzel, Ph.D.**

Chair,  
General Chapters – Measurement and  
Data Quality USP Expert Committee



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**Contact us!**

**[sustainability@usp.org](mailto:sustainability@usp.org)**



# Thank You



**The standard of trust**