Dear colleagues,

As the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research continues to grow, we are working on fulfilling the goals laid out in our current strategic plan. Linda Simoni-Wastila, BSPharm, MSPH, PhD, our vice chair for research, is busy planning our strategic growth initiative for programmatic research. Fadia Shaya, PhD, MPH, our vice chair for academic affairs, is working with Frank Palumbo, BSPharm, MS, PhD, JD, professor and director of our graduate program, on new teaching and training opportunities as well as a new MS degree in PHSR that we will launch in Fall 2016. And we continue to welcome outstanding faculty to the department, with Sophia Johnson, PharmD, MPH, PhD, joining us in June. All of our faculty, staff, and trainees continue to contribute to PHSR not only being regarded as “one of the best in the nation,” but also a top place to work. Why? Because at PHSR, we’ve got your back!

Have a wonderful summer,

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD
Professor and Chair
Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research

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New Graduate Program Director
Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD, professor in PHSR, has been named the new director of our graduate program. Dr. Palumbo succeeds Ebere Onukwugha, MS, PhD, associate professor, who led the program since 2013, as part of a planned transition to allow Dr. Onukwugha to focus on her responsibilities as executive director of the department’s Pharmaceutical Research Computing (PRC) center. Dr. Onukwugha diligently lead the PHSR graduate program over the past two years, overseeing faculty during an in-depth revision of the administration of the program's comprehensive exam to ensure that students are ready to enter the workforce upon graduation. Dr. Palumbo is well-respected across the country for his numerous contributions to the fields of economics and social and administrative sciences, and has been a strong advocate for our graduate students throughout his career at the School. I am pleased to announce his new role as director of the PHSR graduate program, and look forward to watching the program continue to grow under his leadership. Read more here. Read more here...

Alumnus Receives Prestigious Remington Medal
School of Pharmacy alumnus Calvin H. Knowlton, BPharm, MDiv, PhD ’93, received the 2015 Remington Honor Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the American Pharmacists Association, at the organization’s annual meeting in San Diego, Calif. on March 29. Dr. Knowlton was selected in recognition of the professional achievements, innovations, and advancements he has contributed to the pharmacy profession. Dr. Knowlton is currently the founder and CEO of Tabula Rasa Healthcare, Inc., the parent company of CareKinesis, Inc., the tenth company founded in his illustrious career. He earned his PhD in pharmaceutical health services research (then pharmacy administration) at the School of Pharmacy in 1993 under the mentorship of then dean David Knapp, PhD, who is now a professor emeritus at the School. Read more here...

JAMA Study Examines Medicaid Oversight of Antipsychotic Use in Children
A study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) from professor Julie Zito, PhD, in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration's SafeUse Initiative, examines states' policies on the prescribing of atypical antipsychotics to children. Concerned about inappropriate prescribing of antipsychotic medications to children, 31 states - including Maryland - have implemented prior authorization policies for atypical antipsychotic prescribing, mostly within the past five years, and with most states applying their policies to children younger than seven years of age, according to the study in the March 3 issue of JAMA. The researchers found that 31 states have implemented prior authorization policies for atypical antipsychotic prescribing to children, mostly within the past five years. Of the 31 states, 15 have incorporated a peer review process, wherein the adjudication process usually involves a psychiatrist or other physician specialty. The programs without a peer review process use automated systems or nonphysician manual reviews for adjudication. Read more here...

### UMB Launches Center of Excellence to Advance Patient-centered Research

The University of Maryland, Baltimore, with funding from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Foundation, has established a new Patient-Centered Research for Outcomes, Effectiveness, and Measurement (PROEM) Center of Excellence in Comparative Effectiveness and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Training. Directed by Eleanor Perfetto, PhD, MS, professor, this center will expand and improve training in the fields of comparative effectiveness research and patient-centered outcomes research (CER-PCOR). It is one of only five centers funded by the PhRMA Foundation to help expand CER-PCOR graduate education and training programs in the United States. Other centers are located at Harvard University, the Johns Hopkins University, the University of Washington in Seattle, and the University of Utah. Read more here...

### CDPP Hosted Conference to Examine Emerging Issues in FDA Law

The Center on Drugs and Public Policy (CDPP) at the School of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and the Food and Drug Law Institute, hosted a conference last winter to examine issues related to the implementation of the Drug Quality and Security Act (DQSA) in the United States. Titled "Emerging Issues in FDA Law: Implementation of DQSA," the event brought representatives from academia, law firms, associations, government, and industry together to review key parts of the act, including a recently released guidance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and important deadlines, and to discuss future plans for its implementation across the country. According to Frank
Kudos
Our department's faculty, staff, and students are regularly recognized at the local and national level for their expertise. Here is a short list of recent accomplishments.

- **UMB's student chapter of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)** was named Chapter of the Year at ISPOR's 20th Annual Meeting.
- **Robert Beardsley, PhD**, professor, was one of four School of Pharmacy faculty named to the 25 Top Pharmacy Professors list by the Medical Technology Schools blog. The others are **Stuart Haines, PharmD**, professor of pharmacy practice and science (PPS); **Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD**, professor in PPS, and **James Trovato, PharmD**, associate professor in PPS.
- **Laura Bozzi**, graduate student, received the Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program and Center for Research on Aging Award at UMB's Graduate Research Conference in March.
- **Mehmet Burcu**, graduate student, received a 2015 AcademyHealth Presidential Scholarship for Child Health Policy.
- **Colleen Day**, graduate program coordinator, has been elected vice-president of the UMB Staff Senate.
- **Peter Doshi, PhD**, assistant professor, received a New Investigator Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for "The Possible Harms of Statins: What do Product Labels and Pharmacy Leaflets Tell Us?"
- **Priyanka Gaitonde** and **Joseph Vandrogo**, both graduate students, received the department's Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship.
- **Maya Hanna** and **Patience Moyo**, both graduate students, received the department’s Donald O. Fedder Memorial Fellowship.
- **Elisabeth Oehrlein**, graduate student, received a Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship in Health Outcomes Award and was named 2015-2016 Student Network Chair for the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research.
- **Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD**, professor, was named to UMB’s Council for the Arts and Culture.
- **Julia Siejko, PhD**, assistant professor, received the Best New Investigator Poster Award at the 20th Annual International Meeting of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research.
- **Sarah Tom, PhD**, assistant professor, has been elected the School of Pharmacy's representative to UMB’s Graduate Council.

Grants

- **C. Daniel Mullins, PhD**, professor and chair, received a 10-

- **Eleanor Perfetto, PhD**, professor, received a six-month $79,113 grant from the National Pharmaceutical Council for "What Industry Needs to Know about Quality Metrics," and received a 20-month $28,937 grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for "PCOR Training for Non-usual Suspects: A Program for Rare Disease Patient Advocates."

- **Xian Shen**, a graduate student, received a one-year $25,000 grant from the PhRMA Foundation for "Impact of Characteristics of Medicare Part D Plans on Medication Adherence among Randomized Beneficiaries with Low-Income Subsidies."

- **Bruce Stuart, PhD**, professor and director of the Peter Lamy Center for Drug Therapy and Aging, received a $140,000 one-year contract from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores for "How Medication Therapy Management Programs and Formulary Designs Differ across Part D Plans," a 22-month $31,861 contract from Merck for "Proximal Predictors and Cost Consequences of Discontinuance with Oral Hypoglycemic Agents in the Elderly," and a four-month $20,000 contract from Pfizer for "Assessing the Costs of Disability among Medicare Beneficiaries."

- **Joseph Vandigo**, graduate student, received a 17-month $38,117 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for "Impact of Medicare Contracting Reform on Colon Cancer Treatment, Survival, and Cost."

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**Publications**

- **Oladinde YA, C. Daniel Mullins**, Baquet CR. Using Community-Based Participatory Research in Patient-Centered Outcomes Research to Address Health Disparities in Underrepresented Communities. *Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research* (In press)


- Chirikov VV, Shaya FT, Howell CD. Contextual Analysis of Determinants of Late Diagnosis of Hepatitis C Virus in Medicare Patients. *Hepatology*, 2015. (Accepted)


- Aly A, Mullins CD, Hussain A. Understanding Heterogeneity of Treatment Effect in Prostate Cancer. *Current Opinion in Oncology* May 2015 (Accepted)

• Chen J, Bustamante AB, Tom SE. Healthcare Spending and Utilization under the ACA Expansion on Dependents' Coverage by Race/Ethnicity. 2014. American Journal of Public Health. (Accepted)
