Dear,

Happy Summer! With the close of the 2015-2016 academic year behind us and the start of the 2016-2017 academic year approaching, the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research (PHSR) is working on its next strategic plan, which will align with forthcoming School of Pharmacy and University of Maryland, Baltimore strategic plans. A committee of PHSR staff, faculty, students, and postdoctoral fellows is drafting initial goals to be reviewed by all members of the department. The new goals will build on previous goals but with new aspirational elements and benchmarks. The purpose of the new goals will be to enhance the quality within our already strong department, one that is noted across the country for solid research, excellent teaching, and distinguished service. Stay tuned for more details on our strategic plan.

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD
Professor and Chair

UMSOP Named One of U.S. News & World Report's Top Schools of Pharmacy

In rankings released for its 2017 Best Graduate Schools, U.S. News & World Report positions the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy ninth among the nation’s more than 130 schools of pharmacy. Released in March, this ranking marks an improvement for the School of Pharmacy, which was previously ranked 17th among schools of pharmacy in the United States. U.S. News & World Report has published education rankings to help students and their families find the
best school to meet their unique needs since 1983. Last updated in 2012, rankings for pharmacy schools are based exclusively on ratings from academic experts at colleges and schools of pharmacy across the United States. Deans, program directors, department chairs, and faculty members from more than 130 colleges and schools of pharmacy were surveyed for the most recent results. Read more...

PATIENTS Day Celebrates Efforts to Engage Patients in Research

The Patient-Centered Involvement in Evaluating the Effectiveness of Treatments (PATIENTS) Program hosted its first annual PATIENTS Day at the School of Pharmacy in May. A day-long learning session and health fair, PATIENTS Day helped educate faculty, staff, and students from across the University of Maryland, Baltimore, as well as members of the local community about the program’s ongoing work in the field of patient-centered outcomes research. Established in 2013, the PATIENTS Program strives to help reduce health disparities by building relationships between patient communities and health care systems to ensure that patients, health care providers, and other partners are actively engaged in research. The program’s inaugural PATIENTS Day offered an opportunity for its members to share updates on the research projects in which they have been involved this past year, as well as to introduce the campus and local community to some of the patients, community members, and advocates with whom they have partnered to conduct the research. Read more...

Conference Highlights Need for National Medical Device Evaluation System

The School of Pharmacy welcomed researchers from across academia, government, and industry to Pharmacy Hall in March for "Building the National Evaluation System for Medical Devices: Using Real World Evidence to Improve Device Safety and Effectiveness," a day-long conference sponsored by the University of Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation and the Food and Drug Administration. Led by Fadia Tohme-Shaya, MPH, PhD, professor and vice chair for academic affairs in PHSR, the conference explored the need for a national evaluation system for medical devices and examined the potential of harnessing real world evidence to improve the safety and effectiveness of those devices. Read more...

Annual Pumpian Lecture Puts Patients First in Health Care Research

The School of Pharmacy welcomed faculty, staff, students, and members of the health care and patient advocacy communities to Pharmacy Hall in March for its annual Paul A. Pumpian Memorial Lecture. Entitled "Patients Taking the Lead in 21st-Century Health Care and Research," the event featured a keynote lecture by Freda Lewis-Hall, MD, chief medical officer for Pfizer, and two panel discussions that included patients and representatives from academia, government, industry, and the local community to provide an in-depth look at patient-centered health care and research in the United States, with a particular focus on the Food and Drug Administration’s Patient-Focused Drug Development Initiative. Read more here...
Multinational Study Shows Increase in Youth Antidepressant Use

A study published by an international research team in the journal *European Neuropsychopharmacology* shows rising rates of antidepressant use among children and adolescents ages 0-19 years. **Julie Zito, BSPharm, PhD**, professor in PHSR, collaborated on the study, which featured data from five Western countries, namely, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and is the first multinational comparison of antidepressant use trends among children and adolescents conducted in recent years. Using information collected from large health care databases in each country, the team compared the prevalence of use for SSRIs and tricyclic antidepressants from 2012 to data from 2005. They uncovered significant increases in antidepressant use across all countries studied over the seven year period. Read more here...

Mullins Appointed to Big Data for Patients Steering Committee

**Daniel Mullins, PhD**, professor and chair of PHSR, has been appointed by the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration to serve on the steering committee of its new Big Data for Patients (BD4P) program. Established in 2015, this program provides training for patients and advocates on the emerging field of data science (big data), equipping them with the knowledge and tools that they will need to impact big data issues through their interactions with researchers, health care professionals, policy makers, and other patients. A member of the program’s steering committee, Dr. Mullins will work alongside the other 11 committee members to provide strategic guidance on and oversight of BD4P operations. The committee will review and approve the BD4P charter, program development, and implementation plan, as well as review partnership and collaboration proposals submitted to the program. Read more here...

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.

- **Susan dosReis, PhD**, associate professor, has been elected to the 2015-2016 Advisory Committee for the Child Health Services Research Interest Group.
- **Priyanka Gaitonde** and **Joseph Vandigo**, 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 Scholarship.
- **Anna Hung**, graduate student, and **Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD**, associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation and professor of pharmacy practice and science, have been accepted into the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Walmart Scholars Program.
- **Tabassum Majid, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, received second place in the postdoctoral category in the Johns Hopkins University Research on Aging Showcase.
- **Ebere Onukwugha, PhD**, associate professor, has been elected the School of Pharmacy’s representative to the University
Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD, professor, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Food and Drug Law Institute.

Fadia Shaya, PhD, professor, has been named Woman of the Year in Health Services by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for her commitments and accomplishments in service to the community and professional leadership congruent with the legacy of Zeta Phi Beta.

Grants and Contracts

- C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and chair, received a one-year $178,251 contract from the National Pharmaceutical Council for "Publication of Studies on Real-World Evidence: Journal Editor Perceptions and Approaches."
- Ebere Onukwugha, PhD, associate professor, has received a two-year $451,179 contract from Bayer Pharmaceuticals for "Non Hodgkins Lymphoma SEER Medicare Proposal: Health Economics and Outcomes Research."
- Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD, professor, received a 16-month $94,703 contract from the Maryland Health Care Commission for "Shared Savings Calculations" and received a two-year $219,437 contract from Novartis Pharmaceuticals for a fellowship.
- Julia Slejko, PhD, assistant professor, received a one-year $50,000 grant from the PhRMA Foundation for "Predictors of Medication Adherence and the Value of Adherence Prediction."

Publications

- Moyo P, Huang TY, Simoni-Wastila L, Harrington D. *Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analyses of Delirium Symptoms in a Sample of Nursing Home*


- Burcu M, Steinberger EK, Sorkin JD. Health care access and smoking cessation among cancer survivors: implications for the Affordable Care Act and survivorship care. Journal of Cancer Survivorship. 2015 [In press].

