Dear colleagues,

Happy summer! Another academic year has come to a close, and I hope that you are all able to enjoy much deserved rest and relaxation during the summer months.

This issue of our department newsletter focuses on several new grants our faculty have received and the excellent work of our graduate students in organizing a University-wide debate on universal health care.

It always makes me extremely proud to share with you the good work coming from the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research (PHSR), but it makes me equally proud to hear about the success and achievements of our alumni and collaborators. So drop me a line and let me know how you are doing - dmullins@rx.umaryland.edu.

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD
Professor and Chair

Reseachers Awarded $500,000 Grant to Focus on Patient-Driven Value Assessment
A team of researchers from PHSR and the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the School of Pharmacy have been awarded a three-year, $500,000 grant from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Foundation to establish a new Center of Excellence for Patient-Driven Value Assessment at the School. Led by Susan dosReis, PhD, professor in PHSR, the center will strive to promote the inclusion of diverse patient voices in research to help uncover the elements of value in health care that are most important to patients. This center is one of only two funded by the PhRMA Foundation to lead the development of transformative strategies to better assess the value of medicines and health care services while improving patient outcomes and reducing inefficiency in health care. Read more here...

Pumpian Lecture Explores Meaning in the Pharmacy Profession

PHSR and the School of Pharmacy were honored to welcome Noel E. Wilkin, RPh, BSP '89, PhD '97, provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of pharmacy administration at the University of Mississippi, as he delivered the annual Paul A. Pumpian Memorial Lecture at the School of Pharmacy on April 11. Titled "Innovation and Meaning: The Building Blocks of Entrepreneurship and Professional Satisfaction," Dr. Wilkin's lecture focused on a grant that he received from the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), which aimed to encourage pharmacists to implement more innovative approaches in their practices by demonstrating how profitable such innovations could be for the pharmacy. His findings were surprising, even to him. Read more here...
Mullins Receives Grant to Establish New Learning Health Care Community in West Baltimore

Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and chair of PHSR and director of The Patient-Centered Involvement in Evaluating the Effectiveness of Treatments (PATIENTS) Program at the School of Pharmacy, has been awarded a $250,000 investigator-initiated grant from Merck to develop guidance for an innovative Learning Health Care Community in West Baltimore. The project, titled "Co-developing Sustainable Learning Health Care Communities Using Community-Based Participatory Research," aims to increase collaboration between patients and health care systems and promote greater health equity across the local area. The grant will be used to support pilot work for future grants to implement recommendations from the guidance and create healthier communities in the neighborhoods located to the west of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus. Read more here...

Graduate Students Give Voice to Universal Health Care Debate

On April 24, two teams comprised of graduate students from PHSR and the Department of Epidemiology at the School of Medicine engaged in a professional...
dialogue about the advantages and disadvantages of the "Medicare Access for All" Bill (H.R 676) proposed to Congress in 2015, which would mandate that all individuals residing in the U.S., including any territories, be covered under the Medicare for All Program, entitling them to a universal, best quality standard of health care. The debate was motivated by recent political discussions, which have strongly argued for health care to be recognized as a human right and was organized by the student chapters of the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE) and International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). Read more here...

Kudos

Our department's faculty 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**, professor, has been named a fellow of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology.
- **C. Daniel Mullins, PhD**, professor and chair, has been named director of the Community and Collaboration Core within UMB's Institute for Clinical & Translational Research.
- **Ebere Onukwugha, PhD**, associate professor and executive director of Pharmaceutical Research Computing, has been named associate director of the Biostatistics Core within UMB's Institute for Clinical & Translational Research.
- Dinci Pennap, graduate student, was the recipient of the *JAMA Pediatrics* 2017 Trainee Paper of the Year award for her article "Patterns of Early Mental Health Diagnosis and Medication Treatment in a Medicaid-insured Birth Cohort."
- **Fadia Shaya, PhD**, professor, has been named associate director of the Informatics Core within UMB's Institute for Clinical & Translational Research and received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the Johns Hopkins University.

Grants and Contracts

- **Peter Doshi, PhD**, assistant professor, received a four-year $348,404 grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation for "RIAT Support Center (Restoring Invisible and Abandoned Trials)."
- **Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD**, the Parke-Davis Chair in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy and director of research for the School's Peter Lamy Center for Drug Therapy and Aging, received a six-month $65,419 contract from the Maryland Health Care Commission for "Shared Savings Calculations."

Publications

- **Sieluk J**, Levy J, Sandhaus RA, Silverman H, Holm K, Mullins CD. "Costs of Medical Care Among Augmentation Therapy Users and Non-Users with Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency in the U.S." *Journal of the COPD Foundation*.