Dear colleagues,

What's a "pharmapreneur?" A leader who participates in entrepreneurial activities related to pharmacy. The Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research certainly has plenty of those amongst our faculty, staff, students, and postdoctoral fellows. And many of those individuals are winning awards and accolades for the great work they do. In addition to reading about our department's achievements in this newsletter, I encourage you to take a look at the amazing group of affiliate faculty whom we are honored to have as part of the PHSR family.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with PHSR or have suggestions for how we can be more "pharmapreneurial," please email me at dmullins@rx.umaryland.edu.

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD
Professor and Chair

Simoni-Wastila Delivers Founders Week Researcher of the Year Lecture

Faculty, staff, and students from across the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) gathered in Pharmacy Hall in November to listen as Linda Simoni-Wastila, BSPharm, MSPH, PhD, the Parke-Davis Chair in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy in PHSR, delivered the Founders Week Researcher of the Year lecture. A nationally renowned policy and health services researcher, Dr. Simoni-Wastila's research focuses on drug abuse and mental health in vulnerable populations, including the young, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, and individuals at risk due to impaired physical and mental health. Read more here...

Shaya Awarded $1.5 Million Behavioral Health Services Contract

Fadia T. Shaya, MPH, PhD, professor in PHSR and director of the Behavioral Health Research Team at the School of Pharmacy, has been awarded a $1.5 million contract from the Behavioral Health Administration, a division of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to support the development of programs and trainings to help curtail prescription drug abuse among individuals living in the state of Maryland. The programs and trainings will also aim to reduce the number of opioid-related overdoses and deaths in the state and strengthen both the state and local communities' capacity to address the overprescribing of controlled substances. Read more here...
Leadership Transition at the Lamy Center

Following the retirement of Bruce Stuart, PhD, professor emeritus in PHSR and former executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCPP, CGP, FASCP, professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) at the School, has been named as the Center's new executive director. Chanel Whittaker, PharmD, BCPS, CGP, FASCP, associate professor in PPS, and Linda Simoni-Wastila, BSPharm, MSPH, PhD, professor in PHSR, have also been named as director of education and training programs and director of research and policy for the Center, respectively. Read more here...

New Study Finds Depression Linked to Reduced COPD Medication Adherence

A first-of-its-kind study published in the Annals of the American Thoracic Society by Linda Simoni-Wastila, BSPharm, MSPH, PhD, professor in PHSR and director of research at the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, examining a sample of Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) has found that patients' adherence to COPD maintenance medications decreased when they experienced new bouts of depression. Dr. Simoni-Wastila, named the University of Maryland, Baltimore 2016 Founder's Week Researcher of the Year, found that, of the more than 31,000 beneficiaries who met the criteria for this study, 20 percent were diagnosed with depression following their COPD diagnosis. Patients' average monthly adherence to their COPD maintenance medications was low, reaching only 57 percent in the month following their first prescription fill, and decreasing to 25 percent within six months. Read more here...

Study Shows Significant Increase in Prescribed Stimulant Use Among Adults

A study led by Mehmet Burcu, a doctoral candidate in the PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research (PHSR) Program at the School of Pharmacy, has found that, although prescription stimulant use across all age groups has increased in recent years, the increase in the use of these medications among adults has exceeded the use in youth. Published in the psychiatry-focused Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA Psychiatry), the study also found that, while more boys are prescribed stimulants among youth populations, women are more likely to be prescribed these medications in adult populations. Read more here...

PRC Director Recognized as UMB Employee of the Month
Congratulations to Jacqueline Milani, MS, MBA, CPP, director of Pharmaceutical Research Computing (PRC) in PHSR, on being chosen as the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s October Employee of the Month. Ms. Milani was selected for this honor for being a great leader, a wonderful team member, and an accountable employee. PRC provides world-class support for impactful, inspired health services research at the School, UMB, and Veterans Affairs Medical Center and beyond. Ms. Milani has streamlined the process for how project estimates were tracked to how PRC closes out funded projects. 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 dos Reis, PhD**, associate professor, was selected as the School of Pharmacy’s 2016 Student Government Association and Kappa Psi Faculty Advisor of the Year, has been elected co-chair of the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology’s Pediatric Special Interest Group, and has been appointed to the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education’s Board of Grants. She has also been named vice chair of research for PHSR.

- **Peter Hur, PharmD, MBA**, postdoctoral fellow, received a Best New Investigator Podium Research Presentations Award at the annual meeting of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemics and Outcomes Research.

- **Aida Kuzucan**, graduate student, received PHSR’s Harris Zuckerman Scholarship.

- **Elibeth Oehrlein**, graduate student, received PHSR’s Donald O. Fedder Memorial Fellowship and received a Silver Medal from the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy for her abstract “The Accelerator or the Brake for Real-World Evidence?”.

- **Ebere Onukwugha, PhD**, associate professor and executive director of the Pharmaceutical Research Computing center, has been named an associate editor of the journal *Ethnicity & Disease*.

- **Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD**, professor and director of the Center on Drugs and Public Policy, and co-authors received the 2016 L. M. Simonsmeier Writing Award from the American Society for Pharmacy Law for the article "Navigating Through a Complex and Inconsistent Regulatory Framework: Section 503B of the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act Outsourcing Facilities Engaged in Clinical Investigation.”

- **Fadia Shaya, PhD**, professor, has been elected to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

- **Jan Sieluk**, graduate student, received PHSR’s Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship.

Grants and Contracts

- **Anna Hung, PharmD**, graduate student, received a one-year $58,517 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for "Budget Impact of Antidiabetic Formulary Changes.”

- **Joseph Levy**, postdoctoral fellow, received a two-year $105,619 fellowship from Merck.

- **Jacqueline Milani, MS, CPP**, director of the Pharmaceutical Research Computing center, received a one-year $59,612 contract from Ocular Therapeutix for "Device Exposure Registry: A Post-Approval Observational Registry of ReSure Selanet to Track the Incidence of Endophthalmitis after Sealing Corneal Incisions in Patients Undergoing Clear Corneal Cataract Surgery.”

- **C. Daniel Mullins, PhD**, professor and chair, received a two-year $1,023,719 contract from Westat for "Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Scientific and Lay Training” and a two-year $210,691 fellowship from Merck.

- **Eleanor Perfetto, PhD**, professor, received an eight-month $235,000 grant from Optum Labs for collaborative research.

- **Melissa Ross**, graduate student, won second place in the Maryland Public Health Association’s Dr. Donald O. Fedder Student Poster Competition.

- **Fadia Shaya, PhD**, professor, received a one-year $380,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) for “Evaluation and Technical Assistance Services for the Maryland Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Prevention Program FY17.” She also received a one-year $190,00 contract from DHMH for “Technical Assistance & Evaluation of the Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnership for a Successful Initiative” and an eight-month $315,681 contract from the DHMH for “SPF Rx.”

- **Sarah Tom, PhD**, assistant professor, received a two-year $598,438 grant from the National Institute on Aging for “Early Life Environment and Late Life Dementia, Cognition, Neuropathology and Reserve” and a one-year $223,216 grant from Novartis for “Value and Access to New Drug Products in the Part D Market.”

Publications

- **Slejko JF**, Willke RJ, Ribbing J, Milligan P. "Translating Pharmacometrics to a Pharmacoeconomic Model of COPD." *Value in Health*. Published online September 21, 2016.


