Dear colleagues,

Happy New Year! If 2018 is any indication, then 2019 promises to be a wonderful year for the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Last year, our students, faculty, and staff secured grants and contracts, were recognized for their achievements with awards, and assumed leadership roles within PHSR and with professional organizations. Of particular note are the following:

- Danya Qato, PhD, PharmD, MPH, assistant professor, has been named the director of the department's graduate (PhD and MS) program.
- Hillary Edwards, MPH, associate director of program management and evaluation for the PATIENTS Program, was recognized as the University of Maryland, Baltimore's October Employee of the Month.
- Four of our graduate students received prestigious fellowships and scholarships from the department.

There are many more achievements included in the newsletter. I hope after reading that, like me, you feel an enormous sense of pride in being affiliated with PHSR and the School of Pharmacy.

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD
Professor and Chair

Giving Day 2019 Success

Together, we raised more than $70,000 from 332 supporters!
Feb. 1 and 2 were an exciting time for the School of Pharmacy, with our alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends coming together again in support of the School during our third online 24 hour Giving Day. Due to the combined efforts of the School community, we surpassed our goal of 220 donors, raising more than $70,000 from over 330 donors! PHSR secured more than $4,200 in gifts from 48 donors. The department's PATIENTS Program received more than $4,000 from 82 donors, and the Fedder Fellowship Fund received $1,845 from 34 donors. We have a remarkably strong School of Pharmacy community, one that believes in the quality of our education, practice, research, and community programs. Your collective actions helped make our Giving Day a success, and we are forever grateful for your contributions.

New Director Looks to Advance, Expand Graduate Program

In 2018, PHSR named Danya M. Qato, PhD, PharmD, MPH, assistant professor, as the new director of its graduate program. Qato succeeded Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD, professor, in this role. Dr. Palumbo co-founded the internationally recognized graduate program with David Knapp, PhD, professor emeritus and former dean of the School of Pharmacy, and Robert Beardsley, RPh, PhD, professor and vice chair for administration in PHSR, in the 1990s, and served as its director from 2015 to 2018. As the newest director of the PHSR graduate program, Dr. Qato has identified three goals that she plans to achieve, and is currently taking steps to transform those ambitions into reality: raising awareness about faculty, student, and trainee accomplishments; examining and streamlining curricular requirements for the PHSR graduate program to maximize the value of student training, and improving opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary student and trainee-led research. She also aims to enhance students and trainees’ career preparedness. Read more here...

Lamy Center to Lead Statewide Antimicrobial Stewardship Initiative
The Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, a collaborative center between PHSR and the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been awarded a $200,000 contract from the Maryland Department of Health to promote appropriate antimicrobial use in long-term care and nursing facilities across the state of Maryland. Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCPP, CGP, FASCP, professor in PPS and executive director of the Lamy Center, will serve as the principal investigator for the contract, which ultimately aims to establish a training program focused on antimicrobial stewardship and infection control for consultant pharmacists and other medical providers working in long-term care settings across the state. Read more here...

PATIENTS Day Empowers Local Communities to Take Charge of Their Health

Nearly 200 community members, health care providers, and researchers came together at the University of Maryland BioPark on July 20 to celebrate PATIENTS Day. Hosted by the School of Pharmacy’s Patient-Centered Involvement in Evaluating the Effectiveness of Treatments (PATIENTS) Program, this interactive health fair offered attendees an opportunity to learn from and teach each other how to create and sustain healthy individuals and communities in West Baltimore and nationwide. The half-day event featured three panel discussions that highlighted some of the physical, mental, and social factors that impact community members’ health. There were conversations...
PHSR Staff Members Wins UMB Employee of the Month Award

Congratulations to Hillary Edwards, MPH, associate director of program management and evaluation for the PATIENTS Program in PHSR, on her selection as the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Employee of the Month for October. Hillary was selected for her leadership within the PATIENTS Program, for her efforts to organize the second PATIENTS Day in July, and for inspiring the program's peers and colleagues to initiate sincere and genuine interactions with the community. In addition to her role with PATIENTS, Hillary serves as president of the UMB Staff Senate. Click here to read more about Hillary and this well deserved honor.

PHSR's Stellar Students Recognized with Scholarship Awards

PHSR hosted its Graduate Program Awards Presentation and Reception in October to present the Harris Zuckerman Scholarship Award, the Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship, the Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Student Travel
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.

- **Hillary Edwards, MPH**, associate director of program management and evaluation for the PATIENTS Program, has been re-elected to the University of Maryland, Baltimore Staff Senate.
- **Laura Gressler**, graduate student, has received an ORISE Fellowship in the Department of Epidemiology at the FDA.
- **Maya Hanna, MPH**, and **Juan-David Rueda, MD**, both graduate students, received the department's Student Travel Scholarship to present their research at the 2018 International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Europe meeting.
- **Maya Hanna, MPH**, graduate student, received third place in the 2018 Donald O. Fedder Student Poster Competition at the Maryland Public Health Association's Annual Meeting in October.
- **Yoon Hong, PharmD**, graduate student, has received the department's Harris Zuckerman Scholarship.
- **Angelique Kane**, business services specialist, has been accepted into Building Bridges Across Maryland, a training, networking, and development program at Towson University for administrative support staff at area colleges and universities.
- **Jacquelyn McRae, PharmD**, graduate student, has received the department's Donald O. Fedder Memorial Fellowship and has been named an at-large member of the Maryland Public Health Association's Board of Directors.
- **C. Daniel Mullins, PhD**, professor, chair, and director of the PATIENTS Program, has been named a member of the National Academy of Medicine's steering committee on Generating Stakeholder Support and Demand for Leveraging and Sharing Data for Continuous Learning.
- **Ester Villalonga Olives**, assistant professor, has been named an Outstanding Reviewer by the journal *Health & Place*.
- **B.J. Shaneman, RN, MSN**, senior program specialist in the PATIENTS Program, has been named an Honoree by the New Vision House of Hope for her service, dedication, and commitment to the citizens of Baltimore.
- **Chengchen Zhang, MPH**, graduate student, has received the department's Dr. Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship.

Grants and Contracts Received in 2018

- **Wendy Camelo Castillo, MD, MSc, PhD**, assistant professor
  - Subproject: $233,668 from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for "Using Health to Measure Impact in Functionality, Behavior, and Activity in Children and Adolescents Treated with Psychotropics"
- **Susan dosReis, PhD**, professor:
  - $100,652 from the Maryland Department of Health for "State of Maryland Foster Care Psychotropic Database Monitoring"
  - $156,000 from Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America for "Patient-Driven Value Elements in an Economic Evaluation for the Treatment of COPD"
  - $167,046 from GSK Vaccines R&D Center for "Outcomes Assessment of Medicare Beneficiaries Receiving Vaccines"
- **Susan dosReis, PhD**, professor, and **Julia Slejko, PhD**, assistant professor:
  - $500,000 from the PhRMA Foundation for "Center for Patient-Focused Value Assessment"
- **Laura Gressler**, graduate student:
  - $31,196 from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education for "ORISE Fellowship"
- **Jacqueline Milani, MS, CPP**, director of the Pharmaceutical Research Computing:
  - $315,517 from the Maryland Department of Health for "Behavioral Health Administration: Database Management & Technical Analytic Support 2019"
C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor, chair, and director of the PATIENTS Program:
- $162,000 from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for "Improving FDA Health Communications with Older Women Regarding FDA Regulated Products"
- $49,553 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for "R24 Conference Grant Program"
- $58,126 from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for supplement to "Peer Review PCORI"

Ebere Onukwugha, MS, PhD, associate professor:
- $77,283 from Pfizer Inc. for supplement to "Clinical and Economic Burden of Parkinson's Disease Study"

Eleanor Perfetto, PhD, MS, professor:
- $74,986 from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for "COA CEU Certificate Program"
- $150,000 from the Pharmacy Quality Alliance for "Hypoglycemic Events Requiring a Hospital Admission or ED Visit Associated with Anti-Hyperglycemic Medications"
- $91,998 from Pfizer, Inc. for "Use of Real-World Evidence in Value and Health Technology Assessment"
- $38,991 from Excerpta Medica for "Use of Real-World Evidence in Value and Health Technology Assessment"

Fadia Shaya, PhD, professor:
- $452,000 from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) for "SABG Substance Abuse Block Grant"
- $285,636 from the Maryland Department of Health for "Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF-Rx)"
- $215,000 from the Maryland Department of Health for "SPF-PFS (MSPF2) Technical Assistance and Evaluation of the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnership for Success (SPF_PFS) Initiative"
- $150,214 from DentaQuest Foundation for "Health Economics and Outcomes Research Fellowship"

Linda Simoni-Wastila, PhD, professor and director of research for the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging:
- $65,420 from the Maryland Health Care Commission for "Managed Care Organizations Shared Savings Calculation for the Maryland Multi-Payor Patient-Centered Medical Home Project"
- $218,840 from Novartis Pharmaceuticals for "Novartis-Health Economics and Outcomes Research Fellowship"
- $150,000 from the Maryland Department of Health for "Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup"

Julia Slejko, PhD, assistant professor:
- $65,000 from the Institute for Economic and Clinical Review for "Comparative Effectiveness Reports."

Publications

- Onukwugha E and D Alfandre. Against Medical Advice Discharges are Increasing for Targeted Conditions of the Medicare Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. [Accepted October 2018].
- Pradhan AM, Park L, Shaya FT, Finkelstein J. Consumer Health Information Technology in the Prevention of Substance Abuse: A Scoping Review; *Journal of Medical Internet Research* (accepted October 2018)
- Schepis TS, Teter CJ, Simoni-Wastila L, McCabe SE. Prescription Tranquilizer/Sedative Misuse and Correlates Across Age Cohorts in the US. *Addictive Behaviors*. 2018; 87:24-32.