Fall 2021

Dear alumni and colleagues,

It’s been over a year since my last newsletter arrived in your inbox. During that year, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy – like all of you – has adapted to a new way of working and learning in an effort to keep us safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, we ensured continuity of operations, reconfigured our Doctor of Pharmacy courses and instruction to virtual, continued caring for patients, served on the COVID-19 frontlines, and undertook COVID-19 research projects.

I am proud of our faculty, staff, and students for being flexible, adaptable, and committed to their work and academics. I also recognize the tremendous hardships the past 16 months have placed on all of us in a myriad of ways and am proud of how we have supported each other through this difficult time.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore and the School of Pharmacy are fully reopening for in-person activities for the fall 2021 semester. Many of us transitioned back to our offices this summer, while some never left. It’s wonderful to walk down our hallways and see students and colleagues back in action - collaborating, working, and learning together as we create a new normal in pharmacy education. I also hope to reconnect with many of you in the coming months.

All the best,

Jill A. Morgan, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS
Professor and Chair

PPS News
SOP Serve on Maryland’s COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, BCACP, FAPhA, associate professor and associate dean for student affairs, and Deanna Tran, PharmD, BCACP, associate professor, were appointed in early 2021 to serve on the state of Maryland’s SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group. Established by the Maryland Department of Health, the SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group is tasked with reviewing COVID-19 vaccine trial data and offering guidance about how that data can be applied to the state’s vaccine distribution plan. The SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group includes pharmacists, physicians, nurses, social workers, and other public health professionals. Read more here...

Balassone Lecture Looks at Clinical Pharmacists’ Pandemic Experiences

The School of Pharmacy hosted its Francis S. Balassone Memorial Lecture in November. While this annual event is traditionally held in one of the School’s large lecture halls to accommodate the many faculty, staff, and students who gather to listen to an expert in the field of pharmacy practice share valuable insights from their clinical, teaching, or research experiences, this year was a bit different. Given the School of Pharmacy’s virtual format for the fall semester, this year’s lecture was held online and featured a panel discussion that included five experts from PPS. Titled “Practice Experiences of Clinical Pharmacists During COVID-19 and Impact on Patient Care,” the event spotlighted the professional experiences and lessons learned by the faculty members as their practice sites transformed and their clinical responsibilities began to evolve during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more here...

SOP’s Eddington, Sera Named Leaders in Health Care by Baltimore Business Journal

Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FCP, FAAPS, dean and professor of the School of Pharmacy, and Leah Sera, PharmD, MA, BCPS, associate professor and director of the MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program, were honored in the fall of 2020 as two of the recipients of the Baltimore Business Journal’s inaugural Leaders in Health Care
Awards. Established in late 2019, these awards celebrate doctors, nurses, hospital leaders, and other health care workers for their profound dedication to helping people. Eddington and Sera were recognized in the medical cannabis category, applauding their work in developing and launching the School of Pharmacy’s MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program – the first graduate program in the United States dedicated to the study of medical cannabis. Read more here...

SOP Hosts Inaugural John W. Holaday Endowed Memorial Lecture in Medical Cannabis

The School of Pharmacy hosted its inaugural John W. Holaday, PhD, Endowed Memorial Lectureship in Medical Cannabis in October 2020. Established with a gift from Curio Wellness – a medical cannabis brand and trusted health care partner based in Maryland – the lectureship was delivered as part of the MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program’s virtual fall symposium and honors the memory of John Holaday, PhD, a highly accomplished pharmaceutical executive, entrepreneur, and medical scholar who also served as chairman emeritus of Curio Wellness’s Scientific Advisory Board. Serving as the keynote speaker for the lecture was Raphael Mechoulam, PhD, the Lionel Jacobson Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Hebrew University in Israel and one of the world’s pre-eminent cannabis scientists. Mechoulam and his research team were the first to isolate and identify several major plant cannabinoids, including D9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the major psychoactive compound in the cannabis plant. Read more here...

SOP’s Heil Speaks to Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

Emily L. Heil, PharmD, BCIDP, associate professor, spoke during the 2020 Fall Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) public meeting in September. The meeting, which spanned two days and was held virtually, highlighted challenges related to antimicrobial stewardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more here...

SOP’s Devabhakthuni Begins Term as President of Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy
Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD, BCCP, associate professor and director of post-graduate training in PPS, began his term as president of the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy (MSHP) in July 2020. In 2019, Devabhakthuni was elected to a three-year leadership appointment with the organization, during which he first served president-elect from 2019-2020. His term will conclude in 2022, with his service as immediate past president to the organization.

Read more here...

UMB Grants Pumas-AI Exclusive License for Lyv, a Cutting-Edge Clinical Decision Support System

Pumas-AI, a University of Maryland, Baltimore startup company, has been granted worldwide, exclusive rights to Lyv, a cutting-edge clinical decision support system designed to help health care professionals personalize treatment trajectories for patients in real-time. The Lyv technology leverages clinical research and Electronic Health Record data from millions of patients to derive algorithms that can personalize health care delivery. Lyv will have modules for anti-infectives, anti-epileptics, anti-coagulants, and anti-cancer that can be used in a hospital setting, and can also incorporate algorithms during new drug development. By personalizing treatment, Lyv can help improve therapeutic success rates and minimize dosing errors. Research performed at the School of Pharmacy's Center for Translational Medicine led to the formation of Pumas AI and a novel Bayesian-based approach for deriving treatment algorithms that will be embedded into Lyv to personalize and improve health care delivery across a wide range of disease areas. 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.

Bruce Anderson, PharmD, professor and executive director of the Maryland Poison Center, received a $30,000 one-year contract from the Maryland Department of Health for “Enhanced Toxidromic Surveillance Using Poison Center Data” and a one-year $60,250 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration for “CARES Funding for Poison Centers.”

Emily Heil, PharmD, associate professor, has been appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' HIV Opportunistic Infections Guidelines Panel.

Vijay Ivaturi, PhD, assistant professor, received the following honors:
- elected to the International Society of Pharmacometrics’s Board of Directors
- a one-year $36,796 contract from the University of California, San Francisco for "Pharmacokinetic Assessment of MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine) in Healthy Volunteers and Subjects with..."
Nicole Brandt, PharmD, professor and executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, was named chair of the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages under the Bureau Health Workforce within the Health Resources and Services Administration. She also received a two-year $239,837 contract from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for “Engaging Older Adults and Caregivers in Medication Optimization Research.”

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, professor and executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, Catherine Cooke, PharmD, research associate professor, and Barbara Zarowitz, PharmD, geriatric pharmacotherapy and clinical research consultant, received the Gold Award for their research poster presented at the 2020 Pharmacy Quality Alliance Annual Meeting.

Kimberly Claeys, PharmD, was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor and received a one-year $58,264 contract from Merck Research Laboratories for “Implementation of Clinical Decision Support to Optimize Time to Effective Therapy in Multi-Drug Resistant Pseudomonas: Crossroads of Antimicrobial and Diagnostic Stewardship.”

Heather Congdon, PharmD, was promoted from associate professor to professor and was a member of the interprofessional University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) team that received the 2020 George E. Thibault, MD Nexus Award from the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education.

Catherine Cooke, PharmD, research associate professor, and Bethany DiPaola, PharmD, professor, received a one-year $47,740 grant from UMB’s Center for Addiction Research, Education, and Service for “Perceptions of Third-Party Payers on Expanding Access to Collaborative Management of Substance Use Disorder.”

Catherine Cooke, PharmD, research associate professor, received a one-year $159,204 grant from the Food and Drug Administration for “Evaluation of the REMS Programs for Psychiatric Medications” and was invited to serve as a member of the Maryland Department of Health’s Health Services Cost Review Commission Diabetes Measures Work Group.

Shawnée Daniel, PharmD, a pediatric pharmacy resident, was named an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy 2020 Walmart Scholar.

Erica Davis, PharmD, an advanced practice pharmacist in the School’s Mental Health Program, received an Innovative Practices Award from the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, associate professor and associate dean for student affairs, received the following honors:
- Maryland Pharmacists Association’s 2021 Seidman Distinguished Achievement Award
- Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2021’s Teacher of the Year
- Phi Lambda Sigma 2021 Alumnus of the Year Award

Raymond Love, PharmD, professor, received the Maryland Pharmacists Association’s 2020 Seidman Distinguished Achievement Award and was recognized by United States Pharmacopeia (USP) for his contributions to the creation of the USP COVID-19 Vaccine Handling Toolkit.

Daniel Mansour, PharmD, interprofessional clinical coordinator at the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, was named a fellow of the American Geriatrics Society and was accepted into the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Fellows Program in Community Engagement.

Ashlee Mattingly, PharmD, assistant professor, received the following honors:
- Maryland Pharmacists Association’s Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award
- induction into the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy Hall of Distinguished Alumni
- elected coordinator of the American Pharmacists Association’s Compounding Special Interest Group
- appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Compounding Section Advisory Group.

Faisal Minhaj, PharmD, clinical toxicology fellow, received a $4,000 one-year grant from the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology for “In Vitro Analysis of the Interference of N-acetylcysteine on INR Values.”

Jill Morgan, PharmD, professor and chair, received the 2021 Sustained Contribution to Administrative Practice in Pharmacy Education Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Administrative Services Section.

Jason Noel, PharmD, associate professor, received a three-year $337,717 contract from the Maryland Department of Health for “Facilities and Community Based Psychopharmacology Consultation.”

Zac Noel, PharmD, assistant professor, was named the School of Pharmacy’s American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy 2020 Year Award recipient.
Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD, associate professor, was named the PharmD Class of 2020’s Teacher of the Year and was accepted to UMB’s Faculty Leadership Development Program.

Bethany DiPaula, PharmD, professor, received the following honors:
- named a fellow of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists
- received the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association’s Evander Frank Kelly Honored Alumnus Award
- received a seven-month $49,900 contract from the Maryland Department of Health for “Expanding the Maryland Opioid Academic Detailing Project to Include Maryland Pharmacists”

Megan Ehret, PharmD, received the following honors:
- promoted from associate professor to professor
- received the Maryland Pharmacists Association’s Excellence in Innovation Award
- named the School of Pharmacy’s 2020 alternate delegate for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s House of Delegates
- appointed to the editorial board of the journal Pharmacy.

Joga Gobburu, PhD, professor and director of the Center for Translational Medicine, and Vijay Ivaturi, PhD, assistant professor, received a United States patent for “Method of Administering Sotalol IV/Switch.”

Joga Gobburu, PhD, professor and director of the Center for Translational Medicine, received the following grants and contracts:
- a one-year $9,307 contract from Johns Hopkins University for “The Chesapeake-Ohio Pharmacokinetic Core for the ETCTN”
- a five-month $285,000 contract from Corvidia Therapeutics for “PK Analysis of COR-001”
- a five-year $35,000 contract from MacroGenics, Inc., for “PK Analysis of MGD014”
- a one-year $9,305 contract from the University of Pittsburgh for “ETCTM ePK Resource Laboratory at Pittsburgh”
- a three-month $150,000 contract from NewAmsterdam Pharma for “Proposal for PK Analysis of Obicetrapib”

Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, research assistant professor, received the following grants and contracts:
- a one-year $25,000 contract from Wockhardt for “Comparison of Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Wockhardt’s Biphasic Insulin Aspart Injection (30/70) with Novomix® 30 in Healthy Subjects”

Leah Sera, PharmD, was promoted from assistant professor to associate professor.

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, professor, associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, and director of the School’s Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, received the following honors:
- re-elected to the American Pharmacists Association’s Board of Trustees
- a one-year $10,000 contract from emocha Mobile Health for “emocha Mobile Health Task Order #1”
- a one-year $300,000 contract from the Prince George’s County Department of Health for “PreventionLink Program”
- a one-year $87,136 contract from Maryland Primary Care Physicians for “Memorandum of Understanding”

Deanna Tran, PharmD, received the following honors:
- promoted from assistant professor to associate professor
- named the School of Pharmacy’s 2020 Faculty Preceptor of the Year
- named president-elect of the Maryland Pharmacists Association

Neha Pandit, PharmD, associate professor, received a three-year $1.3 million contract from the Maryland Department of Health for “Antiretroviral Adherence Improvement through Collaboration among Prescribers, Payers, Pharmacists, and Health Department Programs - AdhereP4.”

Kristine Parbuoni, PharmD, associate professor, was named chair-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Pediatric Special Interest Group.

Brent Reed, PharmD, associate professor, received the Best Poster Award at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s virtual annual meeting.

Charmaine Rochester-Eyeguokan, PharmD, professor, received the following honors:
- the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association’s B. Olive Cole Honorary Alumnus Award
- a one-year $19,600 contract from emocha Mobile Health for “emocha Mobile Health Task Order #2”
- the 2021 Bowl of Hygeia Award from the Maryland Pharmacists Association
- Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2021’s Faculty Preceptor of the Year.

Sheryl Thedford, PharmD, clinical psychiatric pharmacist, has been appointed to the Psychiatric Pharmacy Specialty Council by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, professor, associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, and director of the School’s Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, received the following honors:
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- a one-year $300,000 contract from the Prince George’s County Department of Health for “PreventionLink Program”
- a one-year $87,136 contract from Maryland Primary Care Physicians for “Memorandum of Understanding”
A two-year $195,000 contract from Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories for “DFN-15 (Celecoxib Oral Solution) MIDD Approach”

A one-year $110,000 contract from G1 Therapeutics for “Proposal G1T48 Population Pharmacokinetics and Exposure-response Analysis”

A two-year $155,000 contract from Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories for “Proposal for DFN-15 (Celecoxib Oral Solution) MIDD-II”

A two-year $105,000 contract from West Therapeutic Development for “Proposal for Ketamine Nasal Spray - MIDD Approach”

A 10-month $330,000 contract from West Therapeutic Development for “Proposal for Ketamine and Esketamine formulations - MIDD Approach”

A one-year $350,000 contract from Partner Therapeutics for “Proposal for Leukine Analysis & Reporting”

A two-year $15,506 contract from Meabco, Inc., for “Consulting Services Related to Meabco, Inc.’s, Proprietary Compound, BP-C2.”

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, received the following honors:

- Promoted from assistant professor to associate professor
- Appointed by the Society of Critical Care Medicine to its Center for Disease Control and Prevention Infectious Disease Threats Advisory Panel
- Elected secretary/treasurer of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s Critical Care Practice & Research Network
- Received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Yale New Haven Health Pharmacy Residency Program

James Trovato, PharmD, was promoted from associate professor to professor and has been named president-elect of the School of Pharmacy’s Faculty Assembly.

Chanel Whittaker, PharmD, associate professor and director of education and training for the School’s Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, has been accepted into the American Geriatrics Society’s Emerging Leaders in Aging Program and has been named Geriatrics Residency Director of the Year by the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists.

Barbara Zarowitz, PharmD, geriatric pharmacotherapy and clinical research consultant at the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, has been named to the American Medical Directors Foundation Board.

**PUBLICATIONS**


Furuno JP, Noble BN, McPherson ML, Lapane KL, Sera L, Izumi S, Tjia J. Variation in Hospice


Heil EL, Tamma PD. Cefiderocol: The Trojan Horse Has Arrived but will Troy Fall? Lancet Infectious Diseases 2020 (epub ahead of print). [Invited Editorial].

Heil EL, Bork JA. It’s a Marathon, not a Sprint: Antimicrobial Stewardship in the ICU. Critical Care Medicine 2020 (epub ahead of print). [Invited Editorial].

Lee M. Sustaining Innovative Health Advocacy and Research: The Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging at University of Maryland, Baltimore. In SAGE Business Cases 2021; SAGE Publications, Ltd., doi.org/10.4135/9781529767629


Mattingly AN. Technical Reports for 85 Bulk Drug Substances Reviewed as Part of Year 1 of the Clinical Use of Bulk Drug Substances Nominated for Use in Compounding by Outsourcing Facilities FDA Funded Grant published online at https://archive.hshsl.umaryland.edu/handle/10713/11647


McPherson ML. Reviewer Report, on Kremer HJ. Time to Initiate Randomized Controlled Clinical Trials with Methadone in Cancer Patients [version 1; peer review: 1 approved]. F1000 Research 2019, 8:1835 (https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.20454.1)


Owusu KA, Kurczewski L, Armahizer MJ, Zichichi


Mouradijjan MT, Heil EL, Seung H, Pandit NS. Virologic Suppression in Patients with a Documented M184V/I Mutation Based on the Number of Active Agents in the Antiretroviral Regimen. *SAGE Open Medicine* 2020;8:205031210960570.


Plazak ME, Gale SE, Reed BN, Hammad S, Ton VK, Kaczorowski DJ, Madathil RJ, Ravichandran B. Clinical Outcomes of Perioperative Desensitization in Heart Transplant Recipients. *Transplantation Direct*. 2020 (accepted, awaiting e-publication)


Zarowitz BJ. Emerging Pharmacotherapy Needs of Patients in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. The Senior Care Pharmacist, 35(10), 446-464.


Rodriguez de Bittner M: Indicators for the Implementation of Pharmacy Services in the Americas - Pan American Health Organization


Cook H, Kaiser K, Walker K, McPherson ML. Assessment of Students’ Knowledge, Skills and


Chou J, Cooke C, Brandt NJ. Socioeconomic and Geographical Characteristics of Medicare Beneficiaries Accessing Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Services. Poster abstract accepted for the 2020 University of Maryland School of Medicine Aging Research Symposium. (Poster present on the Lamy Center website).


Rodriguez de Bittner M, Pincus KJ. Billing for Pharmacists Services. University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Professional Development series. February 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. Comprehensive Medication Management Services. CTO Network, Maryland Department of Health. February 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. Value Based Models. APhA Annual Meeting. March 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. Comprehensive Medication Therapy Management within MDPCP Practice Coaches for MDPCP. Maryland Department of Health. May 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. New Frontiers for Pharmacy Education within the New Reality Post-COVID. University of Panama School of Pharmacy, 100th Anniversary Celebration. May 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. Integrating Comprehensive Therapy Management within the MDPCP. Maryland Department of Health Collaborative Meeting. June 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. COPD Telehealth Pilot at UM Shore UMMS. CMO Council UMMS. July 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. Educational Methodologies post-COVID Implications for Pharmacy Programs. Pan American Network for Pharmacy Education. Pan American Health Organization. September 2020


Ehret MJ. Chair of webinar by Creative Educational Concepts: Role of the Pharmacist Using LAIs During COVID-19; Launch Date: Aug. 1, 2020

Ehret MJ. CE Presentation for the Maryland Department of Health on July 11, 2020: Review of the Appropriate Use of Stimulants.

Ehret MJ. Medication Adherence and COVID-19. PsychU Podcast; May 2020

Ehret MJ. A Novel Approach to Treatment Resistant Depression. National Alliance on Mental Illness Annual Convention; July 2020.


Rodriguez de Bittner M. CTM Overview. UMMS MTM Steering Committee. October 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. Patient-centered Care: Considerations for Recently Immigrated Communities. ACCP Annual Meeting. October 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. Promoting the Adoption of MTM to Improve Chronic Disease Care in Southern Maryland. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. October 2020

Rodriguez de Bittner M. Challenges, Experiences, and Adaptation of Pharmacy Education During and After the Pandemic. Pan American Conference on Pharmacy Education. November 2020

Ma LB, Osotimehin FA, Rodriguez de Bittner M. Creating a Patient-Centered Community through Integration of Clinical Pharmacy Services in Primary Care CRISP. Annual Meeting. November 2020

Ogando YM, Lee TY, Rodriguez de Bittner M, Shaya FT. Prevalence and Factors Associated with Narcotic Controlled Substance Use Among People with Depression and Anxiety: NHANES 2015-2016. University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, Baltimore, MD, USA. May 20

Rochester CD. Diabetes Medication Update. What’s New! Team Diabetes Annual Conference (Maryland Diabetes Educators – Dietitians, Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers). October 2020

Rochester-Eyeguokan CD. Parbuonie K. Contraception Prescribing Credentialing Education Activity for Maryland Pharmacists. A four-hour online training curriculum that has attained approval from the Maryland Board of Pharmacy to be used for credentialing pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives in the state of Maryland. January 2020 Portal (https://ce.pharmacy.umaryland.edu)


Osotimehin FA, Rodriguez de Bittner M. Patient-Centered Community in Primary Care: Medication Therapy Management. Prince George’s County Department of Health - PreventionLink Community of Practice Meeting. February 2021