Dear colleagues,

Another academic year has begun at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. With it comes the addition of several new assistant professors in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science. We are thrilled to welcome them aboard.

**Kimberly Claeys, PharmD, BCPS**

Dr. Claeys received a PharmD from Wayne State University Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Detroit, MI. She completed a pharmacy practice residency at University of Illinois at Chicago School of Pharmacy and University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago, followed by a two-year Infectious Diseases Health Outcomes Fellowship at the Anti-Infective Research Laboratory in Detroit. Her practice site is the University of Maryland Medical Center, where she is works with the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.

**Emily Heil, PharmD, BCPS, AQ-ID**

Dr. Heil received her undergraduate and PharmD degrees from the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill and completed a pharmacy practice and infectious diseases pharmacy residency training at UNC Hospitals. Her practice site is the University of Maryland Medical Center, where she served for the last five years as coordinator of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.

**Zac Noel, PharmD, BCPS**

Dr. Noel received a PharmD degree from the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Pharmacy in 2014 and subsequently completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at UK Healthcare and a PGY2 in cardiology, also at UK Healthcare. He joins the cardiology pharmacy team at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

**Sean Kelly, PharmD**

Dr. Kelly received a PharmD degree from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. He joins the internal medicine team at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

I hope that you all have a successful school year.
Sincerely,

Jill A. Morgan, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS
Associate 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...

CTM and FDA Collaborate to Assess Extrapolation of Anti-epileptic Drugs' Effectiveness

A collaborative research project led by the Food and Drug Administration with support from the department's Center for Translational Medicine and the Pediatric Epilepsy Academic Consortium for Extrapolation has concluded that extrapolation of anti-epileptic drug efficacy results from adults to children ages four years and older with partial onset seizures is acceptable, and that independent clinical trials for efficacy in children will no longer be needed. Read more here...

Fourth-Year Students Match with Residency Programs Nationwide

With the end of the matching period for pharmacy residency and fellowship programs across the country on April 8, thousands of fourth-year student pharmacists learned their fate when the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists announced its final Residency Match Day results. Thirty-four students from the School of Pharmacy were matched to residency positions at institutions such as the Johns Hopkins Hospital, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and the Veteran’s Affairs Health Care System. The School of Pharmacy's joint residency program with the University of Maryland Medical Center also had a successful match. Twenty residents and fellows joined or continued in the program in July to advance their knowledge and skills in a number of specialty areas, including cardiology, oncology, pediatrics, and psychiatry. Read more here...
PPS has established the Applied Therapeutics, Research, and Instruction at the University of Maryland (ATRIUM) Cardiology Collaborative to help advance the pharmaceutical care of patients with cardiovascular diseases. Led by Kristin Watson, PharmD, BCPS-AQ Cardiology, associate professor and director of post-graduate training in PPS; Brent Reed, PharmD, BCPS-AQ Cardiology, FAHA, assistant professor in PPS; and Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD, BCPS-AQ Cardiology, assistant professor in PPS, the program strives to position its members as foremost experts in cardiovascular pharmacotherapy. Read more here...

Layson-Wolf Named APhA-ASP Outstanding Chapter Advisor

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, BCACP, FAPhA, associate professor in PPS and associate dean for student affairs, received the 2016 American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award at the APhA annual meeting in March in Baltimore. This award is presented each year to an exceptional pharmacy faculty member who has promoted with distinction the welfare of student pharmacists through various professional activities. Read more here...

Feemster Receives University Interprofessional Global Health Grant

Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, BCPS, assistant professor in PPS, has been awarded a 2016 Center for Global Education Initiatives Interprofessional Global Health Faculty Grant from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). The $5,000 grant will fund an educational needs assessment that Feemster and three students representing different professional schools from across the University will conduct to help improve medication safety at the Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt in Cairo. Read more here...

Kudos!

Our department's faculty are regularly recognized at the local and national level for their expertise. Here is a short list of recent accomplishments.

- Catherine Cooke, PharmD, associate professor, has been elected vice president of the School of Pharmacy's Faculty Assembly.
- Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD, assistant professor, has
Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, associate professor and associate dean for student affairs, has been named vice president/president-elect of the Maryland Pharmacists Association.

Kashelle Lockman, PharmD, a palliative care pharmacy resident and instructional design fellow; Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, professor, and Kathryn Walker, PharmD, associate professor, have been elected to the inaugural Board of Trustees for the Society of Palliative Care Pharmacists.

Joey Mattingly, PharmD, assistant professor, received the Faculty Teacher of the Year Award from the School's graduating Class of 2016.

Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, professor, has been named chair of the Society of Palliative Care Pharmacists' Education Committee and has been appointed to a two-year term on the Executive Committee of UMB's Center to Advance Chronic Pain Research.

Katy Pincus, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, received a Faculty Teacher of the Year Award from the Division of Medical Student Education in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, professor and associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, and Anna Hung, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, have been accepted into the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Walmart Scholars Program.

Neha Sheth Pandit, PharmD, associate professor, has been appointed the department's vice chair for research and scholarship.

Deanna Tran, PharmD, assistant professor, has been appointed chair of the Recognition Committee of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management's (APhA-APPM) Immunizing Pharmacists Special Interest Group, and has been appointed to APhA-APPM's Education Standing Committee.

Kristin Watson, PharmD, associate professor, has been appointed the department's vice chair for clinical services.

Chanel Whittaker, PharmD, assistant professor, received the Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award from the School's graduating Class of 2016.

**Publications**

- Heil EM, Kuti JL, Bearden DT and Gallagher JC. The Essential Role of Pharmacists in Antimicrobial Stewardship. *Infection*


**Presentations**


**McPherson ML.** "Let it go! Let it go! Effective medication management at the end of life." Grand Rounds MacNeal Hospital, Berwyn, Illinois, March 2016.


**McPherson ML.** "New Drugs and Drug News: The 411 and Implications for Palliative Care." American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Care/Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association Annual Assembly, Chicago, Illinois, March 2016.


- McPherson ML, Ray J. Drug Abuse and Diversion in Home-Based Hospice. ASHP Webinar Hospice and Palliative Care Practitioners, March 2016.


- Divakaruni A*, Duffy AP. Saylor E. Assessing the Need for Improved Strategies and Medication-Related Education to Increase Adherence for Oral Anticancer Agents in the Young Adult (YA) Oncology Population School of Pharmacy Research Day, April 2016.


McPherson ML. "Opioid Therapy (and other Controlled Substances)!" McPherson ML. Maryland OHCQ Grand Rounds, Baltimore, MD, January 2016


Divakaruni A, Duffy AP, Saylor E. Assessing the Need for Improved Strategies and Medication-Related Education to Increase Adherence for Oral Anticancer Agents in the Young Adult (YA) Oncology Population. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, December 2015.


