Dear colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far. The Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) continues to be productive and forward thinking while also enjoying the warm weather and longer days. In June, I was proud to witness two teams of faculty from PPS compete in the School’s first ever Shark Tank competition, which focused on innovative products, programs, and initiatives conceptualized by School faculty. The team of Kimberly Claeys, PharmD, assistant professor; Emily Heil, PharmD, assistant professor, and Neha Sheth Pandit, PharmD, associate professor and PPS’s vice chair for research and scholarship, gave a fantastic presentation on their proposal to develop novel, engaging training tools for students studying the spectrum of antimicrobial activity and antimicrobial stewardship using an interactive app-based platform. As the winning team from PPS, Drs. Claeys, Heil, and Sheth Pandit received funding to turn their idea into a reality. I look forward to sharing more with you as they develop their app.

Faculty in PPS amaze me every day with their commitment to improving the educational experience for our students and outcomes for their patients. They are following in the footsteps of the School of Pharmacy’s Founding Pharmapreneurs honored at a special dinner on May 10 by innovating, creating, and improving tools, products, and programs for the benefit of students and patients.

Sincerely,

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

School Partners with UM Quality Care Network to Expand Pharmacy Services
The School of Pharmacy has contracted with the University of Maryland Quality Care Network (UMQCN) to provide pharmacy services and case management support to approximately 125,000 patients who receive care under the network. Patients from private insurance, as well as Medicaid and Medicare patients, will receive care coordination services from pharmacy faculty and staff in the network in collaboration with more than 350 primary care providers across Maryland. UMQCN is a provider-organized network of physicians and other health care providers in the state of Maryland. It employs an engaged primary care model, advanced medical management programs, and innovative technology platform to provide patients with high quality, efficiently coordinated, and cost-effective health care services. Through the new contract with UMQCN, faculty and staff from the School of Pharmacy will be responsible for providing a variety of services to patients in the network, including medication management, telehealth management, drug information, and patient and provider education on numerous medication-related issues. Read more here...

Faculty Member Weighs in on Guidance for Statin, Heart Disease Drug Interaction

Brent Reed, PharmD, BCPS-AQ Cardiology, FAHA, associate professor, joined a team of nine associate pharmacists and physicians assembled by the American Heart Association in issuing a new scientific statement that provides guidance about potential interactions between statins and other medications commonly prescribed to treat heart disease. The statement examines a number of heart disease medications that can potentially cause adverse reactions when combined with statins, including medications used to treat abnormal heart rhythms and congestive heart failure, anticoagulants (blood thinners), immunosuppressive medications, non-statin cholesterol lowering medications, and medications used to treat high blood pressure. In addition to providing information about dose limits and adverse effects associated with certain drug interactions, it reinforces the need for health care professionals to review all medications taken by patients who have been prescribed statins at each visit, as well as during transitions of care, to ensure that any potential drug interactions are identified and evaluated early, and managed appropriately. Read more here...
Faculty in PPS and the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research have received a multi-year, $150,000 grant from the Cardinal Health Foundation’s E3 Grant Program to help improve health outcomes for high-risk patients, while reducing health care costs. The grant - which targets patients with chronic illnesses and a history of frequent hospital readmissions - will support a new School of Pharmacy initiative titled "Patient-Activated Medication Safety (PAMS)," which will offer patients a personalized, interprofessional intervention following their discharge from the hospital. Read more here...

Maryland Poison Center Celebrates National Poison Prevention Week

Since 1962, the third week of March has been celebrated by presidential decree as National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW), providing poison centers across the country - including the Maryland Poison Center at the School of Pharmacy - an opportunity to raise awareness about the dangers of poisonings and highlight steps that families can take to prevent them. This year, NPPW was observed March 19-25, and focused on several poison prevention-related themes. Read more here...
Kudos!

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

- **Heather Congdon, PharmD**, associate professor and assistant dean for Shady Grove, has been named chair of the National Academies of Practice’s Pharmacy Academy.
- **Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD**, assistant professor and assistant dean for experiential learning, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists.
- **Lyn Goodrich**, BSN, RN, CSPI, and **Michael Hiotis**, PharmD, CSPI, of the Maryland Poison Center, have been re-certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) as specialists in poison information. **Elizabeth Millwee**, BSN, RN, has been certified by AAPCC as a specialist in poison information.
- **Katy Pincus, PharmD**, assistant professor, was named the School of Pharmacy’s Faculty Preceptor of the Year.
- **Brent Reed, PharmD**, associate professor, was named the School of Pharmacy's Class of 2017 Faculty Member of the Year.
- **Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, FAPhA**, professor and associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, has been elected to the American Pharmacists Association’s Board of Trustees for a three-year term beginning March 2018. She was also appointed to the Editorial Board of the journal Preventing Chronic Disease: Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy, published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **Deanna Tran, PharmD**, assistant professor, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Editorial Board of the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association.

Publications

- Divakaruni A, Saylor E, **Duffy A**. Assessing the Need for Improved Strategies and Medication-related Education to Increase Adherence for Oral Anticancer Medications in the Young Adult Oncology Population. Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice. 2017.


Stassinos G, Gonzales L, Klein-Schwartz W. Characterizing the Toxicity and Dose-effect Profile of Tramadol Ingestions in Children. Pediatric Emergency Care, 2017; Feb 21 [Epub ahead of print].


**Presentations**


Reed, BN. From "To Do" to "Done": Finding Focus in a World of Distraction. Invited Presentation. Faculty Development Workshop, University of Findlay. Webinar. December 2016.