



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

News from Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP

Fall 2021

Dear colleagues,

Thanks to COVID-19 safety precautions mandated by the University System of Maryland and the University of Maryland, Baltimore that included vaccinations as well as the wearing of face coverings indoors and KN95 masks in certain indoor settings, we were thrilled to welcome students, faculty, and staff back to our classrooms, lecture halls, labs, offices, and common areas this fall for the first time since spring 2020.



For students and employees who joined us during the pandemic, this semester is the first time they are seeing Pharmacy Hall and meeting their peers and colleagues. Faculty and staff also are utilizing a fortified hybrid telework schedule, which helps them with work/life balance in these difficult times without sacrificing quality.

Because as committed as we are to ensuring the health and safety of our School community during the pandemic, we also are steadfast in maintaining our leadership role to pharmacy innovation in academics, practice, and research. Our faculty, staff, and students have remained dedicated to their important work and studies, despite the unprecedented challenges created by the pandemic. I truly am in awe of them and grateful for their commitment.

In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact,

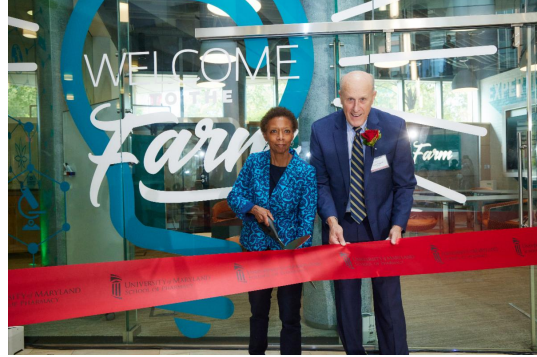
Natalie D. Eddington

Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, FAAPS, FCP
Dean and Professor

School of Pharmacy Hosts Pharmapreneurship Celebration

The School celebrated the next phase of its Pharmapreneurship™ initiative on Oct. 4 by cutting the ribbon to open its new Pharmapreneurs' Farm and announcing a new endowed professor in pharmapreneurship. The Pharmapreneurs' Farm was envisioned in 2018 as a

dedicated space for faculty, staff, and students to collaborate, nurture, and develop their pharmapreneurial ideas. [Click here](#) to read more.



School of Pharmacy Names Inaugural Gyi Endowed Professor in Pharmapreneurship



The School announced on Oct. 4 the appointment of [Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP](#), as the Felix Gyi Endowed Memorial Professor in Pharmapreneurship. In this new role, Rodriguez de Bittner will lead all pharmapreneurial activities at the School, providing focus, direction, and support for the groundbreaking initiative. [Click here](#) to read more.

School Hosts White Coat Ceremony for First- and Second-Year PharmD Students

For the first time in the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's history of hosting white coat ceremonies for its [Doctor of Pharmacy \(PharmD\)](#) students, two entire classes received their coats on Oct. 1. First-year PharmD students in the Class of 2025 and second-year students in the Class of 2024 – who missed their ceremony in Fall 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic – walked across the stage in UMB's Leadership Hall to receive their white coats – a symbol of the health care professions and a decades-old rite of passage for pharmacy students across the country. [Click here](#) to read more.



New PhD in Palliative Care Degree Adds to Portfolio of Academic Offerings

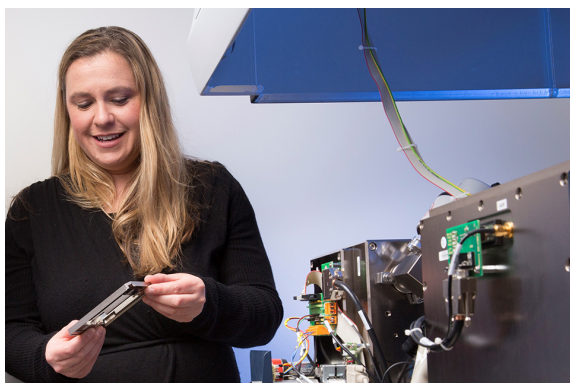
The School has been a national leader in palliative care education since 2017, when it launched its innovative, popular, and online [Graduate Certificate and Master of Science in Palliative Care](#) programs. The next logical step in this educational



evolution? A **PhD**. The three programs teach primary, secondary, and tertiary skills, respectively, in palliative care, which addresses the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of patients living with a serious or advanced illness and their families. [Click here](#) to read more.

Practice Faculty Member Honored with USM Elkins Professorship

Heather B. Congdon, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, FNAP, is firmly committed to advancing and expanding interprofessional education in Maryland and beyond. A professorship award from the University System of Maryland (USM) will help her in fulfilling that mission. Congdon, a professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the School of Pharmacy, has received a \$40,000 Wilson H. Elkins Professorship from USM to work on scaling up targeted IPE recommendations from the 2018 USM report “Strengthening Maryland’s Health Care Workforce.” [Click here](#) to read more.



Probiotic-Containing Yogurt Protects Against Microbiome Changes That Lead to Antibiotic-Induced Diarrhea, Study Finds

Eating yogurt containing a particular strain of a well-studied probiotic appears to protect against harmful changes in the gut microbiome that are associated with antibiotic administration. That is the finding from a new randomized clinical trial, led by researchers at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy’s **Mass Spectrometry Center**, the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Georgetown University Medical Center, which was recently published in the journal *Nutrients*. [Click here](#) to read more.

PSC Faculty Member Receives \$1.9 Million MIRA Award from the NIH

Ryan M. Pearson, PhD, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the School of Pharmacy, has received a highly prestigious Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The award

provides \$1.93 million over five years to support Pearson's work on understanding how nanoparticles can be precisely designed to modulate non-specific and antigen-specific inflammatory responses.

[Click here](#) to read more.



PATIENTS Program Grant Establishes Collaboration with Southwest Partnership in Baltimore City



The PATIENTS Program at the School of Pharmacy is collaborating with the Southwest Partnership (SWP) to bring the voices of Baltimore City residents into the discussion about health care research and patient outcomes. Through a two-year, \$250,000 funding award from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the collaboration is working with communities in Southwest Baltimore to take part in patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) and comparative effectiveness research (CER). [Click here](#) to read more.

UMSOP Faculty Recognized by Maryland Pharmacists Association for Service and Contributions

Deanna Tran, PharmD, BCACP, an associate professor in the **Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS)** at the School of Pharmacy, has been named vice president and president-elect of the Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPHA). **Charmaine Rochester-Eyeguokan, PharmD, CDE, BCACP**, professor in PPS and associate director of clinical programs for the UMSOP's Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, received the Bowl of Hygeia Award. **Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, BCACP, FAPhA**, associate professor in PPS and associate dean of student affairs, received the Seidman Distinguished Achievement Award. [Click here](#) to read more.



EVENTS

PhD and MS in PSC Online Info Session

Nov. 22 at 1 p.m.

This virtual info session will include a brief overview of the programs and application process.

[Register here.](#)

CRCG and FDA Co-Hosted Free Virtual Public Workshop

Nov. 30 at 8:30 a.m.

Establishing the Suitability of Model-Integrated Evidence to Demonstrate Bioequivalence for Long-Acting Injectable and Implantable Drug Products

[Register here.](#)

All School Online Trivia Night

Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

Grab your computer, a comfy seat, family and friends, some snacks and join the School of Pharmacy's Office of Development and Alumni Affairs for our first online team trivia night.

[Register here.](#)

Graduate Programs Information Session

Feb. 3 at 1 p.m.

Meet with members of the Office of Graduate Programs to discuss the online and in-person Master's and PhD programs offered at the School of Pharmacy.

[Register here.](#)

FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT NEWS

PHARMD STUDENTS

Meghna Bhatt, a fourth-year student pharmacist, has been named an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Gateway to Research Scholar.

Heng Ung, a second-year student pharmacist, has received a UMB Scholar Award for "Understanding Small Molecule Interactions with Proteins and Nucleic Acids through AI-based Molecular Simulations."

PHARMACY PRACTICE AND SCIENCE FACULTY AND STAFF

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, professor and executive director of the **Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging**, has been appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Drugs and Aging*, has been reappointed to the National Committee for Quality Assurance's Geriatric Medicare Advisory Panel, and has been named chair of the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages under the Bureau Health Workforce within the Health Resources and Services Administration.

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.

Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD, associate professor, has been accepted to the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Faculty Leadership Development Program.

Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, associate professor and assistant dean of experiential learning, received the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy W. Arthur Purdham Award for

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

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, associate professor and associate dean for student affairs, received the national Phi Lambda Sigma Alumnus of the Year Award and was named the Class of 2021's Teacher of the Year.

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.

Zachary Noel, PharmD, assistant professor, was named the School of Pharmacy's American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's alternate delegate.

Charmaine Rochester-Eyeguokan, PharmD, professor, was named the Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2021's Faculty Preceptor of the Year.

Deanna Tran, PharmD, associate professor, has

significant contributions to health-system pharmacy in Maryland.

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.”

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, associate professor, has been named chair-elect of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s Critical Care Practice and Research Network and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Yale New Haven Health Pharmacy Residency Program.

been elected a member-at-large of the American Pharmacists Association’s Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management and received the 2020 Outstanding Reviewer Award from the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*. She was also named to the *Baltimore Business Journal*’s 40 Under 40.

James Trovato, PharmD, professor, was named President-elect of the School of Pharmacy’s Faculty Assembly and elected chair of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists’ Section of Pharmacy Educators.

PHARMACEUTICAL HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

The School of Pharmacy’s **student chapter of ISPOR-The Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research** received the society’s 2020-2021 Student Chapter Award for Best Chapter Collaboration.

Michelle Besser, a business services specialist, was named the University of Maryland, Baltimore September Employee of the Month.

Wendy Camelo Castillo, PhD, assistant professor, was named an associate editor of the journal *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*.

Sean Fleming, a graduate student, received the department’s 2021 Donald O. Fedder Memorial Fellowship.

Eric Kettering, senior instructional technology and dissemination specialist with the **PATIENTS Program**, had his video - Tangerine Technique - accepted to the American Public Health Association’s Film Festival.

Kayleigh Majercak and **Chintal Shah**, graduate students, received ISPOR Student Chapter Leaders Distinguished Service Awards.

Jannat Saini, a graduate student, received the department’s 2021 Harris Zuckerman Scholarship and the American Public Health Association 2020-2021 Regional Student Liaison of the Year Award. She also received a scholarship to attend the virtual American Public Health Association’s Policy Action Institute.

Fadia Shaya, PhD, MPH, professor, and **Ester Villalonga-Olives, PhD, MsC**, were named University of Maryland, Baltimore Center for Global Engagement 2021 GLOBALtimore Fellows.

Julia Slejko, PhD, associate professor, was named Co-Chair-Elect of the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research Faculty Advisory Council.

Sarah Tanveer, a graduate student, received the 2021 Outstanding Graduate Student Representative Award from the UMB Graduate Student Association.

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

PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

Asmita Adhikari and **Anh Tran**, graduate students, received 2021-2022 PSC Fellowship Awards.

Ebehiremen Ayewoh, **Payal Chatterjee**, **Ritika Kurian**, and **Sydney Stern**, graduate students, received 2021-2022 PSC Merit Awards.

Garrick Centola, **Kyle Kihn**, and **Ritika Kurian**, graduate students, received Fall 2021 Dean’s Teaching Fellowship Awards.

Steven Fletcher, PhD, associate professor, has been appointed editor-in-chief of the journal *Drug Development Research*. He also received United States patents for “Small molecule inhibitors of the mcl-1 oncoprotein and uses thereof” and “Reversal of fosfomycin resistance.”

Alexander MacKerell Jr., PhD, the Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the **Computer-aided Drug Design Center**, has been selected to receive the American Chemical Society’s 2022 Award for Computers in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Research.

Alexander MacKerell, PhD, Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the **Computer-aided Drug Design Center**, and **Steven Fletcher, PhD**, associate professor, received a United States patent for “Small molecule lipid II inhibitors.”

Juliet Obi and **Paige Zambrana**, graduate students, received 2021-2022 University of Maryland, Baltimore Graduate School teaching

Jace Jones, PhD, assistant professor, has been named the School of Pharmacy's American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Teacher of the Year.

Kyle Kihn, a graduate student, received the UM Ventures Graduate Translational Research Award at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Graduate Research Conference.

Brandon Lowe, Khady Ouattara, and Ayanna Williams, graduate students, received 2021-2022 Meyerhoff Graduate Fellowship Awards.

assistantships in partnership with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.

Ryan Pearson, PhD, assistant professor, received the Shock Society Faculty Research Award.

Nhu Truong, a graduate student, received an honorable mention in the 2021 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Competition.

