Dear colleagues,

One of the most exciting developments at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy recently is the launch of our new MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics, the country's first graduate program dedicated to the study of medical cannabis. The program provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to support patients and the medical cannabis industry, add to existing research in the field, and develop well-informed medical cannabis policy. The two-year program blends online learning with face-to-face experiences, and is designed for any individual who has completed his or her undergraduate degree and is interested in pursuing a career in the medical cannabis industry. It aims to meet the needs of all individuals interested in advancing their knowledge about medical cannabis, including health care professionals such as physicians, nurses, and pharmacists; scientists and regulators; growers and dispensary owners; and policy and industry professionals. We were overwhelmed by the response to the announcement of the program, receiving more than 500 applications during the six-week recruitment cycle. The first cohort of 150 students began the program on Aug. 26.

The MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics is an excellent example of the School's Pharmapreneurship™ initiative. It drives a significant social or policy shift in health care by seeking to professionalize the cannabis industry and meeting the education and training needs of the burgeoning workforce.

In case you missed it, the Summer 2019 issue of the School's Capsule magazine hit mailboxes recently. This issue focuses on how the School is building on its past and proactively looking for opportunities to transform pharmacy education, research, and practice in order to best prepare current and future pharmacy professionals to meet the needs of our ever-changing health care environment. Click here to read it.

In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact
Calvin Knowlton, PhD ’93, MDiv, BScPharm, co-founder, chair, and CEO of Tabula Rasa Healthcare, will present "Economic, Clinical, and Humanistic Outcomes: The Pharmacist’s Pivotal Role in Personalized Pharmacotherapy"

AAPS Alumni & Friends Reception
November 4 | 6 - 9 p.m.

Alumni and Friends Reception at the annual meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists on Nov. 4, 6-9 p.m. at the Vault Private Dining Room in San Antonio, Texas. Please RSVP to alumnievents@rx.umaryland.edu.

Frontiers in Metal Medicine Symposium
Nov. 15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Pharmacy Hall, Room N111

Hosted by the School of Pharmacy’s Metallotherapeutics Research Center. Click here for more information.

Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions 10th Anniversary Celebration
Dec. 5, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Pharmacy Hall, Room N111

Join CIPS for a special morning focused on the center's past, present, and future. RSVP to cips@rx.umaryland.edu.

ASHP Alumni & Friends Reception
Dec. 9, 6-8 p.m.

Alumni and Friends Reception at the annual meeting of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists on Dec. 9, 6-8 p.m. in Las Vegas.

SOP Hosts Symposium for MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics Students

The School of Pharmacy welcomed more than 150 individuals from around the world to the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, Md., on Sept. 5, as it hosted its first symposium for students in the MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program. The symposium offered students enrolled in the online program an opportunity to interact with each other in-person, as well as network with leaders in the medical cannabis industry. Read more here...

$1.6 Million Grant Examines Impact of Antipsychotic Drug Reductions in Long-Term Care Facilities
Linda Wastila, BSPharm, MSPH, PhD, the Parke-Davis Chair in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, has received a three-year, $1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to investigate how a recent nationwide initiative to reduce the use of antipsychotic medications among older adults in long-term care facilities has impacted the use of other medications at those facilities, as well as patient health outcomes. Read more here...

Pumas-AI Launches Pumas Software to Advance Drug Development, Patient Care

Pumas-AI - a new company established by School of Pharmacy faculty members Vijay Ivaturi, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS), and Joga Gobburu, PhD, MBA, professor in PPS - released its first cutting-edge software platform for pharmaceutical researchers and clinicians this
summer. Known as Pharmaceutical Modeling and Simulation (Pumas), the software was developed through a partnership with experts at Julia Computing. Read more here...

**AAPS Student Chapter Wins National Award**

Congratulations to the School of Pharmacy's student chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) on being named Student Chapter of the Year - the second time it has been recognized with the award, which is given based on the chapter's record of service and outreach to the community. Click here to read a blog post about the award and to watch a video.

**Orientation Sets Expectations for New Students**

To help prepare incoming students for the upcoming academic year, the School of Pharmacy recently hosted new student orientation for members of its PharmD Class of 2023, as well as first-year graduate students in its PhD and MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences programs and the PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research program. Activities for students in the PharmD program began on Aug. 20 and introduced students to the School of Pharmacy while setting expectations for the next four years. Students in the PhD in PSC program had an opportunity to attend presentations that showcased the wide range of research conducted in the department, while those in the PhD in PHSR programs attended informative sessions that outlined expectations for coursework, teaching assistantships, and research rotations. Click here to watch a video of orientation activities.
The University of Maryland BioPark was buzzing with excitement on May 31, as the School of Pharmacy's Patient-Centered Involvement in Evaluating the Effectiveness of Treatments (PATIENTS) Program welcomed nearly 200 community members, patients, researchers, and trainees to its third PATIENTS Day. An afternoon filled with informative panel discussions as well as an interactive health fair, PATIENTS Day aimed to bring together attendees from diverse backgrounds to learn from each other about the most important health care concerns in the community and improve the way research is conducted and understood by researchers and communities alike. Read more here...

White Paper Spotlights Safe, Appropriate Methadone Use in Hospice and Palliative Care

More than a dozen experts across the fields of hospice and palliative care came together to publish a white paper that offers guidelines for the safe and appropriate use of methadone in patients near the end-of-life. Led by Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, MA, MDE, BCPS, CPE, professor and executive director of advanced post-graduate education in palliative care in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) at the School of Pharmacy, and Kathryn Walker,
PharmD., BCPS., CPE, associate professor in PPS at the School, the expert team aimed to build on recommendations issued by the American Pain Society, the College on Problems of Drug Dependence, and the Heart Rhythm Society in 2014. The paper - titled "Safe and Appropriate Use of Methadone in Hospice and Palliative Care: Expert Consensus White Paper" - was published in the March issue of the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management. Read more here...

SOP's Brandt Receives National Award for Leadership in Geriatrics Education

Nicole Brandt, PharmD., MBA., BCPP., BCGP., FASCP., professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been named the 2019 recipient of the American Geriatrics Society's (AGS) Dennis W. Jahnigen Memorial Award. This annual award recognizes AGS members who have provided leadership to train students in geriatrics and significantly contributed to the progress of geriatrics education in health profession schools. Dr. Brandt, who also serves as executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging at the School of Pharmacy, is the first pharmacist to be honored with the award. Read more here...

Frank Palumbo Named UMB Educator of the Year
Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD, MS, professor of pharmaceutical health services research and executive director of the Center on Drugs and Public Policy, has been named the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) Founders Week Educator of the Year. This is a prestigious award of which Dr. Palumbo is truly deserving. Dr. Palumbo has been a valued member of the School of Pharmacy's faculty since 1974. Over the years, he's taught pharmacy management, medical care organization, health economics, and pharmacy law. Dr. Palumbo will receive the award at UMB's Founders Gala on Oct. 26. Read more here...

SOP's McPherson Honored with USM Board of Regents Award

Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, MA, MDE, BCPS, CPE, professor and executive director of advanced post-graduate education in palliative care in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named the 2019 recipient of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching. The USM Board of Regents Awards represent the highest honor presented to...
faculty members in recognition of exemplary performance in the fields of teaching; scholarship, research, or creative activity; public service; mentoring; and innovation. Read more here...

Kudos!

Our faculty, staff, and students are extremely talented individuals who are often recognized for their expertise by our School, University, and external organizations. Here is a list of recent achievements.

PharmD Students

- **Meghna Bhatt**, a second-year student pharmacist, and **Allison Dunn**, a third-year student pharmacist, have been selected for MPower's UM Scholars Program.

- The team of **Anna Dizik, Xinyi Huang**, and **Bhavna Jois**, all third-year student pharmacists, placed fourth in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Clinical Research Challenge.

Dean's Office

- **Malissa Carroll**, web content specialist; **Nicole Derr**, director of research administration, and **Erin Merino**, senior marketing specialist, have been accepted into the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) Emerging Leaders Program for the 2019-2020 academic year.

- **Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP**, dean and professor, has been appointed faculty chair of the UMB’s Task Force on Sexual Harassment.

- **Lisa Lebovitz, JD**, assistant dean for academic affairs and assessment, has been appointed to UMB’s President’s Council for Women and has been appointed to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Pharmacy College Admissions Test Advisory Committee.

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 Health Resources and Services Administration's Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages.

- **Kimberly Claeys, PharmD**, assistant professor, has been named a 2019 Outstanding Reviewer by the journal Pharmacotherapy.

- **Alison Duffy, PharmD**, associate professor, has received the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy's Excellence Award.

- **Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD**, associate professor and assistant dean of experiential learning, received the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy's 2019 Medication Safety Award.

- **Joga Gobburu, PhD**, professor and director of the Center for Translational Medicine, has been named a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and received the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Clinical Pharmacology Distinguished Alumnus Award.
Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, assistant professor, has been appointed to a three-year term as associate editor of the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy. She’s also been named a fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine.

Emily Heil, PharmD, associate professor, has been appointed as the pharmacist representative to the Infectious Diseases Society of America’s Sepsis Task Force.

Ashlee Mattingly, PharmD, assistant professor, and Kristin Watson, PharmD, associate professor, have been named Outstanding Reviewers by the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association.

Katy Pincus, PharmD, associate professor, received the Maryland Pharmacists Association’s Excellence in Innovation Award.

Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, MS, MDE, BCPS, CPE, professor, has been named co-chair of the International Conference on Opioids 2020.

Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Faculty, Staff, and Students

The School of Pharmacy's student chapter of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research received second place in the organization’s Outstanding Student Chapter competition.

Aakash Gandhi, graduate student, has been elected chair of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research's Student Network for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Shardai Jones, public health research specialist, has been accepted into the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Emerging Leaders Program for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Jacquelyn McRae, PharmD, MS, graduate student, has been selected for AcademyHealth’s Diversity Scholars Network.

Ebere Onukwugha, PhD, associate professor, has been appointed to the State of Maryland's Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

Nabil Natafgi, PhD, MPH, CPH, postdoctoral fellow, was a finalist in AcademyHealth's Healthiest Communities Data Challenge.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty, Staff, and Students

Amy Defnet and Dante Johnson, both graduate students, received Best Poster Awards at the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s 41st Annual Graduate Research Conference.

Daniel Deredge, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, won the Best Poster Award at the 2nd International Conference on Hydrogen Deuterium Exchange Mass Spectrometry in Banff, Canada in May.

Chad Johnson, graduate student, has received an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Walmart Scholars
• Shamir Kalaria, a student in the MS in Pharmacometrics program, received a 2019 New Investigator Award from the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology.

• Fang-Yu Lin, graduate student, has received the American Chemical Society's Chemical Computing Group's Excellence Award for Graduate Students for the project "Optimization of the Drude Polarizable Protein Force Field."

• Jordan Pritts and Stephanie Shiffka, graduate students, received pre-doctoral fellowships from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education.

• Kristina San Juan, associate director of student services, has been accepted into the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Emerging Leaders Program for the 2019-2020 academic year.

• Marc Taraban, PhD, research assistant professor, received a Best Poster Award at the Practical Applications of NMR in Industry Conference 2019.

• Angela Wilks, PhD, the Isaac E. Emerson Chair, has been named chair of the National Institutes of Health's Prokaryotic Cell and Molecular Biology Study Section for a two-year term.

• Fengtian Xue, PhD, associate professor, has received a United States Patent for "Compounds for Treating Parasitic Infections."

• Andrew Coop, PhD, professor and associate dean of academic affairs, has been named the 2019 Maryland Chemist of the Year.