



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

From the Dean's Desk

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

In This Issue

[PharmD Program
Receives Eight-year
Reaccreditation](#)

[School of Pharmacy
Legislative Day](#)

[P3 Program Cited by
CDC](#)

[SOP Joins
International Group to
Advance Treatments
for Radiation Injuries](#)

[McPherson Honored
with the ACCP's
Leading Educator
Award](#)

[Chair of Pharmacy
Practice and Science
Receives National
Practice Excellence
Award](#)

[SOP Study Confirms
Rise in Antipsychotic
Treatment of Medicaid-
insured Children](#)

[Kudos!](#)

Events

May 9

["Graduation
Celebration"](#)

6:30 p.m.

Spring 2013

Dear friends and colleagues,

Spring is here and so is the end of another academic year. There is a palpable sense of excitement at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy as our fourth-year students are anticipating graduation and the working world, while our first-, second-, and third-year students are finishing exams and about to embark on summer rotations or employment.



Over the summer, our faculty and staff will enjoy a respite from daily teaching but will surely be busy with plans for the upcoming fall semester. Despite the slower pace of the summer in academia, we continue to strive to inspire excellence in our students through our contemporary curriculum, to advance scientific knowledge through our research, to expand the impact of the pharmacists' role on patient care and health outcomes, and to capitalize on our entrepreneurial spirit. These elements are the foundation of the School of Pharmacy and are always at the front of our minds, no matter the season.

In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact,

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

PharmD Program Receives Eight-year Reaccreditation

Our Doctor of Pharmacy program has been issued an eight-year accreditation term by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) following the successful completion of a thorough

*The Universities at
Shady Grove*

May 16

[Doctoral Hooding
Ceremony](#)

4 p.m.

*SMC Campus
Center*

May 17

[Convocation for the
Class of 2013](#)

9 a.m.

*Sheraton Baltimore
Center City*

May 17

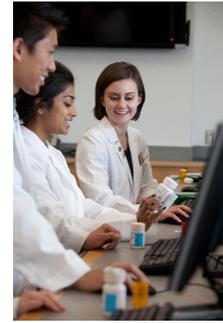
[University of
Maryland, Baltimore
Commencement](#)

2 p.m.

First Mariner Area

self-study report and comprehensive on-site visit. Reaccreditation means that prospective and current students can be assured that our Doctor of Pharmacy program is compliant with the standards of quality set forth by ACPE and that it provides a comprehensive pharmacy education, preparing them for a position in a dynamic pharmacy profession. Throughout the site visit in November, the team heard from a broad range of perspectives by meeting with internal and external stakeholders including standing committees, individual faculty, students, alumni, and preceptors. We are so grateful for the engagement and enthusiasm of all members of our School community in this important visit and delighted that ACPE validated our self-assessment of our program.

[Read more about the reaccreditation here...](#)



School of Pharmacy Legislative Day

Maryland is a leading state in adapting to the provisions of the new federal Affordable Care Act, paving the way for more patient access to pharmacists' services. An energetic delegation of 20 student pharmacists from the School traveled to Annapolis to "drive home" that



opportunity during our 2013 Legislative Advocacy Day on Feb. 26 for group and one-on-one discussions with state delegates and senators. Legislative Day exposes our students to the legislative process in our state and helps them understand their significant role in advocating for their profession as well as for their education. This year, we advocated for legislation to expand state authorization of the now-limited kinds of immunizations pharmacists can provide, among other issues. [Read more here...](#)

P3 Program Cited by CDC as National Model for Patient/Pharmacists Partnerships

In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published "A Program Guide for Public Health: Partnering with Pharmacists in the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases." This guide, aimed at CDC grant recipients, encourages health care providers and organizations to build relationships with pharmacists and features the [Maryland Patients, Pharmacists, Partnerships P³ Program](#) at the School of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA), the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and self-insured employers, as a national example of how pharmacists can partner with other health care professionals to make a difference in patient care. Receiving this recognition from the CDC underscores how



the School of Pharmacy, the state of Maryland, the Maryland Pharmacists Association, and the Maryland P³ Program continue to shape the scope of pharmacy practice locally and nationally through the incorporation of pharmacists in the health care team. Our practitioners continue to pioneer new roles for pharmacists in advanced clinical practice and remain committed to a continued partnership with community, institutional, and long-term care pharmacies throughout the state and nation. [Read more here...](#)

SOP Joins International Group to Advance Treatments for Radiation Injuries

The School's Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences has joined the Medical Countermeasures Against Radiological and Nuclear Threats (MCART) Consortium, a large, federally-funded, multi-institutional program established to develop medical countermeasures against the lethal exposure to ionizing radiation, working towards understanding the mechanisms of radiation damage and ways to estimate individual radiation exposure using biodosimetric methods. Our Mass Spectrometry Facility, with the guidance of co-director [Maureen Kane](#), PhD, will use its state-of-the-art instrumentation and expertise to lead the group's investigation to identify and characterize new biomarkers of early radiation damage. The MCART Consortium is funded by a contract with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and is composed of 15 different research, development, regulatory, and administrative entities from the United States, Canada, and England. Working together as a drug research and development team, the consortium evaluates the potential efficacy of drugs and biologics that can be used to treat acute radiation syndrome(s), as well as the delayed effects of acute radiation exposure. [Read more here...](#)



McPherson Honored with the AACP's Leading Educator Award

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) has selected [Mary Lynn McPherson](#), PharmD, BCPS, CPE, professor and vice chair for academic affairs in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, as the recipient of the 2013 Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator award, for her excellence as a teacher, outstanding achievements as a researcher and scholar, and overall impact on pharmacy education and the profession. During the course of her 26-year career, McPherson has amassed an accomplished teaching portfolio and a highly regarded reputation among Maryland's students and faculty. [Read more here...](#)



Chair of Pharmacy Practice and Science Receives National Practice Excellence Award

[Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner](#), PharmD, BCPS, CDE, FAPhA, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, recently received one of the highest honors of the American Pharmacists Association's (APhA) Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management - the 2013 Daniel B. Smith Practice Excellence Award. The award cites Dr. Rodriguez de Bittner's significant contributions to advance patient care services within community and ambulatory pharmacy. She was officially recognized during the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Los Angeles in early March. Dr. Rodriguez de Bittner is a thought leader on innovation in community pharmacy practice. Through the numerous programs she has implemented, she has revolutionized patient care in Maryland at the community pharmacy level. The entire School of Pharmacy is proud of her efforts. [Read more here...](#)



SOP Study Confirms Rise in Antipsychotic Treatment of Medicaid-insured Children

A new study from School of Pharmacy researchers found that use of antipsychotic drugs from 1997 to 2006 increased 7- to 12-fold in a Medicaid population of about 500,000 children ages two to 17. The study, published in the journal *Psychiatric Services*, is the latest to confirm a rapid rise of antipsychotics prescribed among Medicaid-insured children and raises questions about America's health care system, according to lead author [Julie Zito](#), PhD, a professor of pharmaceutical health services research. The increased use of antipsychotic medication was most prominent among youths qualifying by low family income in the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or through very low income in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) assistance program. By contrast, there was less change among the most impaired and vulnerable youths, those in foster care or those in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, i.e. youth eligible because of disability. [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.

- The School of Pharmacy's chapter of **Phi Lambda Sigma**, the pharmacy leadership society, received second place in the national Chapter of the Year competition.
- **Jamie Elsner**, a third year student pharmacist, has received the American Pharmacists Association Foundation's Boyle Family Scholarship.
- **Hazem Hassan, PhD**, has been named a research assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He was previously an assistant professor at Helwan University in

Egypt.

- **Vijay Ivaturi, PhD**, has been named a research assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science. He previously completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Uppsala University in Sweden.
- **Amy Ives, PharmD**, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been accepted to the MedStar Health Teaching Scholars Medical Education Research Certificate program.
- **Yevgeniya Kalinina**, a PharmD/JD student, has been selected to receive an Express Scripts Foundation scholarship from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.
- **Alexander MacKerell, PhD**, the Grollman-Glick Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a United States Patent for "Small Molecule Inhibitors of BCL6."
- **Thiyagu Rajakannan, PhD**, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received the PhRMA Foundation Young Investigator Post-Doctoral Fellow Award.
- **Fadia Shaya, PhD**, professor of pharmaceutical health services research, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Quality Health Foundation.
- **Toyin Tofade, PharmD**, associate director of experiential learning and associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been appointed co-lead of the continuing education/continuing professional development team of the International Pharmaceutical Federation's Education Section.
- **Deanna Tran, PharmD**, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named a "10 Under 10" by the Virginia Pharmacists Association Academy of New Practitioners, has been appointed to the American Pharmacists Association's New Practitioner Network's Education and Professional Development Standing Committee, and appointed chair of the Communications Committee of the District of Columbia chapter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.
- **Bruce Yu, PhD**, an associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received an Innovation Award from the University of Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation for "Novel High-throughput Quality Control of Pharmaceutical Preparations."
- **Julie Zito, PhD**, professor of pharmaceutical health services research (PHSR), and Dinci Pennap, MS, graduate student in PHSR, received an Innovation Award from the University of Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation for "Racial/Ethnic Differences in Pediatric Antipsychotic Use by FDA-labeled Status."

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