



# From the Dean's Desk

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

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Dear friends and colleagues,

Maryland has wrapped up its annual legislative session, when our elected representatives gathered in Annapolis to work on behalf of their constituents to enact laws that make our state better for everyone who lives here.

This session, our faculty and students had an important message for Maryland's delegates and senators, one which I feel so strongly about that I wrote an [opinion piece on the topic for the Baltimore Sun](#) - the importance of recognizing pharmacists as health care providers in order to improve the quality of patient care and reduce health care costs.

As alumni and friends of the School, you are likely well-versed on the pharmacist's capabilities and the importance of this issue. I hope you will join the School of Pharmacy in educating our legislative officials on the importance of pharmacists as part of a patient-centered, team-based model of care. To get involved:

- Consider working with professional organizations, federal agencies, and insurers to position pharmacists as an essential component of health care reform
- Reach out to stakeholders and organizations interested in testing new delivery models to explain the pharmacist's capabilities
- Speak out about the value of medication therapy management and other clinical pharmacist services and how such services improve quality and create cost savings
- Meet face to face with personnel at federal agencies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as they draft regulations and solicit public comment to implement health care reform



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## EVENTS

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[Commencement Ceremonies](#)  
May 16, 2014

[Microneedles 2014](#)  
May 19-21, 2014

[US-Thai Consortium for the Development of Pharmacy Education in Thailand](#)  
May 28-30, 2014

[Pan American Conference on Pharmaceutical Education](#)  
June 2-4, 2014

[Computer-Aided Drug Design \(CADD\) Symposium](#)  
June 24, 2014

Activism and commitment of individual pharmacists will determine the outcome of success. I invite you to join me in advocating for our profession.

In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact,



[Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP  
Dean and Professor](#)

## APhA Honors Two Faculty with National Awards

Two faculty members from the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) were recipients of national awards from the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). [Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, CGP, BCACP, FAPhA](#), associate dean for student affairs and associate professor in PPS, received APhA's 2014 Community Pharmacy Residency Excellence in Precepting Award for her demonstrated excellence as a preceptor and director of the School of Pharmacy's [Community Pharmacy Residency Program](#). APhA's Distinguished New Practitioner Award was presented to [Brent Reed, PharmD, BCPS](#), assistant professor in PPS. This award recognizes a practitioner who, although new to the profession, has demonstrated distinctive achievements in mentorship, service, and commitment to the pharmacy profession. Drs. Layson-Wolf and Reed received their awards at the APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla in March. [Read more here.](#)



## UMB Enters Five-Year, \$6 Million Partnership with MedImmune

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) recently announced that it will enter into a five-year, \$6 million collaboration with MedImmune, the global biologics research and development arm of pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca, to advance bioscience research and innovation across the state of Maryland and beyond. One of six professional schools at UMB, the School of Pharmacy has a long-established relationship with MedImmune, which will continue to grow through the increase in joint research projects, scientific exchange, and educational training opportunities afforded by this partnership. Collaborative research projects between MedImmune and faculty, students, and postdoctoral fellows at the School of Pharmacy will focus on MedImmune's core therapeutic areas, including cardiovascular and metabolic disease, antibody development and protein engineering, oncology, respiratory disease, inflammation and



autoimmunity, and infectious disease. The University's partnership with MedImmune aligns with the School of Pharmacy's strategic emphasis on developing entrepreneurial initiatives to better impact human health. The partnership provides an opportunity to take our new discoveries and technologies out of the lab and into a collaborative environment with MedImmune's scientists and researchers, with the goal of more quickly moving them to the bedside. [Read more here.](#)

## Eddington to Head University Regional Partnerships

In early April, UMB President Jay A Perman, MD, announced my appointment as executive director of University Regional Partnerships, a role I will assume immediately while maintaining my leadership of the School of Pharmacy. In this new role, I will assist the University's senior vice presidents, working collaboratively with the deans, on issues related to the expansion of the UMB's academic and research programs in Montgomery and Prince George's counties. I will be responsible for ensuring that proper organizational support is in place to host our academic programs at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), and will guide UMB programming requirements on USG's Building Committee.

Additionally, I will coordinate UMB programs at the Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research, an enterprise created to enhance collaboration in the biosciences, technology, quantitative sciences, and engineering among UMB, the University of Maryland, College Park, and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology.

I will coordinate university programming under development in Prince George's County, and work with university and county leadership to develop a plan to improve the health outcomes of its citizens. I will also serve as the lead in developing strategic initiatives for supporting student internships in the D.C. metro area. This new role is one that I have undertaken with the understanding that my commitment to the School of Pharmacy as dean remains my priority. Furthermore, this role is an extension of efforts that I have been involved in on behalf of the School. The outstanding leadership demonstrated by the School's administrative team and the dedication and excellence of our faculty, staff, and students will allow me to spend a portion of my time aiding the University in its efforts to expand its programs into Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. My hope is that the School of Pharmacy will benefit from my involvement with this new initiative as we work to create academic, clinical, and research opportunities for faculty, staff, and students throughout UMB.

## SOP Researcher Reviews Tamiflu in the BMJ - How Effective Is It?

Tamiflu (the antiviral drug oseltamivir) shortens symptoms of influenza by half a day, but there is no good evidence to support claims that it reduces admissions to hospital or complications of influenza, according to an international review of clinical trial evidence co-authored by Peter Doshi, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research. The



Cochrane Evidence Review was published by The Cochrane Collaboration-- an independent, global health care research network -- and The British Medical Journal (BMJ). Doshi also is an associate editor at The BMJ. Evidence from treatment trials confirms an increased risk of suffering from nausea and vomiting. And when Tamiflu was used in prevention trials there was an increased risk of headaches, psychiatric disturbances, and renal events. Although when used as a preventative treatment, the drug can reduce the risk of people suffering symptomatic influenza, it is unproven that it can stop people from carrying the influenza virus and spreading that virus to others. Dr. Doshi received significant media coverage for the study including *USA Today*, the CBS Evening News, and Al Jazeera America. [Read more here.](#)

## **SOP Partners with CER Collaborative to Launch New Certificate Program**

Researchers from the School's Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and the Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science have partnered with the Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Collaborative to develop a new continuing education certificate program that gives pharmacists and other clinical decision makers the tools to better understand, interpret, and use findings from CER studies in a wide range of clinical, coverage, and formulary decisions. The 19-hour certificate program, offered through the School's Knowledge Enterprise portal, includes five online modules and one in-person course. Seeking to help patients obtain the best health outcome for their unique situation, CER compares different medications, medical devices, tests, surgeries, and other ways to deliver health care to provide evidence on the effectiveness, benefits, and harms associated with each option. The new certificate program is approved by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education. Developed to prepare health care professionals to use an existing online toolkit available through the CER Collaborative, the certificate program leverages the expertise of the School's faculty and staff to develop and lead modules that train participants to evaluate and apply CER in health care clinical and formulary decision making. Formed by the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, and National Pharmaceutical Council, the CER Collaborative strives to provide greater uniformity and transparency in the evaluation and use of evidence for coverage and health care decision-making. [Read more here.](#)

## **MS in Regulatory Science Program Welcomes Inaugural Class**

The School welcomed the inaugural class of our new part-time, exclusively online [Master of Science \(MS\) in Regulatory Science program](#) in late January. With its emphasis on drug discovery, drug development, clinical research, and post-approval drug regulation, the program was designed to provide professionals who currently work, or would like to work, in regulatory science with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to drug regulation and pharmaceutical product lifestyles. Directed by [James Polli, PhD](#), the Shangraw/Noxell Endowed

Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals in PSC, the program offers a science-driven approach to drug product development and regulation. Its inaugural class includes 32 students who average eight years working in a number of roles related to chemistry/manufacturing/controls (CMC), clinical research, and post-marketing safety. Because the program is hosted exclusively online, it attracted professionals from across the state of Maryland, including five alumni of the School of Pharmacy, as well as regions beyond, with two professionals currently residing in Nigeria and Malaysia. [Read more here.](#)

## PHSR Professor and Chair Retires

**Ilene Zuckerman, PharmD, PhD**, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, retired from the School in December after 30 years of service. A graduate of the School of Pharmacy, Dr. Zuckerman became a member of its faculty in 1983. She spent her entire career at the School, rising to the rank of professor and previously serving as associate dean for research and graduate education and as chair of PHSR for more than five years. Her reputation as a pharmacist-scholar, educator, and mentor has helped to bolster the reputation of PHSR, its graduate program, and the School. The teaching, research, and service initiatives to which she contributed also reflect her sincere commitment to the School, interprofessional collaborations, new knowledge, and the future of the pharmacy profession. [Read more here.](#)



## Baltimore City Council President Visits the School

Bernard C. "Jack" Young, president of the Baltimore City Council, visited the School of Pharmacy in December for a discussion on the School's academic, research, patient care, and community programs. We gave him a tour of Pharmacy Hall, including our state-of-the-art Objective Structured Clinical Examination Suite, our practice labs, research facilities, and more. During the visit, Mr. Young also met with [Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD](#), professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, to learn about the Maryland P<sup>3</sup> (Patients, Pharmacists, Partnerships) Program. [Read more here.](#)



## Faculty Member Named Co-director of University's Center for Interprofessional Education

[Heather Congdon, PharmD, BCPS, CDE](#), associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) at the School of Pharmacy and assistant dean for the School at the Universities at Shady Grove, has been named a co-director of the University's new Center for Interprofessional Education (IPE). The Center, which officially

launched in the fall, is directed by Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean and professor of the School of Nursing, and monitors all of the IPE initiatives at UMB. With School of Pharmacy faculty, staff, and students represented in almost all of the University's IPE initiatives -- including its IPE Task Force, IPE Day, interprofessional student competitions, as well as School-wide interprofessional courses and committees -- the School has become one of the campus' leaders in this key area. The naming of Dr.



Congdon as a co-director of the new center reinforces our emphasis on the importance of multidimensional health care teams, and ensures this practice continues to remain a high priority on this campus. [Read more here.](#)

## **SOP Names New Associate Dean for Health System Affairs**

**Raja Zeitany, PharmD**, former chief pharmacy officer at the University of California Irvine Medical Center, has been named the School's new associate dean for health system affairs. This appointment follows Dr. Zeitany being named senior director of pharmacy services for the University of Maryland Medical Center and University of Maryland Midtown Campus. This newly created position highlights the level of importance that the School of Pharmacy places on our relationship with the University of Maryland Medical System and its affiliate hospitals. As associate dean for health system affairs, Dr. Zeitany will work to strengthen the partnership between the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) and the School of Pharmacy. He will serve as the principal teaching, practice, and research partner within UMMS for the School's students, residents, and fellows, and provide experiential educational opportunities in clinical practice environments throughout UMMS. [Read more here.](#)



## **SOP Researcher Receives Nearly \$1 Million Funding Award from PCORI**

[Susan dosReis, BSP Pharm, PhD](#), associate professor in PHSR, has been approved for a research award of \$937,812 by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to support her study titled "Methods for Prioritizing Surrogate Desired Health Outcomes for Patients." The study will investigate what outcomes are most important to caregivers when managing aggression in children with developmental disabilities and a co-existing psychiatric illness, helping them choose the best treatment option for their child's unique circumstances. Hers was one of 82 proposals received. [Read more here.](#)



## **Researcher Awarded Federal Contract to Study Abuse**

## Deterrents of Opioid Drugs

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has awarded the School of Pharmacy, in conjunction with the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education (NIPTE) and Purdue University, a two-year, \$499,000 contract to examine formulation effects on abuse deterrence properties in solid oral dosage forms of opioids. According to the FDA, the science of abuse deterrence is fairly new, with formulation technologies as well as analytical, clinical, and statistical methods for assessing those technologies continuing to evolve. [Stephen W. Hoag, PhD](#), professor in PSC and director of the School's Good Manufacturing Practice Facility, will serve as co-principal investigator on the contract with Stephen R. Byrn, PhD, the Charles B. Jordan Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at Purdue University. [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.

- **Chanel Agness, PharmD**, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been appointed by Governor Martin O'Malley to the Maryland State Advisory Council on Arthritis and Related Diseases.
- **Heather Congdon, PharmD**, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science and assistant dean for Shady Grove, has been named a Distinguished Practitioner and Fellow of the National Academies of Practice.
- **Catherine Cooke, PharmD**, a research associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named chair of the Maryland State Advisory Council on Heart Disease and Stroke.
- **Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD**, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, received the Pharmacist of the Year Award from the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists and has been elected to the organization's Board of Directors for a three year term.
- **Peter Doshi, PhD**, assistant professor of pharmaceutical health services research, has been named an associate editor of the *British Medical Journal*.
- **Shamia Faison** and **Sarah Sushchyk**, graduate students in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received Travel Awards from the Committee on Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction for its annual meeting.
- **Joga Gobburu, PhD**, professor of pharmacy practice and science and director of the Center for Translational Medicine, has been appointed chair of the Pharmacometrics and Pharmacokinetics Section of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.
- **Jeffrey Gonzales, PharmD**, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been appointed chair-elect of the Education Subcommittee of the Society of Critical Care Medicine's Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology Committee.
- **Margaret Hayes**, director of strategic initiatives, has been named vice president of Network 2000, which promotes the

advancement of women in professional and executive roles.

- **Jane Huang**, a graduate student in pharmaceutical health services research, received the Communication Award at the Annual Esri Health GIS meeting.
- **Jinani Jayasekera**, a graduate student in pharmaceutical health services research, received the 2013 Lee B. Lusted Student Prize in the Applied Health Economics Category at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making.
- **Raymond Love, PharmD**, professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named president-elect of the board of directors of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists and has been re-appointed as co-chair of the Pharmacy Quality Alliance's Mental Health Work Group for 2014.
- **Shailly Mehrotra**, a graduate student in pharmaceutical sciences, received the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics 2104 Presidential Trainee Award for her research on "Longitudinal Dose-response Modeling of Topical Glycopyrrole, an Anti-hyperhidrosis Agent."
- **Eleanor Perfetto, PhD**, a professor of pharmaceutical health services research, has been named a 2014 University of Maryland Pharmacy Quality Alliance Ambassador.
- **Timothy Rocafort, PharmD**, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named to the Editorial Advisory Board of *Pharmacy Today*.
- **Charmaine Rochester, PharmD**, an associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been commissioned as an officer of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- **Hongbing Wang, PhD**, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has been named a standing member of the National Institutes of Health's Xenobiotic and Nutrient Disposition and Action Study Section.

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