



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

From the Dean's Desk

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

In This Issue

Fall 2015

[Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner Receives APhA Foundation Pinnacle Award](#)

[UMB Conducts First-of-a-Kind Study on Bioequivalence of Anti-epileptic Drug](#)

[SOP Faculty Member Honored with National New Educator Award](#)

[Student Pharmacists Participate in Homeless Outreach Initiative](#)

[PHSR Names New Graduate Program Director](#)

[Faculty Member Participates in White House Summit](#)

[School to Celebrate 175th Anniversary in 2016](#)

[Kudos](#)

EVENTS

Pharmaceutical
Research

Dear alumni and friends,

In 2010, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy cut the ribbon to open Pharmacy Hall Addition, ushering in a new era of expansion. That same year, we launched a new strategic plan that would guide the School through the next five years.



Now, five years later, we reflect on the tremendous growth that has taken place in each of our strategic areas: education, practice, research, entrepreneurship, and environment.



As such, I am proud to share with you a new publication from the School - [Maryland Rising](#), which demonstrates our growth and I hope instills a sense of pride in our alumni and friends in all that we have accomplished over the last five years. The piece clearly shows the expansion of our academic programs, the increasing impact of our clinical care, and the

progression of our research and entrepreneurial endeavors.

The role of pharmacy and the pharmacist in health care is evolving, and *Maryland Rising* places the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy at the forefront of the evolution, anticipating the needs of the profession and developing academic, research, and practice programs that are innovative and proactive.

In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact,

Natalie D. Eddington

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

Computing

(PRC)

Open House

Nov. 3

12:30 & 3 p.m.

Come learn about the PRC's computer programming, data management, drug classification, and analytical support available for researchers and clinicians.

[Click here to register.](#)

PSC Grad Gathering

Nov. 13

A day filled with professional development activities and networking among peers, faculty mentors, and graduate students. The event is open to all alumni and current students from the PSC PhD Program, and will feature an exciting day of activities, including career panel discussions, research posters, building tours, and a networking reception.

[Click here to register.](#)

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner Receives APhA Foundation Pinnacle Award

[Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, BCPS, CDE,](#)

[FAPhA](#), professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) and associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, received the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Foundation's 2015 Pinnacle Award for Career Achievement in September. Established in 1998 to recognize pharmacy practitioners who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in enhancing health care quality and medication use among patients, the award honors Dr. Rodriguez de Bittner's service as professor and executive director of the [Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions \(CIPS\)](#) at the School of Pharmacy. Throughout her career, Dr. Rodriguez de Bittner has developed, implemented, and led numerous initiatives to demonstrate the important role that pharmacists can have in improving health, increasing access, and reducing costs for individuals living with chronic diseases, particularly those in underserved communities. She has been a strong advocate for the profession, equipping other pharmacists with the tools and training necessary to be leaders in their field and establishing programs with sustainable payment models that ensure safe and appropriate medication use for all populations. [Read more here...](#)



UMB Conducts First-of-a-Kind Study on Bioequivalence of Anti-epileptic Drug

A first-of-a-kind study published in *Epilepsia*, the official journal of the International League Against Epilepsy, by researchers from the School of Pharmacy and the University of Maryland School of Medicine examining the bioequivalence of generic lamotrigine versus brand-name Lamictal has found no significant differences in patients with epilepsy, reinforcing the current standard used by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to test bioequivalence among generic and brand name medications. [Jim Polli, PhD](#), the Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals, was the principal investigator on the study with a goal of determining whether the FDA's current bioequivalence standard is an adequate tool to predict the safety and efficacy of generic medications. [Read more here...](#)



SOP Faculty Member Honored with National New Educator Award

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) has named [Brent Reed, PharmD](#), BCPS-AQ Cardiology, assistant professor in the

Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, as the recipient of its 2015 New Educator Award. This annual award is presented to a rising pharmacy educator who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the discipline of teaching and to the education of health care practitioners. Dr. Reed joined the School of Pharmacy in 2013. He



maintains a practice site at the University of Maryland Medical Center in the areas of heart failure and advanced cardiovascular therapies and serves and director of the School's PGY2 Cardiology Specialty Residency Program. [Read more here...](#)

Student Pharmacists Participate in Homeless Outreach Initiative

On Sept. 24, student pharmacists from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy joined students from the University of Maryland Schools of Dentistry, Nursing, Medicine, Law, and Social Work as well as volunteers from dozens of corporations, non-profit organizations, religious groups, and other universities and colleges, at the Baltimore Convention Center to assist members of the city's most vulnerable population by participating in the fourth annual Project Homeless Connect. The students - representatives from the School's American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists' (APhA-ASP) Operation Diabetes initiative - aided more than 2,000 individuals who attended the city-wide event by providing education about medication adherence and diabetes, and helping participants complete a diabetes risk assessment. [Read more here...](#)



PHSR Names New Graduate Program

Director

The Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research (PHSR) at the School of Pharmacy has named [Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD](#), professor in PHSR, as the new director of its graduate program. Dr. Palumbo succeeds Ebere Onukwugha, MS, PhD, associate professor in PHSR, who led the program since 2013, as part of a planned transition to allow Dr. Onukwugha to focus on her



responsibilities as executive director of the department's [Pharmaceutical Research Computing](#) center. As the graduate program's new director, he will be tasked with not only maintaining the exceptional coursework and research opportunities available to the program's current students - upholding the program's ranking as "one of the best" of its kind in the nation - but also contributing to its continued growth by personally overseeing the launch of its new master's degree in Fall 2016. Dr. Palumbo will continue his work as executive director of the School's [Center on Drugs and Public Policy](#) - which examines the

dynamic connections between theory and practice in the health care arena, assessing the impact on regulation, policy, and health care treatment standards - during his service to the department's graduate program. [Read more here...](#)

Faculty Member and ASCP President Participates in White House Summit on Antibiotic Resistance

As part of the continued effort to combat antibiotic resistance, the Obama Administration convened a White House Forum on Antibiotic Stewardship in June to bring together key human and animal health constituencies involved in antibiotic stewardship - the development, promotion, and implementation of activities to ensure the responsible use of antibiotics. As part of the event, more than 150 food companies, retailers, and human and animal health stakeholders, including [Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA](#), a professor of pharmacy practice and science at the School of Pharmacy, highlighted commitments to implement changes over the next five years to slow the emergence of resistant bacteria and prevent the spread of resistant infections. Dr. Brandt was invited to participate in the summit as president-elect of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP). Dr. Brandt is currently serving a two year term as president-elect and will become president of ASCP in November. She participated in the summit in a panel discussion on antibiotic resistance in post-acute long term care settings. [Read more here...](#)



School to Celebrate 175th Anniversary in 2016

In just a few months, the School of Pharmacy community will begin a celebration of our 175th anniversary. Founded in 1841, we are the fourth oldest school of pharmacy in the United States. To recognize this milestone in the life of our School, I have pulled together a committee of faculty, staff, students, former deans, and emeritus faculty to plan a year's worth of events and activities. We will maximize existing events such as Convocation, the White Coat Ceremony, and our endowed lectures to duly honor our anniversary while adding in a few new special events, such as a birthday party with cake on Jan. 27, 2016, the date of the signing of the School's charter. Watch your email and School publications for details.



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 Student Awards

- **Amy Howard**, a third-year student pharmacist, was selected as an International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation delegate for its World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Yujin Kim**, a third-year student pharmacist, received a scholarship from the Health Care Initiative Foundation of Montgomery County.
- **Wilhelmina Lord-Adem**, a third-year student pharmacist, has been appointed the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists' Student Exchange Officer to the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation.
- **Jonathan Meyer**, a third-year student pharmacist, received a 2015 Express Scripts Scholarship.
- **Vy Nyugen**, a fourth-year student pharmacist, received the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's (ACCP) 2015 Student Pediatric Practice and Research Network Travel Award to attend the ACCP annual meeting in October in San Francisco.
- **Abdulafeez Oluyadi**, a fourth-year student pharmacist, has received a Gateway Research Scholarship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education.

PhD Student Awards

- UMB's student chapter of the **International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)** received the Chapter of the Year award at ISPOR's 20th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in June.
- **Lee Chen**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a 2015 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Graduate Student Research Award.
- **Tanvi Deshpande**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received an AstraZeneca Travel Award to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists in Orlando, Fla.
- **Louise Djapgne**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a Travel Award to attend the American Society of Microbiology's Pseudomonas Conference in Washington, DC.
- **Brandy Garzel**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a Travel Award to attend the

Gordon Research Conference on Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity in Andover, Mass.

- **Ting-Ying Huang**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a Poster Award at the 31st Annual International Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology and Therapeutic Risk Management.
- **Wenjing Li**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a Travel Award to attend the 63rd Annual American Society for Mass Spectrometry (ASMS) Conference in St. Louis and received a Travel Award from ASMS to attend the Asilomar Conference on Native Mass Spectrometry-based Structural Biology in Pacific Grove, Ca.
- **Ramon Martinez**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a Meyerhoff Graduate Fellowship from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
- **Angela Nguyen**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a 2015-2016 UMBC/UMB NIH Chemistry-Biology Interface Graduate Student Training Grant.
- **Soundarya Vaithianathan**, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a 2015 Graduate Student Scholarship Award from the International Pharmaceutical Excipients Council of the Americas.

PHSR Faculty and Staff Awards

- **Colleen Day**, graduate program coordinator, has been named vice president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Staff Senate.
- **Susan dosReis, PhD**, associate professor, has been elected to the 2015-2016 Advisory Committee for the Child Health Services Research Interest Group.
- **Fadia Shaya, PhD**, professor, has been appointed chair-elect of the Public Health Section of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.
- **Julia Slejko, PhD**, assistant professor, won a Best New Investigator Poster Award at the 20th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research.
- **Sarah Tom, PhD**, assistant professor, has been elected the School of Pharmacy's representative to the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Graduate Council.

PSC Faculty and Staff Awards

- **Daniel Deredge, PhD**, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, won a Best Poster Award at the 8th Annual Frontiers at the Chemical-Biology Interface Symposium at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
- **Steven Fletcher, PhD**, assistant professor, has been named president-elect of the School of Pharmacy's Faculty Assembly.
- **Steven Fletcher, PhD**, assistant professor; **Alex MacKerell, PhD**, the Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and **Paul Shapiro, PhD**, professor and chair, received a United States Patent for "Non-ATP Dependent Inhibitors of Extracellular Signal-related Kinase (ERK)."
- **Maureen Kane, PhD**, associate professor, has been named executive director of the School's Mass Spectrometry Center.
- **Peter Swaan, PhD**, professor and associate dean for research and graduate education, has been named vice chair of the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education's Board of Grants.
- **Hongbing Wang, PhD**, professor, has been named a School of Pharmacy American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year.
- **Bruce Yu, PhD**, professor, has been named director of the School's Center for Nanobiotechnology.

PPS Faculty and Staff Awards

- **Bruce Anderson, PharmD**, professor and director of the Maryland Poison Center, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology.
- **Amy Ives, PharmD**, assistant professor, has been elected secretary of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Laboratory Special Interest Group and has been named chair-elect of the Eastern States Residency Conference.
- **Wendy Klein-Schwartz, PharmD**, professor and coordinator of research and education at the Maryland Poison Center, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology.
- **Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD**, associate professor and associate dean for student affairs, received the Mentor of the Year Award from the Maryland Pharmacists Association at its annual meeting in June.

- **Kashelle Lockman, PharmD**, a palliative care pharmacy resident and instructional design fellow, was appointed to the Palliative Care Research Cooperative as a junior investigator.
- **Raymond Love, PharmD**, professor, has been appointed to a five-year term on the United States Pharmacopeia's (USP) Expert Committee on Health Care Quality and has been named chair of USP's Expert Panel on Allergies and Intolerances. He has also been named vice chair of collaborative initiatives in the School's Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science.
- **Joey Mattingly, PharmD**, assistant professor, has been appointed to a one-year term on the Maryland Pharmacy Coalition and has been appointed assistant province supervisor of the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity's Atlantic Province.
- **Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD**, professor, was named Teacher of the Year by the School of Pharmacy's graduating Class of 2015.
- **Neha Pandit, PharmD**, associate professor, has been elected secretary/treasurer of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's HIV Practice and Research Network.
- **Katy Pincus, PharmD**, assistant professor, has been elected to the University of Maryland, Baltimore Faculty Senate.
- **Brent Reed, PharmD**, assistant professor, has been named the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Preceptor of the Year and received the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's New Educator Award. He also has been appointed vice-chair of the Advocacy Coordinating Committee of the Mid-Atlantic Affiliate of the American Heart Association.
- **Charmaine Rochester, PharmD**, associate professor, received the Maryland Reserve Corps Best Practice Award from the Maryland Board of Pharmacy's Emergency Preparedness Committee.
- **Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD**, professor and executive director of the Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, received the 2015 American Pharmacists Association Foundation's Pinnacle Award for Career Achievement and has been named the School's associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation.
- **Leah Sera, PharmD**, assistant professor, has been named chair-elect of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Pain and Palliative Care Practice and Research Network.
- **Toyin Tofade, PharmD**, associate professor and assistant dean for experiential learning, has been elected secretary of the

International Pharmaceutical Federation's Academic Section.

- **Deanna Tran, PharmD**, assistant professor, was named the School of Pharmacy's Student Government Association Faculty Advisor of the Year and has been named co-chair of the Maryland Pharmacists Association's Communications Committee.
- **James Trovato, PharmD**, associate professor, received the W. Arthur Purdum Award from the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists.
- **Kristin Watson, PharmD**, associate professor, received the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists' inaugural Excellence Award.
- **Chanel Whittaker, PharmD**, associate professor, has been named a School of Pharmacy American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year.