



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

# UMSOP NEWS

August 2022

## Pharmaceutical Sciences Professor Discovers Compounds for New Disease Therapies



**[Paul Shapiro, PhD](#)**, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is partnering with Gen1E Lifesciences, a next-generation multitarget techbio company, to use Shapiro's biotechnology to investigate treatment for a variety of diseases. Shapiro and colleagues **[Alexander MacKerell, PhD](#)**, Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Computer-Aided Drug Design Center, and **[Steven Fletcher, PhD](#)**, associate professor of PSC, have discovered and patented chemical compounds known as next-generation Extracellular Signal-Regulated Kinase 1/2 (ERK1/2) signaling modulators. Licensed through UM Ventures, Gen1E Lifesciences plans to use the compounds to advance its portfolio of novel immunomodulators for rare and inflammatory diseases for patients with unmet needs in the areas of pulmonary, oncology, and muscle degenerative diseases. **[Read more.](#)**

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## PATIENTS Program Working Toward Health Equity in COVID-19 Vaccine Trials

**[The PATIENTS Program](#)** at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) is collaborating with partners in West Baltimore to improve the inclusion of

African Americans and minority populations in COVID-19 vaccine research. The one year, \$1 million collaboration, titled “COMmunity Mistrust and Institutional Trustworthiness to Advance Health EQUity Research” (COMMIT-EQ), is supported by the Food and Drug Administration. Principal investigators on the project include [Joey Mattingly, PharmD, MBA, PhD](#), associate professor of pharmaceutical health services research (PHSR), Claudia Baquet, MD, PhD, MPH, affiliate professor of PHSR, [C. Daniel Mullins, PhD](#), professor of PHSR and executive director of The PATIENTS Program, and Franklin Lance, DMin, pastor at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church. [Read more.](#)



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## New Summer Program Helps Transition First-Year Students to Pharmacy School

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) has developed a new summer program to facilitate a seamless transition for first-year students into the Doctor of Pharmacy program. The Maryland Academy for Pharmacy Success (MAPS) is designed to expose incoming students to the skills, knowledge, concepts, and principles required for their first semester. The voluntary eight-module online course includes topics such as biochemistry, genomics, physical and pharmaceutical chemistry, abilities lab, and general patient management. UMSOP developed MAPS to help students succeed after hearing about the rigors of the first semester of pharmacy school from previous classes. [Read more.](#)



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## Food Insecurity - An Interprofessional Approach

Food insecurity — the lack of access to enough nutritious food — has long been an issue in Baltimore and worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. An interprofessional team of students and faculty based at the [Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging](#) at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy has worked over the past year to combat this public health issue through assessing community needs and creating partnerships. [Read more.](#)



## The PATIENTS Program and Mount Lebanon Baptist Church Formalize Longstanding Partnership



According to Pastor Franklin Lance, DMin, senior pastor at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church (MLBC), a sincere and authentic relationship between the **PATIENTS Program** and MLBC allows them to serve and improve the health of the West Baltimore community the church calls home. This trusted partnership is central to their latest collaboration, “COMMUNITY Mistrust and Measures of Institutional Trustworthiness (COMMIT).” Funded by the National Institutes of Health under the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations initiative, this \$1.2 million grant will create a sustainable model for trustworthy community-engaged research partnerships and organize a set of best practices around them. [Read more.](#)

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## Teaching Excellence Day

In July, more than 130 faculty, preceptors, residents, and students from across the state convened at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy for **Teaching Excellence Day**, an annual event of seminars to promote pedagogical best practices and help new residents and trainees learn or hone teaching skills. It was open to health care professionals at other pharmacy schools and hospitals across Maryland. [Read more.](#)



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## EVENTS

### PATIENTS DAY 2022

Aug. 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Join the School of Pharmacy’s PATIENTS Program for interactive panels and a health fair at its annual PATIENTS Day on Aug. 16 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Community Engagement Center at 16 South Poppleton Street in Baltimore. Registration is free but strongly encouraged.

### Maryland Poison Center 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Webinar Series

Sept. 7 at 2 p.m.

The School of Pharmacy’s Maryland Poison Center (MPC) is marking its 50th anniversary this year with a special quarterly series of educational webinars, with the third one on Sept. 7 at 2 p.m. for everyone. “My Kid Ate…” will be presented by Angel Bivens, BS Pharm, MBA, CSPI, the MPC’s assistant director of operations and public education, and will focus on a series of calls that began with the

[Register here.](#)

## Introduction to Pharmacy Webinar

Sept. 14 at 2 p.m.

Join us online for the second part of our two-part series exploring pharmacy as a career. These sessions will feature University of Maryland School of Pharmacy faculty and alumni sharing their career experiences.

[Register here.](#)

words "my kid ate...".

[Register here.](#)

## Best Practices for Utilizing Modeling Approaches to Support Generic Product Development

Oct. 27 - 28

Join the Center for Research on Complex Generics and FDA for a free Virtual Public Workshop. The purpose of this two-day workshop is to discuss and illustrate how generic product developers can utilize modeling approaches in conjunction with in vitro data and other knowledge to support the development of complex generics that may otherwise rely upon challenging in vivo studies to demonstrate bioequivalence.

[Register here.](#)

## FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT NEWS

### LAURELS

The following School of Pharmacy faculty members have received promotions.

- [Cynthia Boyle, PharmD](#) – professor of pharmacy practice and science to professor emeritus
- [Maureen Kane, PhD](#) – associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences to professor with tenure
- [Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD](#) – associate professor of pharmacy practice and science to professor
- [Ed Moreton, PhD](#) – professor of pharmaceutical sciences to professor emeritus
- [Ebere Onukwugha, MS, PhD](#) – associate professor of pharmaceutical health services research to professor with tenure
- [Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD](#) – professor of pharmaceutical health services research to professor emeritus
- [Neha Sheth Pandit, PharmD](#) – associate professor of pharmacy practice and science to professor
- [Danya Qato, PhD, PharmD, MPH](#) – assistant professor of pharmaceutical health services research to associate professor with tenure
- [Jia Bei Wang, PhD](#) – professor of pharmaceutical sciences to professor emeritus

The following fourth-year student pharmacists are 2022 recipients of the School of Pharmacy's Wagner Family Scholarships in Pharmapreneurship: **Madison Dormer, Emily Francis, Sean Kim, Alex Livingston, Yang Lu, Simone Nasroodin, Meya Ngundam, Iulia Opran, and Alexandra Wilson.**

[Kimberly Claeys, PharmD](#), associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been selected to receive the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists' 2022 Early Career Investigator Recognition.

[Emily Paterson, MPH, BS, CHES<sup>®</sup>](#), public education and communication specialist at the School of Pharmacy's Maryland Poison Center, has been re-elected to a second two-year term as a member-at-large of America's Poison Centers' Public Education Steering Committee.

[Belinda Tamrakar](#), a third-year student pharmacist, is the 2022 recipient of the School of Pharmacy's Felix A. Khin-Maung-Gyi Memorial Scholarship for Pharmapreneurship.



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