The Maryland Poison Center Celebrates 50 Years of Expert Care

The School of Pharmacy’s Maryland Poison Center (MPC) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, raising awareness of the vital services it provides to the state. Serving 4.1 million Marylanders in 21 counties and Baltimore City, the MPC is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by pharmacists and nurses who are certified specialists in poison information. During its 50 year history, the MPC – which is part of our Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science - has answered approximately 2.5 million calls providing emergency triage, treatment, and prevention information. It is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers as one of 55 regional poison centers in the country. Click here to read more about the MPC and follow the center on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for information on its anniversary year events and activities.

Director of MS in Regulatory Science Program Receives International Education Award

James Polli, PhD, the Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has received a 2021 Award for Regulatory Excellence from the Organization for Professionals in Regulatory Affairs. As the winner in the
Practice Faculty Earn Fellow Status from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, MA, MDE, BCPS, and Kathryn Walker, PharmD, BCPS, both faculty members in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, have recently earned the designation Fellow of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (FAAHPM). This is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a member by AAAHPM, which is the professional organization for physicians specializing in hospice and palliative medicine, nurses, pharmacists, and other health care providers. Click here to read more.

PSC Faculty Member Receives Inaugural MPower Professorship

The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State (MPower) has announced the appointment of eight professors, four from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and four from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), as MPower Professors. Bruce Yu, PhD, a professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of the School’s Bio- and Nano-Technology Center, was selected for his expertise and collaboration in biophysics and bioengineering. Click here to read more.

The PATIENTS Program Launches PATIENTS Professors Academy

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy’s PATIENTS Program has launched an initiative to continue its successfully proven approach to community engagement in patient-centered outcomes research. The PATIENTS
Professors Academy (PPA) will teach a multistakeholder group that includes pharmaceutical company staff, researchers, government employees, and community members, the PATIENTS Program’s 10-Step Framework for continuous patient and stakeholder engagement. The program’s goal is to increase patient-driven research across the nation. Click here to read more.

Faculty Members’ Research Impacts FDA Guidance

When Sarah Michel, PhD, and James Polli, PhD, both professors of pharmaceutical sciences, were asked to attend a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) virtual meeting in September, they didn’t anticipate being recognized during the proceedings. In a pleasant surprise, they learned that work they’d done spanning almost five years on injectable iron drugs had resulted in a change in FDA draft guidance. The FDA guidance on studies involving injectable ferric oxyhydroxide was changed to allow drug companies to use a crossover clinical trial — rather than just a more conservative parallel trial — and the LC-ICP-MS (liquid chromatography-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry) method, which allows for direct detection of iron nanoparticle drugs in participant samples to demonstrate that a generic product is equivalent to a brand-name drug. Click here to read more.

Pharmacy Faculty Member Named One of Baltimore Business Journal’s 40 Under 40

In recognition of her tremendous efforts related to the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and advocacy for the pharmacy profession, Deanna Tran, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named to the Baltimore Business Journal’s 2021 40 Under 40 list. Click here to read more.

PPS Faculty Member Receives MSHP Purdum Award

Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, associate
professor of pharmacy practice and science and assistant dean of experiential learning, received the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy W. Arthur Purdham Award for significant contributions to health-system pharmacy in Maryland. Click here to read more.

MacKerell Honored with American Chemical Society Award

Alexander MacKerell Jr., PhD, the Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Computer-aided Drug Design Center, has been selected to receive the American Chemical Society’s 2022 Award for Computers in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Research. Click here to read more.

EVENTS

MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics Virtual Information Session
Jan. 26 at noon

Join the virtual information session to learn more about the MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program. Learn about the application process, curriculum, and frequently asked questions.

Register here.

Graduate Programs Online Information Session
Feb. 3 at 1 p.m.

The School of Pharmacy’s Office of Graduate Programs will discuss our six online and in-person Master's and three PhD programs.

Register here.

Virtual M-CERSI America’s Got Regulatory Science Talent Competition
Feb. 4 at 9 a.m.

This annual competition aims to promote student interest in regulatory science — the science of developing new tools, standards, and approaches to assess the safety, efficacy, quality, and performance of FDA-regulated products. Student teams from the University of

Online Graduate Studies in Palliative Care Information Session
Feb. 15 at noon and 8 p.m.

This information session will provide an overview of the PhD and Master of Science in Palliative Care degree, and Graduate Certificates program. It will explore topics such as the admissions process, course schedule, and other frequently asked questions.
Maryland, Baltimore and the University of Maryland, College Park develop and present a proposed solution to a current opportunity in regulatory science.

Register here.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT NEWS

LAURELS

The School of Pharmacy’s chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) has received the OTC Medicine Safety Regional Award from APhA-ASP.

Asmita Adhikari and Anh Tran, graduate students in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC) received 2021-2022 PSC Fellowship Awards.

Ebehiremen Ayewoh, Payal Chatterjee, Ritika Kurian, and Sydneey Stern, graduate students in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC), received 2021-2022 PSC Merit Awards.

Michelle Besser, a business services specialist in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, was named the University of Maryland, Baltimore September Employee of the Month.

Meghna Bhatt, a fourth-year student pharmacist, has been named an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Gateway to Research Scholar.

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCPP, CGP, FASCP, professor of pharmacy practice and science and pharmaceutical health services research and executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, received the Clinical Director of the Year Award from the Mid-Atlantic Medical Directors Association. She also has been appointed to the editorial board of the journal Drugs and Aging and to the National Committee for Quality Assurance’s Geriatric Medicare Advisory Panel.

Ryan C. Costantino, PharmD, MS, MS, BCPS, BCGP, CPHIMS, a student in the PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research program, has been selected as the 2022 recipient of the Albert B. Prescott Pharmacy Leadership Award for Early-Career Leadership from the Pharmacy Education and Leadership Institute.

Wendy Camelo Castillo, PhD, assistant professor of pharmaceutical health services research, has been named an associate editor of the journal Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety.

Garrick Centola, Kyle Kihn, and Ritika Kurian, graduate students in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received Fall 2021 Faculty, Staff, and Student News.

Eric Kettering, senior instructional technology and dissemination specialist with the PATIENTS Program in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, had his video - Tangerine Technique - accepted to the American Public Health Association’s Film Festival.

Kyle Kihn, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the UM Ventures Graduate Translational Research Award at the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Graduate Research Conference.

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science and associate dean for student affairs, has been appointed to the United States Pharmacopeia Health Equity Advisory Group.

Brandon Lowe, Khady Ouattara, and Ayanna Williams, graduate students in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received 2021-2022 Meyerhoff Graduate Fellowship Awards.

Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, MA, MDE, BCPS, professor of pharmacy practice and science and executive director of advanced post-graduate education in palliative care, has been selected to receive the Distinguished Hospice Interdisciplinary Team Member Award from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Juliet Obi and Paige Zambrana, graduate students in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received 2021-2022 University of Maryland, Baltimore Graduate School teaching assistantships in partnership with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.

Breanna Scotland, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been selected as a Genentech-Meyerhoff Graduate Fellow Program Scholar.

Fadia Shaya, PhD, MPH, professor of pharmaceutical health services research (PHSR), and Ester Villalonga-Olives, PhD, MsC, assistant professor in PHSR, have been
Dean’s Teaching Fellowship Awards

Denise Couch, BSN, RN, CSPI, a specialist in poison information at the School of Pharmacy’s Maryland Poison Center, has been recertified as a CSPI for a fourth time.

Sean Fleming, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received the department’s 2021 Donald O. Fedder Memorial Fellowship.

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named chair-elect of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s Critical Care Practice and Research Network.

Lisa Jones, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has been named in the top 20 of The Analytical Scientist Top 100 Power List.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Susan dos Reis, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical health services research, has received a five-month $14,000 contract from the Altarum Institute for “Enhancing Health Care Value Through Data, Measurement and Evaluation of Services and Procedures” and a one-year $99,998 contract from the Maryland Department of Human Services for “State of Maryland Foster Care Psychotropic Monitoring.”

Hillary Edwards, MPH, director of methodological research and evaluation for the PATIENTS Program in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a $100,000 one-year grant from Bayer Corporation for “PATIENTS Professors Academy.”

Steven Fletcher, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has received a one-year $397,258 grant from the National Institutes of Health for “Synthetic Strategies to Restore the Efficacy of Venetoclax in Acute Myeloid Leukemia.”

Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, has received a three-month $7,500 contract from Wockhardt for “Proposal for Additional Glargine Analysis to Answer Regulatory Queries.”

Joga Gobburu, PhD, professor of pharmacy practice and science and director of the Center for Translational Medicine, has received a two-month $75,000 contract from Dezima Pharma for “PKPD Analysis of Obicetrapib.”

Alexander MacKerell Jr., PhD, the Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Computer-aided Drug Design Center, received a one-year $394,919 contract from SilcsBio for “Computational Methods for Accelerating Biologics Formulation.”

Sarah Michel, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and associate dean for graduate programs, has received a three-year $429,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for “Non-classical Zinc Finger Proteins” and a one-year $599,998 cooperative agreement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for “Development of Advanced Analytical Methods for the Characterization of Iron Carbohydrate Complex - Ferric Derisomaltose.”

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and executive director of the PATIENTS Program, has received a one-year $205,000 grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under the Maryland Center for Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation for “Integrating Patient and Consumer-generated Discursive Data to Inform and Enhance FDA One Health Initiative Communication Strategies” and a one-year $100,000 contract from Patients Like Me for “Treatment Preferences, Stigma, and Unmet Needs of PLWHA in Support of Long-Acting Islatravir.”

James Polli, PhD, Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has received a two-year $192,700 contract from the University of Florida for “Development and Validation of a Framework to Apply Oral PBPK Models to Conducting Risk Assessments in Support of Model-informed Biowaivers of Fed State BE Studies for BCS Class II Drugs.”

Charmaine Rochester-Eyeguokan, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice and science, has received a two-year $256,729 contract from Chase Brexton Health Services for “Proposal for Chase Brexton Health Services Diabetes Program.”

Yan Shu, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has received a nine-month $115,000 grant from the Maryland Technology Development Corporation for “Novel...”
Axin Stabilizer YA6060 is a Promising Therapy for Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis.