



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

UMSOP NEWS

October 2022

White Coat Ceremony Signifies Start of Pharmacy Journey for Class of 2026



Keeping with traditions of the health care profession, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy welcomed its first-year students to the pharmacy profession in a White Coat Ceremony on Sept. 23. During the ceremony—the first held in person at UMSOP since 2019—[Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP](#), dean and professor of the School, advised the students to embrace the ideals of professionalism on their career journey. The keynote address was delivered by Kun Yang, PharmD '15, CEO and co-founder of Pricklee, a beverage startup in the consumer-packaged goods space. Yang worked in multiple positions within the biotechnology industry before transitioning to entrepreneurship through Pricklee, which has been featured on the TV show Shark Tank. [Read more here.](#)

UMSOP Faculty Members Receive Statewide MSHP Awards



Two faculty members at the School of Pharmacy were recognized by the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy (MSHP) for their outstanding achievements in pharmacy in the last year. [Kimberly Claeys, PharmD](#), an associate professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR), was named MSHP Health-System Pharmacist of the Year, and [Zachary Noel, PharmD, BCCP](#), assistant professor of P-SHOR, received the MSHP Medication Safety Award. [Read more here.](#)

Rho Chi Chapter Supports Peers in Tutoring Sessions



Third-year student pharmacists at the School of Pharmacy have created a new initiative this fall to help their fellow classmates. Students affiliated with Rho Chi, an honor society that seeks to advance pharmacy through sustained intellectual leadership, are offering their peers free study sessions, known as Rho Chi Peer Assisted Student Success (RxPASS). The 50-minute sessions are held weekly for first-year pharmacy students (P1) and biweekly for second-year students (P2). [Read more here.](#)

Instilling Vaccine Confidence



For [**Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, BCACP, FAPhA**](#), professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR) and associate dean for student affairs, and [**Deanna Tran, PharmD, BCACP**](#), associate professor of P-SHOR, instilling vaccine confidence starts not with patients but with the next generation of immunizers. When the COVID-19 vaccine became available, these educators from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy knew there would be great demand for immunizers. The two joined forces to train 150 pharmacists in the span of two months. [Read more.](#)

EVENTS

PhD and MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences Online Information Sessions

Nov. 2, 16, and 30
Online

Learn more about the PhD and MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences programs at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. This virtual info session will include a brief overview of the programs and application process. There will also be time for participants to ask questions and have them answered by program administration and faculty. [Register here.](#)

FDA-CRCG Workshop on Formulation Characterization and Cutaneous Pharmacokinetics to Facilitate Topical Product Development

Nov. 3, Online

The purpose of this free workshop is to discuss efficient, science-based bioequivalence approaches in development that may be useful for certain prospective generic products that are compositionally different compared to the reference standard. [Register here.](#)

Maryland Poison Center's 50th Anniversary Webinar

MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics

Series

Nov. 9, 2 p.m.
Online

"Tales from the Poison Center - Adults and Older Adults" is a session for health care professionals that will cover cases of callers from age 20 to 100+. [Register here.](#)

Information Sessions

Nov. 2 and 30
Online

Meet with the Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program director and faculty to discuss the master's program. Learn about the courses, how the program works, and how to apply. [Register now](#) to get your questions answered.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT NEWS

LAURELS

Paul Solinsky, PharmD, BCACP, an advanced practice pharmacist in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, has been appointed to the Pharmacy Quality Alliance's COPD Treatment Ratio Measure Development Technical Expert Panel.

James Trovato, PharmD, MBA, FASHP, professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, has been appointed to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education's Continuing Pharmacy Education Provider Accreditation Commission.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Susan dosReis, PhD, professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, has received a one-year \$199,996 contract from the Maryland Department of Human Services for "Maryland State Foster Care Psychotropic Monitoring."

Steven Fletcher, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and **Jace Jones, PhD**, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, have received a two-year \$599,491 cooperative agreement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for "Multidimensional Analytical and Computational Approach to Determine Diastereomer Compositions in Oligonucleotide Drug Products."

Matthew Hursey, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has received a one-year \$10,000 grant from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education for "Unraveling the Physicochemical Properties of Iron Nanoparticle Drug, Ferric Derisomaltose, an Important Drug for Treating Iron Deficiency Anemia."

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, FAPhA, the Gyi Professor of Pharmapreneurship, associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, and executive director of the Center for Innovative Pharmacy solutions, has received a one-year \$683,274 contract from the University of Maryland Medical System for "Joint Clinical and Education Collaboration FY23."

Sarah Tanveer, a graduate student in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, has received a one-year \$54,000 grant from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education for "ORISE Fellowship."

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Laura Gressler, PhD '21, has joined the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences as an assistant professor.

Mohamed A. Mohamed, PharmD '10, received the Dr. Frances O. Kelsey Drug Safety Excellence Award from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Jan Sieluk, PhD '18, started a new position at Bristol Myers Squibb as director of Worldwide Health Economics and Outcomes Research for

The **Class of 1970** held its 50th+ 2 reunion on Sept. 11 at Citron Restaurant. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

The **Class of 2002** held its 20th reunion celebration on Oct. 8 at Blackwall Hitch in Annapolis. Alumni from as far away as Florida and Missouri attended.

Save the date for the **Class of 1997's** virtual 25th reunion on Dec. 15. Details to the class are forthcoming.



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