



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

UMSOP NEWS

March 2023

SOP Creates New Graduate Certificate in Medical Cannabis Studies



The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy has developed a new [Graduate Certificate in Medical Cannabis Science, Therapeutics, and Policy](#), further cementing itself as the nation's leader in graduate studies in medical cannabis. The graduate certificate complements the existing Master of Science (MS) in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics (MCST), which was the first program of its kind when it launched in 2019. A fully online program, the graduate certificate is a two-semester, 12-credit program that provides a foundation in cannabis pharmacology and clinical science, historical context, and current policy landscape. [Learn more about the certificate.](#)

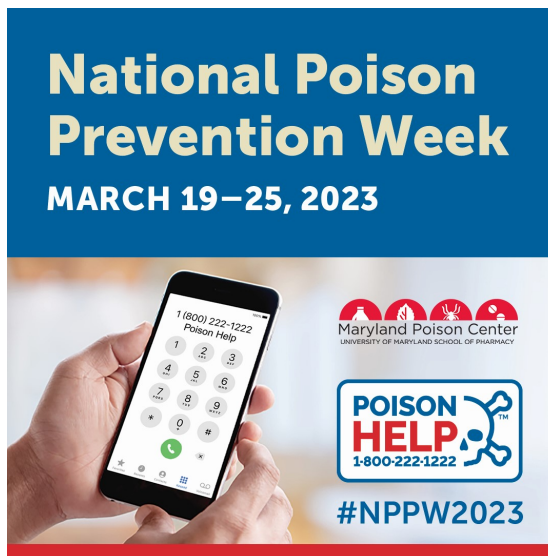
Mobile Health Team Demonstrates Positive Impact on Health Outcomes



The multidisciplinary Mobile Integrated Health-Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) team, comprised of pharmacists, paramedics, and other comprehensive health workers, has found that its interventions improve medication adherence and ultimately health outcomes. The MIH-CP team, which includes pharmacists from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's e-Health Center, studied its impact on West Baltimore patients. Using data from a six-month period in 2020, it found that its intensive follow-up program improved prescription first-fill rates and medication adherence, but further interventions could be helpful too. [Read more about the study.](#)

Raising Awareness During National Poison Prevention Week

Since 1962, the third full week of March has been celebrated by presidential decree as National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW), providing poison centers across the country — including the School of Pharmacy's [Maryland Poison Center \(MPC\)](#) — an opportunity to raise awareness about the dangers of poisonings and highlight steps that everyone can take to prevent them. This year NPPW was observed March 19-25. [Read more about the importance of poison centers.](#)



Biophysical Society Student Chapter Hosts UMB CURE Scholars



The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Biophysical Society (BPS) student chapter at the School of Pharmacy organized an educational outreach event last November to introduce biophysical concepts to high school students in the UMB CURE Scholars program. The program aims to provide middle and high school students in West Baltimore with competitive and rewarding research, health care, and STEM-related career opportunities. [Learn more about the visit.](#)

A routine review in 2022 of the [Pharmaceutical Health Services Research \(PHSR\)](#) graduate program at the School of Pharmacy allowed internal self-study and external feedback to assess the program. The review, which the University System of Maryland mandates of graduate programs approximately every seven years, was a comprehensive evaluation of the PHSR program's MS and PhD curriculum, faculty, advising, research, and overall standing in the field. It was conducted by internal self-study and external stakeholder review, including faculty members, students, and leading scholars from other universities that have programs like PHSR. The peer scholars lauded the national and international reputation of the PHSR program and the "high caliber" quality of graduates and faculty. [Read more.](#)

PHSR Graduate Program Evaluates Strengths and Progress During Seven-Year Review



John W. Holaday Memorial Lecture in Medical Cannabis

March 31, Noon

This year's lecture features David Casarett, MD, MA, professor of medicine and section chief of palliative care at Duke University School of Medicine. The lecture, titled "Is Cannabis Evidence-Based Medicine?" will be available in-person in Pharmacy Hall Room N103 and virtually on WebEx.

[Register here.](#)

Graduate Studies in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics Online Information Session

April 4, Noon
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.](#)

MS in Pharmacometrics Virtual Information Session

April 12, 4 p.m.
Online

Meet with the Pharmacometrics program director and faculty to discuss the master's program. Learn about the courses, how the program works and how to apply. [Register here.](#)

MS in Regulatory Science Virtual Information Session

April 18, 2 p.m.
Online

Meet with the Regulatory Science program director and faculty to discuss the master's and graduate certificate program. Learn about the courses, how the program works, and how to apply. [Register here.](#)

CRCG and FDA Public Workshop

April 20 and 21

FDA and the Center for Research on Complex Generics public workshop on Considerations for and Alternatives to Comparative Clinical Endpoint and Pharmacodynamic Bioequivalence Studies for Generic Orally Inhaled Drug Products (OIDP). [More info.](#)

Tablets and Capsules Hands On Short Course

May 1-5

The annual course uses lectures and hands-on laboratory sessions to provide an overview of the manufacturing of multiparticulate beads, capsules, and tablets. [Click here](#) for more information including registration, course outline, partners, and speakers.

Computer-Aided Drug Design Symposium

May 25

This symposium is designed to facilitate collaborations between the CADD Center at the School of Pharmacy and researchers at UMB, throughout the University System of Maryland, and beyond. The symposium is appropriate for all scientists interested in the field of drug design involving both small molecules and protein-based drugs, including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and researchers and educators from academia, government, and industry. It will also feature the annual Ellis S. Grollman Lecture, delivered by Marta Filizola, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Sharon & Frederick A. Klingenstein-Nathan G. Kase, MD Professor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount

FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT NEWS

LAURELS

First-year student pharmacists **Kristine Gem Dones, Idara Obot, and Jamie Padilla** won round one of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's 2023 Clinical Research Challenge.

Tiffany Buckley, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP, advanced practice psychiatric pharmacist, has been named a 2023-2024 fellow in the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Interprofessional Program for Academic Community Engagement.

[Kimberly Claeys, PharmD, BCPS](#), associate professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, has been appointed to the Infectious Diseases Society of America/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention UTI Algorithm Working Group.

[Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD, BCPS](#), associate professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, was appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Council on Education and Workforce Development.

[Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD](#), assistant professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research and director of the MS in Pharmacometrics program, has been named a fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology.

[Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP](#), received her sixth Presidential Citation from the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

[Amy Ives, PharmD, BCPS](#), assistant professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, received the Pharmacy HeRO of the Year Award for medication safety for her anticoagulation stewardship at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital.

Juliet Obi, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the Student Research Achievement Award at the 2023 Biophysical Society Annual Meeting.

[Julia Slejko, PhD](#), associate professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, has been appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Value in Health*.

[Deanna Tran, PharmD, BCACP](#), associate professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, has been appointed to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy/ACT Pharmacy Collaborative Community Pharmacy Practice Transformation Educators Badge Workgroup and was named an Outstanding Reviewer by the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*.

[Ester Villalonga-Olives, PhD, MsC](#), assistant professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, has been named a member of the National Institutes of Health's Social Sciences and Population Studies A Study Section.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Anyen Fon, PharmD, MS, a postdoctoral fellow in the Dean's Office, received an 18-month \$10,000 contract from Janssen Research and Development for "Janssen Scholars of Oncology Diversity Engagement Program."

[James Polli, PhD](#), the Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals, and co-director of the Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation and the Center for Research on Complex Generics, has received a one-year \$15,000 contract from Bristol Myers Squibb for "Scholarships and Fellowships for Underrepresented Minorities in Regulatory Science."

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Martin Calabrese, PhD '22, joined the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Medicare Drug Rebate and Negotiations Group in the Division of Data Assessment and Analytics.

Jennifer Evans, PharmD '00, started a new position as director of education programs and grants at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy.

Krina Mehta, MS '17, started a new position as director of pharmacometrics at Kyowa Kirin.

Leila Sasanpour, PharmD '18, is now a clinical staff pharmacist at Little Acorn Pharmacy.

COME WORK WITH US!

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy has a variety of [employment opportunities](#) and is always seeking innovative and engaged candidates. Visit our [employment website](#) for a listing of available faculty, staff, postdoctoral, and preceptor openings.



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