School of Pharmacy Announces Inaugural Assistant Dean of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Chanel Whittaker, PharmD, BCGP, FASCP, has been appointed the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy’s inaugural assistant dean of equity, diversity, and inclusion. An associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, director of the University of Maryland PGY2 Geriatrics Residency Program, and director of education and training at the School of Pharmacy’s Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, Whittaker has been on faculty at the School of Pharmacy since 2005. Read more.

Pharmapreneurship Students Make Their Pitch in Dolphin Tank

As part of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy’s Pharmapreneurship™ initiative, seven students pitched their innovative business ideas in this year’s Dolphin Tank, an annual spring event that spins off the hit TV show “Shark Tank.” The students were all second- or third-year student pharmacists enrolled in the pharmapreneurship pathway, a focused course of electives for students in the Doctor of Pharmacy program. They spent the academic year conceiving, cultivating, and developing an original idea while also developing
business models. Their work culminated in a seven-minute marketing pitch in the Pharmapreneurs’ Farm in Pharmacy Hall in front of four judges. Read more.

Villalonga Olives, PHSR Faculty Member, Selected for NIH Early Career Program

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) through the National Cancer Institute (NCI) has named Ester Villalonga Olives, PhD, MsC, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, to its Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP). The EIAP is a new NCI initiative designed to help develop the research careers of junior faculty members from diverse backgrounds who are interested in cancer research. Read more.

PPS' Brandt Receives Clinician of the Year Recognition

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCPP, BCGP, FASCP, professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science and executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, received the Clinician of the Year Award from the Foundation for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care (PALTC) Medicine. The award recognizes a health care practitioner who serves in long-term care settings, is directly involved in treating and caring for people, and embodies excellence in patient/resident care. Brandt is the inaugural recipient of the honor, which she received at PALTC’s 2022 annual meeting in March. Read more.

Peter Swaan Named Distinguished University Professor

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President Bruce Jarrell, MD, FACS, announced on May 13 that Peter Swaan, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the School of Pharmacy and associate dean for research and advanced graduate studies, has been awarded the designation of Distinguished University Professor, the highest appointment bestowed on a faculty
School of Pharmacy Celebrates the Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2022

For the first time in three years, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy community gathered in person to celebrate the graduating Doctor of Pharmacy students on May 20. A theme throughout the speakers’ remarks at the morning’s convocation ceremony was that of overcoming adversity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more.

School of Pharmacy Honors PhD and MS Class of 2022 Graduates

After enjoying the campus-wide University of Maryland, Baltimore commencement the morning of May 19, the School of Pharmacy hosted several graduation events for individual PhD and MS programs that afternoon. Read more.

For MS in Medical Cannabis Grads, ‘Sky Is the Limit’

Family and friends of the 207 students in the School of Pharmacy’s MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program Class of 2022 — the program’s second graduating class — gathered May 18 to celebrate the accomplishments of the diverse mix of health care professionals, researchers, entrepreneurs, cannabis industry experts, and public health advocates in the class. Read more.
School of Pharmacy Celebrates Frank Palumbo's 48-Year Career and Retirement

After a distinguished 48-year career, Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD, MS, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and executive director of the Center on Drugs and Public Policy, embarks on the next phase of his life: retirement, which began on June 1. Palumbo has been a stalwart of the UMSOP faculty for decades, as a professor at the School of Pharmacy and as an adjunct professor at the Francis King Carey School of Law beginning in 1995. Read more.

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Honors Retirements of Ed Moreton and Jia Bei Wang

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy faculty, staff, and colleagues gathered on May 24 to celebrate the retirements of two longtime faculty members in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC): J. Edward Moreton, PhD, and Jia Bei Wang, PhD. Moreton and Wang, both professors of PSC, will retire this summer after serving on the faculty for 48 years and 27 years, respectively. Read more.

PATIENTS Program Summer Roundtable Series

The PATIENTS Program’s Summer Roundtable Series are free, virtual roundtable discussions in July and August with content experts. Roundtable topics will range from health equity initiatives to the role of religious leaders in community health to how you can be a patient consultant to clinical researchers. These roundtables complement and expand on curriculum of the PATIENTS Professors Academy. The PATIENTS Professors Academy is a free, 5-week program that is completely online with interactive components from our patient advisors and content experts. Click here for more information and to register.
Maryland Poison Center’s 50th Anniversary Webinar Series: Tales from the Poison Center
June 22 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. The second one will be held June 22 at 2 p.m. and is intended for health care professionals. "Tales from the Poison Center - Tots to Teens" will be presented by MPC staff and will cover cases spanning from 0-19 years.

Register here.

Online Graduate Studies in Palliative Care Virtual Information Session
June 28 at noon and 8 p.m.

These information sessions will provide an overview of the PhD, MS in Palliative Care degree, and Graduate Certificates program, and explore topics such as the admissions process, course schedule, and other frequently asked questions.

Register here.

Center for Research in Complex Generics Free Virtual Workshop
June 29, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FDA and the Center for Research on Complex Generics (CRCG) will host In Vitro Release Test (IVRT) and In Vitro-In Vivo Correlation (IVIVC) of Complex Generic Ophthalmic, Injectable, Implantable, and Inserted Products, a free virtual workshop.

Register here.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT NEWS

LAURELS

Cynthia Boyle, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice and science, received the Maryland Pharmacists Association’s 2022 Mentor Award and will receive the 2022 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Pharmacy Practice Section Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award at AACP’s annual meeting in Texas in July.

Alexandria Chan and Samuel Krug, graduate students in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received Spring 2022 Dean's Teaching Fellowship Awards.

Lu Chen, a Class of 2022 student pharmacist, received the Maryland Pharmacists Association's 2022 Outstanding Student Pharmacist Achievement Award.

Kimberly Claey, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, was named a Scholar in Diagnostic Excellence by the National Academy of Medicine.

Meghan Ehret, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice and science, received an Eastern Analytical Symposium Student Award.

Lisa Lebovitz, JD, MS, assistant dean of academic affairs and assessment, was a member of a multi-institutional team that received the Best Collaborative Publication Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Assessment Special Interest Group.

Delaney McGuirt, a fourth-year student pharmacist, and Eileen Zhang, a second-year student pharmacist, received Maryland Pharmacists Association’s Student Scholarships.

Juliet Obi, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a 2021-2022 Nigerian Association of Pharmacists & Pharmaceutical Scientists in the Americas scholarship, an American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Graduate Student Travel Award, a Nicoya Lifesciences Scholarship, and an American Pharmacists Association Foundation Graduate Student Leadership and Professional Development Scholarship.
practice and science, received the Maryland Pharmacists Association’s 2022 Pharmacist Advocate Award.

Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named director of the School’s MS in Pharmaceutometrics program.

Emily Heil, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, received the Maryland Pharmacists Association’s 2022 Excellence in Innovation Award.

Matthew Hursey, graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the 2022 American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Fourth-year student pharmacists Sung Jin (Julie) Jeong and Sean Kim, and Belinda Tamrakar, a second-year student pharmacist, received Maryland Pharmacists Association Foundation Student Scholarships.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Hillary Edwards, MPH, director of methodological research and evaluation for the PATIENTS Program in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received an 18-month $100,000 contract from Novo Nordisk for “PATIENTS Professors Academy.”

Maureen Kane, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and executive director of the Mass Spectrometry Center, received a five-year $717,545 contract from the Georgia Tech Research Corporation for “Mechanisms of Axial Elongation in Myopia.”

Mandy Oglesby, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a four-year $518,353 contract from Massachusetts Institute of Technology for “Metallobiochemistry of Innate Immunity and Bacterial Physiology.”

Ryan Pearson, PhD, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a two-year $83,000 grant from the Shock Society for “Multimodal Immunomodulatory Strategy to Treat Inflammation and Immunosuppression in Sepsis.”

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, the Felix Gyi Endowed Memorial Professor in Pharmapreneurship and associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, has received a 10-month $101,870 contract from Calvert Internal Medicine for “MOU between University of Maryland, Baltimore and Calvert Internal Medicine, PA.”

Yan Shu, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has received a five-year $1,818,550 grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for “Impact of Cadmium Exposure on Transporter Function and Drug Disposition in the Kidney.”

Fengtian Xue, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a nine-month $50,000 contract from Johns Hopkins University for “Novel Anti-proteotoxicity Therapeutic Agents Targeting Protein Methylation: Applications for Neurodegenerative Diseases.”