

Maryland Mentor

A Newsletter for the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's Academy of Preceptors

Winter 2025

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Produced by:



From the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning

Dear Preceptors,

Happy New Year! I hope 2025 brings you, your families, friends, and communities “health, wealth, happiness, and time to enjoy it all.” This saying from my father-in-law is fresh on my mind coming out of the holidays—my family toasts to this at nearly every formal gathering. The first few months of the year can be challenging. The excitement of the holidays is over, a bitter winter vortex has set in, and hibernation might feel more natural than the desire to get out and be productive. At times like this, I find it helpful to set new goals or dust off the prior ones. I would like to share with you my five areas of focus for the 2024-2025 academic year and highlight milestones we have achieved so far within the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) Experiential Learning Program (ELP).



1. Curriculum redesign of UMSOP experiential learning with M-Pact and the 2025 ACPE Standards.

We have established proposals for curricular changes that are progressing through UMSOP and University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) approvals. I hope to communicate final curricular developments as they are approved.

2. Rebrand and grow the UMSOP Longitudinal Track Program participation in health-systems and community practice.

Thanks to the leadership of Drs. Tuan Huynh, Tricia Ross, and Cherokee Layson-Wolf, we have had the highest student and site engagement in our Longitudinal Track—39 students matched in the health-system program and four in the community practice program. The overall student match rate was 91.5 percent with 60.6 percent of the Class of 2026 participating, the highest participation rate in the history of the program. Kudos to the students and site coordinators!

3. Explore UMSOP and pharmaceutical industry collaboration and grow experiential opportunities.

We continue to explore this with our fantastic industry partners. Several new affiliation agreements are in progress, and we hope to increase offerings for students for this year and for many years to come. I will have more specific data to report at the end of this academic year.

4. Develop preceptor education related to equity, diversity, inclusion, (EDI) and belonging.

Thanks to Dr. Chanel Whittaker, UMSOP's assistant dean for EDI, for setting

the vision, and Dr. Jason Noel for leading the Experiential Learning Committee (ELC) preceptor survey asking about preceptor perspectives and needs on EDI-related education. Based on this vision and background information, Ms. LaTia Few is leading a subgroup of the ELC that is developing a continuing education module focused on the EDI education needs of UMSOP preceptors. More information is to come, but we will collaborate with the UMSOP residency and fellowship programs on implementing this educational module in Fall 2025.

5. Establish enhanced engagement with the Maryland Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

We are thrilled to announce that seven PharmD students in the Class of 2026 have been selected for the interprofessional UMB AHEC Scholars Program: Holly Verbrugge, Kingsley Onukwufor, Uche Ijezie, Ming Song, Jillian Doll, Daniel Butz, and Heidi Gonzales. These students will enhance their clinical and experiential training in rural and/or underserved areas throughout Maryland. Thanks to UMSOP preceptor Dr. Julie Caler, we have established a novel Longitudinal Track Health System program at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Western Maryland, which will support student completion of the AHEC Scholars program and allow students to experience the beauty of Cumberland, Md.

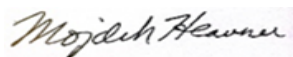
I am optimistic that the next final four months of the academic year will be just as fruitful as the fall semester. By sharing our goals with you, I hope to have transparency on my vision for the direction of ELP at UMSOP. If you have ideas for how we can continue to improve or if you would like to collaborate in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

With this Winter 2025 edition of *Maryland Mentor*, you will find preceptor recognitions, student perspectives on career paths, a preceptor contribution on virtual learning experiences, and an ELP opinion piece on the value of conferences in both student support and professional development. Happy reading!

Remember..."A goal without a plan is just a wish." – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

May your goals be well-planned and your wishes come true this year!

Warm regards,



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What the ELP Office Needs from Preceptors

Please help us be 100 percent compliant with preceptor requirements by doing the following:

- Submitting all required midterm and final evaluations by their due dates
- Entering your site requirements in CORE ELMS by clicking “My Requirements”
- Reading all emails that come from the School via CORE ELMS
- Completing two hours of preceptor development each year
- Providing a brief description in your preceptor profile in CORE ELMS by clicking “Profile Information,” then “Description”

Library Access

One of the many benefits of being a School of Pharmacy preceptor is having offsite access to eFacts and Comparisons Online and Micromedex only through the University’s Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL). Access is limited to School of Pharmacy preceptors who are scheduled to take a student for at least one block in the current academic year. Please note you will only get access during the blocks/rotations that you have students scheduled. If you would like to take advantage of this benefit, please contact LaTia Few at Lfew@rx.umaryland.edu for more details.

We welcome the following newly appointed preceptors:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Alyson Cotter | • Jordin Novak | • Mary Emadi |
| • Armelle Kuate | • Julio Fernandez | • Nadia Adjin-Tetty |
| • Cassidy Luke | • Kelly Hu | • Nadisha Weerackoon |
| • Chloe Henderson | • Kinjal Desai | • Priyana Khan |
| • Christina Megiel | • Kyle Hunt | • Randy Doud |
| • Christopher Hartley | • Lauren Proctor | • Rodolfo Romero |
| • Clara Ogundele | • Lina Shao | • Samantha Matthews |
| • Gaele Elame | • Madison Taylor | • Shashank Patel |
| • Jaden Dickenson | • Margaret (Maggie) Buck | • Tiffany Michalowski |
| • Jaime Myers | | • Yuwei Tsai |

School News

Save the Date: Annual Academy of Preceptors Dinner and CE Program

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy invites you to our Annual Academy of Preceptors Continuing Education (CE) Program!

When: Thursday, April 3, 2025

Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Where: Pharmacy Hall, 20 N. Pine Street, Baltimore, Md. (In-person only)



This special event is designed to recognize and celebrate our dedicated preceptors while providing an opportunity to connect with colleagues, faculty, and staff. Highlights of the evening include:

- A delicious buffet dinner
- An awards ceremony honoring outstanding preceptors and students
- A live CE presentation focusing on a key topic in precepting and educating students

More information about registration and program details will be available on the UMSOP Experiential Learning Program (ELP) website later in February.



[Register here](#) or scan the QR code below to secure your spot!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Preceptor News

Three Pharmacists Honored as AACP Preceptors of the Year

By Pam Carder



Three University of Maryland School of Pharmacy preceptors received 2024 Preceptor of the Year Awards from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP).

The 2024 honorees include William Hess, CAPT (ret.), pharmacist with the United States Public Health Service (USPHS); Mark Hindman, PharmD '17, MBA, independent pharmacist at Professional Pharmacy; and Jennifer Szwak, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP, clinical pharmacy specialist and residency program coordinator at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

“Our preceptors are the heart and soul of experiential learning at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy,” says Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, BCCCP, FCCM, FCCP, associate professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research and assistant dean for experiential learning. “Their dedication to teaching and mentoring the next generation of pharmacists is unparalleled, and their impact on our students is immeasurable.”

During their rotations, student pharmacists acquire practical, real-world experience under the mentorship of their preceptors—practicing pharmacists and other health care professionals—who guide them through both introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experiences. Preceptors are integral to the School of Pharmacy’s experiential learning program (ELP), which accounts for more than 30 percent of the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) curriculum.

Currently in its fifth year, the Preceptor of the Year awards honor dedicated preceptors, nominated by their institutions, for making significant contributions to the development of student pharmacists. In addition to their national awards, Hess, Hindman, and Szwak will receive a two-year complimentary AACP individual affiliate membership, which provides programming, resources, and tools that will enhance the professional development of adjunct/affiliate preceptors who are key members of the educational and patient care team.

William Hess, CAPT (ret.), USPHS

Hess brings more than four decades of experience in hospital, retail, and regulatory pharmacy, and has served as a clinical preceptor for hundreds of pharmacy students. He retired with the rank of Captain (O-6) from the U.S. Public Health Service after nearly 33 years of active duty, during which he led national emergency medical teams in disaster and terrorism response efforts. Throughout his career, he has received numerous honors, including the Health and Human Services Secretary's Distinguished Service Award and two Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medals. Currently, Hess serves in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Office of Data, Analytics, and Research, where he focuses on standardizing and harmonizing medical, pharmaceutical, and chemical terminology to support global electronic labeling, clinical decision support systems, pharmacovigilance, and ePrescribing initiatives.

"I am deeply grateful to the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy for nominating me for AACP's 2024 Preceptor of the Year Award," says Hess. "Reflecting on my journey, I have had the privilege of precepting more than 80 students from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and more than 270 pharmacy students overall. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience."

Mark Hindman, PharmD '17, MBA

As an independent pharmacist at Professional Pharmacy in Baltimore, Hindman has assumed leadership roles in key initiatives, including the development of the pharmacy's long-term care program, vaccination efforts, and the implementation of medical billing for clinical services. He currently serves as president-elect of the Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) and is a board member of the MPhA Foundation. He is a 2017 graduate of the School of Pharmacy.

"It is a great privilege to have the opportunity to precept the next generation of pharmacists from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy," says Hindman. "As a former student pharmacist, I gained invaluable knowledge during my own rotations, and it is deeply rewarding to now share my experiences with the new generation of professionals."

Jennifer Szwak, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP

Szwak has precepted more than 100 pharmacy residents and students during their internal medicine rotations and serves as a research mentor. She is a clinical pharmacy specialist in internal medicine and residency program coordinator at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Throughout her career, she has earned numerous prestigious honors, including the Pharmacist of the Year and Preceptor of the Year Awards from the University of Chicago Medicine Residency, as well as the ACCP Adult Medicine PRN Clinical Practice Award.

"I love to see the growth of learners over the course of a rotation and residency year," says Szwak. "One of the most fulfilling aspects of precepting is seeing all the amazing things our learners accomplish as pharmacists after graduation."

Hess precepts students during rotations at the FDA, where they gain experience in systems management, administration, population-based services, and government affairs. Hindman precepts for the community pharmacy rotation, which includes collecting and assessing patient-specific information and developing and monitoring care plans. Szwak precepts for the acute care general medicine rotation, providing students with experience in an interprofessional team-based acute care environment.

"We were proud to nominate these three exceptional preceptors for the AACP Preceptor of the Year Award, recognizing their outstanding contributions to our community," says Heavner. "Their passion, expertise, and commitment to excellence inspire us all."

Preceptor Perspective

The Transformative Role of Virtual Learning in Pharmacy Education: Insights from Premier Pharma Mentors

By Patrick Kurunwune, PharmD, MBA, Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor for Ambulatory Care, Leadership and Management, and Managed Care Pharmacy



The health care landscape is rapidly evolving, and the pharmacy profession must adapt to these changes by leveraging innovative educational platforms. Virtual learning has emerged as a transformative tool, offering pharmacy students the opportunity to develop critical skills while engaging in real-world scenarios.

Bridging the Gap with Virtual Experiences

The transition to virtual learning provides unparalleled benefits for students and educators alike. Studies have shown that virtual platforms enhance flexibility, promote active learning, and improve critical thinking skills.²

1. **Pharmacists in Consulting:** This program explores the intersection of pharmacy and management consulting, teaching students to storyboard projects, optimize processes, and develop data-driven strategies for health care challenges. By immersing students in strategic decision-making frameworks, they will be equipped with skills applicable to consulting and beyond.¹
2. **Virtual Ambulatory Care Experience:** Focusing on patient-centric care, this program trains students to manage medication therapies, collaborate with health care teams, and provide direct outpatient care. Realistic scenarios simulate the responsibilities of ambulatory care pharmacists, preparing students for leadership roles in health care.¹
3. **Virtual Managed Care Experience:** This rotation delves into pharmacy benefits management, formulary strategies, and value-based care models. It equips students with the knowledge to navigate the complexities of managed care pharmacy, an area critical to improving health care outcomes and reducing costs.¹

The Value of Virtual Platforms in Pharmacy Education

Virtual experiential learning addresses several challenges faced by traditional models. It bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, allowing students to explore non-traditional career paths like consulting and managed care pharmacy. Furthermore, virtual platforms foster innovation by integrating technology into learning, ensuring students are prepared for the future of pharmacy practice).^{2,3}

Challenges and Solutions

Despite its advantages, virtual learning comes with challenges, such as maintaining engagement and ensuring hands-on experiences. These issues can be addressed by incorporating interactive elements, case-based learning, and mentorship opportunities into the virtual rotations. By doing so, students remain engaged and gain practical insights that translate to real-world success.

Lessons Learned and Future Directions

The success of virtual rotations highlights the importance of adapting education to meet industry

needs. Programs like these not only prepare students for diverse career opportunities but also demonstrate the broader potential of virtual platforms in health care education. As technology continues to evolve, virtual learning will play an increasingly significant role in shaping the next generation of pharmacists. It isn't just a response to current challenges but a proactive step toward a more dynamic and inclusive future for pharmacy education.

References:

1. Kurunwune. P. (2024) "PPM Experiential Rotation Offerings" Premier Pharma Mentor Insights
2. Ahmad, S., et al. (2023). "Virtual Learning in Healthcare: Bridging the Gap Between Knowledge and Practice." Journal of Pharmaceutical Education and Practice.
3. Jones, T., et al. (2022). "The Role of Technology in Modern Pharmacy Education." American Journal of Pharmacy Education.

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Student News

Building Future Leaders: How Pharmapreneurship® Drives Career-Driven APPE Decisions

By: Jiwon Oh, Christina Nguyen, Danielle Doan, and Oanh Hoang, PharmD Candidates

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's exclusive Pharmapreneurship® initiative is a cornerstone of our education, shaping our career aspirations and approach to problem-solving and innovation. By fostering a pharmapreneurial mindset, this initiative prepares students to excel in dynamic, fast-paced environments by encouraging them to identify unmet needs and develop creative, impactful solutions. By weaving key principles of innovation, continuous improvement, and technological advancement throughout the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum, the School creates leaders who redefine the boundaries of pharmacy practice, scientific discovery, and health care delivery.



This commitment to cultivating innovative problem-solvers is showcased through student-driven projects that tackle real-world challenges. A prime example is the development of PocketPeds, a mobile application that we designed to provide accurate, individualized pediatric dosing recommendations. This project began as part of the School's annual America's Got Regulatory Science Talent Competition, where we identified a critical gap in pediatric dosing safety and created a tool to address this need. Winning first place validated our work, but the true milestone was presenting PocketPeds at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's inaugural Pharmapreneurship® Summit in October, where participants pitched bold and innovative solutions to address challenges and opportunities in pharmacy.

Pharmacy's inaugural Pharmapreneurship® Summit in October, where participants pitched bold and innovative solutions to address challenges and opportunities in pharmacy.

The summit provided a platform for us to demonstrate PocketPeds' capacity to transform pediatric care to industry leaders, academics, and peers, reinforcing the importance of pharmapreneurial thinking in health care. By engaging with professionals in the field, we gained valuable insights into both the business and regulatory aspects, which helped refine our patient-centered innovation and

further contributed to the continued development of our Professional Identity Formation. The lessons learned from this experience have better equipped us to make meaningful contributions to pharmacy and healthcare. PocketPeds' success not only highlighted the impact of our pharmapreneurship education but also reaffirmed our beliefs in the transformative potential of applying these principles to all aspects of our professional journey.

These experiences emphasized the value of interdisciplinary collaboration, adaptability, and stakeholder engagement - principles that now guide our approach to selecting and preparing for rotations. As we plan for our Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience rotations for our fourth year of pharmacy school, we are prioritizing opportunities that resonate with our pharmapreneurial mindset, such as those in regulatory science, managed care, the pharmaceutical industry, and practice transformation. Our work with PocketPeds taught us the importance of blending innovation and practicality, inspiring us to pursue unique rotations where we can apply these skills in real-world settings. For instance, many of us are exploring rotation experiences in formulary management, value assessment, patient access strategies, and contemporary pharmacy practice—areas where we can leverage our pharmapreneurial expertise to tackle health care challenges. By aligning our rotations with career-focused goals, we aim to position ourselves to become innovative leaders who can drive meaningful change in pharmacy and health care.

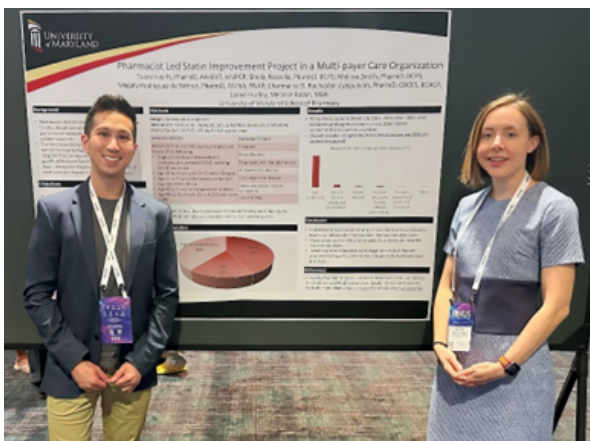


Career, Leadership, and Professional Corner

My Journey to AMCP Nexus: Supporting Students and Strengthening Experiential Learning

By Tuan Huynh, PharmD, AAHVP, HIVPCP

This past fall, I had the opportunity to attend the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Nexus



conference in Las Vegas, which focuses on the future of health care emphasizing improvements in outcomes, access, and affordability. While my primary purpose was to support my work in my previous role as an advanced practice pharmacist with the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, where I presented a poster on the "Pharmacist-Led Statin Improvement Project in a Multi-payer Care Organization," this conference also offered new opportunities in my current role as assistant director of experiential learning. Attending AMCP Nexus offered an invaluable platform to support our students as they showcased their own work,

networked with experts in the field, and explored various career opportunities. The active involvement of faculty and staff from the School was integral in enhancing the student experience, fostering meaningful connections, and promoting their professional growth and confidence. “Participating in professional conferences with students makes the meeting more enjoyable for me and gives us a chance to spend time together outside of the classroom,” says Catherine Cooke, PharmD, MS, BCPS, PAHM, a research associate professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research (P-SHOR) at the School of Pharmacy. “They also offer students opportunities for professional development. For example, Laura Soon and Barbara Moukoulis of the Class of 2025 and Sara Oh of the Class of 2026 presented a poster at the 2024 AMCP Nexus meeting on conflicts of interest reported in original research articles in the *Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy*.”

These experiences help shape students’ professional identities, guiding them to make informed decisions when selecting rotation experiences that align with their career paths.

Conferences also highlight how faculty serve as role models for students by leading engaging learning sessions and seminars. At AMCP Nexus, Dr. Cooke co-led a presentation with Megan Ehret, PharmD, MS, BCPP, a professor of P-SHOR at the School, on “Advancing Schizophrenia Management Strategies in the Patient Journey: Treatment Innovations, Adherence, and Health Outcomes.” This discussion provided thoughtful insightful on evolving approaches to schizophrenia management. Sessions like these reinforce the critical intersections between education and practice but also inspire students to become leading experts in their field of interest.



Beyond supporting students, I had the privilege of reconnecting with colleagues and building new relationships with professionals in managed care, population health, and pharmacy education. These connections offer priceless opportunities to not only expand my own professional network but also strengthen ELP by recruiting preceptors and identifying rotation sites to enhance the experiential offerings we provide to our students.

Reflecting on my journey to AMCP Nexus, I am reminded of how valuable conferences like these are—not only for supporting professional growth but also for empowering attendees to engage with experts, share their work, and broaden their understanding of pharmacy. These experiences inspire innovation and creativity, and bridge the connection between education, practice, and the evolving health care landscape. By bringing these lessons back to the School, we can further strengthen our commitment to shaping the next generation of pharmacy leaders.

