

Maryland Mentor

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

Spring 2024

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

**Message from the Assistant
Dean for Experiential
Learning**

Newly Appointed Preceptors

Focus on Policy

**Student Spotlight – New for
2024!**

Preceptor News

**Congratulations to Kaitlin
Landolf**

**Hamza Mohabbat APPE
Spotlight Award**

Preceptor Profile

Smiling is Contagious

Student News

Goodbye from Mark Brueckl

From the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning

Dear preceptors,

I am honored to introduce myself as the new assistant dean for experiential learning at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Taking on this role fills me with both excitement and a profound sense of responsibility as I look forward to contributing to our longstanding tradition of excellence at the School.

First, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Mark Brueckl, who is retiring from his role this spring after nearly a decade as assistant director of the Experiential Learning Program. I of course also want to congratulate Dr. Agnes Ann Feemster for her promotion to associate dean for academic affairs. Agnes Ann and Mark's dedication and visionary leadership have significantly shaped experiential learning at the School, leaving a lasting, positive impact on our academic environment. Please join me in wishing Mark the best with his well-deserved retirement. I hope there is a lot of guitar practice, quality time with grandchildren, and travel in his future.



I also want to thank the entire ELP team for another successful Academy of Preceptors Continuing Education event. Dean Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD, provided inspiring opening remarks thanking preceptors for your support of our students and encouraging you to continue to engage with our School.

I am excited to announced that Tuan Huynh, PharmD, AAHIVP, HIVPCP, of the School of Pharmacy's Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, has been appointed assistant director of ELP. I am eager to work with Tuan as well as the rest of the ELP team (Dr. Daniel Mansour, Mr. Nathaniel Thomas, and Ms. LaTia Few) to build on the strong foundation that has already been established. Robust experiential learning is vital to prepare students to become skilled, compassionate pharmacists. In the coming months as I transition into my new role, I may reach out to you for input on how we can continue to grow and improve student and preceptor experiences. I also encourage you to reach out to me directly to share ideas or feedback. I am enthusiastic about what we will achieve together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mojdeh Heavner".

Warm regards,

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, BCCCP, FCCM, FCCP
Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning
Associate Professor of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research
mheavner@rx.umaryland.edu

Produced by:

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:

- Alicia Pycraft
- Alyson Wilder
- Amir Ossivand
- Annabelle Zhang
- Carlee Vaughn
- Chiamaka Adadey
- Chukwuka Dimonye
- Emily Duong
- Emmy Tran
- Gerald Overman
- Haley Fribance
- James Buremoh
- Juong Han
- Lauren Haggerty
- Laurie Bienert
- Mirza Baig
- Negar Hamidi
- Pari Majethia
- Samuel Anti
- Samuel Fasanmi
- Sara Roach
- Vitaliy Kilmov

Focus on Policy

Many preceptors have asked the ELP Office to share the students' feedback for their rotations. They wish to use that feedback to judge their effectiveness in training our students while on rotation with them. The feedback provides them with information that can be used to make improvements to their rotations so that future students continue to receive a high-quality educational experience.

In previous years, the ELP Office emailed the student feedback report to preceptors annually. Since the ELP Office changed its experiential learning management system in 2014, the emailing of those reports was discontinued. With the new system (CORE ELMS), the emailing of reports was made unnecessary as preceptors can generate that report in the system at any time.

Preceptors can access their student feedback report in CORE ELMS by following these steps:

- Log into CORE ELMS
- On the menu on the left, click “Reporting”
- On the screen that appears, click “Run” in the upper right corner
- On the screen that appears, select “Preceptor & Site Evaluation”

The reports compare the individual preceptor's scores on the assessment points with the scores from all preceptors. Examples of assessment points include:

- As the rotation progressed, the preceptor adjusted my responsibilities based on my performance.
- The preceptor organized the rotation in such a way as to satisfy all rotation requirements.
- The preceptor serves as a professional role model.

The assessment points are graded using a four-point scale. The scores displayed in the report are the average scores from all students precepted. Student comments are also listed. The reports are de-identified (no student names appear in the report), and reports are available for preceptors who have precepted at least two students during the year. If a preceptor has precepted only one student, CORE ELMS will display a message indicating that the report cannot be generated until the preceptor has precepted at least two students during the year.

Should you have any questions about the report, please contact the ELP Office at elp@rx.umaryland.edu.

Student Spotlight



Raymond Kheirbek

Tuan Huynh, PharmD, AAHIVP, HIVPCP, shares a proud moment of his pharmacy student, Raymond Kheirbek in obtaining his HIV Prevention Certified Provider certification (HIVPCP) through HealthHIV during his APPE 450 Ambulatory Care rotation. This achievement highlights Raymond's commitment and advocacy to preventative care.

Hamza Mohabbat APPE Spotlight Award



On April 23, Shelly Pezzella, an advanced practice team lead pharmacist for the School of Pharmacy's Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions working at the University of Maryland Medical System Population Health Service Organization, awarded student pharmacist Hamza Mohabbat the APPE Spotlight Award - Top Population Health Student Performance for his efforts and contributions in supporting population health through innovative strategies and initiatives. Notably, he played a pivotal role in supporting targeted interventions for pharmacists but also led in creating a framework for data analytics to track and monitor the effectiveness of these interventions and the progress of addressing medication related problems. This achievement celebrates the impact bridging care gaps to enhance patient outcomes.

Student News

Ivan Jay Bauzon, fourth-year student pharmacist, participated in a valuable rotation experience in Pesaro, Italy.

Here is what Ivan shared about the experience:

"My time on the international rotation in Italy was simply amazing and something I'd recommend to any student pharmacist looking for a unique experience for their last year in pharmacy school. It was a chance for me to dive into international pharmacy practices and see health care from different cultural angles. As someone born in Milan, Italy, and having moved to the US during high school, this rotation offered me the opportunity to not only brush up on my Italian but also to reconnect with family and friends.

My rotation site was at a specialty pharmacy at the Ospedale San Salvatore Muraglia, Pesaro, a lovely city along the Adriatic coast. Despite Pesaro being less crowded in October, I still enjoyed the warm weather and walks to the beach. From day one, the pharmacy director and staff welcomed me and were incredibly welcoming, showing me the ropes of their workflow and pharmacy system. Three other Italian pharmacy students joined me in the rotation, helping me adapt to the daily routine and where we also discussed insights into our shared and differing pharmacy experiences.



(Left to Right): Dr. Mauro Mancini, the director of the hospital, and student pharmacist Ivan Jay Bauzon

During my five weeks there, I got to counsel patients, shadow in the IV lab, learn the ins and outs of prescription processing, and even compound some dry powder and ointment medications. We dealt with all sorts of medications, from those used in transplants and chemotherapy to treating chronic and infectious diseases. Plus, the pharmacists gave me a rundown of Italian pharmacy laws and regulations under AIFA (Italian Medicines Agency).

Outside of rotation, weekends were dedicated to exploring and soaking up the Italian lifestyle. I traveled to big tourist spots like Rome, Venice, and Florence, but also enjoyed smaller nearby cities like Rimini, Urbino, and Bologna, all easily reachable by train. In the span of a month, I found myself interacting with patients from diverse backgrounds, expanded my pharmacy knowledge on a global scale, and relived some great memories of growing up in Italy, not to mention indulging in the incredible history, art, and authentic Italian food!

I am deeply grateful to every individual I met and worked with, each of whom contributed to this once-in-a-lifetime experience. As I look forward to visiting Pesaro again, I carry with me everything I learned and memories that will certainly shape my career as a pharmacist.”

Preceptor News



Congratulations to our 2024 Preceptors of the Year!

- Outstanding New Preceptor of the Year – Lisa Misevicz, MS, U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- IPPE Preceptor of the Year – Vicki Bulkin, PharmD, Safeway Pharmacies
- APPE Preceptor of the Year – Tuan Huynh, PharmD, AAHIVP, HIVPCP, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions
- Faculty Preceptor of the Year – Kristine Parbuoni, PharmD, BCPPS



Vicki Bulkin



Tuan Huynh



Kristine Parbuoni

Congratulations to Kaitlin Landolf

Congratulations to Kaitlin Landolf, PharmD, BCCCP, critical care clinical pharmacy specialist at the University of Maryland Medical Center, on being elected president of the Baltimore Chapter of the Society of Critical Care Medicine for the 2024 to -2026 term. She also published the following articles with other preceptors and faculty:

- An assessment of a sleep aid and sleep promotion practices in hospitalized medical patients, [Journal of the American Pharmacists Association](#).
- A Rapid Systematic Review of Pharmacologic Sleep Promotion Modalities in the Intensive Care Unit, [Journal of Intensive Care Medicine](#).

Preceptor Profile



As one of his many duties at Mt. Vernon Pharmacy at Fallsway in Baltimore, Shivas V Patel, PharmD '15, serves as a preceptor to students at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP).

His objective is to offer students an experience where they are heard, respected, and trained.

He encourages them to build confidence and their professional knowledge and become effective leaders in a pharmacy team. The students should have a chance to make mistakes and learn from them, to have full access to preceptors and develop that relationship, thus becoming more competent, says Patel.

"I have the satisfaction of seeing myself as a teacher because I do teach students, that's what a preceptor does. Another benefit of being a preceptor is the chance to meet students of diverse backgrounds from around the world," he says.

A perfect example is Laith Alrufaye. As a first-year UMSOP student in May 2022, Alrufaye already had worked as a pharmacist in his native Iraq and in the United Arab Emirates, as well as a pharmacy technician at a community pharmacy in Alabama.

Yet he still had much to learn in his Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience rotation under Patel. Alrufaye, now a third-year student, was impressed by the pharmacy team's frequent communication with and commitment to its underserved patient population. Patel taught him the importance of medication management, and Alrufaye observed the pharmacy's staff monitoring the progress of their patients and maintaining contact with them. "This was a short, one-week rotation, but it made an impact," Alrufaye says. "I learned how to communicate with various populations and was inspired to consider working in community pharmacy."

Since 2018, Patel has precepted 35 UMSOP students, both Introductory (one-week) and Advanced (five-week) Pharmacy Practice Experience rotations in the community setting. Providing more than 30 percent of the School of Pharmacy curriculum, preceptors are crucial to the students' professional development.

"Because a majority of graduates will practice in a community pharmacy setting, an initial experience that is hands-on and collaborative, like Dr. Patel's, is critical in building knowledge, skills, and confidence for future practice," explains Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, BCPS, associate dean for academic affairs at the School and associate professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research.

“Dr. Patel provides students with the opportunity to experience community pharmacy practice through the eyes of an independent practitioner. Our students comment that his knowledge of community practice is second to none and that they benefit immensely from his mentorship,” she says.

Now the manager at the Mt. Vernon Pharmacy at Fallsway, Patel is grateful to his employer, Stephen Wienner, BSP ’91, who has reinforced his desire to be a preceptor.

And while he is proud to have received a 2020 UMSOP Preceptor of the Year Award, Patel feels privileged to have been asked “to hood” five School of Pharmacy students at their May 2023 graduation.

“It’s very meaningful to me to see them cross that stage and become a pharmacist, a colleague actually,” he says.

Smiling is Contagious

Our students learned many lessons at the onset of and during the COVID-19 pandemic. These lessons varied from the growth of virtual learning platforms to navigating the lockdowns, the mask in clinical and non-clinical settings, visitations to nursing homes, emergency preparedness, and much more. At this time, concerns remain about the spread of infections, and health systems may require masks depending on the regional incidence of infection. The CDC has recently released new guidance on respiratory viruses and how to prevent them, but it is important to note that separate guidance exists for health care settings.

COVID-19

The landscape of COVID-19 infection continues to be everchanging. With increasing rates of population immunity from natural infection or immunization, the overall rates of hospitalization related to COVID-19 have declined compared to the start of the pandemic. Though the federal Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 has ended, health care workers remain focused on ensuring patients who qualify for COVID-19 treatment have adequate means of obtaining it. Also of note, the Respiratory Virus Guidance that the CDC created for the 2023-2024 season now includes a unified approach to addressing prevention and risk of respiratory viruses, with COVID-19 included among other similar respiratory viruses like influenza and respiratory syncytial virus. While there have been changes with recommendation isolation periods for COVID-19, it must be noted, again, that health care settings are covered under separate guidance from the CDC, and institutional protocols should always be followed.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Respiratory syncytial virus may be similar in presentation to other respiratory infections, such as influenza or COVID-19. While most patients with RSV develop mild infections, RSV can be particularly devastating in infants and older adults. In exciting news, the FDA has approved two RSV vaccines (Arexvy®, Abrysvo®) for adults ages 60 and older. Additionally, one of the two vaccines (Abrysvo®) may also be used in pregnancy during weeks 32 to 36 to protect infants. Identifying and educating high-risk populations on the advent and importance of these vaccines will play a crucial role in future respiratory viral seasons.

Measles

Measles cases have been increasing, and with increases in international travel, the CDC has listed the top 10 countries with measles outbreaks, i.e., “more disease than expected.” Measles can stay in the air for up to two hours after a person with the infection has left the indoor space. People can be infected by simply being in a closed space and having even brief exposure to someone with the measles infection (e.g., walking by). Because it is so contagious, it is recommended that all patients who are eligible receive an MMR vaccine.

Prevention of Respiratory Viruses

The CDC recommends that all eligible individuals stay up to date on immunizations to prevent the acquisition and spread of respiratory viruses—an area where our pharmacists are vital! Additionally, it’s important to practice good hygiene, take steps for cleaner air, and implement precautions early if you feel you may have a respiratory virus.

Conclusion

Despite how infectious these viruses are, showing a smile and supporting the learners as they navigate these stressors for themselves and the patients can go a long way.

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Goodbye from Mark Brueckl



It's been 48 years since I graduated from the Columbia University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Unfortunately, that pharmacy school no longer exists. Why, is a story for another day. Given my long and fulfilling career, the time has come for it to end. I am retiring effective June 1.

I have had the pleasure of working in many different areas of pharmacy practice. I started my career as a community pharmacist and have many years of experience in that role. I briefly worked as a hospital pharmacist in a small community hospital. I served as a pharmacy consultant to the New York State Medicaid program for more than 10 years. From there, I moved on to work for the pharmacy program of a health plan, followed by 12 years at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy. I spent the final 10 plus years of my career at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Over the years I have interacted with people from all “walks of life” – different careers, different economic conditions, different educations, and different backgrounds. I have always found those interactions rewarding and believe they have enhanced my understanding of human nature (although I don’t believe I will ever fully understand).

I have very much enjoyed meeting and working with our preceptors and students. Site visits are one of my favorite aspects of my current role, and my student interactions have kept me young at heart.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and thanks to my past and current colleagues for their support and advice throughout my career. I also want to specifically thank the preceptors who give of themselves to teach the profession to our students. I have always found precepting to be a most fulfilling role and hope that you are gratified by the number of your former students who have gone on to great pharmacy careers and the thought that you had at least a small role in their success. Of course, I need to thank my family for their love and support over the years. I know that I would not have been able to attain my career without them.

It's hard for me to accept that my career is coming to an end. I believe I still have much to offer and yet, I also realize that it is time for me to step back and reap the rewards of my life-long service to the pharmacy profession. I know that the profession is in good hands, as the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy will always graduate outstanding pharmacists. I also know that the ELP Office will continue to provide high quality services to our preceptors and students. So, as I fade into the sunset with hopes to travel, spoil my grandchildren, and enjoy my “golden years,” I again say, “Thank you,” and bid you all farewell.

Mark Brueckl, RPh, MBA
Assistant Director
Experiential Learning Program