



# MARYLAND MENTOR

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

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## From the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning

Dear Preceptors,

I am pleased to share the Spring 2026 edition of *Maryland Mentor*, which highlights the collective impact of our experiential learning community and celebrates the partnerships that make the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) Experiential Learning Program (ELP) thrive.

In this issue, you will find reflections on the 22nd Annual Academy of Preceptors, including recognition of this year's outstanding students and preceptors who exemplify excellence in experiential education and mentorship. We also highlight important School news, including the establishment of a transformational endowment supporting experiential learning and the Academy of Preceptors, as well as updates on global partnerships and recent visits that continue to expand opportunities for our students.

As we celebrate the graduating Class of 2026, we are also preparing students for the new academic year of rotations. For those of you who will be precepting the rising fourth year students on APPE rotations this year, I encourage you to visit the CORE ELMS Document Library and review the PHAR 5018 Capstone – Professional Life After Graduation course syllabus. This is a longitudinal course designed to support students' transition into practice and preparation for the NAPLEX. A key component of the course is consistent, year long engagement with core therapeutics content aligned with students' rotation experiences. Like last year, students are expected to independently complete pre- and post-rotation quizzes during each rotation block. We ask that you continue to encourage and support your students' longitudinal NAPLEX preparation throughout the APPE year, including reinforcing application of foundational knowledge, linking rotation-based learning to Board-relevant concepts, and encouraging timely completion of required pre- and post-rotation quizzes. Your guidance in helping students connect day-to-day clinical experiences with licensure preparation is essential to their success and confidence as they approach graduation in May 2027. Students will also have completed an Initial Reflection assignment this month that asks about career goals and opportunities for growth. I encourage you to review this with them at the beginning of their rotation blocks and discuss how you can support their professional identity formation.

Thank you for your continued dedication to teaching, mentorship, and partnership in experiential learning. Your commitment makes a meaningful difference in the professional growth of our students and the future of our profession.



*Mojdeh Heavner*

**Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, BCCCP, FCCM, FCCP**

Assistant Dean, Experiential Learning

Professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes  
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# Welcome

We welcome the following newly appointed preceptors:

- Lammi Asrat
- Nicholas Au
- Syed Bukhari
- Ariana Burns
- Cameron Carpenter
- Bailey Conkey
- Jamie DiJulio
- Stephanos Gozali
- Vanessa Ibeh Kinglsey
- Haley Krushinski
- Alexa Lahey
- Anh Luu
- Michelle Mirto
- Jennessa Morgan
- Robert Nathan
- Esther Okadigbo
- Brian Olson
- Linda Osei-Amankwah
- Stanley Otiwu
- Alison Panchisin
- Sherin Philip
- Cortney Proutt
- Jacqueline Quenzer
- Naaseha Rizvi
- Simran Rohatgi
- Harpreet Singh
- Emily Spencer
- Alexandra Tocker
- Sara Touchan
- Farah Towfic
- Jason Van
- Christine Wolesensky
- Michelle Yang

## What the ELP Office Needs from Preceptors

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

- Submitting all required midpoint 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 one hour of preceptor development each reappointment cycle.
- 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 the ELP Office at [elp@rx.umaryland.edu](mailto:elp@rx.umaryland.edu) for more details.

## Preceptor Reappointment Requirements (2021 Appointees)

Preceptors appointed or reappointed in 2021 must complete the following three requirements in CORE ELMS:

### 1. Continuing Education (CE)

Please complete the **Prescription for Excellence - ACPE Standards 2025 module** and the short **post-test**. If you already completed the module prior to reappointment, then you can complete one hour of ACPE-accredited continuing education focused on precepting or educational-related topics that was completed between July 1, 2025, and now.

Upload your NABP CPE transcript or certificate in CORE ELMS under “**Continuing Education (CE) for Re-appointment.**”

If using UMSOP modules, be sure to complete the post-survey for credit.

### 2. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Upload your **current CV** (even if unchanged) in Word or PDF format under “**Curriculum Vitae (CV).**”

### 3. Pharmacist License Number

Submit your **active license number** in CORE ELMS under “**Pharmacist License Number,**” including your state and license number.

### 4. Update Your CORE ELMS Profile

Please review and update your contact, employment, and address information under “**Account Information.**”

We appreciate your prompt attention to these requirements and your continued support of our program. If you need assistance, please contact the ELP Office at [elp@rx.umaryland.edu](mailto:elp@rx.umaryland.edu).

## Support Experiential Learning Scholarships

As preceptors, you have an incredible impact on the growth and confidence of our student pharmacists. If you are looking for another meaningful way to make an impact, please consider supporting our students through the **Experiential Learning Support Fund**.

Each year, many APPE students face financial barriers - travel, housing, relocation, and other expenses - that can limit their ability to pursue the rotations that best match their passions and career goals. Your generosity, no matter the amount, can help remove these barriers.

Your support directly helps our students and strengthens their professional journeys.

Interested in helping students thrive? You can make a tax-deductible contribution at the [UMB ELP Donation Site](#) or via this QR code:



## School News

### Cynthia Boyle's Legacy Continues Through Transformational Endowment

By: Pam Carder

Gift establishes the School's first endowment supporting experiential learning and the Academy of Preceptors, ensuring lasting support for students, preceptors, and the future of pharmacy education.



On April 15, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) celebrated the remarkable career and enduring impact of Cynthia Boyle, PharmD '96, FAPhA, FNAP, FASCP, a beloved educator, leader, and alumna whose latest act of generosity will shape the future of pharmacy education for years to come. Boyle, former executive director of the School's Experiential Learning Program (ELP), has established UMSOP's first endowment dedicated to experiential learning and the Academy of Preceptors. Her gift reflects a continuation of her life's work and a powerful investment in the next generation of pharmacists.

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other colleagues gathered in Pharmacy Hall for a special reception honoring Boyle, held just prior to the School's annual Academy of Preceptors event - an especially meaningful setting given her role in creating and shaping the program.

## **A Career Defined by Service and Innovation**

"Dr. Boyle's career reflects the very best of our profession," said Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD, dean and professor of pharmaceutical sciences. "She has devoted herself to serving others and advancing pharmacy education, leaving an indelible mark on this institution and the many students and colleagues she has mentored."

A proud alumna, Boyle returned to the School not only to teach but to lead and innovate. During her tenure on faculty, she helped transform the ELP into a nationally respected model, ensuring that students received not just training, but meaningful mentorship and real-world preparation. Boyle retired from UMSOP in 2022 and was awarded professor emerita status.

## **Building a Community of Educators**

Among her most influential contributions was the creation of the Academy of Preceptors in 2004, an initiative designed to support and recognize the practitioners who guide students in real-world settings. Through this effort, Boyle fostered a strong, connected community of educators committed to excellence in teaching and practice.

The new endowment builds on that foundation by supporting leadership development for preceptors, funding the Preceptors of the Year initiative, providing student recognition awards, and enhancing experiential learning opportunities that prepare students for evolving health care environments.

## **A Lasting Impact on Students and Colleagues**

For many, Boyle's influence is deeply personal.

Tuan Huynh, PharmD '11, AAHIVP, HIVPCP, assistant director of ELP and a former student and advisee of Boyle's, recalled the welcoming and supportive environment she fostered.

"Dr. Boyle inspired not only me, but so many students through her leadership, advocacy, and commitment to experiential learning," he said. "Her mentorship and the impact of preceptors shaped my own path - from becoming a preceptor myself to returning to the School in a leadership role."

Huynh added that Boyle's generosity has already sparked new momentum within the program, inspiring fundraising efforts that provide experiential learning support funds and reduce barriers to these opportunities.

## Investing in the Future

Throughout her career, Boyle has emphasized the importance of community and giving back - values reflected in both her philanthropy and her work.

“I hope that others will think about giving to what they believe in when they are able,” Boyle said.

Her endowment ensures that experiential learning at the School will continue to evolve and thrive, supporting both the educators who mentor students and the students preparing to enter a complex and changing health care landscape.

“Dr. Boyle’s impact on this School is immeasurable,” Michel said. “Through this endowment, her legacy will continue to shape who we are, and who we will become.”

## The 22nd Annual Academy of Preceptors: A Celebration of Experiential Excellence

By: Tuan Huynh, PharmD, AAHIVP, HIVPCP

On April 15, the Experiential Learning Program (ELP) at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy proudly hosted its 22nd Annual Academy of Preceptors, an evening dedicated to recognizing excellence in experiential education, strengthening professional partnerships, and celebrating the transformative impact of preceptors and students.

Established in 2004, the Academy of Preceptors fosters growth in teaching and mentorship across experiential education. Its mission is rooted in recognizing preceptor excellence, enhancing experiential course delivery, developing educational skills, and fostering meaningful connections among preceptors. Over time, the Academy has evolved into a signature event that reflects the School’s commitment to advancing pharmacy education through innovation and collaboration.

This year’s Academy welcomed more than 100 attendees, bringing together faculty, staff, site coordinators, preceptors, and students. The evening opened with a welcoming address from Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, UMSOP’s associate dean for faculty and academic affairs and associate professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research (P-SHOR), who highlighted the central role of experiential learning within the PharmD curriculum and emphasized the importance of collaboration in delivering high-quality rotation experiences. In her remarks, Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, assistant dean for experiential learning and professor of P-SHOR, reflected on the vital partnership between students and preceptors as the bridge between classroom learning and meaningful, real-world practice.





A focal moment of the evening was the awards ceremony, co-presented by Dr. Heavner and Tuan Huynh, PharmD, assistant director of the Experiential Learning Program. The ceremony recognized both outstanding students and preceptors who elevate the quality of pharmacy education. Reflecting on these awards, Dr. Heavner shared that their “commitment, mentorship, and partnership are the reason we do this work every day.”

This year, 15 students were nominated for the Student Spotlight Award, which recognizes exceptional performance during rotations, commitment to professional growth, and meaningful contributions during rotations. After careful review by the ELP office and Experiential Learning Committee, the following students from the Class of 2026 were selected:

## **Daniel Butz**

Daniel excelled during his first inpatient clinical rotation, demonstrating strong patient empathy and a clear investment in long-term outcomes. His preceptor noted that his journal club presentation on the VANISH-2 randomized clinical trial reflected “literature-assessment skills far beyond what I would expect of a Block 1 APPE student.” He was described as a “welcome addition to the rounding team” and “an accurate source of drug information” by pharmacists and cardiology fellows.

## **Jillian Doll**

Jillian distinguished herself through exceptional professionalism, emotional intelligence, and clinical growth. Her preceptor highlighted her “commitment to professional growth” and noted she was “extremely receptive to both formal and informal feedback.” She independently managed a complex vancomycin regimen and, by the end of the rotation, was “functioning at a level of an early-year PGY-1 pharmacy resident,” earning the trust of her entire medical team.

## **Sara Oh**

Sara demonstrated outstanding clinical excellence and professionalism, particularly during her APPE rotation at Spring Grove Hospital Center. She delivered an “impressive presentation on drug-induced diabetes insipidus” and showed “remarkable professional growth,” transitioning from early uncertainty to confident engagement in complex pharmacotherapy discussions.

## **Christine Rojas**

Christine stood out for her clinical maturity, initiative, and dedication to patient safety. During an antimicrobial stewardship review, she identified a serious contraindication and escalated the concern in a “time-sensitive and appropriate fashion,” while presenting “an alternative treatment plan.” Her preceptor noted her assignments required “very little edits, similar to that of a PGY1 resident.”



## Jin Wang

Jin consistently exceeded expectations through strong initiative and engagement. She contributed to operational improvements, including development of a Pharmacy SWOT checklist and a P&T monograph. Her work was described as “well-organized, informative,” and reflective of “a deep understanding of operational challenges and solutions.”



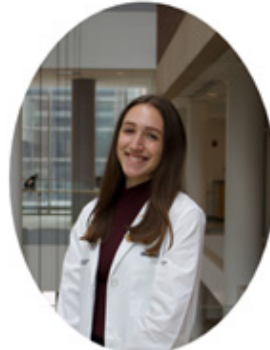
Daniel Butz



Jillian Doll



Sara Oh



Christine Rojas



Jin Wang

Additional recognition was given to all nominated students, whose accomplishments reflect the continued excellence and promise within the program.

For this year’s Preceptor of the Year Awards, 26 nominations were submitted for 23 exceptional preceptors. These awards recognize individuals who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to supporting student learning and professional development. This year’s recipients included:

### **New Preceptor of the Year: Andrew Rubio, PharmD, BCIDP, AAHIVP, MedStar Montgomery Medical Center**

Dr. Rubio, an infectious diseases and antimicrobial stewardship clinical pharmacy specialist, was recognized for his dynamic teaching style and commitment to learner development. Students described him as “an excellent preceptor” who provides “a wide exposure to different areas of infectious diseases,” and as “the best example of what a student wants in their preceptor,” citing his engaging case discussions and dedication to student growth.

### **IPPE Preceptor of the Year: Sara Alizai, PharmD, Walgreens**

Dr. Alizai was honored for her dedication to student development and her supportive learning environment. Students noted that she “wants students to succeed and gives them all the tools to do so,” while providing consistent feedback and hands-on opportunities that build confidence in patient counseling and community pharmacy practice.

### **APPE Preceptor of the Year: Michael Francis, PharmD, Kaiser Permanente Woodlawn Outpatient Pharmacy**

Dr. Francis was recognized for his personalized approach to teaching and mentorship. One student shared that he “tailors the rotation specifically to each student,” while another noted that his guidance helped them better understand “how to approach life after my fourth year rotations,” highlighting his lasting impact on career development.

## **Faculty Preceptor of the Year: Amy Kruger Howard, PharmD, MS, FFIP, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy**

Dr. Kruger Howard was celebrated for her excellence in teaching and innovation in education. Students described her as “an amazing preceptor” who ensured they were “competent and confident” as educators, fostering independence, creativity, and meaningful engagement throughout the learning experience.



**Andrew Rubio, PharmD,  
BCIDP, AAHIVP**



**Sara Alizai, PharmD**



**Michael Francis, PharmD**



**Amy Kruger Howard, PharmD, MS,  
FFIP**

Additional recognition was given to all nominated preceptors for their meaningful contributions to experiential learning and their commitment to mentoring the next generation of pharmacists.

Following the awards ceremony, attendees participated in the evening’s continuing education session, titled “Globally Engaging Current and Future Pharmacists in Age-Friendly Care Initiatives,” presented by Nicole Brandt, PharmD, and Dr. María Laura Bonilla Acosta. The presentation explored the principles of age-friendly care through the 4Ms Framework - What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility - and emphasized their growing importance in pharmacy practice across global healthcare settings. Attendees gained valuable insight into the role of pharmacists and student pharmacists in advancing age-friendly initiatives, along with practical strategies to optimize medication use, enhance patient safety, and support person-centered care for older adults.

The Annual Academy of Preceptors serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder of the enduring impact that faculty, staff, site coordinators, preceptors and students have on UMSOP’s Experiential Learning Program. Grounded in its original mission, the Academy continues to be a cornerstone for recognizing excellence, fostering collaboration, and supporting the development of future pharmacy leaders.

The ELP Office extends its sincere gratitude to all who attended and contributed to the success of this year’s event, helping to make it a meaningful and memorable celebration of excellence.



## Siam University Leadership Visits the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy

By Nathaniel Thomas, MBA

For the past nine years, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) has maintained a student exchange agreement with Siam University in Thailand. This partnership continues to thrive today.

In February 2026, Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, president of Siam University, and his colleague Dr. Yhing Sawhey, director of international affairs, traveled to Washington, D.C. for a conference. During their visit, they made a special trip to UMSOP to meet with the Experiential Learning Program Office and UMSOP faculty members.

Nathaniel Thomas of the ELP Office welcomed Dr. Sawhey and Dr. Pornchai and provided a guided tour of the School of Pharmacy. Their visit included the Pharmacy Practice Labs, the OSCE Suite, the Dean's Office, lecture halls, and the Pharmacy Museum. They also met several faculty members, including DRs. Agnes-Ann Feemster, Dr. Amy Howard, and Dr. Andrew Coop. Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit shared the following reflections about his visit to UMSOP:

*"The reason behind choosing UMSOP is that we have an active MOU, and within one year we have received students from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and sent our Siam University students to UMSOP. The school, supported by Nathaniel Thomas sparing his time, made it possible for us to visit the simulation labs, classrooms, meet the dean, and visit the pharmacy museum."*

*What stood out most were the simulation labs, the impressive pharmacy mock up stores, and of course, the pharmacy museum."*



Nathaniel Thomas, ELP office manager (left), and Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, president of Siam University



Dr. Yhing Sawhey, director of international affairs (left), and Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, president of Siam University

## Student News

### Congratulations to Our Third Year Students on Reaching Their APPE Readiness Milestone

The ELP team is excited to celebrate our third year students as they complete their final APPE Overview and Orientation Session and step into their APPE rotations. This milestone reflects their commitment, growth, and resilience throughout the PharmD program. We are excited to see them apply their knowledge in practice and look forward to the impact they will make through experiential experiences.



## Celebrating Our Fourth Year Student Achievement in the Longitudinal Track Program

As the 2025–2026 rotation year comes to a close, our fourth-year students celebrate the completion of the Longitudinal Track Program (LTP). Through this immersive experience, students completed three or more rotations within a single institution or organization, allowing for deeper learning, continuity in their experience, and meaningful professional growth. Their hard work and commitment reflect a strong dedication to enhancing experiential learning, and our office is proud of their accomplishments.



*Disclosure: Microsoft 365 Copilot was utilized solely for editing purposes in the preparation of this newsletter. All content and ideas were created independently by the authors.*