



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Summer  
2026



# MARYLAND MENTOR

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **Message from the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning**
- **Newly Appointed Preceptors**
- **New Online Preceptor Development Modules Now Available for CE Credit Support Experiential Learning Scholarships**
- **School News**
  - Strengthening Global Collaborations with Siam University and Sri Ramachandra University
- **Preceptor News**
  - Three UMSOP Preceptors Earn Promotions
  - A Passion for Solving Problems
- **Student News**
  - Investing in Experiences that Fuel Student Learning

## From the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning

Dear Preceptors,

As summer reaches its peak, many of us have been balancing the heat, vacation schedules, and perhaps even keeping an eye on the excitement of international soccer competitions that took place around the country. Much like a championship team preparing for success on the world stage, experiential education relies on preparation, collaboration, and a shared commitment to developing future professionals. Every student rotation, mentoring conversation, and patient care experience you provide helps prepare our learners for the opportunities and challenges that await them as pharmacists.

This summer marks an especially exciting time for the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy as we prepare to welcome the first PharmD class entering our new Maryland Pharmacy Curriculum for the Advancement of Therapeutics (M-Pact) this fall. M-Pact represents a transformational evolution of our PharmD program and significantly enhances the role of experiential learning throughout the curriculum.

Beginning with the incoming first year class, students will participate in longitudinal career exploration shadowing experiences during each of their first four semesters. These experiences are designed to expose students early and often to the breadth of pharmacy practice, helping them explore potential career pathways while connecting classroom learning with real-world patient care. Students will also complete immersive person-centered care experiences in community pharmacy settings during the summer between the first and second years and immersive health-system person-centered care experiences during the summer between the second and third years. By the time students enter their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) in the fourth year, they will have developed broader and deeper exposure to a diverse range of practice environments, patient populations, and pharmacy career paths. Our goal is to ensure that graduates enter their APPE year with an even stronger foundation and greater confidence as they continue their professional development.

Over the past year, the Experiential Learning Program team has been working closely with site coordinators and preceptors to develop implementation plans for these new experiences. We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm, feedback, and partnership that many of you have already provided. As we expand these opportunities, we continue to seek additional sites and preceptors interested in supporting career exploration shadowing experiences in diverse settings or serving as hosts for our immersive person-centered care experiences. If this sounds like something you or your organization would like to participate in, I encourage you to reach out to our office.

We believe M-Pact will elevate what is already a nationally recognized experiential learning program to an even higher level. The success of this vision depends on the strength of our preceptor community, and we are fortunate to have such dedicated educators and mentors helping shape the next generation of pharmacists.

In this issue of *Maryland Mentor*, you'll find updates from the Experiential Learning Program, highlights of our growing international partnerships, information about the Experiential Learning Student Support Fund, and an inspiring story showcasing the impact of preceptor mentorship. I would especially encourage you to read about the three outstanding clinical affiliate faculty members who recently earned promotion. Their achievements exemplify the tremendous contributions our preceptors make to the School, our students, and the profession of pharmacy.

Thank you for all that you do to support our learners and advance experiential education. We are proud to partner with you and look forward to another successful academic year.



*Mojdeh Heavner*

**Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, BCCCP, FCCM, FCCP**  
**Assistant Dean, Experiential Learning**  
**Professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes**  
**Research**  
[mheavner@rx.umaryland.edu](mailto:mheavner@rx.umaryland.edu)

# Welcome

We welcome the following newly appointed preceptors:

- Jade Bacon
- Olufeyikemi Bamgbade
- Matthew Benjamin
- Joanne Dial
- Tanisha Gooden
- Heather Gross
- Samantha Gustafson
- Kimberly Hagan
- Abbas Hanaee
- Erin Hirsch
- John Hodgson
- Jungmin Hwang
- Feven Isayas
- Breah Johnson
- Samuel Kalaminsky
- Carla-Camille Lardizabal
- Miranda Law
- Michael Lucas
- Sarah Maksimovic
- Bindu Mathews
- Ligi Mathews
- Ifeanyi Mmagu
- Maureen Muthoni
- Genevieve Njoku
- Nancy Oniovosa
- Alexandra Palmer
- Seo Lin Park
- So-Yeon Park
- Nicholas Polikandriotis
- Sophie Robinson
- Alejandro Rivera Rodriguez
- Maria (Palmer) Smith
- Misti Spann
- Caitlin Soto
- Dagmara Zajac

## 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.

## New Online Preceptor Development Modules Now Available for CE Credit

We are excited to announce the addition of new Continuing Education (CE) offerings to the Online Preceptor Development Modules Library, expanding the resources available to support our dedicated preceptors in their professional growth and excellence in our experiential learning program.

### New Module from the 2026 Annual Academy of Preceptors

#### **Globally Engaging Current and Future Pharmacists in Age-Friendly Care Initiatives**

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCGP, FASCP, and Maria Laura Bonilla Acosta, PharmD, MS

CE Credit: 1.0 hour

This module explores the principles of age-friendly care through the lens of the 4Ms Framework and highlights their relevance across diverse health care settings worldwide. Participants will gain insights into the important roles pharmacists and pharmacy students play in developing, implementing, and evaluating age-friendly care initiatives at the local, national, and international levels.

### New Module from Precepting Excellence Day 2026

#### **Tough Talks: Navigating Challenging Conversations on Rotation**

Grace Erdman, PharmD, and Makenzie Harrison, PharmD

CE Credit: 1.0 hour

Difficult conversations are an inevitable part of precepting. This module provides practical strategies and communication frameworks to help preceptors deliver effective feedback, navigate challenging discussions with learners, and foster a supportive and productive learning environment during experiential rotations.

These additions reflect our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality preceptor development opportunities that address emerging topics in pharmacy education and practice. We encourage all preceptors to explore these new modules and take advantage of the CE credit opportunities available through our growing online library.

Visit the [\*\*Online Preceptor Development Modules Library\*\*](#) for more continuing education opportunities.

## 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

### Strengthening Global Collaborations with Siam University and Sri Ramachandra University

By Nathaniel Thomas, MBA

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) continues to uphold its long standing and highly valued partnerships with Siam University and Sri Ramachandra University. Through our established student exchange agreement, UMSOP sends two students annually to each partner institution for international rotation experiences, while two students from each university join us in Baltimore for advanced experiential training. These exchanges foster global engagement, broaden clinical perspectives, and strengthen international collaboration in pharmacy education. Over the past several months, UMSOP was honored to host representatives from both universities as part of ongoing efforts to enhance experiential learning and deepen academic partnerships.

#### Sri Ramachandra University

UMSOP welcomed A. Mohathasim Billah, PhD, professor at Sri Ramachandra University, during his visit to the United States for a professional conference in Philadelphia. The Experiential Learning Program coordinated his visit and ensured a productive and comprehensive experience. During his visit, Dr. Billah met with several preceptors and faculty and visited a clinical site. Kimberly Barnett, BSP, rotation coordinator at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC), met with Dr. Billah to share positive feedback about Sri Ramachandra's student Hrithik Manoharan's UMMC rotation in 2025 and to discuss future student rotations.

Dr. Billah visited preceptor Sharon Wilson, PharmD, at UMMC to observe the clinical training environment and gain insight into the experiential opportunities provided to visiting students.

Dr. Billah engaged with UMSOP leadership, including Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, assistant dean for experiential learning, Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD, dean and professor of pharmaceutical sciences, and Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, associate dean for faculty and academic affairs, for a discussion on strengthening academic alignment, expanding experiential offerings, and exploring future collaborative initiatives.

Dr. Billah concluded his visit with a tour of UMSOP's classrooms, laboratories, and the pharmacy history museum, gaining a deeper understanding of the educational resources and facilities that support student learning and professional development.



*From left to right: Mohathasim Billah, MPharm, PhD, Kimberly Barnett, BSP, and Nathaniel Thomas, MBA*

## Siam University

Dean Jainuch Kanchanapoo, PhD, and faculty colleague Taniya Charoensareerat, PharmD, of Siam University, had an enriching and forward looking visit. Their time on campus highlighted the strength of our long standing exchange partnership and reaffirmed our shared commitment to expanding global learning opportunities for students at both institutions.

Our exchange program with Siam University continues to provide UMSOP students with exceptional international experiences, allowing them to engage directly with different health systems, observe pharmacy practice abroad, and develop a broader, more culturally informed perspective on patient care and health care delivery.

During their visit, Dean Kanchanapoo and Dr. Charoensareerat met with members of the Experiential Learning Office, including myself, Heavner, and Tuan Huynh, PharmD, assistant director of experiential learning, to discuss the current structure of our partnership and explore opportunities for growth.

The conversation centered on enhancing the student exchange process to make it easier for UMSOP to welcome additional students from Siam University for rotation experiences; identifying new areas of collaboration that could strengthen experiential training and streamline coordination between institutions, and expanding rotation capacity to support increased student participation in future years and renewal of the affiliation agreement.

Dean Kanchanapoo and Dr. Charoensareerat also met with Dean Michel, who highlighted the exceptional experiences UMSOP students have had at Siam University and emphasized the meaningful opportunities that lie ahead as our partnership continues to grow. Their conversation underscored the value of international engagement and the positive impact these exchanges have on student development and professional readiness.

In addition to experiential learning discussions, the visiting delegation met with members of UMSOP's Office of Students and the Office of Recruitment, Admissions, and Integration to gain insight into the admissions process, student support structures, and the comprehensive approach UMSOP takes to promoting student success. This dialogue provided valuable context for understanding how our institutions can continue aligning expectations and strengthening pathways for visiting students.



*From left to right: Nathaniel Thomas, Tuan Huynh, Jainuch Kanchanapoo, Taniya Charoensareerat, and Mojdeh Heavner*

To round out their visit, the delegation met with Barnett at UMMC for a closer look at the clinical training environment and the high quality experiential opportunities available to international students completing rotations at UMMC.

This visit from Siam University leadership reaffirmed the depth of our partnership and opened new avenues for collaboration, innovation, and expanded student engagement.

UMSOP remains committed to advancing global pharmacy education through sustained collaboration with Siam University and Sri Ramachandra University. These visits reaffirm our shared dedication to enriching student experiences, expanding international engagement, and strengthening academic partnerships.

## Preceptor News

### Three UMSOP Preceptors Earn Promotions

***Clinical affiliate faculty serve as preceptors and earn academic advancement through teaching, scholarship, and service***

By the UMSOP Experiential Learning Program Office

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's (UMSOP) Experiential Learning Program is strengthened by the dedication of hundreds of preceptors who serve as teachers, mentors, and role models for the School's student pharmacists. Through the Clinical Affiliate Faculty program, preceptors are recognized as integral members of the School's educational mission and are afforded opportunities for academic advancement that acknowledge their contributions to teaching, scholarship, and service.

This summer, three preceptors earned promotion within the clinical affiliate faculty ranks based on their accomplishments, contributions, and dedication.

Mary C. Ghaffari, PharmD, BCPS, DPLA, FAB



### Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor

Mary Ghaffari is senior director of medication utilization and practice management for the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS), where she oversees system-wide clinical pharmacy services, formulary management, and medication-use initiatives. She was appointed as a clinical affiliate faculty member at UMSOP in 2016 and has served as a preceptor for leadership, management, and pharmacy administration rotations. Prior to joining UMMS, Ghaffari held a variety of clinical and pharmacy leadership positions across the country and previously held academic appointments at the University of California, San Francisco School of Pharmacy and University of the Pacific. Throughout her career, she has developed expertise in health-system leadership, clinical operations, medication stewardship, and practice advancement. She is co-chair of both the UMMS Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and the UMMS-UMSOP Joint Council, helping strengthen the partnership between the School and one of its largest experiential learning partners.

“What distinguishes Dr. Ghaffari as a preceptor is her ability to expose students to the broader impact pharmacists can have on health care systems,” says Mojdeh Heavener, PharmD, professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research and assistant dean for experiential learning at UMSOP. “Through rotation experiences, students gain hands-on experience with formulary reviews, policy development, stewardship initiatives, and presentations to health-system decision-makers. Rather than observing from the sidelines, students participate in projects that influence real organizational decisions and contribute to patient care across an entire health system. According to Heavner, learners consistently describe her rotations as eye-opening opportunities to understand pharmacy leadership, strategy, and change management at a level they rarely encounter elsewhere.

“Dr. Ghaffari exemplifies how preceptors can expand students’ perspectives on the many ways pharmacists can influence patient care and organizational outcomes,” she says.

Ryan Whisler, PharmD, MPH, BCACP



## Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor

Ryan Whisler is a clinical coordinator for health outcomes and research with Johns Hopkins Care at Home. Until early 2026, he specialized in the care of solid organ transplant recipients. He was appointed as a clinical affiliate faculty member at UMSOP in 2016 and precepts students in ambulatory and transplant-focused pharmacy practice experiences. Over the course of his career, Whisler expanded outpatient transplant pharmacy services and developed innovative approaches to patient education, medication access, and care coordination. In addition to serving as a preceptor for student pharmacists, he has mentored pharmacy residents and contributed to research and quality improvement initiatives focused on transplant outcomes. His professional contributions also include leadership roles within the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists and scholarly presentations related to transplant pharmacy and medication access.

“Dr. Whisler’s commitment to teaching is evident in the thoughtful and structured learning experiences he creates for students,” says Heavner. “His rotations challenge learners to apply clinical reasoning to real patient care situations, drug information questions, and transplant-related medication management issues.

In his rotations, students gain firsthand exposure to the complexities of ambulatory transplant practice, including medication access, patient education, adherence support, and interprofessional collaboration.

“Equally important, they see how pharmacists can identify unmet patient needs and develop innovative services to address them,” says Heavner. “His rotation provides an outstanding example of how experiential education can connect clinical knowledge with meaningful patient impact.”

William A. Hess, BS Pharm, CAPT (ret.), USPHS



## Promoted to Clinical Professor

William Hess serves as an informatics pharmacist in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Office of Health Informatics, where he works on medication standards, structured product labeling, and health information systems that support medication safety and regulatory decision-making. He was first appointed as a clinical affiliate faculty member at UMSOP in 1999, continuously serving as a preceptor for more than 25 years. A retired captain in the U.S. Public Health Service, Hess has devoted nearly five decades to federal service through leadership roles in public health, emergency preparedness, regulatory science, and health informatics. His scholarly work includes numerous publications, textbook chapters, technical guidance documents, and national standards that have influenced pharmacy practice, medication safety, and health care data systems. In recognition of his commitment to pharmacy education, he received the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year Award in 2024.

"Mr. Hess has created one of the School's most distinctive experiential learning opportunities by introducing students to the world of regulatory science and federal pharmacy practice," says Heavner. "At UMSOP, he has precepted 82 students, including 66 within the past 10 years. His FDA rotation exposes students to topics rarely encountered in traditional pharmacy training, including drug regulation, health informatics, medication terminology standards, and public health policy."

Heavner says students leave Hess' rotation with a completely new appreciation for the role pharmacists play in shaping medication safety and health care at a national level. "Through decades of mentorship and career guidance, Mr. Hess has inspired many graduates to pursue careers in regulatory science, public health, informatics, and federal service, extending the impact of his teaching far beyond the rotation itself," she says.

## The Preceptor Path to Promotion

Many preceptors are already building strong promotion portfolios through their everyday contributions to experiential education. Clinical affiliate faculty may be eligible for promotion after demonstrating sustained commitment to UMSOP through precepting, teaching excellence, scholarship, and service. Promotion candidates work closely with UMSOP's Experiential Learning Program to prepare materials that highlight their educational impact and professional accomplishments.

Information on the clinical affiliate faculty promotion process can be found in [Section VII of the ELP Policies & Procedures Manual](#).

## A Passion for Solving Problems

By Meredith Lidard Kleeman

Yogitha Pazhani, PharmD '19, a clinical pharmacy specialist at MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital (MGSH) and a preceptor for the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP), is an innovative problem-solver.

She sharpened those skills as a student at UMSOP.

In her first year of pharmacy school, Pazhani was helping to plan a roundtable event hosted by the School's student chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP).

The event "is basically a large networking opportunity," Pazhani says. "I felt I was very underprepared for it." Pazhani remembers being told by professors how important networking skills are.

"Being an introvert, talking to people I don't know at large networking events is difficult for me," she says. "One of my professors mentioned during a lecture that he also struggles with this at conferences and learned ways over the years to help him out."

Pazhani imagined that other students might feel the same way. "I got the idea to create a workshop for networking to help everyone out," she says. Pazhani reached out to that professor to organize a workshop to help students prepare for the upcoming roundtable. The workshop had simulated activities that would help students learn the small, yet critical skills necessary to successfully network, such as how to politely enter a group of people chatting and how to politely exit that group.

Pazhani brings that same innovative, problem-solving spirit to her work as a preceptor at MGSH. After her first year as a preceptor where experienced professionals oversee PharmD students on their rotations, Pazhani noticed there were limited resources for new preceptors on how to build



a student rotation experience with standardized learning experiences at the site.

“I started putting together a manual, which became the basis for the student curriculum at MGSB,” Pazhani says. “It started as a set of standards, to ensure every student who comes through is getting similar rotation experiences and learning opportunities.”

MGSB students select an interesting patient case or journal club, and give an oral presentation on it. “The fourth year of pharmacy school is a good opportunity to master and develop analytical and critical thinking skills,” Pazhani says. Preceptors also host weekly North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination topic discussions and can participate in a preceptor development series.

Allison Chilipko, PharmD '09, BCPS, BCGP, director of clinical pharmacy services at MGSB, was one of Pazhani's former preceptors and is now her supervisor. “I precepted Yogitha on a pharmacy administration rotation and hired her at MGSB,” Chilipko says. “It has been a pleasure to see her grow and come full circle from student to preceptor to student curriculum developer to enhance our experiential learning program.”

As a preceptor for the acute care general medicine advanced pharmacy practice experience, Pazhani helps students “bridge their didactic knowledge with real-world patient care applications,” says Tuan Huynh, PharmD '11, AAHIVP, HIVPCP, assistant director of UMSOP's Experiential Learning Program. “She focuses on supporting students' learning while inspiring them to be their best selves during rotations. Yogitha is consistently available to answer questions and provides timely, constructive feedback to foster growth, both clinically and professionally.”

Pazhani's dedication and enthusiasm as a preceptor earns her high praise from students. Huynh reports that one student called her “the best preceptor I've had during my pharmacy career.” Another shared that “Dr. Pazhani displayed skills as a first-year preceptor that I would expect from a lifelong preceptor.”

But Pazhani is quick to credit others, including her fellow students at UMSOP and her colleagues at MGSB.

“A lot of the ideas come from me pushing this through and orchestrating parts of it,” she acknowledges. “But the student curriculum has only been running and has had success because other preceptors here have been open to it.”

## Student News

### Investing in Experiences that Fuel Student Learning

The Experiential Learning Program's new Student Support Fund opens doors for student pharmacists.

By Tuan Huynh, PharmD, AAHIVP, HIVPCP



*Students Ella Cohen, Abby Le, Gabriella Werking, and Rabia Asjid received Student Support Awards to assist with costs related to their upcoming APPE rotations.*

For every student pharmacist, the fourth year of pharmacy school represents a defining chapter. A full academic year of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) transform classroom knowledge into patient care, research, leadership, and innovation. Whether students are caring for patients in hospitals, working alongside scientists at federal agencies, exploring pharmaceutical industry careers, or participating in global health experiences, these rotations often become the experiences that shape their future careers.

Yet APPE year also comes with a reality that many students know all too well: the costs can add up quickly.

Unlike the first three years of pharmacy school, APPEs frequently require extensive travel, temporary housing, commuting, parking, and other expenses. In fact, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's estimated Cost of Attendance shows that the fourth year can cost students approximately \$5,000 to \$11,000 more than the first three years because of these experiential learning requirements.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, published research examining APPE-related costs has similarly identified financial burden as one of the most significant concerns influencing students' rotation experiences.<sup>2</sup>

Recognizing both the value of experiential learning and the financial barriers that can accompany it, UMSOP's Office of Experiential Learning launched the Experiential Learning Program (ELP) Student Support Fund in 2025. The fund was created with a simple but powerful purpose: to help ensure that students can pursue career-shaping APPE opportunities based on their professional goals - not on their financial circumstances.

The initiative also reflects the School's Strategic Plan theme of Strategic Resilience and Growth, which focuses on fostering an enduring culture of philanthropy and increasing access, affordability, and opportunity for future students.<sup>3</sup>

In Fall 2025, ELP embarked on its first fundraising campaign with a goal of engaging 35 donors. The response from our community was immediate. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, faculty, staff, preceptors, and friends of the School, that goal was exceeded with 41 donors contributing nearly \$6,000 to support student pharmacists.

And those contributions quickly turned into opportunities. Working alongside the School's Experiential Learning Committee, award criteria and application processes were developed in Spring 2026. Following a competitive review process, four rising fourth-year student pharmacists were selected to receive \$1,000 ELP Student Support Awards.

For these students, the award represents far more than financial support - it opens doors to experiences, connections, and opportunities that can influence the course of their careers.

"One of the things I appreciate most about the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is the incredible variety of APPE opportunities available to students," says Ella Cohen, fourth-year student pharmacist. "Pharmacy offers so many different career paths, and these rotations allow us to explore practice settings we may have never considered while discovering what we're truly passionate about."

This year, Cohen will complete an international APPE at the University of Camerino in Italy, where she hopes to gain a broader perspective on pharmacy practice and health care. For Cohen, the ELP Student Support Award helps ease the financial burden associated with APPE year, including travel, housing, and other related expenses.

“It is incredibly meaningful to be part of the first class eligible for support through the ELP Student Support Fund,” she shares. “Donor contributions help ease these financial burdens, allowing students like me to focus on learning, caring for patients, and developing the skills needed to become exceptional pharmacists.”

Gabriella Werking was also drawn to the unique experiential opportunities available through the School, which allow students to explore diverse areas of pharmacy practice while building professional networks throughout their fourth year. Her APPE experiences include a global rotation at Presidio San Salvatore Muraglia Hospital in Pesaro, Italy, where she will gain firsthand exposure to oncology clinical trials, investigational drug management, international regulatory requirements, and hospital pharmacy operations.

“The support provided from the ELP Student Support Fund, thanks to the generous donors, reduces barriers for students to experience meaningful rotations which otherwise may not have been possible,” Werking says. “I am grateful to have been able to use the funds toward a global rotation, where I will have the opportunity to learn about global differences in pharmacy practice, drug regulation, and clinical research.”

For Abby Le, access to the School’s extensive network of experiential opportunities was one of the reasons she chose to attend UMSOP. “As an out-of-state student, the wide variety of APPE opportunities was one of the main factors that drew me to the School,” she explains. “Having access to experiences across clinical practice, research, industry, regulatory agencies, and international health allows us to explore different career paths while developing a broader perspective on the pharmacy profession.”

This year, Le will participate in both a clinical rotation at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and an international pharmacy administration rotation in Italy, experiences that will further expand her understanding of the profession.

“The generosity of ELP Student Support Fund donors has a direct and lasting impact on students,” she says. “Their support not only helps ease financial stress but also empowers us to pursue experiences that broaden our clinical skills, expand our perspectives, and ultimately prepare us to better serve patients.”

These stories reflect the very purpose of experiential education. Each experience provides opportunities for students to discover new career paths, strengthen clinical decision-making, build professional networks, and develop the confidence needed to become future pharmacy leaders. Whether those experiences occur in community pharmacies, health systems, federal agencies, industry, research laboratories, or global practice settings, they prepare our graduates to serve patients and advance the profession in countless ways.

The ELP Student Support Fund ensures that access to these opportunities is determined by curiosity, ambition, and professional goals.

“Most importantly, every dollar donated goes directly toward supporting student pharmacists during one of the most impactful years of their education,” says Greer Griffith, MS, executive director of the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs. “The generosity of donors helps reduce barriers, expand access to unique learning experiences, and invest in the next generation of pharmacy professionals.”

As the first recipients of the award begin their APPE journeys, their stories highlight the true impact of philanthropy. Donor support goes beyond easing financial burdens. It opens doors, expands horizons, and helps students pursue the experiences that will shape their own journeys.

For these recipients, that generosity leaves a lasting impression. Inspired by the support they have received, many of these students hope to one day pay it forward, helping future UMSOP students pursue the experiences that will shape their own careers.

Preceptors and others who would like to support student pharmacists and reduce financial barriers associated with rotations may make a tax-deductible contribution through the [\*\*UMB ELP Donation Site.\*\*](#)

## References

1. Cost of Attendance by School 2026-2027 - Financial Aid. 2026-27 Cost of Attendance by School. Accessed July 13, 2026. [\*\*https://www.umaryland.edu/fin/cost-of-attendance/2026-27-cost-of-attendance-by-school.\*\*](https://www.umaryland.edu/fin/cost-of-attendance/2026-27-cost-of-attendance-by-school)
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3. University of Maryland School of Pharmacy - Strategic Plan 2026-2031. Accessed July 13, 2026. [\*\*https://www.pharmacy.umaryland.edu/about/info/strategicplan.\*\*](https://www.pharmacy.umaryland.edu/about/info/strategicplan)

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