

Capsule

WINTER 2025

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy
Magazine for Alumni and Friends



**Lamy Center's Global
Efforts to Revolutionize
Care of Older Adults**

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Oct. 15 marked the one-year anniversary of my appointment as dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. I have spent the past year engaging with and learning from our faculty, staff, students, alumni, preceptors, Board of Visitors, and community.

I have had the privilege of meeting many incredible individuals. Each conversation has deepened my appreciation for the vibrant School of Pharmacy community we have built and the collective impact we continue to make in education, pharmacy practice, scientific research, community outreach, and Pharmapreneurship®.

During the last year, I have learned that our strength lies in our ability to innovate, collaborate, and remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence. These insights reaffirm my vision for our School:

- Grow our School in excellence by enhancing our national leadership in training pharmacists of the future.
- Developing and supporting our cutting-edge health sciences degrees.
- Growing our research enterprise.
- Incorporating equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging in all aspects of the School.
- Connecting with our more than 7,000 alumni.

As I work to achieve this vision, I aim to imbue Pharmapreneurship in all aspects of the School. To achieve these goals, I have been digging into our operational aspects and developing new initiatives and directions that I will share with you as they move forward.

As we celebrate the milestones of this past year, I am eager to build on the momentum we've created together. Thank you to all who have contributed to the success of our School. I look forward to the incredible possibilities that lie ahead as we continue to globally engage and lead education, pharmacy practice, scientific research, and pharmapreneurial initiatives to collaboratively and equitably improve the health of society.

With gratitude and excitement,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah L.J. Michel', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD
Dean and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

OUR MISSION:

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy globally engages and leads education, pharmacy practice, scientific research, and pharmapreneurial initiatives to collaboratively and equitably improve the health of society.

OUR VISION:

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is internationally recognized for:

- empowering learners and graduating visionary leaders
- pioneering social impact and business innovation through pharmapreneurship
- listening to all voices to equitably enrich the lives of our internal and external communities
- positively influencing the delivery of convenient and affordable health care
- leveraging pharmaceutical expertise and relentlessly collaborating to solve scientific, clinical, and social problems that matter to all citizens of the world

OUR VALUES:

We embrace a culture that embodies the University of Maryland, Baltimore's core values:

- **Respect and Integrity:** We value each other and hold ourselves accountable for acting ethically and transparently using compassion and empathy.
- **Well-Being and Sustainability:** We care about the welfare of our people, planet, communities, and University.
- **Equity and Justice:** We embrace and are committed to diversity, and we value inclusive and just communities. We oppose racism and oppression in all its forms.
- **Innovation and Discovery:** We imagine and explore new and improved ways to accomplish our mission of education, research, clinical care, and service.

Capsule Contents

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Alumni Magazine

WINTER 2025

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2	SCHOOL NEWS
13	LAMY CENTER: GLOBAL EFFORTS TO REVOLUTIONIZE CARE OF OLDER ADULTS
17	CLINICAL TRIALS: STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
21	CENTER FOR TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE TRANSFORMS DATA INTO REAL-WORLD IMPACTS
25	STAFF PROFILE
26	FACULTY PROFILE
27	PRECEPTOR PROFILE
28	STUDENT NEWS
32	DONOR PROFILE
33	ALUMNI PROFILE
34	ALUMNI NEWS
37	MESSAGE FROM DEVELOPMENT

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School of Pharmacy

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Read More, See More, Share More!

Read in-depth biographies of faculty, see additional pictures of School events, and share School news with your friends on social media. More details on the articles covered in this issue of *Capsule* are available in an electronic version — online. You can view *Capsule* from any mobile device. Visit pharmacy.umaryland.edu/capsule and start learning more about the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.



School of Pharmacy Hosts Inaugural Pharmapreneurship Summit



Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner moderates the summit's faculty panel.



Holly DeArmond

Experts from health care, higher education, and business came together at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) on Oct. 8 for the School's Inaugural Pharmapreneurship® Summit. The daylong event brought thought leaders to Pharmacy Hall to engage with the School community, to propose bold and innovative ideas to address challenges and opportunities for the pharmacy world, and to celebrate the School's trademarked Pharmapreneurship initiative.

"We at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy have always been pharmapreneurs," said Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD, dean of the School of Pharmacy and professor of pharmaceutical sciences in her opening remarks. "Founded in 1841, many of the School's early graduates ran their own pharmacies, combining entrepreneurial activities with patient care. Others founded companies such as Merck Sharp & Dohme and Noxzema.

"More recent graduates have launched organizations that have had a tangible and transformative impact on pharmaceutical manufacturing, scientific discovery, on our nation's health care system, and on the most pressing problems that we face," she continued. "As our alumni have led in pharmapreneurship, so do our faculty, developing new models of health care delivery, discovering new drugs, optimizing clinical trials using big data, and serving communities — both locally and nationally."

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), welcomed attendees to the School and applauded Michel for her focus on pharmapreneurship. "This program is built on the past but is about the future," he said. "Dean Michel wants to put pharmapreneurship on the map, to super charge it, to apply it to every aspect of the School."

UMSOP educated and graduated pharmapreneurs long before

pharmapreneurship was formalized in 2017. Since then, the School has invested heavily in pharmapreneurship, creating scholarships for students, developing a pharmapreneurship pathway in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum, endowing a professorship, hosting student business pitching competitions, and facilitating entrepreneurial activities and events for faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

The Pharmapreneurship Summit featured keynote presentations from both a higher education expert and a UMSOP alumnus, faculty, alumni, and collaborator panels, and a student business pitch competition.

The faculty panel featured pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, and pharmaceutical health services researchers from the School who through their work and contributions exemplify the vision for pharmapreneurship.

Panelist Joga Gobburu, PhD, MBA, professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR) and director of the Center for Translational Medicine, is the 2024 recipient of UMB's David J. Ramsay Entrepreneur of the Year Award for co-founding two companies that support pharmaceutical scientists, health care providers, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, and regulatory agencies. C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor of P-SHOR, is executive director of the PATIENTS Program, an interdisciplinary research team of community partners and researchers housed at the School of Pharmacy that works to change the way we think about research by creating a path for health equity and engaging people from all communities, especially those from underserved and minority populations, in every step of the patient and community-engaged research process.

The alumni panel featured a range of UMSOP graduates, including Tina Bayuse, PharmD '00, RPh, FASMA, chief pharmacy

Continued on page 3



From left: Amir Ansari, Dean Sarah L.J. Michel, John Banta, Alexander Triantis, and Prabhudev Konana



Kun Yang

Continued from page 2

officer for Johnson Space Center; Fahim Faruque, PharmD '18, MS, founder of Stealth Startup; Brian Hose, PharmD '06; owner of Sharpsburg Pharmacy and CEO of EPIC Rx; and Ritu Lal, PhD '96, CEO and co-founder of GENIE Lifesciences.

When Bayuse graduated from UMSOP's Doctor of Pharmacy program nearly 25 years ago, the term "pharmapreneurship" wasn't being used. But the concept itself already was being practiced and fostered at the School, she said.

While the education at UMSOP was top-notch, Bayuse said, it was the opportunity to ask questions and grow and develop her skills that really helped her get to where she is today.

"The part that I don't think you can actually quantify is the magic that is the soft skills that the School allowed us to build," Bayuse said. "We were encouraged to have the confidence to know what we didn't know. That perspective breeds folks to go out into the real world with that in their back pocket. And it allows that to be fostered in the next generation as well. Soft skills and being able to foster and have that curiosity are very important in pharmapreneurship."

A panel of esteemed School of Pharmacy collaborators shared their thoughts on entrepreneurship, pharmapreneurship, and the need for bold and innovative action in health care, business, and higher education.

"Pharmapreneurship is compelling, and it's exciting that the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is at the forefront of all pharmacy schools in pushing entrepreneurship," said Alexander Triantis, PhD, dean of the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. "It's important to take initiative, and there is real power in the combination of faculty and students working with businesses and

the government to grow their ideas."

"Health care around the world has gotten unfathomably expensive, and there is a lot of work to do to fix the health care system," said John Banta, MS, MBA, president and managing director of BlueCross BlueShield Venture Partners, the corporate venture fund serving BlueCross BlueShield plans and other licensees with more than \$1 billion in assets under its management. "Difficult entrenched problems are not best solved by executives, but by innovators like those here."

Prabhudev Konana, PhD, MBA, is dean of the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business, with which the School of Pharmacy has a dual Doctor of Pharmacy/MBA degree. In speaking of the partnership between UMSOP and the Smith School, he said: "Real ideas come from health and science schools, which often need business schools for ideation, planning, and execution. It's a natural partnership for our two schools."

Amir Ansari is co-founder and executive director of xFoundry@UMD, and an entrepreneur, technology expert, and inventor with more than 70 U.S. and foreign patents. Through xFoundry@UMD, students engage in immersive competitions and projects aimed at cultivating the mindset and skills of a founder. He previewed a future competition in partnership with the School of Pharmacy.

"We are hoping to collaborate with the School on a competition focused on chronic care management in people over the age of 65, where you see lots of non-compliance with medications," he said. "School of Pharmacy students can take a novel approach to solve that very big problem by combining their efforts with other schools and other collaborative thinkers to deliver a solution the market hasn't seen yet."

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3



Alumni Brian Hose and Ritu Lal

Holly DeArmond, MBA, executive director of the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers at the Rice Alliance at Rice University, gave the morning keynote. Speaking about her own experiences and career as well as looking at the larger higher education landscape, DeArmond focused on the importance of entrepreneurship being woven into every aspect of UMSOP, as opposed to just one competition or one course.

This summit, she said, is the “start of something really important.”

“Entrepreneurship can be scary,” DeArmond said. “But entrepreneurship is more than just an intellectual pursuit. It challenges founders emotionally and physically. Those who thrive do so by surrounding themselves with supportive startup communities like this one. With that support, they really do increase their chance of success and gain valuable lessons along the way.”

Kun Yang, PharmD '15, CEO and co-founder of Prickle Cactus Water, gave the afternoon keynote address. Yang, who was featured on the ABC-TV show “Shark Tank,” said the pharmacy industry has always been made up of creatives and changemakers.

“When I learned about pharmapreneurship, I was so enthused, because in many ways, this initiative brings us full circle. It’s what pharmacists have and always will be, which is entrepreneurs,” he said, later adding “the DNA which we’ve based our entire industry on has been founded upon critical thinking, problem solving, resourcefulness, value to society, [and] customer service.”

The summit also included the second annual Pharmapreneur’s Market Competition and Natalie D. Eddington Pharmapreneurship Award for Health Care Innovation. Three student groups pitched pharmapreneurial ideas, ranging from an AI-based patient counseling training program for health education students and a kit that provides resources, next steps, and information for those who

have suffered from sexual violence to an app that helps parents with children’s medication dosing.

The competition was created for UMSOP’s student pharmapreneurs to compete for the chance to turn their ideas into a business through funds from the Natalie D. Eddington Pharmapreneurship Award for Health Care Innovation, which was established in 2023 by John Gregory, BSP '76, DPS (Hon.) '02, a UMSOP Founding Pharmapreneur and alumnus, in honor of Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, FAAPS, FCP, UMSOP’s former dean and a professor at the School. Gregory also is the board chair and CEO of Gregory Pharmaceutical Holdings, Inc., and founder of King Pharmaceuticals.

The \$100,000 pitch competition fund is thought to be the largest of its kind at schools of pharmacy across the nation.

“At the summit we explored the dynamic intersection of pharmapreneurship, education, health care, and research — pillars that are not just shaping the future of our field, but also redefining the way we think about the role of the pharmacist, drug discovery and development, and health outcomes research in society,” said Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD '83, MS, FAPhA, FNAP, the Felix Gyi Endowed Memorial Professor in Pharmapreneurship, associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, executive director of the Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, and director of the Maryland P³ Program. “By combining our diverse expertise and perspectives with a pharmapreneurship mindset, we can drive meaningful change as pharmapreneurs.” ☼



Faculty Elected to APhA Leadership Positions



Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner



Cherokee Layson-Wolf

Two faculty members in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR) at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) won elections in 2024 for leadership positions in the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), one of the nation's premier organizations for advancing the pharmacy profession.

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD '83, MS, FAPhA, FNAP, associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation and professor of P-SHOR, has been named president-elect. Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD '00, BCACP, FAPhA, professor of P-SHOR, has been named member-at-large in the APhA-Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM) executive committee.

"It is an exciting time at UMSOP to see two of our faculty members receiving support from their peers around the country and representing our School on a national stage," said Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD, dean of the School and professor of pharmaceutical sciences. "Dr. Rodriguez de Bittner and Dr. Layson-Wolf have had illustrious careers in community pharmacy, education, and advocacy that have prepared them well to serve in these significant leadership roles."

Jill Morgan, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS, FNAP, chair and professor of P-SHOR, added, "I am thrilled for Dr. Rodriguez de Bittner in being named president-elect of APhA, and I could not think of a pharmacist nationwide who brings the same experience and passion as she does to advancing our profession. I am equally proud that Dr. Layson-Wolf will serve in a critical position for the future of APhA. It is gratifying to see two of our own faculty members leading one of the pharmacy profession's top organizations."

Rodriguez de Bittner will be installed as president-elect at the APhA Annual Meeting in March 2025 and will serve as president in 2026.

Her election represents a groundbreaking moment. She will be the first faculty member from UMSOP and the first female from Maryland to serve as president of APhA, and she is also the first

pharmacist from Maryland to be elected since 1930.

Rodriguez de Bittner serves in many roles at UMSOP, such as the Felix Gyi Endowed Memorial Professor in Pharmapreneurship and executive director of the Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions. She also leads the School's Pharmapreneurship® initiative, which positions faculty, students, and staff to achieve their career aspirations and therefore address the nation's health care, research, policy, and societal needs through innovation. Under her leadership, the School has created a pharmapreneurship pathway in the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum, created a business pitching competition for students, and now offers multiple scholarships for students who demonstrate pharmapreneurial skills.

She has been active with APhA and other pharmacy professional organizations throughout her career, serving as an APhA trustee from 2018 to 2024 and past president of the Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPHA) and the American Pharmacists Association Foundation.

"I am overjoyed and thankful to have received so much support from my colleagues at the School and across the country in being named president-elect of APhA," Rodriguez de Bittner said. "I am filled with determination as I think about this opportunity to work together with my fellow pharmacists to advance our profession, provide greater contributions to the health care team, and serve our patients."

After her installation at the APhA 2025 Annual Meeting, Layson-Wolf will join the APhA-APPM executive committee, which develops resources and programming to support members' development and various practice areas and interests.

Layson-Wolf will be instrumental in shaping the ways that members engage with each other in APhA. The broader APhA organization recently approved major changes in its bylaws to transition special interest groups into communities that reflect the interests and practice areas of APhA members.

"The APhA Board of Trustees will take the year to define what the new structure will look like, and myself along with the other member-at-large representatives will participate in those conversations," said Layson-Wolf, who serves as the School's liaison to the Safeway/UMSOP postgraduate year one community-based residency program. She is a past president of MPHA and an immunization advocate.

She also has been co-advisor of the School's chapter of the APhA-Academy of Student Pharmacists, fellow of APhA, and recipient of APhA's 2024 Daniel B. Smith Practice Excellence Award. ☀



R.F. "Rick" Shangraw Jr.

Pharmapreneurship Champion Returns Home to Accept UMB Honorary Doctorate

R.F. "Rick" Shangraw Jr., PhD, MPA, president of Cintana Education, received an honorary Doctor of Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's (UMSOP) Doctor of Pharmacy Convocation in May in recognition of his involvement with and

advocacy to advance pharmacy education, research, and practice.

Shangraw, who was born and raised in Baltimore, is the son of the late Ralph F. Shangraw, a former UMSOP department chair and professor emeritus of pharmaceuticals. The Ralph F. Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals was established at the School in 1995 in honor of his retirement. The younger Shangraw has maintained strong ties with the School, which nominated him for the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) honorary degree.

"Rick Shangraw has had a remarkable career in the academic and private sectors in areas including entrepreneurship, innovation, and global education," said Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, president of UMB. "He has also been a vocal supporter and great resource for the School of Pharmacy for many years. I am proud to bestow this honorary doctorate upon Dr. Shangraw."

With a father whose life as a faculty member often blended the personal and professional, Shangraw said he grew up at UMSOP in many ways.

He spent a lot of time at the School in his dad's office and at graduation ceremonies. He tried Indian food for the first time thanks to his dad's Indian graduate students. And he and his siblings were also extra sets of hands to assist in his dad's work.

"I remember sitting around the dining table filling gelatin capsules with flour as a placebo for whatever experiment he was running," Shangraw said. "After my dad passed away, it was important for me to stay connected to the School of Pharmacy. It's not so much about legacy as it is about the fact I had learned to love the School as a kid."

Shangraw has spent most of his career scaling organizations and improving the quality of organizational outcomes. Cintana Education helps facilitate global educational partnerships between Arizona State University (ASU) and universities in 23 countries around the world. In addition to his role as president, he is the executive sponsor of Cintana's partnerships in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and India.

Prior to Cintana, Shangraw spent 15 years as a senior executive at ASU. From 2016 to 2019, he served as the founding chief executive officer of ASU Enterprise Partners, leading the movement to ensure and transform higher education through entrepreneurial initiatives.

He became CEO of the ASU Foundation for a New American University in 2011.

During his nine-year tenure, ASU Enterprise Partners grew its assets from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion, spanning five subsidiaries raising resources through philanthropy, real estate, technology commercialization, applied research, and venture investments. The organization also generated more than \$900 million in new gifts and commitments, earned Charity Navigator's coveted four-star rating for eight years of his tenure, and received recognition for its commitment to transparency by GuideStar USA.

Shangraw previously served as senior vice president for research and innovation at ASU, establishing the university as one of the fastest-growing research enterprises in the United States. Under his leadership, nearly 5,000 distinct research projects were awarded more than \$1.2 billion in funding. Before his tenure at ASU, Shangraw was the founder and CEO of Project Performance Corp., a Washington, D.C.-based research and technology consulting firm specializing in environmental, energy, and information management challenges.

With his experience and expertise in entrepreneurship, Shangraw, who started his career as a tenure-track faculty member at Syracuse University, has become involved in UMSOP's Pharmapreneurship® initiative, the School's commitment to positioning faculty and students to achieve their career aspirations and address health care challenges. Shangraw credits his interest in entrepreneurship to his dad, who brought innovative ideas to UMSOP such as having a model pharmacy in Pharmacy Hall and establishing an externship program for students to get experience in pharmacies.

"It wasn't a new idea for me that there would be an entrepreneurial mindset at the School of Pharmacy," Shangraw said. "Pharmapreneurship is an extension of what I saw with my dad."

"As the pharmacy profession is evolving, the School of Pharmacy needs to be thinking about ways of advancing the profession and being more entrepreneurial. The fact that UMSOP has taken the lead in that area before any other schools of pharmacy is an indicator of the School's innovative and entrepreneurial mindset."

According to Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD, dean and professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the School, Shangraw has provided invaluable counsel, support, and guidance for pharmapreneurship.

"I want to thank President Jarrell and the University System of Maryland Board of Regents for recognizing the significant contributions Dr. Shangraw has made to our School," Michel said. "The School of Pharmacy is honored to have been supported by Rick and the Shangraw family for so many years."

When he found out about the degree, Shangraw said he was dumbfounded. "It's something I will treasure for the rest of my life." 🌟

Polli, Lebovitz Receive National Recognition from AACP



James Polli



Lisa Lebovitz

Two members of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy community received awards from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) during its annual meeting in July.

James Polli, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC) and Ralph F. Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals, received the Volwiler Research Achievement Award, an honor that recognizes a leader in pharmaceutical and clinical sciences, as recognized by peers. It is named after Ernest H. Volwiler, former president and research director of Abbott Laboratories.

Lisa Lebovitz, JD, MS '21, assistant dean for academic affairs and assessment, received the Rufus A. Lyman Award, which recognizes the best paper published in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* during the previous year. Lebovitz was part of a team of six that published "NAPLEX Preparation Program Characteristics and Resources Associated with First-Time Exam Pass Rates."

"I am delighted that Dr. Polli and Ms. Lebovitz have received these prestigious awards from AACP," said Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD, dean of the School and professor of PSC. "Dr. Polli's award recognizes his pioneering research in pharmaceuticals where he is an internationally recognized scientist, and Ms. Lebovitz's award

recognizes her contributions to a publication that focuses on how we train pharmacy students."

Polli has spent his entire professional career at the School, where he has served as the advisor to 25 PhD graduates, including three PharmD/PhD students, and published numerous papers in leading pharmaceutical journals. Throughout his career, Polli's research interests have included oral drug absorption, particularly biopharmaceutical risk assessment.

He is the co-director of two centers funded by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration — the University of Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation and the Center for Research on Complex Generics. In addition, he directs the School of Pharmacy's MS in Regulatory Science program. In 2023, Polli was named a University of Maryland Strategic Partnership *MPower* Professor in recognition of his ongoing collaborations in regulatory science and drug product quality.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Volwiler Award and be included amongst its past recipients," Polli said. "This recognition is due in large part to the many collaborative efforts I have been lucky to be a part of throughout my career."

Lebovitz oversees the School's programmatic assessment and strategic planning processes, faculty effort analysis, and accreditation and institutional reporting. She works closely with department chairs and faculty constituents in multiple committee forums to garner buy in, promote transparency and engage individuals in critical assessment to improve evidence-based decision making in the School. She is also active in the Pharmacy Assessment Collaborative of the Big Ten Academic Alliance and in AACP's Assessment Special Interest Group.

"The Lyman Award reflects a great collaboration with my colleagues at pharmacy schools across the nation," Lebovitz said. "I thank each of them for their contributions to helping better understand how to best prepare our students for the NAPLEX [North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination]." 🌟

Governor Appoints 3 Faculty Members to Statewide Advisory Councils



Chad Johnson



Leah Sera



Zafar Zafari

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore has chosen three faculty members from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy to serve on statewide advisory councils.

Chad Johnson, PhD '19, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Graduate Studies in Medical Cannabis program, will serve on the Advisory Board on Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis.

Leah Sera, PharmD '10, MA, BCPS, associate professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR) and associate dean for recruitment and admissions, will serve on the Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council.

And Zafar Zafari, PhD, MSc, associate professor of P-SHOR, will serve on the Maryland Aviation Commission.

Sera and Johnson, who served as co-directors of the Graduate Studies in Medical Cannabis program for three years, are leading scholars in the medical cannabis field.

In 2019, Sera founded the MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program at the School of Pharmacy — the first graduate program of its kind in the nation. Now, Sera will help study the public health impact of adult-use cannabis legalization, which went into effect in the state on July 1, 2023.

The Cannabis Public Health Advisory Council that Sera will serve on will make recommendations to the governor and the Maryland General Assembly on the public health impacts of cannabis legalization and strategies to mitigate youth access, misuse, and addiction.

"I'm honored by this appointment and look forward to working

with council members to evaluate and educate Marylanders about public health issues related to cannabis use," Sera said.

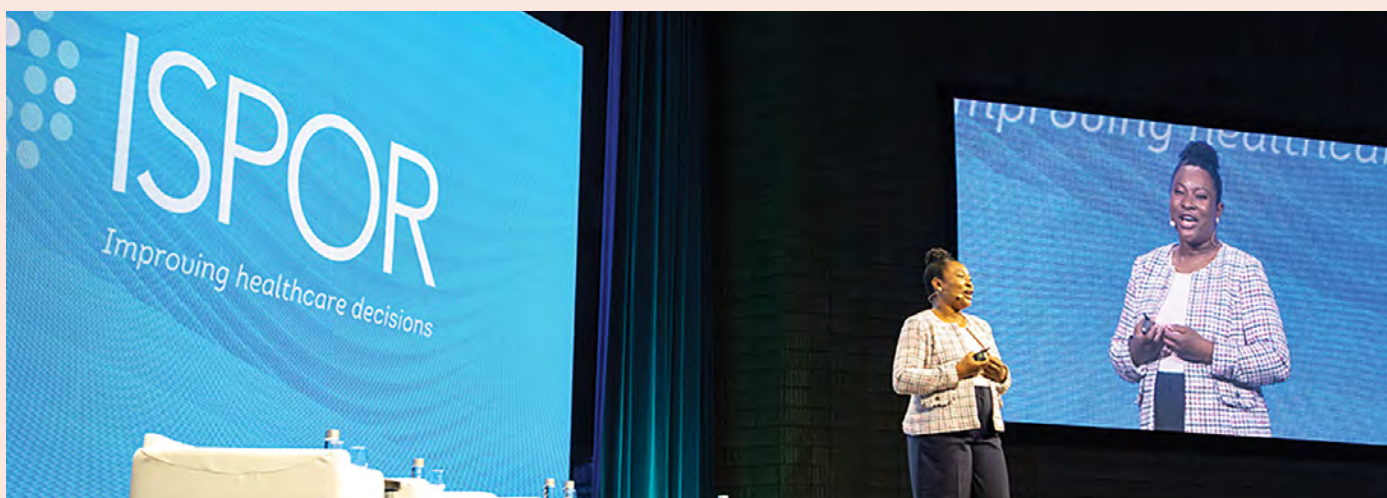
Two alumni of the MS program, Madhumi Mitra, PhD, MS '21, professor of biology and environmental sciences at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, and Leigh Vinocur, MD, MS '21, chief medical officer and founder of Ananda Medical Practice and Consulting, also will serve on the council with Sera.

The Advisory Board on Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis that Johnson serves on is charged with providing recommendations regarding guidelines, rules, and regulations to be considered by the Maryland Cannabis Administration.

"As we learn more about the effects of legalized cannabis, it's important to have a diverse, experienced, and qualified advisory council at the state level," Johnson said.

Zafari has conducted research on the projected health and economic burdens of aircraft noise on communities around the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. His studies show that there will be a significant societal economic burden from aircraft noise during the next three decades due to increased levels of noise-related health conditions, including cardiovascular disease, anxiety, and low birthweight.

"The unseen health effects of living near an airport can have a tremendous impact on people and create strain on the regional health care system," Zafari said. "I look forward to bringing my expertise to the Maryland Aviation Commission, so we can consider how to mitigate that impact." 🌟



Eberechukwu Onukwugha

Professor Assumes Presidency of ISPOR

Eberechukwu Onukwugha, PhD, MS, professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research and executive director of Pharmaceutical Research Computing (PRC) at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, began her tenure as president of ISPOR — The Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research on July 1.

“It is exciting to see one of our faculty members leading the premier organization dedicated to health economics and outcomes research,” said Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD, dean of the School and professor of pharmaceutical sciences. “Dr. Onukwugha brings a wealth of knowledge, passion, and innovation to her work, and I know she will do the same at ISPOR.”

Onukwugha has been an active member of ISPOR for more than a decade and has held multiple leadership roles. She served on ISPOR’s Board of Directors from 2020 to 2023 and also has served as conference co-chair for ISPOR 2022, co-chair of the research review committee for the ISPOR 2018 and 2019 conferences, and president of its faculty advisory council from 2013 to 2015. At the School, she served as faculty advisor of the ISPOR student chapter from 2011 to 2015.

“I am honored to serve as the ISPOR president for the coming year and look forward to the work ahead,” Onukwugha said. “ISPOR is uniquely positioned to advance the science and application of health economics and outcomes research to address the challenges faced by individuals, families, and health care systems. As a member-driven organization, ISPOR has a strong reputation for

building collaborations and strategic partnerships across multiple stakeholders in academia, industry, government, health care organizations, and more.”

Onukwugha said she brings a global perspective through experiences living and attending school in Nigeria, the United States, and France. That perspective shapes her outlook for both evidence generation for decision making and the advancement of ISPOR’s core mission: “to improve decision making for health globally.” The mission also factors heavily into ISPOR’s newly launched Strategic Plan 2030, which will guide the organization the next six years.

“ISPOR’s strategic direction for 2030 resonates with me because it honors ISPOR’s long-standing commitment to scientific rigor while acknowledging the continuing need for better outcomes at the individual and health care system level,” Onukwugha said. Onukwugha’s research interests over her 20 years of experience include cost analysis, health disparities, and medical decision making by individuals and institutions.

She joined the faculty at the School of Pharmacy in 2006 and teaches in the Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and the Doctor of Pharmacy programs. Since 2014, she has led PRC, which is a dynamic research center that offers responsive and client-focused computer programming, data management, pharmaceutical classifications, and analytic support for health services research and evaluation. 🌟

Heavner Named Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning



Mojdeh Heavner

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD '08, BCCCP, FCCM, FCCP, associate professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR) at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) and the department's vice chair for clinical services, has been named assistant dean for experiential learning at the School. A member of the faculty since 2016, Heavner brings significant academic and practice

experience to her new role, specifically in the area of critical care pharmacy.

"The Experiential Learning Program [ELP] at the School of Pharmacy bridges the classroom and practice by connecting the didactic curriculum to real-world applications," says Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, BCPS, associate dean for academic affairs and associate professor in P-SHOR. "Comprising a third of the Doctor of Pharmacy [PharmD] curriculum, it allows students to gain a deeper appreciation for the relevance and significance of their PharmD coursework, preparing them for success in a rapidly evolving and increasingly complex practice environment. Dr. Heavner has served as a preceptor for pharmacy students and residents for more than 15 years and, most recently, as vice chair for clinical services in P-SHOR. She is an esteemed professional with a significant background in health system pharmacy and critical care medicine and has an outstanding national reputation within pharmacy and medical organizations."

The Office of Experiential Learning at the School of Pharmacy recruits and oversees preceptors — full-time or part-time pharmacy practitioners who serve as affiliate faculty for the School and supervise students during their experiential rotations — as well as manages introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experiences for students. As assistant dean for experiential learning, Heavner will work with staff to increase the roster of rotations and develop and implement the M-Pact Curriculum, the School's reimagined PharmD curriculum.

"The Experiential Learning Program is an integral component of our PharmD curriculum," Feemster says. "The program strives to develop in each student pharmacist the professional judgment and competencies needed to meet the responsibilities of a practicing pharmacist in a wide range of settings. I am excited to welcome Dr. Heavner into her new role and look forward to all that she will contribute."

Heavner says she is grateful for the opportunity. "It is an

honor to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Feemster and other leaders who have established an impactful legacy on experiential education. I hope to leverage my experiences as vice chair for clinical services, preceptor, and alumnus to continue to enhance connections between the classroom and practice," Heavner says. "I am committed to fostering a dynamic learning environment that inspires students to embrace challenges, think critically, and adopt a lifelong passion for pharmacy. I look forward to working closely with students, faculty, staff, and community partners to explore new frontiers in pharmacy education and positively impact the communities we serve."

Heavner received a Bachelor of Science in physiology and neurobiology from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a PharmD from UMSOP. She completed a pharmacy practice residency and specialty residency in critical care and solid organ transplant at Yale New Haven (Conn.) Hospital.

She became board certified in pharmacotherapy and critical care, practiced at Yale New Haven Hospital in the medical intensive care unit, served as residency director of the critical care pharmacy specialty program, and was supervisor of clinical pharmacy services. Heavner has been recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Yale New Haven Health System.

Her practice and research interests have been focused on sleep, delirium, and analgesia in the intensive care unit. She is an advocate for equitable access to clinical pharmacy services and is a core investigator on the Optimizing Pharmacist Team-Integration for ICU patient Management (OPTIM) study.

Since joining the faculty at UMSOP, Heavner practiced for several years as a clinical pharmacy specialist in the medical intensive care unit at the University of Maryland Medical Center and has been coordinator of the pharmacotherapy residency program since 2018. She is active in professional organizations including the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

She served on the 2020 ACCP academic affairs task force developing the position paper "Striving for Excellence in Experiential Education." She is immediate past-chair of the ACCP Critical Care Practice & Research Network and received the Clinical Practitioner Award in 2018.

Heavner is the current secretary-treasurer of the Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmacology section, vice chair for the Leadership, Empowerment, and Development Committee of SCCM, and has received presidential citations annually from that organization since 2018. She has served as associate editor of the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* since 2019. ☼

First Associate Dean for Recruitment, Admissions Named



Leah Sera

Leah Sera, PharmD '10, MA, BCPS, associate professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, has been appointed the School's inaugural associate dean for recruitment and admissions by Dean Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD.

In her new role, Sera will oversee recruitment and admissions activities for the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD), PhD, MS, and certificate programs.

She also will work closely with the associate deans for student affairs and graduate programs, as well as faculty and staff colleagues to develop and implement a metrics-driven, holistic

recruiting and admissions strategy.

Sera received her PharmD from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in 2010. She then completed a pharmacy practice residency at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md., and a specialty residency in pain management and palliative care at the School of Pharmacy. She is a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist and earned a master's in instructional systems development at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2017.

Two years later, Sera developed and was the inaugural director of the School's highly successful and timely MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics. She also has been involved with admissions for the PharmD program, taught in the MS in Palliative Care program, and has completed coursework in the PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research program, adding to her diverse knowledge of the School's 10 academic programs. ☼

Faculty and Staff Laurels

The following School of Pharmacy faculty members received promotions.

- **Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, MS** – assistant professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research (P-SHOR) to associate professor with tenure
- **Jace Jones, PhD** – assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences (PSC) to associate professor with tenure
- **Amanda Oglesby, PhD** – tenured associate professor of PSC to tenured professor
- **Ryan Pearson, PhD** – assistant professor of PSC to associate professor with tenure
- **Yan Shu, MD, PhD** – tenured associate professor of PSC to tenured professor
- **Zafar Zafari, PhD, MSc** – assistant professor of P-SHOR to associate professor with tenure

Rama Arvind, PharmD, and **Noelle Etube, PharmD**, have become Certified Specialists in Poison Information.

Wendy Camelo Castillo, PhD, MD, MSc, was named the School of Pharmacy's 2024 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Teacher of the Year.

Lisa Calvert Chalk, MS, PMP, has received certification as a Project Management Professional.

Kimberly Claeys, PharmD, PhD, has been appointed associate editor of the journal *JAC-Antimicrobial Resistance*.

Catherine Cooke, PharmD, MS '18, BCPS, PAHM, has joined the Pharmacy Quality Alliance's 2024-2025 Medication Therapy Management Advisory Group.

Andrew Coop, PhD, has been appointed by Maryland Gov. Wes Moore as chair of the state Task Force on Responsible Use of Natural Psychedelic Substances.

Susan dosReis, BSPHarm, PhD '99, received the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Graduate School's 2024 Dr. Patricia Sokolove Outstanding Mentor Award.

Alison Duffy, PharmD, BCOP, received the UMB Leaders in Education: Academy of Presidential Scholars (LEAPS) Award for Mentorship.

Megan Ehret, PharmD, MS, BCPP, was named president-elect of the School of Pharmacy's Faculty Assembly and was accepted to AACP's Academic Leadership Fellows Program.

Amy Kruger Howard, PharmD '17, MS '21, was inducted into the National Academies of Practice and received the Upsher-Smith Laboratories and Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPHA) Foundation's 2024 Excellence in Innovation Award.

Tuan Huynh, PharmD '11, AAHVP, HIVPCP, was named assistant director of the School of Pharmacy's Experiential Learning Program.

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

He also was named the School's 2024 Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor of the Year.

Lauren Hynicka, PharmD, BCPS, received McGraw Hill's Pathfinder Award, which honors K-12, higher ed, and postgraduate educators who have shown innovation and inventiveness in their approach to teaching, helping learners discover their unique path to success.

Chad Johnson, PhD '19, received an AACP New Investigator Award.

Seferina Kim, PharmD '09, BCPS, received the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy's (MSHP) Preceptor of the Year Award.

Thomas Laudone, PharmD, BCPPS, was elected vice chair of the Pediatric Pharmacy Association's Emergency Medicine Special Interest Group.

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD '00, BCACP, FAPhA, received MPhA's 2024 Pharmacist Advocate Award.

Lisa Lebovitz, JD, MS '21, was a member of a multi-institution team that received AACP's 2024 Assessment Special Interest Group Collaborative Publication Award and has been appointed to AACP's 2024-2025 *U.S. News & World Report* Ranking and Program Comparison System Development Working Group.

Victoria Macdonald, PharmD, has been named an American Academy of Clinical Toxicology Board of Trustees Fellow-in-Training.

Elizabeth Millwee, BSN, RN, CSPI, has been re-certified as a Specialist in Poison Information.

Karen Morales received the Outstanding Achievement in Academic Community Engagement by a Staff Member Award from UMB's Interprofessional Program for Academic Community Engagement.

Kristine Parbuoni, PharmD '05, BCPPS, was named the School's 2024 Faculty Preceptor of the Year. She also received MSHP's 2024 Excellence Award.

James Polli, PhD, received the Pearls of Bioequivalence Award from the journal *Pharmaceutical Research*.

Nabin Poudel, PhD, received a 2024 Value Assessment & Health Outcomes Research PhRMA Foundation postdoctoral award.

Danya Mazen Qato, PhD, PharmD, MPH, was appointed an associate editor for the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice*.

Scott Riley, PhD, received the UMB LEAPS Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Nina Roa, MPA, has been appointed to the National Career Development Association's International Student Services Committee.

Barbarajean Robinson-Shaneman received the Trailblazer Award of Excellence from the Forward Women's Leadership Forum.

Charmaine Rochester-Eyeguokan, PharmD, CDCES, BCACP, has been appointed the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research's vice chair for clinical services.

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD '83, MS, FAPhA, FNAP, was named to the *Maryland Daily Record's* Top 100 Women.

Yan Shu, MD, PhD, has been appointed as a standing member of the National Institutes of Health's Drug and Biological Disposition and Toxicity Study Section.

Julia Slejko, PhD, has been appointed to the External Advisory Committee for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality/National Research Service Award T32 Predoctoral Fellowship Program at the University of Washington.

Deanna Tran, PharmD '11, BCACP, FAPhA, received the ACT Community Pharmacy Practice Transformation Educators Badge.

James Trovato, PharmD, MBA, FASHP, was elected the School's alternate delegate to AACP.

Christine Valeriann, MS, has joined the Public Health Communications Collaborative as an ambassador.



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Global Efforts to Revolutionize Care of Older Adults: The Peter Lamy Center's Expanding Reach

BY ROBYN FIESER

As the global population ages, health care systems are increasingly focused on the unique challenges and opportunities this shift presents. For more than 40 years, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging has been at the cutting edge of enhancing care of older adults. Now, this pioneering center is taking its expertise to a global stage.



Nicole Brandt and Alan Lyles in Finland.



Danya Mazen Gato in Costa Rica.

From Finland to Japan to Costa Rica, the Lamy Center is forging international collaborations with organizations, academic institutions, health care systems, and governments. These partnerships are about sharing knowledge, driving joint research, and establishing best practices in geriatric pharmacotherapy to improve medication management and outcomes for older adults worldwide.

Nicole Brandt, PharmD '97, MBA, BCGP, FASCP, executive director of the Lamy Center and a professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR), captures the essence of this global mission: "Our vision is to improve the lives of older adults by optimizing medication safety and use. We are staying true to that vision and mission, thinking about how our work can be amplified by helping others. We are partnering with organizations around the world that have movements that matter with older adults."

In the global context of aging, prioritizing "What Matters" in supporting older adults means addressing their individual health goals and preferences to provide personalized care based on their unique experiences. This approach is part of the 4Ms Framework — What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility — developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in collaboration with The John A. Hartford Foundation as part of the Age-Friendly Health Systems model. The Lamy Center uses the framework to improve the care of older adults.

When it comes to medication, the focus is on ensuring safe use, especially for older adults who might be more susceptible to side effects. The aim is to ensure that medications are effective and customized to the individual's needs, while avoiding those that could be harmful or interact negatively with other treatments.

"If we focus on the 4Ms, we can effectively care for our older adults," says Daniel Mansour, PharmD '06, MS '24, AGSF, BCGP, FASCP, director of education and interprofessional clinical training at the Lamy Center.

More Years, More Health Challenges

This approach is increasingly critical as the global population ages rapidly. The World Health Organization (WHO) predicts that by 2030, 1.4 billion people — 1 in 6 — will be 60 or older. By 2050, this number will rise to 2.1 billion, with the 80-plus population tripling to 426 million. The aging trend is particularly pronounced in low- and middle-income countries.

As people live longer, the prevalence of chronic conditions increases the demand for health care services and medications. Addressing these needs requires a larger, better-trained workforce and the creation of age-friendly environments, especially in underserved areas. This involves interdisciplinary efforts across policy, health care, and caregiver support.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) is one of two Maryland universities to receive designation as an Age-Friendly University, indicating that it actively works to create educational environments that are inclusive and supportive of older adults.

Recognized as UMB's hub for age-related research, education, and practice, the Lamy Center collaborated with other departments and organizations to align UMB's goals with the Age-Friendly University Global Network's standards. This includes prioritizing research on aging, enhancing access to education for older adults, and supporting intergenerational learning.

The Lamy Center plays a vital role in educating students and faculty from a wide range of disciplines on how to deliver comprehensive, person-centered care for older adults. Through its interdisciplinary Aging in Place program, the center brings together students, faculty, and professionals from fields such as social work, physical therapy, medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, audiology, dental hygiene, and more.

Through real-life case studies, participants learn with, from, and about each other in collaborative environments. In practical settings such as affordable housing communities for older adults, they work side by side, discussing individual needs, delivering health



Nicole Brandt with several colleagues (left) and with the whole group (right) in Qatar.

education talks, and performing essential health assessments such as blood pressure checks and screenings for high-risk medications. This collaborative effort is deeply rooted in building connections with the older adult community, allowing participants to gain hands-on experience in providing holistic, elder-focused care.

“We have trained hundreds of the future workforce; learners come to us from almost all health care disciplines,” Mansour says. In 2020, two students from the University of Helsinki in Finland participated virtually in the Aging in Place program. Today, the School of Pharmacy and the University of Helsinki have a formalized relationship and are working together to create an enhanced collaborative online international learning experience. The course includes 15 modules on geriatric care. Students from both countries will take one module each week and work in teams to discuss cases, brainstorm how to build bridges in the community, and develop presentations.

Power of Partnership

The relationship with Finland has evolved over the years. The connection began in 2005, when Alan Lyles, ScD, MPH, BSP ’80, a School of Pharmacy alumnus and professor in the University of Baltimore’s School of Public and International Affairs and School of Health and Human Services, traveled to Finland to lecture on pharmaceutical safety and outcomes research. What started as a single lecture blossomed into a deep and lasting partnership that has helped reshape Finland’s health care system.

Over the years, Lyles, an expert in pharmaceutical economics and health policy, has been awarded three prestigious Fulbright Specialist grants, advising leaders in Finland on health care and social services reform. Lyles has served as a mentor and collaborator with many, including Brandt who was present when his work was recognized in May 2023 by the University of Helsinki. He was awarded an honorary doctorate for his contributions to the country’s health care landscape.

In recent years, Finland has expanded the pharmacist’s role

in patient services, especially in geriatric care. To foster greater interprofessional collaboration in this area, Lyles encouraged Brandt to travel to Finland as a Fulbright Program Specialist in 2023-2024. Brandt’s mission was to explore new strategies that enhance collaboration between health care professionals and raise awareness about pharmacists’ potential to improve medication safety in older adults. This fellowship was not Brandt’s first interaction with Finland. She has collaborated with Finnish scholars and has a personal connection to the country through her husband’s family. The experience reinforced for her the importance of collaboration in shaping the future.

This collaborative approach proved invaluable for Brandt in another global project, this time in Doha, Qatar, where, in consultation with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, she contributed to developing a road map for age-friendly programs at Hamad Medical Corp., the principal public health care provider in Qatar. Brandt leveraged her expertise to help the Qatar team implement the 4Ms Framework. This initiative united pharmacists, physical therapists, case managers, and other professionals to create an interdisciplinary health team dedicated to delivering comprehensive, patient-centered care to older adults.

Mostafa ElAwady, PharmD, BCPS, SIDP, a clinical pharmacist at Hamad Medical Corp., reflects on the impact of the initiative. “We had never before considered how medications might affect what matters to the patient and their family,” he says. “I’m proud that we’ve broadened our perspective. Now, we’re screening in a more patient-centered way and becoming more specialized.”

ElAwady notes that patients and their families are responding positively to this shift. “We’re receiving a lot of positive feedback,” he shares. “Patients now better understand how their medications might cause delirium or affect their mobility. This understanding is crucial, as it encourages more interaction and engagement from patients, which is very important.”

Brandt and ElAwady recently published “Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms: Implementing Medication Management in Hamad



Danya Mazen Qato in Costa Rica.

Medical Corporation, Qatar" in the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. The article emphasizes that medication management is a cornerstone of the model, requiring interdisciplinary team input during screening and care to ensure the proper prescribing and use of medications for older adults.

Seeing the World

As part of UMB, the School of Pharmacy benefits from the University's focus on facilitating trips for students and faculty that help them explore how other countries address elder care and policies. These experiences offer valuable insights and opportunities to learn from global practices, enhancing the University's approach to age-friendly health systems.

One exciting journey takes students to Japan, one of the oldest societies in the world, where people routinely live to 100 years of age or more, thanks to a culture that prioritizes healthy living.

In UMB's Global Health Aging: Gerontology in Japan course, students from diverse disciplines dive into the cultural norms and social frameworks that influence aging, life transitions, and intergenerational connections in that country. The course culminates in a two-week trip to Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, where students tour housing complexes and hospitals, engage with officials from the Kanagawa government and representatives of the WHO Asia Pacific region, and visit research centers and academic institutions.

"How are you going to keep yourself engaged? That is something that Japan has done really well. They have a place for everybody, it doesn't matter if you're 90 or 40 years old. So that's one of the things students learn — it's not just about long-term care for older people, it's also about how to create spaces for an older workforce," says Diane Martin, PhD, MSL, MA, director of UMB's Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research (GGEAR) Program and co-lead for UMB's Age-Friendly University efforts.

Through the Alicia and Yaya Initiative in Global Aging Research — a collaboration between UMB and the University of Costa Rica — Danya Mazen Qato, PhD, PharmD, MPH, associate professor of P-SHOR at the School of Pharmacy, participated in July 2023 in an eight-day faculty research delegation in Costa Rica, where she met centenarians and explored what contributes to living long and fulfilling lives. Her travels to Costa Rica — Qato also participated as a fellow in the January 2023 inaugural UMB/Costa Rica Faculty Development Institute — were driven by a desire to understand the unique health care challenges faced by a country with universal health care and how these challenges compare to those in the United States.

In Costa Rica, Qato met her first centenarian and talked about what has truly mattered in their lives. The resounding answer was family and community. "When we think about and study health care, we often focus on what happens in the hospital or during a clinical visit," Qato explains. "This experience reaffirmed how crucial the ecosystem outside the hospital, especially family and community relationships, is not just for longevity, but for quality of life. Every centenarian we spoke to emphasized the significance of their family and active community involvement in enhancing their mental, spiritual, and physical well-being."

As the Lamy Center prepares to launch its international online learning initiative, the focus remains on building a strong community. The goal is to foster connections among health care providers, encourage international collaboration, and create lasting partnerships. These connections are ultimately aimed at serving the global aging population, helping them thrive in ways that honor their immense value.

Mansour and Brandt echo this sentiment about passion. "What drives us is a passion, not the job nor career — it's a calling. Our commitment to serving older adults brings about fulfillment, joy, and remarkable results in their lives and ours," Mansour says. 🌟



Clinical Trials: Strength in Numbers

Team approach is win-win for researchers, patients

BY GWEN FARISS NEWMAN

Faculty at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) engage, create, and pursue clinical trials to help improve the health, safety, and lives of people from Baltimore to communities around the world.

With an estimated 491,000 registered clinical studies underway globally, there is greater emphasis on more personalized medicine, greater inclusion of under-represented communities in clinical trials, and greater access to generative artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning.

Paul Shapiro, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC) at UMSOP and associate dean for research.



Paul Shapiro

“UMSOP is committed to looking for new and safer drugs, and in moving drugs to the clinic more quickly, more effectively, and more efficiently,” he says. “With our broad range of expertise, our faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and students work to understand disease, evaluate current drugs from multiple viewpoints, and discover new drugs for evaluation in clinical trials.”

But what exactly are clinical trials

and why are they needed?

Perhaps you're in enormous pain or can barely breathe and your medications aren't working as effectively as you'd like or at all. Or perhaps you're taking a medication that improves certain conditions such as depression, high blood pressure or diabetes, but has unwanted side effects, like dizziness, weight gain, or insomnia. Or you might suffer from a rare disease and not even the most acclaimed health care professionals have determined modes to cure or even relieve it.

It's through clinical trials that the brightest minds come together to observe and learn more about specific disease states, identify first-time therapeutic solutions, finesse them, and flag potential problems with what initially appears to be a viable solution.

The National Institutes of Health defines a clinical trial as “a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions [which may include placebo or other control] to evaluate the effects of those interventions on health-related biomedical or behavioral outcomes.”

Investigators use the following questions to determine if their proposed study fits the clinical trial definition and to assess funding options:

1. Does the study involve human participants?
2. Are the participants prospectively assigned to an intervention?
3. Is the study designed to evaluate the effect of the intervention on the participants?
4. Is the effect being evaluated a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome?

At UMSOP, there are clinical trials — of all sorts — underway, all the time. The results are both current and, at times, historic.

Sunscreens and Hormone Replacement Therapy



Audra Stinchcomb

Audra Stinchcomb, PhD, RPh, FAAPS, FAIMBE, is a professor in PSC and an expert in topical solutions applied directly to the skin.

Her research includes a recent clinical trial that looked at the safety of key ingredients in sunscreens. The findings led to a once-common ingredient (oxybenzone) being banned or limited after the trial showed the chemical, a known endocrine disruptor

and potential breast cancer and endometriosis risk multiplier, was observed in higher blood levels than anticipated. There also are indications that this ingredient, and other similar UV blockers, can lower testosterone levels and impact the environment. The study was conducted with PhD students and postdoctoral fellows in Stinchcomb's lab and in partnership with faculty at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Stinchcomb currently is engaged in a hormone replacement therapy clinical trial for women, specifically investigating topical gels and pharmacy-compounded creams to minimize menopausal symptoms such as hot flashes, night sweats, cold chills, mood swings, and irritability.

Long-term objectives of Stinchcomb's research include examining microneedles that create skin micropores invisible to the human eye but that transmit time-released treatment, and prodrugs — those that are inactive until metabolized inside the body — specifically designed for improved transdermal patch and microneedle-enhanced delivery. She also seeks to find methods to prolong the lifetime of drug delivery through transdermal device-created micropores, and unique translational research models for efficient drug discovery and development.

Enhanced Drug Delivery and Potential New Uses

James Polli, PhD, a professor in PSC and the Ralph F. Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals, focuses on the creation and improved administration of oral medications.



James Polli

For oral medications to be most effective, they must first dissolve after being swallowed. Some do this more readily than others. Polli is exploring ways to improve the formulation of tablets so they can dissolve more readily.

“Drugs with low solubility sometimes require the inert ingredients in tablets to help the drug dissolve after being swallowed,” he says. “This study uses itraconazole — a medication used

to treat infections caused by fungus — as an example drug with low solubility. Itraconazole tablets with different inert ingredients and manufacturing will be administered to healthy volunteers to see if the different inert ingredients and manufacturing impact drug absorption.”

He also is exploring whether an investigational medicine authorized for emergency use to treat mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults at high risk of severe illness might have broader therapeutic potential.

Molnupiravir (MOV) was initially developed to treat the flu and is an antiviral therapy that inhibits replication of multiple RNA viruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19. In December 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued emergency use authorization for the medication in high-risk COVID-19 patients. The question now is whether this treatment option has broader applicability and/or risks. The sample population will include patients treated with and without molnupiravir to determine if it causes DNA shifts or other variations.

The study is being conducted with error-corrected whole-genome high-fidelity sequencing methodology. “Such information may inform the ongoing evaluation of MOV as an antiviral therapy and expand our therapeutic options clinically,” Polli says. Both studies are collaborations with the FDA.

Improved Staffing Ratios in Critical Care Units – And Beyond

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD '08, BCCCP, FCCM, FCCP, an associate professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR), assistant dean for experiential learning, and a critical care pharmacist, studies the impact of pharmacists in clinical practice and improving outcomes

through implementation of intensive care unit (ICU) programs to standardize and streamline care delivery. She notes that another number-crunching study also originated following the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic when ICUs were overwhelmed with patients, and health care providers were faced with staff burnouts and hiring shortages.



Mojdeh Heavner

“We know the workload of health care professionals in the ICU has an established relationship to patient outcomes. However,” Heavner adds, “the relationship of critical care pharmacist workload to patient outcomes had not been rigorously evaluated nor determined. The objective of this study is to characterize the relationship of critical care pharmacist workload in the ICU as it relates

to patient-centered outcomes of critically ill patients, including mortality, hospital length of stay, ventilator-free days, renal replacement therapy, and delirium.”

The multi-site study was designed to include this information from 20,000 adult patients who stayed at least 24 hours in an ICU. Rich data analysis is possible due to a REDCap data management system built by Vanderbilt University and more recently, database management by UMSOP's Pharmaceutical Research Computing center. There are regular updates to the working group, and due to word of mouth and excitement generated in the field, there have been requests to include other patients and settings, such as pediatric patients, burn units, and others with very specific urgent clinical care needs.

“We actually ended up in a position where people are reaching out to us,” Heavner says. There are now 65 sites participating with 169 critical care pharmacists and 36,000 ICU patients.

Desperate Need for Inclusion

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, a professor in P-SHOR, says one of the most crucial parts of the clinical trials process — besides pursuing the actual science itself — is to secure the trust and active participation of those diagnosed with specific diseases, who are on certain medications or for those who altruistically want to help further research advances that can benefit others, if not themselves. You can have healthy participants in clinical trials research.

As executive director of UMSOP's PATIENTS Program,

Mullins seeks to proactively educate citizens on the value of clinical trials, how they work, and how they can contribute. He says too often people feel excluded and unheard.



C. Daniel Mullins

“There are many patients who still don’t understand clinical trials, and the PATIENTS Program is trying to change that,” says Mullins.

That starts with education, he says, and with actively making available information that they can better understand and that empowers them to make informative choices. It can be something as simple as giving them visuals instead of lengthy and

hard-to-understand written instructions.

“The goal is to make materials more accessible and inclusive, more understandable, more patient-centered,” says Mullins.

“So, if you’re a visual learner, you can watch a video versus read a document. It’s still the pertinent information that’s critical — and making it more accessible to them in their preferred form.”

Mullins and his colleagues say that, at the end of the day, the PATIENTS Program seeks to engage patients who desperately want to see advances in a certain arena as well as people willing to volunteer for research more broadly.

“We aim to provide the information they need to make informed choices and educated decisions,” he says. “We want to instill confidence and trust in science; not just increase research participation. But the greater the numbers and diversity of participants, the greater the relevance to all who can benefit.”

More and Better – The Beauty of Partnerships

Clinical trials, by definition, are more — more data, more input, more measurables, and therefore, better interpretation into what matters most for the patients themselves.

Not only do researchers at the School enjoy a collaborative environment with one another, says Shapiro, but also with the

other schools at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and with the 12 hospitals within the University of Maryland Medical System. “We also benefit from our unique proximity to the National Institutes of Health, the FDA, the pharmaceutical industry, and other academic institutes like Johns Hopkins University who fund clinical trials and are partners on projects.”

For all those at UMSOP involved in clinical trial work, there’s one recurring theme to finding success:

“Collaboration,” says Shapiro.

“It takes a village,” says Stinchcomb.

Mullins echoes that sentiment from the patient and public perspective, as well.

“The feedback has been encouraging,” he says. “Through the PATIENTS Program, this is the first time, many say, that they’ve been listened to and heard regarding clinical trials and research.”

Kimberly Claeys, PharmD, PhD, an associate professor in P-SHOR who serves as a local site principal investigator for clinical trials within UMSOP, credits the collaboration at UMB, across the University of Maryland Medical System, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and other sites such as Johns Hopkins Hospital, and the public as critical to ultimate clinical trial success.



Kimberly Claeys

“How we work with our colleagues across schools, universities, and medical systems has done a lot to optimize clinical trial results,” she says. Still, success is not immediate. Clinical trials take time, typically years from start to completion, from lab to actual patient intervention.

“It takes a lot of patience and forethought,” says Claeys, “therefore, we constantly assess and reassess the tools and resources available to ensure they’re optimum to increase patient participation, improve clinical trial success, and, ultimately, patient outcomes.”

And, she adds, “We publish the results of our trials with the goal of helping others more broadly to implement the same to improve their outcomes.” ☼

Center for Translational Medicine Transforms Data into Real-World Impacts

A focus on outcomes and quantitative innovation are key to the center's success.

BY NALA ROGERS

When the Center for Translational Medicine (CTM) at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy was created in 2012, children with epilepsy had to wait seven to nine years for access to new medications after approval for use in adults. Today, approval of epilepsy medications by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for pediatric populations takes just one to two additional years, in large part because of CTM's collaborative efforts with the FDA.

By applying its innovative quantitative techniques to data from past clinical trials, CTM showed that any drug that prevents seizures in adults also will work in children, rendering separate pediatric efficacy trials unnecessary.

And it's not just epilepsy medications. The CTM team also partnered with the FDA to inform its regulations for schizophrenia medications, again shortening the delay for pediatric drug approvals by an average of five to seven years. Their work has led to countless other advances, from improved clinical trial designs to new drug dosing regimens that allow heart arrhythmia patients to leave the hospital days sooner.

"We dare to ask these questions. And then we deliver the solutions," says Joga Gobburu, PhD, MBA, director of CTM and a professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR).

PUTTING OUTCOMES FIRST



Joga Gobburu

That solutions mindset is part of what sets CTM apart. Gobburu and his colleagues are experts in pharmacometrics, machine learning, and other statistical approaches for modeling and analyzing vast quantities of complex data. But they never forget that those techniques are means to an end. While other quantitative scientists can sometimes get "lost in a stardust of data points," says Gobburu, the CTM

team puts outcomes front and center, focusing on real decisions that regulators, drug developers, and prescribing physicians must make.

CTM has a reputation as the place to go for quantitative expertise. More than 30 pharmaceutical companies have collaborated with CTM, relying on the center for tasks such as designing adaptive clinical trials, analyzing trial data, and negotiating with regulatory agencies.

CTM also partners with regulators and other academic institutions. For example, it is the statistical powerhouse behind an ambitious collaboration to develop an artificial blood product, which will be stored as a dry powder that medical personnel can carry in a backpack, allowing it to be reconstituted and infused on the battlefield or in other emergency situations.

The artificial blood project is funded by a \$46.4 million grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. To fulfill

the requirements of the grant, CTM had to come up with a way to demonstrate that the new product would be equal or superior to stored blood — a problem that traditional statistics were ill-suited for.

"The Center for Translational Medicine and Joga Gobburu were crucial to that proposal," says Allan Doctor, MD, a professor of pediatrics, director of the Center for Blood Oxygen Transport and Hemostasis at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), and principal investigator of the project. "It's one of the reasons we were selected, because we had this particularly robust way to achieve that goal."

In addition to UMSOM and CTM, the artificial blood consortium includes five other universities, three companies, and one nonprofit research institute. All of them funnel their data straight to CTM for analysis. Two years into development, the blood product already is meeting or exceeding its final requirements on several metrics, including the ability to transport oxygen, says Doctor.

He also is working with CTM on two related projects, one to help clinicians decide which patients should receive blood transfusions and another to develop a biomanufacturing pipeline for producing hemoglobin using transgenic yeast. Both projects eventually will be crucial for the success of artificial blood, and they both involve complex machine learning problems, says Doctor.

MASTERING MACHINE LEARNING

CTM has a proven track record of using artificial intelligence and machine learning to solve problems in pharmacology and precision medicine. For example, Rahul Goyal, MS, PhD '24, used machine learning as a student in the School's PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC) program to assess why so many medications designed to treat people after a terrorist attack fail when tested on nonhuman primates. Such drugs are known as "medical countermeasures," and they go through a separate approval process because they can't be tested on humans. Goyal's models can be used to project which medical countermeasures will succeed based on early data.

Similarly, one of CTM's faculty members leading the artificial blood project, Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, MS, an associate professor of P-SHOR, used machine learning to analyze data from

past clinical trials for medications to treat binge eating disorders, which have notoriously high failure rates. Her results can be used to enrich patient populations in future trials by identifying which patients are most likely to respond to a placebo. Placebo non-responders make better study participants because they are more likely to benefit from effective drugs.



Mathangi Gopalakrishnan

Much of Gopalakrishnan's research is focused on helping pregnant and nursing women, newborns, and the critically ill — patients who are typically excluded from clinical trials. Such vulnerable populations are a key focus of CTM, she says. While traditional medical research often leaves such patients behind, the CTM team has the skills to make the most of existing data, finding new treatment solutions

without putting patients at further risk.

Gopalakrishnan also directs one of CTM's most unique educational programs: the MS in Pharmacometrics, the first fully online master's program at the School of Pharmacy. Its success has inspired several other online or hybrid MS programs at the School. Most MS in Pharmacometrics students are working professionals at pharmaceutical companies or regulatory agencies, and the virtual format allows them to hone their skills flexibly from anywhere in the world.

A THRIVING NETWORK



Allison Dunn

It also provides unexpected networking opportunities, says Allison Dunn, PharmD '21, MS '21. Dunn completed the School's Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) and MS in Pharmacometrics dual-degree program, and she is now a research assistant professor of P-SHOR and a member of CTM with a focus on precision medicine. She recalls working on group projects with students from half a dozen companies, forming a

close-knit group that she is still in contact with today.

"As a student, I learned a lot about the industry itself, what it's like working there," says Dunn.

In addition to the MS program, CTM offers in-person training through the School's PhD in PSC program and a variety of postdoctoral fellowships. One of its newest fellows is Ankit Nagar, PhD, an engineer specializing in artificial intelligence, who recently helped lead a virtual workshop hosted by CTM on artificial intelligence for drug development.



Ankit Nagar

CTM is a dynamic place to learn and work, says Nagar, especially during Monday meetings when faculty, fellows, and graduate students come together to discuss what they're working on. The meetings are never rushed, and everyone stays as long as it takes to work through every problem. Sometimes, the faculty and students analyze published papers. Other times

they hold mock drug approval debates, role-playing as drug sponsors and FDA regulators.

"I've not seen an environment where you would have this level of brainstorming and training," says Nagar. "We walk out like we are a different person."

SPEAKING SAME LANGUAGE

One unusual aspect of CTM's training is its emphasis on communication, says Gobburu. For their work to have value, quantitative scientists must be able to convey their insights clearly and persuasively to decision-makers who don't speak their language. The MS students take a course in strategic negotiations and communications, while PhD students and fellows hone their communication skills on a daily basis. Those skills are part of why collaborators like Allan Doctor come back to CTM again and again.

"They can talk to me in a way that I can understand," says Doctor. "I've worked with dozens of biostatisticians, and they're my favorites."

Students also benefit from CTM's emphasis on pharmaceutical entrepreneurship — part of its larger focus on concrete outcomes. In

its 12 years of existence, CTM has produced five patents, two copyrights, three licenses, and two successful spinoff companies, with many more products in the works.

“If there is an interest in seeing beyond the scope of just pure research, you’re going to find that within CTM, because they have a built-in entrepreneurial spirit,” says Rebecca Bettes, MS, MBA, a senior technology licensing officer in the Office of Technology Transfer at the University of Maryland, Baltimore who works with CTM researchers to protect and license their inventions.

Both of the CTM spinoff companies are based on artificial intelligence (AI) innovations. The first, PumasAI Inc., uses a versatile machine learning algorithm embedded in easy-to-use software, allowing scientists to leverage the power of AI for a wide range of biomedical research projects. The second, Vivpro Corp., is a biointelligence software platform that uses AI to comb through the documents in regulatory databases, helping regulators and drug developers chart the most efficient path to approval. Within five years, each company has grown into a thriving business with dozens

of clients and employees.

“I think their spinoffs are wonderful examples of success,” says Bettes. “Within the time frame that they’ve been able to do it, it’s amazing.”

What is the secret to CTM’s track record of success? Skills and techniques, of course — but also the philosophy and culture. When Gobburu moved to the School of Pharmacy in 2011 after more than a decade at the FDA, he had a vision for a center that would bring together researchers with diverse backgrounds and eliminate traditional hierarchies.

“I wanted to create an organization where everybody is equal, and they have equal voice,” says Gobburu.

Other faculty and students say he succeeded. The egalitarian culture at CTM ensures that ideas flow freely and no one is stuck in silos. On collaborative projects, everyone can see the big picture, and they all pull toward the same goal.

“Nothing is monotonous or unimportant,” says Dunn. “There’s a sense of excitement with everything we do.” ☀





Lisa Calvert Chalk

She's a Force, Whatever the Role

BY LYDIA LEVIS BLOCH

In her current position as senior director of special projects in P-SHOR, Calvert Chalk manages complex projects for Morgan and the department's vice chairs and program directors involving funding decisions, space planning, marketing, personnel, and daily operations, as well as serves as liaison to the School's Human Resources office. She also is responsible for supervising and training non-exempt and professional staff in a department of nearly 300 employees.

Given her myriad responsibilities, Calvert Chalk considers the most important aspect of her work as strategizing with Morgan and colleagues on problem solving. "I know how to maneuver through difficult situations, to trouble shoot. I recognize what is essential to the well-being and proper functioning of the department."

According to Morgan, there is no problem that Calvert Chalk can't solve. "She is my right-hand person whom I depend upon to keep the department meeting our goals," Morgan says. "She is reliable, a leader, and an excellent sounding board for me, capable of accomplishing many tasks daily. The department relies on her for so much, and Lisa handles our needs with a smile and charm."

Having worked in so many roles at the School of Pharmacy in her more than three decades, Calvert Chalk says the most satisfying aspect of her work is its eclectic nature. "I like the variety of my job. I'm never bored. It's impossible for me to ever tire of my job, and I work with such great people!"

Besides depending on the organizational and disciplinary skills she acquired during her training and running a martial arts school with her husband, Calvert Chalk relies on her academic credentials. A proponent of lifelong learning, she earned a master's degree in nonprofit management from the University of Maryland Global Campus in 2023 and recently completed a globally recognized certification as a Project Management Professional.

Calvert Chalk continues to benefit from the inner strength of her martial arts training in all aspects of her life. In addition to her UMSOP career and professional development, she finds time to indulge her enthusiasm for sports and family. "I love the Orioles and Ravens," she says. "I am very close to my family and love spending time with all of them, including my fuzzy child Abigail, my kitty." 🐾

Lisa Calvert Chalk, MS, PMP, recalls watching her brothers take karate lessons when she was barely 5 years old. She desperately wanted to join in. "You can't, you're a girl," said her parents. Fast forward 23 years later, Calvert Chalk enrolled her 6-year-old son in martial arts. She enrolled a year later.

Today this fourth-degree black belt and master instructor of mixed martial arts says her years of training and teaching furnished her with strengths in "organization and discipline." These two attributes have helped propel her, for the last 32 years, through multiple positions within the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP).

Calvert Chalk's first job at the School was secretary in the Dean's Office in 1992. She later joined the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) as an operations manager and then became a program manager. In 2022, PPS merged with the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research to form the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR).

"My role in the merger was to help create a new organizational structure to best serve the needs of the newly formed department and to implement that new structure," Calvert Chalk says. She worked with leadership to establish an up-to-date administrative structure, served on the transition team to devise a strategic plan, and provided counsel and information to Jill Morgan, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS, FNAP, chair of P-SHOR.



Lauren Hynicka

She Thrives In Variety of Ways

BY MEREDITH LIDARD KLEEMAN

medicine course — Christopher D’Adamo, PhD, an assistant professor and director of research in the Center for Integrative Medicine at the School of Medicine, and Isabelita Rambob, DDS, an assistant professor at the School of Dentistry. The one-credit elective provides comprehensive, evidence-based nutrition instruction followed by hands-on group cooking led by culinary experts.

Feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive. “They leave feeling like they have permission to think about health and wellness in creating plans for patients in a more holistic way,” Hynicka says.

Hynicka’s path to becoming a pharmacist was heavily influenced by her family. She excelled in math and science, and was encouraged by her mother, a social worker, to consider a career in pharmacy.

She admittedly didn’t know much about the field until arriving at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. “I learned about clinical pharmacy in my first year, and the idea of being able to take all of the information about a person and synthesize that into medication recommendations really appealed to me,” she says.

Hynicka went on to complete pharmacy residencies at Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia Health System. She then joined UMSOP in 2009 where she served as a clinical pharmacy specialist on a general internal medicine team at the University of Maryland Medical Center for six years.

Since then, her teaching, research, and patient care activities have remained focused on patients with chronic liver disease, including chronic hepatitis C. Hynicka spearheaded the development of a hep C medication management program for the Maryland Department of Health.

In addition to her research and teaching load, Hynicka works directly with patients in the THRIVE program, housed at the University of Maryland Center for Infectious Diseases, managing their hep C medication.

Hynicka, who is a certified yoga instructor, wants her pharmacy students to “thrive” as well and is frequently invited to participate in the School’s annual Last Lecture, when the graduating class nominates their favorite faculty members to send them off with life advice.

The relationships Hynicka develops with students is one of the most joyful parts of her work. “Having that impact on students as they’re graduating and providing them with advice on how to thrive and take things in stride is such a privilege,” she says. ☺

Lauren Hynicka, PharmD, BCPS, an associate professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, is known around the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) as the “liver pharmacist,” because she delivers all of the liver disorder lectures.

But patients at the THRIVE clinic know her as the “yoga pharmacist” who leads free, weekly yoga classes. And students think of her as the “integrative medicine pharmacist” who espouses the importance of caring for the mind, body, and spirit. Or the “culinary pharmacist” who leads students in nutrition discussions.

The scope of Hynicka’s professional activities can hardly be contained in a single title.

A consummate problem-solver and dedicated educator, Hynicka is a 2024 recipient of the McGraw Hill Pathfinder Award in recognition of her work creating two innovative elective courses — Integrative Medicine and Interprofessional Culinary Health and Medicine.

She was inspired to develop these courses because of her work with patients. “There are certain disease states where we only have Band-Aids. It’s a lot of symptom management, it’s not really fixing whatever is wrong within the disease,” she says.

As a yoga and running enthusiast, Hynicka takes her personal health seriously and wanted to share a holistic perspective on health and well-being with her patients and students.

“So many chronic disease states are linked to dietary choices, but there is a really small number of hours dedicated to practical nutrition throughout all health care professional schools,” she says of the courses. “I thought this would be a cool opportunity to develop something new and interprofessional.”

Hynicka partnered with colleagues from other University of Maryland, Baltimore schools to create the culinary health and



Tuan Huynh

Inspiring Students to Reach Potential

BY MEREDITH LIDARD KLEEMAN

people person — I like to engage and inspire people to their top potential,” he says.

Those efforts extend to bestowing a Student Spotlight Award that recognizes exemplary students who made outstanding contributions to their organization, an award he initially created as a clinical pharmacy manager and preceptor coordinator for Weis Pharmacy. When he joined UMSOP’s Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions as an advanced practice pharmacist in 2022, Huynh initiated a similar Student Spotlight Award, this time recognizing students who provide top performance in population health programs.

In turn, UMSOP student pharmacists recognize Huynh’s deep commitment to education. The Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) Class of 2024 honored him with the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor of the Year Award.

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD ’08, BCCCP, FCCP, FCCP, an associate professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research who was appointed assistant dean for ELP in April, has partnered with Huynh to lead ELP into the next era. “He brings an unparalleled caliber of energy and enthusiasm in his precepting and leadership styles,” Heavner says. “His commitment to fostering an environment of active learning sets up our students for success in the experiential environment and propels them on a path to future success in their pharmacy careers.”

Huynh’s core values led him to provide unique learning opportunities for his students in his different roles, which eventually led to the ELP assistant director position. “Very honestly, in my pharmacy journey, I never thought I’d be back at the School,” he says. “But this [leadership opportunity] really resonated with the work that I was doing and what’s very important to me.”

As assistant director of ELP, Huynh is a resource for the hundreds of preceptors who teach 30 percent of the PharmD curriculum at the School by hosting students on required introductory and advanced pharmacy practice rotations. He conducts rotation site visits and creates educational modules and learning activities for preceptors to use with students. He also helps preceptors develop and adapt their teaching styles as they navigate different generations of students.

“We have to understand what matters to [students], and that changes every year,” Huynh says. “It’s always valuable to understand generational trends. Learning about [students] allows you to build resiliency and change your teaching styles to meet them where they are.” ☺

Tuan Huynh was an advanced practice pharmacy preceptor with a passion for people. Say that five times fast!

Appointed assistant director of the Experiential Learning Program (ELP) at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) in May, Huynh, PharmD ’11, AAHIVP, HIVPCP, served as a preceptor for more than a decade. He took on his first set of students in 2013 when he was the pharmacy manager at Target.

Huynh’s interest in precepting developed during his own fourth-year advanced practice rotations as a UMSOP student. He credits those rotations and his preceptors with influencing his decision to pursue community pharmacy practice. “In my heart I’m a community pharmacist — community pharmacists have always had a huge impact on me and my family,” he says.

As a preceptor, Huynh was and remains deeply committed in his new ELP role to providing students with professional development opportunities as they explore career options that align with their passions. He dedicated time throughout the rotation experience to assist students with publishing articles, revising résumés and CVs, and participating in mock interviews.

Huynh worked with students to identify their personal and professional core values, as they can help influence major career decisions. “I tell students to look at the mission and vision of every organization or program they are interested in to see if they align with their core values and skill sets,” he says. “If they truly align, students will flourish and grow beyond the scope of the job.”

As for Huynh, his core values frequently evolve, but his desire to work directly with patients and students stays constant. “I’m a

Future Psychiatric Pharmacists Listen



In April, the student chapter of the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists participated in the national #IWillListen Campaign: Advocating for Mental Health at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Southern Management Companies Campus Center. The campaign encourages open conversations about mental health. Through this initiative, School of Pharmacy students advocated for the importance of listening, understanding, and supporting those facing mental health challenges. The campaign was a powerful reminder of the role pharmacists can play in breaking the stigma and promoting mental wellness within our community. From left are Oanh Hoang, Class of 2026, and Minsang Song, Class of 2025. ☀

AMCP Annual Conference

Members of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) attended the organization's 2024 conference in April in New Orleans, where they took a deep dive into the world of managed care pharmacy. The meeting featured cutting-edge sessions, networking with industry leaders, and discussions on the latest trends and innovations in health care. From left: Jodi-Ann Haynes and Gabriel Henderson of the Class of 2025, Yeabsera Tadesse, PharmD '23, Charlene Tugwete, PharmD '23, and Victoria Kim, PharmD '23, Jiwon Oh, Class of 2026, Chenchu Vignesh Pernati, PharmD '24, and Katherine Tieu, PharmD '23. ☀



Promoting Awareness

To kick off the spring 2024 semester, the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) hosted a health fair in February in Pharmacy Hall. The event educated the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus community on various diseases and health topics. With interactive booths and educational resources, the health fair highlighted APhA-ASP's dedication to promoting awareness and empowering students with knowledge for a healthier future. ☀



Maethe Butterfield, Class of 2025 (left) and Sana Behdin, Class of 2026



Mehek Yousaf, Class of 2025 (left) and Alejandra Caban, Class of 2026



Linda Vu, Class of 2025 (left) and Vraj Patel, Class of 2026

Fellowship and Faith

School of Pharmacy members of the Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International (CPFI) gathered for an awards dinner at the 2024 CPFI National Conference in North Carolina in late May. The awards celebrated members' outstanding contributions to the profession and community and featured inspiring testimonies, recognition of exemplary service, and opportunities for fellowship among professionals committed to integrating faith into their practice. From left: Charmaine Rochester-Eyeguokan, PharmD, CDCES, BCACP, professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, Anthonia Azubike, PharmD '21, Ariana Murgor, Class of 2027, and Nana Esi Bray, Class of 2026. ☀



Legislative Day

Pharmacy students from across Maryland gathered in Annapolis on Feb. 8 for the Maryland Pharmacy Coalition's annual Legislative Day, a pivotal event dedicated to understanding and influencing health care policy at the state level. Participants met with legislators, discussed key issues impacting the pharmacy profession, and advocated for the future of health care. This experience empowered students to become active voices in shaping the policies that will define their careers and the broader health landscape. From left: Cherry Gomes, Class of 2027, Jesie Jumawid and Ernesto Hernandez Zambrana of Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy, Bill LeGallee, PharmD, of Omnicare, Jillian Doll, Class of 2026, Gabriella Werking, Class of 2027, and Mahsa Razavi of Notre Dame of Maryland University School of Pharmacy. ☀

IPhO Steps Out

Members of the School's Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) visited AstraZeneca on April 2 for an insider's view of the pharmaceutical industry. This event offered a unique opportunity for future pharmacists to engage with industry professionals, learn about innovative research and development processes, and explore potential career paths in the field. ☀



New PLS Members Begin Journey

Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) hosted its annual induction ceremony on April 8 to welcome the chapter's newest members while recognizing their dedication to leadership, service, and the advancement of the pharmacy profession. Surrounded by peers and mentors, these individuals took an oath to uphold the values of PLS, marking the beginning of their journey as leaders within our community. 🌟



From left: Brianna Darbasie, Dionne Forbin, Rachel Hall, Ubong-Idara Obot, Jiwon Oh, and Jamie Padilla, all of the Class of 2026



Back row: Cameron MacGillivray (left) and Francesco Mottola of the Class of 2025
Middle row: Zachary Geesaman and Vraj Patel of the Class of 2026
Front row: Arthur Pasqualini and Angel Galutira of the Class of 2027 and Rachel Hall, Class of 2026

Student Laurels

Yueh-Yi Chiang, Lynn Huang, MHS, Tsung-Ying Lee, MCLinPharm, and Phuong Tran, MPH, students in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research (PHSR) Graduate Program, received the program's Student Travel Scholarship.

Jennifer Contreras, MPH, Candace Hall, MA, Jeong-eun Park, MPH, and Jannat Saini, PharmD, MPH, students in the PHSR Graduate Program, received the program's Donald O. Fedder Memorial Fellowship. Contreras also was selected as the 2024-2025 Takeda Patient-Centric Value Assessment Predoctoral Fellow.

Udim Damachi, BPharm, MS, a student in the PHSR Graduate Program, received a 2024 Value Assessment & Health Outcomes Research PhRMA Foundation predoctoral award.

Aziza Frank, a student in the Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC) Graduate Program, received the Victor E. and Dorothy M. McIntosh Award from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's Meyerhoff Graduate Fellows Program.

Chia-Yun Hsu, MS, a student in the PHSR Graduate Program, received the program's Dr. Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Award.

Brandon Lowe, a student in the PSC Graduate Program, received an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists-American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education predoctoral fellowship.

Nathaniel McClean, a student in the PSC Graduate Program, received a University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Fourth

Quarter Travel Award. He also received a travel award to attend the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics' 2024 Annual Meeting.

Salome Ricci, PharmD, MS, a student in the PhD in PHSR program, was selected as the inaugural 2024-2025 UMB/AstraZeneca Health Economics and Payer Evidence Predoctoral Fellow.

John Rizk, a student in the PHSR Graduate Program, received the 2024 AcademyHealth Early Career Investigator Award in quality and value.



Join Your Fellow Alumni on RxIntersect

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is pleased to re-launch RxIntersect, the School's networking platform exclusively for alumni, faculty, staff, and current students.

Join your peers to connect with students, faculty, and other alumni as you navigate your professional journey.

- Demystify careers and provide insight on what jobs are actually like.
- Share what helped you achieve your career goals.
- Provide students with real-world experiences, such as job shadowing and internship opportunities.
- Create additional career access by providing résumé feedback and job referrals.

RxIntersect is where we come together as a community to support each other in a meaningful way. Visit rxintersect.umaryland.edu to update or complete your profile. We hope to see you there!



Kimberly Barnett

Saluting Single Parents from Past, Present

BY CHRISTINE STUTZ

Kimberly Barnett, BSP '86, has always loved learning, keeping up with technological advances, and teaching others. So it's not surprising that she excelled as a student at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and continues to be a highly skilled preceptor, training manager, and coordinator for experiential learning in the pharmacy department at the University of Maryland Medical Center's downtown campus.

"I get to mentor and help people grow," Barnett says. Among the skills she strives to impart to her pharmacy students as a preceptor are empathy and compassion, emotional intelligence, the appreciation of diverse backgrounds, and effective communication.

"I preach caring," she adds. "It is imperative that you build relationships. It's part of your life, from birth to death."

As someone who has been tutoring children since she was 14, and has cared for several seriously ill family members, helping others seems to be in Barnett's DNA. She is quick to acknowledge the many people who helped her fulfill her dreams.

Barnett's mother was a single parent of two, with a high school education, who worked long hours for a manufacturing company to make ends meet. While they struggled financially, Barnett says, her mom "always found a way" to provide for her children.

Three years after her mother's passing from pancreatic cancer in 2019, Barnett established the Janice W. Barnett Memorial Scholarship for single parents enrolled in the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program at the School of Pharmacy.

"I wanted to honor her," she says, "because it took a village to get me where I wanted to go."

Barnett recalls her own financial stress as a young pharmacy student. "In my last year of pharmacy school, the company my mother worked for shut down, and she lost her job, along with many other people. I was working five part-time jobs, in between classes and on weekends. I was broke.

"When word got out at one of my jobs that I couldn't afford to purchase a class ring," she says, "the pharmacists I worked with chipped in for it. When I received my first paycheck as a licensed pharmacist, I paid them back."

With that type of kindness in mind, Barnett established the scholarship in her mother's memory to pay it forward. "I wanted to help single parents pursue their dreams, just like my mom and so many others did for me," she says.

"Completing any type of degree can be an arduous process, especially for parents who are managing the demands of a family and school simultaneously," says Greer Griffith, MS, executive director of development at the School. "These additional demands on a single parent could include finding reliable and affordable child care, juggling daily living expenses, working, and striving to meet the rigorous academic requirements to complete their degree.

"We have many single parents completing their PharmD who will benefit from Kim's generosity and can focus on their academic and family priorities. We are grateful to Kim for recognizing this need among our students."

For Omolola Oloniyo, PharmD '24, receiving Barnett's \$5,000 scholarship in her final year of pharmacy school was a godsend. "As a single parent, I face the challenge of having time to study, pass my courses, and still be a parent 100 percent of the time," she says.

Oloniyo, who plans to continue her studies in regulatory science and data analysis after earning her PharmD, notes that Barnett's scholarship has helped diminish the emotional stress of her burgeoning student loan debt.

"Many of us have student loans that will take years to pay," she says. "This scholarship relieved me of some of the financial burden that student loans have on so many individuals who want to further their education." 🌟



Brian Hose

Embracing Pharmacy as a Community

BY CHRISTIANNA MCCAUSLAND

For Brian Hose, PharmD '06, a career in independent community pharmacy was decided by a simple interaction between a pharmacist and a family member.

"My grandfather was getting older and having some health issues. A local pharmacist went out of his way to put him in touch with Veterans Affairs to make sure he could get his prescriptions at a much more reasonable rate; otherwise he couldn't afford them," Hose explains. "It really opened my eyes to the impact a person like that could have on a community and an individual."

That "light bulb" moment set Hose on a path not only to pharmacy school but to a career-long commitment to independent community pharmacy. As a student at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, Hose realized he wanted to be an independent community pharmacy owner. Relationships he built with owners through the School's student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association helped him move toward that goal. After working for two years following graduation, he purchased Sharpsburg Pharmacy in 2008 where he continues to model the positive practices of his mentors.

"The best independent owners put their community and its needs first," he says. "As long as you try to focus on benefits for patients it's easy for the community to support you and help you grow that business."

Hose has been an advocate for his profession, chairing the Maryland Pharmacy Coalition and holding many positions with the Maryland Pharmacists Association, including president. He's also a past president of the School of Pharmacy's Alumni Association and has been active lobbying for legislation to advance pharmacy

practice, starting early in his career advocating for immunization authority. He received special training in diabetes counseling from the School's P³ Program and has been certified to provide vaccinations in Maryland since 2006. More recently, his legislative agenda has focused on pharmacy benefit management (PBM) reform.

EPIC Rx is one of the nation's largest Pharmacy Services Administrative Organizations and buying groups and is owned and operated by its members. As both a pharmacy owner through EPIC Rx since 2008 and an active participant in professional associations, Hose naturally gravitated to EPIC Rx's political action committee, which he eventually ran before serving on EPIC's board of directors. In 2022, he became EPIC Rx's president and CEO, a full-time post.

He splits his time between EPIC's headquarters near Richmond, Va., and his pharmacy in Maryland, which his team of pharmacists and technicians keep running smoothly. Hose says the opportunity to oversee EPIC allows him to make a bigger impact on community pharmacy than he could from his home pharmacy in Sharpsburg. "This is a way to influence a hundred communities or a thousand instead of just one."

Hose states that in addition to "a world-class education," the School of Pharmacy helped give him confidence to seek bigger and more involved roles after graduating. "The leadership experience I got at the School early on is really what separated me from working at a pharmacy to being a leader within pharmacy," he says, noting that he was president of the School's Student Government Association and worked with numerous organizations and committees. "Each student organization is a tiny incubator for a leader."

Hose's leadership capabilities and the many relationships he's built through professional organizations are proving worthwhile as he tackles the challenges that face independent community pharmacies. A small number of vertically integrated companies control a large share of the market, but with PBM reform and the natural resiliency of the industry, Hose is hopeful for the future.

"Often, when you are calling the pharmacy, you are having the worst day of your life; you don't want to be another number that gets told you have to come back in 48 hours," he says. "The personalized service at independent community pharmacies is what you would want for your mother, your grandmother, or another family member, especially when the question is one that could be life or death." ☀

School Thanks David Stewart Associates Society Members

The School of Pharmacy hosted its annual event on May 21 for members of the David Stewart Associates (DSA) Society, the School's recognition society for leadership level giving by individuals. The DSA Society was founded in the mid-1980s in honor of David Stewart, the nation's first professor of pharmacy and one of the School of Pharmacy's founders. Members of this prestigious group recognize the importance of sustained leadership giving to provide a solid base of private support and ensure the School's continued prominence. Members make an annual gift to the School of \$1,000 or more. More than half of the students attending the School of Pharmacy receive scholarship support thanks to the philanthropic contributions of individuals, including DSA Society members.



From left: Daniel Mansour, PharmD '06, MS '24; Dean Sarah L.J. Michel; Terry Gyi, BSP '83, PharmD '06; Ariana Murgor; and James Nolan.



From left: Shane Ceraul; Rebecca Ceraul; Lisa Lebovitz, MS '21; and Richard Lebovitz.



From left: Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD '83; Julia Slejko; Jan Sieluk, PhD '18; Eberechukwu Onukwugha; C. Daniel Mullins; and Kirk Simmons.



From left: Paul Shapiro, Ellen H. Yankellow, BSP '73, PharmD '96; Yale Caplan, BSP '63, PhD '68; and Susan Kim.

In Memoriam

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy honors the lives and memories of the following alumni who passed away between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. We are grateful to each of these alumni for the lasting impact that they made on the School community and the advances they achieved in education, research, or practice.

Reisel Berger, PharmD '11
Curtis A. Bowen, BSP '56
Michael P. Burns, BSP '76
Alvin H. Burwell, PharmD '99
Joanna Crosby, MS '22
Marsha M. Dudding, BSP '71
Joanne S. Enterline, BSP '55
Julian M. Friedman, BSP '56
Paul L. Goldstein, BSP '53

Lionel H. Jacobs, BSP '68
Edward G. Kern, BSP '69
Michael J. Kopcho, MS '62
Norman J. Kronberg, BSP '58
Pamela M. Lappen, BSP '69
Richard L. Mainzer, BSP '79
Jeanmarie A. Modresky,
PharmD '06
Thomas M. Penn, BSP '59

Marvin S. Platt, BSP '51
David H. Rochlin, BSP '69
Leon Rosen, BSP '62
Sanford L. Rosenbloom, BSP '57
Herbert A. Sachs, BSP '59
Walter H. Sachs, BSP '56
Sandra R. Schapiro, BSP '77
David J. Seff, BSP '55
John C. Sentman, BSP '77

Thomas S. Shelor, BSP '74
Alan Sherman, BSP '58
John C. Smith, BSP '76
Alex M. Taylor, BSP '76
Vicki P. Townley, BSP '93
Phillip P. Weiner, PharmD '96,
BSP '61
Warren G. Zerwitz, BSP '61
Reid A. Zimmer, BSP '63

If you would like to make a memorial gift, please use the enclosed giving envelope or call 410-706-5893.

A Message from Alumni Affairs



Greer Griffith

Building and cultivating a robust community that connects alumni to the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP) as well as to each other for professional opportunities is an important goal for the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs. As an alumnus, you are invited to join RxIntersect, an online professional networking platform, exclusive to the UMSOP community.

RxIntersect is a place where everyone receives help navigating college to career — no matter who you do or don't know. This is your chance to connect and learn from other UMSOP alumni who are eager to help with your professional journey.

Curious how RxIntersect can benefit you in your job search? The platform at rxintersect.umaryland.edu features tools to match your interests to jobs and helps you understand what the day-to-day looks like in a particular position.

Are you more established in your career? Use the site to network, learn, and connect with others as you move through your professional odyssey.

We are excited to offer RxIntersect to our wonderful alumni for expanding your network, furthering your career, and connecting with former classmates and friends. As always, if you have any questions about the site or need help accessing it, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Warmly,

Greer Griffith, MS
Executive Director, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs
410-706-5893 | ggriffith@rx.umaryland.edu

2024-2025 Alumni Association Council

Sadhna Khatri, PharmD '00
President

Teertha Umesh, MS '23
President-elect

Catherine Cooke, MS '18
Past president

Janet Edwards, MS '21
Secretary

Shankia Mardenborough, MS '21
Treasurer

Members at Large

James Bresette, PharmD '97
Sandy Rhie, PharmD '03
Rachel Shelton, PharmD '22
Jan Sieluk, PhD '18
Hoai-An Truong, PharmD '05

Class Notes

1986

Mark Ey, BSP, has been named senior vice president and chief operating officer at the National Community Pharmacists Association.

1997

Gina McKnight-Smith, PharmD, MS '23, started a new position as director of medical payer strategies in immunology-dermatology at AbbVie.

2008

Mathilda Fienkeng, PharmD, MS '18, has been appointed captain in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service.

2010

Brian Ellsworth, PharmD, started a new position as director of pharmacy at San Francisco Health Plan.

2012

Marci Strauss, PharmD, started a new role as manager of clinical operations at Pharmacy First.

Neal Vasist, PharmD, started a new position as clinical pharmacy specialist in population health at Sentara Health.

2013

Diwura Odukoya, PharmD, started a new position as principal medical science liaison at Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine.

2015

Paula Campbell, PharmD, started a new position as pharmacy manager at AbsoluteCare.

Brandon Keith, PharmD, is now manager of specialty and clinical pharmacy services with George Washington Medical Faculty Associates and has been appointed to

the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Section of Specialty Pharmacy Practitioners Advisory Group on Operational and Workforce Development for the 2024-2025 term.

Monet Stanford, PharmD, obtained a certificate in public policy from The Wharton School and has been appointed as the Ward 8 representative to the District of Columbia Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Alex Wiggall, PharmD, has been promoted to associate vice president of pharmacy and clinical solutions at HealthCare Partners, New York.

2016

Bilal Khokhar, PhD, was promoted to director of safety pharmacoepidemiology at Takeda.

Mary Li, PharmD, started a new position as senior director and program lead clinical scientist at Kite Pharma.

Salin Nhean, PharmD, started a new position as infectious diseases clinical pharmacy coordinator at Chase Brexton Health Care.

2017

Zemen Habtemariam, PharmD, obtained certification as a HIV Prevention Certified Provider from HealthHIV.

2018

Lynn Kayali, PharmD, has been named medical director of lung cancer at AstraZeneca.

Belinda Tamrakar, PharmD, started a new position as a visiting scientist fellow in regulatory affairs, advertising and promotion at Eli Lilly and Co.

Mudit Verma, PharmD, started a new position as a senior medical writer at CRISPR Therapeutics.

2019

Laura Curd, MS, started a new position as director of pharmacometrics at Crinetics.

2021

C. Sheree Almonte, MS, received a MS in clinical psychopharmacology from the Chicago School and started a new position as a resident intern at Spring Grove Hospital Center.

Jacquie Cohen Roth, MS, was honored by the *Baltimore Business Journal* as a 2024 Leader in Diversity.

2022

Piper Lindeen, MS, started a new position as a filmmaker at Potbound, LLC.

2023

Jessica Lewis, MS, was elected to the Executive Committee of the Minority Cannabis Business Association and will serve as the association's secretary.



Ken Boyden

Best Laid Plans

“Just because you made a good plan doesn’t mean that’s what’s gonna happen.”

— Taylor Swift

Our work in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs is particularly rewarding when a donor tells the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy that they are ready to make a gift. If planned gifts or bequests are involved, we work with the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Office of Planned Giving to set up an additional level of documentation that routes donations according to how the donor envisions their legacy.

We particularly enjoy the service our office happily provides as we work to translate the wishes of the donor into a document that will administer their gift for generations of School of Pharmacy students to come. For example, looking at bequest gift documentation, we truly see what a tremendous impact scholarship gifts have and how donors’ giving will benefit our current and future students. It is a privilege to be a part of the professional team that ensures that each generous gift to the School of Pharmacy will make the intended meaningful impact on many students in the future.

Gratefully,

Ken Boyden, JD, EdD

Associate Dean, Office of Development and Alumni Affairs

410-706-4415 | kboyden@rx.umaryland.edu

How a Planned Gift Is Processed at the School of Pharmacy

When the School receives an estate gift, we coordinate with the donor or a representative to handle the transition of funds, which are sent to the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. (UMBF) either by wire, check, or securities. In the case of securities, UMBF handles their liquidation. Contributions are moved directly into the fund that the donor’s estate indicates they’ve chosen to support. Often, the donor specifies that the funds are for general support of the School of Pharmacy. In those cases, funds will be classified as unrestricted and applied to the School’s most pressing needs. The Office of Development and Alumni Affairs and the UMB Foundation coordinate to make sure that these gifts are handled carefully, appropriately, and thoughtfully.

What are the benefits of sharing information about a bequest intention with the School of Pharmacy?

The benefit of sharing the details of an estate gift with the School in advance is that we can help to best articulate your goals and ensure a legacy that will live on at the School of Pharmacy. We sometimes run into issues when a donor has quietly left a specific directive in their will that is difficult to accommodate, like support for an academic area that has merged with another or for a program that no longer exists. If donors are willing to share their intentions with us while they are preparing their estate plans, we can provide language for their documents that will address the areas they hope to support but also allows for flexibility as the School of Pharmacy evolves over time.

Why are planned gifts important to the School of Pharmacy?

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is a national leader in pharmacy education in part because our alumni and friends have generously supported our mission. Planned gifts have been and continue to be a major source of that support. When someone makes a planned gift to the School of Pharmacy, they also entrust us with their legacy. We are truly inspired and honored to help make a donor’s gift of a lifetime become a part of the School’s future.

Learn more about planned giving by contacting the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy’s Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at kboyden@rx.umaryland.edu or 410-706-4415 with any questions about supporting the School’s students, faculty, research, practice, community service, and Pharmapreneurship®.



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Congratulations

View more photos



to all the graduates of the School of Pharmacy's
PharmD, PhD, and MS Classes of 2024!

