

Maryland Mentor

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

Fall 2019

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From the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning

Dear preceptors,

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is embarking on two large initiatives in the upcoming year. The first is development of a new strategic plan to identify key priorities in our mission areas of education, research, practice, pharmapreneurship, and community engagement.



The second is the self-study for reaccreditation of the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program. Self-study offers an opportunity to thoroughly review our PharmD program and engage our faculty, including our preceptors, in conversations about the program and other aspects of the School. The goals are to ensure ongoing compliance with our accreditation standards as well as actively participate in continuous quality improvement.

Preceptor involvement is vital to both of these initiatives. They cannot be successful without your input, thoughtful suggestions, and honest appraisal of the School. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to me.

Finally, the APPE Fair in September was a huge success with record participation from students as well as sites. The event offers an opportunity for sites to showcase their rotations and for students to engage with their future preceptors. I sincerely appreciate all those who represented their sites and gave their time to supporting our students.

Sincerely,

Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, BCPS
Assistant Dean, Experiential Learning Program
Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science
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Produced by:

What the ELP Office Needs from Preceptors

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

- Submitting all required midterm and final evaluations by their due dates
- Submitting an W9 form if you are able to accept honorarium payments
- Entering your site requirements in CORE ELMS by clicking "My Requirements"
- Reading all emails that come from the School via CORE ELMS
- Completing two hours of preceptor development each year
- Providing a brief description in your preceptor profile in CORE ELMS by clicking "Profile Information," then "Description"

Library Access

One of the many benefits of being a School of Pharmacy preceptor is having offsite access to Facts and Comparisons Online and Micromedex only through the University's Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL). Access is limited to School of Pharmacy preceptors who are scheduled to take a student for at least one block in the 2019-2020 academic year. If you would like to take advantage of this benefit, please contact LaTia Few at Lfew@rx.umaryland.edu for more details.

Preceptor Availability

We are asking all IPPE 100 preceptors to submit their availability to precept students for the one week IPPE 100 rotation (May 11-15, 2020). Availability may be entered into CORE ELMS until Oct. 25.

Availability submissions for IPPE 300, 307, and APPE rotations are open until Jan. 10.

Should you have any questions about entering your availability, please contact Nate Thomas at nathaniel.thomas@rx.umaryland.edu.

Student Rotation News

George Limen, fourth-year student pharmacist, participated in a valuable rotation experience in Italy in the chemotherapy compounding lab at the Ancona Regional Hospital Pharmacy. Here is what George had to share about his rotation.

"One of the reasons I applied for an international rotation was to find out if the knowledge I gained locally can be applied outside of the United States. I do not speak Italian, and I feared language would be a barrier, but my interest in learning about different health systems and pharmacy practice was stronger than my fears.

Some of the unique experiences I had during my rotation in Italy included preparing capsules and eye drops and using the APOTECA robot to compound chemotherapy. I also had the opportunity to experience another health care system, and I now have a better idea of how a nationalized system works – at least from the pharmacy practice lens.

My preceptor and most of the pharmacists spoke English, so communication was never an issue. The language of medicine is the same all over the world. Worthy of mention is the hospitality I enjoyed throughout my five weeks in Italy. I would apply for this rotation if I were to start all over again."



Annual APPE Fair

The fall semester is well underway, and the ELP Office held its annual Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Fair on Sept. 23. The fair provides an opportunity for preceptors and sites to highlight the opportunities for students as they prepare for their fourth year rotations. More than 20 health care groups covering a range of rotation experiences, such as community pharmacy (both independent and chain), health-system pharmacy, clinical research, managed care pharmacy, and the pharmaceutical industry exhibited at this year's fair. Nearly 40 preceptors were on hand to speak to the approximately 75 students who attended.

Students and preceptors were treated to hors d'oeuvres before opening the booths for the show. Once the floor was open, traffic flow was brisk as students went from table to table to gather information about rotations. The students seemed highly motivated and engaged in lengthy dialogs with the preceptors. Comments from preceptors and students indicated that both groups enjoyed the interactions.

New to the fair this year was a prize raffle. Students and preceptors were given a ticket upon checking in at the registration desk. Later in the evening, ELP staff drew three winning tickets for both preceptors and students. The winning preceptors received several University of Maryland School of Pharmacy branded items, such as coffee cups, sweatshirts, and business card holders. The students whose tickets were drawn will be allowed to select their Ambulatory Care rotation block, site, and preceptor instead of having to wait for the scheduling lottery to be assigned that rotation.

The APPE Fair is an increasingly popular and beneficial event for students, preceptors, and sites. Plans are in the making for next year's program. If your site is interested in exhibiting at next year's APPE Fair, please contact LaTia Few at lfew@rx.umaryland.edu.

Preceptor News

O'Neal Malcolm, PharmD, DrPH, PAHM, BCPS, BCGP, CHES, clinical pharmacy specialist and transitional care coordinator at the University of Maryland Medical Center, was the keynote speaker at the Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica's 34th Annual Pharmaceutical Conference in September. It is one of the largest international conferences in the Caribbean.

Katy Pincus, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, has been promoted to associate professor of pharmacy practice and science at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. She is also director of the PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program.

Cardinal Health Specialty Pharmacy has been acquired by BioMatrix Specialty Pharmacy and is now called **BioMatrix Specialty Pharmacy of Maryland**. It continues to concentrate on oncology, neurology, immunologics and has added transplant drugs. It continues to contribute to Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) research and managed care pharmacy education.

We welcome the following newly appointed preceptors:

- Abigail Russell
- Behnam Kamrad
- Bijan Bandani
- Colleen Whyte
- Daniel Williams
- Iliamari Plaza Rodriguez
- Kevin Mrohs
- Kevin Loh
- Kristen Dominick
- LaTasha Riddick
- Lisa Hutchins
- Lisa Deal
- Mahya Hajghassem
- Meghan Rowcliffe
- Neha Mangini
- Sarah Fillman
- Songyi Krasulski
- Tsz Chan
- Vy Nguyen

Instructor Insights

Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Pharmacy Students use a Team Approach to Save Patients' Lives

By Joanna Lyon, PharmD, BCGP

There is nothing more fulfilling in a health care system than to see a well-functioning interdisciplinary approach to patient care. When this collaborative model is working well, each member of the health care team is able to contribute in a meaningful way. It is particularly rewarding when fourth-year pharmacy students on rotation are able to step into this model and make meaningful contributions that improve patient outcomes. Recently, two rotational students not only assisted with patient care, but helped save their patients' lives.

Danielle Reeves was on her second APPE rotational block at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry's Special Care and Geriatrics Clinic when she realized just how instrumental she could be in a team approach to patient care. During this rotation, she worked with her preceptor, Sydnee Chavis, DMD, clinical instructor, dental student Logan Monighan, and social work student Marisa Barnett. This interdisciplinary team collaborated to coordinate care for patients at the clinic by addressing barriers to patient care and treatment. One diabetic patient who had low health literacy and confusion about his medications presented to the clinic for a dental evaluation. Danielle performed a medication reconciliation and determined that the patient's 40 units of Lantus insulin three times a day in combination with his Lispro insulin 15 units twice a day was too aggressive for the treatment of his diabetes. She reported her concern to the team and suggested monitoring the current blood glucose level.

The patient had a dangerously low blood glucose level of 58 mg/dl and was presenting with symptoms of hypoglycemia. The team quickly treated his low blood sugar. Danielle then educated this patient about signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia and suggested a less aggressive insulin regimen until a physician could follow up with the patient. In addition, the dental student suggested delaying the dental work until the patient was more stable with this medication therapy, and the social work student contacted a provider to follow up with medication adjustment and management.

As a team, the three students, with their preceptor, were able to provide an immediate intervention for the patient's dangerously low blood sugar, as well as set up a system for education and monitoring to help prevent a recurrence.

Benjamin Shin is another fourth year APPE rotational student who collaborated with a health care team to protect the health of a patient in a dramatic way. On his fourth rotation at the Weinberg Oncology Pharmacy at John Hopkins Hospital with preceptor Matthew Walbrow, PharmD, clinical pharmacist, Benjamin was performing patient discharge education on a medication when he decided he needed to call the medical team into action. When he entered one patient's room, he first thought the patient was sleeping, yet her odd "hiccupping" behavior concerned him. Instead of leaving until the patient woke up, Benjamin made several efforts to communicate with the patient to check on her health status. He felt clinically concerned that he might be witnessing a dangerous level of central nervous system depression. When all of his efforts to awaken the patient failed, he communicated his concern to the patient's nurse and stressed that the patient needed immediate care due to her unresponsive condition. A code blue was called, and the full health care team was able to revive the patient. It was determined that the patient had secretly taken dangerous levels of street drugs right before Benjamin had entered the room. Benjamin's willingness to apply what he had learned about substance abuse and central nervous system depression, and his ability to work as a team in an emergent situation helped save the life of his patient.

The role of interdisciplinary communication and collaboration is well documented in the health care setting, but the addition of well-trained pharmacy students to this team setting has already produced lifesaving outcomes for two patients during this year's pharmacy APPE rotations.

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