From the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning

Happy summer! And welcome to the approximately 70 new preceptors who have joined us over the last few months. You bring our preceptor pool to more than 1,000 pharmacists and professionals who host our pharmacy students on their required rotations. We thank each of you for your willingness to serve and to mentor the next generation of pharmacy practitioners. Your dedication makes our students very competitive in the workplace.

This is my final edition of *Maryland Mentor* in my capacity as assistant dean for experiential learning at the School of Pharmacy. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve the School of Pharmacy and our wonderful preceptors, and I appreciate all of your well wishes as I transition to the next phase of my career. Until a new assistant dean is named, Mark Brueckl, RPh, our assistant director for ELP, will be your point of contact for questions, concerns, and suggestions.

Thank you again for all the well wishes and kind words.

Warm regards,

Toyin Tofade, MS, PharmD, BCPS, CPCC
Assistant Dean, Experiential Learning Program
Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science

ELP Assistant Director Named University Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Mark Brueckl, RPh, MBA, assistant director of experiential learning (ELP), on being named the University of Maryland, Baltimore Employee of the Month for April. Mark was nominated for his outstanding efforts in visiting student rotation sites and for being a remarkable ambassador for the School with our preceptors. Since arriving at the School in February 2014, Mark has conducted 250 site visits. His familiarity with ELP’s customers has increased the office’s ability to provide exceptional service and has triggered an increase in preceptor capacity. [Click here to read](#) about Mark’s honor and join us in congratulating him.
The Importance of Submitting a Signed FERPA Form

To be in compliance with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), the ELP Office must have a signed FERPA training form on file for all preceptors. We recently moved to a new electronic form process. If you have not completed your FERPA training, please do the following:

» Login to RXpreceptor
» Click “My Requirements” on the left menu
» Click the “Edit” button where it says “FERPA Training & Signature Form”
» Under “Completed Forms,” use the drop-down box to click “FERPA Training for RXpreceptor Access” and then the “Open New Form” button. The FERPA Training for RXpreceptor Access electronic form will appear.
» Click the “FERPA Training” hyperlink to review the Power Point presentation
» To review the “UMB Policy and Confidentiality and Student Records,” click the hyperlink http://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionIII/III630.html.
» Click “Yes” from the drop-down box that says “I confirm that I agree to the information stated above.”
» Click “Save Changes” and then “Submit”

NEW Honorarium Payment Policy

Honorarium payments are processed annually in May for rotation assignments that took place between May 1 of the previous year and April 30 of the current year.

In order to process preceptor honorarium payments, we must have the following information on file by April 30 or the last Friday in April:

» SSN (Please note: if you have previously received honorarium payments, we most likely already have your SSN on file)
» Home Address (noted as “Secondary Address” in RXpreceptor)

A message will be sent to preceptors via the “Messaging Center” in RXpreceptor or before March 31 as a reminder to update your secondary (home) address in RXpreceptor.

We will reach out to preceptors via email only if we do not have a SSN on file. All missing information must be submitted by April 30 or the last Friday of April or the honorarium payment will not be processed for the academic year. Preceptors who have missing information in their profiles will forgo their honorarium payments for that year.

If you have any questions, please contact LaTia Few at lfew@rx.umaryland.edu.

Viewing Aggregate Student Evaluations

Preceptors are able to view an aggregate report of preceptor evaluations by students in RXpreceptor. All evaluations completed up to May 31, 2016 are included in the report. All data is presented in aggregate and anonymized. Note: Preceptors must have precepted at least two students to view the report.

The instructions follow:
1. Log into RXpreceptor.
2. Click on “Reporting.”
3. Click on “RUN” next to the list of dates that are included on the report.
4. Select the evaluation type from the drop-down list.
5. Aggregate scores for each question in the evaluation will be shown.

What the ELP Office Needs from Preceptors

One of the benefits of being a School of Pharmacy preceptor is having offsite access to Facts and Comparisons Online and Micromedex from the University’s Health Sciences and Human Services Library. Access is limited to School of Pharmacy preceptors who are scheduled to take a student for at least one block in the 2016-2017 term. If you have questions, please contact Alexis Mayo at amayo@hshs.umaryland.edu or 410-706-1316.

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The Importance of Completing Evaluations in a Timely Manner

Didactic education is the preferred method to provide students with the clinical knowledge of medications and their use, and student pharmacists have three years of courses designed to provide such a knowledge base. However, it is only through experiential learning that students understand how the use of those medications affects each individual. Experiential learning is also the best method to teach our students how to practice the profession of pharmacy in the multiple sites and roles in which pharmacists work. Students look to preceptors to impart their knowledge and experience during these rotations.

A critical part of the experiential learning experience is feedback to the student. Both formative and summative feedback should be provided. Formative feedback is usually verbal and provided at the time of the learning activity, for example, providing comments on a student’s presentation upon its completion. With such feedback, the student learns immediately what went well and those areas in which he or she needs to improve.

Summative feedback is more formalized and is usually in the form of an evaluation. Both the mid-point and final evaluations are summative in nature and are essential to both
student and preceptor as tools to judge how well the student is learning during the rotation. Preceptors should complete these evaluations in a timely manner. Students require feedback to learn, and the mid-point evaluation is one way to provide summative feedback on how he or she has progressed at the mid-point of the rotation. It can also be used to highlight areas in which the student needs to improve and to acknowledge those areas in which the student is proficient or excels. The mid-point evaluation is especially critical if the student is underperforming and may be in danger of failing the rotation. In such cases, the course manager, preceptor, and student use the mid-point evaluation to develop an action plan that will assist the student by focusing on those areas necessary to pass the rotation.

The final evaluation is equally, if not more important. First, a student’s grade for the rotation is based on the final evaluation. If a final evaluation is not completed, the School is unable to post the student’s grades for the course/rotation. Second, many students applying for residency and fellowship programs need to submit their grades from rotations along with their application. Students may miss out on residency and fellowship opportunities if evaluations are not completed on time. Thus, the student may not be considered for the residency or fellowship program as incomplete applications are not reviewed by residency and fellowship programs. Third, students depend on these evaluations to take the lessons learned from one rotation and the final evaluation is one method to provide such a foundation.

We ask that all preceptors complete both mid-point and final evaluations in a timely manner. Ideally, both should be completed face-to-face with the student. We understand that it is not always possible to complete the evaluations in such a fashion. If you are not able to complete the final evaluation on the student’s last day, we ask that you complete it within seven days of the completion of the rotation. When evaluations are completed on time, students are happy, they receive the feedback they require, and it brings closure to the rotation experience.

We thank you for everything that you do for our students. Without guidance from preceptors, we would not be able to provide the high quality pharmacy education that our students desire and deserve.

Puerto Rico Exchange Student Rotation

In the spring semester, the School of Pharmacy was pleased to welcome a student pharmacist from the University of Puerto Rico who did a rotation at the University of Maryland Medical Center with Jill Morgan, PharmD, BCPPS, BCPS, professor and chair of pharmacy practice and science at the School.

Keep Your Information Current

The ELP Office reminds preceptors to keep their contact information updated in RXpreceptor. The ELP staff use this information as the primary method of contact for you as preceptors. If we are unable to contact you, you may lose opportunities to precept students or miss important information about the Experiential Learning Program.

Should you change positions within your organization, or take a new position with a different organization and are temporarily unable to precept students, please let us know. Should you once again be in a position to precept students, you can then contact us and have your status reinstated as active.

Also, make sure to update your site information. This is especially important if you change locations. However, in order to attract more students to your site, market your site using the site description feature in RXpreceptor. Highlight the special services that your site offers. Emphasize relationships with medical practices, hospitals, assisted living facilities, etc.

Remember, the more appealing a site is to students, the greater the chance that students will choose your site for a rotation. You can easily log into RXpreceptor and enter the updated information. If you have questions about access to RXpreceptor or need assistance in updating your information, contact the ELP Office at elp@rx.umaryland.edu.

Pharmacist’s Letter National Preceptor Network

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy has joined the Preceptor Training & Resource Network from the Pharmacist’s Letter. The preceptor network provides a wide array of resources for preceptor training and building effective rotations, such as:

- Preceptor CE (home-study courses and live webinars)
- Sample student syllabi, activities, assignments, and schedules
- Targeted professionalism, patient safety, and practice-based teaching resources
- PL Journal Club - teaching tools for Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences
- Pharmacy 101 - teaching tools for Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences
- Preceptors Interact - preceptor discussion board

All of these tools are provided at no cost to our preceptors. We urge all of our preceptors to take advantage of this tool. To set up your University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Preceptor CE ID number, click on the following link: www.pharmacistletter.com/?referer=uomdsop%2Fptrn.

If you already have access to the Pharmacist’s Letter, it is important that you follow the link above to log in. This will ensure that Preceptor Training CE and other tools included in Preceptor Training & Resource Network will be added to your subscription.

- Click on the above URL. Login with your user name and password.

If you do not already have access to the Pharmacist’s Letter, you need to set up a University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Preceptor CE ID number. Your CE ID number will be automatically created, and you’ll be able to use it from any internet-connected computer to access the Preceptor Training & Resource Network.

- Click “I’m new to Pharmacist’s Letter - sign me up for Preceptor CE and Resources!” on the left and complete the form to obtain your CE ID number instantly.

- Once you have set up your access, return to www.pharmacistletter.com/?referer=uomdsop%2Fptrn, enter your login information on the right side, and click Login.

We are pleased to be able to provide these additional tools to assist our preceptors as you provide the excellent educational opportunities that our students need to become pharmacists.