

# Maryland Mentor

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

Summer 2020

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## From the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning

Dear preceptors,

It has certainly been a very strange and hectic last few months. A key priority of the Office of Experiential Learning in the latter part of the spring semester when the COVID-19 pandemic hit was meeting the required APPE hours so the Class of 2020 could graduate on time. I am happy to report that we, with lots of help from you, were able to provide the experiences necessary to fulfill the accreditation requirements. The Class of 2020 graduated in May, albeit in a very different ceremony than in the past.



All pharmacy schools in Maryland delayed the 2020-2021 APPE calendar until late June in an effort to allow preceptors to reset and recover after several very stressful months. Students have since completed their first rotations and are very thankful to be gaining real world experience. Our office sincerely appreciates the flexibility that both our preceptors and students have demonstrated this summer. Site and preceptor availability have been fluid and change frequently as the situation with COVID-19 evolves. Many rotation schedule adjustments have been made, often with very little lead time, to ensure that students receive the required number of experiential hours. Thank you for accommodating these requests for student placement.

While the School of Pharmacy has decided to provide didactic courses virtually for the fall semester, we are preparing to continue on-site, remote, and hybrid approaches to APPEs and IPPEs during the fall and early winter. Because of the compressed summer rotation calendar, there are additional opportunities to take IPPE students for the community experience during a new winter block, which is scheduled to occur Dec. 14, 2020-Jan. 15, 2021. If you have an interest in hosting students for IPPEs in the winter for either health-system or community experiences, please contact our [office](#).

Our accreditation body is allowing for "creative" approaches to experiential learning as we navigate this pandemic. Many of our rotations are being conducted virtually, and often, patient care is being provided using telehealth technologies. If you have instituted a new way of precepting as a result of our new practice environment that is working well, please contact [me](#). I am very interested in sharing best practices with our entire team of preceptors.

Finally, thank you from the entire ELP team for all that you are doing on the front lines. We know that you are working tirelessly and in unprecedented circumstances to care for patients all over the state and beyond. During these times, we are especially grateful for your continued dedication to mentoring our future pharmacists.

Sincerely,

Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, BCPS  
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## 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”

## Preceptor News

**David L. Ngo, PharmD, BCPS**, chief executive officer of Metis Health and pharmacy informaticist at MedStar Montgomery Medical Center, has been selected as an Expert Advisor for US Pharmacopeia (USP) in Health Information and Technology.

## APPE Fair

The fall semester will soon be underway, and the ELP Office will once again sponsor the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Fair. The APPE Fair is an increasingly popular and beneficial event for students, preceptors, and sites. The fair provides an opportunity for preceptors and sites to highlight the opportunities for students as they prepare for their fourth-year rotations.

Because of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s APPE Fair will be a virtual event, held on Sept. 21, 22, and 23, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. each night. Our plans include a theme for each evening’s presentations:

- Sept. 21 - health-system and clinical track rotations
- Sept. 22 - community pharmacy rotations
- Sept. 24 - specialized rotations

Preceptors will be allotted five minutes to present information about their site and rotations, with an additional five minutes for questions from the students.

We will still have the prize raffle for students and preceptors. Preceptors have the chance to win several University of Maryland School of Pharmacy branded items, such as coffee cups, sweatshirts, and business card holders. Students will be allowed to select their Ambulatory Care rotation block, site, and preceptor instead of waiting for the scheduling lottery to be assigned that rotation.

If you are interested in exhibiting at this year’s APPE Fair, please contact LaTia Few at [lfew@rx.umaryland.edu](mailto:lfew@rx.umaryland.edu).

## 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 current academic year. If you would like to take advantage of this benefit, please contact LaTia Few at [lfew@rx.umaryland.edu](mailto:lfew@rx.umaryland.edu) for more details.

## We welcome the following newly appointed preceptors:

- Amanda Eisenschmid
- Anuj Desai
- Aretha Chum
- Avani Arora
- Chelsea Carr
- Christopher Miller
- Christopher Smith
- Deborah Jorgensen
- Deekshith Kumar
- Elizabeth Goswami
- Emilija Miljkovic Renke
- Erna Groat
- Evelyne Ntam
- Gregory Koopman
- Heta Sheth
- James Blackmer
- Jamie Ziggas
- Jennifer Donato
- Juliana Shanton
- Kimberly Pietropola
- Kin Sang Lam (Jason)
- Kortney Morrell
- Linda Wright
- Lisa Ruppel
- Mary (Katie) Goodell
- Michael Smith
- Nicole Bartell
- Olamide Banjo
- Quan Tran
- Rivkah Lowenstein
- Ruth Chi
- Sarah Benner
- Sophia Pathan
- Teresa Ramson
- Tricia Schneider
- Truong-Vinh Phung
- Victoria Zhu
- Yajun Tu
- Zarouhi Vartanian Hajinian

## Instructor Insights

### **Preceptor Spotlight: Caitlin Dowd-Green, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacy Specialist – Johns Hopkins Specialty Clinics**

*By Joanna Lyon, PharmD, BCGP, MEd, MHS*

Pharmacists who take the responsibility to precept University of Maryland students are a highly valued component of the School of Pharmacy curriculum. Recently, these preceptors have become even more important role models as the pharmacy profession struggles to navigate workplace changes necessitated by COVID-19. When a preceptor continues to not only accept students during this difficult time, but actively incorporates them into the changing workflow, these students receive critical and relevant onsite training.

Caitlin Dowd-Green, PharmD, a clinical pharmacy specialist at the Johns Hopkins After Care Clinic and Hematology AC Clinic, is an example of how a pharmacist preceptor can successfully adapt a worksite and use innovation to involve students during the pandemic.

When I spoke with Dr. Dowd-Green about the challenges facing her practice as she has had to modify to comply with COVID-19 safety measures, I was impressed with her innovative solutions as she focused on effectively serving her at-risk population. In addition to the increased workload she and her team have faced, she still recently chose to concurrently mentor and incorporate Brian Crossley's P4 Ambulatory Care block.

During this five-week rotation, much of the patient contact was moved to a virtual setting. This was particularly difficult for the After Care Clinic since this patient population often requires more frequent outreach to remain compliant. Dr. Dowd-Green utilized Microsoft Teams in a novel way to help solve some of these issues. Through this platform, she was able to mentor Brian as he conducted telemedicine appointments with patients post discharge. Using an ongoing private chat, Dr. Dowd-Green supervised Brian and directed his virtual patient consultations remotely. In this manner, Brian received personal instruction and direction as he gave each patient high-level care.

Both Brian and Dr. Dowd-Green were very pleased at how well the virtual component has worked for this clinic. Brian felt the freedom to reach out to patients with appropriate guidance, and Dr. Dowd-Green discussed how this consistent phone outreach actually helped increase compliance in a subset of their patients who can sometimes slip through the cracks after discharge. Brian also noted that many of the highest risk patients he spoke with lacked transportation, making his virtual correspondence the best and sometimes only way to communicate.

It was clear in our conversation that Dr. Dowd-Green enjoys precepting her students. She feels that she is positively contributing to the student's future, and this will ultimately advance the entire pharmacy profession. She had a glowing review of her time working with Brian. She expressed how much he positively assisted with the virtual workflow during his rotation. Brian also thoroughly enjoyed the collaborative experience and appreciated the relevant guidance and training he received.

As the profession of pharmacy navigates this difficult COVID-19 time period, dedicated and innovative preceptors such as Dr. Dowd-Green, who can utilize technology platforms in a novel manner and incorporate pharmacy students in this process, provide a vital component of student education and training that ultimately will help advance pharmaceutical care and processes as these students graduate and enter the workforce.

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