

PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC)

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Please join faculty and staff at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in congratulating the members of our PhD in PSC Class of 2021.

These individuals have dedicated their studies to understanding the mechanisms behind drug discovery and development and are now prepared to embark on rewarding careers across academia, government, and industry.

PLEASE NOTE: The information provided below was self-submitted by members of the Class of 2021. The School of Pharmacy has made every effort to provide a complete and accurate listing of Class of 2021 spring graduates and their awards and honors. If we have made an error or omission, please accept our sincere apology and contact the Office of Communications and Marketing at marketing@rx.umaryland.edu so that we may correct this website.



MEET THE GRADUATES



JOEL BRANDIS

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisor: Sarah Michel, PhD

"To get a PhD, one must zinc outside the box."

Favorite Memory: My favorite memories will forever be those I have made with my lifelong friends in the department, especially those made at Camden Pub and Pickles.

Note of Thanks: I would like to thank all of my advisors and mentors over the years, especially Dr. Sarah Michel. Additionally, I would like to thank the past and present

Michel lab members.

Post-Graduation Plans: I am currently finishing my training to become a clinical account specialist at Johnson and Johnson Biosense Webster.



EMILY CHEA

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisor: Lisa Jones, PhD



IVIE CONLON

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisor: Steven Fletcher, PhD

SHARMILA DAS

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisor: James Polli, PhD



AMY DEFNET

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisors: Paul Shapiro, PhD, and Maureen Kane, PhD

Note of Thanks: Thank you to my amazing advisors, Drs. Maureen Kane and Paul Shapiro, lab-mates, friends, and family for all of their encouragement and support throughout the past five years.

Post-Graduation Plans: After graduation, I will be moving to Asheville, NC, where I will be a teaching postdoc in the lab of Dr. Ryan Steed at UNC-Asheville.



ALECIA DENT

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisor: Angela Wilks, PhD

"You learn more from failure than from success. Don't let it stop you. Failure builds character."

Note of Thanks: I want to thank my advisor, Dr. Angela Wilks, for her guidance and continued faith in my abilities. In addition, I would like to acknowledge all of the faculty and friends I made during graduate school. The journey would not have been the same without you. Last but not least, I would like to thank my family, especially my husband for his unwavering support.

Post-Graduation Plans: Drug Development Fellow at Genentech

JESSICA ESPINO PEREZ

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisor: Lisa Jones, PhD

YUWEI LU

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisor: Stephen Hoag, PhD



KIWON OK

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisor: Sarah Michel, PhD

"It ain't over till it's over." – Lawrence Peter Berry

Favorite Memory: I still remember May 2018, when folks from the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, including graduate students, postdocs, and professors went to the conference in Philadelphia together. The conference was very fun, as was the time after the conference. I felt very happy to have such nice people in our department.

Note of Thanks: First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to my advisor, Dr. Sarah Michel. Without her endless support and trust in me, I would not have been able to finish my doctoral degree successfully. Also, I appreciate all past and current Michel laboratory members. I was so happy to have such great colleagues during the past six years. Finally, I thank my parents and family members, as well as my girlfriend, who always supported me.

Post-Graduation Plans: I am planning to continue my research as a post-doctoral fellow at Michigan State University. I also would like to pursue my academic career as a health science researcher even after my post-doctoral training. Ultimately, I hope that I am able to contribute to improving human health and diseases.

STEPHANIE SHIFFKA

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisors: Peter Swaan, PhD, and Maureen Kane, PhD

SHERIN THOMAS

Doctor of Philosophy

Advisor: Audra Stinchcomb, PhD
