

FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

News from Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP

Winter 2021

Dear colleagues,

With the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy operating in a largely virtual format since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, our faculty, staff, and students – like you - have been forced to adapt to difficult circumstances to ensure the continuity of our education, research, practice, and community missions. They have done so with tremendous composure, creativity, and flexibility, juggling multiple responsibilities, like caring for school-age children and other family members while simultaneously continuing their studies and working. I am in awe of how our School of Pharmacy community has stepped up and moved forward with positivity and care and concern for each other, their patients, and their communities. I am hopeful that 2021 will see us gathering again to resume in person activities. In the meantime, I wish you all health, happiness, and hope.



In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact,

Natalie D. Eddington

Natalie D. Eddington, PhD '89, FAAPS, FCP
Dean and Professor

School of Pharmacy Faculty and Students Administer Vaccines at UMB Clinic

Pharmacy students are doing a rotation administering COVID-19 vaccines at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's SMC Campus Center. This effort demonstrates the vital role that pharmacists play in this global health crisis. [Click here](#) to read more.





A new study led by Zafar Zafari, MSc, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, offers projected estimates of the health and economic burden associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in the U.S. over the next 20 years. Published in *CHEST*, the study provides critical data that policymakers can use to inform key decisions that may help mitigate these costs over time. [Click here](#) to read more.

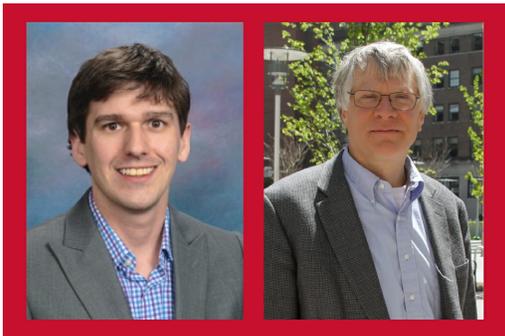
SOP's Qato Selected for National Leadership Program

Danya Qato, PharmD, MPH, PhD, assistant professor and graduate program director in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, has been selected to participate in one of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's leadership programs, which connect changemakers from every profession, sector, and field across the United States to learn from and work with one another in creating more just and thriving communities. [Click here](#) to read more.



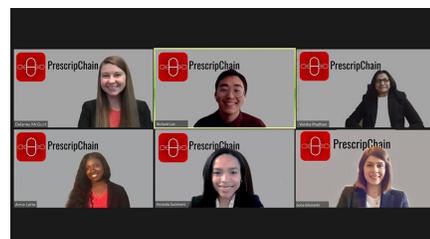
UMSOP and KamTek Collaborate on Therapeutic Development to Treat Deadly Infections

Researchers from the School of Pharmacy and biotechnology company, KamTek Inc. have partnered to address the major public health problem of primary and recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* (CD) infections, the leading cause of hospital- and community-acquired deadly diarrhea in the U.S., and is an emerging pandemic threat. [Click here](#) to read more.



Ninth Annual M-CERSI Regulatory Science Competition Goes Virtual

Each winter, the [University of Maryland Center for Regulatory Science and Innovation \(M-CERSI\)](#) hosts the "America's Got Regulatory Science Talent" competition, which aims to promote student interest in regulatory science. This year, students from the Baltimore and College Park campuses of the University of Maryland presented their innovation ideas to three U.S. Food and Drug Administration judges virtually. Nine teams competed in this ninth annual competition on Jan. 15. [Click here](#) to read



more.



Grant Increases Access, Safety of Generic Drugs

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and University of Michigan College of Pharmacy have received a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to establish a joint [Center for Research on Complex Generics \(CRCG\)](#). The CRCG will increase access to safe and effective generic drugs through collaborative research, training, and exchange. The center will facilitate information sharing between graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, those working in industry, and faculty at both universities. [Click here](#) to read more

EVENTS

Timely Topics - COVID-19 Myths, Treatments, and Vaccines March 22 at noon

Learn about COVID-19 Myths, Treatments, and Vaccines. Get your [questions](#) answered and join our discussion with SOP faculty and alumni.

[Register here.](#)

MS in Regulatory Science's Virtual Open House March 23 at 12:30 p.m.

Engage in a live overview of the MS in Regulatory Science program. Topics to be addressed include the admissions process, course schedule, and other FAQs.

[Register here.](#)

Timely Topics - Using Local Data Partnerships to Address COVID-19 March 31 at 12:30 p.m.

Join Fadia Shaya, PhD, MPH, for a discussion of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research's efforts to transform COVID-19 digital health data into information that allows state and local health departments to assess needs and guide interventions.

[Register here.](#)

Timely Topics - Expand Your Horizon: School of Pharmacy MS Programs April 14 at noon

Interested in going back to school? Meet the program directors, hear from fellow alumni and learn more about the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's six different MS programs.

[Register here.](#)

MS in Palliative Care Information Session April 27 at noon and 8 p.m.

Attend the information session to get an overview of the MS in Palliative Care degree and Graduate Certificates program, and explore topics such as the admissions process, course schedule, and other frequently asked questions.

[Register here.](#)

The School of Pharmacy's student chapter of the **Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy** received 2nd place in the organization's 2020 Chapter of the Year Awards.

Angel Bivens, BSPHarm, MBA, CSPI, assistant director of operations and public education at the Maryland Poison Center, has been accepted to UMB's Emerging Leaders Program.

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, professor of pharmacy practice and science and executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, **Catherine Cooke, PharmD**, research associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, and **Barbara Zarowitz, PharmD**, geriatric pharmacotherapy and clinical research consultant, received the Gold Award for their research poster presented at the 2020 Pharmacy Quality Alliance Annual Meeting.

Becky Ceraul, assistant dean for communications and marketing, and **Shannon Tucker, MS**, assistant dean for instructional design and technology, have been appointed to the Program Committee of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Administrative Services Section.

Heather Congdon, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, was a member of the interprofessional UMB team that received the 2020 George E. Thibault, MD Nexus Award from the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education.

Catherine Cooke, PharmD, research associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, was invited to serve as a member of the Maryland Department of Health's Health Services Cost Review Commission Diabetes Measures Work Group.

Natalie Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP, dean and professor, and **Leah Sera, PharmD**, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, have been named by the *Baltimore Business Journal* as Leaders in Health Care Awards in the category of Medical Cannabis.

Megan Ehret, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been appointed to the editorial board of the journal *Pharmacy*.

Emily Gorman, MLIS, research education and outreach librarian at the HS/HSL and School of Pharmacy librarian, has been named chair-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Library and Information Science Section.

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been appointed by the Society of Critical Care Medicine to its Center for Disease Control and Prevention Infectious Disease Threats Advisory Panel and was elected secretary/treasurer of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Critical Care Practice & Research Network.

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, associate dean for student affairs and associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, and **Deanna Tran, PharmD**, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, have been appointed to the Maryland Department of Health's SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group.

Marlene Mahipat, a student in the MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program, has been named the Baltimore County Commission for Women's 2020 LaFrance Muldrow Woman Making a Difference.

Daniel Mansour, PharmD, interprofessional clinical coordinator at the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, has been named a fellow of the American Geriatrics Society.

Ashlee Mattingly, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, was elected coordinator of the American Pharmacists Association's Compounding Special Interest Group and was appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Compounding Section Advisory Group.

Cynthia Mock and **Jemini Patel**, both fourth-year student pharmacists, won the 2020 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Local Clinical Skills Competition.

Zac Noel, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named a 2020 Outstanding Reviewer by the journal *Pharmacotherapy*.

Brent Reed, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, received the Best Poster Award at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's virtual annual meeting.

Dana Rubinova, a student in the MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program, has been named by *LA Wire* as a 40 Under 40.

Julia Slejko, PhD, assistant professor of pharmaceutical health services research, has been appointed to the COPD Foundation's COPD360 Therapeutics and Digital Health Development Network Steering Committee.

Sheryl Thedford, PharmD, clinical psychiatric pharmacist in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, has been appointed to the Psychiatric Pharmacy Specialty Council by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

Chanel Whittaker, PharmD, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science and director of education and training at the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, has been named Geriatrics Residency Director of the Year by the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists.

