

# *The Order of Ceremony*

**Graduate School**  
**University of Maryland, Baltimore**  
**Doctoral Hooding Ceremony**  
4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, 2022  
Leadership Hall

## **Processional**

### **Greetings**

Bruce Jarrell, MD  
President, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Roger Ward, JD, EdD  
Provost and Dean, Graduate School

Sydney Ashton  
President, Graduate Student Association

## **Presentation of Dr. Patricia Sokolove Outstanding Mentor Award**

Jon Gilgoff  
Nominating Student

Fernando Wagner, DS  
Outstanding Mentor Awardee

## **Presentation and Hooding of PhD Graduates**

Erin Golembewski, PhD  
Senior Associate Dean, Graduate School

Mentors and Graduate Program Directors

### **Closing Remarks**

Flavius Lilly, PhD  
Vice Dean of the Graduate School

## *The Doctoral Degree*

*D*octor means teacher or instructor; the term was used in ancient Rome to describe people who delivered public lectures on philosophical subjects. Since the 12th century, “doctor” has been a title of honor borne by men and women of great learning. It was first made an academic title at the University of Bologna in Italy, which received from the emperor the right to appoint *doctores legum* (doctors of laws).

The doctoral degree represents the most advanced earned degree conferred by American institutions. There are two distinct types: the professional or practitioner’s degree and the research degree. The former doctoral degree signifies advanced training for the practice of professions such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or law. The latter type of doctoral degree, the research doctorate, is awarded to individuals who have undertaken prolonged advanced study on a subject and who have made substantial and original contribution to the knowledge concerning that subject in the form of an extensive written document, the dissertation. The degree confers the title of doctor of philosophy (PhD), although the degree no longer is associated with the study of philosophy specifically.

## *Academic Regalia*

*T*he traditional black caps and gowns worn by students and faculty in the academic procession have been the costume of scholars since medieval times. A uniform code for academic costume was drafted by an intercollegiate commission in 1895 and has been adopted by the majority of colleges and universities in the United States. The gown or robe of the doctoral degree has a full, bell-shaped sleeve with three bars of velvet. The opening of the doctoral gown is faced with wide velvet bands that are either black or of a color indicating the wearer’s general field of learning. For the doctor of philosophy degree, robes have velvet of either black to match the gown, or blue representing the PhD degree.

The most colorful and distinctive item of the academic costume is the hood, which passes around the neck and extends down the back. The hood is hemmed in a bright or dark blue for the PhD degree. The colors of the silk lining exposed in the center of the hood are those of the college or university which conferred the degree. For the University of Maryland Graduate School, Baltimore, the hood is lined with black and gold. The doctor of philosophy candidates will receive their diplomas at the university commencement exercises.

The cap, or mortarboard, is uniform in design for all degrees. However, the PhD recipient may also wear an eight-sided tam. The tassel may be either black or gold for the doctoral degree. A person may tip the cap to show respect to a colleague. Additional medallions or decorative trim may be worn by individuals who have achieved specific honors.

# *Doctor of Philosophy*

**Asmita Adhikari**

Pharmacy

*"In Vitro Dissolution, Supersaturation, and Permeation  
to Predict In Vivo Oral Drug Absorption"*

Mentor: James Polli, PhD

Spring 2022

**Jason Alipio**

Medicine

*"The Long-lasting Sequelae of Perinatal Fentanyl Exposure  
and Restoration by Environmental Enrichment"*

Mentor: Asaf Keller, PhD

Fall 2021

**Jeffrey Anvari-Clark**

Social Work

*"Understanding Financial Behavioral Health and Race (Racism),  
and Their Association with Investment Risk Willingness"*

Mentor: Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD

Spring 2022

**Jamila Asgar**

Medicine

*"Changes in the Composition and Structure of the Gut Microbiota Contribute  
to the Mechanisms Underlying Stress-induced Comorbid Visceral Pain"*

Mentor: Feng Wei, MD, PhD

Fall 2021

**Ebehiremen Ayewoh**

Pharmacy

*“Molecular Mechanisms of Intestinal Bile Acid Transport  
and Immunomodulatory Potential of Bile Acids”*

Mentor: Peter Swaan, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Sam Bacharach**

Medicine

*“Endocannabinoids and Dopamine Drive Incentive Learning Processes  
Underlying Addiction Vulnerability”*

Mentor: Donna Calu, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Sol Baik**

Social Work

*“Time-Use and Well-Being in Family and Other Unpaid Caregivers  
of Older Adults”*

Mentor: Amanda Lehning, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Rashmita Bajracharya**

Medicine

*“Examining Post-Hip Fracture Characteristics to Explain Sex Differences  
in Short- and Long-term Hip Fracture Mortality”*

Mentor: Denise Orwig, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Abdulrahman Balhaddad**

Dentistry

*“Nanotechnology-Based Dental Materials for Root Caries Management:  
Design Concepts and Advanced Strategies  
to Modulate Dysbiotic Patient-derived Oral Biofilms”*

Mentor: Mary Melo, DDS, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Laura M. Bozzi**

Pharmacy

*“The Association of Antiretroviral Treatment and Early Menopause  
in Women Aging with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus”*

Mentor: Susan dosReis, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Jerod Brammer**

Medicine

*“Immunological and Pathogenic Interactions  
between Burned Mice and Pseudomonas aeruginosa”*

Mentor: Alan Cross, MD  
Summer 2021

**Kristen Brao**

Medicine

*“In vitro and in vivo Models of Biofilm-Mediated Infections”*

Mentors: Robert Ernst, PhD, Janette Harro, PhD and Mark Shirliff, PhD  
Fall 2020

**Karen Marie Burruss-Cousins**

Social Work

*“The Interplay of Home Visitors’ Personal  
and Professional Identities  
in Effectively Screening and Supporting Women  
around Sensitive Topics”*

Mentor: Bruce DeForge, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Martin Calabrese**

Pharmacy

*“Predictors and Subsequent Healthcare Utilization Associated with CDC-guideline Opioid Thresholds among Commercially Insured New Chronic Opioid Users”*  
Mentors: Danya Qato, PhD, PharmD and Fadia Shaya, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Alex Casella**

Medicine

*“Characterizing Enhancer-driven Transcriptional Networks in Schizophrenia”*  
Mentor: Seth Ament, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Garrick Centola**

Pharmacy

*“Design, Development, and Characterization of Gallium (III) Salophen Metallotherapeutics Targeting Heme Sensing and Iron Acquisition Pathways in Pseudomonas aeruginosa”*  
Mentors: Angela Wilks, PhD and Fengtian Xue, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Nelson Ta-Ching Chuang**

Medicine

*“Impact of Mobile Elements on Human Traits and Diseases”*  
Mentor: Scott Devine, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Lindsey Clark**

Nursing

*“Fatigue in Adults with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Before and During a Pandemic”*

Mentor: Jennifer Klinedinst, PhD

Fall 2021

**Katherine Coburn**

Medicine

*“Development of Heterogeneous Nuclear Ribonuclear Protein A18 (hnRNP A18) Small Molecule Inhibitors and Phosphorylation of hnRNP A18 by Casein Kinase-2”*

Mentor: David Weber, PhD

Summer 2021

**Andrew Coleman**

Medicine

*“Investigating the Role of Acetylated Tubulin on Microtubule Dependent Mechanotransduction in Striated Muscle”*

Mentor: Chris Ward, PhD

Spring 2022

**Anna Dellomo**

Medicine

*“Defining the Role of PARylation on STAT5 Activity in Mutated FLT3-ITD Acute Myeloid Leukemia”*

Mentor: Feyruz Rassool, PhD

Fall 2021

**Geraldine Ezeka**

Medicine

*“Identifying Molecular Targets of Sulforaphane in Mesothelioma”*

Mentor: Richard Eckert, PhD

Spring 2022

**James Fields**

Medicine

*“The Molecular Basis of IL-1 Family Signaling:  
Strategies to Modulate Inflammation”*

Mentor: Eric Sundberg, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Sean Fleming**

Pharmacy

*“Healthcare Resource Utilization and Costs Associated  
with Antiretroviral Regimen Complexity”*

Mentors: Danya Qato, PhD, PharmD and Linda Wasila, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Emily Flowers**

Medicine

*“Evolution of Antigen Presenting Cells in the Spleen”*

Mentor: Martin Flajnik, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Patrice Forrester**

Social Work

*“Youth Worker Perspectives on Building and Maintaining Relationships  
with Older Adolescents and Emerging Adults in Strongport”*

Mentor: Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD  
Fall 2021



**Martha Francis**

Nursing

*“Patient and Intimate Partner Illness Appraisals in Cancer:  
A Multi-Methods Study”*

Mentor: Meg Johantgen, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Andrew Furman**

Medicine

*“Peak Alpha Frequency: Discovery and Validation of a Prolonged Pain Biomarker”*

Mentor: David Seminowicz, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Abanoub Adel Gad**

Medicine

*“Characterization of ADGRG2 in Parathyroid Biology”*

Mentors: John Olson, MD, PhD and Nariman Balenga, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Aakash Gandhi**

Pharmacy

*“A Cluster Analytic Approach to Identify Insomnia Subtypes  
and Their Relationship with Economic Outcomes”*

Mentor: Ebere Onukwugha, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Allison Gerber**

Medicine

*“Monomeric IL-12p40 Binds Partner Proteins  
to Modulate Immune Cell Function”*

Mentor: Nevil Singh, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Nicole Gould**

Medicine

*“Lysosomal Degradation Regulates Sclerostin Protein Abundance  
in Response to Mechanical Stress and Parathyroid Hormone Treatment  
in Osteocytes”*

Mentor: Joseph Stains, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Talia Guardia**

Medicine

*“Investigating the Regulation and Metastasis Suppressor Function  
of Obscurin in Breast Cancer”*

Mentor: Aikaterini Kontrogianni-Konstantopoulos, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Utsav Gyawali**

Medicine

*“Cue-triggered Reward Seeking: The Role of Dopamine  
and Corticotropin Releasing Factor in the Bed Nucleus of Stria Terminalis”*

Mentor: Donna Calu, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Robert Haupt**

Medicine

*“BECC Adjuvanted Vaccine Provides Broad Protection  
from Homologous and Heterologous Influenza A Infections”*

Mentor: Matthew Frieman, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Eman Hefni**

Dentistry

*“The Role of Angiopoietin-Like 4 in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Progression and Dissemination”*

Mentor: Silvia Montaner, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Nivedita Uday Hegdekar**

Medicine

*“Inhibition of Autophagy in Microglia and Infiltrating Monocytes/Macrophages Exacerbates Neuroinflammation and Functional Defects Following Traumatic Brain Injury”*

Mentor: Marta Lipinski, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Jack Henderson**

Pharmacy

*“From Proteases to Antiporters: Advancing Drug Design Efforts using Continuous-Constant pH Molecular Dynamics Simulations”*

Mentor: Jana Shen, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Natalie Hesselgrave**

Medicine

*“Psilocybin as a Rapid Acting Antidepressant: Are Hallucinations Necessary?”*

Mentor: Scott Thompson, PhD  
Fall 2020

**Nicole Higgins**

Medicine

*“ALS/FTD-Linked UBQLN2 Mutations Result in Aberrant Accumulation and Aggregation of Serine Protease Inhibitor Proteins”*

Mentor: Mervyn Monteiro, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Brandi Hobbs**

Medicine

*“The Role of Francisella Phagosomal Transporters FptA and FptF  
in the Pathogenesis of Francisella tularensis LVS  
and Their Potential as Targets for Live-Attenuated Vaccine Development”*

Mentor: Eileen Barry, PhD

Fall 2021

**Christine Hoch**

Nursing

*“Mechanisms of Heart Failure Related Fatigue”*

Mentor: Jennifer Klinedinst, PhD

Fall 2021

**Martin Hochheimer**

Social Work

*“An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Extended-Release Naltrexone”*

Mentor: Jay Unick, PhD

Spring 2022

**Yoon Duk Hong**

Pharmacy

*“Association of Patient Cost Sharing and Area Deprivation  
with Multiple Myeloma Treatment Receipt and Outcomes”*

Mentor: Julia Slejko, PhD

Fall 2021

**Elizabeth Humphries**

Medicine

*“Genetics of Mood Disorder Diagnosis, Behavioral Endophenotypes,  
and Cognition in the Old Order Amish Founder Population”*

Mentor: Seth Ament, PhD

Fall 2021

**Miriam Ismail**

Medicine

*“Long-term Recovery following Traumatic Brain Injury in Older Adults:  
An Analysis of Medicare Administrative Claims Data”*

Mentor: Jennifer Albrecht, PhD

Spring 2022

**Raqeeb Jamil**

Pharmacy

*“Biorelevant In Vitro Dissolution Models to Evaluate Poorly Soluble Drugs”*

Mentor: James Polli, PhD

Spring 2022

**Aksinija Kogan**

Medicine

*“Activating STING-dependent Immune Signaling in AML”*

Mentor: Feyruz Rassool, PhD

Fall 2021

**Samuel Krimmel**

Medicine

*“Finding Islands of Structure in a Sea of Variance:  
Dimensions of Covariance Between Migraine Symptoms  
and Brain Connectivity”*

Mentor: David Seminowicz, PhD

Fall 2021

**David P. Langan**

Medicine

*“Modulation of Inflammation and Stromal Remodeling Processes  
in Autoimmune Arthritis by Microbial Indole Derivatives”*

Mentor: Kamal Moudgil, MD, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Jackline Lasola**

Medicine

*“Nanoparticle-driven Immunoengineering:  
Characterization of the Effects of Polymer-based Nanoparticles  
in Regulating Macrophage-mediated Inflammatory Responses”*

Mentor: Anthony Kim, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Brian Lin**

Medicine

*“Mitochondrial Dysfunction is Linked to Pathogenesis  
in the P497S UBQLN2 Mouse Model of ALS/FTD”*

Mentor: Mervyn Monteiro, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Douglas Paul Loesch**

Medicine

*“Addressing Bias in Genomics: Genome-Wide Association Studies  
and Polygenic Risk Scores in Latinx Cohorts”*

Mentor: Timothy O'Connor, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Megan Lynch**

Medicine

*“Identification of Actionable Variants, Reproductive Health  
and Other Health Outcomes in a Founder Population”*

Mentor: Braxton Mitchell, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Oleg Makarevich**

Medicine

*“Neuronal Intrinsic Apoptosis Mechanisms and Their Modulation  
by Sp1 Inhibition”*

Mentor: Bogdan Stoica, MD  
Summer 2021

**Ramon Martinez III**

Pharmacy

*“Exploiting Vulnerabilities in Cancers  
with Activated Extracellular Signal-Regulated Kinase (ERK1/2)”*

Mentor: Paul Shapiro, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Trevor James Mathias**

Medicine

*“Understanding the Role of the Tubulin Carboxypeptidase (TCP)  
on Breast Tumor Cell Growth and Dissemination”*

Mentor: Stuart Martin, PhD  
Spring 2022

**John Mattick**

Medicine

*“Characterization of Filarial Parasite Evolution  
through Genome Assembly and Transcriptomic Analysis  
of Brugia malayi and Brugia pahangi”*

Mentor: Julie Dunning Hotopp, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Hanover Matz**

Medicine

*“The Evolution of B Cell Selection and Affinity Maturation  
in Cartilaginous Fishes”*

Mentor: Helen Dooley, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Melissa Metry**

Pharmacy

*“Novel Measurements of Impaired Hepatobiliary  
and Intestinal Transport”*

Mentor: James Polli, PhD  
Spring 2022

**McKayla Mickle**

Medicine

*“VGLL4 and Glutamine Deprivation Suppress YAP1/TEAD Signaling  
to Attenuate the SCC Cancer Phenotype”*

Mentor: Richard Eckert, PhD  
Spring 2022



**Heba Mitwalli**

Dentistry

*“Development of New Formulations of nCaF2 Dental Nanocomposites with Antibacterial and Remineralizing Properties”*

Mentor: Michael Weir, PhD

Summer 2021

**Basant Motawi**

Medicine

*“Association Between Maternal Experience of Intimate Partner Violence and Under-5 Child Health in Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan”*

Mentor: Jon Mark Hirshon, MD, PhD

Spring 2022

**Amy Nelson**

Nursing

*“Altering Mechanisms of Frailty in Persons Living with HIV”*

Mentor: Jennifer Klinedinst, PhD

Summer 2021

**Abisola Olopoenia**

Pharmacy

*“Patterns, Factors, and Outcomes Associated with Gabapentin Use in Combination with Opioids and Benzodiazepines among SSDI-eligible Medicare Beneficiaries”*

Mentor: Linda Wastila, PhD

Fall 2020

**Anju Paudel**

Nursing

*“Staff-Resident Interactions in Assisted Living:  
Optimizing the Quality of Daily Care Interactions”*

Mentor: Elizabeth Galik, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Raymond Peroutka**

Medicine

*“The Role of Testisin in Endothelial Cells and Angiogenesis”*

Mentor: Toni Antalis, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Lindsay Ann Pickett**

Medicine

*“Mast Cells & Microglia “Organize” Preoptic Area Neuronal Circuitry  
during Perinatal Brain Development for Adult Sexual Behavior”*

Mentor: Margaret McCarthy, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Jordan Pritts**

Pharmacy

*“Lessons Learned from the Characterization of CPSF30 –  
A Zinc Finger Protein Containing an Unexpected 2Fe-2S Cluster”*

Mentor: Sarah Michel, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Zahra Rahmaty**

Nursing

*“Individual, Caregiver, and Family Characteristics Associated with Obesity in Preschool-Age Children”*

Mentor: Meg Johantgen, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Austin Ramsey**

Medicine

*“Subsynaptic Positioning of AMPARs by LRRTM2 Controls Synaptic Strength”*

Mentor: Thomas Blanpied, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Vishnu-Prak Rao**

Medicine

*“Mechanisms of Beta Cell Metabolic Coordination”*

Mentor: Megan Rizzo, PhD  
Summer 2021

**Lace Riggs**

Medicine

*“Synaptic Mechanisms Underlying the Rapid Antidepressant Properties of the (2R,6R)-Hydroxynorketamine Ketamine Metabolite”*

Mentor: Todd Gould, MD  
Spring 2022

**Elizabeth Robinson**

Pharmacy

*“Design and Discovery of Novel Small Molecule Inhibitors Targeting Heme Oxygenase (HemO) Dependent Iron Acquisition and Heme Signaling in Pseudomonas aeruginosa”*

Mentors: Fengtian Xue, PhD and Angela Wilks, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Michelle Crowder Sermon**

Social Work

*“Centering Black Lives: Exploring Oral Histories  
of Legacy African American Women in the Black Belt  
to Heal the Wounds of Racialization as Justice”*

Mentor: Nalini Negi, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Kelson Valentino Shilling-Scrivo**

Medicine

*“Toward a Central Theory for Age-related Hearing Difficulty  
in Noisy Environments”*

Mentors: Patrick Kanold, PhD and Joe Kao, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Jennifer Lynn Siegel**

Social Work

*“Examining Depression and Social and Emotional Development  
Outcomes in Parents and Children in Migrant  
and Seasonal Farmworker Families”*

Mentor: Nalini Negi, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Michael Joseph Sikorski**

Medicine

*“The Genomics and Epidemiology of Typhoid Fever in Samoa”*

Mentor: Dave Rasko, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Sydney Stern**

Pharmacy

*“The Role of Dual Activation of CAR and Nrf2  
on Cyclophosphamide/Doxorubicin-based Treatment  
of Triple Negative Breast Cancer”*

Mentor: Hongbing Wang, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Emily Marie Stucke**

Medicine

*“Identification of Erythrocyte Membrane Protein Antigens Specific  
to Cerebral Malaria and Severe Malarial Anemia Pathogenesis”*

Mentor: Mark Travassos, MD  
Spring 2022

**Timothy Troppoli**

Medicine

*“Fast and Furious: Identifying the Target Engagement  
and Mechanisms Underlying the Rapid Behavioral and Synaptic Actions  
of MRK-016, A Negative Allosteric Modulator of Alpha5-Containing GABAARs, and the  
Commonalities with Other Fast-Acting Antidepressants”*

Mentor: Scott Thompson, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Olivia Uddin**

Medicine

*“Role of the Parabrachial Complex in Rodent Models of Pain”*

Mentor: Asaf Keller, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Jung Min Yoon**

Nursing

*“Behavioral Symptoms Associated with Dementia  
and Inappropriate Psychotropic Medication Use in U.S. Nursing Homes”*

Mentor: Alison Trinkoff, ScD  
Summer 2021

**Paige Zambrana**

Pharmacy

*“Clinical and Environmental Harmonization  
to Enhance Absorptive Predictability from Complex Dermal Products:  
In Vitro Permeation Testing to Healthy Volunteers”*

Mentor: Audra Stinchcomb, PhD  
Fall 2021

**Ava Zapf**

Medicine

*“PGE2 Is a Candidate Remodeling Factor of the ASDN”*

Mentor: Paul Welling, MD  
Fall 2021

**Qingzhao Zhang**

Pharmacy

*“Evaluation of In Vitro-In Vivo Correlations in Topical  
and Transdermal Drug Delivery Systems by In Vitro Permeation Testing  
and Pharmacokinetic Studies for Bioavailability/Bioequivalence  
and Heat Effect Assessment”*

Mentor: Audra Stinchcomb, PhD  
Spring 2022

**Chengchen Zhang**

Pharmacy

*“Impact of Undertreatment of Depression on Suicide  
and Suicide Attempt among Children and Adolescents:  
A Simulation Study with Microsimulation and Agent-Based Models”*

Mentor: Susan dosReis, PhD

Spring 2022

**Haichen Zhang**

Medicine

*“Genomic Medicine in Diabetes: Improving the Diagnostic Rate  
of Monogenic Diabetes”*

Mentor: Toni Pollin, PhD

Summer 2021

**Albert Zhou**

Medicine

*“Informing the Role of RIFINs in Malaria Pathogenesis, Natural Immunity,  
and Design of a Severe Malaria Vaccine”*

Mentor: Mark Travassos, MD

Summer 2020

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# *Graduate Council*

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