

FRANCIS S. BALASSONE MEMORIAL LECTURE

*“Celebrating 40 Years of Change  
in Poison Center Practice”*



**Bruce Anderson, PharmD, DABAT**

Director of Operations  
Maryland Poison Center  
Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy  
Practice and Science  
University of Maryland School of Pharmacy

**Wednesday, October 31, 2012  
1- 2 p.m.**

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy  
Pharmacy Hall, Room N103  
Shady Grove, Building III, Room 2202



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

## SCHEDULE

### **Welcome and Introduction**

**Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP**  
Dean and Professor

### **Featured Speaker**

*“Celebrating 40 Years of Change in Poison Center Practice”*

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### **Presentation of Student Leadership Awards**

**Jill A. Morgan, PharmD**  
Associate Dean for Student Affairs  
Student Government Association Advisor



## BRUCE ANDERSON PHARM.D, DABAT

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Dr. Anderson is an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science and serves as the director of operations for the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy's Maryland Poison Center. He received bachelor's and PharmD degrees from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. In 1992, he completed a fellowship in clinical toxicology at the University of California, San Diego/San Diego Regional Poison Center. He then worked as the assistant director at the Florida Poison Information Center at Tampa General Hospital before joining the faculty at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy and the Maryland Poison Center in 1993.

Dr. Anderson has published several articles on a variety of topics, including describing implementation of a novel drug identification service for Marylanders, description of problems in reporting and interpreting information from the nationwide poison center database (the National Poison Data System), use of geographic information systems tools to evaluate poison center and drug identification calls, analysis of pediatric brodifacoum exposures, and more. He served as an associate editor for the 2005 edition of the *Encyclopedia of Toxicology*.

While at the Maryland Poison Center, Dr. Anderson has received numerous grants and contracts from a variety of sources, including more than \$2.5 million through the Health Resources and Services Administration, approximately \$2 million from Medicaid, and over \$1 million from consumer product companies such as Combe Inc., Avon, Baxter Healthcare, and others.

Dr. Anderson is a member of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. He has served as a board member of the American Board of Applied Toxicology as well as a trustee for the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology.

Dr. Anderson serves as course manager for a required first-year course, Professionalism, Ethics, and Pharmacy Practice, at the School of Pharmacy. He serves as co-course manager for the elective courses Introduction to the Poison Center and Clinical Toxicology, the Poison Center's clinical rotation for fourth-year pharmacy students, and participates in the Maryland Poison Center fellowship program.

Dr. Anderson is a diplomat of the American Board of Applied Toxicology and has pharmacy licenses in Maryland, California, and Pennsylvania.



## UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

### FRANCIS S. BALASSONE (1915-1972)

Francis S. Balassone was born in 1915 in Thomas, W. Va. After graduating from high school, he worked in coal mines near his home to aid his family and to further his education, which led to a successful career in pharmacy. As a result, the pharmacy profession has benefited greatly.

In 1940, he earned a BS in pharmacy from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. He then worked for two Baltimore drug firms: the Standard Pharmaceutical Corp. and the Yager Drug Co. Balassone interrupted his pharmaceutical career to enlist as a private in the U.S. Marines, serving in World War II. He was discharged as a captain in 1946, and during the next five years, he returned to Yager and joined the teaching staff at his alma mater.

Balassone was owner-manager of the Overlea Pharmacy in Baltimore from 1951 to 1956. Subsequently, he served for nearly two decades as commissioner and secretary-treasurer of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy; chief of the Division of Drug Control, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and acting director of the Bureau of Consumer Health Protection.

In addition, he was a delegate of the United States Pharmacopeial Convention; delegate of the Office of Emergency Planning, Executive Office of the President; president of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy; member of the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education; president of the Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials; and chair of the Program Area Committee on Drugs, American Public Health Association.

Balassone served as secretary and president of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Alumni Association and later as president of the Baltimore branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association. He also was a leader in the development of state drug laws.

Under Balassone's leadership, Maryland became the first state in the nation to replace the traditional pharmacy internship with an academic professional experience program. He collaborated with the School of Pharmacy in the development of the University of Maryland professional pharmacy program.

Awards conferred on Balassone include the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association Honored Alumnus and merit awards, and the Harvey W. Wiley Award, the nation's highest award in the field of drugs, food, and cosmetics law.