

Maryland Mentor

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

Fall 2015

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From the Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning

Dear Preceptors,

Happy Fall! The semester is well underway, and we have begun discussing rotations with the P3 students. We are getting a lot of inquiries about available sites and rotations, so please look for our upcoming request to submit availability and respond accordingly.

This year, we are excited to have several elective rotation options available, including clinical track programs across the state. We are grateful to those site coordinators who worked with our office to make this happen. Our clinical track program allows students to complete consecutive APPEs at one site, usually five to six rotations depending on the site. The goal of the program is to help students prepare for post-graduate training. Students apply in the fall and are selected by the site. A match process ensues, much like the residency process. If we haven't contacted you already about the clinical track program and you or your site would like to host one or more students, please let us know so we can send you more information about the program.



Current Clinical Track Program Sites

Hospital Sites	Community Sites
Baltimore Washington Medical Center	Shoppers
Frederick Memorial Hospital	Halethorpe
Holy Cross Hospital	
The Johns Hopkins Hospital	
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital	
MedStar Montgomery Hospital	
Meritus Medical Center	
Sinai Hospital	
University of Maryland Medical Center	
VA Medical Center	
Western Maryland Health System	

We truly appreciate all you do for the students and the School. Please contact us at elp@rx.umaryland.edu or 410-706-2432 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Toyin Tofade

Toyin Tofade, MS, PharmD, BCPS, CPCC
Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning
Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science

Produced by:



Preceptor Announcements

One of our preceptors, **DeAnna “Dixie” Leikach**, PharmD, from Finksburg Pharmacy, received the 2015 Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) Merck Vanguard Leadership Award at the LKS Convention in St. Louis on Aug. 1.

What the ELP Office Needs from Preceptors

Please help us be **100 percent** compliant by doing the following:

- Submit all required midterm and final evaluations by the due date.
- Signed FERPA form.
- Provide us your SSN if you are able to accept honorarium payments.
- Enter site requirements in RXpreceptor.
- Complete two hours of preceptor development each academic year.

Newly Appointed Preceptors

- Olubunmi A. Adeyemo, PharmD
- Kelechi A. Aguwa, PharmD
- Katelyn M. Andrews, PharmD
- Avani Patel Arora, PharmD
- Theophilus Awuah, PharmD
- Jennie T. Chang, PharmD
- Sean Chitwood, PharmD
- Andrew B. Clayborne, PharmD
- Samantha P. Czibur, PharmD
- Donya M. Dabbah, BSP
- Claudia L. Dubois, PharmD
- Menachem Y. Edelman, PharmD
- Stacy L. Elder, PharmD, BCPS
- Katherine M. Feaganes, PharmD
- Jonathan J. Grant, PharmD
- Keith Heim, PharmD
- Karina E. Holland, PharmD
- Kevin M. Malloy, PharmD
- Kevin F. McCarthy, BSP
- Jeffrey S. Mrowczynski, PharmD
- Nkem P. Nonyel, PharmD
- Saharat Patanavanich, PharmD
- Jeffrey E. Paup, PharmD
- Cherryl A. Peterson, PharmD
- Jennifer L. Rezakhan, PharmD
- Melissa Rodriguez, PharmD
- Aditi J. Shah, PharmD, BCPS
- Thomas D. Wieland, BSP

Lessons Learned from Student Evaluations of Preceptors

The ELP Office recently reviewed the student evaluations of preceptors from the 2014-2015 academic year. Overall, the evaluations were very positive, with almost all preceptors attaining high rankings from students. A few comments stand out, which we believe may be useful for all our preceptors.

- **Having an organized/structured rotation is very important to students.** Providing students with an outline of activities and a basic schedule of events/departments/locations/etc. at the start of the rotation and sticking to it as much as possible, was found by students to be very helpful.
- **Spending more time with their preceptors.** Students appreciate autonomy and independence, but they still seek the knowledge and guidance of their preceptors and welcome a daily meeting with them, even if it is for as little as 15 minutes. It benefits both the student and preceptor by providing an opportunity to ask questions, get clarifications, set goals, and understand expectations.
- **Be clear about co-preceptors or designates for the experience.** If you have a designate when you are not present, please be sure to make it clear to the designate and student so they do not consider you an absentee preceptor. This is common during vacation time or days off for the lead preceptor.
- **Face-to-face mid-point and final evaluations should be completed for all students.** The mid-point evaluation can be used to show the student what he/she needs to focus on for the remainder of the rotation and is extremely important if the student is not meeting expectations. A face-to-face final evaluation adds closure to the rotation, and as with the mid-point evaluation, can highlight those areas in which the student did extremely well and those areas that are in need of further refinement.
- **Don't forget to provide constant feedback.** In addition to the mid-point and final evaluations, students are expecting immediate feedback throughout the rotation. Feedback should not focus on just those areas for improvement; feedback should also be given when the student has performed exceptionally well. Everyone likes to be praised for good work.

- **Students want clarity on what is expected of them for each outcome listed on the evaluation.**
At the beginning of the rotation, please let the student know which activities will be used to assess each of the outcomes in the evaluation tool. Provide rubrics that help the student determine what “proficient” looks like, for example, so that their expectation matches yours. In cases where the patient may not be able to converse or interact adequately due to sedation, age, Alzheimer’s, etc., the demonstration of certain student skills may be difficult. You may be able to gauge student performance based on their interactions or interviews with caregivers/family members. There is almost always important clarifying information to collect or provide regarding home medications, allergies, outpatient providers, etc., that they can garner from family members. Also family members often have questions about medications without being prompted, but if not; please use this opportunity to assign the student a medication to talk to the family about. Alternatively, mock scenarios can be implemented to help the student accomplish the skill or outcome expected on the evaluation.
- **Verbal comments should match written assessment choices for each rotation outcome.**
When a statement such as “you are doing great!” is made, students generally interpret this to mean they are getting an “A” and probably don’t need to work on that area of feedback. Please use the descriptors in the evaluation tool (highly proficient, proficient, intermediate, developing, beginning, and absent) to guide your verbal comments for the student when providing feedback on specific skills, tasks or projects. We recognize this is a fairly new concept, but constant practice will make it more automatic.
- **When multiple students are at the site, watch out for potential errors on written or verbal feedback.** This is particularly important for the student to trust your final assessment of his or her performance at the end of the rotation, which could decrease the likelihood of an appealed grade.
- **A full orientation to the site and workflow.**
One student suggested that it would be a good idea to have the student come in early on the first day to learn the computer system and the operational flow.

Thank you for everything that you do for our students. Our goal is to assist you, our preceptors, in providing a quality educational experience for our students. We hope that these comments from our recent student evaluations will help our preceptors find ways to improve their rotations. We welcome input, so if you have any tips to add to the list, please send them to the ELP Office at elp@rx.umaryland.edu.

Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Rotation Fair

February 3, 2016
6-9 p.m.

Want to attract more students to your APPE site?

Showcase your site at the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) Rotation Fair at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore, Feb. 3, 2016. Introduce our third year students to your site, and show them all you have to offer while on rotation.

There is no cost to reserve a table. Hot hors d’oeuvres and light refreshments will be provided.

Stay tuned for more information regarding registration and event details.

Viewing Aggregate Student Evaluations

Preceptors are now able to view an aggregate report of preceptor evaluations by students in RXpreceptor. All data is presented in aggregate and anonymized. To access these reports:

1. Log into RXpreceptor
2. Click on “Reporting”
3. Click on “Run” next to the list of dates that are included on the report
4. Select the evaluation type from the drop-down list
5. Aggregate scores for each question in the evaluation will be shown

Note: Preceptors must have precepted at least two students to view the report.

RXpreceptor’s Incident Report Function

RXpreceptor has an incident reporting function that can be used by preceptors to notify the ELP Office of an unusual and/or unforeseen occurrence during a rotation, for example, a student is injured while on rotation. To report an incident, follow these directions:

1. Log into RXpreceptor
2. Click “Student Incidents” on the menu at the left
3. Click “Record New Incident” at the top right of the screen
4. Enter the date, choose the student’s name, and type in information about the incident.
5. Attach a file (if appropriate)
6. Click “Submit Incident”

The ELP Office will review and follow up on all incidents reported through RXpreceptor.

Keep Your Information Current

The ELP Office reminds preceptors to keep their contact information updated in RXpreceptor. The ELP staff use this information as the primary method of contact for you as preceptors. If we are unable to contact you, you may lose opportunities to precept students or miss important information about the Experiential Learning Program.

Should you change positions within your organization, or take a new position with a different organization and are temporarily unable to precept students, please let us know. Should you once again be in a position to precept students, you can then contact us to have your status reinstated as active.

Also, make sure to update your site information. This is especially important if you change locations. However, in order to attract more students to your site, market your site using the site description feature in RXpreceptor. Highlight the special services that your site offers. Emphasize relationships with medical practices, hospitals, assisted living facilities, etc. Remember, the more appealing a site is to students, the greater the chance that students will choose your site for a rotation.

You can easily log into RXpreceptor and enter the updated information. If you have questions about access to RXpreceptor or need assistance in updating your information, contact the ELP Office at elp@rx.umaryland.edu.