



From the Dean's Desk

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

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Dear colleagues,

The 2016-2017 academic year is in full swing at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. And we have a lot to celebrate, namely the 175th anniversary of our founding in 1841 and our #9 placement in *U.S. News & World Report's* ranking of pharmacy schools.

When the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy was founded in 1841 with six students, rankings such as *U.S. News & World Report's* didn't exist. But our founders and the administration, faculty, staff, and students who have come after them, have all been committed to the excellence that we are known for today.



I am proud of the work that our faculty, staff, and students do every day as we seek to achieve our mission of leading pharmacy education, scientific discovery, patient care, and community engagement across the state of Maryland and beyond. The role of pharmacy and the pharmacist in health care is evolving, and the School of Pharmacy remains at the forefront of the evolution, anticipating the needs of the profession and developing academic, research, and practice programs that are innovative and proactive.

In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact

[Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP
Dean and Professor](#)

EVENTS

Founders Week Research Lecture of the Year

Nov. 3, 4 p.m.,
Pharmacy Hall

Featuring the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Founders Week Researcher of the Year: Linda Simoni-Wastila, BSPHarm, MSPH, PhD, professor of pharmaceutical health services research. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

New Leadership at the Lamy Center



Following the announcement that [Bruce Stuart, PhD](#), professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research (PHSR) and former executive director of the [Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging](#), will retire from the School of Pharmacy at the end of this year, [Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCPP, CGP, FASCP](#), professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) at the School, have been named the Center's new executive director. [Chanel Whittaker, PharmD, BCPS, CGP, FASCP](#), associate professor in PPS, and [Linda Simoni-Wastila, BSPHarm, MSPH, PhD](#), professor in PHSR, have also been named as director of education and training programs and director of research and policy for the Center, respectively.

[Read more here.](#)

New Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning

[Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, BCPS](#), assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS), has been named the new assistant dean for [experiential learning](#) at the School. A member of the School's faculty since 2014, Dr. Feemster brings more than 15 years of clinical, leadership, and management experience to her new role. She succeeds Toyin Tofade, PharmD, who left the School in August to become dean of the Howard University College of Pharmacy.

[Read more here.](#)



New Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



Following more than five years of service as the associate dean for academic affairs at the School of Pharmacy, [Richard Dalby, PhD](#), professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC), has returned to his full-time faculty position at the School. [Andrew Coop, PhD](#), professor and former chair of PSC, has been named as Dr. Dalby's successor in this role. [Read more here.](#)

Study Shows Penicillin Testing Can Change Treatment Course

A new study led by [Emily Heil, PharmD](#), assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) at the School of Pharmacy, reveals that testing hospital patients for penicillin allergy leads to optimal antibiotic treatment, since most people who think they are allergic to penicillin are actually not. And, finding out doesn't take an allergist: the study evaluated a penicillin allergy skin testing program that was managed by infectious diseases physician fellows who were able to appropriately assess patients for penicillin allergy and perform the testing. [Read more here.](#)



Rodriguez de Bittner Named UMMS Population Health Fellow

[Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, BCPS, FAPhA](#), professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) and associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation at the School of Pharmacy, has been named the inaugural fellow for the University of Maryland Medical System's (UMMS) Fellowship in Population Health. Working alongside members of UMMS senior leadership, Dr. Rodriguez de



Bittner will share her expertise in pharmacy and patient care, while gaining insight about new trends in health care delivery and factors that influence leadership decision making in the field of population health. Joining the UMMS Population Health Service Organization, Quality Care Network (QCN), and executive leadership team, Dr. Rodriguez de Bittner will work to define roles for pharmacists in a variety of population health initiatives, such as within accountable care organizations (ACOs), the QCN, and other organizations dedicated to improving population health. She will also learn about new trends in health care delivery and changes in health care across the state as a result of the Maryland Medicare waiver, as well as other new trends in health care payments. [Read more here.](#)

New Study Finds Depression Linked to Reduced COPD Medication Adherence

A first-of-its-kind study published in the *Annals of the American Thoracic Society* by [Linda Simoni-Wastila, BSPHarm, MSPH, PhD](#), professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the School of Pharmacy, examining a sample of Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) has found that patients' adherence to COPD maintenance medications decreased when they experienced new bouts of depression. Dr.



Simoni-Wastila, recently named the [University of Maryland, Baltimore Founders Week Researcher of the Year](#), found that -- of the more than 31,000 beneficiaries who met the criteria for the study -- 20 percent were diagnosed with depression following their COPD diagnosis. Patients' average monthly adherence to their COPD maintenance medications was low, reaching only 57 percent in the month following their first prescription fill, and decreasing to 25 percent within six months. [Read more here.](#)

SOP Alumna, Longtime Supporter Donates \$500,000 to School

Ellen H. Yankellow, PharmD '96, BSP '73, president and chief executive officer of Correct Rx Pharmacy Services and former chair of the Board of Visitors at the School of Pharmacy, has committed a gift of \$500,000 to the School. The donation -- for which Yankellow contributed \$200,000 that was matched by both an anonymous donor and the Scholarship Matching Program established by the University of Maryland, Baltimore Foundation, Inc. -- will establish the first endowed scholarships to provide a full year of financial support for a fellow in the Ellen H. Yankellow



Health Outcomes Fellowship and a full year of tuition assistance for a graduate student enrolled in either the School's online [MS in Regulatory Science](#) or [MS in Pharmacometrics](#) program, alternatively. [Read more here.](#)

CTM, FDA Collaborate to Assess Extrapolation of Anti-Epileptic Drugs' Effectiveness

A collaborative research project led by the Food and Drug Administration with support from the [Center for Translational Medicine](#) at the School of Pharmacy and the Pediatric Epilepsy Academic Consortium for Extrapolation has concluded that extrapolation of anti-epileptic drug efficacy results from adults to children ages four years and older with partial onset seizures is acceptable, and that independent clinical trials for efficacy in children will no longer be needed. [Read more here.](#)



UMSOP Celebrates Class of 2016 at Graduation



Family, friends, faculty, preceptors, and staff looked on with pride as the School of Pharmacy's newest [Doctors of Pharmacy](#) walked across the stage to receive their doctoral hoods at the School's annual convocation ceremony held on May 20. Ten students graduating from the School's [PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research](#) and [PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences](#) programs received their hoods during the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Graduate School ceremony on May 19. The [MS in Regulatory Science](#) program hosted its first graduation convocation on May 19 to celebrate the more than 50 graduates who completed the program in 2015 and 2016. [Read more here.](#)

Kudos!

Our faculty, staff, and students are extremely talented individuals who are often recognized for their expertise by our School, University, and external organizations. Here is a list of recent achievements.

Administration

- Mark Brueckl, RPh, MBA, assistant director of the Office of Experiential Learning, was named the University of Maryland, Baltimore's April Employee of the Month.
- Becky Ceraul, assistant dean for communications and marketing, has been elected secretary of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Administrative Services Section.
- Bill Cooper, MBA, senior associate dean for administration and finance, has been named chair-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Administration and Finance Special Interest Group.
- Lindsay Currier, scheduling coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs, was named the University of Maryland, Baltimore's March Employee of the Month.

PharmD Students

- A team of students from the School of Pharmacy received the Creative Inter-Professional Team Event Award in the 2016 Script Your Future Medication Adherence Team Challenge.
- The School of Pharmacy's student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) is one of three finalists in the 2016 Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Puritt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition.
- The School of Pharmacy's Beta Lambda Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma has received the 2016 Charles Thomas Leadership Challenge Award from the organization's national office.
- The School of Pharmacy's American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) chapter was second runner up for the Division A (enrollment of 550 or more) Chapter Achievement Award at the APhA Annual Meeting and Expo in March.
- Meryam Gharbi, third-year student pharmacist, has been appointed to the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists National Standing Committee on Communications.
- Elissa Lechtenstein, fourth-year student pharmacist and past president of the School's American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) chapter, has been elected an APhA-ASP Member-at-Large. She has also

received the 2016 APhA Foundation's Mary Louise Andersen Scholarship.

- Brian Lindner, fourth-year student pharmacist, received the Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA)/MPhA Foundation Student Scholarship.
- Bob Pang, fourth-year student pharmacist, received the Pharmacy Quality Alliance-CVS Health Foundation Scholarship.

PPS Faculty and Staff

- [Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD](#), assistant professor, was named by his faculty peers as the School's American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Teacher of the Year.
- [Bethany DiPaula, PharmD](#), associate professor, was appointed a specialist member on the Board of Pharmacy Specialties' Council on Psychiatric Pharmacy.
- [Emily Heil, PharmD](#), assistant professor, received the 2016 Infectious Disease Practice and Research Network Clinical Practice Award from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.
- Randy Goldberg, RN, CSPI, a specialist in poison information at the Maryland Poison Center, received a 20 Year Service Award at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology meeting in San Francisco.
- [Jeffrey Gonzales, PharmD](#), associate professor, received a Presidential Citation from the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) for his contributions to the organization in 2015. He was also appointed to the Board of Directors of SCCM's Baltimore chapter.
- [Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD](#), associate professor and associate dean for student affairs, was named the American Pharmacist Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists' Advisor of the Year and was named vice president/president-elect of the Maryland Pharmacists Association.
- [Joey Mattingly, PharmD](#), assistant professor, received the Faculty Teacher of the Year Award from the School's graduating Class of 2016.
- Peter Mbi, PharmD, preceptor and clinical assistant professor, was named a 2016 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Master Preceptor.
- [Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD](#), professor, and [Kathryn Walker, PharmD](#), associate professor, were elected to the inaugural Board of Trustees for the Society of Palliative Care Pharmacists.
- [Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD](#), professor, was named chair of

the Society of Palliative Care Pharmacists' Education Committee and was appointed to a two-year term on the Executive Committee of UMB's Center to Advance Chronic Pain Research.

- [Katy Pincus, PharmD](#), assistant professor, received a Faculty Teacher of the Year Award from the Division of Medical Student Education in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.
- [Brent Reed, PharmD](#), assistant professor, was appointed to the American Heart Association's (AHA) Leadership Committee of the Council on Quality Care and Outcomes Research and was named chair of the Maryland Advocacy Coordinating Committee of AHA's Mid-Atlantic Affiliate.
- [Deanna Tran, PharmD](#), assistant professor, was appointed chair of the Recognition Committee of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management's (APhA-APPM) Immunizing Pharmacists Special Interest Group, and was appointed to APhA-APPM's Education Standing Committee.
- [Kristin Watson, PharmD](#), associate professor, received the inaugural Excellence Award from the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists.
- [Chanel Whittaker, PharmD](#), associate professor, was appointed the 2015-2016 chair of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists' Pharmacy Educators and Research Council and received the Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award from the School's graduating Class of 2016.

PHSR Faculty, Staff, and Students

- [Susan dosReis, PhD](#), associate professor, was elected co-chair of the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology's Pediatric Special Interest Group and was selected as the School of Pharmacy's 2016 Student Government Association and Kappa Psi Faculty Advisor of the Year.
- Priyanka Gaitonde and Joseph Vandigo, both graduate students, received PHSR's Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship.
- Maya Hanna and Patience Moyo, both graduate students, received PHSR's Donald O. Fedder Memorial Scholarship.
- Anna Hung, graduate student, and [Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD](#), associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation and professor of pharmacy practice and science, were accepted into the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Walmart Scholars Program.
- Peter Hur, PharmD, MBA, postdoctoral fellow, received a Best New Investigator Podium Research Presentations Award at the annual meeting of the International Society for

Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research.

- Aida Kuzucan, graduate student, received PHSR's Harris Zuckerman Scholarship.
- Tabassum Majid, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, received second place in the postdoctoral category in the Johns Hopkins University Research on Aging Showcase.
- [C. Daniel Mullins, PhD](#), professor and chair, was appointed to the BD4P Steering Committee of the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration.
- Elisabeth Oehrlein, graduate student, received PHSR's Donald O. Fedder Memorial Fellowship.
- [Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD](#), professor, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Food and Drug Law Institute.
- [Fadia Shaya, PhD](#), professor, was named Woman of the Year in Health Services by the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for her commitments and accomplishments in service to the community and professional leadership congruent with the legacy of Zeta Phi Beta and was elected to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.
- Jan Sieluk, graduate student, received PHSR's Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship.

PSC Faculty, Staff, and Students

- Imran Ansari, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, received a travel award to attend the Behavior, Biology, and Chemistry: Translational Research in Addiction conference in San Antonio, Texas.
- Ebehiremen Ayewoh, graduate student, has been named a University of Maryland, Baltimore County Meyerhoff Graduate Fellow.
- Heather Boyce, William Hedrich, and Soo Hyeon Shin, all graduate students, received travel awards to attend the annual meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists in November in Denver.
- [Andrew Coop, PhD](#), professor and associate dean for academic affairs, was named chair-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Chemistry Section.
- Tanvi Deshpande, graduate student, won first place in the ExcipientFest Americas' Poster Contest at its annual meeting in Baltimore in April.
- Brandon Drennen, graduate student, received travel awards to attend the American Chemical Society's National Meeting in San Diego.
- William Hedrich, graduate student, received the Outstanding Presentation Award at UMB's Graduate Research Conference.

- Bowen Jiang, graduate student, won second place in the ExcipientFest America's Poster Contest at its annual meeting in Baltimore in April.
- Laura Murphy, MPH, student in the MS in Regulatory Science program, received the School's Ellen H. Yankellow Scholarship.
- Heather Neu, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, received the American Chemical Society's Division of Inorganic Chemistry Young Investigator Award.
- Lt. Cmdr. Judy Park, PharmD, student in the MS in Regulatory Science program, received the School's GlaxoSmithKline Scholarship.
- [James Polli, PhD](#), the Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was appointed a member-at-large to the Board of Directors of the Association of Graduate Regulatory Educators.
- [Jerry Rosen, PhD](#), professor, received professor emeritus status at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.
- [Bruce Yu, PhD](#), professor, received a United States Patent for "Noninvasive Characterization of Mechanical Properties of Materials and Tissues Using Magnetic Resonance Techniques."

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, 20 N. Pine Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

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