



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

# From the Dean's Desk

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

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Dear colleagues,

As the School of Pharmacy concludes the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding in 1841, we will be celebrating with two very special events recognizing those at the heart of who we are -- our alumni.

In late April, we are hosting an Alumni Awards of Service and Excellence luncheon at which we will recognize 35 alumni nominated by their peers for their expertise, influence, and impact in the School's mission areas of education, practice, research, and community/service.

And in May, we will host a once-in-a-lifetime dinner at which we will honor our Founding Pharmapreneurs -- those giants of industry, academia, practice, and research -- living and deceased -- who epitomize the spirit of innovation, risk-taking, and leadership for which the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is known.

I look forward to sharing photos and a recap of each event with you soon.

In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact

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



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**School Joins National Institute for Biopharmaceuticals Manufacturing**

The School of Pharmacy will be a pivotal partner in a new national institute to advance leadership in pharmaceutical manufacturing across the United States. Announced by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker in December, the National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) will focus on bringing safe drugs to market faster and developing workforce training. NIIMBL is the 11<sup>th</sup> institute established by Manufacturing USA, and jointly includes the School of Pharmacy at UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP).



[Stephen Hoag, PhD](#), professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Facility at the School of Pharmacy, and William Bentley, PhD, MEng, the Robert E. Fischell Distinguished Chair in Engineering for the A. James Clark School of Engineering at UMCP, will serve as co-principal investigators for the University of Maryland. [Read more here...](#)

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## SOP Receives Grant Funding from Cardinal Health Foundation, Joins Learning Collaborative



Faculty in the Departments of Pharmacy Practice and Science and Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the School of Pharmacy have received a multi-year, \$150,000 grant from the Cardinal Health Foundation's E3 Grant Program to help improve health outcomes for high-risk patients, while reducing health care costs. The grant -- which targets patients with chronic illnesses and a history of frequent hospital readmissions -- will support a new School of Pharmacy initiative titled "Patient-Activated Medication Safety (PAMS)," which will offer patients a personalized, interprofessional intervention following their discharge from the hospital. This one-on-one engagement with patients and their family members will encourage proactive medication safety measures to help patients maintain or improve their health and reduce patients' need for costly hospital readmissions. The School of Pharmacy is one of 13 organizations nationwide -- and the only school of pharmacy -- to receive this multi-year grant from the Cardinal Health Foundation and will join other grantees in a learning collaborative facilitated by the Alliance for Integrated Medication Management (AIMM). The collaborative is designed to help the organizations share their learning and more quickly implement evidence-based practices. [Read more here...](#)

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## Shaya Awarded \$1.5 Million Behavioral Health Administration Contract

[Fadia T. Shaya, MPH, PhD](#), professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research and director of the [Behavioral Health Research Team](#) at the School of Pharmacy, has been awarded a \$1.5 million contract from the Behavioral Health Administration, a division of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to support the development of programs and trainings to help curtail prescription drug abuse among individuals living in the state of Maryland. The programs and trainings will also aim to reduce the number of opioid-related overdoses and deaths in the state and strengthen both the state and local communities' capacity to address the overprescribing of controlled substances. [Read more here...](#)



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## Faculty Member Named UMB 2016 Researcher of the Year

[Linda Simoni-Wastila, BSPHarm, MSPH, PhD](#), professor and Parke-Davis Chair in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy, was named the University of Maryland, Baltimore's 2016 Founders Week Researcher of the Year for her work on drug abuse and mental health in vulnerable populations – the young, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, and those at risk due to impaired physical and mental health. [Read more here...](#)



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## School Launches New, Online Graduate Program in Palliative Care

To meet the growing need for interprofessional education in hospice and palliative care, the School of Pharmacy has launched a new, online graduate program in palliative care. Directed by [Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, MA, MDE, BCPS, CPE](#), professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science and executive director for advanced post-graduate education in palliative care at the School, the [online Master of Science \(MS\) and Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care program](#) is an interprofessional program designed for all palliative care practitioners, including physicians, pharmacists, nurses and advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, therapists, psychologists and counselors, administrators, social workers, chaplains, thanatologists, and bereavement and volunteer specialists. Students who enroll in the program can choose to earn a graduate certificate in palliative care or complete the full program to receive the master's degree. The next deadline for admissions for the MS and Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care program is June 30, with classes beginning in Fall 2017. [Read more here...](#)



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## Study Links Common Gene Mutation to Increased Risk for Large Artery Stroke

[Patrick Wintrode, PhD](#), associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, recently collaborated on a large, multinational study that linked a single amino acid variant in the protein coding gene SERPINA1 to an increased risk for large artery stroke. Published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, the study leveraged Dr. Wintrode's expertise in hydrogen-deuterium exchange mass spectrometry to characterize the amino acid substitution, which occurs in the protein alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) and was previously believed to be a "silent" mutation with no association to any disease in the body. [Read more here...](#)



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## SOP and Hopkins Partner to Host Drug Discovery Symposium

The School of Pharmacy welcomed more than 200 researchers from across the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and Johns Hopkins University (JHU) to the first-ever UMB-JHU Joint Symposium on Drug Discovery in February. Organized by [Paul Shapiro, PhD](#), professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the School of Pharmacy, and Takashi Tsukamoto, PhD, associate professor of neurology and director of medicinal chemistry for the Johns Hopkins Drug Discovery Program, the symposium provided an open forum for scientific exchange and interactive communication among students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty from two of Baltimore's premier academic institutions. [Read more here...](#)

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## New Study Will Examine Early Life Environment and Later Life Dementia Risk

[Sarah Tom, PhD](#), assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, recently received a five-year, \$475,000 career development award from the National Institute on Aging to examine the relationship between individuals' early life social environment and risk for developing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias later in life. Incorporating data from several geographically diverse populations, the study aims to understand whether an advantaged early life social environment correlates to increased cognitive reserve and, subsequently, increased ability to buffer (protect) against symptoms associated with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias later in life. [Read more here...](#)



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## SOP's Mullins Honored with University Diversity Award



[C. Daniel Mullins, PhD](#), professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity Recognition Award for Outstanding Faculty in February. Presented to individuals who serve as models of the ideals epitomized by the life and work of noted civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the award recognizes Dr. Mullins' work as director of the [Patient-Centered Involvement in Evaluating the Effectiveness of Treatments \(PATIENTS\) program](#), which strives to empower patients to propose questions about their health care concerns and actively participate in studies to address those questions. [Read more here...](#)

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## 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

- George Anagnostou, MS, senior instructional technology specialist; Lisa Finn, MPH, assistant director of assessment, and Shannon Tucker, MS, assistant dean for instructional design and

technology, completed the ExamSoft Certification Program demonstrating their knowledge of best practices in the creation and support of exams and users. [Read more here...](#)

- Margaret Hayes, MS, director of student services and outreach, was appointed by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan to a five-year term on the Maryland State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners. She was also appointed to a second term on the Board of Directors of St. Agnes Healthcare.
- William McLean, multimedia manager, was named the University of Maryland, Baltimore's February Employee of the Month. [Read more here...](#)

### **PharmD Students**

- A team of four fourth-year student pharmacists and one recent graduate received third place in the National Community Pharmacists Association's (NCPA) Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition. They are student pharmacists Brandon Biggs, Caleb Goodrich, Elaine Pranski, and David Tran and graduate Emily Chen, PharmD '16. [Read more here...](#)
- Meryam Gharbi, a third-year student pharmacist, has been elected an APhA-ASP member-at-large.
- Jessica Krummel, a first-year student pharmacist, has received a 2016 EPIC Pharmacies Student Grant.
- An Nguyen and Monica Tong, both fourth-year student pharmacists, won the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Local Clinical Skills Competition.
- Monica Tong, a fourth-year student pharmacist, received the 2016 American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Student Pharmacist of the Year Award.

### **PPS Faculty and Staff**

- [Nicole Brandt, PharmD](#), professor and executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, has been appointed to the National Committee for Quality Assurance's Geriatric Measurement Advisory Panel. She is the first pharmacist appointed to this group.
- [Alison Duffy, PharmD, BCOP](#), a clinical assistant professor, received the 2016 Jeffrey Ensor Leadership Award from the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists for her impact on Maryland health-system pharmacists or pharmacy practice as a young pharmacist.
- [Jeffrey Gonzales, PharmD](#), associate professor, received the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Critical Care Practice and Research Network Clinical Practitioner Award.
- [Emily Heil, PharmD, BCPS-AQ ID, AAHIVP](#), an assistant professor, received the 2016 Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists Medication Safety Award for her work on the implementation of an infectious disease fellow-led penicillin allergy testing consult service.
- [Jill A. Morgan, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS](#), associate professor and chair, received the highest honor presented by the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacists – the W. Arthur Purdum Award – in recognition of her significant contributions to the field of health-system pharmacy.

- [Brent Reed, PharmD](#), assistant professor, received the Outstanding Reviewer Award from the journal *Pharmacotherapy* has been named to the journal's editorial board.
- [Charmaine Rochester, PharmD](#), associate professor, has been elected chair and treasurer of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy's Practice Committee.
- [Deanna Tran, PharmD](#), assistant professor, has been appointed chair of the Research Committee for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Laboratory Instructors Special Interest Group and has been re-appointed chair of the Maryland Pharmacists Association's Communications Committee.
- [Mona Tsoukleris, PharmD](#), associate professor, has been elected to the Association of Asthma Educators' Board of Directors.

### PHSR Faculty, Staff, and Students

- [Susan dosReis, PhD](#), associate professor, has been appointed to the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education's Board of Grants.
- [Hillary Edwards](#), assistant director of program management and evaluation in the PATIENTS Program, has been appointed to the Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research's Emerging Professionals Working Group.
- [Jasel Martin, PhD](#), postdoctoral fellow, has received the inaugural Yancey Edgley Postdoctoral Award.
- Jacqueline Milani, MS, MBA, CPP, director of Pharmaceutical Research Computing (PRC), received the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Employee of the Month Award for October 2016. [Read more here...](#)
- [Elisabeth Oehrlein](#), graduate student, received a Silver Medal from the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy for her abstract "The Accelerator or the Brake for Real-World Evidence?"
- [Ebere Onukwughu, PhD](#), associate professor and executive director of PRC, has been named an associate editor of the journal *Ethnicity & Disease*.
- [Frank Palumbo, PhD, JD](#), professor and director of the Center on Drugs and Public Policy and co-authors received the 2016 Larry M. Simonsmeier Writing Award from the American Society for Pharmacy Law for the article "Navigating Through a Complex and Inconsistent Regulatory Framework: Section 503B of the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act Outsourcing Facilities Engaged in Clinical Investigation."
- Barbarajean "BJ" Robinson-Shaneman, BSN, MSN, senior program advisor for the PATIENTS Program, has been selected to receive the Women Honoring Women Community Service Award from Changing Lives Ministries.
- Melissa Ross, graduate student, won second place in the Maryland Public Health Association's Dr. Donald O. Fedder Student Poster Competition.

### PSC Faculty, Staff, and Students

- [Andrew Coop, PhD](#), professor and associate dean for academic affairs, has been appointed to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Anesthetic and Analgesic Drug Products Advisory Committee and has been named a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

- [Andrew Coop, PhD](#), professor, and [Alex MacKerell, PhD](#), Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Computer-Aided Drug Design Center, received a United States Patent for "Novel Mixed Mu Agonist/Delta Antagonist Opioid Analgesic with Reduced Tolerance Liabilities and Uses Thereof."
- [Alex MacKerell, PhD](#), Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Computer-Aided Drug Design Center, received a United States Patent for "Defensin-like Molecules as Novel Antimicrobial Agents."
- Heather Neu, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, received first place in the University of Maryland, Baltimore Postdoctoral Association's Three Minutes in an Elevator Pitch Contest.
- [Bruce Yu, PhD](#), professor and director of the Bio- and Nanotechnology Center, received a United States Patent for "Electrostatically Controlled Hydrogels."