



# From the Dean's Desk

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

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Dear colleagues,

In preparing this newsletter, it struck me that the faculty, staff, and students at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy are what make the School a top 10 institution. It's not our bricks and mortar, or the exceptional academic programs we offer, or for that matter, our leadership. It's our people.

As you will read below, our faculty, staff, and students are nationally and internationally recognized for their contributions to pharmacy education, practice, research, and community service. They are thought leaders, advocates, innovators, and pharmapreneurs who receive national awards and are appointed to leadership positions in well-known organizations. They are researchers and clinicians who secure grant funding for groundbreaking research projects and who create innovative patient care programs. And our students are our future colleagues, seeking out opportunities as students to make an impact on the profession.

I'm sure you will agree after reading this issue. We simply have the best faculty, staff, and students.

In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact

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



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## M-CERSI Cooperative Agreement Grant Renewed by Food and Drug Administration

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[Kudos!](#)

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# CERSI

University of Maryland

The [University of Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation \(M-CERSI\)](#) has been renewed for funding under a cooperative agreement grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A collaborative partnership led by [James Polli, PhD](#), the Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics at the School of Pharmacy, and William E. Bentley, PhD, the Robert E. Fischell Distinguished Chair of Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park, M-CERSI is one of only four FDA-funded CERSIs in the U.S., and the only CERSI to receive continuous funding from the FDA since it first launched in 2011. This latest renewal, which allows for up to \$5 million per year over five years, will allow M-CERSI to continue its mission to contribute to modernizing and improving the ways in which drugs and medical devices are reviewed and evaluated. [Read more here...](#)

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## Practice Faculty Member Elected President of CPNP



[Megan Ehret, PharmD, MS, BCPP](#), associate professor in the [Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science \(PPS\)](#), has been elected president of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP). She will lead the organization in continuing its mission to advance the reach and practice of psychiatric pharmacy

while maintaining her faculty appointment at the School. Dr. Ehret joined the School of Pharmacy in PPS in 2017, where she teaches in the PharmD program and pursues research in the areas of precision medicine, psychotropic medication adherence, and the role of the psychiatric pharmacist on the health care team. [Read more here...](#)

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## PATIENTS Day Empowers Local Communities to Take Charge of Their Health



Nearly 200 community members, health care providers, and researchers came together at the University of Maryland BioPark in July to celebrate PATIENTS Day. Hosted by the School of Pharmacy's [Patient-Centered Involvement in Evaluating the Effectiveness of Treatments \(PATIENTS\) Program](#), this interactive health fair offered attendees an opportunity to learn from and teach each other how to create and sustain healthy individuals and communities in West Baltimore and nationwide. [Read more here...](#)

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## Independent Community Pharmacist, Longtime Preceptor Inducted into Dean's Hall of Fame



Peter T. Mbi, PharmD, PhD, owner of Global Health Pharmacy in Laurel and Odenton, Md., was inducted into the Dean's Hall of Fame for Distinguished Community Pharmacists as part of the annual banquet hosted by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA)

Leavitt Student Chapter at the School of Pharmacy on April 19. Established in 2006, the Hall of Fame Award is presented each year in recognition of a pharmacist's leadership, entrepreneurship, and passion for independent pharmacy. In 1996, Dr. Mbi established Global Health Pharmacy to serve the medication-related needs of patients across Howard, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel Counties. An advanced community practice site, Global Health Pharmacy integrates long-term care services, group homes, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities to offer a wide range of services to patients, including one-on-one medication counseling, comprehensive medication reviews, immunizations, and diabetic and allergy services. [Read more here...](#)

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## SOP's Hollenbeck Honored with Distinguished Alumnus Award

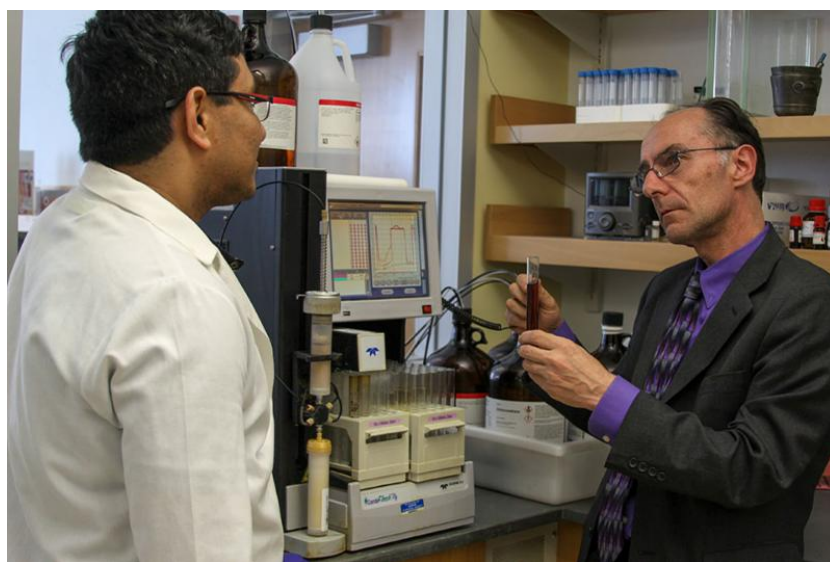


The Purdue University College of Pharmacy has named R. Gary Hollenbeck, PhD, affiliate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC) and research fellow in the [Good Manufacturing Practice \(GMP\) facility](#) at the School of Pharmacy, one of its 2018 Distinguished Pharmacy Alumni. Established in 1984, the award celebrates the outstanding achievements in professional and scientific endeavors of the college's most prominent alumni. Dr. Hollenbeck is one of four alumni from the college to be recognized with the award this year. [Read more here...](#)

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## Panel Discussion Highlights Opioid Crisis in Maryland





[Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FCP, FAAPS](#), dean and professor of the School of Pharmacy, and [Andrew Coop, PhD](#), associate dean for academic affairs and professor in the [Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences](#) at the School, joined Jay A. Perman, MD, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), for an interdisciplinary panel discussion focused on the opioid crisis currently plaguing the United States. Held in April, the panel discussion spotlighted the University's efforts to bring science to an area in which evidence-based practices are often lacking, including Dr. Coop's work to develop UMB 425 - an opioid painkiller with the potential for no abuse liability. First discovered by Dr. Coop and his team in 2013, UMB 425 is as strong as morphine, but boasts a unique dual-profile that acts on two different opioid receptors in the body. [Read more here...](#)

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## Faculty Member Named AACP Academic Leadership Fellow



[James Trovato, PharmD, MBA, BCOP, FASHP](#), associate professor and vice chair for academic affairs in the [Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science](#), has been accepted into the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's (AACP) Academic Leadership Fellows Program. This year-long program is designed to develop the most promising individuals from the organization's member institutions to become future leaders in pharmacy and in higher education. Dr. Trovato is one of 30 pharmacy educators who will join the program's 2018-2019 cohort of fellows. [Read more here...](#)

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**PSC Faculty Member Awarded \$600,000 Grant to**

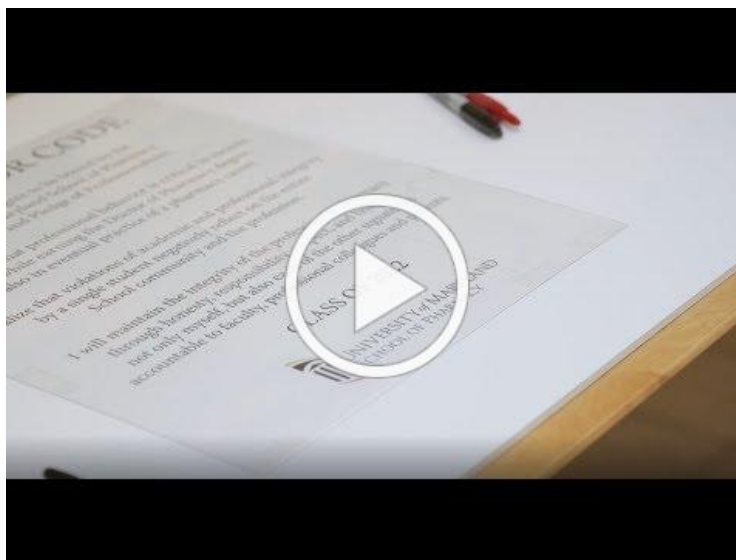
## Develop New Biomanufacturing Analytical Technologies



[Bruce Yu, PhD](#), professor in the [Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences](#), has been awarded a \$600,000 grant from the [National Institute for Innovation in Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals \(NIIMBL\)](#) to develop new analytical technologies for use in biopharmaceuticals manufacturing. The grant is among the first group of awards to be issued by NIIMBL - a new national institute established in 2016 to advance leadership in pharmaceutical manufacturing across the United States. [Read more here...](#)

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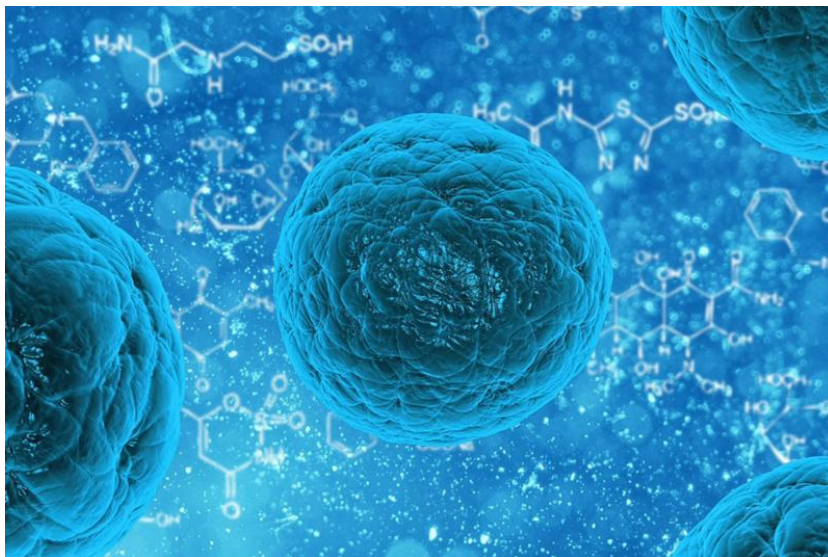
## Orientation Sets Expectations for New Students



To help prepare incoming students for the upcoming academic year, the School of Pharmacy hosted new student orientation in August for members of its PharmD Class of 2022, as well as first-year graduate students in its [PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences \(PSC\)](#) and [PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research \(PHSR\)](#) programs. Activities for students in the PharmD program introduced students to the School of Pharmacy while setting expectations for the next four years. Students in the PhD in PSC program had an opportunity to attend presentations that showcased the wide range of research conducted in the department, while those in the PhD in PHSR programs attended informative sessions that outlined expectations for coursework, teaching assistantships, and research rotations. [Click here](#) to watch a video of

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## Lamy Center to Lead Statewide Antimicrobial Initiative



The [Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging](#) has been awarded a \$200,000 contract from the Maryland Department of Health to promote appropriate antimicrobial use in long-term care and nursing facilities across the state of Maryland. [Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCPP, CGP, FASCP](#), professor in the [Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science](#) and executive director of the Lamy Center, will serve as the principal investigator for the contract, which ultimately aims to establish a training program focused on antimicrobial stewardship and infection control for consultant pharmacists and other medical providers working in long-term care settings across the state. [Read more here...](#)

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## Symposium Highlights Value of Mass Spectrometry in Biophysics



To help celebrate Biophysics Week, which was internationally observed from March 12-16, the [Mass Spectrometry Center](#) at the School of Pharmacy hosted a day-long symposium focused on the increasing demand and utility of mass spectrometry in structural biology and biophysical research. Titled "Mass Spectrometry: An Expanding Tool for the Biophysicist," the symposium attracted dozens of researchers from across the nation and featured presentations delivered by several leading experts in mass spectrometry-based biophysical studies. The



School's Mass Spectrometry Center is a partner in the Waters Corporation Centers of Innovation Program, which recognizes analytical scientists facilitating breakthroughs in health and life science research, food safety, environmental protection, sports medicine, and many other areas. [Read more here...](#)

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## Student Pharmacists Place in Top 16 of National P&T Competition



This year marks the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Foundation's 18th annual Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Competition. Before students can compete at the national level, their team must win a local P&T competition. Local competitions were hosted at 47 pharmacy schools across the country. The winning submission from each local competition is submitted to the national competition. The School of Pharmacy's winning team of Caroline Titus, first-year student pharmacist; and Amita Jain, Cory Duke, and Julia Mahler, all second-year student pharmacists was selected as one of 16 semifinalists for competing in the national competition. [Read more here...](#)

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## Associate Dean Installed as APhA Trustee



[Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, FAPhA](#), professor in the [Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science](#) and associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, has been installed to serve



a three-year term on the American Pharmacists Association's (APhA) Board of Trustees. She will collaborate with fellow board members on broad direction setting for the association, helping to ensure that APhA continues its mission to lead the pharmacy profession and equip members for their role as the medication expert in team-based, patient-centered care. [Read more here...](#)

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## Faculty Member Named APhA Speaker-Elect



[Joey Mattingly, PharmD, MBA](#), assistant professor in the [Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science](#), has been named speaker-elect for the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). In his new role, which he will serve while maintaining his faculty appointment at the School, Dr. Mattingly will preside over the APhA House of Delegates and serve as a member of the association's Board of Trustees. [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.

### PharmD Students

- A team of student pharmacists, led by fourth-year student Leigh Cervino, was a finalist in the national Script Your Future Medication Adherence Team Challenge.
- The team of third-year student pharmacists Max Eiden, Xia Gao, and Xinqi Liu was one of 9 finalists in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's 2018 Clinical Research Challenge.

### Pharmacy Practice and Science Faculty and Staff

- The following School of Pharmacy faculty and staff have been appointed to the Maryland Health Care Commission's Electronic Prescription Records System Workgroup: [Nicole Brandt, PharmD](#), professor and executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging; Joshua Chou, PharmD, a fellow in the Lamy Center; [Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD](#), professor, associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, and director of the [Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions \(CIPS\)](#), and Roxanne Zaghaf, DM, CKM, director of operations and business development for CIPS.

- Sophia Johnson, PharmD, MPH, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and science and of pharmaceutical health services research, has been named chair of the Mixed Methods International Research Association's Governance Committee.
- Michael Joines, Kevin Simmons, and Jeanne Wunderer of the [Maryland Poison Center](#) have been recertified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers as Certified Specialists in Poison Information.
- [Ashlee Mattingly, PharmD](#), assistant professor, has been elected to a two-year term on the Maryland Pharmacists Association's Board of Trustees.
- [Katy Pincus, PharmD](#), assistant professor, was named the School of Pharmacy's Kappa Psi and Student Government Association Advisor of the Year.
- [Brent Reed, PharmD](#), associate professor, has been named section editor for cardiology for the journal *PharmacotherapyFirst* and has been appointed to the American Pharmacists Association's (APhA) House of Delegates Policy Review Committee and the Board of Governors of APhA's Political Action Committee.
- [Deanna Tran, PharmD](#), assistant professor, has been named coordinator-elect of the American Pharmacists Association's Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management Immunizing Pharmacists Special Interest Group and received the Maryland Pharmacists Association's Mentor of the Year Award.

#### **Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Faculty, Staff, and Students**

- Hillary Edwards, MPH, associate director of program management and evaluation for the PATIENTS Program, has been re-elected to the University of Maryland, Baltimore Staff Senate.
- Laura Gressler, graduate student, has received an ORISE Fellowship in the Department of Epidemiology at the FDA.
- Angelique Kane, business services specialist, has been accepted into the Building Bridges Across Maryland, a training, networking, and development program at Towson University for administrative support staff at area colleges and universities.
- [C. Daniel Mullins, PhD](#), professor, chair, and director of the PATIENTS Program, has been named a member of the National Academy of Medicine's steering committee on "Generating Stakeholder Support and Demand for Leveraging and Sharing Data for Continuous Learning."
- B.J. Shaneman, RN, MSN, senior program specialist in the PATIENTS Program, has been named an Honoree by the New Vision House of Hope for her service, dedication, and commitment to the citizens of Baltimore.
- Ester Villalonga Olives, assistant professor, has been named an Outstanding Reviewer by the journal *Health & Place*.

#### **Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty, Staff, and Students**

- Yulemni Morel, Brianna Scotland, and Raquel Shortt, all graduate students, have been named Meyerhoff Graduate Fellows.
- [Audra Stinchcomb, PhD](#), professor, received a United States

patent for "Extending and Maintaining Micropore Viability of Microneedle Treated Skin with Lipid Biosynthesis Inhibitors for Sustained Drug Delivery."

- [Jia Bei Wang, PhD](#), professor, received a United States patent for "Combination Dopamine Antagonist and Opiate Receptor Antagonist Treatment of Addictive Behavior."