



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

# UMSOP NEWS

April 2023

## Sarah Michel, PhD, Named Interim Dean



University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, has appointed [Sarah Michel, PhD](#), professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and associate dean for graduate programs, interim dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Michel will assume her interim position on June 1, following the stepping down of Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP, on May 31. Eddington is returning to her faculty role at the School and will be leading UMB's new EMBRACE initiative. Michel will serve as interim dean as a national search for the next dean of UMSOP is conducted. [Read more.](#)

## Level Up for UMSOP



Help us "Level Up UMSOP!" The School of Pharmacy is hosting its 30-day online giving challenge through May 8 and is asking for your gifts of support and time celebrating and promoting how the UMSOP community is leveling up education, research, practice, and community engagement. Gifts will support our students, faculty, staff, departments, centers, and programs as they tackle the most complex problems facing our health care system today. [Make your gift today.](#) Be sure to follow the School of Pharmacy on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) and like, comment, and share our content.

## New Associate Dean for Student

## Affairs Appointed

After 10 years of service as the School of Pharmacy's associate dean for student affairs, [Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, BCACP, FAPhA](#), professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research (P-SHOR), is returning to her fulltime faculty position as of June 15. [Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD, BCCP](#), associate professor in P-SHOR, has been named her successor. He will start May 1 for a period of transition between the two leaders. [Read more.](#)



**Cherokee Layson-Wolf**

Thank you for 10  
years of service!



**Sandeep Devabhakthuni**

Congrats on the  
new position!

## Palliative Care Physician Gives John W. Holaday Endowed Memorial Lecture in Medical Cannabis



A physician and researcher examined the existing evidence for medical cannabis use during the John W. Holaday, PhD, Endowed Memorial Lectureship in Medical Cannabis held at the School of Pharmacy on March 31. David Casarett, MD, MA, professor of medicine at Duke University and chief of palliative care at Duke Health, is a health services researcher whose work focuses on improving systems of care for people with serious, life-threatening illnesses. His talk on cannabis as evidence-based medicine was delivered to a hybrid audience, including many students and alumni of the online [MS in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics](#) program. [Read more.](#)

The School of Pharmacy and Johns Hopkins University (JHU) hosted the UMB-JHU Joint Symposium on Drug Discovery on March 22 in Pharmacy Hall to showcase the schools' shared and robust community of research. Nearly 135 researchers from both campuses attended the symposium, which has been held every two years since 2017 with a pause in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus of the symposium is translational research, the process of developing and discovering new drugs from the initial stages in the lab through trials, and into the market to improve health care. [Read more.](#)

## UMB, JHU Host Third Biennial Drug Discovery Symposium



Pharmaceutical health services scholars at the School of Pharmacy have found that a decade-old federal policy meant to reduce

## Researchers Find Unintentional Impacts from Antipsychotic Reduction Initiative

antipsychotic medication usage led to several unintended consequences. [Danya Qato, PhD, PharmD, MPH](#), associate professor in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (P-SHOR), and [Linda Wastila, PhD, MPH](#), professor in P-SHOR and the Parke-Davis Chair in Geriatric Pharmacotherapy, have been researching the effects of the policy, called the antipsychotic reduction initiative (ARI). In an article published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, Qato, Wastila, and other colleagues analyzed the impact of the 2012 ARI by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on medication use and diagnosis patterns. [Read more.](#)



## EVENTS

### **MS in Regulatory Science Virtual Information Session**

May 4, Noon  
Online

Meet with the Regulatory Science program director and faculty to discuss the master's and graduate certificate program. Learn about the courses, how the program works, and how to apply. [Register here.](#)

### **Graduate Studies in Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics Online Information Session**

May 9, 1 p.m.  
Online

Meet with the Medical Cannabis Science and Therapeutics program director and faculty to discuss the master's and certificate program. Learn about the courses, how the program works and how to apply. [Register now.](#)

### **MS in Pharmacometrics Virtual Information Session**

May 24, 4 p.m.  
Online

Meet with the Pharmacometrics program director and faculty to discuss the master's program. Learn about the courses, how the program works and how to apply. [Register here.](#)

### **Center for Research on Complex Generics Training - Drug-Device Combination Products 101**

May 10

FDA and the Center for Research on Complex Generics are offering a training, Drug-Device Combination Products 101: Identifying, Developing, and Evaluating Drug-Device Combination Products to support the efficient development of complex generic drug-device combination products and to discuss ways to enhance the quality of ANDA submissions for these products. The event will be held online and in person at the Universities at Shady Grove. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Frontiers at the Chemistry- Biology Interface Symposium**

### **Computer-Aided Drug Design Symposium**

**May 20**

The Frontiers at the Chemistry-Biology Interface Symposium (FCBIS) is designed to highlight the latest in cutting-edge research in the Mid-Atlantic region and provide an intimate environment to foster scientific discussion at all levels. Oral and poster sessions, along with a career panel, are planned for this year's symposium. [Registration for this symposium is free](#) but required. Researchers at all stages of their careers in all scientific areas are encouraged to attend. .

**May 25**

This symposium is designed to facilitate collaborations between the CADD Center at the School of Pharmacy and researchers at UMB, throughout the University System of Maryland, and beyond. The symposium is appropriate for all scientists interested in the field of drug design involving both small molecules and protein-based drugs, including graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and researchers and educators from academia, government, and industry. It will also feature the annual Ellis S. Grollman Lecture, delivered by Marta Filizola, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Sharon & Frederick A. Klingenstein-Nathan G. Kase, MD Professor at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. [Information and registration.](#)

## **APhA's Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery**

**June 10**

Registration is now open for APhA's Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery at the School of Pharmacy. The purpose of this certificate training program is to prepare pharmacists with comprehensive knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to provide immunization services to patients across the life span. [Register here.](#)

## **FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT NEWS**

### **LAURELS**

[Cynthia Boyle, PharmD, FAPhA, FNAP, FASCP](#), professor emeritus of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, and [Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD](#), the Felix Gyi Endowed Memorial Professor in Pharmapreneurship, associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, and executive director of the Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, were featured in the March/April 2023 issue of the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association* as part of the American Pharmacists Association Foundation's Women in Pharmacy Recognition Campaign.

[Joga Gobburu, PhD](#), professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research (P-SHOR) and director of the Center for Translational Medicine, and [Vijay Ivaturi, PhD](#), assistant professor of practice, sciences, and health outcomes research, have received a United States Patent for "Method of Administering Sotalol IV/Switch."

[Audra Stinchcomb, PhD](#), professor of pharmaceutical sciences (PSC), has been named a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering.

Lisa Lebovitz, JD, MS '21, assistant dean of academic affairs and assessment, was a member of the team that received the 2023 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Assessment Special Interest Group Collaborative Publication Award.

[Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD '86, MA, MDE, BCPS, CPE](#), professor of P-SHOR and executive director of advanced post-graduate education in palliative care, received the UMB's Leaders in Education: Academy of Presidential Scholars Award for Distinguished Mentor.

[Fengtian Xue, PhD](#), associate professor of PSC, has been named the School of Pharmacy's 2023 Faculty Preceptor of the

Year.

## **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

[Susan dosReis, BSPharm, PhD](#), professor of P-SHOR, received a 10-month \$383,870 contract from Cytokinetics for “Measure Patient Preferences for Reldesemtiv.”

[Hillary Edwards, MPH](#), director of methodological research and evaluation for the PATIENTS Program, received a one-year \$100,000 grant from Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals for “PATIENTS Professors Academy.”

[Fadia Shaya, PhD, MPH](#), professor of P-SHOR and executive director of the Behavioral Health Resources and Technical Assistant Program, received a one-year \$30,000 contract from Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission for “Formative Research on Adult Use (Recreational) Cannabis Consumer Education Materials.”

## **COME WORK WITH US!**

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy has a variety of [employment opportunities](#) and is always seeking innovative and engaged candidates. Visit our [employment website](#) for a listing of available faculty, staff, postdoctoral, and preceptor openings.



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

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