Dear colleagues,

In the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS), our faculty, staff, and residents are pioneering new roles for pharmacists in outpatient clinics, hospital units, mental health institutions, skilled care facilities, and community pharmacies by applying their knowledge of disease and drug therapy. The same is true of their efforts related to educational innovations.

One recent example is the development of a new Master of Science in Palliative Care and Graduate Certificates program, envisioned and spearheaded by Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, a professor in PPS. Launching this spring, the online program has been designed to meet the educational needs of individuals who are currently working or who wish to work in hospice and palliative care and want to gain a deeper understanding of the physical, psychological, spiritual and social needs of patients and families affected by advanced illness, or those wishing to do so. It’s right for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, therapists, psychologists, administrators, social workers, chaplains, counselors, bereavement and volunteer specialists, thanatologists, and more. The program is enrolling now for the fall semester. Click here to learn more.

Sincerely,

Jill A. Morgan, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS
Associate Professor and Chair

PPS Faculty Member Named Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning
Agnes Ann Feemster, PharmD, BCPS, assistant professor in 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. Read more here...

Rodriguez de Bittner Named Inaugural UMMS Population Health Fellow

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, BCPS, FAPhA, professor in PPS and the School's associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, 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. Read more here...

SOP's Heil Leads Study Showing Penicillin Testing Can Change Treatment Course

A study from the University of Maryland 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. The study, led by Emily L. Heil, PharmD, BCPS-AQ ID, AAHIVP, assistant professor in PPS, confirmed that many people who think they have a penicillin allergy actually do not when penicillin allergy testing is performed. Read more here...

Leadership Transition at the Lamy Center

Following the retirement of Bruce Stuart, PhD, professor emeritus in PHSR and former executive director of the Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCPP, CGP, FASCP, has been named as the Center's new executive director. Chanel Whittaker, PharmD, BCPS,...
Faculty Members Honored with Statewide Awards

Three faculty members in PPS were honored with statewide awards from the Maryland Society of Health-System Pharmacy (MSHP) in November in recognition of their excellence and dedication to advancing the pharmacy profession. Jill A. Morgan, PharmD, BCPS, BCPPS, associate professor and chair, received the highest honor presented by MSHP - the W. Arthur Purdum Award - in recognition of her significant contributions to the field of health-system pharmacy. Emily Heil, PharmD, BCPS-AQ ID, AAHIVP, an assistant professor in PPS who specializes in infectious diseases, received the 2016 MSHP Medication Safety Award for her work with on the implementation of an infectious disease fellow-led penicillin allergy testing consult service. Alison Duffy, PharmD, BCOP, a clinical assistant professor in PPS who practices in oncology, received the 2016 Jeffrey Ensor Leadership Award for her impact on Maryland health-system pharmacists or pharmacy practice as a young pharmacist.

Balassone Lecture Spotlights Pharmacists' Role in Improving Care for Underserved

Steven W. Chen, PharmD, FASHP, FCSHP, FNAP, associate professor and chair of the Titus Family Department of Clinical Pharmacy and William A. and Josephine A. Heeres Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy at the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, delivered the annual Francis S. Balassone Memorial Lecture at the School of Pharmacy in October. Titled "Improving Health Outcomes While Advancing Pharmacy Practice through Innovative Pharmacy Services for the Underserved," the lecture spotlighted the efforts of Dr. Chen and his team to integrate comprehensive clinical pharmacy services into local safety net clinics - clinics that offer low cost or free health care services to underserved and uninsured populations - and the impact of those services on patients' health care quality, safety, and cost.

Kudos!

Our department's faculty are regularly recognized at the local and national level for their expertise. Here is a short list of recent accomplishments.

- 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.
- 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, assistant professor, received the 2016 Infectious Disease Practice and Research Network Clinical Practice Award from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.
- Brent Reed, PharmD, assistant professor, has been appointed to the American Heart Association's (AHA) Leadership Committee of the Council on Quality Care and Outcomes Research, has been named chair of the Maryland Advocacy Coordinating Committee of AHA’s Mid-Atlantic Affiliate, and received the Outstanding Reviewer Award from the journal Pharmacotherapy. He has also been appointed to the editorial board of the journal Pharmacotherapy.
- 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.

Publications

- Oliver WD, **Heil EL**, Thom KA, Martinez JP, Hayes BD. "Allergy Profile should be Updated after Uneventful Administration of a Penicillin or Penicillin-related Antibiotic to a Patient with Penicillin Allergy." Journal of Allergy Clinical Immunology: In Practice 2016 (epub ahead of print).
- McPherson ML. "Methadone Safety Guidelines for Hospice and Palliative Care. AAHPM Quarterly 2016;16(2).
- Sera, L. "Feeling the Burn: Updated Treatment Recommendations." Pharmacy Today, September 2016, 44.
- Bemben, N. "CDC Recommends Limiting Duration of Opioid Therapy for Acute Pain." Pharmacy Today, September 2016, 44.
- Stassinos G, Klein-Schwartz W. "Comparison of Pediatric Atypical Antipsychotic Exposures..."


Presentations


Mattingly II TJ, Slejko JF, Mullins CD. "Cost-Effectiveness of Grazoprevir/Elbasvir in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Virus." International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Annual European Congress, Vienna, Austria, November 1, 2016.


Patzke D, Chui SHU, Yeung SYA, Zimrin A. "Argatroban use in Patients with Hepatic Dysfunction or Critical Illness." Vizient University Health System Consortium on December 3rd (preliminary results).


Sera L, Holmes H, McPherson ML. "Medication use in Hospice Patients with Failure to Thrive or Debility." Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care 2016 Clinical Case Conference, Chicago, IL, September 2016.


Mendoza KS, Hilliard R, McPherson ML. "Are We 'In the Weeds?' What Hospice Providers want to Know about Medical Cannabis." Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care 2016 Clinical Case Conference, Chicago, IL, September 2016.

Bivens A. "PEC Symposium: Partnership Success Stories"; North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology, September 15, 2016


Sera L. "Opioid Pharmacology." National Institutes of Health Department of Palliative Medicine, Bethesda, MD. Medicine, Bethesda, MD. Sep 2016.