



# From the Dean's Desk

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

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## Events

**August 20, noon - 2 p.m.**  
Annual Ice Cream Social  
Celebrating the First Day  
of the Fall Semester

**Sept. 7, 2 p.m.**  
White Coat Ceremony  
for First-Year PharmD  
Students

**Sept. 26, 1 p.m.**  
Bruce Anderson,  
PharmD, director of the  
Maryland Poison Center,  
will deliver a **special  
lecture on the history of  
the Poison Center** in

Fall 2012

## First Edition

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the first of what will be a series of regular email communications to alumni and friends of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. With so many innovative activities taking place in our education, practice, and research initiatives, I want you to share in the palpable excitement and energy at the School.



Your involvement in the life of the School of Pharmacy is crucial to maintaining the expertise, influence, and impact for which we are known. The beauty of this new format is that it provides a mechanism for you to respond directly to me with your questions and input, and I do look forward to hearing back from you with your ideas.

Happy reading, and come see us soon.

In the spirit of expertise, influence, and impact,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie D. Eddington".

Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP  
Professor and Dean

## Graduation of the Class of 2012

On May 18, nearly 160 PharmD and PhD students graduated from the School of Pharmacy in multiple ceremonies celebrating their academic achievements. Rear Admiral Scott Giberson, assistant U.S. Surgeon General with the United States Public Health Service and its chief pharmacy office, joined us to deliver remarks to the Class of 2012. These students now join the ranks of our nearly 5,000 alumni. Join me in offering



celebration of its 40th anniversary of service to the state of Maryland

**October 20**

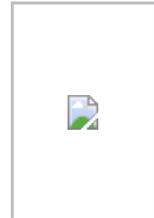
The School's first **All Alumni Reunion Day** will feature continuing education courses, special PhD programs, tours of the School's new Pharmacy Hall as well as the Maryland Poison Center in celebration of its 40th anniversary, a crab feast and BBQ, and milestone reunion class parties for years ending in 7 and 2. For more information, call the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 410-706-8019 or visit [www.umrxalumni.org](http://www.umrxalumni.org).

congratulations to all of them. [Read more...](#)

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## Engaging Hard-to-Reach Patients in Health-Care Decision Making

I'm proud to report that researchers from the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research were recipients of funding from the Patient-Center Outcomes Research Institute to include hard-to-reach patients, who often have multiple medical problems, in health care decision-making. The contract, awarded to professor [C. Daniel Mullins, PhD](#), is one of only a few PCORI contracts issued to date for developing models, protocols, or guidelines for including patients in research design and implementation. [Read more...](#)



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## National "Script Your Future" Award

Our student pharmacists won a prestigious national award from the Script Your Future (SYF) Medication Adherence Challenge. The SYF campaign seeks to raise awareness with patients about the importance of taking medication as directed. Our students, selected from 81 participating colleges and schools of pharmacy, won the Target Market Challenge Award for their participation in health fairs and other local events at which they distributed more than 800 medication wallet cards to patients. [Read more...](#)



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## Maryland Poison Center's 40th Anniversary

As a vital service component of the School of Pharmacy, our Maryland Poison Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The Center handles more than 62,000 calls each year and has served approximately two million Marylanders in its 40 years. The Maryland Poison Center is staffed around the clock, seven days a week by specially-trained pharmacists and nurses who have provided poisoning triage, treatment recommendations, education, and prevention services to Marylanders since 1972. [Read more...](#)



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## Center for Translational Medicine

The School of Pharmacy has launched a [Center for Translational Medicine](#) in our Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, under the direction of [Joga Gobburu, PhD, MBA](#), who was recruited from the FDA. Dr. Gobburu, an expert in the field of pharmacometrics, established the center with a goal of improving upon the efficiency of medical product development. The center integrates quantitative models into tools that drug developers, regulatory agencies, and other research organizations can use to guide decisions pertaining to "go/no-go", dosage, patient population, design, endpoint, analyses, and therapeutics choices. The center also has a strong education component with the offering of a Master's degree and an Executive Master's program. [Read more...](#)



## New Leadership for Experiential Learning

[Cherokee Layson-Wolf](#), an associate professor of pharmacy practice and science, has been named the School's assistant dean for experiential learning. The assistant dean position was created to oversee ELP functions and to establish and grow relationships with practice partners in order to support rotation sites for our students. Dr. Layson-Wolf emerged from within our own community as the best candidate for the position.



[Toyin Tofade, PharmD](#), has been named ELP's associate director. Dr. Tofade joins us from the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy in the division of Pharmacy Practice and Experiential Education. She most recently worked at the Wake Area Health Education Center where she first served as associate director then as director of pharmacotherapy services.



For more information please contact them at [elp@rx.umaryland.edu](mailto:elp@rx.umaryland.edu).

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## Faculty Published in PNAS

Three faculty members from our [Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences](#) were recently published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science* on their studies of the molecular workings of disease. [Sarah Michel, PhD](#), [Angela Wilks, PhD](#), and [Patrick Wintrode, PhD](#), published three separate studies aimed at designing better-targeted drugs to fight deadly bacterial diseases and liver cirrhosis. We are proud that this work has earned the recognition of being featured in such a high-impact journal as PNAS - just another example of the important research taking place in labs all across our School. [Read more...](#)

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## School of Pharmacy Co-leads New Center of Excellence in Pain Education

The School was notified in late May that it is a co-principal investigator on a new National Institutes of Health Center of Excellence in Pain Education. Under the leadership of [Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD](#), a professor in our Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and a faculty colleague at the School of Dentistry, the University will teach the next generation of health care providers to be better equipped to manage and treat patients living with chronic pain. The NIH has selected 11 health professional education institutions as Centers of Excellence in Pain Education (CoEPEs) with the goal of using education to resolve inconsistencies in chronic pain care. [Read more...](#)



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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 short list of recent achievements.

- **Robert Beardsley, PhD**, professor of pharmaceutical health services research (PHSR), received the Noel B. Flynn Alumni

Achievement Award from Oregon State University College of Pharmacy

- **Nicole Brandt, PharmD**, associate professor of pharmacy practice and science (PPS), was elected to the National Academies of Practice.
- **Youjin "Cathy" Chang**, third-year student pharmacist, has been selected to attend the University of Cambridge's 2012 Science Summer School where she will spend eight weeks conducting research in the Department of Biochemistry.
- **Heather Congdon, PharmD**, assistant professor in PPS and assistant dean for Shady Grove, was a member of a team that received the Life Saving Patient Safety Award and the Performance Award from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative.
- **Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD**, assistant professor in PPS, has been appointed to a Society of Critical Care Medicine task force to develop guidelines on medication use safety.
- **Thomas Dowling, PharmD, PhD**, associate professor in PPS, received the 2011 Best Paper Award at the annual meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology.
- **Jeffrey Gonzales, PharmD**, assistant professor in PPS, received a citation from the Society of Critical Care Medicine.
- **Stuart Haines, PharmD**, professor in PPS, has been appointed to the editorial board of the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education and was named the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association's 2012 B. Olive Cole Honorary Alumnus.
- **Katherine Joyner**, graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC), received the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists' Graduate Student Symposium Award.
- **Wendy Klein-Schwartz, PharmD**, associate professor in PPS, received the Platform Award from the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology.
- **Alex MacKerell, PhD**, professor in PSC and director of the Computer-Aided Drug Design Center, received a patent for "Inhibitors of the S100-p53 Protein-Protein Interaction and Method of Inhibiting Cancer Employing the Same."
- **Robert Michoski, PharmD**, professor in PPS, was selected by the graduating class as Faculty Member of the Year.
- **Frank Palumbo, PhD**, professor in PHSR, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Medical University of South Carolina.
- **Katy Pincus, PharmD**, assistant professor in PPS, was accepted into the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation's Research Boot Camp and obtained board certification in pharmacotherapy.
- **James Polli, PhD**, the Shangraw/Noxell Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences, was elected to the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientist's Executive Council as a member-at-large.
- **Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD**, professor and chair of PPS, was invited to the White House as a guest of the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services' Center for Innovation for a discussion with White House staff on the impact of the patient care services pharmacists provide on outcomes and reductions in health care costs.

- **Mona Tsoukleris, PharmD**, associate professor in PPS, has been named to the executive committee of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Maryland Asthma Control Program.

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| 20 N. Pine Street | Baltimore | Maryland | 21201