Across the Globe

UB SPPS IS SERVING THE UNDERSERVED AND IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES

Page 3
Welcome To The 2015 Edition of The Buffalo Pharmacy Newsletter.

The early part of 2014 was spent meeting with students, faculty and staff where my deep regard for the outstanding accomplishments of our school continued to grow. My conversations with UB senior leadership, pharmacy colleagues from across the country and most importantly alumni made me fully appreciate the global impact our school has on health care delivery, scientific discovery and community service. These qualities are what I strive to continue to support and lead into the coming years. It has been a true pleasure getting to know you better and I look forward to many years of collaboration for the continued success of the UB SPPS!

I welcome you to read about the exciting accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students and alumni. I am very proud of what they have achieved and look forward to even greater successes in the future.

With warm regards,

James M. O’Donnell, PhD
Professor and Dean

This coincides with the end of my first year as Dean.

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Locally, Nationally and Internationally, SPPS Faculty and Students Impact Health Care

**OUTREACH MISSIONS TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**, capacity building collaboration to combat HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe, and new electives are defining SPPS leadership in the optimization of global health outcomes.

“They’re coming from different cultures. They have different backgrounds. So we should understand their culture, perspective on Western medicine, and possibly be treating them differently than the typical American because they may have different responses to drug therapy.”

“People are traveling like we’ve never seen before, so understanding how global healthcare works is really important,” says Clinical Assistant Professor Gina Prescott, PharmD.

Recent events indicate that U.S. healthcare practitioners increasingly will be caring for patients from other countries, she adds.

“They’re coming from different cultures. They have different backgrounds. So we should understand their culture, perspective on Western medicine, and possibly be treating them differently than the typical American because they may have different responses to drug therapy.”

To cultivate sound cultural competency and international professionalism for worldwide pharmacy practice, Prescott is helping students formalize annual outreach missions to low- and middle-income countries. At UB and many other schools, she says, students increasingly want to enroll in programs that offer opportunities to travel outside of the U.S. and experience firsthand how healthcare differs in other cultures and countries.

“It’s a good way to learn what we do here in the United States isn’t what patients in other countries are traditionally used to. It helps students understand that the standard of care here may not be correct in an international setting,” Prescott says.

The first, informal trip to the Dominican Republic was organized in 2013 by a pharmacy post-doctoral resident who had similar experience from a previous school.

In January 2014, a group of 20 P1, P2, and P3 PharmD students returned with a faculty member and two alumni to the Caribbean nation for additional “boots-on-the-ground” knowledge. Sponsored by SCORE International, they partnered with local practitioners to provide free clinics that offered medical diagnosis, treatment, medication counseling and education. In addition to hypertension and diabetes, students learned about the treatment of parasites, malaria, tuberculosis and other conditions not commonly seen in the U.S.
“Before going, we discuss with students whether or not we will actually recommend treatment for patients. That’s a difficult topic because they have to understand that when you do choose to treat with a medication, you want to be sure there will be more than just short-term access to medications and monitoring, that it will be sustainable. That’s really important,” says Prescott.

After returning from the Dominican Republic last January, P3 students Ciera Patzke and Jovin Panthapattu started Student Pharmacists for Global Outreach (SPGO). Christopher Defedele, P2, was also on that mission and is now SPGO president-elect.

“The mission gives you a different perspective on people who are really in need. You learn a lot, not just from the pharmacy aspect, but you also learn more about yourself,” says Defedele.

As sitting SPGO president, Patzke agrees. While the clinical experience is “amazing,” the trips also provide important two-way learning.

“I might be providing the physical services of health care, but they’re providing me with personal growth, cultural awareness, and the realization that our healthcare answers are not always the definitive right answer,” she explains.

“They also have right answers. It’s not necessarily that one is wrong and the other is right. It’s just that there are different ways to look at a situation.” Patzke and Defedele have worked with Prescott to structure SPGO to address underserved local and national as well as international communities.

“Moving forward, our plan is to start working with the refugee population in Buffalo,” Prescott says.

This January, the two students will join their fellow future pharmacists to mount an outreach trip for the first time to Honduras – and back to the Dominican Republic.

“We’ve gone to the D.R. for the last two years, and we want to establish some kind of continuity of care where we’re making an attainable difference in the same area,” says Patzke.

Gene D. Morse, PharmD, associate director of the Center for Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences (CoE) and professor of pharmacy practice, is internationally renowned for his work in HIV/AIDS pharmacotherapy and has led SPPS sustainable initiatives for global health issues for many years.

Under his direction, UB began collaboration with the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) in 2002 to increase capacity for HIV/AIDS pharmacology research and therapeutic treatment in the southeast Africa nation.

The partnership is co-directed by Chiedza Maponga, PharmD, of the UZ School of Pharmacy, and a research professor of pharmacy practice at UB, where he earned his doctorate.

In 2009, the UB-UZ initiative received $1.8M from the NIH Fogarty International Center for an AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP). AITRP supports an international HIV Clinical Pharmacology research program that has so far enabled about 15 UZ graduate students to pursue research training at UB.

“The UB-UZ partnership has resulted in the country recording the downward trend in HIV prevalence from about 25% of adults in 2002, to the currently estimated 13.6%, according to UNAIDS data,” Maponga says.

Morse and Maponga both define the UB-UZ project as a “research and practice hybrid.”

“When you have a situation that has limitations, people’s functions begin to complement one another. You are carrying out research in an environment where you have a patient who also needs to be treated,” Maponga explains.

Morse agrees: “There are so few physicians, nurses and dentists and they’re all in the midst of an epidemic. Basically, everyone becomes a clinician and a practitioner and researcher.”

The UB-UZ partnership has led to the establishment of the Zimbabwe International Nanotechnology Center (ZINC). Through CoE, ZINC is training young Zimbabwe scientists and students to define more effective HIV/AIDS treatment options with shortened duration of therapy, reduced systemic side effects and limited potential for drug resistance.

UB pharmacy students will soon be able to travel to the University of Zimbabwe for credit, and learn to adapt advanced pharmacotherapy training to treat HIV/AIDS, and co-occurring...
tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and other infectious diseases, in unfamiliar human conditions.

As a founding co-leader of the new SUNY Global Health Institute (GHI), Morse is working with local, national and international colleagues to provide a mechanism for SUNY Academic Health Centers and system-wide universities that will foster collaboration and innovation in education, training and research initiatives with international partners and regional corporate and economic leaders.

“Many aspects of the research and education training we’ve been talking about between Buffalo and Zimbabwe can be implemented with most countries through a combination of virtual lecture halls and web-based applications,” he says. A similar UB-UZ model has recently been initiated in Jamaica through its Ministry of Health.

Prescott is also working to define research and practice and advance human knowledge as it relates to global healthcare.

The SPPS team saw 1397 patients and performed 1337 pharmacist/student interventions during the most-recent Dominican Republic mission.

PharmD students who go on mission trips can elect to receive credit and for the first time at SPPS, Medical Spanish and Global Health Outreach are offered as single credit electives.

“We focus on why it’s hard to treat chronic disease in low- and middle-income countries, and to access essential medications,” Prescott says of the Global Health Outreach class.

“We also talk about maternal and child health, access to clean water, and give them a broad view about how poverty in the world is not just solved by money.”

This is the largest NIH grant in the history of the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the largest active R01 at UB and among departments of clinical pharmacy in the U.S.

Tsuji Receives Five Year $4.4M RO1 Grant:
UB Is the Only US Pharmacy School to Receive Funding

This $4.4M five year grant is a highly interdisciplinary, collaborative, multicenter project involving world leaders in antibacterial pharmacology including physician scientists at Cornell University School of Medicine (led by subcontract PI Thomas Walsh and Co-I Vidmantas Petraitis), PhD pharmaceutical scientists at Monash University, Australia (led by Co-PI Jian Li, Co-Is Roger Nation, John Boyce and Juergen Bulitta, a former UB SPPS post-doc ) along with Co-I Alan Forrest, UB SPPS research professor and Dr. Tsuji as PI. This the largest NIH grant in the history of the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the largest active R01 at UB and among departments of clinical pharmacy in the U.S.

Initial seed dollars from UB 2020 Interdisciplinary Research Development Fund (IRDF) provided funding to Tsuji and the New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences to build the core infrastructure needed to secure this grant. Tsuji’s lab, within the Translation Pharmacology Research Core, was instrumental in generating preliminary data to leverage receipt of this grant.

This grant will allow the school to develop one of the strongest clinical and translational antibacterial PK/PD groups in the United States. It is anticipated new drug regimes will be developed which will save patient lives in the fight against resistant bacterial infections.
UB SPPS Students Provide STEM Support at Bennett High

When it comes to professional excellence, SPPS students are as committed to service and outreach as they are to advancing knowledge, practice and research in the field.

Located not far from the South Campus, the urban school was once an academic flagship of Buffalo Public Schools. Now is it federally defined as a “high needs” school where scholastic achievement lags critically, especially in STEM areas – science, technology, engineering and math.

“As part of AAPS, I wanted to do some kind of outreach. So I put out a few feelers to see how many students would be interested. We wanted to introduce pharmaceutical sciences to the students,” says Ramakrishnan, a pharmaceutical sciences PhD candidate with a research focus on therapeutic protein immunogenicity.

Professor Marilyn Morris, PhD, the AAPS faculty-student advisor, introduced Ramakrishnan to SUNY Distinguished Professor Joseph A. Gardella Jr., the director and principal investigator for the Interdisciplinary Sciences and Engineering Partnership (ISEP) with Buffalo Public Schools. Gardella helped her connect with the principal and ISEP coordinating teacher at Bennett. When she discovered there was a chemical engineering student already assigned there through ISEP, Ramakrishnan and a fellow student decided to volunteer.

“We volunteered two hours a day twice a week, assisting with biology and earth sciences classes,” she says. “Some of the students really have good potential.”

While serving as vice president of the Rho Chi Honor Society, P4 PharmD student Ryan Dillon also coordinated fellow pharmacy practice classmates to volunteer at Bennett.

“We met with about six classrooms to give a discussion-based career talk. We were trying to encourage secondary education. That was our main goal, and to explain the profession of pharmacy. They asked a ton of questions,” says Dillon, who wants to pursue a clinical practice career specializing in critical care, infectious disease and emergency medicine.

When Ramakrishnan and Dillon were volunteering at Bennett last spring, Morris was working with Gardella to define SPPS support for the school through ISEP.

Funded by a $9.8M grant from the National Science Foundation, ISEP is led by UB and facilitated in collaboration with Buffalo Public Schools, Buffalo State College, Buffalo Museum of Science and other partners. The program coordinates diverse community...
resources to reform STEM education by improving teachers’ skills and knowledge: There are currently 78 teachers from 12 high needs ISEP schools embedded in research areas at UB or its partners.

“Identifying opportunities in the professional schools for teachers to work side by side with research professionals was really critical,” says Gardella. The teachers are supported by nearly 150 service learning students and volunteers. Each school is also assigned a PhD candidate who provides interactive, peer-to-peer STEM experience for the middle and high school students enrolled in ISEP, and support teachers’ transition from professional development back to the classroom.

“Each of the schools in ISEP has to identify some kind of interdisciplinary research theme that teachers can rally around,” explains Gardella. “I went to the principal at Bennett and said ‘what if we could make the research theme here pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical sciences. Nobody’s talking about that throughout the entire region.’”

Building on the altruistic ground work of Ramakrishnan and Dillon, in September Peter Bloomingdale became the first SPPS student to provide STEM support at Bennett High School through ISEP.

“A lot of the students are just not interested in science. They see it as something that’s just too hard for them, that they’ll never be able to do. But that’s not the truth. They need a lot more guidance and people to present opportunities that are available to help, especially in the field of STEM,” says Bloomingdale, a pharmaceutical sciences PhD candidate focused on systems pharmacology and PK/PD.

At Bennett, he helps 10th through 12th graders twice a week with their lab work, and started an after school science club that has grown from six to 13 members since the semester began.

“It’s been successful so far. Each week I design a module for them to work on that’s aimed at getting them engaged in science and learning, or just enhancing what they’ve learned in the classroom.”

Ultimately, Bloomingdale will help Bennett students design an experiment to present at the annual ISEP science summit in March. The team is thinking about testing regional tap water for pharmaceuticals.

“There are definitely a few students who stand out. I’ve seen some eyes sparkle when we’re done with some of these modules,” he says. “I really think I’m starting to connect with some of the students, in terms of getting them involved in science.”

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Fiebelkorn Receives Bowl of Hygeia Award

Karl D. Fiebelkorn, senior associate dean, is the recipient of the 2014 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service.

The award is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, with support from Boehringer Ingelheim.

The award recognizes pharmacists who possess outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities and encourages pharmacists to take active roles in the affairs of their respective communities. The award is presented annually by participating state pharmacist associations, including those in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. It is the most widely recognized international symbol for the pharmacy profession and is considered one of the profession’s most prestigious awards.

An advocate for the profession, Fiebelkorn encourages UB pharmacy students to participate in ventures ranging from attending Pharmacy Day in Albany — educating legislators on the profession of pharmacy and lobbying for patient issues — to educating young adults and their parents on drug abuse.

Fiebelkorn has received numerous awards, including Distinguished Pharmacy Educator from the National Community Pharmacists Association and the Pharmacist Society of the State of New York (PSSNY). He also received the Jack Nicolas Award from PSSNY for his role in student advocacy. He has been selected for the Western New York Society of Health Systems Pharmacists Robert M. Cooper Award for professionalism, as well as the Pharmacists Association of Western New York Community Service Award for his role in expanding immunizations by pharmacists in the community in New York State. A leader in the push to have pharmacists administer immunizations to ensure protection from disease for all communities, Fiebelkorn was among the first pharmacist immunizer trainers in New York State.

He is a board member and vice president of the Pharmacists Association of Western New York, past board member of the Western New York Society of Health Systems Pharmacy, and a delegate to the American Pharmacist Association and the Pharmacists’ Society of the State of New York. Fiebelkorn also serves on the executive committee of the Rho Chi Society, the national pharmacy honor society, as well as the steering committee of the National Community Pharmacists Association.
2014 Alumni Reunion Celebration Weekend

Our Reunion Celebration, September 12-13, welcomed many alumni back to the school and back to campus.

Susan Fagan, PharmD ’84, presented Angiogenesis as a Target for Recovery After Stroke as well as a continuing education program on Self Care by Erin Slazak, PharmD ’04, clinical assistant professor, pharmacy practice, UB. Dr. Fagan’s program was a collaborative educational program hosted by both our pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical sciences departments and was well received by both our PharmD and pharmaceutical sciences students.

Pharmacy fans cheered on our UB Bulls as they took on 8th ranked Baylor. The Baylor Bears came out with the win, 21-63, but the UB Pharmacy crowd provided loyal and loud support throughout the game. The pre-game tailgate party was a great way for all our alumni to meet and mingle before heading off to the game.

Our Reunion Celebration culminated with our All Alumni Reception at the Templeton Landing on Buffalo’s waterfront Saturday evening. Alumni from all class years were recognized and received gifts from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Alumni Association. Special thanks to these alumni leaders for their outreach to classmates and program development: Fran Baumler ’54, Rose Mary Madejski ’59, Steve Ward ’79, Rachel Smith ’84 and Erin Slazak ’04. We look forward to welcoming alumni back next fall for our 2015 Reunion events.

Attendees enjoyed educational presentations by our Keynote Speaker, Susan Fagan, PharmD ’84, assistant dean, Georgia Regents University Program

Members of the Class of 1959 and 1971

13TH BUFFALO PHARMACEUTICS SYMPOSIUM: Pharmaceutical Sciences: A Model of Translational Therapeutics

This summer, the department of pharmaceutical sciences hosted the 13th Annual Buffalo Pharmaceutics Symposium.

Held every four years, this program brings together alumni, faculty and friends to discuss current issues in the pharmaceutical sciences. Donald Mager, associate professor in pharmaceutical sciences, was the program chair and was pleased to host the almost 200 attendees in Kapoor Hall.

“The symposium affords us the opportunity to invite our alumni back to the school to reconnect and to learn about their current research,” Dr. Mager said. “Many of our alumni attending have gone on to highly successful careers in their field, having become leaders in pharmaceutical research,” he added.

The symposium kicked off Thursday, July 31 with a reception and banquet held at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott, which was then followed by two days of research presentations:

- **Protein Therapeutics**, chaired by faculty member Joseph Balthasar ’96, PhD and Co-Chair: Mohammad Tabrizi, PhD ’96, Merck.
- **Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics & Systems Pharmacology**, chaired by Donald Mager, PharmD ’00, PhD ’02 and Co-Chair: Holly Kimko, PhD ’95, Johnson & Johnson.
- **Translational Pharmaceutical Sciences**, chaired by faculty member Murali Ramanathan, PhD and Co-Chair: Dan Salazar, PhD ’89, Otsuka.
- **Ho-Leung Fung Tradition of Excellence**, chaired by Gayle Brazeau, PhD ’89, dean, School of Pharmacy, University of New England and Co-Chair: Wooin Lee, PhD ’02, University of Kentucky. Fung, a UB Distinguished Professor, has recently retired from the department of pharmaceutical sciences where he taught for over 40 years.

Friday’s presentations included a student poster presentation and reception followed by a dinner at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce Arrow Museum. Saturday’s events included a luncheon and the annual BPS group photo.
Robert DiCenzo ’88 APhA-APRS President Elect

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science (APhA-APRS) will install Robert DiCenzo ’88 as their president-elect at the APhA Annual Meeting, March 2015. The purpose of the American Pharmacists Association’s Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science is to stimulate the discovery, dissemination and application of research to improve patient health and serve pharmacists and those members who are involved in the pharmaceutical sciences.

Joseph Hooley ’06, since 2006, has been employed at Cleveland Clinic and is currently working as the Adverse Drug Event Coordinator in Pharmacy/Medication Safety Services with responsibilities, including: health-system support for project management, adverse drug event review and analysis, medication error risk reduction, and implementation of systems and process improvements. A Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS) and a member of the American Society of Professionals in Patient Safety, Joseph has also been published in the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy (AJHP) and presented on medication safety topics nationally. He will be completing his Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Health Care Administration at Cleveland State University.

Michael Ghobrial ’09, currently Associate Director of Health Policy for the American Pharmacists Association was recently featured in an APhA Pharmacy Today article highlighting the practical implications regarding the new federal Drug Quality and Security Act.

James DiNicolantonio ’10, cited in a January 2014 APhA Pharmacy Today article discussing the success of a blood pressure screening through Wegmans Wellness and Clinical Services.

Kristen Zeitzler ’11, pharmacotherapy specialist in infectious diseases at Tampa General Hospital.

Kristen Mazurkiewicz ’14, currently a pharmacist at Whiteriver PHS Indian Hospital, located outside of Phoenix, Arizona. The hospital serves approximately 17,000 tribal members and other Native American communities around the area.

In Memoriam:
Irwin E. Brock ’37
Beatrice Noble ’38
Anne E. Avery ’39
Gloria Mulloy ’49
Lois Tippett ’51
Michael Di Vincenzo ’54
Raymond Prutz ’54
William B. Tesluk ’55
Donald Millham ’56
Robert Miller ’59
William Ackley ’62
Jon Hallock ’71
Laraine Riech Silverman ’71
Jack Kareff ’77
Dave M. Lutomski ’79
Sandhya A. Patel ’81
Patricia Lieveld ’84

NYSCHP Appoints Prescott and Voigt Elected Officials
William Prescott ’02, UB SPPS Vice-Chair Pharmacy Practice, and Lisa Voigt ’02 appointed as 2015-16 New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists elected officials. William has been appointed as the Director, Chapter Services where he will be responsible for the coordination of issues and information between the Board of Directors and the membership. Lisa was appointed as the Director, Pharmacy Management where she will be responsible for reviewing and recommending revisions to the functioning of the Council. They will be sworn into office April 2015.

Alumni Volunteer with Pre-Pharmacy and P1 students

Many thanks to the following alumni who assisted the Office of Admissions Spring 2014 with meetings and panel discussions with pre-pharmacy and P1 students:
Kari Mergenhagen ’07, Donald Pritchard ’53, Paul Scavone ’59, Lucille LoTempio ’84 & ’87, Karen Mlodozeniec ’91, Scott Monte ’06, Kari Wilkens ’05, and Amy Wojciechowski ’12.

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On June 9, the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences held its 11th Annual Student Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Lockport Town and Country Club. Almost one hundred golfers took to the greens and over $21,000 was raised to support student scholarships.

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported the tournament, especially the following sponsors:

**Tournament Sponsors:** Rite Aid and Rochester Drug Cooperative  
**Gold Sponsor:** McKesson Corporation  
**Bronze Sponsors:** Cuba, Fillmore and Fisher’s Pharmacies, Forster’s Pharmacy, Independent Health, J. Rutowski & Sons, Inc., and Middleport Family Health  
**Hole Sponsors:** 2121 Main Street Pharmacy and Tops Pharmacy  
**Hole in One Sponsor:** Acura College Alumni Championship and Ray Laks Acura  
**Cart Sponsors:** Akron Pharmacy, Ellicottville Pharmacy, Collegiate Village, Holland Pharmacy, Mobile Pharmacy Solutions, PAWNY, and Prizel’s Pharmacy

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"Cuba, Fisher and Fillmore Pharmacies have always been sponsors of the school’s golf tournament. Not only do we enjoy the opportunity to spend the day golfing with our UB friends and faculty, we are proud to support the tournament which provides scholarships to so many outstanding UB pharmacy students."

**BRIAN LOUCKS ’86**

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**Student Scholarships**

Congratulations to this year’s student scholarship winners who have demonstrated academic accomplishment, along with leadership skills and involvement in community-supporting activities:

- Bisi Aiyelabowo ’16  
- Alain Nguyen ’15  
- Megan Gee ’15  
- Kelly Ross ’15  
- Tyler Mullen ’16  
- Jennifer Wiafe ’15

**Congratulations also to tournament prize winners:**

**Longest Drive:**  
- Men: Ken Andrus ’94  
- Women: Deanna Stengel ’10

**Closest to the Pin:**  
- Men: Timothy Warner  
- Women: Jill Pogodzinski ’99

**Closest to the Line:**  
- Men: Mike Rossi ’84  
- Women: Kim Sutherland ’17

**1 Place Winning Foursome with a score of 61:**  
- Steve Giroux ’81  
- Zach Giroux  
- Don Arthur  
- Dean Arthur

**2 Place Winning Foursome with a score of 62:**  
- Terry Bellnier  
- Tom Shaulinski  
- Chris Coyne  
- Rob Weisman

**3 Place Winning Foursome with a score of 64:**  
- Jeff Lombardo ’04  
- Gene Morse ’83  
- Chris Jerzewski  
- Tyler Mullen ’16

**Qualifying Four-some Acura College Championship:**  
- Steve Giroux ’81  
- Zach Giroux  
- Don Arthur  
- Dean Arthur
Welcome Class of 2018

Orientation for the PharmD Class of 2018 took place on August 21-22, and with 131 students, this was the school’s largest class ever! The orientation program included overviews on courses, student policies, meet and greets with student officers and PharmD student organizations, and an Alumni Panel Q&A session. Thanks to Karen Brim ’82, Danielle Joset-Crotty ’12 and Mark Stramaglia ’81, for assisting with the panel discussion.

Our new PharmD students took their first step toward becoming pharmacists during the Annual White Coat Ceremony held in the Lipes Concert Hall on August 21. The White Coat Ceremony symbolizes the passage into the initial stages of the profession of pharmacy and represents a contract for excellence in providing compassionate patient care. Danielle Joset-Crotty, PharmD ’12, staff pharmacist, NSLIJ Huntington Hospital gave the keynote address.

New PharmD students closed out orientation programming with presentations from our Office of Experiential Education, Office of Student Affairs as well a guidance from the UB Office of Financial Aid. Congratulations to all our incoming students!

Gerhard Levy Distinguished Lectureship

Johnson, who also is a distinguished professor at UF and member of the Institute of Medicine, spoke on “Hypertension Pharmacogenomics: Using ‘omics approaches to define variable drug response.” The majority of Johnson’s research centers around the pharmacogenomics of antihypertensive drugs, and drugs used to prevent clot formation. Her research has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the American Heart Association since 1990.

Johnson earned a BS in pharmacy from Ohio State University and a PharmD from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

A reception in her honor was held Wednesday evening at Sean Patrick’s Restaurant in Getzville, NY.

The UB Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences established the Gerhard Levy Distinguished Lectureship in 2000 in honor of Dr. Levy, who is considered the father of pharmacodynamics, for his role as a pioneer and principal contributor in the fields of biopharmaceutics, pharmacokinetics, clinical pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.
Kayla Maxwell, PharmD-PhD Program: SUNY Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence

Kayla Maxwell ’14 received the 2014 State University of New York Student Excellence Award, given to SUNY students who have best demonstrated and been recognized for academic excellence, leadership, athletics, career achievement, community service or creative and performing arts. Kayla was recognized by SUNY at a reception in Albany as well as by the university during the Celebration of Academic Excellence this past spring.

Individual Accomplishments

Tara Castleman ’14, selected to serve as the Chair of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists New Business Review Committee at the APHA 2014 Annual Meeting.

Robert Dingman, pharmaceutical sciences senior, presented abstracts at the Association for Research in Otolaryngology 2014 Midwinter Meeting and UB Audiology Research Day.

Sara DiTursi ’16, was chosen by the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) Student Exchange Program to spend six weeks in Taiwan at the Taipei Medical University as an intern in a community pharmacy. Sara spent over 100 hours shadowing the pharmacy manager of Pu Chen Pharmacy, an independent pharmacy in Taipei as well as attended pharmacotherapy classes and field trips to the National Health Insurance Administration, Taipei Veterans General Hospital and Taipei Medical University Hospital. She was also elected to the IPSF Pan American Office Subcommittee where she will be promoting communication, membership and pharmacy-related campaigns among the nations of North, South and Central America.

Erik Hefti ’14, published his scientific manuscript Analysis of mtDNA, mit-155 and BACH1 expression in hearts from donors with- and without- Down syndrome, Journal, Mitochondrial DNA. Authors are: E. Hefti A., Quinones-Lombrana, A. Redzematovic, J. Hui, and J. Blanco. Javier Blanco, associate professor, pharmaceutical sciences.

Jennifer Murray ’15, attended the 15th Annual Cardinal Health Student Leadership Conference. This all-expense-paid conference joins top pharmacy students in the country for a special two-day program to better prepare them for assuming future leadership roles in health-systems pharmacy.

Mahsa Salsabili ’14, Poster presentation PharmD Student Awareness of Managed Care Pharmacy: a Single Site Survey of Professional Preparedness, at the 2013 ASHP Mid-Year Clinical Meeting.

Halfway Gala ‘Masquerade Ball’

The Class of 2016 hosted the ‘Masquerade Ball’ Halfway Dance supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities. Over $1,500 was raised and Breanna Pugh, Ronald McDonald Board Member, attended where she expressed her appreciation for the donation and thanked students for their efforts. Over 220 students, faculty and staff attended the event.

Class of 2014 Farewell Celebration

On May 15, members of the P4 class were recognized by the SPPS Alumni Association at the Class of 2014 Farewell Celebration Reception at Banchetti’s. This annual event welcomes students into the Alumni Association and gathers class members together one last time before graduation. Class Officers Kayla Maxwell and Nicholas Hopwood gave remarks and presented Vicki Rink, research technician, Pharmaceutical Care Learning Center, with the 2014 Instructor Recognition Award.

SPSA Fall and Spring Networking Events

The School of Pharmacy Student Association held very successful networking events this spring at the Lafayette Hotel and this fall at Templeton Landing Restaurant. Approximately 150 students, alumni and local pharmacists attended each event. These events allow all students, but especially P1 and P2 students the opportunity to meet with local pharmacy professionals and begin to create their own ‘professional networks’. SPSA thanks everyone who supported both events and is looking forward to their next event Spring 2015.

ASCP Holds ‘Senior’ Prom

The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) Student Chapter held their 2nd Annual Prom for Senior Citizens on May 7 at Bassett Park Manor. Over 25 students assisted with the prom and over 40 seniors, and their family members, attended.

SPPS Students Highlight 2014 UB Center of Excellence Awards

Kayla Maxwell, PharmD-PhD program: SUNY Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence.

Xiaochen Zhao, PHC PhD program: Sigma Xi Graduate Research Poster: Cellular pharmacodynamic model of Rituximab and Doxorubicin in non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Sara Di Tursi, PharmD P2 student: Sigma Xi Poster Competition: Poly(lactic-co-glycolic) Acid-Chitosan Lamivudine/Nevirapine-Loaded Nanoparticle Formulations for Sustained Release Antiretroviral Therapy for HIV.

Robert Dingman, PHC BS program: UB Undergraduate Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity.
UB Local 2014 Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition

Christina Wang '15, Colleen Gardon '15, Sophia Min '15, Nicholas Filk '14 (alternate) were first place winners at the local 2014 Student Pharmacists Competition. Nicholas Filk was recognized at the national meeting as most ‘congenial student’ at the competition.

SNPhA Clinical Skills Winners

Congratulations to Jacob Reaser '15 and Joseph Sperber '15 for winning second place in the Clinical Skills Competition at the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) regional conference in Richmond, Virginia. The meeting involved students from more than 40 schools of pharmacy.

Clinical Research Program 2014

Congratulations Class of 2014 students for participating in the Clinical Research Program 2014 Presentations.

Michelle Amsler:  Validation of an Assay to Determine Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Resistance to Aspirin in DMSO by in vitro Analysis.


Jeff Baron:  Effect of Primidone on Platelet Responsiveness in Patients Determined to be Clopido-grel Resistant.

Michael Bear:  Novel double and triple antibiotic combinations at clinically relevant concentrations against polymyxin B resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa.

Jessica Beyer:  Adapting to Obstacles in Research.

Amy Suen:  Vancomycin Pharmacodynamics against Heterogeneous Vancomycin-Intermediate Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream isolates with accessory gene regulator dysfunction: Challenging the AUC/MIC Paradigm Project.

Arthur Fyles:  A Comparison of In Vitro Platelet Inhibition of Ticagrelor Pre-and Post-Batriatic Surgery.

Justin Lenhard:  Tracking the Evolution of Vancomycin Resistance in Staphylococcus aureus Populations Containing the Small Colony Variant Phenotype.

Melissa Rozek:  Development and Validation of an Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) To Detect Treponema Denticola Virulence Factors in Saliva Samples.

Sarah Sckena:  Pharmacist Use of Face-to-Face and Electronic Encounters to Improve A1C in a Patient-centered Medical Home.


LAMBDA KAPPA SIGMA:

Leaders in the Community and the Profession

Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) is one of the school’s most active student organizations and is focused on improving community health and wellness. In recognition of these activities, LKS was recognized by the university with receipt of the 2014 UB Community Impact Award which honors student organizations for leadership in community outreach event planning.

2014 LKS EVENTS:

LKS & American Pharmaceutical Association Academy of Students of Pharmacy Operation Diabetes Promote Awareness

November marked American Diabetes Association’s Diabetes Awareness Month. Students provided wellness clinics at a North Buffalo Target store focusing on complications from uncontrolled diabetes. The clinic was a collaborative effort between APhA-ASP Operation Diabetes Chair, Valerie Cooper ’15 and Lambda Kappa Sigma Service Chair, Jovin Panthapattu ’16 and was precepted by alumnus Jesse Imes ’10.

Viva La Casa Fundraiser

The LKS Service Committee raised more than $170 through “Change Wars” and “Pie-A-Lamb” events. This month-long friendly competition raised funds to support Christmas activities for the children of Viva La Casa, a refugee shelter in Downtown Buffalo.

LKS & SSHP Bring Valentine’s Day Cheer

Lambda Kappa Sigma’s Service Committee members Jeffrey Obciana ’17, Ha-Uyen (Cecilia) Pham ’17 and Francine Yung ’17 along with LKS Service Chair, Jovin Panthapattu ’16 worked with the Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists to deliver handmade valentines cards and toys to children at the Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo.

LKS & SNPhA Goes Red for Women

Lambda Kappa Sigma Service Chair, Jovin Panthapattu ’16 collaborated with Project Co-Chairs, John Diep ’15, Jacob Reaser ’15 and Joseph Sperber ’15 of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, Power to End Stroke Committee, to set up a series of Wellness Clinics at local Walgreens. Clinics focused on stroke prevention and awareness and blood pressure screenings as well as VIAL of LIFE education. Alumnus Joe Khan ’12 precepted.

LKS Supports National Kidney Month in March

Lambda Kappa Sigma’s Service Committee members Ha-Uyen (Cecilia) Pham ’17, Courtney Safir ’17 and Parth Shah ’15 promoted Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) education at a local Walgreens. Students discussed the prevention and progression of CKD through pharmacological/non-pharmacological measures and emphasized uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes, which cause approximately two-thirds of CKD cases. Alumni John Belz ’05 and Melanie Berent ’01 precepted.

LKS ‘Spring into Health’ Fair

LKS, in collaboration with other SPPS student organizations, hosted its second annual “Spring into Health” Fair at the Weinberg Campus, senior retirement community. The fair was coordinated by LKS Service Chair, Jovin Panthapattu ’16 and the 2014 Health Fair Committee: Maggie Huyhn ’17, Tommy Ko ’16, Judy Lam ’15, Kent Lee ’17, Andrew Liang ’17, Ha-Uyen (Cecilia) Pham ’17, Alfred Yeung ’16 and Yip-Kee Zou ’15. The fair promoted patient education with over 10 booths focusing on elder health care with 60 visitors and 150 documented patient-pharmacist interactions.
Marilyn Morris Named UB Distinguished Professor

Marilyn Morris, PhD, vice chair of the University at Buffalo Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been named a UB Distinguished Professor. She was honored with this distinction during the UB Celebration of Academic Excellence held this fall. The UB Distinguished Professor designation recognizes full professors who have achieved true distinction and who are leaders in their fields.

A faculty member since 1985, Morris is internationally known for her research focuses on membrane transport proteins, their influence on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs, and their use as therapeutic targets. She has published extensively on renal transport, hepatobiliary transport and hepatic clearance models, and the ATP-dependent binding cassette and monocarboxylate transporters.

Morris’s recent research is focused on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of monocarboxylic acids, including the drug abuse of γ-hydroxybutyric acid. Other current research projects involve the dietary components flavonoids and organic isothiocyanates, with an emphasis on their potential for transport and metabolic drug interactions, and their role in cancer therapy and chemoprevention.

She is currently president of pharmaceutical sciences’ premier organization, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2012) and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (2003).

Rochester Drug Cooperative Creates Award in Honor of Senior Associate Dean Fiebelkorn

Rochester Drug Cooperative has established an award to support UB PharmD students interested in independent community practice. The Professor Karl D. Fiebelkorn Award in Independent Pharmacy, was named to honor Karl Fiebelkorn, senior associate dean, student, professional and community affairs, for his tireless support of community pharmacists. Lindsey Feuz ‘14 and Samantha Mattison ‘14 (not pictured) are the first recipients of this award, and both students were grateful to RDC and Professor Fiebelkorn for helping them achieve their goal of becoming community pharmacists.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty Present at Medical University of Gdansk

Drs. William Jusko and Donald Mager co-organized, and along with Dr. Wojciech Krzyzanski presented, a PK/PD Modeling Seminar at the Medical University of Gdansk, Poland, June 2014. This focused workshop was offered to scientists and graduate students allowing them to gain a better understanding of PK/PD modeling concepts and impact on drug effects under various physiological and pathological conditions.

Alice Ceacareanu Receives $530,000 Award from NYS Health Workforce Retraining Initiative

Alice Ceacareanu, assistant professor, received a $530,000 award from the New York State Health Workforce Retraining Initiative. This award will allow the establishment of a certificate program for all community pharmacists practicing within, or laid off, from the New York City region to provide them with the necessary cancer knowledge to partner in cancer patient care during and after forecasted oncologist shortages. This certificate program will focus on the nuances of pharmaceutical care in cancer patients and allow community pharmacists to develop the skills needed to ensure drug safety and best treatment outcomes in their cancer patients.

Gene Morse Co-PI on SUNY 4E Planning Grant

Dr. Jack DeHovitz (PI), SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and Dr. Gene Morse (Co-PI), professor, awarded a SUNY 4E Planning Grant for their proposal, “Conference to lay groundwork for SUNY Global Health Institute.” This award supported a two-day forum for developing integration, a long-term vision and a business plan to mentor faculty for highly competitive applications that will foster technology innovation and promote regional and global economic opportunities.

International Conference Highlights Work of Four Faculty

Drs. Donald Mager and Robert Straubinger of Pharmaceutical Sciences, in collaboration with Drs. Robert O’Connor and Martin Clynes of Dublin City University, organized an international workshop and conference at Dublin City University, Ireland, June 2014. The “Workshop on Quantitative Pharmacology and Systems Biology in Pharmaceutical Development” introduced attendees to the principles, techniques, and applications pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic modeling in drug discovery, development and regulatory approval, and to forge a link between PK/PD modeling and systems biology. Drs. Mager, Straubinger, along with faculty members Dr. William Jusko and Dr. Sathy Babu-iyer presented along with other speakers from Europe and USA.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty Offer ADAPT Workshop on Biologics

Faculty members including Drs. Joseph Balthasar, Donald Mager and William Jusko of the department of pharmaceuti
cal sciences, organized and presented an ADAPT Workshop on Biologics in Niagara Falls, NY this past summer. The ADAPT Workshop on Biologics is focused to basic and clinical researchers and drug development scientists who are actively involved with the application of modeling, simulation and data analysis methods to problems involving drug kinetics and drug response.

Tornatore Appointed to ASPET

Kathleen Tornatore, professor, selected as Vice-Chair of the Organ Dysfunction Scientific Group within American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

Pharmacy Practice Faculty Present at 2014 AACP Annual Meeting

Nicole Albanese, clinical assistant professor: “Establishing the Pharmacist’s Role in the Patient Centered Medical Home Model”.

Clinical assistant professors, Gina Prescott, Peter Brody, Linda Catanzaro, Irene Hong, and senior associate dean Karl Fiebelkorn: “Integrating Experiential Education to Enhance Patient Care in the Underserved Communities”.

William Prescott, clinical associate professor: Infectious Diseases Education across US Pharmacy Schools: What is being taught and how? and Pediatric Education across US Pharmacy Schools: What is being taught and how?

UB-led Health Care Team to Help Jamaica Fight HIV and HCV

University at Buffalo faculty led by Charles Anderson, MD and Professor Gene Morse, together with Buffalo business leaders, visited Jamaica to conduct introductory meetings with the Jamaica Ministry of Health regarding developing programs for Jamaica in the study and treatment of HIV and hepatitis C (HCV). The partnership is being modeled on the successful education and research training program Dr. Morse leads with the University of Zimbabwe. Initial focus is to create a national electronic medical record system resulting in improved patient outcomes, especially in the areas of HIV and HCV.
Morse Presents at 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology

Gene Morse, professor, was invited for the fifth straight year to lead, and present in, a session on research capacity building at the 17th World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, held this month in Cape Town, South Africa.

Shah Receives AAPS Outstanding Manuscript Award

Dhavalkumar Shah, assistant professor, recipient of the 2014 Outstanding Manuscript Award in Modeling and Simulation by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. Dhaval co-authored the manuscript: Bench to Bedside Translation of Antibody Drug Conjugates Using a Multiscale Mechanistic PK/PD Model: A Case Study with Brentuximab-Vedotin.

New Hires

David Jacobs, clinical assistant professor, pharmacy practice
Calvin Meaney, clinical assistant professor, pharmacy practice
Kyle O’Grady, programmer
Chengjian Tu, research assistant professor
Jeffrey Lombardo, research assistant professor

Promotions/Changes

Kathleen Boje, associate dean, academic affairs
Marilyn Morris, vice chair, pharmaceutical sciences: University at Buffalo distinguished professor
Fred Doloresco, director of assessment
Karl Fleibekorn, senior associate dean, student, professional and community affairs
Kathleen Tornatore Morse, professor, pharmacy practice

10th Annual Awards Ceremony

The school was proud to recognize alumni, faculty, staff, and students with honors and awards at our Annual Awards Ceremony, April 10 at UB’s Center for Tomorrow.

Over 120 attended to recognize our award winners for their contributions to the school, the profession of pharmacy, as well as for the pursuit of scholarly achievements.

Wilks G. Gregory Memorial Alumni Award: Joseph Voelkl ’59
Orville C. Baxter Memorial Professional Practice Alumni Award: Mark Sinnett ’83 and ’87
Dansk H. Murray Memorial Professional Development Award: Elizabeth Lakota ’15
Outstanding Teacher Awards: Nicole Albanese, Karl Fiebelkorn ’78 and Gina Prescott
Staff Member of the Year: Kelly Tooley
United States Public Health Service Corps Excellence in Pharmacy Practice Award: Kristen Fodero ’14
APhA-ASP Patient Counseling Competition Award: Rebecca Campbell ’15
APhA-ASP Chapter Service Award: Brian Baur ’14
MEDISCA Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition: Nicholas Flik ’14, Colleen Gordon ’15, Sophia Minn ’15 and Christina Wang ’15
NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition Award: Justin Bader ’15, Lindsey Feuz ’14, Nicholas Hopwood ’14 and Charles Hinton ’15
Roger Mantasvichos Awards: Sohee Chang ’14
UB Pharmacy Alumni Award: Dana Munn ’14

The school’s student leaders, Gregory Society members, preceptors, and Dean’s Ambassadors were also recognized. The school congratulates all our award recipients and special recognition attendees!
Caitlin Hoar knew in high school that she wanted to be a pharmacist, and was accepted into UB’s early assurance program her senior year. Scholarships funded by private donors helped her attend national conferences, which she said were an invaluable introduction to her chosen field. Caitlin has completed several rotations, working with diabetes patients, veterans, general medicine hospital patients, and even her fellow UB pharmacy students. Her ideal job? To work as part of a medical team in a doctor’s office or clinic, collaborating with physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and other health professionals on patient care.

The best public universities have the strongest private support.