



College of Pharmacy  
and Health Sciences

# YEAR IN REVIEW

2016-2017



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ALUMNI ACTIVITIES



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

All of us at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences—faculty, administrators, and staff—focus intently on our students. After all, they are our future. While it's true that alumni represent the past, they also play a crucial and much appreciated role in our future.

Whether giving of their time to serve as mentors or supporting our various fundraising efforts, the College's alumni continually create opportunities for our students. Without their dedication and commitment, we would not be so successful in preparing so many competent healthcare professionals. It's for this reason that this *Year in Review* celebrates our wonderful alumni.

In these pages you'll read about the accomplishments of alumni, including several who are faculty. You also will enjoy reliving our lively and well-attended alumni events and our hugely successful second annual gala, which honored three individuals dedicated to our mission.

Equally important, you'll learn about the significant work being pursued by our faculty, as well as the dedication and Vincentian spirit of the students who benefit directly or indirectly from the generosity of alumni. Our students are achieving in the classroom and making strides in our research labs, all the while finding ways to serve those in need here and abroad.

The Vincentian mission drew me to the College and now that I have come to know many alumni, I see how that spirit of service is passed from one generation to the next. It is inspiring.

We have completed another successful academic year thanks to the efforts of many, including faculty, administrators, staff, students, and alumni. Our future continues to be bright, and I invite you to enjoy reading about our accomplishments in these pages.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Russell J. DiGate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

**Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D.**

Dean, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

# COLLEGE LEADERSHIP



**FRANK A. BARILE, PH.D.**  
*Chair, Department of  
Pharmaceutical Sciences*



**JOSEPH M. BROCAVICH, PHARM.D.**  
*Senior Associate Dean,  
Pharmacy Program*



**JOHN M. CONRY, PHARM.D.**  
*Chair, Department of Clinical  
Health Professions*



**RUSSELL J. DIGATE, PH.D.**  
*Dean*



**JOSEPH V. ETZEL, PHARM.D.**  
*Assistant Dean,  
Pharmacy Student Affairs*



**TINA J. KANMAZ, PHARM.D.**  
*Assistant Dean, Experiential  
Pharmacy Education*



**SAWANEE KHONGSAWATWAJA, M.S.**  
*Associate Dean,  
Administration and Fiscal Affairs*



**JOHN KONECSNI, PH.D.**  
*Assistant Dean,  
Graduate Programs*



**CATHLEEN MURPHY, D.C.**  
*Associate Dean,  
Health Sciences Programs*



**WENCHEN WU, PH.D.**  
*Chair, Department of  
Pharmacy Administration  
and Public Health*



**S. WILLIAM ZITO, PH.D.**  
*Senior Associate Dean, Assessment*



# S. WILLIAM ZITO, Ph.D.

S. William (Sandy) Zito, Ph.D. '66P, Senior Associate Dean for Assessment and Professor, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, was recognized by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) with the Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award.

"I am honored to join the distinguished company of recipients of this prestigious pharmacy educator award," Dr. Zito said. "I am fortunate to have had many research and teaching mentors during my career who have given me the ability to bring medicinal chemistry into a clinically oriented pharmacy curriculum."

Dr. Zito, who has taught at St. John's for more than 30 years, was honored for his excellence as a teacher, his outstanding achievements as an author and mentor, and his overall impact on pharmacy education and the profession. "Having known Dr. Zito for many years, his receipt of the Chalmers Award came as no surprise," said Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. "He is an exemplary teacher and scholar."

He has mentored dozens of successful Ph.D. and Master of Science trainees; many have continued on to industry positions. Dr. Zito also serves as advisor to the St. John's chapter of the Rho Chi Society, the academic honor society in pharmacy, and was the 2016 recipient of the Rho Chi Society National Faculty Advisor Award. He has shared several other teaching awards, including the 1997 AACP Innovations in Teaching Award and the 2000 AACP Rufus A. Lyman Award.

Dr. Zito has also served as Chair of the AACP's Section of Teachers of Chemistry and Chair of the Council of Faculties, as well as on the AACP's Board of Directors. Dr. Zito was the association's appointee to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education from 2002 to 2008.

Dr. Zito accepted the award on July 16 at the AACP's 2017 Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN.



# TANAJI T. TALELE, Ph.D.

While Tanaji T. Talele, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, dreamed of becoming a scientist while growing up in a small farming village in western India, he never thought that one day he would be contributing to unlocking the mysteries of cancer.

"At that time I was only intrigued by science in general," he said. "As I advanced in school, my interest in chemistry started to grow, which landed me in pharmacy with a specialization in medicinal chemistry." That interest has brought him to applying this year for a patent on

a targeted cancer therapy he has developed in his lab in St. John's University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

For the past three years, Dr. Talele has been developing a poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitor target therapy. PARP proteins help cells repair DNA damage that occurs naturally. Cancer cells, however, take advantage of these proteins to help repair the damage caused by cancer treatment. By blocking that ability, cancer cells that can't repair themselves die. The US Food and Drug Administration in the past year has approved several PARP inhibitors, as standalone and combinations, to treat various cancers, providing hope to many.

Dr. Talele is passionate about research and currently serves as an editorial advisory board member for the *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* and academic editor of the *Journal of Chemistry*. "Pursuit

of rigorous scientific research and publishing significant research data in high-impact journals is the foundation of scholarship," he said.

Yet, teaching has a special place in his heart. In addition to teaching his regular courses, since joining the College faculty in 2005, Dr. Talele has mentored five Ph.D. and 10 M.S. medicinal chemistry students, as well as a number of undergraduate and high school students. "I like to work with students," he said. "I like their curiosity. It forces me to explain things simply, and that's good."





# MARC E. GILLESPIE, Ph.D.

The graduate programs in St. John's University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences are strong and relevant, according to Marc E. Gillespie, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and recently named Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research. He

hopes to make them even better through facilitation of research.

"I want to develop a more strategic approach to enhancing research, assisting with grant applications, and finding new ways to move forward," Dr. Gillespie

said. One path he has identified is the promotion of collaborative research among the College's departments.

"Our clinical pharmacy colleagues work with interesting patient cohorts," he noted. "It would be great to combine the bench research being done by faculty here with our clinical programs. It's particularly relevant in this age of personalized medicine. Advances in genomic sciences are very exciting right now, and I'd like to push all our programs into research in that area."

Dr. Gillespie has a strong background in curriculum development and chairs the College's Assessment Committee. Applying this expertise to the graduate programs is a goal. "We are working on improving data analytics for graduate programs and providing that information to program directors," he explained. "It's important to know more about what we are doing well and where we need improvement."

One thing Dr. Gillespie has no intention of changing is the College's focus on the Vincentian mission. "The sense of mission drives everything here at the College. We provide opportunities for students to be of service in a way I've not seen elsewhere. It's what sets us apart."



# MANOUCHKATHE CASSAGNOL, Pharm.D., BCPS

Manouchkathe Cassagnol, Pharm.D., BCPS, Assistant Dean of Service Programs and Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, has been responsible for the College's academic service-learning programs since the fall of 2016. Familiar with the strength of the College's service programs through her long involvement (she currently is a Senior Fellow of the Vincentian Center for Church and Society), Dr. Cassagnol turned her scientist's eye on the programs and realized that more empirical data would be useful.

"The University's Academic Service-Learning program has a documentation process that tracks hours of service and personal reflections of participating students and I'd like to go deeper," Dr. Cassagnol said. "I want to capture our impact on the community. We need a measure of how we are affecting lives, which will help us have a more robust interaction with our community partners."



To this end, Dr. Cassagnol has been working with the College's Assessment Committee led by S. William (Sandy) Zito, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for Assessment, and Marc E. Gillespie, Ph.D., Chair of the College Assessment Committee, to determine a process and action steps on this new approach to assessing the College's service programs.

Her first step was to form a working group, the Task Force for Assessment Standards Development of Service Programs, to create a mission statement specific to the College's service programs, develop standards of assessment, and generate surveys and other assessment tools. Dr. Cassagnol chairs the task force, which includes Samantha Cohen, Pharm.D.; Danielle C. Ezzo, Pharm.D.; Gregory Hughes, Pharm.D.; and Chung Lee, Pharm.D.

"It's important to reflect and ask ourselves the following questions," she said. "What does service mean to us? How do we define it? How does the mission relate to scientists? How do we measure success?"

Dr. Cassagnol appreciates the value of academic service-learning. "I have been so encouraged by the commitment of our students to service. Our College as a whole strives every day to embody the University's Vincentian mission. By serving those in need or the marginalized, we not only fulfill our University's mission, we also answer the greater call to our civic responsibility and humanity."



CANDACE J. SMITH  
'85P, '87Pharm.D.





In addition to teaching and administrative duties, Dr. Smith has lent her expertise to

The College's focus on mission, however, is unwavering, according to Dr. Smith. "The College is very concerned about students and has a terrific mission," she said. "I like that students come back and give back. Alumni involvement is great. It's what will sustain our growth."



# JOHN M. CONRY '96P, '98Pharm.D.



The academic reputation of the University and College first drew John M. Conry, '96P, '98Pharm.D., Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Chair of the Clinical Health Professions Department, to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. But the University's emphasis on service sealed the deal. "The University's Catholic and Vincentian mission was also important," he recalls. "I felt that I could grow personally and spiritually, as well as academically."

Service has become the focus of his professional endeavors. When Dr. Conry joined the College faculty in 2002 following positions at the Baltimore Veterans Administration Medical Center in Baltimore, MD, and Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA, Robert A. Mangione, Ed.D., former Dean and current Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, alerted him to an opportunity for collaboration with Project Renewal, a nonprofit that serves New York City's homeless population. The organization was looking to add a pharmacist to the healthcare team of its MedVan, which travels throughout the city to provide services, and Dr. Conry was immediately interested.

"Project Renewal's mission is perfectly aligned with ours, and I saw an incredible opportunity for our students," he explained. "We work with a team of doctors, nurses,

physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other healthcare workers so this is a great interprofessional experience. It also exposes our students to meeting the health care needs for this vulnerable population."

Dr. Conry's emphasis on service does not end with Project Renewal. Prior to assuming the department chairmanship, he was Assistant Dean for Service Programs and oversaw the College's service-learning initiatives. He is a Senior Vincentian Research Fellow at the University and also serves his College as Director of the Urban Institute.

As department chair, Dr. Conry enjoys leading an interprofessional department of 55 faculty who teach in the pharmacy, physician assistant, radiological sciences, and clinical laboratory science programs. He is fully committed to academic excellence for the College's programs and dedicated to the University and College's mission.

As an alumnus, Dr. Conry believes it's important to stay connected to the College. "I always ask my students as they prepare to leave to stay in touch with me and take advantage of the many opportunities that exist to connect with the College and University. We are a family here. We take care of each other and share a common purpose."



## DIANE HARDEJ '95G, '03Ph.D.



While working toward her M.S. in biology in St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at St. John's University, Diane Hardej '95G, '03Ph.D. took several toxicology courses in the University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and found her calling. Currently Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the department's Graduate Program Director, Dr. Hardej supervises a lab that primarily studies environmental toxicants such as metals and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. "My doctoral mentor, Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D., is an environmental toxicologist, and I became interested in the field through our work," she said.

Dr. Hardej is passionate about science and wants to see more girls become interested in studying the subject. Through the campus chapter of Women in Science (WIS), she has participated in pharmacology and toxicology summer workshops at the College for ninth- and 10th-grade girls. The event is coordinated by WIS and the GOALS (Greater Opportunities Advancing Leadership and Science) for Girls program of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum. "The girls come to campus and we set up various hands-on experiments for them in the lab," Dr. Hardej explained. "It's very rewarding to see their excitement and interest in science."

Budding scientists benefit from good role models, and this is one of the ways that alumni make a substantial contribution to the pharmaceutical sciences program. "I'm the faculty advisor to our undergraduate Toxicology Club," she said. "For the last two years we've coordinated with the dean's office to host a career hour and invite alums to speak to students about what they do. Our students love it because they learn what they can do in their careers, and the alums seem to enjoy it, too. They always give great advice."

## LISA HOCHSTEIN '73G



Lisa Hochstein is the first to credit her mother for steering her toward a career in clinical laboratory science. "I thought I wanted to study nursing, but my mother had her doubts and suggested I explore my options," she said. "I went to the library and researched different healthcare careers, learned about clinical laboratory sciences, and thought I would like it."

After more than 30 years of working in a hospital setting, Ms. Hochstein joined the faculty in 2008. She had become

very familiar with the program from supervising St. John's students during their year of clinical studies at the hospital. Today Ms. Hochstein is Director of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) program in St. John's University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, which prepares highly skilled scientists who discover the presence or absence of disease and provide data that help physicians determine the best treatment for patients.

Alumni play an important role in the CLS program. "We started a mentoring program last year and had several enthusiastic alumni come forward," Ms. Hochstein said. Last year also was the first for a white coat ceremony sponsorship program. "We had all our white coats sponsored," she said. "My experience has been that most alumni, when approached, will find a way to give back."

Opening doors for graduating students is another way in which alumni contribute. "I always get e-mails from alums who need to hire someone," she said. "Our graduates get snapped up. We have a 100 percent employment rate."





# SECOND ANNUAL GALA RAISES MONEY FOR STUDENT SUPPORT



Some 250 alumni, family, and friends gathered on April 1 at Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck, NY, for the Second Annual College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Gala. The event honored two professors and a distinguished alumnus, all of whom exemplify our tradition of excellence and service, and it raised more than \$15,000 to support students.

The evening's honorees were Robert A. Mangione '77P, '79GP, '93PD, '99Ed.D., Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and former Dean of the College; Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; and Rocco Stella, R.Ph. '57P, who founded a family-owned chain of pharmacies and has been a preceptor for our students for more than 30 years.



"The gala celebrates our past by honoring the accomplishments of our alumni, faculty, and friends, and it also helps us secure our future," said Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D., Dean, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. "The gala proceeds will fund monetary awards to support students in the physician assistant, radiological sciences, toxicology, and clinical laboratory sciences programs. We are grateful for the generosity shown by so many."





## ALUMNI RECONNECT



Our alumni are spread across the globe, bringing their professional expertise and dedication to many organizations and individuals. To celebrate their accomplishments, we hosted alumni receptions this past year at the **Society of Toxicology** Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD; the **American Society of Health-System Pharmacists** Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition in Las Vegas, NV; and at the **American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists** Annual Meeting and Exposition in Denver, CO.

These lively and well-attended events allowed many alumni and friends of the College to reconnect, relive their student days, and have fun.



# ALUMNI SUPPORT RESEARCH AND WHITE COATS

*Thanks to the newly endowed Bartilucci Research Scholarships, two students spent the summer of 2017 expanding their experience and knowledge.*

Under the mentorship of Blase C. Billack, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, **Rachel Renda '19GP** evaluated novel organo-selenium compounds for anti-Candida (anti-fungal) activity in vitro.



Working with Abu T. Serajuddin, Ph.D., Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, **Shireen Farzadeh '19Pharm.D.** researched the preparation and characterization of readily compressible pharmaceutical salts by applying green chemistry (organic-solvent-free method) for the continuous manufacture of tablets.

Donning the white coat of a healthcare professional is a special moment in the life of our students. It was made even more significant by the generosity of our alumni, who sponsored approximately 200 white coats for students graduating from the Pharm.D. and physician assistant programs.

In addition, graduates of the clinical laboratory sciences and radiological sciences programs held their first white coat ceremony, also generously sponsored by program alumni.

# PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR







## JEFFREY G. POSERIO '00MT

*Transfusion Services Manager, NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens  
Clinical Laboratory Sciences Preceptor since 2009*

### **WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AS A PRECEPTOR?**

My most memorable experience as a preceptor was the time when a student was ready to drop out of the program because of family and financial issues. With my intervention and guidance, she was able to finish her internship and graduate on time. She got a job right after passing the state licensure.

### **WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF BEING A PRECEPTOR?**

Having face-to-face interaction with the student and sharing ideas on how to be a future leader in the health industry is what I love most about being a preceptor.



## TODD FREEDMAN, P.A.

*Senior Physician Assistant, Flushing Hospital Emergency Department,  
Physician Assistant Preceptor since 2008*

### **WHY DO YOU ENJOY PRECEPTING STUDENTS?**

Our students have such a strong desire to learn. Their hard work during the didactic year continues into the clinical year. The students work well with everyone in the Emergency Department—and they also work well with each other. They are always sharing their experiences and excitement.

### **WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THE PRECEPTOR PROGRAM TO YOUR COLLEAGUES?**

All of my colleagues should consider becoming preceptors with the College because it offers an opportunity to work with many intelligent, hard-working, and knowledgeable students. The College prepares them very well for their clinical year.



# SCCP AND PHI LAMBDA SIGMA HOST ALUMNI PANEL

*During the spring semester, members of the Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP) and Phi Lambda Sigma invited alumni to share how their community service activities as students influenced their career paths.*

Alumni panelists included

- **Shivani Kapadia '16 Pharm.D.**, Clinical Pharmacist, Medical Affairs, Luitpold Pharmaceuticals, Inc.—As a student leader, Dr. Kapadia was involved in several organizations including the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP), Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Lambda Sigma, and the Raaz dance team.
- **Praneeta Nagraj '15 Pharm.D.**, Medical Science Liaison, Neurology, Bayer, and Pharmacist, New London Pharmacy, Inc.—Among her student activities, Dr. Nagraj was an APhA-ASP executive board member and captain of the Raaz dance team.
- **Deep Patel '15 Pharm.D.**, Medication Reconciliation Pharmacist at Northwell Health and Pharmacist at CVS Health—Dr. Patel, who was appointed Captain in the US Army Reserves in February 2017, also is President-Elect of the Royal Counties Chapter of the New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHP). While at St. John's he was active in several organizations, including the Indo-American Pharmaceutical Society and Rho Chi Society's Beta Delta Chapter.





### INDUSTRY PHARMACISTS AID CHILDREN FIGHTING CANCER

In February, members of the Industry Pharmacists Organization teamed up with Campus Ministry to prepare a steak dinner for children and their families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park, NY. "Cooking with my peers was definitely an enjoyable bonding experience," said Andrew Leung '21Pharm.D. "Seeing families become excited over our unprofessionally prepared meals made me appreciate the little things. It doesn't take much to make someone's life happier."

### ISPOR SPONSORS FIRST GRADUATE SERVICE DAY

Eight graduate student members of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research collaborated to prepare dinner at the Ronald McDonald House in New Hyde Park, NY, for families whose children were being treated at the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center. This was the first in what is planned to be an annual day of service.

### APHA-ASP, PHI DELTA CHI, AND LAMBDA KAPPA SIGMA COHOST RED DRESS GALA

More than 180 students, faculty, family, and friends gathered for the Third Annual Red Dress Gala cohosted this past year by the American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Students, Phi Delta Chi, and Lambda Kappa Sigma. The event raises funds for and awareness of cardiovascular disease prevention. All proceeds go to the American Heart Association, which sent a speaker to the event.

### DRUG ABUSE IS TOPIC OF APHA–ASP, PHI DELTA CHI, AND TAU OMEGA CHI PROGRAM

Members of the American Pharmacist Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA–ASP), Phi Delta Chi, and Tau Omega Chi held a program entitled "Top 10 Drugs of Abuse." In addition to describing the 10 drugs (five were prescription and five were over-the-counter drugs), presenters defined drug abuse and discussed how toxicologists and pharmacists can help educate the public. Student presenters included Evan Cheung '20Pharm.D.; Michael Knapp '20Pharm.D.; Timothy Sta Maria '20Pharm.D.; Alex Russo '20Pharm.D.; Dominick Collura '21Pharm.D.; Carolyn Zhao '19Pharm.D.; and George Gu '18P.

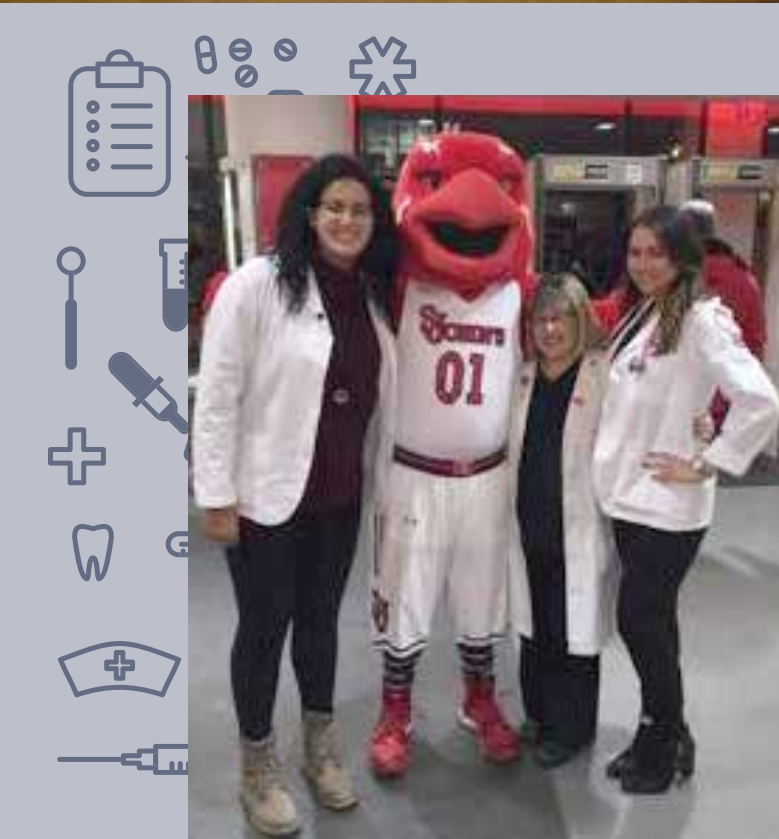




### **SSHP ORGANIZES CAREER NETWORKING EVENT**

Six pharmacists met in small groups with students at an event organized in March by the Student Society of the American Society of Health-system Pharmacists (SSHP). In this more intimate setting, students were able to discuss the guest pharmacists' leadership roles and ask career-related questions.

Participating in this event were Elsie Wong, Pharm.D., Neuroscience ICU Pharmacist at Mount Sinai Hospital; Bejoy Maniara '16 Pharm.D., PGY-2 Infectious Diseases Resident Pharmacist at James J. Peters VA Medical Center; Chung-Shien Lee, Pharm.D., Clinical Coordinator at Monter Cancer Center of Northwell Health; Christina Ng, Pharm.D., Clinical Pharmacy Manager, Ambulatory Care at Montefiore Medical Center; Daryl Nnani, Pharm.D., Mount Sinai PGY-1 Resident; and Nandini Puranprashad, Pharm.D., Clinical Pharmacist/ Pharmacy Manager/PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residency Program Director.



### **PA STUDENTS HOLD SPORT-ORIENTED PROGRAMS**

Physician Assistant (PA) students held the First Annual Super Physician Assistant (SuPA) Bowl touch football game on the Great Lawn of the Queens campus in October. Students enjoyed an afternoon of fresh air, exercise, and camaraderie.

To raise awareness about the importance of a healthy blood pressure, PA students partnered with Academic Service-Learning to offer blood pressure screenings in the lobby of Carnesecca Arena prior to both men's and women's basketball games throughout the 2016–2017 season. Several students expressed surprise at how many fellow students did not have normal blood pressure readings and took the opportunity to discuss diet and caffeine consumption.



### AAPS HOSTS CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM

Members of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), in collaboration with the Office of the Dean, sponsored a career exploration event for undergraduate and graduate students. Guest speakers from academia, industry, and consulting firms interacted with students in small groups and offered advice on selecting career paths.

Speakers included Akhtar Siddiqui, Ph.D., Staff Fellow, Division of Product Quality and Research, US Food and Drug Administration; Nitin Dixit, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Device and Combination Products, Shire Pharmaceuticals; Priyank Kumar, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Touro College of Pharmacy; Varun Khurana, Ph.D., Formulation Scientist, Nevakar Pharmaceuticals; and Laura T. Roberts, CPC, Pharmaceutical Personnel Consultant and Partner, RJS Associates.



### ACADEMY OF MANAGED CARE PHARMACISTS DISCUSS CAREER OPTIONS

The student chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacists (AMCP) held two career-oriented programs during the last academic year. In October, the group hosted Jane Leung, Pharm.D. '83BS, MS, Director of State Pharmacy at WellCare Health Plans, who also is an AMCP Diplomat. In this latter position, Dr. Leung serves as an ambassador to students and colleges of pharmacy in order to raise awareness of the organization and of managed care pharmacy.

In March, Commander Jerry Zee, Pharm.D., MPH, Regional Pharmacist for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Island, Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), visited with students. As a member of the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Dr. Zee spoke to students about different career paths in government.

### CPNP HOSTS PSYCHIATRIC PHARMACISTS FACULTY PANEL

The College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) brought together pharmacy and psychology students to learn about this specialty from psychiatric pharmacists who work in different settings. Approximately 40 students listened to the experiences of four College faculty panelists: Sharon See, Pharm.D., Professor and Clinical Professor, Clinical Health Professions; Farah E. Khorassani, Ph.D., Assistant Professor and Assistant Clinical Professor, Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Warren Drezen, Adjunct Associate Professor; and Donna R. Kesselman, Adjunct Assistant Professor.





# DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Faculty in the Department of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health made significant strides in scholarship, teaching, and service activities during the 2016–17 academic year. A total of 12 grant proposals (eight internal, four external) were submitted for funding and nine were selected (seven internal, two external). The faculty also published 25 articles and book chapters.

Of note, “Racial and Ethnic Differences in Antihypertensive Medication Use and Blood Pressure Control among US Adults with Hypertension,” a study led by Anna Gu, M.P.H., M.D., Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, garnered impressive media attention. She was interviewed by the American Heart Association and Thomson Reuters, and the study was featured on CBS and by other news organizations. Dr. Gu also received the 2016–17 Outstanding Reviewer Award from the American College of Physicians’ *Annals of Internal Medicine*® for the “exceptionally fine quality” of her efforts as a journal reviewer.

Our students also excelled. Two graduate students, Rajesh A. Desai (student of Rajesh Nayak, Ph.D., Associate Professor) and Mona Nili (student of Wenchen Wu, R.Ph., M.B.A., Ph.D., Associate Professor), received full funding from the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) and from the Drug Information Association to attend their respective professional meetings.

In addition, students gave 38 presentations, including poster and podium presentations, during this past academic year. Among them, 11 were also presented at various St. John’s University events. Arun Kumar, Dr. Wu’s graduate student, authored “Fondaparinux Sodium Compared with Low Molecular Weight Heparins for Thromboprophylaxis,” a paper designated the Best Student Poster Research Presentation at the ISPOR

Annual Meeting. It also was the third-place winner in the University’s 2017 Research Month graduate poster presentation competition.

To enhance the quality of our graduate education, we are developing curriculum for our new Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR) track and have appointed a new graduate program director, Jagannath Muzumdar, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, to spearhead the effort. We acknowledge Dr. Nayak for his initial effort on this project, which is slated for department approval in the fall.

In 2016, the department, with the support of Russell J. DiGate, Dean, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, initiated a global initiative to establish a dual degree program agreement with Taipei Medical University (TMU) College of Pharmacy. The agreement was finalized in January. The program will admit sixth-year TMU Pharm.D. candidates to our M.S. in Pharmacy Administration program.

Our Master of Public Health (MPH) program continues to develop. Harry C. Barrett, D.Min., M.P.H., former President and Chief Executive Officer of New York Medical College, was named Director. He will lead the effort to obtain Council on Education for Public Health accreditation for our program. In addition, Yolene Gousse, M.P.H., DrPH, joined the faculty in June. Most recently, she was Assistant Professor and Director of Community-Based Research at the Department of Medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

For the third year, the MPH program celebrated National Public Health Week on the Queens campus. This year it was held from April 3 to 6, and included a series of educational programs, invited talks, health fair, and other activities coordinated with the assistance of faculty and staff from the College and staff from the Department of Student Wellness.

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Gadhoke P**, Brenton B. 2017. Childhood, food, and health: Self-expressions of transition and identity. *Neos: A Publication of the Anthropology of Children and Youth Interest Group*, 9(2). (In Print)

**Gadhoke P**, and Brenton, B.P. (2017). Food Insecurity and Health Disparity Synergisms: Reframing the Praxis of Anthropology and Public Health for Displaced Populations in the United States. In *Responses to Disasters and Climate Change: Understanding Vulnerability and Fostering Resilience*, pp. 129-138, edited by Michele L. Companion and Miriam S. Chaiken. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

**Gadhoke P**, and Brenton, B.P. (2017). Erasure of Indigenous Food Memories and (Re-)Imaginations. In *Food Cults: How Fads, Dogma, and Doctrine Influence Diet*, pp. 205-218, edited by Kima Cargil. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

**Gadhoke P**, Brenton B. (2017). Health consequences and perceptions of organic food: A synthesis of the scientific evidence. In *Organic food, farming, and culture*. Edited by Janet Chrzan and Jacqueline Ricotta. Berg. (Forthcoming)

**Gu A**, Yue Y, Desai RP, Argulian E. Racial and Ethnic Differences in Antihypertensive Medication Use and Blood Pressure Control among US Adults With Hypertension. *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*. 2017; 10:e003166.

**Gu A**, Patel D, Nayak RN. "Drug Shortages," *Pharmaceutical Public Policy*. Taylor & Francis Inc. 2016 (June). Book Chapter.

**Hwang, MJ** & Young, H. Enhancing the Educational Value of Direct-to-Consumer Advertising of Prescription Drugs. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*. In Print.

**Hwang, MJ** & Hsu, S. Exploring strategies to enhance the presentation of information in print DTCA to improve consumers' recall of information. *Innovations in Pharmacy*. 2017;(8)1.

**Muzumdar JM**. An Overview of Comic Books as an Educational Tool and Implications for Pharmacy, *INNOVATIONS in Pharmacy*, 10-pages, October, 2016,

**Muzumdar JM**, Use of Comic Books to Assist Student Learning of Patient-Centered Care, *INNOVATIONS in Pharmacy*. 7-pages, October, 2016,

**Pal, Somnath**, Column of Trend Watch section in *U.S. Pharmacist* [a pharmacy practice journal]

- Prevalence of Selected Health Conditions in Children; <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/prevalence-of-selected-health-conditions-in-children> ; Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: May 19, 2017; US Pharm. 2017: 42(5):12
- Use and Misuse of Prescription Pain Relievers; <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/use-and-misuse-of-prescription-pain-relievers> Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: March 17, 2017; US Pharm. 2017;42(3):6
- Health Consequences in Alzheimer's Caregivers. <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/health-consequences-in-alzheimers-caregivers> Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: January 19, 2017; US Pharm. 2017;42(1):28.
- Ambulatory Care Services for Digestive Diseases. Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: December 16, 2016; US Pharm. 2016;41(12):6.



- Specialized Treatments at Mental-Health Facilities. <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/specialized-treatments-at-mentalhealth-facilities> Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: November 17, 2016; US Pharm. 2016;41(11):6.
- Approval of Novel Drugs in 2015. <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/approval-of-novel-drugs-in-2015>. Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: October 14, 2016; US Pharm. 2016;41(10):11.
- Infertility Prevalence Among Women. <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/infertility-prevalence-among-women> Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: September 16, 2016; US Pharm. 2016;41(9):6.
- Primary Causes of End-Stage Renal Disease. <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/primary-causes-of-endstage-renal-disease> Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: August 18, 2016; US Pharm. 2016;41(8):6.
- Patterns of Vaccination for Influenza and Pneumonia. <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/patterns-of-vaccination-for-influenza-and-pneumonia> Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: July 14, 2016; US Pharm. 2016; 2-16:41(7):25.
- Trends in Selected Autoimmune Diseases. <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/trends-in-selected-autoimmune-diseases>. Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: June 16, 2016 ; US Pharm. 2016;41(6):11.
- Communication and Swallowing Disorders in Children. <https://www.uspharmacist.com/article/communication-and-swallowing-disorders-in-children> Accessed May 31, 2017; Posted: May 17, 2016; US Pharm. 2016;41(5):6.

Cagliani J, Nio K, **Wu W**, Smith C, Molmenti EP, Nicastro J., Coppa GF, Barrera R. Evaluation of unfractionated heparin dosing for thromboprophylaxis using anit-Xa levels in obese critically ill patients: a retrospective study. J. of Intensive & Critical Care Med. 2017; 3(1): 11-14

## SPONSORED RESEARCH

### **Gadhoke, Preety** - Research Projects (St. John's University)

- September 2016 to May 2017. Collaborative, interdisciplinary program evaluation of mental health services in Shinnecock Indian Nation. Frank and Camille Sinatra Endowment Fund. (\$1,000) evaluate mental health services in Shinnecock Indian Nation of Long Island, NY, with a Native American community-based organization, Blossom Sustainable Development.
- January 2016 to Present. Community-based research project with Shuar in Ecuador, South America. Engaged in Community-Based Livelihoods Model research with Shuar indigenous people in Ecuador, South America, on issues of health, wellness, nutrition, and sustainable development.(Funded by VISA Office.).
- May 2016 to Present. Paid Sick Leave Law of New York City. IRB-approved research project to evaluate economic, social, and health related effectiveness of the New York City Paid Sick Leave Law with colleague, Dr. Aleksandr V. Gevorkyan. Funding TBD.
- March 2014 to Present. Food insecurity, resiliency, and health (FHR), Briarwood Family Shelter, Queens, New York. ASL Mini-Grants provided two \$1,000 grants to pilot food and nutrition project to improve health status of homeless families in transitional housing
- May 2015 to Present. OPREVENT. Scientific contributor and community presenter for recruitment in Wisconsin. The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
- September 2014 to Present. NutriBee Project, The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Scientific contributor to project empowering youth to engage on nutrition and food issues. Author on ongoing manuscripts. Contributing on nutritional anthropology and public health programmatic topics.

### **Gu, Senn (Anna)**

- Health Service Utilization for Chronic Conditions among Medicaid Beneficiaries with Mental Disorders. Submitted in May 2016, \$10,000, Internal, UF, June 2016-August 2016.
- Utilization of Statin and Quality of Cardiovascular Care in US Adults with Significant Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) Risk: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2003-2016. Submitted in May 2017, \$10,000, Dean's Summer Research Fund 2017, Pending, May 2017-August 2017.

#### **Hwang, Monica**

- Community Pharmacists' Perception of the Effects of Performance Metrics on Patient Counseling (October 18, 2016), Hwang, MJ, \$21,904, Community Pharmacy Foundation, Unfunded.
- "Teachers Seminar: Dialogue on Foundations of Teaching" by AACP (May, 2016), Hwang, MJ, \$1,500, Internal (St. John's University) with Center for Teaching and Learning for Summer 2016, Funded.

#### **Muzumdar, Jagannath**

- Patient-Reported Outcomes Measures (PROMs) for Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and their Application in Pharmacist-Patient Communication: A Systematic Review, Muzumdar Jagannath (100%), \$10,000, Internal Grant, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences St John's University, Pending, 05/2017 – 09/2017.

#### **Pal, Somnath**

- Serve as a Statistical Consultant on Statistician and Experimental Design Consultant on NIH FY17 Grant titled: "Tea Nanoparticles for Targeted Anticancer Drug Delivery in Breast Cancer" submitted for funding by Dr. Zhe-Sheng Chen, et al of St. John's University, Queens; Pending NIH. January 31, 2017.

### **HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS**

#### **Gadhoke, Preeti**

- Vincentian Center for Church and Society. Frank and Camille Sinatra Endowment Fund.

#### **Gu, Sen (Anna)**

- Outstanding Reviewer Award (received in March 2017), *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

#### **Muzumdar, Jagannath**

- July 23–July 26, 2016, the annual meeting of American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Anaheim, CA, Graduate Student Program: Preparing an Academic Focused CV and Developing Interviewing Skills, Muzumdar Jagannath M, Doshi PN, Minejima E, Simpson DS.

#### **Nayak, Rajesh**

- Travel grant to Mr. Raj Desai (a graduate student in PAH) of \$1,300 to present a study entitled—"Desai R, Nayak R (2017): Evaluating the economic burden and health care utilization due to depression comorbidity in Dementia at the 22nd ISPOR Annual International Meeting, Boston, MA, May 2017.
- Invited Speaker (August 2016). "Newer and Evolving Models of Pharmacy Practice in America". Department of Pharmacy Practice, Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MCOPS), Manipal University, Karnataka, India, August 13, 2016.

#### **Pal, Somnath**

- Was honored to be invited by the 2016 Rho Chi E-Board to participate in the round-table discussions with the pharmacy students at the DAC Coffeehouse Chats session. April 20, 2017.
- Recipient of the Certificate of Appreciation for dedication and contributions to the Industry Pharmacists Organization [2016-2017].

#### **Smart, Mieka**

- Writing across the curriculum faculty award (Participated Spring 2017).

#### **Wu, Wenchen**

- Mentored students on the following project (Kumar A. Talwar A. and Wu. W. Fondaparinux Sodium Compared With Low Molecular Weight Heparins For Thromboprophylaxis.) and received two research awards:
  - Research Month 2017 Graduate Poster Third Place Winner at St. John's University Research Day Poster Presentation Competition, April 20, 2017
  - The Best Student Poster Research Presentation at ISPOR 22nd Annual International Meeting. Boston, MA. May 20–24, 2017.



# DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Faculty and students in the Department of Clinical Health Professions this past academic year shared their knowledge and expertise through articles in prestigious journals and presentations at leading conferences here and abroad.

As an interprofessional department, our faculty teach in the Doctor of Pharmacy, Physician Assistant, Radiological Sciences, and Clinical Laboratory Sciences Programs of the College and commit themselves to imparting the knowledge and skills necessary for our students to become competent, ethical, compassionate, and culturally sensitive members of the healthcare team. Faculty research and scholarly activities are dedicated to improving patient care to those communities we serve.

Our students continue to shine. **Nicole Maisch, Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, and **Maha Saad, Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, served as mentors for seven Pharm.D. student posters or presentations at the 2016 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

While not comprehensive, below are some of the Department of Clinical Health Professions faculty accomplishments during the 2016–2017 academic year.

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

*CHP Department faculty members have been prominent leaders on both national and international fronts.*

**Ebtesam Ahmed, Pharm.D.**, Associate Professor, Associate Clinical Professor, is an expert in pain and palliative care and presented at conferences in Egypt, including Misr International University, the Breast-Gynecological & Immunooncology International Cancer Conference, and Ain Shams University Clinical Oncology International Conference Oncology Pharmacist Symposium in Cairo. In Luxor, Egypt, she presented at the First Immigrant Egyptian Oncology Forum.

**Dr. Ahmed** and **Sharon See, Pharm.D.**, Professor, Clinical Professor, were invited visiting pharmacy faculty at Misr International University in Cairo, Egypt. They taught in the Pharmacotherapy Course Modules for 4th and 5th year pharmacy students.

**Judith Beizer, Pharm.D.**, Professor, Clinical Professor, received the 2016 George F. Archambault Award from the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. This is ASCP's highest honor, given in recognition of outstanding contributions to consultant and senior care pharmacy practice.

**Hira Shafeeq '09 Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor Industry, was granted funding by the University to attend the International Faculty Development Seminar titled "Community-based Approaches to Healthcare: Thailand as a Case Study."

**Christine Chim, Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor, Clinical Assistant Professor, was selected by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) for the 2016 AACP National Walmart Scholars Program with P4 pharmacy student Paula Baichoo.

**John M. Conry '96P, '98Pharm.D.**, Professor, Clinical Professor, was selected by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) for the 2016 AACP National Walmart Scholars Program with P4 pharmacy student Gabriel Plaia.

**Danielle M. Kruger**, Associate Professor, Associate Professor Industry, won the Most Inspiring Professor Award at 2nd Annual CPHS Organizations Recognition Awards Ceremony.

**Tina Kanmaz, Pharm.D.**, Associate Professor, Associate Clinical Professor, was selected as the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Fellow for the 2016–2017 Academic Leadership Fellows Program and also received the Outstanding Faculty Achievement Medal at St. John's University.

**Louise Lee, Ed.D.**, Associate Professor, Associate Clinical Professor, was awarded \$2,000 (2016-2018) from the Center for Technology in Learning (CTL) for a project using the Panopto video platform and the Flipped Classroom pedagogical model.

**Zaidalynet Morales, M.S.**, Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor Industry, received the CTL Faculty Growth Grant, St. John's University for the period May 15, 2017–May 15, 2018.

## INTERPROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Kanmaz T, Conry JM.** Interprofessional Education Opportunities in Faculty-Led Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences. American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education. 2016; 80 (5).

**Patel K, Paladine H, and Desai U.** Development and implementation of an interprofessional pharmacotherapy learning experience during an outpatient primary care rotation. Curr Pharm Teach Learn (in-press).

American Pharmacists Association (APhA) 2017 Annual Meeting & Exposition (San Francisco, CA)- Platform Presentation:

**Ezzo D, Chim C, Lu C, Mazzola N, Fornari A, Coletti D, Conigliaro J.** Making an IMPACCT (Improving Patient Access, Cost, and Care Through Training) as an Interprofessional Team.

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Pharmacy Education Annual Meeting (Anaheim, CA)- Poster Presentation:

**Lu C, Ezzo D, Mazzola N, Chim C, Conigliaro J, Fornari A, Coletti D.** Integrating Students in Interprofessional and Team-Based Care. Innovative Practices in Pharmacy Series.

**Antolos D, Chim C.** Evaluating Interprofessional Education among Pharmacy Students in the Ambulatory Care Setting. Poster presentation at St. John's University Research Day, St. John's University, Queens, NY.

**Chim C.**, Addressing Substance Abuse. Invited panelist at an interprofessional education workshop for health profession students, Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, Hempstead, NY.

M. Banahan (Hofstra), **P. Gregory-Fernandez.** Incorporating Interprofessional Education in Physician Assistant Curriculum, New York State Society of Physician Assistants (NYSSPA) Annual Fall CME Conference Program Encore Poster, Tarrytown, NY.



## CHP SYMPOSIUMS AND PROGRAMS

*Among the annual continuing education symposiums we hosted throughout the year are:*

### **17th Annual Oncology Symposium - April 8, 2017**

- Dr. Ebtesam Ahmed: Palliative Care Needs of Cancer Survivors
- Dr. Erica Iantuono: "Novel Treatment Options for Relapsed/Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia"
- Dr. Damary Torres: "Changing the Landscape of Cancer with PD-1 inhibitors."

### **5th Annual Cardiovascular Symposium - July 21, 2016**

- Dr. Manouchkath Cassagnol: Current Pharmacotherapeutic Treatments of Ventricular Tachycardias
- Dr. Danielle Ezzo: "Precautions and Considerations in the Treatment of Arrhythmias: A Focus on Preventable Medication Errors"
- Dr. Nicole Maisch: "Hot Topics in Cardiology"
- Dr. Maha Saad: "Pharmacogenomic Considerations in the Treatment of Arrhythmias"
- Dr. Sharon See: "Atrial Fibrillation: When Do We Anticoagulate?"
- Dr. Candace Smith: "Current Pharmacotherapeutic Treatments of Supra-Ventricular Tachycardias"

### **19th Annual HIV Symposium - November 11, 2016**

- Dr. John Conry: "2016 HIV Treatment Update"
- Dr. Tina Kanmaz: "Case-Based Approach to HIV-Related Drug Interactions."
- Dr. Yuman Lee: "Room for Improvement: Medication Errors Related to the HIV Population"

### **Annual New Drug Update - March 6 and 15, 2016**

- New Drugs in Endocrinology, Infectious Diseases, Pulmonology, Neurology, Oncology, Immunology, Ophthalmology, and Dermatology  
Faculty: Drs. Laura Augusto, Danielle Ezzo, Kimberly Ng, Damary Torres

APhA's Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Program: Feb, March, and May

- Faculty: Drs. Emily Ambizas, Carmela Avena-Woods, Judith Beizer, Gladys El-Chaar, Joseph Etzel, Danielle Ezzo, Olga Hilar, Sum Lam, Maria Mantione, Michele Pisano

APhA's Medication Therapy Management Certificate Program: April 25, 2017

- Faculty: Drs. Emily Ambizas, Carmela Avena-Woods, Danielle Ezzo, Olga Hilar, Maria Mantione, Nissa Mazzolla

## MEDICAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*At the American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, in May 2016:*

Pisano M, Bughio S, Sinvani L, Nouryan C, Wolf-Klein G., "Atypical Antipsychotics in the Elderly, Are we treating the patient or the caregiver?"

Maiti S, Sinvani L, Pisano M, Kozikowski A, Patel V, Akerman M, Nouryan C, Qiu G, Patel K, Pekmezaris R, Wolf-Klein G., "Opiates in the Elderly."

Kiszko K, Patel K, Chudasama B, Samodulski J, Nienaber C, Martins-Welch, D, Pisano M, Beizer J, Sinvani L, Shah R, Torte L, Nouryan C, Devins D, Vogel B, Modayil, Wolf-Klein G., "Older Adults' Perspectives on Medical Marijuana (MM) Use."

At the Society of Critical Care Medicine 46th Critical Care Congress held in Honolulu, HI, in January 2017:

H. Shafeeq. Prescribing Patterns of Prophylactic Anti-epileptic Drugs in the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit. Poster Presentation.

T. Yunusova, Pharm.D. Candidate, W. Wu, Ph.D., N. Denning, M.D., R. Barrera, M.D., C. Smith, Pharm.D., R. DeLaCruz, M.D. Efficacy of Insulin Glargine (Lantus®) in Surgical Intensive Care Unit Patients.

Auditore B, Wang S, Gianni L, Hanna A, Axelrad A. Evaluation of 4-Factor Prothrombin Complex Concentrate Utilization at a Teaching Hospital.

Moore S, Patel M, Moitra V, Weyker P. Adjunctive ketamine for sedation in the surgical intensive care unit. Platform presentation of research results

## SPONSORED RESEARCH

- “Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment Training Grant” Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Amount Awarded: \$944,138  
Award Period: September 2015–September 2018  
Primary Investigator / Project Director: Olga Hilas, Pharm.D., MPH  
Education and Training Consultant: Farah Khorassani, Pharm.D.  
Faculty Healthcare Partners: Ebtesam Ahmed, Pharm.D.; Emily Ambizas, Pharm.D., MPH; Danielle Ezzo, Pharm.D.; Gregory Hughes, Pharm.D.; Samantha Jellinek-Cohen, Pharm.D.; Farah Khorassani, Pharm.D.; Danielle Kruger, RPA-C, MS; Celia Lu, Pharm.D.; Nissa Mazzola, Pharm.D.; Kimberly Ng, Pharm.D.; Khusbu Patel, Pharm.D.; Michele Pisano, Pharm.D.; Daniel T. Podd, RPA-C, MS; Sharon See, Pharm.D.; Donna Sym, Pharm.D.
- “Primary Care Training and Enhancement Grant,” Sponsored by Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources, and Services Administration.  
Amount awarded: \$1,740,141  
Award period: July 1, 2015–June 30, 2020  
Primary Investigator (Hofstra University): Joseph Conigliaro, M.D., MPH  
Co-Primary Investigator for St. John’s University: Celia Lu, Pharm.D.  
Faculty Partners: Drs. Danielle Ezzo, Celia Lu, Nissa Mazzola, and Christine Chim.



# DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES CELEBRATES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 2016–17 academic year was another outstanding year for the faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, as demonstrated by publication of 90 peer reviewed manuscripts; 120 scientific presentations at local, regional, national, and international symposia; the publication of one book and three book chapters; 40 invited lectures; and the acquisition of \$660,000 in external scientific funding.

In the past year, the department graduated 14 Ph.D. and 28 M.S. research students, and Nikaeta Sadekar '17Ph.D., a student of Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D., earned the First Place Abstract Award in the Regulatory and Safety Specialty Section at the 2017 Society of Toxicology (SOT) Conference.

Faculty were well represented at several prestigious conferences, including 11 toxicology posters and two platform presentations at SOT; 16 presentations at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences; nine at the American Chemical Society; four at the American Association for Cancer Research national meetings; and others at regional and specialty meetings.

*The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences proudly announces several outstanding initiatives, awards, and achievements made by members of our department:*

**Frank A. Barile '82Ph.D.**, Professor, was asked by the Food and Drug Administration, National Center for Toxicology Research, Division of Systems Biology, to serve as an expert advisor for the review of new in vitro methods as alternatives to animal tests for regulatory approval.

**Blase C. Billack, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, won a Fulbright Scholar award and traveled to the University of Udine, Italy, to teach and pursue his research. Dr. Billack also won the Society of Toxicology International ToxScholar Outreach Grant and organized symposia in Serbia and Moldova.

**Zhe-Sheng (Jason) Chen, Ph.D., M.D.**, Professor, is the Principal Investigator of a \$250,000 National Institutes of Health Academic Research Enhancement Award. In addition, he was invited to give seminars at universities in China, including Sun Yat-Sen University, Southern Medical University, Zhengzhou University, Weifang Medical University, Guangdong Pharmaceutical University, Guangzhou Medical University, Jinan University, and Fudan University Cancer Hospital.

**Sue M. Ford, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, was invited by the President of the Society of Toxicology in January 2017 to join a five-member SOT Toxicology Impact Task Force. This group is charged with identifying toxicology research and actions that have enhanced public and environmental health.

**Sandra E. Reznik, Ph.D., M.D.**, Professor, was invited to be the Guest Editor for a special issue of Current Pharmaceutical Design entitled "Novel Pharmacotherapeutic Targets and Emerging Approaches for the Prevention of Preterm Birth."

**Abu T.M. Serajuddin, Ph.D.**, Professor, received the International Pharmaceutical Excipients Council (IPEC) Ralph Shangraw Memorial Award, the highest scientific recognition given by the IPEC for research on pharmaceutical excipients and excipient-related technologies. With

more than 6,000 citations, Dr. Serajuddin is one of the most cited authors working on drug product development.

**S. William (Sandy) Zito, Ph.D.**, Senior Associate Dean for Assessment and Professor, was awarded the 2017 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award, which recognizes an individual's excellence in pharmacy education and is one of the highest awards in academic pharmacy.

**Carrig, S, Bijjiga, E, Wopat, M., Martino, AT** (2016). Insulin Therapy Improves Adeno- Associated Virus Transduction of Liver and Skeletal Muscle in Mice and Cultured Cells. *Human Gene Therapy*.

**Khadtare, N, Stephani, R, Korlipara, V.** Design, synthesis and evaluation of 1,3,6- trisubstituted-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-2- carboxylic acid derivatives as ETA receptor selective antagonists using FRET assay, *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* 2017 (27), 2281-2285.

**Khatrri, P. Jun Shao.** Transport of lipid nano-droplets through MDCK epithelial cell monolayer. *Colloids and Surfaces B: Biointerfaces*, 153:237–243, 2017.

**Le Y, Chen L, Zhang Y, Bu P, Dai G, Cheng X.** Epalrestat stimulated oxidative stress, inflammation and fibrogenesis in mouse liver. *Toxicol Sci.*, 2017. doi:10.1093/toxsci/kfx038.

**Meena, AK. Desai, D, Serajuddin, A.T.M.** Development and Optimization of a Wet Granulation Process at Elevated Temperature for a Poorly Compactible Drug Using Twin Screw Extruder for Continuous Manufacturing. *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 106(2), 589-600 (2017).

**Mishra, SM, Rohera BD.** An integrated, quality by design (QbD) approach for design, development, and optimization of orally disintegrating tablet formulation of carbamazepine, *Pharmaceutical Development and Technology* (2016).

**Orie NN, Warren AR, Basaric J, Lau-Cam C, Pietka-Ottlik M, Mlochowowski J, Billack B.** In vitro assessment of the growth and plasma membrane H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase inhibitory activity of ebselen and structurally related selenium- and sulfurcontaining compounds in *Candida albicans*. *J Biochem Mol Toxicol.* 2017 Feb 2. doi:10.1002/jbt.21892. [Epub ahead of print] Vaidya B, Patel R, **Muth A, Gupta V** (2017). Exploitation of Novel Molecular Targets to Treat Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis: A Drug Discovery Perspective. *Current Medicinal Chemistry (Available online May 29, 2017)*.

**Patel, N, Jain, S, Madan, P, Senshang Lin,** Application of design of experiments to develop statistical control over transdermal iontophoretic delivery of tacrine hydrochloride and mechanistic of transdermal tacrine iontophoretic delivery, *Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy*, 42(11), 1894-1902, 2016.

**Patel VS, Sampat V, Espey M, Wang H, Mantell LL.** Ascorbic Acid Improves Hyperoxia- Compromised Host Defense against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Infection in Mice. *Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol.* 2016 Oct;55(4):511-520; A figure from this peer-reviewed article was selected to appear on the cover of the journal.

**Pekson R, Poltoratsky V, Gorasiya S, Sundaram S, Ashby, CR, Vancurova I and Reznik, SE.** N,N-Dimethylacetamide Significantly Attenuates LPS- and TNF -Induced Proinflammatory Responses Via Inhibition of the Nuclear Factor Kappa B Pathway. *Molec Med*, 22: 747-758 (2016).

**Prajapati, MV, Adebolu, OO, Morrow, BM, Cerreta, JM.** Evaluation of pulmonary response to inhaled tungsten (IV) nanoparticles in Golden Syrian Hamsters. *Experimental Biology and Medicine.* Vol 242:29-44, 2017.

**Wang YJ, Patel BA, Anreddy N, Zhang YK, Zhang GN, Alqahtani S, Singh S, Shukla S, Kaddoumi A, Ambudkar SV, Talele TT, Chen ZS.** Thiazole-valine peptidomimetic (TTT-28) antagonizes multidrug resistance in vitro and in vivo by selectively inhibiting the efflux activity of ABCB1. *Sci Rep.* 2017 Feb 9.



# 2017 COMMENCEMENT

	SEPT '16	JAN '17	MAY '17	AY 16-17
<u>UNDERGRADUATE AND ENTRY LEVEL DEGREES</u>				
Pharm.D. 6 Year Doctor of Pharmacy	1	1	261	263
B.S. Clinical Laboratory Sciences	1		11	12
B.S. Physician Assistant			61	62
B.S. Radiologic Sciences	1		20	21
B.S. Toxicology		2	11	13
Total Undergraduate Degrees	3	3	364	370
<u>GRADUATE DEGREES</u>				
Ph.D. Pharmaceutical Sciences	3	3	8	14
M.S. Pharmaceutical Sciences	8	4	4	16
M.S. Pharmacy and Administrative Sciences		1	7	8
M.S. Toxicology		1	3	4
MPH Public Health		1	3	9
M.S. Biotechnology				
Total Graduate Degrees	11	10	30	51
Grand Total	14	13	394	421



