



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences

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News

SPRING/
SUMMER
2017



Message from the Dean

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. As you'll read in this issue, our efforts are well rewarded. Our

student researchers continue to receive accolades, and our student organizations demonstrate their commitment to service in creative and meaningful ways.

Our stellar faculty's accomplishments are impressive, and they continue to represent the College's high standards of scholarship here and abroad. We also gratefully acknowledge the dedication of our alumni who 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 as successful in preparing are many competent healthcare professionals.

Equally important, you'll learn about the significant community service work being pursued by members of our College family. Despite their many personal and professional commitments, they find ways to serve those in need, just as St. Vincent encouraged us to do.

We have completed a productive academic year and look forward to the start of another, which, thanks to the efforts of many, including faculty, administrators, staff, students, and alumni, will surely be a success. Our future continues bright, and I invite you to enjoy reading about our accomplishments in these pages.

Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D.

Dean



ST. JOHN'S
UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences

HONOREES

Mary Ann Howland, Pharm.D.
Distinguished Faculty

Janet Mastanduno, Ph.D.
Distinguished Alumni

John Navarra, B.S.
Distinguished Practitioner

Angela Tomei Robinson, M.S.
Distinguished Practitioner

Abu T. Serajuddin, Ph.D.
Distinguished Alumni

CPHS PARTNER AWARD
Pharmacists Society of the State of New York, Inc.

RSVP at stjohns.edu/cphsgala

SAVE THE DATE

Third Annual
GALA

Saturday, April 28, 2018
7 p.m.

Leonard's Palazzo
555 Northern Boulevard
Great Neck, NY 11021

Events

Third Annual College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Gala

Saturday, April 28, 2018, at 7 p.m.

Leonard's Palazzo

Great Neck, NY

RSVP: stjohns.edu/cphsgala

Honorees:

Mary Ann Howland, Pharm.D.—Distinguished Faculty

Janet Mastanduono, Ph.D.—Distinguished Alumni

John Navarra, B.S.—Distinguished Practitioner

Angela Tomei Robinson, M.S.—Distinguished Practitioner

Abu T. Serajuddin, Ph.D.—Distinguished Alumni

Pharmacists Society of the State of New York,

Inc.—CPHS Partner Award



Physician Assistant White Coat Convocation

October 3, 2017

Marillac Hall Auditorium

Radiologic Sciences White Coat Convocation

October 5, 2017, D'Angelo Center Ballroom

Alumni Insider's View

October 11–13, 2017

Pharmacy, toxicology, and graduate students can apply for one of 20 openings to visit the National Institutes of Health, the headquarters of the American Pharmacists Association, the Association of American Colleges & Universities, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention.

Pharmacy White Coat Convocation

October 21, 2017, Taffner Field House

Toxicology White Coat Convocation

October 25, 2017, Marillac Terrace

College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Awards Ceremony

October 30, 2017

Pharmacy Congress

November 1, 2017

The 10th Annual Dr. Charles I. Jarowski Industrial Pharmacy Symposium

November 1, 2017, D'Angelo Center

Pharmaceutical Industry Networking Day

November 1, 2017, D'Angelo Center

Open to all pharmacy students to network with current St. John's fellows representing Allergan, Daiichi-Sankyo, and American Regent in various fields including medical affairs/marketing, clinical research and development, and pharmacovigilance and regulatory affairs (including global regulatory strategy, advertising, and promotion).



For more event information, contact Diana Patino at patinocd@stjohns.edu or 718-990-1415.

Student Highlights

Kelly Almond, Ph.D. '17GP, article, "Copper Pyrithione, a Booster Biocide, Induces Abnormal Muscle and Notochord Architecture in Zebrafish Embryogenesis," with Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D., was accepted for publication in *Ecotoxicology*.

Samir Goraiya presented a poster, "Anti-Inflammatory Activity of N,N-Diethylacetamide (DEA) and N,N-Dipropylacetamide (DPA) in In Vitro and Ex Vivo Models of Inflammation-Induced Preterm Birth," at the 2017 Society for Reproductive Investigation.

Clarence Manuel '18G, a student in the lab class of **Sandra E. Reznik, Ph.D., M.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a 2017 American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) Pre-doctoral Fellowship. This prestigious award supports "High-performing students who possess the skill and aptitude to become outstanding scientists and leaders in the pharmaceutical industry, academia, and the government/nonprofit sectors." This year only 25 awards were granted out of 260 applications. Ellen Woods, AFPE President, called Dr. Reznik personally to commend her on Clarence's application.

Clarence has also been awarded a scholarship provided by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of up to \$1,000 to participate in the Whole Scientist Project at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, ME.

Clarence's poster "Resolving the Mechanisms of High-Fat Diet induced Preterm Birth: Is Immune Tolerance a Better Line of Defense than Immune Inhibition" won second place at the University Student Research Day poster competition, and he has been awarded a university fellowship.

Clarence presented "Pre-maternal High-fat Diet Consumption Initiates Preterm Birth by Potentiating the Actions of Lipopolysaccharide at Toll-like Receptor 4 and Decreasing Utero-placental Antioxidant Capacity" at the 2017 Annual Conference of the Society for Reproductive Investigation in Orlando, FL, from March 15–18.

Pavankumar Nukala, Siddhant Palekar, Nayan Solanki, and Ketankumar Patel, Ph.D., received third prize in poster presentation, "Development of FDM 3D Printed Caplet Using Novel Polyvinyl Alcohol: Effect of Printing Pattern on Drug Release," at Graduate Research Association of Students in Pharmacy (GRASP)'s 2017 annual meeting, held May 19–21 at the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC.



WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 DR. ANDREW J. BARTILUCCI UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP:



Shireen Farzadeh '18Pharm.D., with **Abu T. Serajuddin, Ph.D.**, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, as her mentor.



Rachel Renda '18GP, with **Blasé Billack, Ph.D.**, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, as her mentor.

Faculty

Highlights

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Ebtesam Ahmed '07Pharm.D., Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, was invited by the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) to participate in the Global Oncology Pharmacy Symposium for "people of action" in Budapest, Hungary.

Judith Beizer, Pharm.D., Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, received a special recognition award from the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) for Outstanding Service on the Public Policy Committee. It was awarded at the AGS annual meeting in San Antonio, TX, in May 2016.

Manouchkathe Cassagnol, Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor and Assistant Director of the Urban Institute of Clinical Health Professions; **Vibhuti Arya '06Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; and **John Conry '96P, '98Pharm.D.**, Clinical Professor and Department Chair of Clinical Health Professions, wrote a journal article, "An Urban Institute Community Outreach Program: The Changing Faces of Pharmacy—A Student Enrichment Program."

Christine Chim '11Pharm.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, presented an abstract, "Development of a pharmacist-run home visits program to decrease medication-related errors," at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) 2017 Virtual Poster Symposium in May.

Angie Eaton, M.Ed., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, was an invited speaker on "Digital Imaging Unmasked" at the Association of Educators in Radiologic Technology of the State of New York (AERTSNY) meeting on April 6, 2017.

Gladys El-Chaar, 'Pharm.D.86P, Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, submitted a paper, "Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Using Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycles to Reduce Unjustified Antibiotic Prescribing in Children Admitted with an Asthma Exacerbation," to the *Journal of Pediatric Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

Danielle Ezzo '01, Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor and Director of Inter-Professional Education of Clinical Health Professions; **Nissa Mazzola '06Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; **Christine Chim '11Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions; and **Celia Lu '11Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, presented an abstract, "Making an IMPACt (Improving Patient Access, Cost, and Care through Training) as an Interprofessional Team," at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) 2017 Virtual Poster Symposium in May 2017.

Regina Ginzburg '99P, '01Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, achieved board certification in Advanced Diabetes Management (BC-ADM) from the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

Lisa Hochstein '73P, Program Director of Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Associate Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, presented a poster, "Transition from a Hospital Based to a University Based MLS program," at the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science 2017 Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference in Boston, MA, in February.

Sum Lam, Pharm.D., and **Gladys El-Chaar, '86P, Pharm.D.**, are invited authors for a book chapter, "Urinary Incontinence and Pediatric Enuresis in Chisholm-Burns," et al. *Pharmacotherapy Principles and Practice*, McGraw-Hill.

Chung-Shien Lee '11Pharm.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional, published, "ALK-Positive Lung Cancer," in the *U.S. Pharmacist*, May 2017.

Chung-Shien Lee '11Pharm.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional; **Kimberly Ng, Pharm.D.**, Assistant Clinical Professor; **Christan M. Thomas, Pharm.D.**, Corporate Oncology Specialist Coordinator; published, "An Overview of the Changing Landscape of Treatment for Advanced Melanoma," in *Pharmacotherapy* in March 2017.

Celia Lu '11Pharm.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, copresented with Sheeba Paul a poster, "Personalized Pharmacotherapy in a Patient with Cytochrome P450 2D6 Polymorphism," at the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, in April 2017.

Zaidalynet Morales, Assistant Professor/Industry Professional and Clinical Coordinator of Clinical Health Professions, and **Jennifer Chiu, Ed.D.**, Associate Professor/Industry Professional and Program Director of Clinical Health Professions, were invited to speak at the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) 2017 Education Symposium held in June in Orlando, FL.

Khusbu Patel '10Pharm.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional, was named Teacher of the Year for New York Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center for teaching family medicine to their medical residents and medical students.

Michele Pisano '04Pharm.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, presented three posters: "Atypical Antipsychotics Use in the Elderly: Are we Treating the Patient or Caregiver," "Opiate Prescribing in Hospitalizing Older Adults: Patterns and Outcomes," and "Older Adults Perspectives on Medical Marijuana Use," at the Annual Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society in San Antonio, TX, in May 2017.

Sharon See, Pharm.D., Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, gave the commencement speech at the Union Square Academy for Health Sciences in New York, NY, on June 28, 2017.

Faculty Highlights

Hira Shafeeq '09 Pharm.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, was accepted into a competitive International Faculty Development Seminar program organized by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) that is sponsored by St. John's University. Dr. Shafeeq was accepted to the "Community-Based Approaches to Healthcare: Thailand as a Case Study" seminar in Thailand for the 2017 summer.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Preeti Gadhoke, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Health Sciences and Public Health, was awarded the 2016–2017 Vincentian Institute for Social Action's Frank and Camille Sinatra Endowment Fund.

Sen Gu, Ph.D., M.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, was interviewed by the American Heart Association and Thomson Reuters for her study, "Racial and Ethnic Differences in Antihypertensive Medication Use and Blood Pressure Control Among US Adults With Hypertension." The study analyzed the latest national data on antihypertensive treatment patterns and blood pressure control and investigated the impact of insurance coverage, sociodemographic factors, and key comorbidities on the magnitude of racial gaps in the aforementioned metrics. The study was featured by (among others) CBS News, American Heart Association, and Thomson Reuters.

Sen Gu, Ph.D., M.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, received the "Outstanding Reviewer" award from the *Annals of Internal Medicine* for the calendar year 2016–2017 for the "exceptionally fine quality" of her efforts as a reviewer for the journal. The editor commented that her review efforts helped to "improve the quality of published work," and "superb reviewers not only help the journal, but also authors, readers, and even the general public."

Monica Hwang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Health Sciences and Public Health, and **Henry Young, Ph.D.**, published, "Enhancing the Educational Value of Direct-to-Consumer Advertising of Prescription Drugs," for the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*.

Monica Hwang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Health Sciences and Public Health, and **Yen-Michael S. Hsu, Ph.D., M.D.**, published, "Exploring strategies to enhance the presentation of information in print DTCA to improve consumers' recall of information," for *Innovations in Pharmacy* in the 2017 issue; (8)1:Article 21.

Jagannath Muzumdar, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, was appointed Graduate Program Director in the Department for Pharmacy Administration and Public Health. Upon appointment to this new position, he has continued to focus on the department's efforts in developing a new track in the area of Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR). This new track will focus on areas of pharmacoeconomics, patient-reported outcomes, and outcomes research.

Jagannath Muzumdar, Ph.D., in collaboration with **Nicholas Pantaleo Jr., M.D.**, a physician at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Health Communication*, a leading journal that focuses on the communication of health information globally. This research was supported through the New Investigator Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Part of this work was copresented at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, in March.

Somnath Pal, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Health Sciences and Public Health, was the recipient of two certificates of appreciation for his service as a judge for Research Day and as the founding Faculty Advisor to Industry Pharmacy Organization at St. John's University. Dr. Pal was an invited participant at the 2017 Rho Chi e-Board Coffeehouse chat session.

Mieka Smart, Dr. Ph.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, received the Writing Across the Curriculum Faculty Award for spring 2017.

Mieka Smart, Dr. Ph.D., Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, received a \$1,500 grant from PHIELD Workgroup: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Public Health for Pharmacists in March. This project aims to facilitate teamwork among scientists, practitioners, and students from diverse disciplines to work toward solving public health problems and refining public health leadership skills.

S. William Zito, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Senior Associate Dean of Assessment, received the Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award on July 16, 2017, in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting held in Nashville, TN. The award recognizes exemplary contributions in areas of instruction, service, and overall impact on pharmacy education.

Faculty

Highlights

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Blasé C. Billack, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, served on the 2017 scholarship selection committee for the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union (PSFCU). The credit union, in its 41st year, has assets totaling \$1.81 billion and provides banking services to more than 90,000 members. This year, the scholarship committee selected ~200 students from across the US for scholarships totaling \$400,000. The awards process is competitive and based on scholarly merit and extracurricular activities, as well as membership in the credit union. Regarding his service on this committee, Dr. Billack stated, "It's wonderful that the PSFCU supports young scholars in this way. Despite the extra work of reviewing numerous applications, which is all done on a volunteer basis, it's truly an honor to serve. To see the number of young scholars out there and to read about their talents and their dreams for the future makes me very optimistic about the future. It's a win-win for everyone."

Zhe-Sheng Chen, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, submitted an article, "The Development of Anticancer Ruthenium (II) Complexes, from Single Molecule Compounds to Nanomaterials," to *Chemical Society Reviews*.

Lin Mantell, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was re-elected for a two-year term to serve as Treasurer of the Society for Free Radical Research International.

Lin Mantell, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was invited to speak on "HMGB-1 in Oxidative Stress-Induced Lung Disease" at the State Key Laboratory of Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, in the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, China, in May. Dr. Mantell also was invited to speak on "Friend or Foe" held at the Institute of Environmental Sciences, Shanxi University, China, in December 2016.

Ashley Martino, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, cochaired the oral abstract session, "Immunological Aspects of Gene Therapy and Vaccines," at the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy Annual Meeting May 10–13 in Washington, DC.

Ketankumar Patel, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the 2016 Melanoma Research Scholar Award from Outrun the Sun, Inc. in January 2017. He was awarded \$10,000 for the grant, "YSA peptide anchored stealth nanoliposomes for metastatic melanoma tumor specific delivery of a MEK inhibitor."

Sandra E. Reznik, Ph.D., M.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, contract with Nassau Healthcare Corporation for \$15,000 to support a research project, "Novel Approaches to Trauma-Induced Pro-inflammatory Responses," was renewed for another year.

Sandra E. Reznik, Ph.D., M.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, gave an invited lecture, "The Organ That Determines Our Future: Environmental Effects on the Placenta," at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention held on April 19.

Sabesan Yoganathan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; **Francis Schanne, Ph.D.,** Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; and **Ralph Stephani, Ph.D.,** Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, published a research paper on "Synthesis of N-1',N-3'-disubstituted spirohydantoin and their anticonvulsant activities in pilocarpine model of temporal lobe epilepsy."

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Good News

The College would like to recognize the 2017 recipients of the
Distinguished Young Alumni Award:

Jason Babby '09Pharm.D., Mark Gillespie '09P, Alando Hall '08P, and Allison Raich '07Pharm.D.



Jason Babby



Mark Gillespie



Alando Hall



Allison Raich

Frank A. Barile, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Alternative Methods for Ocular Toxicology."

Blase Billack, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Toxicology Outreach in Serbia and Moldova."

Amanda Dhaneshwar, Benjamin Kistinger, and Diane Hardej, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "MASOT Education and Outreach Committee Partners with Women in Sciences and GOALS for Girls to Bring Toxicology Concepts to High School Students."

Katelyn Dial and Lin Mantell, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Sulforaphane Improves Hyperoxia Compromised Phagocytic Function in Macrophages."

Marc Gillespie, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Dean for Graduate Education, presented on "Using Reactome as a Foundation for Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) Identification."

Kaushal Joshi, Michael Barletta, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and **John Wurlpel, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, presented on "Cardiotoxic (Arrhythmogenic) Effects of 1,1-Difluoroethane Due to Electrolyte Imbalance and Cardiomyocyte Damage."

Benjamin Kistinger and Diane Hardej, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Oral Mancozeb Exposure Alters Essential Metal Levels in Rat Gastrointestinal Tract."

Yuan Le, Graduate Student; **Pengli Bu**, Adjunct Assistant Professor; and **Xingguo Cheng, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Berberine-Induced Ntcp/ntcp Expression via Inactivation of Stat5 Signaling in Mouse Liver and Cultured Hepatoma Cells."

Kenny Ng '17Pharm.D. is working as a Clinical Research Associate at Cota Healthcare in Manhattan.

Allison Raich '07Pharm.D. has been elected to serve as President of the Long Island Society of Health-system Pharmacists for the 2017–2018 year.

Nikaeta Sadekar '17GP and Louis Trombetta, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Orally Administered Ras Sindoor-Mediated Renal Toxicity in Male Sprague-Dawley Rats." Mr. Sadekar won a first-place abstract award in the Regulatory and Safety Specialty Section.

Rita Sitapara '16Ph.D., Senior Scientist at Pulmokit, received his first National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute grant for his proposal, "A Phosphopeptide Multiplex PRM Mass Spectroscopic Biomarker Assay for Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension."

Olivia J. Stephenson and Louis Trombetta, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "A Comparative Study of Dithiocarbamates, Mancozeb, and Disulfiram, on Striated Muscle in Long Evan Rats."

Mao Wang, X Yang, Vivek Patel, and Lin Mantell, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "ODSH Improves Bacterial Clearance in Cystic Fibrosis by Reducing HMGB1 Release and Improving Phagocytosis of Airway Macrophages."

Yunkai Zhang, Yuan Le, Yue Zhang, and Xingguo Cheng, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Alterations of Bile Acid Profile by Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA) in Mice."

STAY IN TOUCH

with your classmates, former instructors, and the CPHS family.

Tell us about your recent career and professional achievements. We will publish your good news in our alumni section.

To submit your good news, e-mail Diana Patino at patinocd@stjohns.edu.



Research Presentations

N. Acharekar, L. Barasa, and Sabesan Yoganathan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Chemical modification and structure activity relationship (SAR) of fellutamide B, a natural product with anticancer and anti-tuberculosis activity," at the 252 American Chemical Society National Meeting & Exposition in Philadelphia, PA, in August 2016.

Sean Carrig '19GP and Ashley Martino, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Enhancing the Efficacy of Acute Insulin Therapy to Improve AAV Transduction to Skeletal Muscle, Liver and Lung by Altering the INSR (Insulin Receptor) Levels" at the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy Annual Meeting held May 10–13 in Washington, DC.

Raj A. Desai, and Rajesh Nayak, Ph.D., presented on "Preparing Pharmacy Students to Meet Challenges in Managed Care: Evidence of Student Learning About Managed Care Pharmacy From a US Pharmacy School" at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) meeting held on March 29 in Denver, CO.

Katelyn Dial, William Wu, and Lin Mantell, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Sulforaphane Improves Hyperoxia Compromised Phagocytic Function in Macrophages" at the American Thoracic Society Annual Meeting held in May in Washington, DC.

Alex Gauthier, Ravikumar Sitapara, Ganesh Thakur, Lin Mantell, Ph.D., M.D. Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on, "Gat-107, A Novel Ago-Pam of 7 Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor, Restores Hyperoxia-Compromised Macrophage Function," at the American Thoracic Society Annual meeting held in May in Washington, DC.

N. Karadkhelkar and Sabesan Yoganathan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Development of azotochelin analogs as potential antibacterial leads" at the 252nd American Chemical Society National Meeting & Exposition in August 2016 in Philadelphia, PA.

J. Kong and Sabesan Yoganathan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Synthesis and biological evaluation of pyochelin analogs as potential antibacterial agents against pathogenic bacteria" in August 2016 at the 252 American Chemical Society National Meeting and Exposition in Philadelphia, PA.

Arun Kumar '17GP and Wenchen Wu, M.B.A., Ph.D., Chair of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health and Associate Professor, won the Best Student Poster Presentation for "Fondaparinux Sodium Compared with Low Molecular Weight Heparins for Thromboprophylaxis Among Patients at Risk as per Virchow's Triad: A Systematic Review and Meta Analysis" at the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 22nd Annual International Meeting held May 20–24 in Boston, MA.

Mona Nili and Wenchen Wu, M.B.A., Ph.D., presented on "Fixed-Dose Versus Free-Dose Antihypertensive Combinations, A Cost-Utility Analysis" at the 53rd Drug Information Association (DIA) Annual Meeting held on June 19 in Chicago, IL.

Pavankumar Nukala, Siddhant Palekar, Nayan Solanki, and Ketankumar Patel, Ph.D., received third prize in poster presentation, "Development of FDM 3D Printed Caplet Using Novel Polyvinyl Alcohol: Effect of Printing Pattern on Drug Release," at the Graduate Research Association of Students in Pharmacy (GRASP) 2017 annual meeting held May 19–21, 2017, at the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Campbell University, Buise Creek, NC.

Tianxiang Qi '17GP and Ashley Martino, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Insulin blunts innate immune responses in cultured macrophages" at the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy Annual Meeting held May 10–13 in Washington, DC.

Mriga Shirkhande, Raj Desai, Tazi Castro, Sylva Ohanian, and Rajesh Nayak, Ph.D., presented on "Impact of Disease Severity and Comorbidity on Informal Costs in Dementia: A Systematic Review of Available Evidence at the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 22nd Annual International Meeting held May 20–24 in Boston, MA.

Mitchel Wopat '17GP and Ashley Martino, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented on "Simple methods to increase AAV vector production by improving transduction and altering downstream processing," at the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy Annual Meeting held May 10–13 in Washington, DC.



Organizations Work Together to Examine Career Choices

The St. John's chapter of the American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA–ASP) collaborated with the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) on “APhA Pathways,” a series of events that allow students to delve deeper into one selected field in pharmacy, such as pharmacists in industry, public health, community, and clinical faculty. The St. John's chapter hosted an event with AMCP on November 21, 2016, which focused on the field of managed care pharmacy. St. John's alumni who work as managed care pharmacists returned to campus to discuss their careers. Speakers included **Marianna C. Bruno, M.P.H., Pharm.D.**, Medical Director on the US Medical Affairs team at Pfizer Inc.; **Lisa Anzisi, Pharm.D.**, Pharmacy Utilization Management Coordinator at New York University Langone Medical Center; **Jacqueline Mullakary, Pharm.D., BCACP**, Clinical Pharmacy Manager at the Care Management Company of Montefiore Medical Center; **Tasmiya Khan, Pharm.D.**, Consultant Pharmacist at Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.; and **Swati Shah, Pharm.D.**, Senior Pharmacy Manager at Healthfirst.

Many student pharmacists were unaware of the opportunities that are available. **Austin Yung '20Pharm.D.** enjoyed this event and hoped that the student chapter of APhA-ASP plans to host more before he graduates. “It opened new possibilities and career pathways within pharmacy for me to consider pursuing in the near future,” he said. “I learned more about the different roles involved in managed care and the effects that this role may have on the lives of countless people.”

The Operation Public Health committee hosted a “Pharmacists in Public Health” event during National Public Health Week with representatives from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At this event, student pharmacists learned the ways in which pharmacists can impact public health.

AMCP Hosts Stock Market Challenge

The annual Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Stock Market Challenge welcomes pharmacy students from all years to participate in a fun and interactive competition. Students begin with a Virtual \$100,000 to invest only in pharmacy related companies. Stocks include chain pharmacies such as CVS, biopharmaceutical companies such as Regeneron, and health insurance companies such as the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

The competition is held online and students are able to make trades as often as they wish. The competition starts during the fall semester and continues into the spring. Winning students are judged by criteria such as net profit, a balanced portfolio, and adherence to the rules.

“I have always been interested in stocks so the Stock Market Challenge was a fun game to play as a break from studying,” said Amy Nguyen '20Pharm.D. “I was also able to learn through my stock research about pharmacy related companies.”

Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP)

Pharmacy and physician assistant students worked together on a simulated patient case utilizing the Simulation Man found in St. Albert Hall on January 31. **William M. Maidhof, Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; **Pamela Gregory-Fernandez**, Associate Professor/Industry Professional; and **Sharon See, Pharm.D.**, Clinical Professor, oversaw the event and provided guidance to the students as they tackled the case. It was a great way for students to learn about interprofessional collaboration among members of a healthcare team.

Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP) Participates in GallopNYC

In keeping with the University's mission, Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP) student members volunteered for GallopNYC, an organization that offers therapeutic horsemanship programs to those with disabilities and special needs. These programs instill a sense of independence and responsibility in participants as they relax and have fun by riding horses.

Student volunteers ensured riders felt safe on the horse by offering words of praise and engaging in conversation. They also played games where the rider had to multitask by holding onto the reins while

shooting balls into a bucket that volunteers carried. Riders were able to teach simple tricks to the horses, such as having the horse yield, trot faster, back up, or turn. Volunteers acted as cues and reminded the riders of the actions they needed to do in order to do the tricks. Volunteers worked closely with both horses and riders and were taught how to lead the horses. This was the second time SCCP volunteered at this event so the staff felt more comfortable with giving students this responsibility.

“These riders have the biggest hearts,” said **Katie Lee '19Pharm.D.**, a member of the SCCP. “I could tell how deeply they cared about the horses by how gentle they were with them.”



Organizations

Events

Rho Chi and APhA-ASP Host Panel Focusing on Midyear

Rho Chi and **APhA-ASP** held an event just prior to midyear fittingly called "Crash Course: Midyear." A panel of faculty members spoke to students about what exactly they can expect from ASHP midyear and how to wisely use their time at the conference. Time was split between those seeking a fellowship at midyear and those seeking a residency. The faculty presentations were then followed by a brief question and answer period. With a turnout of about 45 students, this was one of their most successful events of the year.

First Annual Super Physician Assistant SuPA Bowl a Success

Students organized the SuPA Bowl, an informal football game held on the Great Lawn in October. This event helped students relieve some stress and have fun with their classmates outside of the classroom. A group of students played while others cheered from the sideline.



Physician Assistant Students Provide Blood Pressure Screenings

In collaboration with Academic Service-Learning, **Pamela Gregory-Fernandez**, Associate Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, mentored students from the Physician Assistant Student Association as they provided blood pressure screenings at Carnesecca Arena on January 31, 2017.

APhA and Phi Delta Chi Present to Toxicology Students



APhA and **Phi Delta Chi** gave a presentation to toxicology students focused on the top **10 drugs which are abused**. Five are prescription drugs and five are over-the-counter drugs. The definition of drug abuse was discussed, as well as the role of toxicologists and pharmacists in educating and combating the disease. Presenters included Evan Cheung, George Gu, Dom Joseph, Michael Knapp, Alex Russo, Timothy Sta Maria, and Carolyn Zhao. **Diane Hardej, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director, Pharmaceutical Sciences, served as the facilitator.

Tau Omega Chi Holds Graduate School Information Night

Sue M. Ford, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences; **Diane Hardej, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director, Pharmaceutical Sciences; **John-Emery Konecsni, Ph.D.**, Assistant Dean; and **Louis Trombetta, Ph.D.**, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, discussed the requirements needed to enter graduate school. They also included advice on how to apply and the various available degrees. Several graduate students attended the presentation to talk about what it was like to be a master's or Ph.D. student. Undergraduate students asked about their daily routine in a lab and what tasks they had to perform as a graduate student.

Annual Pharmacy Speed Networking a Success

Six pharmacists from various institutions spoke with students in small groups for 15-minute intervals. The panel included **Elsie Wong, Pharm.D.**, Neuroscience ICU Pharmacist at Mount Sinai Hospital; **Bejoy Maniara, Pharm.D.**, PGY-1 Pharmacy Resident at Long Island Jewish 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. Pharmacists discussed their leadership roles in their own practice setting and answered questions from students. This event provided a more intimate setting which allowed students the opportunity to network with individual pharmacists.



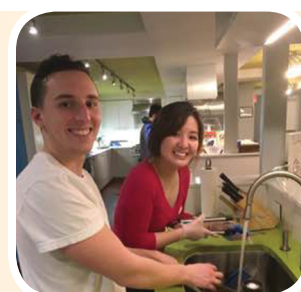
Industry Pharmacy Organization Volunteers at St. Nick's Men's Shelter

Six of our IPHO members joined Campus Ministry to visit St. Nick's Men's Shelter in Queens, NY, to cook dinner for residents. Students prepared Ragu Bolognese for dinner and crepes for dessert. They also dined with the men, and their conversation changed their perspective about homelessness. "Volunteering at St. Nick's was a humbling experience," said **Raymond Gan '19 Pharm.D.** "Not only did I learn how to slice mushrooms, but I was also reminded of the fact that we are human beings regardless of our varying walks of life. Having dinner with the residents of St. Nick's brought forth new perspectives for which I am most grateful."

ISPOR Organizes First Annual Graduate Student Service Day

On January 17, the **International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)** participated in the First Annual Graduate Students Service Day. A group of eight graduate students from the University prepared a home-cooked dinner for families living at the **Ronald McDonald House** in New Hyde Park, NY, while their children were being treated at Cohen Children's Medical Center. This day provided a unique experience to serve in the Vincentian spirit and helped establish a sustainable and long-term relationship with the community.

The St. John's ISPOR student chapter began the fall semester with a lecture, "Introduction to the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)." Speakers included **Anita Soni, M.D.**, and **Steven R. Machlin** from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. As Dr. Soni mentioned, MEPS is the most powerful public database for conducting cost studies in the United States. The speakers provided a general overview of the MEPS, survey design, and statistical issues and challenges, as well as medical conditions, health care utilization, and expenditures.



Organizations

Events

Phi Delta Chi Holds Annual “My Vascular Valentine”

My Vascular Valentine is an annual event that is important to the brothers of **Phi Delta Chi**. The brothers taught elementary school children about healthy eating habits and the importance of exercising and maintaining a healthy heart. The service provided by the brothers is vital for our future generations due to the rise in childhood obesity that can lead to future cardiovascular problems. This event is held annually in the hope of making an impact within the community and helping children make the right choices when it comes to their health.

The event starts with a presentation aimed to educate young students about the heart and how it functions. The brothers of **Phi Delta Chi** explain to the children about the risks of bad eating habits and how it leads to the weakening of the heart. They offer a list of healthy alternative options for students to implement into their daily lives.

After the presentation, the brothers engaged in interactive activities with the children, which included making origami roses, creating Valentine's Day cards, and checking blood pressure. At the blood pressure station, brothers demonstrated how to check a person's blood pressure and explained what the numbers mean and how to maintain a healthy blood pressure. The children were able to use the monitors to practice taking blood pressure readings on one of the brothers. To prevent the students from crowding at a specific station, they were split into four groups and the groups rotated between the four stations every 20 minutes. This assured that all students were engaged in every activity and reinforced to them the importance of maintaining a healthy heart.



Third Annual **Red Dress Gala** Held

St. John's University's **American Pharmacists Association-ASP (APhA-ASP)**, **Phi Delta Chi (PDC)**, and **Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS)** cohosted the annual Red Dress Gala. This event is a fun evening that includes dinner, a speaker from the American Heart Association, and performances by other organizations. The brothers of **Phi Delta Chi** cohosted and volunteered at the event, which totaled approximately 180 people including friends, family, students, and faculty. Tickets were sold at \$5 each and all the proceeds were donated to the American Heart Association. **Phi Delta Chi** understand, the growing epidemic of cardiovascular disease and has taken the initiative to make a change.



Lambda Kappa Sigma Human Trafficking Awareness Event a Success

Members of **Lambda Kappa Sigma** came together to make Bala bracelets to raise money for victims of human trafficking in Nepal. Alumna, **Kristin Cheng '14Pharm.D.**, connected the group with the nonprofit organization that she holds dear to her heart in order to help women abroad. She came with bracelet kits for everyone to create together. The center bead in each bracelet had the symbol for "strength" engraved. This represents the trials many young women go through worldwide, and how we can all offer our support. All of the proceeds from selling the bracelets go toward building a safe house for rescued victims in Nepal. This house aims to rehabilitate trafficking victims and teach them life skills.

Dean's Fellowship International Study Abroad

In January, pharmacy students had the opportunity to spend a week in Rome. Among the students were six members of the **Lambda Kappa Sigma** student organization: **Victoria Chirico, Amanda Corr, Gabrielle Flavoni, Bonnie Karat, Emilie Levine, and Francesca Placaenta**. On this trip, students visited the **Agenzia Italiana del Farmaco (AIFA)**, also known as the **Italian Medicines Agency**. AIFA is Italy's equivalent to our U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Here, a handful of AIFA's top trial coordinators spoke to the students about the trial designs and protocol. Under the direction of **Somnath Pal, Ph.D.**, Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, students learned about the process of clinical trials, and about the similarities and differences between drug approval processes in Italy compared to the United States. Students focused on professional development while becoming immersed in a new culture.



Clinical Pharmacy Faculty Achieve CDTM Status in NY

We are proud to share that 10 of our clinical pharmacy faculty in the Department of Clinical Health Professions have successfully earned the designation of Collaborative Drug Therapy Management (CDTM) Pharmacist in New York.

As of June, only 125 pharmacists have earned this distinct designation in our state. These faculty practice in a range of specialty areas such as ambulatory care, palliative care, oncology, geriatrics, and cardiology, and plan to use their CDTM status to develop protocols that will allow them to improve the care of their patients.

To qualify for the CDTM designation, a pharmacist must have at least two years of experience, and have one year of clinical experience directly consulting with prescribers about medication therapy (which could be gained in an accredited residency program), and be board certified. The CDTM designation permits pharmacists to collaborate with prescribers to adjust and manage a patient's medication regimen according to a protocol. The protocol may permit the CDTM pharmacist to make approved medication substitutions, or adjust a medication's strength, frequency, or route of administration. For more information, visit www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pharm/pharmcdtm.htm.

 Congratulations to
the following faculty
on achieving
this designation!

Ebtesam Ahmed, Pharm.D., M.S.
Manouchkathe Cassagnol, Pharm.D., BCPS
Christine Chim '11Pharm.D., BCACP
Regina Ginzburg '99P, '01Pharm.D., CDE, BC-ADM
Sum Lam, Pharm.D., BCGP, BCPS
Chung Lee '11Pharm.D., BCPS, BCOP
Celia Lu '11Pharm.D., BCACP
Khusbu Patel '10Pharm.D., BCACP, BCGP
Joshua Rickard, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE
Sharon See, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCPP

High School Students Visit St. John's University

A group totaling almost 40 students from Union Square Academy for Health Sciences visited the St. John's University Queens campus to learn about the pharmacy program and the University on May 16. **John Conry '96P, '98Pharm.D.**, Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; **Regina Ginzburg '99P, '01Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; and **Sharon See, Pharm.D.**, Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions, hosted the students and discussed pharmacist roles in various practice settings as well as the profession and college life.



Second Annual Pharmacy Basketball Tournament a Slam Dunk

Sang Hyo Kim, Pharm.D. Candidate

During the spring semester, students, faculty, administrators, and alumni within the College came together for a special cause to participate in the Second Annual College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (CPHS) Basketball Tournament, which raised more than \$2,000 for Relay For Life.

Relay For Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society; it is coordinated and led by volunteers in more than 5,200 communities and 27 countries. Every year, more than 1.5 million people will be newly diagnosed with cancer and more than 500,000 will succumb to the disease.

The CPHS basketball tournament was started by **Chung-Shien Lee, Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor/Industry Professional of Clinical Health Professions, in collaboration with the Office of the Dean. After more than a year of planning, the first tournament took place during the 2016 spring semester. Russell J. DiGate, Dean, and Dr. Lee wanted to provide an opportunity for students to network and have fun, while contributing to St. John's mission. The event was successful due to all the participants, scorekeepers, referees, volunteers, photographers, spectators, and sponsors who contributed. The winning team was Taking You to School. Anyone interested in participating or volunteering in the tournament during the 2018 spring semester should e-mail Dr. Lee at leec3@stjohns.edu. He hopes to continue the basketball tournament as an annual tradition.



Pharmacy Organizations Recognition Dinner

On April 24, 2017, pharmacy organizations collaborated to host the Second Annual College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Student Organization Recognition Dinner.



Approximately 15 student organizations from the College worked to organize the dinner and provide entertainment. Each organization gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of their most memorable events from the past year and presented awards to members demonstrating dedication and passion on and off campus. The student members who were recognized inspired their peers to become more involved in the organizations on campus, whether it is the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists, Industry Pharmacists Organization, Kappa Psi, Lambda Kappa Sigma, Phi Delta Chi, Phi Lambda Sigma, Physician Assistants, Rho Chi Society, Student College of Clinical Pharmacy, Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, or Student Society of Pediatric Pharmacists.

"We hope to continue this tradition in the upcoming academic year to strengthen the bond between our students and our faculty members, as well as to showcase more of our student pharmacists," said **Amy Nguyen, Pharm.D.**

Student Achievement Recognized

Congratulations to our graduation medalists: Kiera Haas '17Pharm.D. (gold medalist), Nicholas Niceforo '17Pharm.D., and Hanaan Habibulla '17P

