



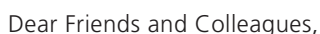
College of Pharmacy  
and Health Sciences

# News

VOLUME II



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



The first half of the academic year is always an exciting time as we celebrate White Coat ceremonies for our pharmacy, radiological sciences, and physician assistant students. What a wonderful milestone!

We are so proud of our students; they never cease to amaze us with their dedication and hard work.

Special congratulations go to Hongkai (Jack) Bao '18Pharm.D. and Stephen Eng '18Pharm.D., winners of the first New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists Student Clinical Competition at the 57th Annual Assembly in Saratoga Springs, NY, earlier this year. I invite you to read more about our students' academic, research, and service achievements in these pages. I know you will be impressed.

Our faculty, too, continue to excel. In addition to their stellar work in the classroom and at clinical sites, our faculty's research efforts address some of the most pressing health issues, such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, dementia, and mental health, as well as societal challenges such as at-risk youth.

As I attend professional meetings and University events, it is always a pleasure to encounter our alumni. These dedicated professionals embody our College's academic strength and Vincentian spirit of service. I am always humbled by our alumni's accomplishments, and I hope to meet more of you at the various alumni events planned during this academic year.

In closing, I invite you to save the date of April 13, 2019, when we will host our fourth annual gala. It is an event made possible through the efforts of faculty, administrators, staff, and alumni. Our accomplishments are many; it is fitting that we celebrate the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Russell J. White

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

Dean

## Contents

Events.....	2
Faculty Highlights.....	3
Feature .....	10
Conference Presentations..	12
New Faculty Highlights ....	14
Student Highlights .....	17
Undergraduate News.....	18
CPHS Initiatives .....	19
Student Organizations .....	21



**American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists/St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Alumni and Friends Reception**  
November 5, 2018  
Marriott Marquis, Washington, DC

**Radiologic Science Alumni Reception**  
November 7, 2018

**Dean's Hour: Careers in Toxicology**  
November 13, 2018

**ASHP Midyear Alumni Reception**  
December 2018



For more event information,  
contact **Diana J. Patino '11G** at  
[patinocd@stjohns.edu](mailto:patinocd@stjohns.edu); 718-990-1415.

## Clinical Health Professions

**Ebtesam Ahmed, Pharm.D.**, Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, copresenter, "Seizure Bootcamp: Everything You Ever Needed to Know to Manage Seizures in End-Stage Disease," at the Annual Assembly Hospice and Palliative Care meeting in Boston, MA, in March.



**Vibhuti Arya '06Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, was selected as one of two panelists for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) New York regional office taping of a television show, *CMS & You*, regarding the opioid crisis.

**Vibhuti Arya '06Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, and **Christine Chim, Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented a special session for the Public Health SIG at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, "Healthcare Reform: Training Pharmacy Students to Empower Patients to Navigate the Changing Healthcare Environment," in Boston, MA, from July 23 to 27.

**Vibhuti Arya '06Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented a pharmacy practice session at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, "LOL for Student Engagement: Using humor and theatrics to engage students," in Boston, MA, from July 23 to 27.

**Judith Beizer, Pharm.D.**, Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented grand rounds, "Principles of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy," at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, NY.

**Christine Chim '11Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Professions, and **Victoria Joseph '19Pharm.D.** candidate, presented a poster at the American Pharmacist Association's Annual Meeting, "Impact of a Pharmacist and Student Pharmacists Conducting Home Visits," in March.

**Joseph V. Etzel '88P, '90Pharm.D.**, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D.**, Dean of the College of Pharmacy

and Health Sciences; and **Diana J. Patino '11G**, Associate Director of Administration and Student Activities, presented a poster, "The development of an Academic Success center with the implementation of an early alert process," at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's annual meeting in Boston, MA, on July 22.

**Joseph V. Etzel '88P, '90Pharm.D.**, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Associate Clinical Professor of the Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D.**, Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; **Diana J. Patino '11G**, Associate Director of Administration and Student Activities; and **Francis Ferraiuolo '19Pharm.D.** candidate, presented a poster, "The development of a Student Congress to improve communication, promote collaboration and foster interprofessional activities," at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's annual meeting in Boston, MA, on July 22.



**Lisa Hochstein '73MS**, Associate Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented a poster, "Proposed Modification to a MLS Program for Better Student Preparation," at the Clinical Laboratory Educators' meeting in Houston, TX, from February 22 to 24.



# Faculty Highlights



**Tina Kanmaz '93P, '95Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented a poster, "Overview of Medical Affairs Education at Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy," in conjunction with the Accreditation Council in Medical Affairs at the ACCP Updates in Therapeutics 2018 meeting in Jacksonville, FL, in February.

**Tina Kanmaz '93P, '95Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, was invited to speak at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Annual Meeting in the Experiential Education section program in Boston, MA, from July 23 to 27. The topic was "Entrustable Professional Activities—Incorporation into Experiential Education and Assessment Tools."



**Farrah Khorassani, Pharm.D.**, Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented "Antipsychotic Drug Selection with Cobicistat-containing Antiretroviral Regimens" at the College of Psychiatric and Neurological Pharmacist conference in Indianapolis, IN, in April.



**Yuman Lee '08Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented a poster, "Knowledge and Attitude of Antibiotic Use Amongst College Students," at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, on July 22.

**Celia Lu '11Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Christine Chim, Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Nissa Mazzola, Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions; and **Danielle Ezzo '01Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented a Clinical Innovations poster at the Society of General Internal Medicine Meeting, "Teamwork Prevails—Constructing a Deprescribing Process for Proton Pump Inhibitors with an Interprofessional Team at an Academic Clinic," in Denver, CO, from April 11 to 14.

**Celia Lu '11Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Jason Lee, pharmacy resident**; and **Lyndonna Mary Marrast, M.D.**, Internal Medicine at Northwell Health, presented a Clinical Vignette poster at the Society of General Internal Medicine Meeting, "Causes of metallic taste in the mouth," in Denver, CO, from April 11 to 14.

**Celia Lu '11Pharm.D.**, presented a Clinical Innovation poster at the Society of General Internal Medicine Meeting with Northwell practice site colleagues, "Interprofessional team transformation: Capitalizing on the clinical huddle," in Denver, CO, from April 11 to 14.

**William Maidhof '99P, '03Pharm.D.**, Associate Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Carmela Avena-Woods, Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions; and **Monica Hwang, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, presented a poster, "Use of Vitalograph Aerosol Inhalation Monitor (aim) in Pharmacy Laboratory Course," at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in Boston, MA, from July 23 to 27.



**Khusbu Patel '10Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented, "Development of an Interprofessional Education Program during Clinical Rotations," at the AACP INSPIRE conference in Long Beach, CA, in February.

**Maha Saad, Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Nicole Maisch, Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Mei Feung, Pharm.D.** candidate; **Vicky Liu, Pharm.D.** candidate; and **Jimmy Seo, Pharm.D.** candidate, presented a poster at the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting, "Clinical Evaluation for Potential Use of Sacubitril/Valsartan in Heart Failure Treatment at Long Island Jewish Medical Center," in March.

**Hira Shafeeq '09Pharm.D.**, Associate Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions, attended the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM)'s Annual Conference in February, where she presented her research, "Characterizing the Use of 4-Factor Prothrombin Complex Concentrate." Dr. Shafeeq received a presidential citation at the fellows' convocation. This award recognizes SCCM members who have made extraordinary contributions of time, energy, and resources to SCCM during the previous year.

## Pharmaceutical Sciences



**Joanne M. Carroll, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is working to develop and expand the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at St. John's University. This is a unique educational partnership between St. John's University and the New York City Department of Correction's Rikers Island Prison Complex and Queensboro Correctional Facility. In this program, students and faculty from St. John's join incarcerated young adults in these facilities to study accredited college courses. Dr. Carroll has developed a Public Health course addressing issues such as the opiate crisis and gun violence as public health issues. This program is designed to break down the barriers that traditionally divide us and create an open and inclusive learning environment that fosters understanding

and a just and responsible society. Dr. Carroll began teaching her first class this semester.

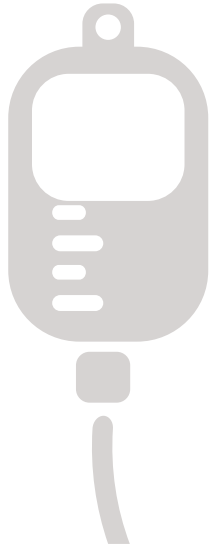


**Vikas V. Dukhande, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to study the connection between rare epilepsy termed Lafora disease (LD) and diabetes. The total award amount is \$492,000 through the Support of Competitive Research Pilot

Project Award (SC2) program of the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences, a branch of NIH.

**Sue Ford, Ph.D.**, Program Director and Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, participated in an International Faculty Development Seminar sponsored by St. John's Office of Global Studies and the Council on International Educational Exchange.

Along with 20 faculty members from around the US, Dr. Ford traveled from June 18 to 28 to Havana to learn about Cuban history, economics, housing, health care, arts and culture, and emerging private-government partnerships. The interactive seminars were given by scholars from the University of Havana and local artists. The group was taken on site visits to art galleries, a health clinic, pop concert in a park, and a literacy museum. Dr. Ford was also able to network with representatives of a national toxicology laboratory and a Cuban historical agency. She looks forward to sharing her experiences with students and hopefully facilitating their own experience in Cuba.



# Faculty Highlights



**Vivek Gupta, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received an NIH R15 grant for his project, "Targeting of Apoptotic and Autophagy Pathways for Treatment of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH)," to continue working on a repurposed drug molecule for pulmonary hypertension

treatment. The grant is for three years, and totals \$492,000 (including indirect costs). Dr. Gupta will support graduate students in his lab with this research money.

**Vivek Gupta, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a two-year research grant from the American Heart Association (AHA) with AIREA mechanism for his project, "Novel Therapies for Pulmonary Hypertension: Mechanism based Drug Repositioning for Superior Therapeutic Outcomes." With this grant, Dr. Gupta will continue his work on discovering new therapies for pulmonary hypertension using high throughput screening approaches. The grant support is for \$154,000 for two years. The AHA AIREA mechanism supports small-scale research projects related to cardiovascular diseases and stroke at educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees but that have not been major recipients of NIH support.



**Diane Hardej '03Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and 2018–19 President of the Mid-Atlantic Society of Toxicology (MASOT), developed the MASOT spring webinar with the assistance of the MASOT program committee on "Safety Assessment of Consumer

Products." The webinar was held on May 8 from noon to 2 p.m. with 135 attendees. Speakers represented L'Oreal USA, Johns Hopkins University, and the Consumer Products Safety Commission. Dr. Hardej began her term as President of the Mid-Atlantic Society of Toxicology effective May 1. MASOT is a regional chapter of the Society of Toxicology that serves areas of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The chapter has approximately 400 members comprised of individuals from academia, industry, and government.



**Lin L. Mantell, Ph.D., M.D.**, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and **Mao Wang, Ph.D. candidate**, were selected as a platform presentation at the Society of Toxicology's 2018 Annual meeting.

**Lin L. Mantell, Ph.D., M.D.**, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been invited to review grant applications for the Department of Defense.

**Lin L. Mantell, Ph.D., M.D.**, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been reelected as the Treasurer for the Society for Free Radical Research International (SFRRI) for 2018–19.

**Lin L. Mantell, Ph.D., M.D.**, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has been invited to join the International Scientific Advisory Board for the forthcoming meeting of SFRRI 2018.



**Abu Serajuddin, Ph.D.**, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, coauthored a book chapter, "Development of Solid Dispersion for Poorly Water-soluble Drugs," in the book **Water-Insoluble Drug**

**Formulations, 3rd Edition** (published by Francis and Taylor). It is coauthored with his former student Simerdeep Singh Gupta '10GP, '14Ph.D., and two other investigators from the pharmaceutical industry.

## Pharmacy Administration and Public Health

**Sue M. Ford, Ph.D.**, Program Director for Toxicology, and Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences; **Laura Gianni '96P, '98Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Clinical Health Professions; **Olga Hilas '02P, '03Pharm.D.**, Associate Professor Industry Professional, Clinical Health Professions; **Monica Hwang, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health; **Andrea Watson '90P, '01Pharm.D.**, Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator and Experiential Program; and **Diana J. Patino '11G**, Assistant Director of Administration and Student Activities, the college poster, "Overview of Structured Co-Curricular Plan at St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences," at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, on July 21.



**Preety Gadhoke, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor Industry, presented an article, "Urban farming, community gardens, and innovations in sustainable futures for food security and health promotion," at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting from April 3 to 7.

**Anna Gu, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, received the Outstanding Reviewer Award in 2018 from the American College of Physicians' Annals of Internal Medicine.

**Anna Gu, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, and her student **Joohae Kim '19Pharm.D. candidate** investigated the distribution of modifiable risk factors for high blood pressure (abdominal obesity, low fiber diet, physical inactivity, high non-HDL cholesterol, binge drinking, and secondhand smoking) among US adult populations.

The study found that the prevalence of these risk factors remains high among US adult populations in recent years, and their burdens increase progressively along the blood pressure categories as defined by the 2017 ACC/AHA Guideline. The study, published in the *American Journal of Medicine*, was conducted in collaboration with experts from The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and CUNY Baruch College.

**Anna Gu, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, and her students **Shireen Farzadeh '19Pharm.D.**, **You Jin Chang '19Pharm.D.**, and **Andrew Kwong '20Pharm.D.**, and **Sum Lam, Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Clinical Health Professions, studied the association between drug utilization and outcomes (blood pressure control, albuminuria) among patients with comorbid type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension. The study found increased use of angiotensin receptor blockers and statins over the past decade in the US. US adults with comorbid type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension experienced significant improvement in blood pressure control and prevention of albuminuria, which were likely driven by the increased use of statins and angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors/ angiotensin receptor blockers.

**Jagannath Muzumdar, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, was named Interim Director of Cocurriculum Activities. As Interim Director, he is responsible for all areas of the cocurriculum and will work with the Curriculum and Educational Policy committee for the Pharm.D. program, Committee on Assessment and Outcomes, Committee on Student Affairs, and interested faculty to operationalize, implement, and assess the cocurriculum.





# Faculty Highlights



**Jagannath Muzumdar, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health; **Emily M. Ambizas '00P, '02Pharm.D.**, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Joseph M. Brocovich, Pharm.D.**, Senior Associate Dean, Pharmacy Program, and Associate Clinical Professor, Clinical Health Professions; **Judith L. Beizer, Pharm.D.**, Clinical Professor, Clinical Health Professions; **Christine Chim '11Pharm.D.**, Assistant Professor Industry Professional, Clinical Health Professions; **Jennifer G. Chiu, Ed.D.**, Associate Professor Industry Professional; **John M. Conry '96P, '98Pharm.D.**, Chair and Clinical Professor, Clinical Health Professions; **Joseph V. Etzel '88P, '00Pharm.D.**, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, and Associate Clinical Professor, Clinical Health Professions.

**Rajesh Nayak, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, was invited to be a guest speaker at Manipal University of Pharmacy. Dr. Nayak presented on "What, why and how of pharmacoeconomics: A quick overview of concepts for pharmacists" in January.

**Desai R., Nayak R.**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, presented on poster, "Evaluating the Healthcare Utilization and Economic Burden Due to Depression Comorbidity in Dementia: A Propensity Score Matched Analysis," A poster presented at the Academy of Managed Care Specialty Pharmacy (AMCP) Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, from April 23 to 26.

**Desai R., Nayak R.**, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, presented a poster "Nonadherence to antipsychotics and disease comorbidity: A double whammy in schizophrenia management," A poster presented at the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 23rd Annual International Meeting at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, MD, from May 19 to 23.

## UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DAY



### 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 J. Patino '11G** at [patinocd@stjohns.edu](mailto:patinocd@stjohns.edu).



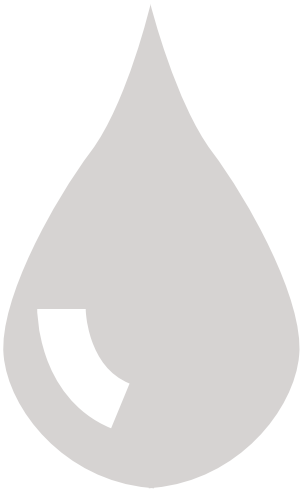




Pharmacy Advocacy

Student organizations including the American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacy; Student Pharmacists Society of the State of New York, Inc.; and the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy were honored to host Pharmacy Lobby Day with a panel discussion with Karen Berger, Pharm.D., President, New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists (NYSCHP); Andrew Kaplan, Pharm.D., Vice President of Public Policy, NYSCHP; Russell Gellis '83P, Chairman, Pharmacists Society of the State of New York (PSSNY); and John Emrick, Lobbyist, PSSNY.

Topics included bills of importance, the budget and legislative process, effective ways to write letters and speak to legislators, and how to make a difference at Pharmacy Lobby Day. This event allowed students to prepare for the 2018 Pharmacy Lobby Day that was held on April 23 in Albany, NY. Students were excited to learn about the influence wielded by leaders of NYSCHP and PSSNY—and the power they have as students to make a change!





# Conference Presentations



## 2018 Annual Society of Toxicology Meeting

A.G. Gauthier, Ravikumar Sitapara '16GP; G. Thakur; and Lin L. Mantell, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "GAT107, an ago-PAM of 7 Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor, Improves Hyperoxia-Compromised Macrophage Function."

Kathryn Bozzell, T. Villani, G. Gardner, M. Johnson, and J. Goodman presented a poster, "Measuring Traumatic Brain Injury in Rat Models Using Tissue Clearing and 3D Histology."

Katelyn Dial, W. Wu, M. Wang, J. Wu, and Lin L. Mantell, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Nrf2 Inducers Ameliorate Hyperoxia-Compromised Macrophage Functions."

Yuan Le and Xingguo Cheng, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Perfluoronanoic Acid (PFNA) Activates Nrf2 by Suppressing Autophagy in Mouse Liver and Human Hepatoma Cells."

Yue Zhang, and Xingguo Cheng, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Up-Regulation of Fibroblast Growth Factor (Fgf) 21 by Cisplatin in Mouse Liver and Hepatoma Cells."

Siddharth Sunilkumar and Sue M. Ford, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Effect of Growth Glucose Concentration on Regulation of SGLT Transporters in Cultured Kidney Cells."

Mao Wang, X. Yang, V. Patel, S. Mun, D.D. Thomas, T.P. Kennedy, and Lin L. Mantell, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "ODSH Improves Bacterial Clearance in Cystic Fibrosis by Reducing HMGB1 Release and Improving Phagocytosis of Airway Macrophages."

Anirudh Jagannadh Chintalapati and Frank A. Barile, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Morphine Sulfate Alters Global DNA Methylation Levels and Down-Regulates Methyltransferases in Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells."

Mumtaz Akhtar and Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Increased Expression of Glial Cell-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (GDNF) and Transforming Growth Factor Beta1 (TGF- $\beta$ 1) in the Hippocampus of Rats Exposed to Mancozeb Perinatally and During Adulthood."

Jeffrey Chen and Diane Hardej, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Comparative Toxicity of Ziram and Zineb on Rat Hippocampal Astrocytes."

Olivia Stephenson and Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Effects of Dithiocarbamates, Mancozeb, and Disulfiram on Myocardial and Skeletal Muscle in Long Evans Rats."

Amanda Dhaneshwar and Diane Hardej, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Mancozeb Exposure Results in Cytotoxicity Apoptosis, and Disruption of Mitochondrial Complex I and II Activity in Transformed Human Colon Cells."

Benjamin Kistinger and Diane Hardej, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Morphological Changes in Rat colon after Mancozeb Exposure as Seen by Light and Scanning Electron Microscopy."

Hemanta Chandrasekhara Rao Tumu, Benedette Cuffari '16P, Maria A. Pino, Magdalena Pietka-Ottlik, and Blase C. Billack, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Ebselen Oxide Reduces the Dermatotoxicity of Mechlorethamine In Vivo: A Comparison with Ebselen."

Randy Liang and Joseph M. Cerreta, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Evaluation of Toxicity of Erbium Oxide Nanoparticles in Rat Pleural Mesothelial Cells."

Erin A. Huber and Joseph M. Cerreta, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Toxicity of Molybdenum (VI) Oxide Nanoparticles in Rat Pleural Mesothelial Cells-CCL 216."

Daniel Bianculli, Igor Ban, A. Cummings, W. Murphy, and Sue M. Ford, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Interdisciplinary Emergency Crisis Drills: Toxicology Students as Technical Experts."

Naila Habeeb '16P and Jeanette Perron, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "BMP Chemotropic and Inductive Signaling in Response to Acute Ethanol Exposure."

Saif Alharthy and Diane Hardej, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "The Role of Transportation Factor Nrf2 in the Neurotoxicity of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) in C537BL/6 in Mouse Astrocytes."

Trudi Denoon '18PhD. and Sue M. Ford, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Substrate Influences on "Energy Metabolism of the Renal Cell Line LLC-PK1."

Daniel Bianculli and Marc E. Gillespie, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, presented a poster, "Detecting Lead Contamination Using a Yeast Two Hybrid System."



# New Faculty Highlights



**Saurabh Agarwal, Ph.D.,** Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He earned his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Lucknow, and an M.S. in Biochemistry from Jiwaji University in India. Before joining St. John's University, he was an instructor faculty member at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. He completed his postdoctoral fellowships from Baylor College of Medicine and from INSERM in France.

Dr. Agarwal's research focuses on deciphering the biological and epigenetic mechanisms in pediatric cancers. His main research interest is to develop effective targeted therapeutic approaches for pediatric cancer neuroblastoma. For his outstanding research contributions, Dr. Agarwal received many awards and recognitions including the St. Baldrick's Foundation Scholar Award, David's Warriors Hero Award, and the Wipe Out Kids' Cancer Foundation Award, to name a few. His most recent research includes identifying neuroblastoma cancer stem cells and determining their role in disease relapse and metastasis. In the future, he plans to develop strategies to target these cancer stem cells and to develop effective therapies for this childhood cancer. He has active collaborations with clinicians and researchers to translate his laboratory findings to the clinic.

**Afolarin Joshua Aiyedun, Ed.D.** Dr. Aiyedun comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees in Health and Human Behavior Studies at Columbia University.

Shortly after completing his dissertation, he was appointed as Associate Vice President of Health Outreach, Access, and Engagement at Brightpoint Health. He was responsible for the oversight and operation of four health programs, including programs focusing on HIV, HCV, and diabetes linkage to care, while managing referrals and an outpatient clinic. While in this leadership role, Dr. Aiyedun demonstrated mastery of theories and research, which allowed him to target the social determinants of health to improve the organization's overall performance and client outcomes.

Recently, Dr. Aiyedun was hired as the Regional Director of Staff Development and Training for the New York State Office of Mental Health, New York City Children's Center, in New York City. In this role, he is charged with maximizing performance improvement, staff development, and education/training for 700 staff members. He provides effective leadership to this large group of hospital administrators, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, registered nurses, psychologists, social workers, counselors, staff in the business office, and all other support staff at the facility.

Dr. Aiyedun's leadership has led to improved staff performance and impressively high levels of compliance with requisite Joint Commission and Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

His research interests include the HIV Window period and developing innovative e-health platforms on this timely topic, as well as other pertinent areas of health, to permit wide dissemination of vital information.



**Jennifer S. Bhuiyan '11Pharm.D.** Dr. Bhuiyan comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Clinical Health Professions. She earned a Doctor of Pharmacy from St. John's University in 2011. Following her Pharm.D., she completed a Postgraduate Year One Pharmacy Practice Residency at The Brooklyn Hospital Center in Brooklyn, NY, and an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Residency in Underserved Care and Global Health at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and School of Pharmacy.

Prior to coming to St. John's, Dr. Bhuiyan served as a clinical pharmacist in a variety of underserved settings and was an Assistant Clinical Professor at the School of Pharmacy at the Bouve College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University

in Boston, MA. Her practice and research interests are largely focused on public health issues related to underserved populations in primary care settings, particularly substance use, opioid overdose prevention, and HIV/AIDS. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health via the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD.

**Nicole A. Bradley, Pharm.D.** Dr. Bradley comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Clinical Health Professions. She received her Pharm.D. from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2014 and went on to complete her PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice residency and PGY-2 Infections Diseases residency at James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. After completing residency, Dr. Bradley worked as the Clinical Coordinator of Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. Her research interests include gram-negative resistance and antimicrobial stewardship.



**Tina A. Caliendo, Pharm.D. '97P** Dr. Caliendo comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Clinical Health Professions. Dr. Caliendo graduated from St. John's University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Florida with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Dr. Caliendo devoted much of her clinical career to the fields of Community Pharmacy and nursing home Consultant Pharmacy. Dr. Caliendo's teaching is currently focused on the experiential education and training of pharmacy students by way of simulation, both at the introductory and advanced levels. In addition to her appointment at the University, she is dual certified as both an Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Specialist as well as a Geriatric Pharmacy Specialist. Her research will focus primarily on innovations in simulated pharmacy education.



**Elsen C. Jacob '11Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP, CPPS** Dr. Jacob comes to St. John's University as an Assistant Professor/Industry Professional in the Department of Clinical Health Professions. She received her Pharm.D. from St. John's University and completed her Pharmacy Practice Residency at

Brigham Health Brigham and Women's Hospital. She was most recently at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore, MD, where she served as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics; the Residency Program Coordinator; and preceptor for the residency program and students from several schools of pharmacy. Her practice and research interests include transitions of care, geriatrics, anticoagulation, drug abuse and misuse, patient safety, and interprofessional education.



**Nitesh Kunda, Ph.D.,** Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, joined the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences this year. He received his master's degree in Formulation and Drug Delivery from the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University in

Liverpool, United Kingdom. Dr. Kunda's dissertation focused on developing a novel pneumococcal vaccine that can be inhaled as a dry powder. Dr. Kunda got his postdoctoral training in aerosol drug and vaccine delivery at the College of Pharmacy, University of New Mexico.

Dr. Kunda's primary research interests include the use of nanotechnology in developing therapeutics against infectious disease and cancer, synthesizing polymeric nanoparticles and attaching targeting moieties for site-specific delivery, and drug and vaccine formulation for pulmonary delivery. His recent research focused on stabilizing VLP-based vaccines currently on the market and on assessing the effects of chemical toxicants in drinking water on the immune system.



# New Faculty Highlights



Dr. Kunda's research publications cover a wide variety of topics including formulation, drug delivery, stabilization of vaccines, and health effects due to common environmental toxicants.



## **Teresa M. Miller, Ph.D. '93G**

Dr. Miller comes to St. John's University as an Associate Professor/Industry Professional and Founding DPT Program Director in the Department of Clinical Health Professions. She has been a Physical Therapy faculty member at SUNY Downstate Medical Center since 1993.

Dr. Miller completed a Ph.D. in Physical Therapy from Temple University in 2007, an M.S. in School Psychology from St. John's University in 1993, a B.S. in Physical Therapy from SUNY Downstate Medical Center in 1981, and an A.A.S. in Physical Therapy Assisting from Nassau Community College in 1975. She has been a Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner since 1999.

Dr. Miller has worked with pediatric, adult, and geriatric populations and in inpatient, outpatient, rehabilitation, and private practice settings. She has clinical practice experience working with individuals with neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, integumentary, and cardiopulmonary and vascular problems. She teaches and practices using an evidence-based, patient-centered, systems-based approach to care that integrates traditional physical therapy with complementary and alternative therapies such as Tai Chi, mindfulness, Feldenkrais, visual and motor imagery, and connective tissue work.

Dr. Miller is an active member of the American Physical Therapy Association and is currently serving on several consortiums and committees for clinical reasoning. She was recently invited to serve on the NYPTA Opioid Speakers Bureau to help deal with the current opioid crisis.

She has published and presented on various topics in physical therapy such as decision-making, student burnout, student attitudes, movement relationships between body segments, and the Feldenkrais Method. Dr. Miller's current research interests include pain management, clinical reasoning, manual guidance, and systems-based approaches to improving flexibility and motor learning and motor control.



## **Carlos A. Sanhueza, Ph.D.,**

Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has expertise centered in the synthesis, conformational analysis, and determination of structure-activity relationships of libraries of glycosides with cytostatic activity against cell lines of leukemia, osteosarcoma, and

cervix carcinoma. He received his doctoral degree from the University of La Laguna, Spain.

His interest in the medicinal chemistry of carbohydrates moved him to the laboratory of Professor David R. Bundle, Ph.D., at the Alberta Glycomics Centre (University of Alberta, Canada), where he focused in the computer aided design and synthesis of carbohydrate-based ligands for the neutralization of cholera and Clostridium difficile toxins.

After completing his postdoctoral work, he was appointed as Research Associate in the group of Professor M.G. Finn, Ph.D., at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA, and started his research on glycomimetic-based targeting of the asialoglycoprotein receptor for developing liver-selective drug delivery systems. In 2013, Dr. Sanhueza moved with Dr. Finn to the Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta) and initiated his semi-independent research centered in the development of carbohydrate-based vaccine candidates for parasitic diseases. His current interests are the development of novel click reactions for bio-orthogonal conjugation; the design of efficient methodologies for the synthesis of carbohydrate antigens; the study of the conformational basis of carbohydrate recognition; and the development of carbohydrate-based immunotherapies for neglected and emerging diseases affecting poor and developing countries.

# Student Highlights

**Karie Chen**, a graduate student in the Toxicology program, was awarded a Women in Science/Clare Booth Luce Graduate Fellowship for the 2018–19 academic year.

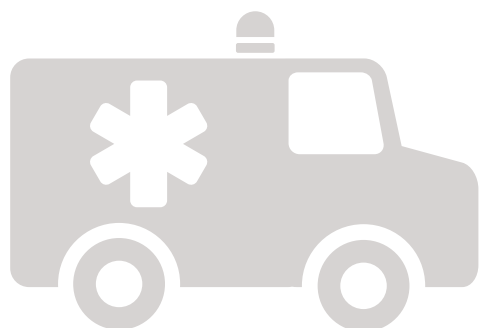
**Trudi Denoon, '18Ph.D. candidate**, won First Place, Graduate Science Poster, during St. John's University Annual Research Month for her poster, "Assessment of the Energy Metabolism of the Renal Cell Line LLC PK1." Trudi is the graduate student representative for the Society of Toxicology (SOT) specialty section, "Ethical, Legal, Forensics, and Societal Issues" for 2018–19.

**Belkys Gonzalez, Ph.D. candidate**, has been selected for a Diversity Initiatives Endowment Career Development Award by the Society of Toxicology. The award is to be used for her to attend the TERA Risk Assessment Boot Camp. Belkys is also a graduate student representative for the Society of Toxicology (SOT) specialty section, "In Vitro and Alternative Methods," for 2018–19.

**Benjamin Kisting**, doctoral candidate, has been elected the senior student representative for the Mid-Atlantic Society of Toxicology (MASOT) for 2018–19. Ben is also serving on the Graduate Leadership Committee for the national Society of Toxicology.

**Nirali Patel** received the Outstanding Poster presentation award for her presentation on "Effect of Moisture and Temperature on Physical Stability of Amorphous Solid Dispersion" at the AAPS North East Regional meeting in Farmington, CT, on April 12, 2018. There were 38 posters presented from academia and industry, and Nirali's poster was judged to be among the top three.

**Erin Weiss '18P** had a summer internship with Hain Celestial, working with **Ann-Marie Matei '96P, '03GP, '13Ph.D.**





**Kathryn Bozell**, who will graduate with her B.S. degree in toxicology in 2019, spent her summer observing the health system in Mallorca, Spain, and in Brooklyn, NY, with a community outreach program for Hispanic immigrants. As she describes in her essay, she is becoming more confident in her ability to communicate in Spanish. Kathryn began the B.S./M.S. program this fall, starting a project on neurotoxicity under the mentorship of **Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D.**

**Catherine Sielaff**, who will graduate with her B.S. degree in toxicology in 2019, was first author on a paper, "Status and future directions in the management of pancreatic cancer: potential impact of nanotechnology," in the *Journal of Cancer Research and Clinical Oncology*. Catherine's work is the outcome of her internships for the past two summers at PRI (Pharmaceutical Research Institute, Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, Rensselaer, NY) under the guidance of **Shaker A. Mousa, Ph.D., M.B.A., FACC, FACB.**

## Dean's Hour: Leadership and Professional Development



On January 18, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and University Career Services hosted distinguished alumnus, **Colonel John Spain, Pharm.D. '88P.** Dr. Spain's talk focused on "Leadership and Professional Development." He reflected on how he developed leadership skills over the course of his career and assisted students in identifying those activities and reflections their which can assist in the development of leadership skills.

Dr. Spain currently serves as a Director, National Account Medical Outcomes Specialist, supporting the federal sector for Pfizer. He previously served as an Army Pharmacy Officer in a variety of assignments within the United States, Korea, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq prior to retiring after 29 years of active service. His last three positions while on active duty include Pharmacy Director, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; Deputy Commander for Clinical Support, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; and Army Pharmacy Consultant and Program Manager for the Army Surgeon General. Dr. Spain and his wife, Monica, have three children: Sean (22), Owen (19), and Clare (17). Dr. Spain is active in the Boy Scouts, American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Rebuilding Together, and Appalachian Service Project organizations. He enjoys spending time with family, traveling, reading history books, and backpacking in his free time.

## GOALS for Girls Program Held

Women in Science (WIS) sponsored a toxicology/pharmacology workshop at St. John's University on August 10 with GOALS (Greater Opportunity for Advancement

and Leadership in Sciences) for Girls, a program based out of the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in Manhattan. Fifty ninth- and tenth-graders came to the St. John's Queens campus. **Diane Hardej '03Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, gave a presentation on basic toxicology principles and forensic toxicology and assisted the girls in carrying out an experiment in which they conducted a forensic toxicology investigation for the presence of simulated alcohol, opiates, amphetamines, and THC from cannabis. Belkys Gonzalez, doctoral candidate, assisted with the session.

## Physician Assistant Students Participate in Little Hat, Big Hearts Project

In January, Physician Assistant students in their junior year, along with guidance from the faculty of the Physician Assistant, Clinical Laboratory Sciences, and Radiologic programs, knitted and crocheted 104 hats for the Little Hats, Big Hearts project. The Little Hats, Big Hearts project is an initiative of the American Heart Association and the Children's Heart Foundation that celebrates healthy babies and mothers. The red hats were distributed to the newborn nurseries and neonatal intensive care units at St. Charles, St. Catherine, Peconic Bay, LIJ, NYU Winthrop, Good Samaritan, and Mercy hospitals/medical centers. Babies born during the month of February, heart disease awareness month, received a red hat.







This project helped students learn a new hobby, take a short break from their stressful workload, and develop stronger relationships with the faculty while getting involved in community service. Everyone showed great pride in their accomplishments. The group will participate in the project again in 2019. They plan to knit more little red hats and encourage others from the St. John's University family to participate.

## College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Student Congress

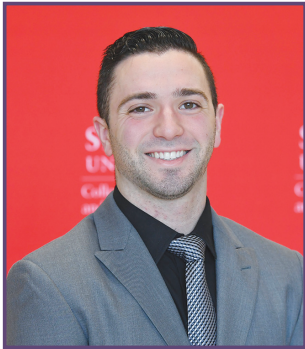
Following the University's Catholic and Vincentian mission, students demonstrate their willingness to organize and participate in service activities and career development events during the academic year. To encourage greater communication among student organizations and to assist with planning major College events, Russell J. DiGate, Dean, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, formed the Student Congress. The group consists of the presidents and vice presidents of the 16 undergraduate and graduate student organizations.

During the 2017–18 academic year, the CPHS Student Congress brought together the presidents and vice presidents from all pharmacy and health sciences undergraduate student organizations to plan and oversee events like Giving Tuesday, Student Organization Night, and the Battle of St. Al's. This year's President of the Student Congress was **Francis Ferriauolo '19Pharm.D.**

"Serving as the first President of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Student Congress has been nothing short of a very rewarding experience," Francis said. "The Congress has given us the opportunity to work with all of the student organizations under one umbrella, and it has made it possible for each of our organizations to thrive through collaboration and sharing past experiences.

"Being the president of the Congress has given me the chance to work closely with the College's administration and successfully advocate for the students' needs on campus. It has also offered me the ability to learn what it is like to be a leader on a scale much larger than that of my own organization.

"It has allowed me to hear the needs of multiple different organizations and work together with them to solve these problems so we can better function together within the College. As President of the Student Organization Congress, I have had the great privilege to represent all of the organizations of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and it has been an experience to remember."



## Phi Delta Chi Raises Money for American Cancer Society

Phi Delta Chi sold chocolate-covered strawberries wrapped in a bouquet to represent roses to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The preorder period ran before Valentine's Day from February 1 to 11. Approximately 20 fraternity brothers participated in selling or assembling the chocolate strawberries. The sale was held in the D'Angelo Center, and \$431 was raised for the American Cancer Society.

## Phi Lambda Sigma Collaborates with Dean's Office for Leadership Development Workshop

In April, Phi Lambda Sigma and the Dean's Office collaborated on a leadership development workshop led by **Alan Spies, R.Ph, J.D., M.B.A., Ph.D.** More than 28 students attended the workshop in St. Albert Hall. The workshop aimed to identify students' strengths and weaknesses as leaders and to acquire skills to help improve their leadership abilities. Dr. Spies is a faculty member at the University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy and a senior associate at GIANT Worldwide.

## Basketball Tournament Held for Relay For Life

Congratulations to team "Your MCM" for winning the third annual College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Fundraising Basketball Tournament. They raised \$2,225 for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. Thanks to all of the participants, scorekeepers, referees, volunteers, photographers, spectators, and sponsors for making this event possible.





# Student Organizations



### APhA-ASP Chapter Professionalism Award

The APhA-ASP Chapter Professionalism Award recognizes the chapter that best promotes the professional development of student pharmacists and chapter members throughout the year. Chapters should report any activity that directly promotes professionalism such as leadership workshops, media promotions, guest speakers addressing professionalism, community service activities, educational workshops, mentoring programs, philanthropic initiatives, career development activities, CV, résumé, and interviewing skills activities, annual recognition banquets, SLI and APhA Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Dependencies participation/promotion, interprofessional activities, etc. The award consists of a laminated certificate and a \$100 honorarium.



### St. John's student win the NYSCHP Student Clinical Competition

**Hongkai (Jack) Bao** and **Stephen Eng** won the first New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists (NYSCHP) Student Clinical Competition at the 57th Annual Assembly in Saratoga Springs, NY. The goal of the competition was to engage and challenge students through teamwork, to apply their didactic knowledge, and to network with other student pharmacists and clinical practitioners. Each pharmacy school in New York State was invited to send one team of two students to compete. The competition consisted of a clinical case to be completed in 45 minutes. The top three teams were invited to compete in a brain bowl.

### SCCP and PA Students Handle Sim Man Case

During the spring semester, the Student College of Clinical Pharmacy held its Second Annual Sim Man case with the support of **William Maidhof, Pharm.D.**, Associate Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions; **Pamela J. Gregory-Fernandez**, Associate Professor Industry Professional, Department of Clinical Health Professions; and **Sharon See, Pharm.D.**, Clinical Professor, Department of Clinical Health Professions. In this exercise, pharmacy and physician students worked to treat a “patient” with an asthma exacerbation. The physician assistant students diagnosed Sim Man and monitored his vital signs while the pharmacy students ensured the patient received the proper drugs, dosage, and drug therapy. All students then collaborated on examining and stabilizing the patient and preparing discharge counseling.

### Drug Information Association holds DIALOGUE Series Part 2: Fellowship Panel

During “DIALOGUE Series Part 2, Focus on Fellowship,” held during the spring semester, 30 pharmacy students networked with the graduating sixth-year pharmacy students who received fellowship offers from pharma companies. This was an opportunity to have the sixth-year students share their experiences and provide helpful tips for ASHP Midyear, and discuss the interview process and the fellowship that they had accepted for the coming year.

Panelists included **Susan Lee '18Pharm.D.**, postdoctoral fellowship with Omnicom Health Group; **Ayesha Kapil '18Pharm.D.**, postdoctoral fellowship with Global Regulatory Affairs at Allergan and the University of Southern California; **Rafi Reyasat '18Pharm.D.**, postdoctoral fellowship, medical affairs/oncology, with Pfizer Inc. and Rutgers University; **Muhammad Waqar '18Pharm.D.**, Global Regulatory Affairs with Sanofi Genzyme; **Alexandra DiDonato '18Pharm.D.**, fellowship in Regulatory Affairs Advertising and Labelling with Allergan and St. John's University.

### Industrial Pharmacy Organization holds Omnicom Panel

The Industry Pharmacy Organization hosted the Omnicom Health Group Panel in the St. Albert Hall Amphitheater on March 14. Two fellows, **Lisa Chu, Pharm.D.**, (Alumni) and **Lanny Nguyen, Pharm.D.**, spoke to students about their fellowship experience at Omnicom.

### American Society of Consultant Pharmacy (ASCP) Holds Interprofessional Education Event

On January 31, 2018, **Beverly Horowitz, Ph.D.**, Director of Occupational Therapy and Associate Professor at York College, was invited by ASCP to speak to pharmacy students in a cocurricular event. The discussion focused on pharmacists working together with occupational therapists to optimize patient care. **Anne Lin, Pharm.D. candidate**, shared that she “learned that collaboration between healthcare professionals makes a difference.”

### American Society of Consultant Pharmacy (ASCP) Valentine Card Making Project

Members of the ASCP made Valentine's Day cards for patients in the Northwell Health Stern Family Center for Rehabilitation on February 5. Approximately 20 students helped to make cards and bring some cheer. The project was a fun activity that allowed members to be creative and make the patients smile.







ST. JOHN'S  
UNIVERSITY

College of Pharmacy  
and Health Sciences

