YEAR IN REVIEW
2018 | 2019
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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

There are different ways to measure the success of an academic institution. For all of us in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, the most important one is whether we help our students grow and thrive personally and professionally during their time here. In these pages, read about our students’ many accomplishments—as well as the nurturing efforts of faculty, administrators, staff, and alumni.

The Academic Success Center opened in 2016 to offer students of the College discipline-specific academic support services. This program has grown steadily, and during the 2018–19 academic year, some 2,000 hours of tutoring were provided to 347 College students in all programs. As you well know, the science-based curriculums are challenging. The center’s offerings—including the popular peer-to-peer tutoring sessions—are important tools our students utilize in order to succeed.

The role of alumni cannot be overestimated. This academic year, the generosity of alumni and friends who attended our annual gala allowed us to fund an international rotation in Guatemala for three students and subsidize the cost of textbooks for seven students in various programs. Alumni are instrumental in helping students learn about different career paths by inviting them to their workplaces, offering internships, or coming to campus to speak to student groups.

Instilling in our students a dedication to service is a primary goal because we know that helping others makes for a fulfilling life. In this vein, our student organizations continue to shine as they participate in activities that raise money for cancer research, visit local schools and senior centers to present wellness programs, and sponsor health-related workshops for fellow students and the campus community.

Supporting a strong and vibrant faculty is, of course, an essential component of student success. We profile in this publication several of our faculty whose cutting-edge research is bringing prestige to our outstanding programs and addressing important issues in pharmaceutical science.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the dedication of the entire College family to helping our students realize their full potential. Without the continuous efforts of faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, and clinical and industry partners, we could not accomplish all that we do. Thank you, and enjoy this publication.

Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Marc E. Gillespie, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for
Graduate Education, Research,
and Assessment

Joseph M. Brocavich, Pharm.D.
Senior Associate Dean
for Pharmacy Programs

Tina J. Kanmaz, Pharm.D.
Assistant Dean
for Pharmacy Experiential Programs

Manouchkathe Cassagnol, Pharm.D.
Assistant Dean
for Service Programs

Sawanee Khongsawatwaja, M.S.
Associate Dean
for Administration and Fiscal Affairs
Pediatric cancer is an especially devastating illness. “When a child is diagnosed with cancer, the whole family is distressed,” said Saurabh Agarwal, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences. “It is one of the reasons I became interested in finding a cure for childhood cancers.”

Dr. Agarwal, who is a St. Baldrick’s Scholar, came to St. John’s University in the fall of 2018 from the Texas Children’s Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. He focuses his research on developing effective therapies for pediatric neuroblastoma. According to the American Cancer Society, neuroblastoma is the most common cancer in infants. It represents about seven percent of all childhood cancers; the overall survival rate for high-risk neuroblastoma is below 50 percent.

“The primary cause of fatalities from this disease is relapse,” explained Dr. Agarwal. “Cancer will come back even after the child has completed therapy.”

While trying to understand the disease relapse, Dr. Agarwal and his team discovered a subset of neuroblastoma cells that is highly tumorigenic and acts as cancer stem cells. He also made another startling discovery: one of the standard ingredients of chemotherapy appeared to encourage reemergence of the tumor.

“G-CSF is a growth factor administered to patients undergoing chemotherapy to increase their white blood cell counts. Interestingly, we found that G-CSF itself makes neuroblastoma cancer stem cells proliferate,” Dr. Agarwal explained.

Dr. Agarwal’s team used different neuroblastoma tumor models for this research. His findings have been reported in a series of articles in Cancer Research and became a milestone for a clinical trial at Texas Children’s Hospital. For his research, Dr. Agarwal received numerous national and international awards, including the David’s Warriors Hero Award, Lerner Family Foundation Award, and Villa Joep Foundation Research Excellence Award.

Dr. Agarwal and his students work on ways to target neuroblastoma cancer stem cells by developing novel therapeutic approaches. His team is also researching the repurposing of drugs approved for other cancers to treat neuroblastoma and other pediatric tumors. Dr. Agarwal’s research has been funded by philanthropy grants from the St. Baldrick’s Foundation and from the Wipe Out Kids’ Cancer Foundation.

“The ultimate goal of my cancer research lab at St. John’s is to find a cure for neuroblastoma and other cancers,” he said. “In truth, it is an aspiration that we all have.”

Dr. Agarwal is grateful for the University’s support for his teaching and research work, which includes research infrastructure and seed grant awards, and a grant from the St. John’s University Venture Capital Fund Program. “The support I have gotten here at St. John’s is amazing,” he said. “I have been given resources to continue my research. I am really glad I came here.”
Grants Allow Research Team to Study Possible Hypertension Cure

While more treatments for pulmonary hypertension have become available in recent years, medication to treat the underlying cause of this condition remains elusive. At the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Vivek Gupta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and his students are hard at work trying to change that.

Dr. Gupta, who joined the faculty in 2016, was awarded two grants totaling more than $600,000 to study the potential of already approved drugs as possible cures. One grant from the American Heart Association (AHA) totals $154,000 and will run for two years. The other, a $492,000 award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is for a term of three years.

The AHA grant will use an automated process to screen drugs already approved by the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) against cells isolated from patients who suffer from the disease. Dr. Gupta’s team will then observe the drugs’ impact on pulmonary hypertension symptoms in an effort to find an already approved drug that holds promise.

The NIH-funded work focuses on the antimalarial drug Amodiaquine, approved by the FDA in 1948 to treat resistant forms of malaria and now showing promise for pulmonary hypertension.

Drug repurposing research such as Dr. Gupta’s is important because of the high cost of and long timeframe for developing new drugs. Pulmonary hypertension, or high blood pressure in the lungs, is rare in the United States, with more than 100,000 cases reported. As a result, pharmaceutical companies have little incentive to develop new drugs, and it could take decades and several billion dollars to do so. Repurposing can greatly reduce the cost and schedule.

An exciting aspect of the grant funding is that it supports two graduate and two undergraduate students, as well as covers expenses for a visiting scholar. “I believe that the most important thing students need to learn in graduate school is problem solving,” said Dr. Gupta, who became interested in pulmonary hypertension during his own Ph.D. research at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

“I do not give my students a plan; I let them find their way so they learn to think,” Dr. Gupta continued. Sounding very much like a proud father, he added, “The grants allow me to support their efforts and to fast track their careers. Our students strengthen and expand our research when they go out into the world.”
More than 200 alumni, faculty, administrators, staff, and friends of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (CPHS) gathered to celebrate their accomplishments—and raise more than $15,000 for scholarships—at the fourth annual CPHS Gala held on April 13 at Leonard’s Palazzo in Great Neck, NY.

The highlight of the evening was the award recognition of five outstanding professionals: Lisa Anzisi, Pharm.D., BCPS ’82P, ’84GP, Distinguished Practitioner; Judith L. Beizer, Pharm.D., Distinguished Faculty; Robert Blenderman, P.A., M.B.A. ’01P, Distinguished Alumnus; and Colonel John Spain, RET, Pharm.D. ’88P, Distinguished Alumnus.

“Tonight we honor five individuals who give themselves to the ideals embodied in the mission of St. John’s University and the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences,” Russell J. DiGate, Dean, said in his opening remarks. “These people truly ‘walk the talk’ and serve as role models for those who follow.” Raising scholarship funds is the primary goal of the annual gala. This year’s proceeds helped one Physician Assistant student and two Pharmacy students travel to Guatemala for an international rotation. The College participates in two programs in that country; for one week, students assist the poor by serving on interdisciplinary health-care teams.

Also benefitting from gala proceeds were four Pharmacy students, and one each from the Health Sciences, Toxicology, and Clinical Laboratory Services programs, who all received financial assistance for the purchase of textbooks.

“It was a night to remember,” Dean DiGate said. “It is important to celebrate our successes and we look forward to doing so again next year on March 7.”
ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

CPHS Student Congress Raises Money for Dean’s Scholarship Fund
The College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Student Congress successfully raised more than $3,000 for the Dean’s Scholarship Fund. Students, faculty, and administrators from the College contributed by purchasing student-designed, long-sleeve T-shirts and raffles. Student Congress representatives, led by Alexander Cheung ’20Pharm.D., Student Congress President, manned donation tables in the lobby of St. Albert Hall, in the Health Resource Education Center, and on the first floor of the Dr. Andrew J. Bartilucci Center, and maintained an online portal to allow alumni to participate.

Alumni Invites Students to Attend Pfizer Inc. Open House
Fifteen pharmacy students in their professional fourth and fifth years attended the annual Pfizer Inc. Open House in New York City on March 19. The group was selected from among those who submitted an application. They attended at the invitation of Rafi Reyast ’18Pharm.D., US Medical Affairs Postdoctoral Fellow at Pfizer Inc. Students had an opportunity to hear from current fellows in different roles at Pfizer Inc. and from company executives. They also enjoyed networking with pharmacy students from other programs.

CPHS Hosts Annual Alumni Reception at ASHP Midyear
The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Conference was held in December in Anaheim, CA, with another strong showing of our pharmacy students and alumni. More than 100 alumni and students attended the College’s CPHS alumni reception. Alumni and students had an opportunity to network with faculty members Joseph M. Brocavich, Pharm.D., Senior Associate Dean for Pharmacy Education; William M. Maidhof ’99P, ’03Pharm.D., Associate Professor Industry Professional; Joshua Rickard, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor Industry Professional; Maha Saad, Pharm.D., Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Clinical Health Professions; and Chung-Shien Lee, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor Industry Professional in Clinical Health Professions. We look forward to seeing our alumni at the 2019 ASHP Midyear in Las Vegas, NV.

CPHS Alumni Enjoy Men’s Basketball Game
The College invited alumni to attend the St. John’s v. Butler men’s basketball game at Carnesecca Arena on February 12. Those who attended networked with former classmates, and Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D., Dean. It was an exciting night as the Red Storm secured a victory over Butler.

Alumni Gather at AAPS Conference
The College hosted a reception for alumni and graduate students at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) annual conference on November 5 in Washington, DC. Among the faculty present to welcome alumni were four members of the College’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences: Vijaya L. Korlipara, Ph.D., Chair and Professor; Abu T. Serajuddin, Ph.D., Professor; Vivek Gupta, Ph.D., Assistant Professor; and Nitesh K. Kunda, Ph.D., Assistant Professor. Faculty were especially proud of the strong poster presentation presence of the College’s industrial pharmacy graduate students.
Academic Success Center Helps Students Excel

Science-based curriculums are notoriously tough; even the best students struggle at times. As a result, to ensure that every student has the resources to excel, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences’ Academic Success Center (ASC) opened in the spring of 2016—and a growing number of students continue to utilize its services. During the 2018–19 academic year, more than 2,000 hours of tutoring were provided to 347 College students in all programs.

The center ensures student success, which is one of the University’s Strategic Priorities. Tutors focus solely on the College’s discipline-specific undergraduate courses. Housed in the Health Education Resource Center in St. Augustine Hall, the Center is staffed by six paid peer tutors, and three faculty members maintain weekly office hours. A student tutor in the Physician Assistant (PA) program provides online help to PA students.

During the 2018–19 academic year, the ASC added workshops in study skills, time management, and stress management; they were so well received that they will be expanded in the upcoming academic year. Also being added to the center will be a series of test preparation and review workshops for some of the more challenging pharmacy courses. These will be group sessions led by pharmacy honor society students.

“Group sessions work very well,” explained Joseph V. Etzel, Pharm.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs. “The feedback provided by participants helps students understand the material, problem solve, and learn how to apply what they learn—and that is the goal.”
PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR

Roland Nassim, M.D.
Nassim Medical, PC
Physician Assistant Preceptor since 2007

Would you recommend your colleagues to be a preceptor with the College and why?
I recommend it very strongly to my colleagues. It is satisfying to share your experience with the new generation of physician assistants and also share new technologies and medical information.

What is your most memorable experience as a preceptor?
The most memorable experience is when students call the practice to tell us that they passed their boards and have successfully been hired at the hospitals of their choice.

Plamen Penev, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Administrative Director of Laboratories, Hematology Laboratory Supervisor, Wyckoff Heights Medical Center. Clinical Laboratory Sciences Preceptor since 2000

What do you like about precepting our students?
They are young, full of energy, and possess present-day theoretical knowledge.

What is your most memorable experience as a preceptor?
A new analyzer was just validated for clinical testing. The software would lock you out if the password was entered incorrectly. Each time the technologist had to call the technical support center for help to resolve the issue, it was frustrating and time-consuming. Mitchel, a St. John’s student, wrote a step-by-step procedure for gaining access to the software and reset the password. This was the first written procedure in Mitchel’s career!

Alfred Sales
Senior Technician/Student Coordinator, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens Radiological Sciences Preceptor since 2000

Would you recommend your colleagues to be a preceptor with the College and why?
Yes, the College does a great job preparing students for the clinical sites.

What do you like about precepting our students?
It is very fulfilling and gratifying to see the students graduate and become the future of radiologic technology. They provide renewed vitality for me personally and for the entire radiology department.
Diana Barranco ’12Pharm.D.
Pharmacy Manager, Maxor Pharmacy
Pharmacy Preceptor since 2013

What do you like about precepting our students?
I enjoy teaching and mentoring students on how to address and resolve everyday issues appropriately in a real-world setting. I also enjoy learning from students as they pass along current information that they are taught in school.

What is your most memorable experience as a preceptor?
The most memorable experiences as a preceptor are when students are counseling patients. Many times, patients show their trust in and appreciation for the students, which gives students confidence that they will be able to help many patients in the future as pharmacists.

Stacie L. Re, Pharm.D.
Staff Pharmacist, Rite Aid Pharmacy
Pharmacy Preceptor since 2000

What do you like about precepting our students?
I like that the students are eager to learn.

What is the best part of being a preceptor?
Sharing knowledge and seeing the classroom connections being made while on site.

Theodore Vanikiotis
Associate Director, Pharmacy Service, South Nassau Communities Hospital
Pharmacy Preceptor since 1995

What is the best part of being a preceptor?
Actions speak louder than words; as preceptors, we discuss and share our experiences with students, but I believe they are more heavily influenced by observing what we do and the way we conduct our daily business.

What is your most memorable experience as a preceptor?
I find it gratifying when students reach out once they have completed their studies to tell me I really made a difference.

Thomas Weigl
Assistant Director of Pharmacy, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens
Pharmacy Preceptor since 2006

Would you recommend your colleagues be a preceptor with the College and why?
Absolutely. It helps you refocus on important matters other than the immediate tasks. It is a way to give back to the students and further the profession.

What is the best part of being a preceptor?
Seeing a student’s expression when you explain something from a different perspective and things begin to make sense—it truly looks like a lightbulb goes off. I enjoy showing them all of the different components of hospital pharmacy. Often the perception is that a pharmacist will just fill or verify scripts. I love showing them the different avenues and how decisions are made from a financial, operational, clinical, and regulatory point of view. Students begin to understand the complexity of caring for patients and they understand the “why” behind a decision.
 Lambda Kappa Sigma Celebrates Women Pharmacist Day
The Lambda Kappa Sigma Alpha Pi chapter honored Women Pharmacist Day on October 8 by hosting a postgraduate education panel and question-and-answer session featuring six alumni sisters who pursued different pharmacy career paths. Panelists shared their experiences and discussed fellowship, residency, nutrition, and administration. The event, which was open to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences community, was attended by more than 58 students.

This year's panelists included Daniella Antolos '17Pharm.D., PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Resident at VA Hudson Valley Health Care System; Jackie Chirico, '16Pharm.D., Pediatric Pharmacy Operations Manager at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore; Samira Duja '04Pharm.D., Pharmacy Supervisor at Mercy Medical Center; Jacqueline Mullakary '11Pharm.D., BCACP, CDE, Clinical Pharmacy Manager on the Population Health team at Mount Sinai Health Partners; Lisa Patel '08Pharm.D., Director, Global Contact, Content, and Insights at Pfizer Inc.; and Nicole Zimmerman '17Pharm.D., GRECC Palliative Care Pharmacy Fellow at James J. Peters VA Medical Center.

 Lambda Kappa Sigma Sister Soiree a Success
The sisters of the Lambda Kappa Sigma Alpha Pi chapter hosted a dinner on April 6 to strengthen bonds between the chapter's alumni and collegiate sisters. Another goal of the event was service. Attendees created hygiene kits for the homeless population by filling bags with travel-size shampoo bottles, tissues, toothbrushes, and similar items. They sealed the bags with a personalized note.

 Poisn Control Awareness Focus of ASCP/SSPP Event
The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) and Student Society of Pediatric Pharmacy (SSPP) chapters hosted the first-ever Poison Control Awareness Panel on March 18 for National Poison Prevention Week. Esteemed speakers included Mary Ann Howland, Pharm.D., DABAT, FAACP, Clinical Professor of Clinical Health Professions; Maria Mercurio-Zappala, R.Ph., MS, DABAT, FAACP, Associate Director of the New York City Poison Control Center; and Lauren Schwartz, MPH, Director of Public Education at the New York City Poison Control Center.

 SSPP Students Learn about Neonatal Pharmacy
Dimitrios Savva '17Pharm.D., Neonatal Intensive Care Clinical Pharmacist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital of New York, was guest speaker at a Student Society of Pediatric Pharmacy (SSPP) event on September 24. Dr. Savva and the more than 30 students in attendance discussed pediatric pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, apnea in premature infants, and patent ductus arteriosus. It was a great experience for SSPP members to learn about these very important topics and to hear Dr. Savva's firsthand experience.

 Phi Delta Chi Alumni Raise Funds for St. Jude's
Phi Delta Chi raised funds for children's cancer research by organizing an accredited continuing education event for Phi Delta Chi alumni. Joseph V. Etzel '88P, '90Pharm.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Clinical Health Professions, presented on the topics of medication errors and patient safety. Alumni were required to donate a minimum of $20 to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital to attend; the event, held on November 11, raised just under $1,200.

 Students Cohost Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Event
Phi Delta Chi hosted a cocurricular event on mental health awareness and suicide prevention for pharmacy students on September 24. This event was coproduced with the College's American Pharmacist Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists and the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacist chapters. A total of 87 students from across the College attended. The invited speaker was Pat Breaux, RN, BSN, Youth Prevention Specialist, from the Suicide Prevention Center of New York State.
Brown Bag Event Held at Deepdale Cares Senior Center
Phi Delta Chi participated in a “brown bag” event at the Deepdale Cares Senior Center in Little Neck, NY, to help senior citizens sort and manage their medications. Judith L. Beizer, Pharm.D., BCGP, Clinical Professor in the Department of Clinical Health Professions, supervised the fraternity brothers as they gave free consultations and medical advice.

IPhO DIA Host Internship Panel
On November 29, the Industry Pharmacist Organization and Drug Information Association held their annual internship panel featuring current pharmacy students who completed summer internships. This event aims to educate students about the process for applying to industry internships and how to find internship opportunities. Panelists shared the challenges they faced, what they found most beneficial from their internship experience, and what type of work students can expect to do while completing an internship.

Panelists included Joan Chung ’20Pharm.D., intern in the New York City Department for the Aging Program Development Unit; Andrew Kwong ’20Pharm.D., Bristol-Myers Squibb pharmacy services intern; Namosha Mohite ’22Pharm.D., medical quality oversight intern at Pfizer Inc; Mursal Noory ’21Pharm.D., global regulatory affairs intern at Bayer; Farah Pragga ’21Pharm.D., medical affairs intern at Pfizer Inc.; Katherine Russo ’22Pharm.D., medical writing intern at Merck; and Jennifer Soffing ’21Pharm.D., intern at Novartis.

APhA-ASP Event Focuses on Prep for Professional Years
In collaboration with the Office of the Dean, the American Pharmacist Association-Academy of Student Pharmacy (APhA-ASP) held its first Dean’s Hour: Guide to Pharmacy Professional Years for first- and second-year pharmacy students. This will be an annual event to prepare undergraduates for progression toward their professional years.

Amisha Jaimon ’23Pharm.D., Preprofessional Vice President, explained what students can expect over the next four years in the pharmacy program, including cocurricular events, the drugs and disease course, the progression interview process, student organizations, and available resources. More importantly, this event provided an opportunity for students to network with members of APhA-ASP and ask questions.

Elementary School Students Learn about Diabetes
More than 150 students, teachers, and administrators of P.S. 173 in Fresh Meadows, NY, learned about childhood diabetes and the importance of exercise and healthy eating at this pharmacy student-led program. The event, held in January, was a joint collaboration between the American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists and the Student Society of Pediatric Pharmacy. Seerat Kapoor ’20Pharm.D., Saara Nasruddin ’20Pharm.D., and Maryam Sekhery ’20Pharm.D., worked with the dean’s office to develop the presentation tailored for third-through fifth-graders.

Rho Chi Members Discuss Health Awareness with Children
The Rho Chi Beta Delta Chapter collaborated with P.S. 173 of Fresh Meadows, NY, to host a series of health awareness events during the 2018–19 academic year. During their first visit, Rho Chi members Alexander Cheung ’21Pharm.D. and Jeffrey Thomas ’21Pharm.D. explained to members of Girl Scout Troop 4085 the role of the pharmacist, how to safely use over-the-counter medications, and how to safely treat common colds. The program helped members of the troop earn their Junior First Aid badges.

At their second visit, members Oudit Balkaran ’22Pharm.D., Shirley Cheung ’21Pharm.D., and Gini Thomas ’21Pharm.D., discussed cold and flu prevention with the entire school. During the final visit, Sona Goswami ’22Pharm.D., Ashley Leung ’22Pharm.D., Connie Liang ’22Pharm.D., and Shivani Shah ’21Pharm.D., discussed ways to stay safe during the summer months. Topics included the importance of staying hydrated, and using sunscreen and insect repellant. These events not only gave our community a better understanding of the role of the pharmacist, but also helped members improve their public speaking skills.
Department of Clinical Health Professions

As an interprofessional department, our faculty and students contribute to a broad body of knowledge. Faculty research and scholarly activities are dedicated to improving patient care to those communities we serve.

In this past academic year, Department of Clinical Health Professions (CHP) faculty and students shared their expertise through articles in prestigious journals and presentations at leading conferences here and abroad.

The CHP department faculty are highly active in contributing to scientific knowledge through innovative research and scholarship. The majority of the faculty from the department publish their work in peer-reviewed, nationally-recognized journals. In addition to their published work and grants, most of the CHP faculty are active in promoting education through a variety of presentations at local, regional, and/or national conferences.

Our faculty teach in the Doctor of Pharmacy, Physician Assistant, Radiological Sciences, and Clinical Laboratory Sciences programs at the College and commit themselves to imparting the knowledge and skills necessary for our students to become competent, ethical, compassionate, and culturally sensitive members of the health-care team.

Selected Publications


Luther K (colleague), Fung GM (colleague), **Khorassani F.** Cost comparison of atypical antipsychotics: paliperidone ER and risperidone. Hospital Pharmacy 2018; https://doi.org/10.1177/0018578718809269


**Hughes GJ, Lee R (pharmacy colleague), and Sideras V.** Delivering clinical pharmacokinetics– Curriculum and content in Colleges of Pharmacy. Am J Pharm Educ 2018;82(9):1096–1102.


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**Book Chapters**


**Chapters in the 11th edition of Goldfrank’s Toxicologic Emergencies:**


Howland MA: Pharmacokinetic and Toxicokinetic Principles

Stern M, Ahronheim JA, Howland MA: Geriatric Principles

Smith SW, Goldfrank LR, Howland MA: Principles of antidote stocking
Department of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health

Significant strides in scholarship, teaching, and service activities were made by faculty of the Department of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health during this past academic year.

Five of seven grant proposals submitted were selected for funding, and Preety Gadhoke, Ph.D., and Yolene Gousse, Dr.Ph., received a University grant to participate in global outreach programs in Thailand and Haiti, respectively. The faculty also published 38 articles and book chapters.

In collaboration with the The Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies, the Department has developed the framework for a Master of Healthcare Administration program that will offer students an opportunity to specialize in Health Services Management or Health Information Management. Approval has been granted for this program from the College and University graduate councils; approval will be sought from the University Board of Trustees and the New York State Education Department in the coming year.

Faculty, students, and alumni actively participated at the annual conferences organized by the Society for Applied Anthropology, the American Pharmacists Association, and the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics Research (ISPOR). Four of our posters at the ISPOR conference were selected as ISPOR 2019 Research Presentation Award finalists, and one placed in the top three student posters.

Wenchen Wu, R.Ph., M.B.A., Ph.D., was the keynote lecturer at the opening ceremony of the 27th Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations Congress held in Manila, Philippines, from Oct. 24 through 27. He spoke on the topic, “Pharmacists for the Global Goals: Creating Value Beyond Health.” The conference was attended by approximately 2,000 individuals from 24 Asian countries.

Two Master of Public Health faculty joined the department this academic year. Harlem J. Guinness, Ph.D., MPH, was appointed as Director, Public Health Programs, and Associate Professor, in November. Afolarin J. Aiyedun, Ed.D., was appointed Assistant Professor in September of 2018. Both faculty members were recruited through a national search.

Our MPH program continues to develop. We are pleased to report that four MPH students, all part-time attendees, graduated in May. In addition, we have broadened our network with public health agencies to secure fieldwork sites.

For the fifth year, the MPH program celebrated National Public Health Week on the Queens, NY, campus from April 2 to 5 with invited talks, a health fair, and other activities coordinated with the assistance of faculty and staff from the College and the Department of Student Wellness.

The faculty also participated in College and University committee work. Dr. Gadhoke and Jagganath Muzumdar, Ph.D., continue to serve on the Strategic Priorities Review Team, a subcommittee commissioned by Conrado “Bobby” Gempesaw, Ph.D., University President. Also, Dr. Muzumdar, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration and Public Health, continued to serve as the Interim Director of Cocurriculum Activities in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

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SELECT PUBLICATIONS


Lessons Learned from the Implementation of a Shared Community-Academic HIV Prevention Intervention, Journal of Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action, 11 pages,


Muzumdar Jagannath M. Pal Somnath. Use of a comic book to assist Pharmacy student learning of the Affordable Care Act; Co-author Dr. Jagannath Muzumdar. INNOVATIONS in pharmacy; http://z.umn.edu/INNOVATIONS vol. 9: No. 2: Article 12; DOI https://doi.org/10.24926/iip.v9i2.947; pages 8; 2018.


Use of a comic book to assist Pharmacy student learning of the Affordable Care Act; Co-author Dr. Jagannath Muzumdar. INNOVATIONS in pharmacy; http://z.umn.edu/INNOVATIONS vol. 9: No. 2: Article 12; DOI https://doi.org/10.24926/iip.v9i2.947; pages 8; 2018.


Wenchcn Wu, Ph.D.
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

The faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences continued their outstanding achievements in the 2018–19 academic year with publication of 93 peer-reviewed manuscripts; 111 scientific presentations at local, regional, national, and international symposia; the publication of one book and eight book chapters; three patents; 40 invited lectures; and the acquisition of nearly $1.8 million in ongoing external scientific funding.

In the past year, the department awarded 12 Ph.D. degrees in Pharmaceutical Sciences, seven M.S. degrees in Industrial Pharmacy, three M.S. degrees in Pharmacology, and nine M.S. degrees in Toxicology. In addition, we awarded seven master’s degrees in Biological and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, a joint program with St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, with Zhe Sheng Chen, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, as Director of the Institute for Biotechnology. The success of these students is indicative of their determination and the commitment of department faculty to graduate research and education.

The department made 20 presentations at the 2019 Annual Society of Toxicology Conference in San Antonio, TX, and 34 presentations at the 2018 annual meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences in San Diego, CA. Additional presentations were made at the American Chemical Society and the American Association for Cancer Research national meetings and at many other international, regional, and specialty meetings.

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

Saurabh Agarwal, M.D., has a three-year, $200,000 St. Baldrick’s Foundation Scholar Career Development Award to develop novel epigenetic therapies for high-risk neuroblastomas. He is also the Principle Investigator of an $80,000, two-year Wipe Out Kids’ Cancer Foundation Research Grant to investigate epigenetic targeting of neuroblastoma cancer stem cells.

Dr. Agarwal also was an invited guest speaker at a St. Baldrick’s Foundation fundraiser and head-shaving event in support of childhood cancer research. The event—which raised $160,000—was held on March 9 at Napper Tandy’s Irish Pub, Northport, NY. He is an author on five peer-reviewed publications and has made two scientific presentations at international symposia.

Vivek Gupta, Ph.D., has been awarded a $300,000, three-year National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute grant, Targeting of Apoptotic and Autophagy Pathways for Treatment of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. He also has a $140,000, two-year American Heart Association grant to develop novel therapies for pulmonary arterial hypertension, and a $15,000, two-year award from Neofluidics, Inc., to develop and test microfluidic chip-based devices/tools for the continuous preparation of emulsion-based drug delivery systems. Dr. Gupta has also authored five peer reviewed publications and 30 scientific presentations at local, national and international conferences.

Sandra E. Reznik, M.D., Ph.D., obtained a new grant for $150,000 from Vifor Pharma, OM-85 for the Reversal of High Fat Diet Induced Gut Dysbiosis. She was invited to present a talk at the inaugural meeting of the North American branch of the Preterm Birth International Collaborative (PREBIC). PREBIC is a small society of invited leading scientists in the preterm birth field.

Dr. Reznik was also invited to present Grand Rounds to the Division of Neonatology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She also has a small grant from the Nassau Healthcare Corporation. She has three peer-reviewed articles, one review, and four scientific presentations at national conferences.

Abu T. Serajuddin, Ph.D., was awarded a $15,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) Planning Grant for the development of the St. John’s University Center for Integrated Material Science and Engineering for Pharmaceutical Products.

This NSF planning grant will lead to the submission in November of a five-year, multi-million-dollar NSF grant application to fund the center. In addition, Dr. Serajuddin has one US patent, six peer-reviewed publications, six invited presentations, and he has participated in 15 scientific presentations at local, national, and international symposia.

Publications


Books


Book Chapters


Yoganathan, S. Chapter 26: Drugs used to treat gastrointestinal and genitourinary disorders, Foye's Principles of Medicinal Chemistry, 8th Ed., 2019, Editors: S. William Zito and Victoria Roche.
2019 GRADUATION

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