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It is with great pleasure that I offer you this summary of the activities and accomplishments of the St. John’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences for the 2017–18 academic year. Once again, our students make us proud, both in their academic performance and in their dedication to the Vincentian spirit of service.

With the continued help of our generous alumni and annual Gala supporters, the College has been able to provide more opportunities for global experiences for students, something I believe is essential for healthcare professionals in today’s multicultural world. International service programs help students gain cultural awareness and instill in them the desire to serve others, two traits that contribute to their professional success.

Scholarships and travel assistance have helped sixth-year students experience an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Rotation in Guatemala, where we have two programs. Consistent with our Vincentian mission, students may participate in operating a pharmacy that is part of a temporary medical clinic that visits the underserved community of Nueva Santa Rosa twice a year, or they can serve at an institution in the city of Antigua that cares for poor and abandoned patients with such pathological problems as cerebral palsy. This year, a service mission to Jamaica was inaugurated, as well as a rotation in Taiwan. And, of course, our programs in Rome and Paris continue to flourish.

A great part of our success rests on the efforts of our distinguished faculty, whose accomplishments you also can read about in this report. Of course, our staff and administrators serve an essential role in keeping our institution strong and vital, and our alumni never cease to impress with their willingness to assist the next generation. This report is dedicated, with thanks, to all of you. I hope you enjoy reading about our accomplishments.

Russell J. DiGate, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
COLLEGE Leadership

Joseph M. Brocovich, Pharm.D.
Senior Associate Dean, Pharmacy Program

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

Tina J. Kanmaz, Pharm.D.
Assistant Dean, Experiential Pharmacy Education

Sawanee Khongsawatwaja, M.S.
Associate Dean, Administration and Fiscal Affairs

John M. Conry, Pharm.D.
Chair, Department of Clinical Health Professions

Vijaya L. Korlipara, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
For 35 years, S. William (Sandy) Zito, Ph.D. ’66P, Professor of Pharmaceutical Science and Senior Associate Dean for Assessment, has tended to the needs of students at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, making sure they are well prepared for their careers. This past spring, Dr. Zito traded his PowerPoint remote control for a spade and hoe as he turns full-time to caring for the vegetable garden at his Hudson Valley home and pursuing existing responsibilities.

“I grew up in Brooklyn, and my Italian immigrant grandparents grew tomatoes, figs, and other treats in their backyard,” he explained. “I learned to love gardening from them.”

Judging from the impressive list of teaching awards he has won over the years, Dr. Zito excelled at nurturing his student “seedlings” too. “I started out with the idea of pursuing a career in research, but I had an opportunity to teach as a graduate student and discovered I really liked it,” he says. His efforts were recognized most recently in 2017 when he received the prestigious Robert K. Chalmers Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, a national award.

In addition to teaching medicinal chemistry courses, Dr. Zito has mentored 33 master’s degree and Ph.D. students during his tenure at the College. “It is always a thrill when your students accomplish so much,” he said, sounding every bit like a proud father.

Over the past three decades, Dr. Zito has seen many changes in the field of pharmacy and pharmacy education. “When I was a student here, the curriculum was heavily science-based. I did many labs,” he explained. “Students now have more experiential learning experiences. They work in community pharmacy settings and then in other healthcare environments. They graduate with the ability to interact with patients and healthcare team members.”

Pharmacy education has had to adapt to the new world of healthcare. “Teaching now involves having the student participate actively, not just sit there taking notes,” Dr. Zito explained. “For example, we now use case studies as a learning tool.” As an editor of Foye’s Principles of Medicinal Chemistry, the field’s “bible,” Dr. Zito has written case studies for each chapter, as well as classroom-based case studies. “I enjoy making learning fun,” he said with a chuckle.

When asked to recall his fondest memories of his time at St. John’s, Dr. Zito does not hesitate. “I met my wife here. We were classmates, and we are still going strong,” he said affectionately. Julie Magno Zito, Ph.D. ’66P also will retire this year from her position as Professor of Pharmacy and Psychiatry, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Service Research, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. It is a good bet that you will find them together watching their garden grow.
It is 11 a.m. and three St. John’s Pharm.D. students are gathered around the desk of Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Mary Ann Howland, Pharm.D., DABAT, FAACT, for their daily meeting. The students are participating in their four-week rotation at the New York City Poison Control Center (NYCPCC) and the Bellevue Hospital Center Emergency Department (ED). Dr. Howland also serves as adjunct professor of Emergency Medicine at Bellevue and New York University Langone Medical Center and as Senior Consultant in Residence at NYCPCC.

Dr. Howland created these rotations when she first arrived at the College in 1979 and she estimates that over the years she has taught more than 1,000 students on rotation. Her dedication to teaching earned her the 2009 Professor of the Year Award at St. John’s and selection as an honoree at the College’s 2018 Gala. Despite her many years on the job, her enthusiasm has not waned. “I love coming here. I love mentoring students and interacting with the other professionals here,” she said. “I also get to answer a lot of cool questions!”

The NYCPCC in 2017 received 84,000 calls from physicians, hospitals, and the general public asking questions ranging from what to do for a child or a pet suspected of having ingested a toxic substance, to issues regarding medications or illicit drugs. The Center technically serves New York City and the counties of Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester, but the calls arrive from far and wide. “We do a lot of teaching here,” the internationally recognized toxicology expert explained. “So, we get calls from former students and fellows from wherever they are.”

Helping to answer these questions is the job of the College’s students on rotation. They participate in daily rounds in the ED, discuss cases with the care team, and research answers to many of the calls received. “Our attendings and the nurses love having our students here to help answer their questions,” Dr. Howland said.

In addition to her teaching duties, Dr. Howland is a prolific researcher. She has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed articles in leading journals and has contributed to many poster and platform presentations at national and international professional conferences. Dr. Howland is an editor of Goldfrank’s Toxicologic Emergencies, a reference book considered by many as the gold standard for clinical toxicology. Her expertise resides in antidotes, and she is best known for the in-depth antidotes sections in the textbook.

Although always interested in science, Dr. Howland was unsure of a career path when she entered college. A brief stint as a chemistry major helped her focus her career ambitions. “I realized early on that there was no way I could work in a lab,” she said. “I wanted to—needed to, really—work with people and so chose pharmacy instead.” Judging from the affection and respect shown by her students and her coworkers, there are many people who are glad she did.
THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE SELLOUT CROWD THAT ATTENDED THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES THIRD ANNUAL GALA IN APRIL, OUR STUDENTS RECEIVED VALUABLE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THIS PAST YEAR. THE NEARLY $18,000 RAISED WAS EARMARKED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS, BOOK AWARDS, CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS, AND FINANCIAL AID FOR PARTICIPANTS IN INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED PHARMACY PRACTICE ROTATIONS.
We also had the pleasure of honoring an expanded list of faculty, alumni, and friends for their unwavering support of our programs. The honorees were

- **Mary Ann Howland, Pharm.D., DABAT, FAACT**, Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Adjunct Professor of Emergency Medicine, New York University School of Medicine, Bellevue Hospital Center, and New York University Langone Medical Center; and Senior Consultant in Residence, New York City Poison Control Center

- **Janet Mastanduono ’75C, ’77GP, ’79P, ’94Ph.D.**, Regional Scientific Director/Medical Science Liaison Director in United States Medical Affairs, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

- **John Navarra, R.Ph. ’67BS**, founder, Town Total Health

- **Angela Tomei Robinson ’85GP, ’79P**, Associate Administrative Director of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, NYU Winthrop Hospital

- **Abu T. Serajuddin ’82Ph.D.**, Professor of Industrial Pharmacy, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

- **The Pharmacists Society** of the State of New York

“Every year our gala gets better,” said Russell J. DiGate, Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. “That is the result of many people working together to achieve our goal: helping our students. We are grateful to all who worked behind the scenes and to our generous alumni.”
When it comes to following in a father’s footsteps, the Stella family has taken it to a new level. Rocco Stella ‘57P became a pharmacist like his father and was the first member of the family to study at the College. At last count, seven Stella family members representing three generations were part of the St. John’s family, including two of Rocco’s grandchildren, who are currently enrolled.

“The history of our family and the tradition we have with St. John’s attracted all of us,” Frank Stella ‘01P said. “My dad was a preceptor for more than 30 years, so we had a lot of contact with students and faculty growing up. We felt a closeness.”

In addition to Frank and Rocco, who recently retired, the other family members with ties to St. John’s are Lisa Stella ‘86P, Rocco’s daughter and Frank’s sister; Jeriann (Marotta) Stella ‘01P, Frank’s wife; and three of Frank’s nieces and nephews, Christian Stella ‘16Pharm.D., Raquel Weinstein ‘21Pharm.D., and Andrew Weinstein, ‘22Pharm.D.

Rocco Stella, who was an honoree at the College’s 2017 Gala, established his own pharmacy in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn in 1961. Today, the business has grown into Precision Pharmacy LLC, with retail operations in Bellmore, Great Neck, Long Beach, and Belle Harbor, NY. Long-term care pharmacy services are offered through the Great Neck location. Additionally, the company has a full-service compounding pharmacy on the second floor of the Bellmore store and operates ProScripts, a prescription and over-the-counter medication delivery service for professional and collegiate sports teams.

Just as in the early days in Canarsie, family members work in the business and the preceptor tradition continues unabated. “We have preceptor sites in Bellmore and Belle Harbor and will soon add Great Neck and Long Beach to the program,” Frank Stella explained.

Training young pharmacists is only part of what the Stella family does for students. Numerous employees are St. John’s alumni, and Frank Longo ‘87P and Richard Longo ‘95P, who were interns in the original Canarsie pharmacy, today are business partners in Precision Pharmacy.

“We all work together, and we train, teach, and watch over our students,” Frank Stella said. “St. John’s prepared us to be leaders and to be confident in our craft, so serving as preceptors is our way of giving back.”
The Irene Family

Sandy Irene, R.Ph. ’57P owes his pharmacy career to the Bronze Star Medal he was awarded for heroic service in a combat zone in Korea. As he approached discharge and a return to civilian life, Sandy decided to follow in the footsteps of two friends who were enrolled at St. John’s and he applied to the pharmacy program.

“I did not really have the science background necessary, and I was rejected,” he explained. “But I decided to appeal and met with the dean. I happened to bring my medal award letter with me and when the dean read it, he decided to give me a chance.”

And, a lucky chance it was. Just after graduation, Sandy opened a pharmacy in Newark, NJ, and later went on to build a successful long-term care business. Today he is chairman of Asembia, LLC, a specialty pharmacy company he cofounded in 2004 with his sons, Lawrence Irene, R.Ph. ’84P, who is CEO, and Robert Irene, R.Ph. ’85P, who is President. The company is the largest group purchasing organization focused on the specialty pharmaceutical industry and manages the largest national network of specialty pharmacies. It also offers technology solutions and patient support services that help manufacturer partners meet their obligations to patients and regulators efficiently and effectively.

Despite their success, the Irenes do not forget their roots. “Both my sons were good athletes,” Sandy explained. “They could have gone to other schools but chose to follow in my footsteps, something of which I am very proud.” To give back, every year the family sponsors conference attendance for between four and eight St. John’s students, and also funds the Sandy Irene and Family Scholarship Fund for need-based scholarships. “It is important for students to attend the conference because the opportunities in specialty pharmacy are mind-boggling,” said Sandy.

The second generation Irenes also share this deep connection to the College. “Everything I learned at St. John’s has contributed to my success,” said Lawrence. “The school helped me to develop the skills to help solve today’s healthcare issues, and I also gained lasting relationships with teachers and peers that I value.”

The spirit of service is strong in the Irene family. Interested in defining the specialty category and promoting collaboration in the specialty pharmacy sector, Asembia established the annual Specialty Pharmacy Summit in 2005. The four-day event featuring workshops, seminars, exhibits, continuing education programs, and industry-leading speakers has become the largest specialty pharmacy conference in the United States. More than 6,500 individuals attended the 2018 event, breaking the attendance record for the 13th consecutive year.

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What is better than having one member of the Piracha family among College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences alumni? Why, having four family members, of course!

Tooba Piracha ’14Pharm.D., who currently lives in Richmond, VA, and balances caring for a young family and work in a long-term care pharmacy, was the first to choose St. John’s. “When I visited the University and met so many people from various backgrounds, I felt comfortable right away,” she said.

A campus visit also convinced her brother, Fawad Piracha ’16Pharm.D., that the College was right for him. He recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Pharmacovigilance/Risk Management at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, where he is currently employed.

For brothers Zachary Piracha ’17Pharm.D., who also became a Postdoctoral Fellow, Pharmacovigilance/Risk Management, at Regeneron, and Andrew Piracha ’20Pharm.D., cousins to Tooba and Fawad, the family connection was an important factor in their choice of college. Both brothers had been accepted to other pharmacy programs on scholarships but felt the pull of family. “With my brother and cousins at St. John’s, I felt that I would have people I trusted to advise me,” Andrew explained. “It would be a bit of home away from home.”

Once on campus, the Pirachas wasted no time in getting the most from their St. John’s experience, particularly through service activities. “Among the main reasons for coming here were the University’s values,” Fawad explained. “Although I am of a different faith, the Vincentian values are aligned with my own, and I found that attractive.”

Each member of the family served as an officer in one or more student organizations, some of them going on to participate on a national basis. These experiences have proven invaluable. “The skills I developed as a student leader—collaboration, planning, working toward a common goal—are probably the most important ones I gained in school in terms of my personal development,” Fawad said.

Service activities also provided personal growth. Zachary remembers one special moment. “I went to a nursing home on a service-learning project and encountered a woman with severe Alzheimer’s,” he recalled. “The experience put things in perspective for me. It dawned on me how precious our relationships are and how we have to appreciate things.”

For Tooba, service helped broaden her understanding of other cultures. “St. John’s gave me many opportunities on and off campus to interact with people of so many different backgrounds,” she said. “As a healthcare provider, this exposure was so important to becoming a better pharmacist. I learned not to judge people or assume that everyone is the same.” St. Vincent would be proud.
Two New Degree Programs Launch

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences

The College welcomed 120 students in the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences degree program in the fall of 2017. The degree consists of two tracks: an administrative track (136 credit hours) that prepares students for graduate programs emphasizing administrative and policy components (e.g., healthcare administration or Master in Public Health programs) and a basic science track (138 credit hours) that prepares students for pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, occupational therapy programs, and other patient-centered healthcare professions. The scientifically rigorous program emphasizes clinical sciences such as anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, toxicology, and administrative sciences such as healthcare policy and administration.

With careers in healthcare and health sciences evolving rapidly, the College received an impressive 1,115 applications submitted to the program, attesting to the degree’s relevance today. Seventy-one percent of the applicants were female, and 29 percent were male. Of the enrolled students, 63 percent were from Manhattan, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties; 24 percent were first generation students; and 47 percent were Pell Grant-eligible. The mean high school average for this first class was 91.2.

Master of Science in Physician Assistant

The Master of Science in Physician Assistant (PA) degree program will transition the College’s current Physician Assistant B.S. and certificate program to a three-year graduate degree. At present, 92 percent of the PA programs in the United States offer a master’s degree, and the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant now requires colleges to offer entry-level education at the Master of Science degree level in order to be accredited.

The 84-credit graduate program incorporates two essential components: classroom/laboratory-based learning at the University and clinical training at various practice sites in New York City and beyond. The first two years integrate medical, behavioral, and social sciences to develop a comprehensive approach to patient care. The third year of the program is dedicated to clinical training, providing supervised, hands-on training by physicians and physician assistants at affiliated sites.

The College is accepting applications for the first class of students who will enter in the fall of 2019. Seats are limited to 75 students, and early application is encouraged. To apply, you must complete an application with the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA).
Alumni serve a valuable role in opening doors and career paths for our students. The annual Alumni Insider’s View (AIV) event in the Washington, DC, area, in which alumni share their workplace experiences, gives students a firsthand look at various pharmacy professional settings. The benefits of these encounters are immeasurable. For example, a student participating in our 2018 AIV was able to obtain a rotation at the Association of Managed Care Pharmacists following the visit.

The college once again was pleased to reconnect with alumni at various professional events this past academic year. Successful, well-attended receptions were hosted at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA; the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX; and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Mid-Year Conference in Orlando, FL.
This year, students were fortunate to be able to visit new sites, including the AstraZeneca US facility in Gaithersburg, MD, one of the firm's three global research and development centers, and the prosthesis lab at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. A rotation at Walter Reed is planned for the coming year.

We can all remember the moment we put on our white coats for the first time, a symbol of our hard work and perseverance. This important ritual was made more special by the generosity of alumni who sponsored every white coat for the class of 2017.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our alumni and appreciative of their efforts on behalf of the College and our students.
PRECEPTORS Of the Year

Marina Alayev
Physician Assistant, Northwell Health, Long Island Jewish Forest Hills
Physician Assistant Preceptor since 2014

Why do you like precepting our students?
I like precepting St. John’s students because they are ready, motivated, and willing to work hard and learn fast.

What is the best part of precepting?
The best part is seeing the enjoyment in students’ eyes when they are applying themselves and connecting their books to life.

Kareem P. Brown LRT (R) (CT)
Chief Technologist, Department of Radiology, Montefiore Medical Center, Westchester Square Campus
Radiological Sciences Preceptor since 2017

Would you recommend your colleagues to be a preceptor with the College and why?
Yes. I believe it is a great experience to work with students. It gives us, as technologists working in the field, the opportunity to have an impactful and lasting effect on the technologists of the future.

What do you like about precepting our students?
St. John’s students are engaged and eager to learn. They are willing to listen and accept constructive feedback.

Maria Mandrin ‘83MT, ’89MT(ASCP)
Clinical Laboratory Educator, St. Francis Hospital, The Heart Center
Clinical Laboratory Sciences Preceptor since 2011

What do you like about precepting our students?
St. John’s students come in with an eagerness to learn. They are well prepared to handle the tasks given to them during rotation.

What is your most memorable experience as a preceptor?
I have saved some touching thank-you cards and mementos sent by students in appreciation for the instruction they received while here on clinical rotations.

What is the best part of being a preceptor?
I like to see the students apply what they learned in school, at work, from experience, and from me.

Tom Meldon
Pharmacist, Plainview Hospital
Pharmacy Preceptor since 2013
Robert Downes, R.Ph., MPH  
Associate Director, Outpatient Pharmacy Services, NYU Langone Health  
Pharmacy Preceptor since 2010

What do you like about precepting our students?
I enjoy their enthusiasm and being able to allow students to tailor their experience at our site. We have multiple pharmacists with different pharmacy experiences, so students have a wealth of resources. St. John’s allows students to focus on learning real-life experiences. This method of learning works well. Our pharmacy staff offers their experience, and they challenge students to participate in the hospital/retail experience.

What is your most memorable experience as a preceptor?
I had one foreign student whose communication skills were different. After guidance, support, and plenty of real-life patient consultations, he left our site with the ability to provide consultations that were personal and concise, more like conversations. This was early in my precepting career, and I took great satisfaction and pride in this student’s accomplishments. It also reinforced that it is a privilege to be a preceptor. It is a learning experience not only for the student, but also for myself and our pharmacy staff.

Loyce Mol, Pharm.D., BCACP  
PGY-2 Ambulatory Care/HIV Residency Program Director at Northwell Health  
Pharmacy Preceptor since 2007

Would you recommend your colleagues to be a preceptor with the College and why?
Yes, I do recommend being a preceptor for St. John’s. It is a wonderful experience being able to assist pharmacy students on their path to becoming a pharmacist.

What is your most memorable experience as a preceptor?
One of my students was extremely shy and reserved. By the third week of my rotation a totally new attitude and interaction level came into place. I saw her develop self-confidence and motivation to do more than just graduate. She decided that she wanted to do a fellowship, so she followed through and got accepted.

What is the best part of being a preceptor?
The steady stream of potential talent is a big plus. I have hired 11 St. John’s students as interns, five of whom were then hired as pharmacists. The preceptor program gives me a month-long interview process where I get to know the student personally and in a professional environment. This has been very successful for my pharmacy.

Elisa Valenti ’06 Pharm.D.  
Pharmacy Director and Chief Clinical Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, and Quality Management Committee Chairman for Rx Plus Pharmacy

What do you like about precepting our students?
I recommend precepting students because they not only learn from us—we also learn from them. They keep me up to date on new drugs and technologies. It is inspiring to have bright, interesting, and motivated students in our workflow to keep us on top of our intellectual game.

What is the best part of being a preceptor?
Many students work as interns in community and hospital pharmacies and are not directly involved in patient care at the bedside. Preceptors give them the opportunity to apply their knowledge, make recommendations, and optimize patient care. I also enjoy seeing my students achieve their personal and professional goals.

Eric La ’13Pharm.D., BCPS  
Clinical Coordinator, Department of Pharmacy, Huntington Hospital  
Pharmacy Preceptor since 2013

What is the best part of being a preceptor?

Would you recommend your colleagues to be a preceptor with the College and why?
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College Establishes Student Congress
Following the University’s Catholic and Vincentian mission, students demonstrated 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.

SCCP Showcase Promotes Student Research
The Student College of Clinical Pharmacy sponsored their annual Peer Mentoring Showcase to promote student research. Fifteen groups, each including a fifth- or sixth-year team leader and three to four students newer to the program, presented final projects with topics that ranged from literature reviews and case studies to faculty interviews. The showcase exposes students in the early part of their careers to research and helps them prepare for future research presentations.

Drug Information Association Hosts Fellowship Panel
A fellowship can be a career boost for many students. The Drug Information Association invited five members of the Class of 2018 who received fellowship offers to discuss the process of applying for such an opportunity. The 30 students who attended learned valuable tips as they seek their own fellowship experience.

Tau Omega Chi Makes Toxicology Fun
In an effort to raise awareness of forensic toxicology as a career option, Tau Omega Chi held “The Trombetta Tragedy,” a murder mystery game in which six teams of students attempted to discover the poison and route of administration that “killed” Louis D. Trombetta, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. More than 70 students, faculty, and administrators attended the event, which raised more than $500 for the organization’s general fund. Following a miraculous recovery, Dr. Trombetta called the exercise “the event of the year.” More murder mysteries are planned.

Phi Delta Chi Organizes Regional Conference
Members of the Beta Alpha chapter of the Phi Delta Chi fraternity hosted the biannual regional conference of the organization’s 11 chapters in the Northeast in February. Approximately 130 brothers, including alumni, met for the weekend on campus to network, learn about industry trends, and discuss matters of importance to the fraternity.

In addition, during the academic year the Phi Delta Chi chapter held its second annual smoothie sale in the cafeteria in Marillac Hall and raised $360 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
AMCP, APhA, IPhO, and SSHP Promote Managed Care Careers
Careers in managed care pharmacy were the focus of a panel discussion and dinner cohosted by the student chapters of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacists, the American Pharmacists Association, the Industry Pharmacists Organization, and the Student Society of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Approximately 30 students benefited from the knowledge and experience of five alumni speakers: Lisa Anzisi, Pharm.D., BCPS, Manager of Pharmacy Utilization Management, NYU Langone Health; Swati Shah ‘11Pharm.D., Senior Manager, Healthfirst; Craig Schmidt ‘06Pharm.D., Director, Clinical Pharmacy Operations, Healthfirst; Tasmiya Khan ‘11Pharm.D., Pharmacist Consultant, Director, Solid Benefit Guidance; and Jane Leung ‘83P, Director, State Pharmacy, WellCare Health Plans, Inc.

SHPH Promotes Residency and Fellowship Showcase
Representatives from 40 residency and fellowship programs in the region visited the Queens campus last fall to meet with students and provide information about the qualifications and application process for their residency and fellowship programs. It was an exceptional learning opportunity for pharmacy students.

SCCP and PA Students Handle Sim Man Case
During an exercise in interprofessional collaboration, members of the Student College of Clinical Pharmacy and the Physician Assistant Student Organization worked together under faculty supervision in the Patient Assessment Laboratory to treat Sim Man, a “patient” with an asthma exacerbation. The PA students diagnosed Sim Man and monitored his vital signs while 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.

SHPH Industry Spotlight Features Alumna
At the invitation of the Industrial Pharmacy Organization, Ana Marija Djordjevic ‘16Pharm.D., Senior Medical Information Manager at AstraZeneca, visited the Queens campus to discuss her career path. She described her job responsibilities and the skills needed to succeed in industry. The event offered students valuable career insight.

APhA-ASP Chapter Wins National Award
The College’s American Pharmacists Association–Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter was selected by the national organization to receive its Chapter Professionalism Award. This award recognizes a chapter’s effort to promote professionalism through such programs as leadership workshops, media promotions, guest speakers, community service activities, mentoring programs, and similar initiatives.

As part of its service programs, the chapter’s Over-the Counter (OTC) Medication Safety Committee was invited to a Girl Scout meeting at the United Methodist Church in Floral Park, NY, to help the girls and their parents learn about OTC drugs. Using games and other interactive techniques, pharmacy students discussed proper use of nonprescription medications and the role of the pharmacist.

Kappa Psi Event Makes the Holiday Season Happier for Children in Need
At the second annual Winter Wonderland event, the Kappa Psi chapter raised $210 for Toys for Tots and collected more than 50 toys and board games for distribution to needy children. More than 60 people enjoyed an evening of music, games, and dinner provided by the restaurant chain QDOBA Mexican Eats.
FACULTY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL HEALTH PROFESSIONS (CHP) AND THEIR STUDENTS SHARED THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE THROUGH ARTICLES IN PRESTIGIOUS JOURNALS AND PRESENTATIONS AT LEADING CONFERENCES HERE AND ABROAD DURING THIS PAST ACADEMIC YEAR.

AS AN INTERPROFESSIONAL DEPARTMENT, OUR FACULTY TEACH IN THE DOCTOR OF PHARMACY, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, RADIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, AND CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES PROGRAMS OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES AND COMMIT THEMSELVES TO IMPARTING THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NECESSARY FOR OUR STUDENTS TO BECOME COMPETENT, ETHICAL, COMPASSIONATE, AND CULTURALLY SENSITIVE MEMBERS OF THE HEALTHCARE TEAM. FACULTY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES ARE DEDICATED TO IMPROVING PATIENT CARE TO THOSE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

INTERPROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The CHP department faculty continue to collaborate on interprofessional activities, which are an important part of contemporary healthcare and accreditation standards. Listed below are selected works:

Carmela Avena-Woods

Khusbu Patel

Bill Maidhof
Faculty Moderator, Hofstra Medication Adherence Program. An interprofessional educational activity for P1 Doctor of Pharmacy students, along with College of Medicine students, held at the Hofstra University School of Medicine, April 26, 2017.

International Conference on Communication in Healthcare & Health Literacy Annual Research Conference (October 9, 2017, Baltimore, MD). Simulated versus non-simulated interprofessional activities among pharmacy and physician assistant students (oral presentation).

Popplewell C., Block L., Hirschwerk D., Lavine N., Lu C., Mazzola N., Chim C.


INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Faculty from the CHP department have participated in a variety of international collaborations to enhance the education of students in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Medical Missions
Drs. Ebtesam Ahmed, Manouchkathé Cassagnol, and Chung-Shien Lee incorporated students enrolled in their advanced pharmacy practice experience courses into medical mission trips to care for patients in Guatemala and Jamaica.

Drs. Tina J. Kanmaz and Chung-Shien Lee, in conjunction with others from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, met with Taipei Medical University, College of Pharmacy, to develop a global Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience for pharmacy students. The goal is to send up to six students to Taipei during the 2018–19 academic year.

Dr. Tina J. Kanmaz and others from the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences met with the Office of International Relations at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali to discuss development of a Spanish Immersion experience for the College’s students. They identified an opportunity for pharmacy and health science students to participate in daily medical Spanish didactic instruction and utilize medical Spanish in a collaborative, interprofessional, simulation laboratory. The College is currently planning to execute this initiative in the near future.


• Barriers to Cancer Pain Management: a Global Perspective
• Frontiers of Cancer Pain Management in Cancer Supportive Care

• Venous Thromboembolism in Cancer Patients

STUDENT COLLABORATIONS

CHP Faculty served as mentors for more than 20 student posters and publications this year at various pharmacy conferences. Examples of such works include

Articles (Peer-reviewed)


STUDENT POSTERS

2017 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, Orlando, FL, December 2017
Talreja, O. (Author), Ignatov, E. (Author), Khorassani, F. E., ASHP Student Poster Presentation Session, “Evaluation of Appropriateness of Long-acting Injectable Antipsychotic Prescribing at an Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital.”
Ignatov, E. (Author), Talreja, O. (Author), Khorassani, F. E., ASHP Student Poster Presentation Session, “Evaluation of Prescribing Patterns of Long-acting Injectable Antipsychotic Prescribing at an Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital.”

Fung, G. M. (Author), Luther, K. (Author), Khorassani, F. E., ASHP Student Poster Presentation Session, “Medication Use Evaluation of Prescribing Patterns of Paliperidone at an Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital.”


Lee K.(UG), Cheng B.(UG), Maisch N. M., Saad M. Prevalence and Awareness of Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Use of ADHD Drug Therapy among College Age Students.

Gayed M.(UG), Hassoun R.(UG), Barsoum M.(UG), Maisch N. M., Saad M. Retrospective analysis on the incidence of falls in 2016 in patients taking medications associated with fall risk.

Hassoun R.(UG), Gayed M.(UG), Barsoum M.(UG), Maisch N. M., Saad M. Retrospective analysis of falls in 2015 and 2016 in patients taking antihypertensive medications.

Jain S.(UG), Hom V.(UG), Zhao C.(UG), Maisch N. M., Saad M. Retrospective analysis on the incidence of falls in 2016 in patients taking medications associated with fall risk. Effect of a Palliative Care Consult on Medication Management.


Hematology Oncology Pharmacist Association (HOPA) Annual Conference, Denver, CO, March 2018


Lee C. S., Reale Z. (UG), Ahn S., Devoe C., Lee M. A retrospective review of an integrated pharmacy care model for oral anticancer agents.

APhA Annual Meeting 2018, Nashville, TN, March 2018

Fung M.(UG), Liu V.(UG), Seo J., Maisch N. M., Saad M. Clinical evaluation for potential use of sacubitril/valsartan in heart failure treatment at Long Island Jewish Medical Center.
THE FACULTY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES CONTINUED THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2017–18 ACADEMIC YEAR, AS DEMONSTRATED BY PUBLICATION OF 70 PEER-REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS; 120 SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS AT LOCAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIA; THE PUBLICATION OF THREE BOOKS AND SIX BOOK CHAPTERS; 30 INVITED LECTURES; AND THE ACQUISITION OF $900,000 IN EXTERNAL SCIENTIFIC FUNDING.

IN THE PAST YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT AWARDED EIGHT PH.D. DEGREES IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES; SEVEN MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES IN INDUSTRIAL PHARMACY; FOUR MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES IN PHARMACOLOGY; THREE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES IN TOXICOLOGY; TWO MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES IN PHARMACOTHERAPEUTICS; AND ONE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY.

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE NINE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREES AWARDED IN BIOLOGICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY, WHICH IS A JOINT PROGRAM WITH THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH SCIENCES AND ST. JOHN’S COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES. ZHE SHENG (JASON) CHEN, M.D., PH.D., PROFESSOR OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES, IS THE 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.

OUTSTANDING INITIATIVES, AWARDS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

S. William (Sandy) Zito, Ph.D., was awarded the 2017 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Robert K. Chalmer’s Distinguished Pharmacy Educator Award on July 16, 2017, at the opening general session of Pharmacy Education 2017, the AACP annual meeting in Nashville, TN. This is one of the highest awards given in Pharmacy Education and was bestowed in recognition of Dr. Zito’s excellence as a teacher, his outstanding achievements as an author and mentor, and his overall impact on pharmacy education and the profession.

Vikas V. Dukhande, Ph.D., was awarded an NIH Score-2 Grant entitled “Clues from a rare neurodegenerative disease toward target identification for diabetes mellitus” for $492,000 over three years. Dr. Dukhande will apply his knowledge and research on Lafora disease to identify more effective treatment strategies for the far more common disease, diabetes mellitus.

Zhe‐Sheng (Jason) Chen, M.D., Ph.D., organized the First International Cancer Pharmacology Conference at St. John’s University, which was held from December 13 to 16, 2017, and attended by 130 scientists from around the world. Dr. Chen is the principal investigator for an NIH R15 with funding of $250,000 over three years.

Dr. Chen’s team has discovered and reported that several new small molecule kinase inhibitors can enhance the therapeutic effect of conventional anticancer therapies. Dr. Chen is the editor of one book, the author of two book chapters, an author on 19 peer-reviewed publications, and he and his lab made 18 symposia presentations. He was invited to give eight lectures at universities and conferences around the world.

Jerome O. Cantor, Ph.D., and his laboratory have developed a new marker for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) based on the ratio of two biomarkers of the disease, desmosine and isodesmosine. This new test has the potential to be used as a screening procedure of smokers and others at risk for developing COPD. In the past year, Dr. Cantor also published seven peer-reviewed articles on lung disease and three poems.

Joanne M. Carroll, Ph.D., 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. In this program, students and faculty from St. John’s join incarcerated young adults in Rikers Island and Queensboro Correctional Facility 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.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


*student
FACULTY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN SCHOLARSHIP, TEACHING, AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2017–18 ACADEMIC YEAR. A TOTAL OF EIGHT GRANT PROPOSALS (FIVE INTERNAL AND THREE EXTERNAL) WERE SUBMITTED FOR FUNDING AND FOUR WERE SELECTED. THE FACULTY ALSO PUBLISHED 26 ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS.

To enhance the quality of our graduate education, we continue to develop the curriculum for our new Health Economics and Outcomes Research track by preparing new courses, including Patient-Reported Outcomes Measures and Health Care Finance and Reimbursement. To further support our students in their studies, the department invited several guest speakers to give seminars on emerging topics and presentations on research reports.

Our students also gave poster and podium presentations during this past academic year at meetings in Baltimore, MD; Chicago, IL; and at St. John’s University. In addition, our faculty presented at various meetings:

- **Yolene Gousse, Dr.Ph.**, presented “Correlates of 12-month HIV testing among U.S and foreign-born, high-risk Black heterosexual men in a high-risk metropolitan area” at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

- **Preety Gadhoke, Ph.D.**, was an invited guest lecturer on the application of digital methods in public health remotely for Natalie Underberg-Goode, Ph.D., at the University of Central Florida.


- **Wenchen Wu, Ph.D.**, was a keynote speaker at the Educational Symposium for the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation World Congress, which was held in August 2017, in Taipei, Taiwan.

- **Jagannath M. Muzumdar, Ph.D.**, was named Interim Director of Co-curriculum Activities. As Interim Director, he is responsible for all areas of the curriculum and will work with the Curriculum and Educational Policy Committee for the Pharm.D. program, the Committee on Assessment and Outcomes, and the Committee on Student Affairs, as well as interested faculty, to operationalize, implement, and assess the curriculum. In addition, Dr. Muzumdar was nominated to serve as Grand Marshal at graduation in the spring.

In November 2017, **Dr. Wu**, along with **Tina J. Kanmaz, Pharm.D.**, and **Chung-Shien Lee, Pharm.D.**, traveled to Taipei Medical University College of Pharmacy to develop clinical rotations for sixth-year Pharm.D. students. In addition, Dr. Wu is mentoring three visiting scholars from China: Dongying Jiang of Fujian Vocational College of Bioengineering, Wanzhong Li, M.D., of Weifang Medical University, and Zeng Zhen, M.S. from Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Our Master of Public Health (MPH) program continues to develop. For the fourth year, the MPH program celebrated National Public Health Week on the Queens campus. This year it was held from April 2 to 8 and included a series of educational
programs, invited talks, a health fair, and other activities coordinated with the assistance of faculty and staff from the College and staff from the Department of Student Wellness.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Gadhoke, Preety**
- April 15–17, 2018, GSL 5: Dignity and Justice in Global Service Learning
- April 3–7, 2018, Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting.
  International oral presentation of an original article, “Urban farming, community gardens, and innovations in sustainable futures for food security and health promotion.” [Gadhoke P., Brenton B.].
  International oral presenter on “Depicting an anthropologically informed portrait of an urban community-based organization offering food and nutrition, social and spiritual well-being support.” [Gadhoke P., Brenton B.].

**Gousse, Yolene**
- November 4–8, 2017, American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.
- April 9, 2018, National Public Health Week and April 19, 2018, University Research Day

**Gu, Senn (Anna)**
- Muzumdar, Jagannath M. et al., Overview of Structured Co-curricular Plan at St John’s University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. Accepted as a school poster to be presented at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy annual meeting in Boston, MA, July 21–24 2018. (The other 22 authors on this poster are all faculty in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at St. John’s University).
Nayak, Rajesh


Wu, Wenchen

Wu W. Keynote speaker at the Educational Symposium for the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation World Congress, held in August 2017 in Taipei, Taiwan.


Schweiger K., Santoriello L., Maisch N.M., Wu W., Smith C., Barrera R. Effect of phenylephrine versus norepinephrine on 28-day mortality and surgical ICU length of stay in septic shock patients: a retrospective analysis. The 52nd ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, December 2017, Orlando, FL

O’Donohue P., Chu A., Santoriello L., Maisch N.M., Wu W., Smith C., Barrera R., Comparative Incidence of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in Critically Ill Patients Receiving Vancomycin with Concomitant Piperacillin-Tazobactam, Imipenem, or Meropenem: A Retrospective Matched Cohort Study. The 52nd ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, December 2017, Orlando, FL


Talwar A., Jiang D., Wu W. Apixaban Compared with Low Molecular Weight Heparins for Thromboprophylaxis Among the Patients at Risk
as per Virchow’s Triad: A Systematic Review And Meta – Analysis. St. John’s University

• Jiang D., Talwar A., Kumar A., Wu W., Cost-Effectiveness of Edoxaban Compared with Low Molecular Weight Heparin/Vitamin Kantagonist (Lmwh/Vka) for the Treatment of Venous Thromboembolism. St. John’s University


PUBLICATIONS

Gadhoke, Preety


Gousse, Yolene
• Perceived Stress and Social Support Among HIV-Infected and Uninfected Women In a Community-Based Health Promotion Program. Journal of Community Health, 14 pages, Authors: Yolene Gousse, Denise Bruno, Michael A. Joseph, Aimee Afable, Mardge H. Cohen, Kathleen M. Weber, Joel Milam, Rebecca M. Schwartz, RPR (Accepted for publication, May 2018).

Gu, Senn (Anna)


Muzumdar, Jagannath

Nayak, Rajeeh


Pal, Somnath

• Influenza and Pneumonia Vaccination in Diabetic; US Pharm. 2018: 43(4):45.


• Epidemiology of Chronic Lung Diseases; US Pharm. 2017: 42(7):8.


Wu, Wenchen
2018 graduation
### Undergraduate and Entry Level Degrees

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**Grand Total**                                      | 37       | 21      | 351     | 409      |