


# PITTPHARMACY

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | WINTER 2018-2019



REMEMBER  
&  
ANTICIPATE





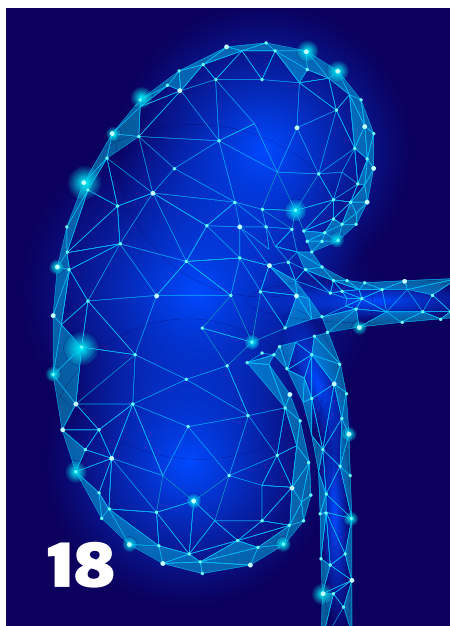


PittPharmacy Faculty, Staff and Students gather one last time in the 8th Floor Lab in Salk Hall.



# PITTPHARMACY

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | WINTER 2018-2019



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## From My Desk

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Dear Friends,

**IF GREAT NEWS COMES IN THREES**, then PittPharmacy has received great news in three categories. I share our news so you can join in our excitement and pride about our research, our educational programs, and our major renovation of Salk Hall.

The excellence of our research has attracted new resources. We have established a **PharmacoAnalytics Program** that is unique in its broad scope, a partnership with Thermo Fisher to establish a **Pharmacogenomics Center of Excellence**, and the **Pennsylvania Overdose Reduction Technical Assistance Program**; the latter extends assistance through 47 of 67 counties in the Commonwealth. In the latest year's research rankings, PittPharmacy was #10 in all funding sources.

In education, PittPharmacy faculty received the AACP 2018 Rufus A. Lyman Award for the paper that will have the biggest impact on pharmacy education that was published in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education. This award is our **fifth (5th!) from AACP related to education in seven years**. Faculty have also received the Innovation in Teaching Award twice (2014 and 2015) and the Excellence in Assessment Award twice (2012 and 2017).

Have you heard the news about Salk Hall? Yes, **Salk Hall will be undergoing an incredible renovation** from floors 4 through 11—all of pharmacy space. “We” are lifting ceilings, using glass walls to allow light into corridors, adding classrooms, and overall creating more efficient floor plans. Many faculty and staff, (including me!), moved to temporary space. A few drawings are found in the magazine.

I have much more to share, including our work in the community, amazing student accomplishments, shaping patient care and the Pitt Innovator of the Year Award received by Lisa Rohan, PhD. I save some of this good news for another day.

I close my letter with an acknowledgement and thoughts about the tragic events that have occurred in Pittsburgh and throughout our country. Jose-Alain Sahel, MD, Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, moved from Paris to Pittsburgh after hate crimes in 2012. In his editorial entitled “Facing Hatred” (*Science*, November 9, 2018), Dr. Sahel states that as health professionals and scientists who have an education rooted in science, “we are tasked with building a society of knowledge and care, where truth, integrity, and respect for all prevail... This is now, as ever, our inheritance.”

I ask that we as individuals and members of our PittPharmacy family come together to breathe life into our values, which includes the statement that “We foster... respect for the individual.” Let us stand strong in moving toward a greater understanding of and an enhanced respect for the different beliefs and characteristics that bring vitality to our communities.

Hail to PittPharmacy!

Patricia D. Kroboth, Dean

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### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY LEADERSHIP

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Editing and Production: **University of Pittsburgh Communication Services**  
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Contributing Photographers: **Rebecca Bailey, Jan K. Shaw**  
Contributing Writer: **Niki Kapsambelis**



# Awards & Accolades

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI



Katelyn Rudzik (Class of 2020) incoming ASP President, Dean Patricia Kroboth, and Sarah Hunt (Class of 2019) current ASP President

## Dean Kroboth Receives APhA-ASP Outstanding Dean Award

Patricia D. Kroboth, PhD Dean, School of Pharmacy, Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Distinguished Service Professor, was selected as the 2018 APhA-ASP Outstanding Dean recipient. This award recognizes a dean who has made significant contributions to the APhA-ASP Chapter and promoted with distinction the welfare of student pharmacists through various community service, leadership, and professional activities. Kroboth was nominated for this award by Katelyn Rudzik, on behalf of the Pitt APhA-ASP chapter. The nomination focused on Kroboth's commitment to APhA-ASP as a whole, and her dedication to students developing their own personalized education. Kroboth facilitates and encourages student self-governance and innovation in order to accomplish more for the profession. She holds students to a high standard of professionalism. The nomination included letters from the APhA-ASP chapter and recommendations written on behalf of Dean Kroboth from various students, faculty, alumni, and community members.

Dean Kroboth received the award during the APhA-ASP Awards Celebration at the APhA 2018 Annual Meeting & Exposition in Nashville, Tennessee. "The message to all students is to set goals –AND be open to opportunities that can move you in a new direction. I am truly committed to student pharmacists because YOU will shape my beloved profession that has treated me so well." Dean Patricia Kroboth.



PittPharmacy students Lindsay Jablonski and Mary Grace Fitzmaurice

## Students Win Clinical Skills Competition at the ASHP Midyear Meeting!

PittPharmacy students Lindsay Jablonski and Mary Grace Fitzmaurice competed against teams from 134 other schools of pharmacy to take first place in the Clinical Skills Competition at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting. The competition requires students to evaluate a patient case and develop a prioritized treatment plan, including goals of therapy, treatment recommendations and monitoring parameters. The teams with the highest scores on their written cases defend their treatment plans to a panel of judges. A team wins based on the combined score from the written and oral components. The semi-final round required teams to develop a written treatment plan for an older adult with community-acquired pneumonia and COPD, among other tertiary health problems. The PittPharmacy team of Fitzmaurice and Jablonski received the highest score on their written treatment plan and after adding the scores from their oral presentation, took first place in the competition.





Front row: Scott Drab, Neal Benedict, Pamela Smithburger, and Susan Meyer. Back row: Amy Seybert, Thomas Waters, John Lutz, Lawrence Kobulinsky, Amy Calabrese Donihi, and Deborah Farkas. Missing from photo: Philip Empey

### Benedict and Team Honored for Outstanding Work in National Pharmacy Journal

Associate Professor Neal Benedict and co-authors have been awarded the 2018 Rufus A. Lyman Award by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. This award is presented annually to the author(s) of the best paper published in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education. The manuscripts are judged by utility and significance to pharmacy education, originality, research methodology and writing style.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) honored Neal Benedict, PharmD, Pamela Smithburger, PharmD, Amy Calabrese Donihi, PharmD, Philip Empey, PharmD, PhD, Lawrence Kobulinsky, Amy Seybert, PharmD, Thomas Waters, Scott Drab, PharmD, John Lutz, BS, Deborah Farkas, PhD, and Susan Meyer, PhD, from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and the WISER Education and Simulation Facility in July at the AACCP Annual Meeting in Boston.

The paper, “Blended Simulation Progress Testing for Assessment of Practice Readiness,” outlines the development of a five-station, blended simulation assessment that was developed to evaluate patient care outcomes in first- and third-year pharmacy (P1 and P3) students, as well as first-year postgraduate (PGY1) pharmacy residents. This assessment of practice readiness includes knowledge and performance evaluations administered as a progress test. To learn more about the outcome, visit the AJPE website.

“Dr. Benedict and colleagues have provided excellent evidence in how to help our students advance in their knowledge and practice readiness using a blended simulation testing approach,” said AJPE Editor-in-Chief Gayle Brazeau, Ph.D., professor at the University of New England College of Pharmacy. “In addition, this research advances pharmacy education in how this testing approach can inform curricular advancement to align curricular content, process and outcomes with accreditation standards.”



Seated: Philip Empey, Karryn Crisamore, Inmaculada Hernandez. Standing: Lin Huang, James Stevenson, Carlo Iasella, Linda Prebehalla and James Coons. Missing from photo: Lucas Berenbrok and Solomon Adams

### PittPharmacy Leads New Pharmacogenomics Center of Excellence

The University of Pittsburgh and Thermo Fisher Scientific have established a new Pharmacogenomics Center of Excellence in the School of Pharmacy that aims to discover and validate medication response predictors in patients, overcome implementation barriers, and demonstrate the value of genetic testing to guide medication prescribing in routine clinical practice. Pharmacogenomics is the study of how genetic variation impacts medication responses. The Center extends highly successful pharmacogenomics (PGx) clinical implementation, research, and education programs including PreCISE-Rx and Test2Learn that are already implemented in Pittsburgh. Through the collaboration, Thermo Fisher’s portfolio of state-of-the-art pharmacogenomics testing solutions will be used to study preemptive panel-based PGx testing and return results in at least 150,000 patients in western and central Pennsylvania. The project will also immediately leverage Pitt+Me Discovery, the new institutional bio-repository developed by the Clinical and Translational Science (CTSI). Collaborations with UPMC, UPMC Healthplan, and UPMC Enterprises will contribute data and technology innovations. Assistant Professor Philip Empey, PharmD, PhD, associate director for pharmacogenomics in the Institute for Precision Medicine and the Clinical and Translational Institute will lead the Center. PittPGx team members James Coons, PharmD, BCPS (AQ CV), James M. Stevenson, PharmD, MS, BCPP, Solomon Adams, PharmD, PhD, Lucas A. Berenbrok, PharmD, MS, Inmaculada Hernandez, PharmD, PhD, Karryn Crisamore, PharmD, Linda Prebehalla, Lin Huang, PhD and Carlo Iasella, PharmD, BCPS will advance precision medicine implementation science, analytics, bioinformatics, economics, and education with partners in CTSI and Thermo Fisher through the initiative.



### The Fourth National Script Your Future Win!!!

The PharmD Class of 2020 won the National Script Your Future Award for Creative Interprofessional Collaboration at the 2018 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting in Boston. The award marks the fourth win for either the national or a category award. Receiving the award, left to right, are Melissa McGivney, PharmD, student Jessica Hu, the National Consumer League representative, PharmD student Kiana Green and Dean Patricia Kroboth. See the PittPharmacy students on the national Web site <http://www.scriptyourfuture.org/>. The award is sponsored by the National Consumer League.

### CLIP Wins Merit Awards from APhA

PittPharmacy's research from the Community Leadership, Innovation, and Practice (CLIP) Center was recognized at the 2018 Annual Meeting & Exposition of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). Research led by faculty, staff, and students earned the CLIP Center three Presentation Merit Awards following poster presentation in Nashville, Tennessee March 2018.

Only 8 Presentation Merit Awards are awarded at the Annual Meeting. Three CLIP Center projects were awarded with the prestigious Merit Award from a pool of 542 poster abstract submissions!

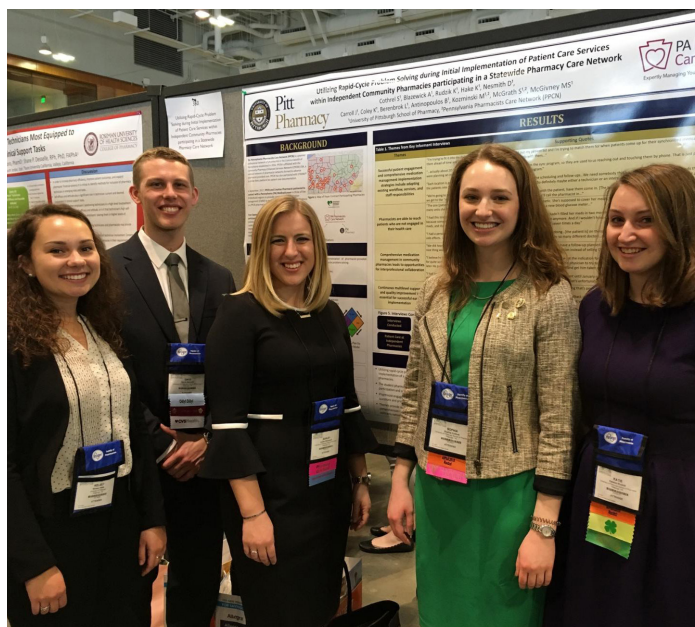
Faculty in the Community Leadership and Innovation in Practice Center in conjunction with Giant Eagle Pharmacy were recipients of a 2018 APhA Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management Presentation Merit Award for their poster presentation entitled, "Pandemic Vaccine Strategic Planning at a Regional Grocery Store Chain Pharmacy." This award recognized presenters on practice-related subjects made at the APhA Annual Meeting poster session. PittPharmacy investigators on this project included Kim Coley, PharmD, FCCP, Lucas Berenbrok, PharmD, MS and Deanne Hall, PharmD, CDE, BCACP. Investigators from Giant Eagle Pharmacy included Chiara Gessler, Renee Richardson, Chrissy Moore, Jonathan Kovac, and John DeJames. This work was supported through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

A second Merit Award was received by PittPharmacy faculty and students for their presentation "Utilizing Rapid-Cycle Problem Solving during Initial Implementation of Patient Care Services within Independent Community Pharmacies participating in a Statewide Pharmacy Care Network." Participants included PittPharmacy PharmD students Kelsey Hake, David Nesmith, Ashley Blazewick, Sophia Cothrel, and Katelyn Rudzik. Drs. Melissa S. McGivney, Lucas Berenbrok, Joni Carroll, Kim Coley, Melinda Kozminski, and Brandon Antinopoulos also participated.

The third award was presented to PittPharmacy for their presentation, "A Value-based Model for Incentivizing Adult Immunizations at Community Pharmacies." Participants include Lucas Berenbrok, Hannah Renner, Melissa Somma McGivney, and Kim Coley.



Script Your Future Winners: PittPharmacy



PittPharmacy PharmD students Kelsey Hake, David Nesmith, Ashley Blazewick, Sophia Cothrel, Katelyn Rudzik





Operation Diabetes Awardees



Susan M. Meyer

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### **APhA-ASP Wins 2016-2017 Operation Diabetes Award**

PittPharmacy's APhA-ASP chapter won the 2016-2017 Operation Diabetes Award for Region 2 at the Midyear Regional Meeting, Fall 2017. The chapter's work with Rock the Block and their collaboration within and outside of the pharmacy school left a great impression with the awards committee. Rock the Block was a Health and Wellness Fair held with the cooperation with local businesses, Uncover Squirrel Hill, Squirrel Hill Coalition, Giant Eagle, and Pure Barre. PittPharmacy worked closely with other health science schools at the university including, Pitt Dental Medicine, School of Nursing, and School of Nutrition to educate patients about prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diabetes. By hosting a fun event, with exercise classes, music, and games, Pitt Pharmacy advocated for both the profession of pharmacy and diabetes education. Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, Operation Diabetes created 5 new projects, hosted eleven events, and saw 3,013 patients with 192 chapter members were involved in the operation. Through public relations, the operation was able to reach 216,100 patients through the Talk to Your Pharmacist Bus Campaign, Eyes on Diabetes Social Media Campaign, and various print media. The Operation Diabetes committee made great strides to impact patients last year and we are very proud of this award for their work.

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### **Meyer Appointed National President of Rho Chi Society**

Susan M. Meyer, PhD, associate dean for education, was installed as national president of The Rho Chi Society on March 2018, at the Society's annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Meyer will serve a two-year term as president. As the academic honor society in pharmacy, the Rho Chi Society encourages and recognizes intellectual achievement; stimulates critical inquiry to advance pharmacy; contributes to the development of intellectual leaders; promotes highest ethical standards; and fosters collaboration. The Rho Chi Society seeks to advance pharmacy through intellectual leadership.





Distinguished Alumni Fellow Gordon Vanscoy with Chancellor Patrick Gallagher

### Gordon Vanscoy, '88 Receives University's Highest Award

Chancellor Patrick Gallagher recently named Gordon J. Vanscoy, PharmD, MBA, CACP the university's Distinguished Alumni Fellow at a special ceremony on the Oakland campus. Vanscoy currently serves as the associate dean for business innovation and associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics in Pitt's School of Pharmacy. He previously founded UPMC's Drug Information and Pharmacoepidemiology Center, developed one of the nation's first anticoagulation clinic services, and in 2008, received the School of Pharmacy's Distinguished Alumni Award. Gordon and his wife Bethann jointly support programs such as the School of Pharmacy's annual White Coat Ceremony, the Naples Winter Academy, and the Dr. Gordon Vanscoy Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences endowed professorship.

### PittPharmacy Couple Receive WVPA Awards

PittPharmacy alumni Drs. Mark and Gretchen Garofoli were recently awarded by the West Virginia Pharmacist Association for their outstanding work in their pharmacy careers at the West Virginia Pharmacist Association Annual Convention, August 2018.

Gretchen Kreckel Garofoli, PharmD, was awarded the 2018 Excellence In Innovation Award. Gretchen practices at Waterfront Family Pharmacy in Morgantown, and is a Clinical Associate Professor at West Virginia University School of Pharmacy. While practicing at Waterfront, she also serves as a residency primary preceptor and site coordinator for the school's PGY-1 Community Based Residency Program. She has provided oversight and direction as the pharmacy received status as an AADE accredited program for diabetes-self management education. She also helped the pharmacy develop its successful medication synchronization program and served as a co-investigator for research in this area that was recently published by the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association.

Mark Garofoli, PharmD, MBA, BCGP, CPE, was awarded the Generation Rx Champion's Award for his work within the fields of pain management, substance-use disorder (i.e. addiction), and drug diversion. Focusing on these fields for the past three years, he has ultimately become known as an expert and certified pain educator (CPE). One of the most notable accomplishments is his development and coordination of a panel of pain management experts from throughout West Virginia, which led to the development of the pain management guidelines for the state. The resulting West Virginia Safe & Effective Management of Pain (SEMP) Guidelines have been reviewed and utilized across the state, nation, and globe via multiple dissemination routes.



Mark and Gretchen Garofoli





Philip E. Empey

### **Empey Receives University 2018 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award**

Assistant Professor Philip E. Empey, PharmD, PhD was the recipient of the University of Pittsburgh 2018 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. The award recognizes the considerable impact Empey has on the teaching mission of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics in the School of Pharmacy. His individual efforts stand as an inspiring example of excellence in the role of University teacher. Empey was a leader in the development of the program "Test<sub>2</sub>Learn™", which allows students to use their own genetic information to answer questions about drug therapy. He earned the 2014 Provost's Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence award along with the 2015 Innovation in Teaching Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. For related work, Empey also received the 2017 Teacher of the Year award from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. As the creator and coordinator of an inter-institutional journal club for PhD students, at five universities, he continues to develop innovative programs and opportunities to foster experiential learning for students.



Gabrielle Dziuba

### **Dziuba Awarded Top Pharmacy Quality Alliance Scholar**

Newest Alumna Gabrielle Dziuba, PharmD '18 was awarded 1st place as the Top Scholar Award at the 2018 Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) Annual Conference hosted in Baltimore, Maryland, May 2018. Dziuba presented research on understanding medication related fall risk pathways involving antidepressant, psychotropic, and CNS exposure. The research utilized a fall risk algorithm developed by the Pitt Department of Biomedical Informatics that analyzed both Minimum Data Set and Medication Administration Records.

The PQA-CVS Health Foundation Scholars Program is designed to support and recognize excellence in demonstrating projects centered on quality-related initiatives. Associate Professor Sandra Kane-Gill, PharmD, MS, FCCM, FCCP was Dziuba's faculty mentor.



Daniel Cobaugh

### **Daniel Cobaugh '87 Vice President of the ASHP Publishing Office**

Daniel Cobaugh, '87 has been selected as the new Vice President of the ASHP Publishing Office, which he first served in an interim capacity. In addition, Cobaugh will continue to lead AJHP as its Editor-in-Chief. He reports to ASHP Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice President, Kasey Thompson. Prior to his appointment as AJHP Editor-in-Chief, he recently served as the Vice President of the ASHP Foundation, where he oversaw research, clinical education, award programs, and consensus-building events. Cobaugh earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from the University of Pittsburgh and his Doctor of Pharmacy degree, magna cum laude, from Duquesne University. He completed an ASHP-accredited residency in hospital pharmacy at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh and a clinical toxicology fellowship at the Pittsburgh Poison Center/Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Cobaugh is a fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology and a 2012 distinguished alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.



# In the News

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI



PharmD students (Class of 2019) Martha Ndungu, SNPhA chapter president and Kathy Monangai (Class of 2020) chapter president elect

## Cultural Program of the Year Awarded to PittPharmacy SNPhA

PittPharmacy's Student National Pharmaceutical Association, (SNPhA), won the University of Pittsburgh Blue Stars Red Carpet Cultural Program of the Year Award for their Black History Cultural Showcase. SNPhA collaborated with their sister medical and dental organizations, the Student National Medical and Dental Associations, SNMA and SNDA, respectively. The Student National Pharmaceutical, Medical, and Dental Associations collaborated to raise money for the North Side Coalition for Fair Housing, a non-profit organization that provides housing and other necessary resources for an under-served population of Pittsburgh.

The OCC (Outside the Classroom Curriculum) Global and Cultural Awareness approved program celebrated black culture featuring a showcase of performances from the Ya'baso African dance team, Anointed Steps of Faith, Some of God's Children gospel choir, Spoken Word poetry written and performed by senior undergraduate student Khadijah Adamu, and reflections on history and culture at the University of Pittsburgh and across the country as a whole.



Katelyn Rudzik (Class of 2020), Sarah Hunt and Kaitlyn Burkett (Class of 2019)

## APhA-ASP Chapter Wins the University of Pittsburgh Outstanding Program of the Year Award

PittPharmacy's APhA-ASP chapter won the University of Pittsburgh Outstanding Program of the Year Award (under \$7,500) for their efforts in Kidapalooza!

The event, Kidapalooza, was a collaboration with members of the community held at the David Lawrence Convention Center in February 2018. Eight student organizations and sixty student pharmacists participated and educated the general public on OTC medication safety including sun safety, first aid, outdoor health, safe medication storage, how to identify pills versus candy, and a poison throughout the house.

A photo booth where children could wear a "junior pharmacist" white coat and take a souvenir photo in front of the Pitt Pharmacy backdrop engaged children with the idea of becoming a pharmacist. Chapter president and patient care vice president were interviewed by the radio station 100.7 STAR, which reached an estimated 2 million listeners! Overall 3,500 children and parents were seen at this event and the media presence reached about 3 million people in Pittsburgh.



REMEMBER & ANTICIPATE





## REMEMBER & ANTICIPATE



**Y**ou may have wondered about the meaning of the large photo of people in the front inside cover. That photo of many of the PittPharmacy faculty, staff, and graduate students is the last photo that was taken in the Rite Aid Edward C. Reif Compounding Laboratory. Today, the lab that so many alums remember is empty in preparation for truly massive renovation of the School of Pharmacy portion of Salk Hall. Take a moment now to recall a memory of your time in that lab. For me, I remember the great time I had as a teaching assistant for the classes of '79 and '80; that experience led me to my career at PittPharmacy.

**The opposite page** show photos of staff members preparing to move out of Salk Hall, packed boxes and movers, and Melissa McGivney and me sharing the future look of Salk Hall with faculty and staff.

Many years ago, one alum said that unless we were able to lift ceilings and get light into the hallways, we should not renovate Salk Hall. That was great advice. “We” ARE lifting ceilings, using glass walls to allow light into corridors, adding classrooms, and creating more efficient floor plans. We will all be so extremely pleased and proud of our new home in Salk Hall. Read on for explanation of the images to the left.

The first thing to understand is that we re-imagined functions and locations to make Salk Hall “user friendly.” The Commons, which opened in 2015, connects a widened fourth floor elevator lobby. **The top photo** shows the elevator lobby to Salk through a wider hallway and open to the elevator doors; if you could see it, '03 Hall (456) is to the left. Look at the image carefully and you will see a navy blue stripe with gold letters that read “School of Pharmacy.” Wow! PittPharmacy gets identity! An open staircase connects the fourth and fifth floors. A new conversation space is at the left.

**The middle photo** shows people at the top of the staircase on the fifth floor as well as the sixth floor windows that will flood the fifth and fourth floor lobbies with daylight! Yes, the floor plates between the fourth and fifth and the fifth and sixth floors will be removed.

**The bottom photo** is another photo of the fifth floor. Many of our alums would have loved to have what you see there—LOCKERS!!! Every student will have a locker! Open gathering spaces on both sides on the elevator (only one is visible) are partly partitioned from the hallway by glass writable walls. Barely visible is the glass enclosed new flat-floor classroom across the hall. Light will stream from both sides of the hallway.

Not shown in drawings of the fifth floor are the new “maker space/compounding lab,” a new flat floor large classroom, and the Curran Student Pharmacy Center that was formerly on the ninth floor. All of the PittPharmacy floors except for the Dean’s Office Suite will be gutted and redesigned. Open layout research laboratories along with faculty, staff, and students will be located on the seventh and eighth floors.

The transformation will be nothing short of amazing, remarkable and transformative! The infusion of light, unique learning spaces and openness of the reimagined Salk Hall will be a catalyst for creativity, collaboration, and innovation for generations to come. Hail to PittPharmacy! —PDK





(L to R): Hager Mohamedein (Class of 2021), Olivia Fritz (Class of 2020), Louis Williams, PhD (PittPharmacy Alumnus), Martha Ndung'u (Class of 2019), Kathy Monangai (2020)

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### **SNPhA/NPhA Recognizes PittPharmacy Chapter President with Diversity Award**

PittPharmacy students attended the Student National Pharmaceutical Association/National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA/NPhA) 2018 National Convention. The chapter was recognized for several achievements during the school year over the conference weekend. The Incoming Chapter President, Kathy Monangai, (Class of 2020) was appointed to the 2018 National Elections Committee. This national committee consists of representatives from each of the five SNPhA regions, the national president-elect, and the national president. Monangai represents the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy as the Region 1 representative. The National Elections Committee interviewed candidates from every region and eventually slated them to be vote on by the National House of Delegates. After the election, each winner became an official member of the 2018-2019 National Executive Board. SNPhA Chapter President, Martha Ndung'u (Class of 2019) was honored with the Walgreens Chapter President Diversity Award at the July Student National Pharmaceutical Association/National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA/NPhA) 2018 National Convention. Ndung'u won the award based on her work with creating the first inter-professional health sciences Black History event at the University of Pittsburgh. The Black History Cultural Showcase was presented in collaboration with Pitt's chapters of SNPhA's partner organizations, Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and Student National Dental Association (SNDA). These organizations share the same mission to serve patients in under-served communities and advocate for minority representation within healthcare.



# LEAD → ING THE WAY



Sajid Ahmed



Joe Fiore

## Students Then, Alumni Now, Lead Success in Industry Career Development

**P**ittPharmacy students have an enviable record of competing for pharma industry fellowships with an almost 100 percent success rate over the last five years. On average six students a year have sought and been selected for the highly competitive fellowships. PittPharmacy students are very well prepared and you might expect this level of success. There is more to the story, however, and it is entirely due to students taking the initiative.

Joe Fiore ('14) knew he wanted to go into the pharmaceutical industry after he graduated. He and his classmate Sajid Ahmed ('14) thought other students might also have interest in finding out more about pharmaceutical careers. They were right. More than 50 students expressed interest so Fiore and Ahmed, with the help of faculty advisor Randy Smith, PhD, initiated the Student Industry Organization in 2013. The goals were to increase awareness of the different opportunities for pharmacist in the pharmaceutical industry and to help prepare students to compete for fellowships. In the first year, they invited PittPharmacy alumni from the Pittsburgh area each month to make presentations to students about their careers and career path. In the spring of 2014, Fiore and Ahmed worked with Meghan Osborne, Alumni Coordinator, to hold the first Annual SIO Symposium. They brought alumni from pharmaceutical industry together with PharmD and PhD students for an exciting weekend of learning and socializing. This year the Annual SIO Symposium was held for the fourth consecutive year.

Fiore and Ahmed both successfully competed for the Rutgers University Industry Fellowship Program. Both continued to support the SIO during their fellowship training by coming back and helping students prepare for fellowship application and interview process. Fiore is now Director Oncology Clinical Development at Bristol-Myers Squibb and Ahmed is the Senior Manager Medical Communications at Allergan.

The SIO students have continued to compete successfully for a wide range of industry fellowships. Some examples are: Global Scientific Engagement at J&J, Oncology Medical affairs at Genentech, Oncology Marketing at Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Clinical Scientist in Global Clinical Development at Merck, and Global Clinical Strategy at Sanofi. These are illustrative of the broad range of interests among the students and the power of PittPharmacy personalized education. The SIO has continued to have great student leadership and has maintained high quality programming and mentorship by alumni. In 2018 more strength was added to the program when Richard Bertz, PhD, former Vice President at Bristol-Myers Squibb joined the faculty at PittPharmacy and became the faculty advisor for SIO. Expect more great things to come from PittPharmacy students as more of our alumni are leading the way in the pharmaceutical industry.



# Distinguished Alumni

For more information about our Distinguished Alumni:  
[http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni/distinguished\\_alumni.php](http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni/distinguished_alumni.php)



**MAKE WHAT YOU DO MATTER...  
 MAKE WHAT YOU DO PERSONAL TO EVERY PATIENT.**



—MARY BETH O'TOOLE LANG



## MARY BETH O'TOOLE LANG, '89

Mary Beth Lang, DSc, RPh, MPM, CMRP, is the executive vice president of Cognitive Analytics and Computing for Pensiamo, Inc., the Cognitive Supply Chain Company. Lang currently provides leadership as a member of the board of directors and as a committee member for various organizations, including the Association for Healthcare Resource Materials and Management (AHRMM), McKesson Pharmacy Executive Alliance, Healthcare Purchasing News Editorial Advisory Board, Federation of American Hospitals Pharmacy and Marketing Committees, Strategic Marketing Initiative Advisory Committee, and GSI US Board of Governors.



**EMBRACE OPPORTUNITIES...  
 DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPLORE THE MANY  
 GREAT PROFESSIONAL PATHS AS PHARMACISTS.**



—JAMES A. LYON



## JAMES A. LYON, '72

James Lyon, PharmD, FCCP, received his bachelor's in pharmacy from the University of Pittsburgh in 1972 and a doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan in 1974. He returned to Pitt as the second clinically trained professor at the School and spent eight years at Pitt as an assistant professor of Pharmacy and the faculty advisor for Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. Lyon is currently the coordinator for the master's program at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and teaches in the BS and MS clinical research programs.



Since 1962, the School of Pharmacy has honored alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Throughout the years over 125 men and women have been recognized for their educational, professional and university affiliated achievements by showing exemplary achievements over the course of their careers.

A list of past recipients can be found at: [http://pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni/past\\_distinguished.php](http://pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni/past_distinguished.php)



**MY EDUCATION AT PITTPHARMACY WAS A SPRINGBOARD TO A VERY FRUITFUL AND PLEASANT LIFE.**



—FRANKLIN R. MANIOS

**FRANKLIN R. MANIOS, '57**

Franklin Manios is a 1957 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, where he was Regent of the Beta Kappa chapter for Kappa Psi. Manios began his pharmacy career with Thrift Drug of Pennsylvania in 1957 and then founded Franklin Pharmacy in 1966. In 1979, he expanded Franklin Health Care to an LPN onsite facility. He was the president of the Trumbull County Pharmacy Association in 1967-68 and served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Ohio State Pharmaceutical Association (now the Ohio Pharmacists Association) from 1968 to 1974.



**THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE FOUNDATION TO PURSUE MY DREAMS.**



—WILLIAM D. THOMPSON III

**WILLIAM D. THOMPSON III, '88**

When Thompson graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 1988, he returned to the family business Thompson Pharmacy in Altoona and soon assumed the position of vice president of the company. In 2005, Thompson became president of Thompson Pharmacy. The same year, Thompson Pharmacy was inducted into the Blair County Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame as an outstanding business in Blair County. Thompson is active in the community and serves on the Regional Value Drug Board, ALSM Board of Directors. He is also a spirited philanthropist.





# Rising Stars

For more information about our Rising Stars:  
[http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni/distinguished\\_alumni.php](http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni/distinguished_alumni.php)

“ **FAMILY FIRST AND THEN WORK.... FIND GREAT MENTORS.....  
 OBSESS WITH YOUR GOALS AND TAKE INVENTORY EVERYDAY.** ”

—BRIAN J. BOBBY



**BRIAN J. BOBBY, '04**

Brian Bobby, PharmD, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in December 2003 as a part of an advanced graduation program. In 2013, Bobby became the inaugural director of Health Alliance, an innovative population health management program at Rite Aid. He was recognized in 2011 as the Phi Delta Chi Alumni of the Year for the Mu Chapter at Pitt and, in 2016, as Phi Delta Chi Mu Chapter Distinguished Alumni of the Year. Bobby also serves as adjunct faculty at the School of Pharmacy and member of the CE Steering Committee and Advisory Board at Bidwell Technical.

“ **BECAUSE OF THE TRAINING, THE CARE,  
 AND THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED TO ME BY THE  
 SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, I WOULD NOT BE HERE.** ”

—VERA S. DONNENBERG



**VERA S. DONNENBERG, '02**

Vera Donnenberg, PhD, FCP, is a Regent of the Board of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology, and currently holds a position as an associate professor in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the School of Medicine and Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at PittPharmacy. Donnenberg leads a research group focused on basic and translational cancer research. She serves as a junior representative to the Association of American Medical Colleges. Donnenberg has received over 30 national and international awards for her academic and service efforts. She is a member of several editorial boards and is an associate editor of Cytometry, Stem Cells, a leading journal in the field of imaging and cytometry.



This award is given to individuals who have graduated between 5 and 15 years ago and who are making noteworthy contributions to the profession of pharmacy. These individuals have truly distinguished themselves in a short time.



**LEARN WHAT TO DO AND WHAT NOT TO DO...  
BE INTENTIONAL... APPLY YOUR EXPERIENCE.**



—JESSE W. McCULLOUGH

**JESSE W. McCULLOUGH, '00**

Jesse McCullough began his professional career as a floater pharmacist for Eckerd Pharmacy in northwest Pennsylvania. He was promoted to premier floater in 2002 and began working with Eckerd's clinical department in 2003. McCullough focused his efforts to build an immunization and MTM network of pharmacists. When Brooks Eckerd became part of Rite Aid in 2007, McCullough became one of six clinical managers for the company serving approximately 800 stores primarily in Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. A highlight of his career occurred in October 2015, when he testified before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce regarding MTM services.



**I AM PROUD OF THE INNOVATIVE SPIRIT THAT LIVES  
AT THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, THANK YOU.**




—THEODORE F. SEARCH

**THEODORE F. SEARCH, '05**

Theodore Search, PharmD is founder and chief executive officer of Skipta. Skipta has received health industry awards including the Silver Award for Company of the Year by PM360 and Top Medical Game-Changer by Medical Marketing & Media. Ted holds a doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh, is a licensed pharmacist in Pennsylvania, and has benefited from practical pharmacy experience in both the retail and clinical settings. Search was recognized as one of the Top 100 Most Inspiring People in the Life Sciences Industry in 2015 and amongst the Top 100 Elite Entrepreneurs in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry in 2016.



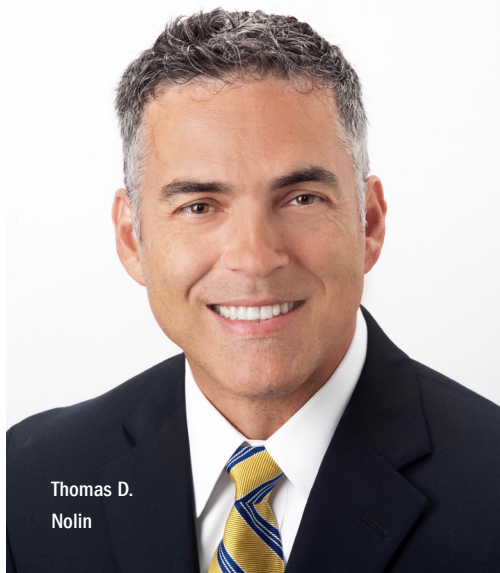




# BENCH TO BEDSIDE *and* BEYOND

**Professor's research  
impacting FDA guidelines  
on drug development in  
kidney disease**





Thomas D.  
Nolin

## Nolin's work shows that kidney disease also decreases function in non-renal clearance pathways, meaning drug doses should be adjusted just as they are for drugs cleared by the kidney.

As a young student researcher completing rotations as part of his master's degree, Thomas Nolin witnessed firsthand how a decline in kidney function could influence the delicate balance of a drug's molecules with body chemistry, possibly affecting patient outcomes. But little did he know how this early interest in nephrology eventually would lead him to contribute to revised guidelines for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Now an associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics at Pitt's School of Pharmacy, Nolin, a Maine native, took his first clinical job at the Maine Medical Center as a clinical pharmacy specialist in nephrology. At the time, it was a new position, and the profession was still in the early days of clinical pharmacy specialists. Nolin considered the job a perfect fit.

But after five years in the position, his professional growth made him acutely aware of the need for further training if he were to advance his interest in clinical research – and, perhaps just as importantly, to win funding for his research.

He arrived at the Pitt School of Pharmacy and pursued his Pharm.D. and Ph.D. degrees simultaneously, graduating with the former in 1999 and the latter in 2003. His dissertation focused on the effect of kidney disease on drug exposure and response, which solidified his interest in the field that first captured his attention years before.

Nolin's specific interest was in the pathways such as drug-metabolizing enzymes and drug transport proteins that are fundamental to clearing drugs from the body. Many are located in the gastrointestinal tract and the liver, and those are known as non-renal clearance pathways.

Nolin's early published work demonstrated that changes occur in these pathways for people who suffer from kidney disease.

"That launched my career, frankly," he recalls.

### A return to Pitt

After earning his doctorate, Nolin returned to the Maine Medical Center, working as a clinical pharmacologist in the Division of Nephrology. Now with space in a laboratory, he was able to start writing grants and carrying out the clinical research projects that had piqued his interest during his previous tenure at the center.

Two of those early projects proved to be especially fruitful, advancing science's understanding of the impact kidney disease has on drug-metabolizing enzymes and transporters. The projects also established Nolin's expertise in the field as well as his interest in clinical translational research, bringing his work from bench to bedside.

"It's very gratifying," he says. "That's one of the fundamental reasons academicians enjoy their jobs – we have an opportunity to further the understanding of scientific and clinically relevant questions that can be translated to improve the care of patients."

So in 2008, five years after defending his Ph.D., Nolin returned to the University of Pittsburgh – this time as a faculty member. A decade later, he is tenured with a lab and several basic and translational science projects as well as clinical research studies for which he sees study patients in the University's clinical research center. Nolin oversees graduate students in his lab and teaches in both the Pharm.D. and Ph.D. programs where he once studied.

## The road to the FDA

To help guide drug development, the FDA issues what it calls guidance documents, which are recommendations targeted primarily toward pharmaceutical manufacturers. Hundreds of such documents discuss very specific issues and are meant to provide manufacturers with the FDA's perspective so as to help drug companies improve their chances of a favorable FDA review.

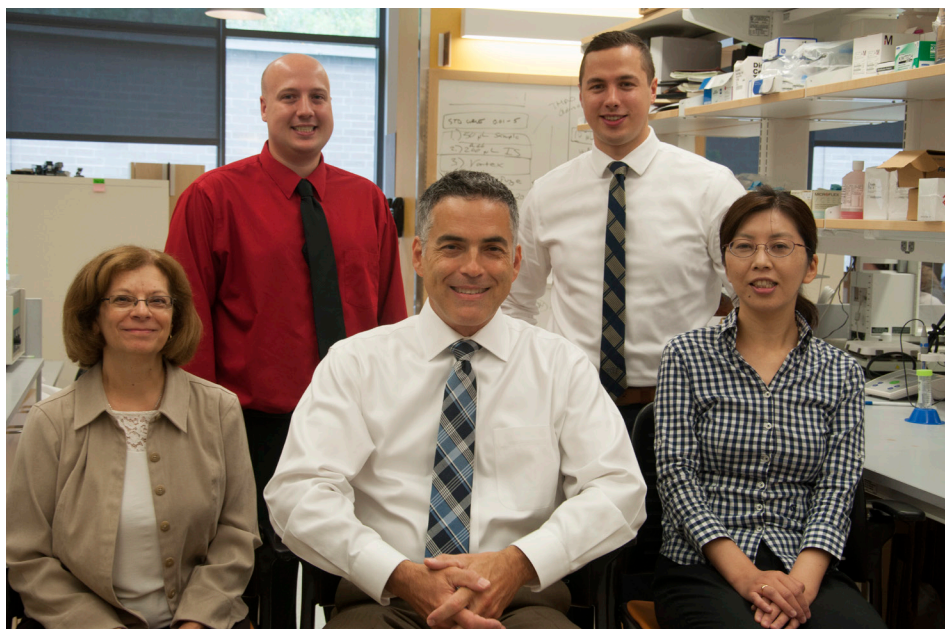
To date, the FDA has issued only one formal guidance document regarding pharmacokinetics and drug dosing in patients with kidney disease: in 1998. And those recommendations are limited in scope because they focus primarily on drugs that are known to be cleared by the kidney.

Nolin's research shows that kidney disease also causes a decrease in the clearance of some drugs that are metabolized or eliminated by transporters, meaning that in patients with compromised kidney function, doses of some drugs cleared by non-renal mechanisms should be adjusted, just as they are for drugs cleared by the kidney.

In 2010, the FDA revised its formal guidance, citing Nolin's work. It was the first time the FDA broadened its recommendations for patients with kidney disease to assess pharmacokinetics and dosing requirements for drugs that aren't cleared by the kidney. That revision is posted on the FDA's website for access by pharmaceutical companies. "Manufacturers want to do everything they can to be contemporary with their studies," Nolin explains. "My research is already having an impact."

Nolin was then tapped in 2012 for the prestigious role of chairing the first Kidney Health Initiative project, which resulted from a joint effort of the American Society of Nephrology and the FDA. The purpose of the KHI project was to evaluate and propose recommendations for the assessment of pharmacokinetics and appropriate dosage adjustment for patients in intensive care receiving renal replacement therapy.

In 2017, Nolin was invited to become a fellow at the FDA for five months through a program supported by ORISE. The purpose was to contribute to the ongoing revision of the 1998 guidance document. Today, Nolin continues working with the FDA in an advisory capacity.



Seated L to R: Linda Prebehalla, Tom Nolin, Yoko Franchetti. Standing: Raymond West, III, Alexander Prokopienko

## 'The million-dollar question'

For Nolin, seeing his work applied in ways that have the potential to directly impact patients' lives is gratifying, especially given the rising rate of kidney disease in the United States. Linked to both diabetes and hypertension – both of which have increased in recent years – kidney disease affects about 14 percent of the general population. In addition, decreased kidney function is associated with aging.

As for why non-renal clearance pathways are compromised in people with kidney disease, science does not yet have an answer. Nolin is exploring the topic through a five-year, \$2 million NIH grant that is currently in its fifth year. Nolin serves as a co-principal investigator alongside Melanie Joy, BS '91, who is now on the faculty of the University of Colorado.

The two met about 25 years ago when both were studying nephrology, and their paths gradually intersected during the last decade. They hypothesize that the pathways are altered in part due to a lack of Vitamin D.

Patients with advanced kidney disease universally become Vitamin D-deficient because it is metabolized first in the liver, then in the kidney. When kidney function declines, a person's ability to process Vitamin D

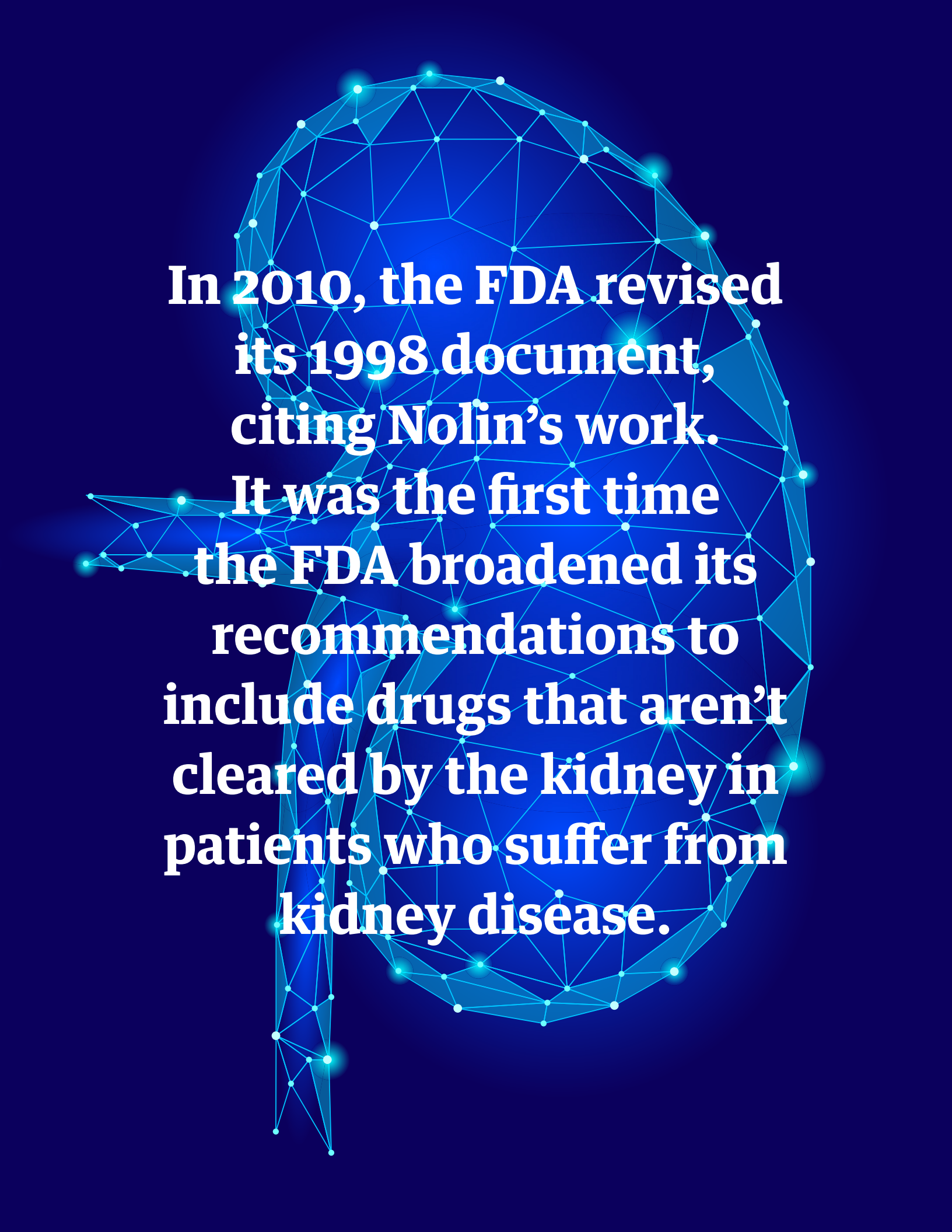
is reduced or even abolished. Consequently, almost all patients who have Stage 5 kidney disease are prescribed activated Vitamin D to make up for the loss. Research suggests that activated Vitamin D may alter the function of the pathways.

Another hypothesis is that uremic toxins, which accumulate in kidney disease patients, may alter the pathway function.

In Nolin and Joy's current study, they look at the function of non-renal pathways in patients who are Vitamin D depleted, then prescribe a three-month dose. Once the patient's Vitamin D levels are back to normal, the study looks at the pathways again to determine what impact, if any, the cycle of depletion and replenishing of Vitamin D has had. They are also studying multiple uremic toxins and the effect they have on non-renal pathways – an admittedly difficult task, since hundreds of toxins are normally excreted in urine, and a single one could be the cause of the damage, or a combination of multiple toxins could be responsible.

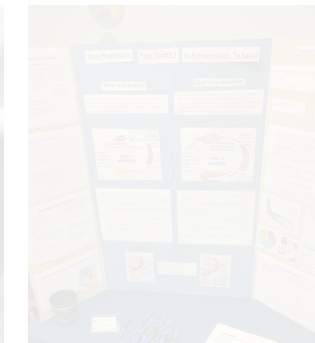
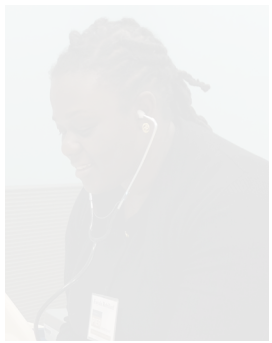
"That's the million-dollar question," Nolin says. "Why are these pathways changed, and how are they changed, and what can we do about it?"





**In 2010, the FDA revised its 1998 document, citing Nolin's work. It was the first time the FDA broadened its recommendations to include drugs that aren't cleared by the kidney in patients who suffer from kidney disease.**

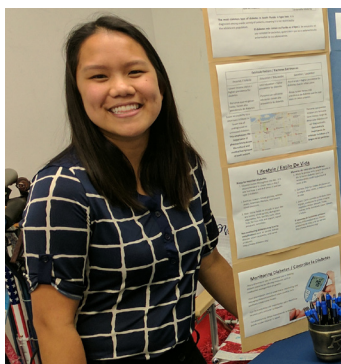
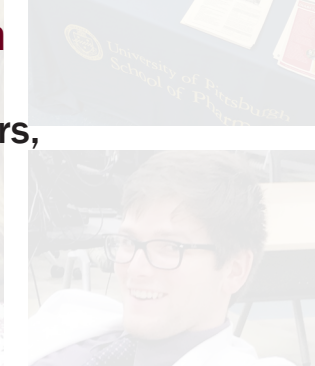
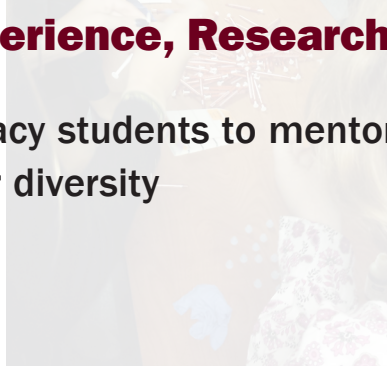




# PIER

**Pharmacy, Innovation, Experience, Research**

Program links prospective pharmacy students to mentors,  
creates pipeline for diversity





## “In order for pharmacy to maximize its potential in our growing role as health care providers, our students will ideally be as diverse as the public they will serve.”

—DEAN PATRICIA KROBOTH, PITTPHARMACY MAGAZINE 2003

Growing up in south Florida, Christian Fernandez had no road map to help him navigate the often intimidating path toward a pharmacy career. A first-generation American, his parents were unsure how to help him. Further complicating matters, his father died when Fernandez was young.

“It made a challenging situation even more difficult,” he recalls.

Fortunately, his high school teachers took an interest, mentoring the bright young student and guiding him toward what would eventually become his profession.

Fast forward to 2016: Fernandez, now an assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, was approached by Dean Patricia Kroboth, who wanted to gauge his interest in developing diversity initiatives.

“I knew that I always wanted to give back to the community and help students identify their passion for science,” he says.

So he connected with Ravi Patel, lead innovation advisor at PittPharmacy, and together they began shaping what is now known as PIER: Pharmacy Innovation Experience and Research, a program designed to introduce more high school and undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds to the pharmacy profession.

Launched in the summer of 2017, PIER Miami targets Hispanic students around the Miami area, including Fernandez’s alma mater high school as well as undergraduates from Florida International and the University of Miami, neither of which have pharmacy schools of their own.

Participants spend five weeks during the summer visiting different pharmacy settings. In the first year, they went to CVS stores in largely Spanish-speaking neighborhoods, as well as Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. They also read online didactic material created by students from the School of Pharmacy who volunteer as mentors, under the guidance of faculty. The fifth week culminated with a healthcare-style event, at which student pharmacists presented on a health-related topics with the participants.

“There were a couple of sleepless nights where we had to figure out how we’d coordinate all the sites,” Patel admits. “But because the interest was there, we rose to the occasion.”

During site visits, which lasted anywhere from two to six hours, PIER participants observe patient interactions with pharmacist, completed follow-up activities, and thereafter participate in debriefing sessions with their mentors. They also study topics such as how over-the-counter medications can interact with certain prescription drugs.

If participants do wind up enrolling in pharmacy school, they could potentially return to the same sites as interns, or residents or pharmacists after graduating, Patel notes. That benefits the student, but it also helps the partner pharmacies and institutions.

“It’s almost like (they’re) creating their own talent pool,” he says. “It’s a pipeline that’s actually commonly found in pharmacy.”

### Anticipating a population shift

One of the program’s goals is ultimately to develop community pharmacists who are as diverse as the populations they serve. On a personal level, patients are more likely to seek care from a person with whom they identify, Patel notes.

That goal becomes more meaningful as U.S. demographics shift. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by 2060, 29 percent of the United States is projected to be Hispanic—more than one-quarter of the population. That translates into a future demand for Spanish-speaking pharmacists.

Knowing that a gap is coming, “my mind jumps to: ‘Well, here’s a problem. Let’s think about how we can fix it,’” Patel says.

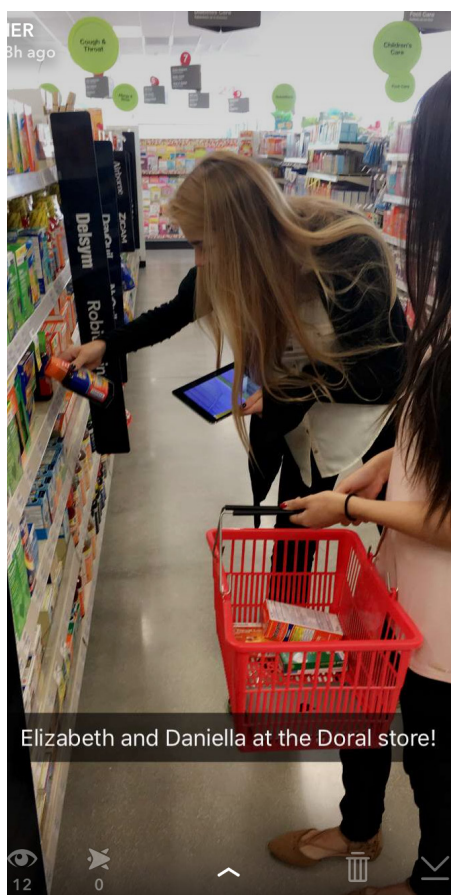
And Fernandez knew from his own personal experience how valuable a mentor could be in helping a young student discover the profession.

“I’m a researcher, so I did a literature review to try to identify what was our best strategy,” he says. “What has worked in the past? What has not worked? What are some of the motivators for students?”

He also created a framework—in consultation with Dean Kroboth and Senior Associate Dean Randy Smith—that the school could use to recruit students of any demographic interest.

One motivator that Fernandez identified was work experience in a pharmacy setting. Another was an awareness of the profession. During the course of researching the framework, he met with Larry Merlo—CEO of CVS and a 1978 School of Pharmacy graduate—who emphasized the importance of patients speaking with a pharmacist in their native language and from a similar culture. The conversation affirmed for him that the PIER program was on the right track.

At the pharmacies that hosted the students, close to 60 percent of the patient population spoke Spanish. And while Spanish fluency was not a requirement of PIER, most of those students who did apply were multilingual and spoke it at home, Patel says, due to the areas where the program recruited.



**One motivator that he identified was work experience in a pharmacy setting. Another was an awareness of the profession.**



Ravi Patel, Christian Fernandez, Spencer Schlecht

### First-year milestones

The inaugural cohort included 10 students, a number that doubled in 2018. They begin with an orientation in South Florida, when participants meet their Pitt student mentors and receive iPads to complete online coursework; then the participants visit several pharmacies in the surrounding areas to learn about the various roles of a pharmacist in health care. The program also tries to match participants with faculty and staff who can give them a broad overview of the profession.

In each setting, the pharmacists and techs on staff receive a guideline of topics to cover. At the end of the week, mentors debrief the PIER participants online and try to put the experience in context while also asking what interested them most.

Fernandez is particularly proud of the fact that the program is by students and for students. Peers are most effective at identifying topics that seem relevant to the participants and translating the experience for them, he notes.

The use of mentors also amplifies the effects of PIER by creating a teaching platform for the School of Pharmacy's students, who learn about curricular design, focus groups, and surveys, he says.

"Mentors are probably one of the best unintended benefits of programs like this," says Patel. Participants were assigned to a group with

a dedicated student pharmacist who debriefed them and helped them understand what a typical day is like in pharmacy school.

"It definitely reminded me quite a bit of how the faculty at my high school helped me identify my career passion," says Fernandez. "That was very satisfying."

Of the 10 students in the original cohort, seven visited Pitt's School of Pharmacy in the fall of 2017. Fernandez hopes to bring members of the 2018 cohort to campus as well, where they can see the facilities and meet some of the students who were mentoring them online.

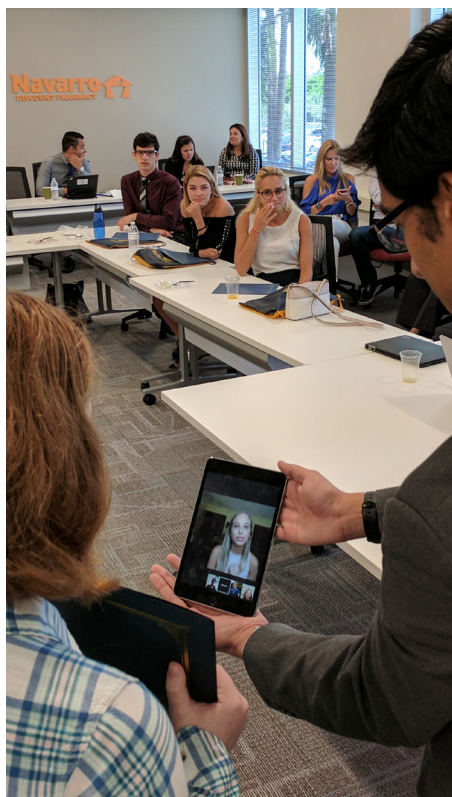
An offshoot of the PIER program now targets Pitt undergraduates in an effort to raise awareness about pharmacy careers among other majors—such as pre-med or nursing—and tap into the diversity of the larger University student body.

To date, participant feedback has been roundly positive, and most said they understood more about the profession and would recommend it to a friend.

"To me, it's an indication that they had a good time in the program and found it beneficial," Fernandez says.

Patel agreed. Creating new programs always brings intangibles and variables, but he was pleased with the outcome: "It definitely met expectations of doing something new and useful."





## Program allows pharmacy student to shape mentorship

**W**hen third-year pharmacy student Spencer Schlecht first heard about the effort to recruit mentors for a newly designed program targeting diversity, one word piqued his interest: Miami.

Having just spent the academic year living and working in the often-chilly Pittsburgh, Schlecht was excited about the prospect of heading south for five weeks. But it wasn't until he interviewed with program creator Christian Fernandez, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Ravi Patel, Lead Innovation Adviser, that he discovered it was an opportunity to mentor prospective pharmacy students. At that point, he was really hooked.

Schlecht considers his ability to connect with people to be one of his strongest professional assets. The son of two teachers, he was a lifeguard and swim coach for six years, so he was accustomed to assuming a leadership role. Moreover, the program -- Pharmacy Innovation Experience and Research (PIER) -- was brand new, so he had the flexibility to help develop the mentorship and shape it.

**Fernandez is particularly proud of the fact that the program is by students and for students. Peers are most effective at identifying topics that seem relevant to the participants and translating the experience for them, he notes.**

Schlecht helped build PIER's curriculum and match participants with pharmacy student mentors based on their interests. He read the participants' personal statements and interviewed each of the students to get information that helped him in the matching process. He also mentored three students himself, and he stays in touch with two of them.

Drawing from other mentorship programs he'd completed in the past, Schlecht pushed for more structure that would help facilitate engagement between the students and participants. Meetings were mandatory, and though PIER does not grade participants, he asked mentors to grade individual assignments to help create accountability. In weekly debriefing sessions, the mentors talked with their groups online for about an hour, reviewing the experiences, placing them in context with the didactic material, and chatting.

The effort paid off. All 10 members of PIER's inaugural participant cohort rated the mentorship program as their first or second most favorite part of the experience.

Schlecht also felt that he benefited from getting to know the students and the Miami culture, which was so different from the small town in Ohio where he grew up.

He has created a duplicate of PIER that targets existing Pitt students to recruit them into the School of Pharmacy, and he remained on board with the Miami program through its third year. He also continues to work at a community pharmacy, Asti's, in suburban Pittsburgh and hopes to one day own one himself.

# Where We Are Going

INSIDE SALK HALL & RESEARCH PAVILION



Ashley Firm, Luke Berenbrok, and Lorin Grieve



Jan H. Beumer

## Collaboration Between Pitt Schools Receives Grant

PittPharmacy Alumna Ashley Firm, PharmD '14 from the Physician Assistant Studies Program, PittPharmacy faculty, Luke Berenbrok, PharmD '13, MS and Lorin Grieve, PharmD '14 were awarded an Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence Grant from the University of Pittsburgh Office of the Provost. Their project titled "The Merged Pharmacology Classroom: A Formative and Interdisciplinary Approach to Physician Assistant Education" aims to connect students from the Physician Assistant Program and the PharmD program in innovative, interdisciplinary education. Plans are to start the program during the Fall 2018 semester.

## PittPharmacy Faculty Beumer Receives Prestigious NCI Contract

Jan H. Beumer, PharmD, PhD was awarded a National Cancer Institute (NCI) contract for Preclinical Drug Development Research. The NCI contract is one of only five in the country. The research conducted under task orders in the contract support the development of new cancer medications. Beumer will conduct pre-clinical pharmacology research to determine doses for human clinical trials and the most effective means of drug delivery. This NCI award makes Beumer's group eligible for up to \$9.9 million in task orders over five years.

Beumer is an associate professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.

## Fernandez Receives NCI Grant for Pediatric Leukemia Research

The Fernandez lab at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy is working to prevent leukemia relapse caused by an immune response to asparaginase treatment in children. The National Cancer Institute has awarded Fernandez a grant to identify pharmacological strategies that can mitigate the severity of the toxicity from the immune reaction. The Fernandez lab has linked the NFAT pathway to the risk of developing the immune response and will investigate potential drug targets for preventing the toxicity. They will also develop cell-based tests to identify patients at risk of developing this toxicity. Christian Fernandez, PhD is an assistant professor in Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and a member of the Center for Pharmacogenetics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.

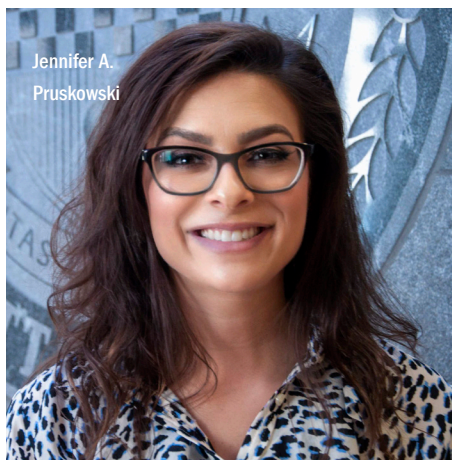




Samuel M. Poloyac



Lee A. McDermott

Jennifer A.  
Pruskowski

### **Poloyac and McDermott Receive NIH Grant for New Drug Discovery in Pediatric Cardiac Arrest**

PittPharmacy faculty members Samuel M. Poloyac, PharmD, PhD and Lee A. McDermott, PhD, MBA have received a grant from the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke entitled “20-HETE Formation Inhibitors in Cardiac Arrest.” This grant is funded by the NINDS Innovation Grants to Nurture Initial Translational Efforts (IGNITE) program, which aims to support studies in early drug discovery and development for the treatment of neurological disorders and stroke. The investigators aim to discover novel compounds and optimize their drug-like properties to improve brain blood flow and decrease brain damage after pediatric cardiac arrest. Specifically, this team of investigators have identified novel enzyme inhibitors of a metabolite, 20-HETE, that is a known regulator of cerebral blood flow. This proposal will both optimize the drug-like properties of these compounds and evaluate the preclinical efficacy of these compounds to decrease brain damage after pediatric cardiac arrest. Currently, there are no known medications that improve outcomes in children after cardiac arrest. Successful completion of this research would lead to the discovery of novel compounds with drug-like properties to be further advanced towards evaluation of efficacy and safety as a potential future therapeutic intervention. Poloyac is a professor of pharmaceutical sciences and the associate dean for graduate and post-doctoral programs. McDermott is assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences. Both Poloyac and McDermott are members of the Drug Design, Delivery, and Development (Drug D3) Center of PittPharmacy.

### **Pruskowski Receives Palliative Care Research Grant**

Jennifer A. Pruskowski, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, CPE received the American College of Clinical Pharmacy 2018 New Clinical Practitioner Award during the ACCP Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy Awards and Recognition Ceremony in Seattle, Washington. This award, which is conferred annually, recognizes an ACCP member less than six years since completion of training who has made outstanding contributions to the health of patients and to the practice of clinical pharmacy. This very prestigious award recognizes Pruskowski’s expansive focus and impact of providing palliative pharmacy service to the UPMC Health System through the UPMC Palliative and Supportive Institute. Pruskowski is assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics at PittPharmacy.

### **Prokopenko Receives Kidney STARS Program Award**

Alexander J. Prokopenko PharmD, has received an American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Kidney STARS Program award. This competitive award provides travel support and career development programming at the ASN Annual Meeting. Prokopenko also was selected to present a research poster at the meeting entitled “Effect of the Microbiota-Derived Uremic Toxin Indoxyl Sulfate on FMO Expression and TMAO Formation: A Pilot Study”. The research was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Raman Venkataramanan’s laboratory. Prokopenko is a fourth year PhD Candidate in the Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences track. Associate Professor Thomas D. Nolin, PharmD, PhD, is Prokopenko’s advisor



Lisa C. Rohan

### Rohan Receives University's Coulter Research Grant

PittPharmacy Professor Lisa C. Rohan, PhD, PittMedicine Assistant Professor Katherine Bunge, MD, MPH and PittPharmacy Post Doctoral Associate Sravankumar Patel, PhD received a grant through the University of Pittsburgh Coulter Translational Research Partners II Program. The team will use the funds for development of HerShield Product, a quick dissolving vaginal film for on-demand drug delivery platform for protection against sexually transmitted infections. Within the grant, their HerShield Product, which is designed for prevention of Herpes Simplex Virus, will be advanced. The Coulter Program, housed within Pitt's Department of Bioengineering, is a partnership between the Swanson School of Engineering, the Schools of the Health Sciences and the Innovation Institute. The Program aims to identify, select, and develop promising late-stage biomedical projects that address significant unmet clinical needs and have the potential for positive clinical and economic impacts. The 2017 Coulter funding cycle differed from previous years, in that applications were accepted in collaboration with the Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data and SciVelo, the Department of Dermatology, the Department of Plastic Surgery, the Magee-Womens Research Institute, the Pittsburgh Liver Research Center, the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, and the Vascular Medicine Institute.

### Pringle Awarded Grant for Drug Monitoring Training

Janice L. Pringle, PhD received a grant from the Commonwealth of PA to help develop an educational curriculum and materials to train prescribers and dispensers on the Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and opioid prescribing. The educational curriculum will be delivered in various health care settings across Pennsylvania in order to teach best practices of PDMP use and how to refer substance use disorder patients to proper treatment. PDMP requires recordings of materials so that four different trainings can be hosted and delivered in an online training format. Pringle is a PittPharmacy professor and director of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Pharmacy Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU)

## New Faces: Faculty & Staff

### Faculty

#### Richard Bertz

PhD, Associate Dean for  
PharmacoAnalytics, Professor

#### Edward T. Horn

PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP,  
Associate Professor

#### Carlo J. Iasella

PharmD, MPH, BCPS,  
Assistant Professor

#### Jaden Jungho Jun

PhD – Research Assistant  
Professor

#### Sravan Kumar Patel

PhD, Assistant Professor

#### Min Zhang

PhD, Research  
Assistant Professor

### Staff

#### Marian Klanica

Administrative Assistant  
Center for Clinical  
Pharmaceutical Sciences

#### Cheryl Sorensen

Academic Records Manager

#### Metanthy 'Vicky' Tzanakos

Residency Coordinator.

#### Karen Wagner

Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Administrator

#### Angela Yost

Research Project Manager



# Faculty Awards

## SCOTT R. DRAB PRECEPTOR AWARDEES



**Heather J. Johnson, PharmD**



**Ana M. Lupu, PharmD**



**Peter D. Hallisey, PharmD**

## STANDFORD I. COHEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR



**Lucas A. Berenbrok, PharmD**

## GRADUATE PROGRAM FACULTY OF THE YEAR



**M. Maggie Folan, PhD**

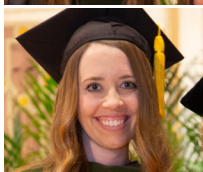
# Exit Interviews

## 2018 GRADUATES



### Nayanika Basu

**Graduating with Pitt Degree(s):** Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science, PharmD **Hometown:** Lansdale, PA **Favorite Pitt Memory:** I've loved Pitt since the first time I visited on a summer tour! After the tour, I went up to the 36th floor of the Cathedral and filled out my application there. Sharing how amazing Pitt is as a University Pathfinder and RxAmbassador (tour guide) has been a large part of my college experience. One of my favorite Pitt memories is when a freshman student came up to me during the school year and told me I was his tour guide and the reason he chose Pitt! **Pitt Experience:** Endless opportunities in the best city in the world! Best decision I've ever made! **Where Do You Go From Here:** Allegheny General Hospital Acute Care Focus residency program in Pittsburgh, PA



### Mariah "Addie" Brown

**Graduating with Pitt Degree(s):** Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (BSPS), Doctorate of Pharmacy (PharmD) **Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA **Favorite Pitt Memory:** 2016 Pitt vs. Penn State game at Heinz Field **Your Pitt Experience in 6 words or Less:** Six Years Flew, Hail to Pitt! **Where do you go from here:** I will be completing a PGY-1 Community-based Care Residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

### Mary Grace Fitzmaurice

**Graduating with Pitt Degree(s):** PharmD **Hometown:** Erie, PA **Favorite Pitt Memory:** (if you need It to be pharmacy specific) Representing the University of Pittsburgh at the 2017 ASHP National Clinical Skills competition in Orlando, FL and being able to bring home the first place title back to Pitt for the first time ever (**general Pitt memory**): Being a member of the Oakland Zoo during the Pitt vs. Syracuse Men's basketball games **Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Less:** Provided opportunities I never thought possible **Where Do You Go From Here:** To be a pharmacy resident at the Cleveland Clinic (Main Campus) in Cleveland, OH

### Dilafruz (Dela) Khakimova

**Graduating with Pitt Degree:** PharmD **Hometown:** Monroeville, PA **Favorite Pitt Memory:** PittPharmacy Gala 2015 **Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Less:** Filled with Opportunities to Grow! **Where do you Go from Here:** I will be starting my career as a CVS Pharmacist in Seattle, WA.

### Dominic Leader

**Graduating with Pitt Degree(s):** PharmD **Hometown:** North Huntingdon **Favorite Pitt Memory:** The friendships that I made throughout undergraduate school and pharmacy school. I have met some incredible people who have shown and taught me so much **Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Less:** Pitt Pharmacy: An Education beyond Medication **Where Do You Go From Here:** I was matched for a residency program at WJB Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, SC.

### Mara Rubin

**Graduating with Pitt Degree(s):** PharmD **Hometown:** West Bloomfield, MI **Favorite Pitt Memory:** My favorite Pitt Memory was watching the Dean accept the Dean of the Year award at the APhA 2018 Annual Meeting. It was such an honor to see her accept this award because she works so hard to make sure that we each are able to personalize our educations to reach our dreams as future pharmacists. **Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Less:** Abundant opportunities for professional development **Where Do You Go From Here:** PGY-1 Residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, OH

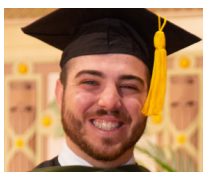
### Top Triamwong

**Graduating with Pitt Degree(s):** PharmD **Hometown:** Burbank, CA **Favorite Pitt Memory:** Seeing snow for the first time with my newfound friends **Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Less:** Challenging, cold but unforgettable and beautiful **Where Do You Go From Here:** I will be doing a post-graduate residency in ambulatory care at USC

### Billy Wilkinson

**Graduating with Pitt Degree(s):** Doctor of Pharmacy; Bachelor of Science, Pharmaceutical Science **Hometown:** Belle Vernon, PA **Favorite Pitt Memory:** Pitt Football games, traveling across the country for pharmacy conferences, and all of the lifelong friendships and countless memories made over the past 6 years **Your Pitt Experience in Six Words or Less:** Engaging, eye-opening, life-changing, challenging, rewarding, & H2P! **Where Do You Go From Here:** Staying around the Burgh and starting my pharmacy career as a community pharmacist in my favorite city!

# '18





# Retirees

## Jane Bradish

Director of Space Management and Assistant Director of Budget

Janie L. Bradish started as a department administrator in 1988 working with Dean Kroboth in her then role as department chair. She developed an understanding of the University's budgeting process and found ways to be more efficient. As a member of the Office of the Dean, she acquired an affinity and skill with renovating, and ultimately assumed the role as Director of Space Management and Assistant Director of Budget. Together, she and others--took historic Salk Hall and bit by bit, made changes to make pharmacy's home more modern and functional. Janie had a hand in modernizing classrooms, laboratories, and offices. She knew every University painter, electrician, plumber, engineer, and mover by name. As Dave Huey of Receiving Services moving" stated, "We miss her. She is a great lady." Janie had a critical role during the construction of Salk Pavilion and Commons, participating in every construction meeting and on-site visitations.



## Rick Fabean

Research Administrator

Rick Fabean started at the University in 2001 and in the School of Pharmacy as a Research Grants Manager in 2008. Fabean successfully submitted and managed countless research grants for the School and provided outstanding support to faculty. Rick Fabean has spent his entire Pitt/UPMC career in research administration. He came to the School of Pharmacy in 2008. Fabean successfully submitted and managed countless research projects for the School and provided outstanding support to faculty. He started at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic of UPMC in 1999 and then moved to the Department of Medicine in 2001. He joined Staff Council (then Staff Association Council) in 2007, where he was an active member until his retirement. He served on the Health, Safety and IT Committee for the entire time and was chairman in 2009-11.



## Galina P. Kirillova, PhD

Research Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Galina Kirillova retired as Research Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. She received a MS in Human Physiology and a PhD in Biochemistry from the Moscow State University, Moscow, USSR. In the Soviet Union, she conducted research in bioenergetics and in the biochemical mechanisms of free oxidation and adaptation to cold. In 1993, she joined the University of Pittsburgh. She worked first in the Center for Clinical Pharmacology and then, since 1995, in the Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research (CEDAR), where she created its Neurochemistry Lab, remaining its director until the project's end in 2015. Kirillova's research program was focused on the neurobiology and development of risk for drug addiction. She also excelled in teaching, and her lectures in biochemistry, meticulously developed from both didactic and artistic perspectives.



## Anna Stracci

Registrar and Academic Advisor in the Curran Student Center

Anna Stracci contributed much to the University through her dedicated and long history at Pitt and PittPharmacy. She first joined the School of Pharmacy in 1970 in the Office of the Dean when Dr. Joseph Bianculli was dean. In 1975, she moved out of pharmacy to explore other employment opportunities within the University. By 1988, she found her way back to the School of Pharmacy in the role of executive assistant in the Office of the Dean. The following year, Anna assumed responsibilities for all aspects of the Office of Student Affairs (admission, registration, counseling, class/exam scheduling) and became the director of student affairs. She has positively impacted the lives of thousands of student pharmacists who have progressed through our programs. She has been an invaluable and supportive coworker and a champion not only for the School of Pharmacy, but for the entire University.



# Q&A

KIM COCCODRILLI COLEY '87

*Kim Coccodrilli Coley, PharmD, FCCP is a PittPharmacy Professor whose research focuses on evaluating clinical outcomes of medications and examining patient and system factors that impact beneficial and adverse outcomes to medications.*



## Can you explain your background and your current role?

My background – well I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and then I completed my PharmD from the Philadelphia College of Science. Then I went on to complete a residency in Philadelphia in drug information. At that time, there wasn't a PGY1, PGY2 program – not as we know it today, at least. I came back to Pitt and I've had multiple roles since then. My current role is working with community pharmacy faculty to facilitate research within that group and expand the role of pharmacists in community settings with respect to innovative care models.

## What steps did you take to get to where you are now?

I had kind of a windy path. As I mentioned, I started off in drug information in a PittPharmacy faculty position in, what was at the time, a newly established Drug Information Center. I was really excited to take a position that allowed me to work with others to build a new program, based on printed reference materials. One of the nice things about Pitt is that I've found that if you work hard that there's always opportunities to re-invent yourself. Once internet use began to rise, I saw the writing on the wall – and I realized that SOON, everyone was going to have ready access to the same information that I had had from print. Exposure to research peaked my curiosity in drug utilization and research that impacted patient care. I took a lot of classes at Pitt and personalized my education to learn how to work with the medical records system at UPMC. My goal was to extract patient-specific data to look at drug utilization patterns to see the impact that drug choice and dosage

decisions had on the patients. E.g., What impact does the selection of one drug have on a patient versus the impact of another? Clinicians were always making choices, but no one was looking to examine the long-term effects of these decisions. Suddenly, that research was now possible. That's how I got my foot into the research door. Research is interesting because you're always discovering. I quickly realized that research was interesting and fun all the time because I was constantly learning something new and doing something different. And that makes work interesting. I'm telling you all of this because then I transitioned as my life transitioned, you know? So I started in drug development and then transitioned into transitions of care, really looking at hospital work, and then I started looking into what happens after we discharge a patient, and then we started looking into what happens to patients after they leave the hospital. After following those patients after discharge, I really learned "wow, there's a huge need here in the community to help these patients sustain their care and to really help them understand their medication after they leave a hospital setting". That's when I began talking to Melissa McGivney and we discussed a need for utilizing someone with my expertise in a community-based setting. And – I have to say this, even though I say it all the time – but I LOVE the community based work. You can see the impact of your work on actual, real patients.



# Q&A

**So, you completed your Doctor of Pharmacy in Philadelphia, and you touched on this a bit in your previous response, but what made you decide to come back to Pitt/Pittsburgh? Are you from the area or were you enticed by the faculty role that you were offered?**

It was a few things – I’m actually not from Pittsburgh. I’m from the north eastern corner of the state – about as far away as you can get from Pittsburgh and still be in the state. So, I came here for my bachelor’s degree so I did get exposure to Pittsburgh during my undergraduate experience and I have to say that I loved it. I’m from a small town – when I came here it was just the right fit. I lived in Philly and it was big and it was fun, but when I finished my training I really thought about “where can I live that will provide me with the quality of life I would like to have”. When you’re a student, you don’t really see everything that you see once you have a job and an income. But between my experience of the city and the people – the people here are so friendly – and the job opportunity, the faculty position, and my familiarity with the city of Pittsburgh, it was just a good fit.

**A lot of our students and alumni know you to be a professor of pharmacy and therapeutics here at the school of pharmacy, but as we’ve learned throughout this interview, your role extends so far beyond the classroom. Can you tell us a little bit about your research and how you implement that research?**

Currently, I work with the other community-focused faculty. We partner with pharmacies and pharmacists that work in chain drug stores and independent drug stores to help them implement and evaluate programs so that they can innovate and provide ever better care to their patients. The research truly de-

pends on the setting, so what you might do for an independent pharmacy might be totally different from something that you would implement in a chain grocery store pharmacy setting. One thing I’m really proud about, though, is that we are very sensitive to our partners’ needs. I don’t do any research in that top down mentality. I engage our partners in the development of the project. If you don’t listen to your partners, there’s no way the research will be generalizable to other locations, so you have to develop it in such a way that it works for your sites. That’s what makes this different from other types of research. Our group is very sensitive to that and I think that’s what helps us to be successful.

**What’s the most rewarding aspect of your job?**

There’s two pieces – I love working with our partners and I love when we do the work – seeing things happen and making practice better and impacting patients in a positive way. From the teaching standpoint, the piece that is very satisfying to me is when you’re able to guide a student to making good career choices or inspire them to do something that they may have not thought about before. From a teaching aspect, that’s something that really sustains me.

**To that end, what is the most challenging aspect of your job?**

This is probably the same for every faculty member, but I just have too many balls in the air. Our team keeps coming up with new ideas! As we finish one project we have 20 more ideas ahead of us that we want to get started on. Just the number of things that we balance makes the work challenging. It can be a good thing – it means that there’s always opportunity and it never gets dull, but it can be hard to pull yourself away at times, too.

**Here’s a throwback question for you – what was your favorite class and why?**

HA! I don’t have a good answer for that question. I don’t even remember my classes. I’m always impressed when someone says, “remember the class when we...” and I’m always like, “yeah, no, I don’t remember that”. Pharmacy school was like a big blur to me! I have great memories and I remember funny things that happened in class, but I don’t have a favorite class, per se.

**Final question – as an alumna and a professional, what advice do you have for our students?**

Your job is for the rest of your life, so make sure it’s a career. You want to get up in the morning and love what you do. Now’s your chance to make that happen.

**Is your answer different as a professor? You wouldn’t tell your students to study harder for O-Chem or get your assignments on time!**

\*Laughs\* It’s all the same – nothing different, nothing different. It’s all about the bigger picture.

# IN MEMORIUM

## *Nick Generalovich Sr.*

“Nick” Generalovich Sr., 73, born on July 24, 1944 in Sharon, PA., passed from this life following a brave battle with cancer on Friday, March 2, 2018 at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, CA. Nick was a beloved husband, father, brother, and uncle. On January 20, 1968, he married RoseMarie “Rhee” Arbanas. The couple had recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January while traveling together in Europe with their two sons. He grew up in Farrell, PA, where he attended Farrell High School, graduating in 1962. He loved basketball and his athleticism was recognized when he received a full basketball scholarship to The University of Pittsburgh. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, graduating in the class of 1968 and was also a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Nick started what became a very successful career in pharmacy. After some time as an executive vice president in the corporate structure, he branched out and bought his own independent retail pharmacies. After that, Nick founded Vanguard Advanced Pharmacy Systems in 1998. As Founder and CEO, he applied his experience and talent into focusing on Assisted Living Facilities (ALF). He became a leading pharmacy provider of ALF services in Florida, as well as a foremost expert in the field nationally. Vanguard was recognized for its success, receiving numerous awards. In addition to his business accomplishments, Nick held prestigious roles with multiple national and state pharmacy associations. Besides his work, Nick loved his family immensely. He is survived by his wife and two sons: Nicholas II and Stanton Bronko; brother Dr. Brian Generalovich & his wife RoseMary, ne Palmiero. Those fortunate to know and work with Nick have lost an understanding friend and an inspiring mentor.

## *William S. Liepack*

William S. Liepack passed away on Saturday, December 31, 2016. Beloved husband of the late Eilene Liepack; cherished father of Fonda (Albert) D’Alessandro and Leona Ann (Paul) Fritsch; brother of David (Anita) Liepack and the late Stanley and Louis Liepack; brother-in-law of Eileen and Marlene Liepack; grandfather of Armand D’Alessandro and Joshua, Freya and Martha Fritsch. Bill graduated from Fifth Avenue High School and then from the University of Pittsburgh with a Pharmaceutical Degree. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War. When he returned, he met Eilene Strauchler and they married in June 1957. He was a Past President of the Allegheny County Pharmaceutical Association. In 2013, he received the “Pharmacist of the Year” award by the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association. Bill was a beloved PittPharmacy alumnus, friend and mentor to many. He will be missed.

## *Arthur “Art” Kameshka*

Arthur “Art” Kameshka, age 73, passed away at his home in Naperville on Sunday, March 11, 2018. He was born in Homestead, PA on September 3, 1944 and grew up in Munhall, PA where he attended school and graduated from Munhall High School. Thereafter, he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy. He practiced community pharmacy in the Pittsburgh area until he served his country as a U.S. Army pharmacist during the Vietnam Conflict. Upon his discharge, he was a civilian pharmacist at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX where he practiced pharmacy and was a preceptor for pharmacy students from the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. On March 30, 1985, Art married Rosalie Sagraves, and they moved to Edmond, OK where he practiced community and hospital pharmacy in the Oklahoma City area. Thereafter, they moved to Naperville where he continued practicing pharmacy until his retirement. He was active in many pharmacy organizations such as the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists including the Central Texas chapter for which he served as president, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the American Pharmacists Association. Art is survived by his wife Rosalie Sagraves; sisters Katherine Kameshka and Lydia (Edward) Onders; niece Stacy Tollie; nephew Timothy (Laura Wilbur) Onders; brother-in-law Gregory (Brenda) Sagraves; several nieces and nephews by marriage; and his beloved dog Carmen. His parents preceded him in death. Art was a world traveler, a devoted husband and a compassionate friend to animals and humans, alike. He was a champion for the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and will be missed by all who knew him.

## IN MEMORY FUND

To establish an award in memory of an alumnus, family or friend that will provide a deserving pharmacy student needed funds please contact [rxalum@pharmacy.pitt.edu](mailto:rxalum@pharmacy.pitt.edu).



# Share Your News with Our Pitt Family



The PittPharmacy family wants to hear about your achievements and promotions. We want to share with alumni, faculty staff and students. Send us your news and keep in touch.

**LinkedIn:** <http://tinyurl.com/PittPharmLinkedIn>

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/PittPharmacy](http://www.facebook.com/PittPharmacy)

**Twitter:** @pittpharmacy and @RxDeanKroboth

**Keep In Touch:** [rxalumni@pitt.edu](mailto:rxalumni@pitt.edu)

**Home Base:** [www.pharmacy.pitt.edu](http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu)

## NEWS FLASH!

Don't wait to update your email information!

Get the next electronic issue.

Contact [rxalum@pharmacy.pitt.edu](mailto:rxalum@pharmacy.pitt.edu)

## IN MEMORIUM

### RECENTLY DECEASED SCHOOL OF PHARMACY ALUMNI

(AS OF OCTOBER 2018)

Milford S. Adams Jr. - BS '57  
 Bertha Aynardi - BS '49  
 Martha Allen Azar - BS '65  
 Barbara A. Bosley - BS '90  
 Melvin Buchin - BS '60  
 Lawrence G. Bursick - BS '82  
 James A. Caruso Jr. - BS '68  
 Robert J. Celio - BS '59  
 George J. Cosmides - BS '52  
 David Crevar - BS '75  
 Bernard A. D'Aloisio - BS '53  
 George T. Duda - BS '49

Kyle R. Everett - BS '84  
 Richard B. Farrow - BS '52  
 Joanne E. Fechko - BS '72  
 Raymond F. Feura - BS '55  
 James P. Finnerty - BS '55  
 Herbert Flash - BS '60  
 Catherine R. Frezoulis - BS '95  
 Nicholas Generalovich - BS '67  
 Thelma J. Gill - BS '58  
 Vincent G. Giovannitti Sr. - BS '65  
 Margaret B. Gottschall - BS '70  
 George J. Grega, Ph.D. - BS '68

George B. K. Jones - BS '54  
 Arthur Kameshka - BS '67  
 Donald C. Krey - BS '65  
 Peter A. Leo - BS '57  
 William S. Liepack - BS '52  
 Gilbert L. Little - BS '48  
 Balwinder S. Malhi - BS '76  
 George E. Manolakakis - BS '57  
 Stanley F. Marks - BS '61  
 Alfred R. Mott - BS '60  
 Michael Musulin - BS '63  
 David B. Nida - BS '83

L. Robert Oberfield - BS '61  
 George T. O'Neill Jr. - BS '74  
 Dominic A. Peters - BS '55  
 Dennis M. Rach - BS '88  
 Paul Raptou - BS '61  
 Alfred A. Risati - BS '83  
 James Rosenthal - BS '57  
 Gerald H. Roth - BS '59  
 Ralph D. Serafino - BS '00  
 James H. Speidel - BS '52  
 Nancy Novak Spencer - BS '78  
 William G. Squires - BS '50

Stanley Swartz - BS '52  
 Calvin S. Toler - BS '74  
 Mark A. Tucci - BS '72  
 Paul G. Walsh - BS '52  
 Chester Zychowski - BS '58

# Check It Out



Christine Ruby



Bonnie Falcione  
and Brian Potoski



Melissa McGivney

## **Ruby Selected Chair-Elect to AACP Geriatric Special Interest Group**

Christine Ruby, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, FASCP was recently elected as Chair-Elect for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Geriatric Special Interest Group (SIG). As chair-elect she will serve to positively impact and improve geriatric care and pharmacy education through collaboration and communication of ideas among faculty nationwide regarding innovative teaching, clinical practice, research, scholarship, and service activities related to geriatric pharmacotherapy topics.

Ruby was officially inducted at the AACP Annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts in July. Her term is a three year commitment.

## **Potoski and Falcione Members of Center of Excellence for Antimicrobial Stewardship.**

Faculty members Brian Potoski, PharmD, BCPS, Associate Director of the UPMC Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, and Associate Professor Bonnie Falcione, PharmD, BCPS (AQ-ID) received accolades in May 2018 when the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) designated the UPMC Presbyterian campus as a Center of Excellence for Antimicrobial Stewardship. The IDSA created the designation as a means of recognizing those stewardship programs that promote excellence in optimizing antimicrobial use and combating antimicrobial resistance.

Falcione and Potoski have each provided over a decade of clinical service to the UPMC Presbyterian campus Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.

## **McGivney Active with AACP Initiative and ACC Conferences**

Melissa A. Somma McGivney, PharmD, FCCP, FAPhA has been appointed by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) to the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Community-based Practice Transformation Initiative (CPTI). This initiative will develop a National Action Plan for Community-based Practice Transformation to identify and prioritize key strategic objectives and will result in the development of specific tools and resources to elevate the perception of the role and value of community-based pharmacy practice throughout 2018. McGivney has also been selected to participate in the inaugural ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) Academic Leaders Network (ALN) program during 2018-2019. This is the inaugural year for a collaborative leadership program. It is designed to support leader development and hone managerial skills for fac-



ulty with some academic leadership experience and leadership aspirations. McGivney is Associate Dean for Community Partnerships at PittPharmacy.

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### **Potoski Appointed to ASHP Council**

Associate Professor Brian Potoski, PharmD, BCPS was appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Council on Therapeutics.

ASHP's Council on Therapeutics focuses on ASHP professional policies related to medication therapy. The Council on Therapeutics purview includes the benefits and risks of drug products, evidence-based use of medicines, the application of drug information in practice, and related matters. Potoski served a 1 year tenure that began in summer of 2018.

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### **Staff Member Represents Research Management**

Angela Yost, Research Project Manager, at PittPharmacy was recently featured in the Leadership section of the Society of Research Administrators International newsletter. Yost is the Chapter Representative, Northeast. The Society of Research Administrators International (SRA International) is the premier global research management society providing education, professional development and the latest comprehensive information about research management to over 5,000 members from over 40 countries.



Sophia Cothrel

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### **PharmD Student Cothrel Appointed to PPA Board**

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Educational Foundation recently installed Sophia Cothrel, PharmD Candidate 2019 to a one-year term as a member of the Educational Foundation Board. The Foundation is a complementary organization to the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association.

Cothrel is a student pharmacist in the Class of 2019 at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. She enjoys membership in PPA, and has participated in the Achieving Independence competition in 2017; she currently serves as the Student Advisory Board Foundation Director. Cothrel also serves as the current President of Phi Lambda Sigma, a Service Chair for Rho Chi, and a Professional Project Chair for Lambda Kappa Sigma at Pitt. She is interested in pursuing ambulatory care pharmacy or community pharmacy as a career.



Kim Coley

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### **Coley Appointed Editorial Board for JACCP**

PittPharmacy professor Kim Coley, PharmD, FCCP has been appointed to the editorial board for the American College of Clinical Pharmacy journal, the Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (JACCP). The appointment runs through December 2020. JACCP is the second official journal of the College and focuses on the practice of pharmacy that will improve how pharmacists provide care as part of their everyday work. JACCP includes original research on pharmacy practice innovations and implementation science as well as clinical pharmacy education and training.



# PittPharmacy Alumni

## Updates/Awards/Accolades/Promotions

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### Updates / Awards / Accolades

**Margie Zak '87** is the new Senior Director of the Medical Science Liaison Team for Neurology at Eisai US

**Brian Bobby '03** is now the President and CEO at Brian J. Bobby Pharmaceutical Consulting

**Mark Garofoli '04** is now the Director of Experiential Learning at West Virginia University School of Pharmacy

**Matthew Hruska '04** began a new position as Senior Director at Kyowa Kirin, Inc. - US

**Kushal Shah '04** was named a Next Generation Pharmacist in the category of Specialty Pharmacist by Parata and Pharmacy Times. He will be honored at the ninth annual Next-Generation Pharmacists awards ceremony in Boston, Massachusetts in early October.

**Nicole Cerussi Kirkland '07** accepted a new position as Senior Pharmacist at Gateway Health

**Robert Snyder '09** was promoted to Senior Vice President of Strategy at PantheRx Specialty Pharmacy

**Aaron Dailey '12** began his new role as the Director of Pharmacy Product Development and Compliance at Gateway Health

**Timothy Mizak '12** was promoted to Director of Pharmacy Business Administration & Analytics at Gateway Health

**Austin Russian '13** was promoted to Director of Implementation at PANTHERx Specialty Pharmacy

**Sajid Ahmed '14** accepted a new position in Medical Affairs at Loxo Oncology, Inc.

**Nicole Pezzino '14** was named 2017-18 Academia Practice Director of the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association. Nicole is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Wilkes University's Nesbitt School of Pharmacy.

**Allison Doherty '15** is starting a new position as a Medical Scientist for Multiple Myeloma at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

**Briana Hicks '15** accepted a position as a Clinical Consultant Pharmacist at OptumRx

**Paula Nociolo '15** was promoted to the role of Pharmacy Manager at Walgreens in Paterson, New Jersey

**Kimberly Stripp '15** accepted a position as a Discharge Pharmacist for Allegheny Health Network

**Jennifer Baird '16** accepted a new position as a Medical Science Liaison at Otsuka Pharmaceutical Companies

**Jessica Lewis '16** accepted a position as a Medical Science Liaison at Janssen, Inc.

**Mallory Wiersch '16** accepted a new position as a Clinical Pharmacist for Beaumont Health

**Brittany Jordan '17** was promoted to the External Scientific Communications Manager for Neurology at Allergan

**Stephanie Tchen '17** will complete her PGY-2 Critical Care Residency at Community Medical Center, Barnabas Health

**Brian Terreri '17** was promoted to the Manager of Medical Communications at Shire

**Archita Achanta '18** will begin her PGY1 at UCSF Medical Center

**Allyson Kraft '18** began a new position as a Pharmacist for PCA Pharmacy

**Julie Mandel '18** will begin her PGY1 at Northwell Health in New York

**Mara Rubin '18** will begin her PGY1 at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio

**Justin Saver '18** was promoted to Advisor of PBM Product Innovation at CVS Health

**Rebecca Wytiaz '18** will begin her PGY1 at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio

**William Bailey** is the new VP and Head of Medical and Scientific Affairs at Helsinn Group

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### PittPharmacy Promotions

**Sandra L. Kane-Gill**, PharmD, MS, FCCM, FCCP, is Professor of Pharmacy and Therapeutics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy

**Donna M. Huryn** is Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and a PI of the University of Pittsburgh Chemical Diversity Center (UP-CDC). PittPharmacy Alumni Updates, Awards, Accolades



Message from the President of the Alumni Society 2017–2018

Dear Pharmacy Alumni,



**H**ail to Pitt! Those words are more than simply an expression of school pride. They reflect a commitment to the school and a desire to uphold the values that the University of Pittsburgh represents. When I was a pharmacy student, and later as a new graduate, I was always impressed by the commitment to the school that I saw in other Pitt Pharmacy graduates. When interacting with

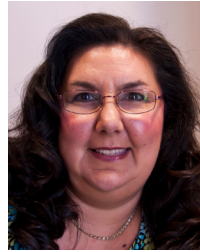
other Pitt pharmacists I always got a sense of willingness to give back; of enthusiasm for helping to guide the next generation of pharmacy professionals; of a desire to uphold the dignity and integrity of the profession.

As a proud 1988 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, it has been my great honor to serve as the president of the Alumni Society for the 2017-2018 academic year. As my time as president draws to a close, I thank each of you on behalf of the Alumni Society for your ongoing support and dedication to the school and to our students. I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the passion and enthusiasm that our alumni have for this profession.

Hail To Pitt!  
Chris Baldini, '88

Message from the President of the Alumni Society 2018–2019

Dear PittPharmacy Alumni and Friends,



**A**s I entered the stands of Heinz Field this fall for a football game, I was overcome with Pitt pride. The excitement of the Pitt band, cheerleaders, and fans was electric. Memories of my PittPharmacy days flooded back and I sang the Alma Mater with joy. A Pitt touchdown was scored on the opening kickoff of the game and in the end the Victory Lights were ablaze atop the Cathedral of Learning. My

daughter is now a junior at Pitt and my son (still in high school) plans to attend Pitt next year. I am thrilled they will also experience the Pitt tradition.

I am so pleased for the privilege to serve as the President of the School of Pharmacy Alumni Society for the 2018-19 academic year. We have so many wonderful plans in the making. During the months of September and October we hosted Penn State pre-game festivities, a Homecoming Reception, and the Career Roundtables. There are more fun and family-friendly activities being planned for the upcoming winter and spring. Every year, the Alumni Society hosts several enjoyable, social events that promote mentoring and networking between students and alumni. Look for news of upcoming events.

Hail to Pitt!  
Christine Ruby Scelsi, '90, '94

PHARMACY ALUMNI SOCIETY BOARD 2017–2018

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman of the Board: Chris Miller '08  
Past President: Mark Garofoli '04  
President: Chris Baldini '88  
Vice President: Christine Ruby Scelsi '90 '94  
Secretary: Dave Julian '06

Jay Stragand '88  
Kristen Topolosky '07  
Janet Traynor '87 '95  
Julene Vidic '88  
Evan Williams '14  
Nick Wytiaz '13

BOARD-AT-LARGE

Rachel Burns '11  
Irene Damratoski '63 '66  
Tanya Fabian '98 '03  
Joe Fiore '14  
Amanda Johnson Korenoski '12  
Jackie Houston Lovitch '04  
Kyle McGrath '15  
Jim Pschirer '76  
William Rumcik '94  
Ernest Sanchez '02

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Julia Calandra (Class of 2021)  
Rish Arora (Class of 2020)  
Sophia Cothrel (Class of 2019)  
Mara Ott (Class of 2018)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Dean: Patricia D. Kroboth '80, '83  
Alumni Coordinator: Meg Osborne  
Director of Development: June Stine

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# Investing in the Future

## Why I Give RICHARD J. KRUYNSKI, RPH (B.S. PITT PHARMACY 1977), MBA Grateful for a Comprehensive Pharmacy Education



I would walk the mile home from basketball practice in the 5th grade in the steel town of Latrobe, Pennsylvania. I would pass two independently owned retail pharmacies along the way; there were no chains at the time. One of the pharmacies had a soda fountain where I would sit each time on the circular stool and down a cherry-Coke before going home to dinner. I could not help noticing the

professional aura of the pharmacist as he filled prescriptions and counseled patients. I learned later that this was the pharmacy where PittPharmacy graduate David Strickler had invented the banana split! I would tell my parents all about it over the evening meal. They listened intently.

Little did I know that the other pharmacist in town, a member of our church, was also influencing my parents' guidance of their young son Rich. At the time, parents then could only mentally connect with hard, tangible professions like a nurse, lawyer, doctor, and "druggist". All were guiding me to a "job" THEY could identify with, thought would pay well, and matched up with my strong suits for math and science. So given my cherry-coke experience, I applied to the University of Pittsburgh and ultimately the School of Pharmacy.

Through my third year at PittPharmacy, I was headed for the classic and traditional career in pharmacy—retail or hospital practice settings. Then suddenly a summer internship position at a pharmaceutical company, Abbott Laboratories, magically appeared. My eyes were opened to non-traditional opportunities for pharmacists, in the pharmaceutical industry. Even more intriguing was the potential which would come from combining a pharmacy background with an MBA. There seemed to be so many possibilities.

In the few years after Pitt Pharmacy graduation and retail practice setting, I set a plan to getting that MBA. At the University of Chicago, I earned concentrations in finance and marketing. I was the only pharmacist among 500+ students who earned an MBA that year.

Following "the plan", I had a fulfilling career in industry settings. First at Baxter Healthcare Corporation, followed by being part of a startup company PharMEDium Healthcare. Much of my career was spent leading and being on teams for improving the safety of sterile compounded

IV and epidural products. Our companies provided innovative sterile compounding services to hospitals. The business was built from scratch... I was the first employee (the business evolved to 1200!), and our services were eventually welcomed by 3000 hospitals nationwide. Success can best be judged by others, but 30+ years of effort by our teams was instrumental in putting a new industry on the map: Outsourced Sterile Compounding Services, or simply put, "Outsourcing".

As I think back over the positions I held and the pharmacy and business applications experienced, I am so grateful for the comprehensive pharmacy education I received at Pitt. Our education stands up to any school, to any pharmacist that came from other universities or colleges. I don't think a day went by where I didn't use my learnings. With the financial acumen learned getting my MBA, I didn't think there was much I was missing. This good fortune led me to many different positions and experiences throughout my career.

All of this leads me to a keen interest in pharmacist-business degree combinations. As well, I am struck and immersed in new innovative concepts and programs that require startup fuel. So my interest in the MSPBA program at Pitt is very high. I want to help that program succeed, and so have provided financial scholarships to assist this innovative startup. The Master of Science in Pharmacy Business Administration is one of the most unique pharmacy-related educational programs in the country. I am privileged to participate on the Advisory Committee and enjoy the invitation extended to me to guest-lecture the MSPBA class with a session on Leadership and Innovation.

**The MSPBA program is a 12-month executive-style, graduate education program where healthcare professionals obtain an in-depth understanding of the business of medicines. Advance Your Career Without Interrupting It.**

**More information at: <http://mspba.pitt.edu/> or contact Bridget Regan, MBA, RPh, Director of Pharmacy Business Programs, [Brigdet.Regan@pitt.edu](mailto:Brigdet.Regan@pitt.edu)**



## Honoring the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program



**“One of the things that I feel has helped me the most is the instructions that I received from your pharmacist in the use of the medication. He said it would make the medication much more effective. I have followed his instruction and have had immediate improvement in my condition.”**

**—GRACE LAMSAM PHARMACY PROGRAM PATIENT**

Since its conception in 1995, The Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy (GLPP) has provided pharmacy services to the most vulnerable people in the Pittsburgh region: the homeless, the working poor, the underinsured, and the uninsured. The mission of the GLPP is to reduce healthcare disparities in Pittsburgh through community partnerships supporting the dispensation of free or low-cost medicines and supplies, and the provision of comprehensive medication management in order to support patients in achieving health.

Founded on a service-learning model, pharmacist faculty, staff, volunteers, and student pharmacists provide comprehensive pharmacy services in free clinics, homeless drop-in centers, alcohol and other drug treatment programs, and community health centers. GLPP’s role ranges across the continuum of pharmacist services including formulary management and technical support; medication dispensing, counseling, access activities, and pharmacist-provided direct patient care such as comprehensive medication manage-

ment. A pool of volunteer pharmacists has been cultivated through the GLPP. Volunteers include faculty members, alumni, pharmacy residents, and students. Most exciting is the participation of PittPharmacy alumni, many of whom were involved with the program as students and remain passionate about volunteerism and service, allowing the program to continue to grow and thrive!!

Over the program’s many years of service, the GLPP has transformed health care delivery to vulnerable populations in Pittsburgh, involving student pharmacists with every step. The GLPP ensures that all PittPharmacy students develop skills to be culturally sensitive, compassionate, humble, and respectful in working with individual patients and communities. Students learn to value the diversity of their patients and to be thoughtful when caring for patients who have limited health care resources. Thousands of students have benefited from experiences that the GLPP supports over the past years. Many of those students have gone on to develop and support programs of their own, further expanding the reach of the GLPP.

### BY THE NUMBERS



**3,000**

Oversees over 3000 volunteer hours provided by pharmacists and student pharmacists



**3,500**

Serves approximately 3500 patients at health centers, clinics, shelters and drop-in-centers



**250**

Engages over 250 pharmacy students and residents each year in direct service



**\$500,000**

Provides medication free of charge approximately valued at over \$500,000



**6,000**

Dispenses over 6,000 prescriptions to patients in need



**1st**

Hosts the 1st pharmacy residency program in the nation specifically designed to train pharmacists to work in limited resource settings both locally and globally

**Contact June Stine, Director of Development for information about donating to the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program, [jus73@pitt.edu](mailto:jus73@pitt.edu) or 412-648-0185.**



PittPharmacy

Offices @ Baum  
Suite 303, 5607 Baum Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206



**Fall 2019**

*Re-Connect with Your  
Pharmacy Friends  
at the RxTravaganza*

**pharmacy.pitt.edu**

