

GRADUATION

2020

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**



University of
Pittsburgh

School of
Pharmacy



Heartfelt Thoughts to the Graduating Class



Dear Class of 2020,

The faculty, staff and I share our heartfelt congratulations to you on your graduation, which promises to be memorable because of the joyousness of this event and also because of our unprecedented distance from each other today due to the pandemic.

We have watched with pride as you matured to the young professionals and scientists that you are today. Each of you is leaving your indelible print on PittPharmacy and leaving a legacy for those who come after you.

You have enriched our School and its traditions while you were students. And I know you will enrich PittPharmacy's outstanding reputation of excellence, innovation and leadership as you join our more than 5,000 alumni.

I congratulate you as you become my professional colleague and step up to a new level of responsibility. Some of you will become health care providers; others will be generating new knowledge; and all of you will be joining teams who will share common goals. Thank you for accepting your responsibility to serve humankind in whatever role you have chosen.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, I offer sincere warm wishes on your success and happiness in the career that awaits you. Please keep in touch! We look forward to sharing your journey.

Patricia D. Kroboth, Dean



DOCTOR OF PHARMACY CLASS OF 2020



BENJAMIN P. ABINADER PHARMD

Sharon, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

The friends I have made in PDC and CDB

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Good Vibes

REFLECTION:

I participated in establishing an opioid overdose prevention program at UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital, focusing on patient education and narcan distribution. I would like to thank Dr. Tanya Fabian, as well as my preceptor, Dr. Tiffany Reid for this opportunity.



CHRISTIAN A. ANDREAGGI PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Magna Cum Laude
Pharmacodynamics ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

The O

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Hail to Pitt

REFLECTION:

The experience that I enjoyed the most and had a significant impact on my pharmacy career was my outcomes rotation with Dr. Kane-Gill.



HANNAH AKERBERG PHARMD

Garnet Valley, PA
Global Health ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Celebrating after our very last final

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Challenging but fun

REFLECTION:

My favorite experience was traveling to Namibia, Africa, talking with University of Namibia pharmacy students and learning about a different healthcare system.



MARISSA A. ANGINO PHARMD

Camp Hill, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Global Health ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

My favorite Pitt memories include studying abroad in Italy twice, having "life talks" with my friends, and meeting my fiancé.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

A time of tremendous personal and professional growth.

REFLECTION: I am grateful for the teaching opportunities. During my rotations, I helped develop and lead two practicum sessions for the P3 students. I look forward to precepting students and obtaining my teaching certificate.



AMY L. ANDREAGGI PHARMD

Ephrata, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Geriatrics & Palliative Care ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Late night study sessions with friends

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Difficult, but rewarding.

REFLECTION:

I loved my rotations at St. Margaret's and Shadyside working with geriatric patients and the palliative care team.



RISHI A. ARORA PHARMD

Chicago, IL
Summa Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

White Coat Ceremony

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Fake it until you become it

REFLECTION:

I am most proud of my research with Dr. Pruskowski to evaluate a web-based mobile pain diary app for chronic pain patients to self-manage pain symptoms. I obtained funding from UPMC and presented the research at the ACCP meeting in New York City.



**REBECCA
OLUWAFUNMITO I.
BABALOLA
PHARMD**

Grand Prairie, TX
Summa Cum Laude
Global Health ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Post-exam destressing with friends

REFLECTION:

Some of my favorite experiences during pharmacy school were attending and presenting research at conferences where I observed pharmacy from a new perspective, made new friends and learned about different cultures.



**CHRISTINE L. BARTHEN
PHARMD**

Moon Township, PA
Cum Laude
Community Leadership, Innovation & Practice ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

PLS Auction

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

One of a kind

REFLECTION:

One of my best experience was completing a rotation at an Indian Health Service site where I lived on the reservation and conducted diabetes and warfarin appointments with patients in this unique practice setting.



**SAMANTHA L. BAILEY
PHARMD**

Macomb, MI
Magna Cum Laude
Research ARCO

REFLECTION:

My best experience was having a project accepted into the Student Spaceflight Experiment Program with other Pitt students. Our project will be sent to the International Space Station in late 2020.



**VICTORIA E. BLAKE
PHARMD**

Glastonbury, CT
Magna Cum Laude
Community Leadership, Innovation & Practice ARCO

REFLECTION:

I thoroughly enjoyed my experiences working with the Community Leadership and Innovation in Practice Center. Their support enabled me to attend national and local conferences to present our research.



**NICOLE A. BARBER
PHARMD**

Sugarloaf, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Making friends with people from all over the world and being able to see my best friends fulfill their professional and personal dreams.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Most demanding but rewarding years

REFLECTION:

My research with mentors Drs. Hernandez and Ivaro Rodriguez, had a significant impact on me. I am grateful for the opportunity to research the Trends in Pricing of Multiple Sclerosis Medications and submitting an abstract to the ISPOR Conference.



**POOJA J. BOGHARA
PHARMD**

North Wales, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

My favorite Pitt memory is celebrating at Hems after finishing finals.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Made possible by iced coffee

REFLECTION:

The rotation that significantly impacted me was my international rotation in Dublin, Ireland. I thoroughly enjoyed providing pharmaceutical care in a different healthcare system, meeting local patients, traveling and adapting to Irish culture.



SAWYER B. BRESSLER PHARMD

Proctor, PA

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

The Oakland Zoo

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

It's what you make of it

REFLECTION:

Completing rotations in different regions of the country (AZ, OR, IL, PA) provided me with unique experiences and introductions to a variety of patient populations and settings.



MEGHAN N. BROWNING PHARMD

Rochester, NY
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Finishing my P4 year in Ireland

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Hail to Pitt! (x2)

REFLECTION:

During my P3 year I worked with Dr. McGivney to develop MTM programs in Central PA through Pennsylvania pharmacist care network (PPCN), and this experience impacted my future work where I will be doing MTM and clinics in Central PA!



LAUREN I. BROCK PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Rotations where I had autonomy and used my education in practice

REFLECTION:

During P1 year I created a unique tech device with applications in pharmacy and won the grand prize at the Randall Family Big Idea Competition. This accomplishment gave me the confidence to follow my interests and talents throughout my time at Pitt.



CASEY M. BUTRUS PHARMD

Linwood, NJ
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

LKS Formals

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Best years of my life!

REFLECTION:

Pitt Pharmacy provided me the opportunity to travel all over the country, as well internationally to Italy, for my P4 rotations.



MATTHEW T. BROCK PHARMD

Jefferson Hills, PA
Research ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Pitt Challenge

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Great education, even better friends

REFLECTION:

My experience in the Pharmacometrics and Systems Pharmacology course exposed me to a field that incorporates both my strengths and interests.



COLTON D. BYERLY PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

My favorite Pitt memory was winning the National Collegiate Cheer Championships in Daytona, Florida with the University of Pittsburgh Cheer team.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Memorable, Fun, Life-Changing, Busy, Accomplished

REFLECTION:

During pharmacy school I interned with Walmart and developed a passion for community care and participating in community outreach events. I plan to continue giving back to the community by participating in walks, charities, and other community-related events.



MARISSA L. CAMPAGNA PHARMD

Bridgewater, NJ
Magna Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Meeting some of my best friends

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
An immersing experience that challenged me

REFLECTION:

My retrospective research I presented at the ASHP Midyear Clinical meeting and the research on investigational drugs for a rare subset of pediatric brain malignancies at UPMC Children's Hospital helped me discover my love for clinical research.



JESSICA L. CERCONE PHARMD

Lower Burrell, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Attending ASHP Midyear in Las Vegas and presenting my research alongside my classmates.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Rewarding, Challenging, Growth

REFLECTION:
During my internship at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, I participated in research on standards of care for sedation in ECMO patients. It was a very rewarding experience to play a role from the start to publication and I look forward to continuing critical care research.



JESSICA N. CANONGE PHARMD

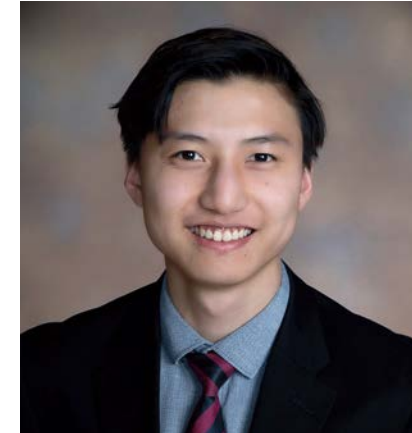
Cranberry Township, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Bonding with my friends over late night studying

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Pitt helped me achieve my goals.

REFLECTION:

One impactful experience was my Community Pharmacy rotation at Walgreens. This rotation reinforced the fact that I enjoy working with patients in the community setting and want to pursue community pharmacy.



JAEHEE CHO PHARMD

Seoul, South Korea
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Wearing my white coat for the first time and feeling like a healthcare professional

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
It was a fun 6 years.

REFLECTION:
One accomplishment I am proud of is publishing a poster and paper during my rotation at the Lung Transplant Clinic. Throughout the 5 weeks, I was exposed to many different aspects of research and after the rotation I continued to develop the project and published my first paper.



DILLAN E. CASANOVA PHARMD

Audubon, PA
Magna Cum Laude

REFLECTION:

My favorite rotation was my managed care elective with Gateway Health. It solidified my future plans and I'm excited to continue with them after graduation.



TAYLOR J. CONRAD PHARMD

Hanover, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Getting together with pharmacy classmates outside of school

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Hard work, but with great friends

REFLECTION:

One experience that impacted me was working with the clinical pharmacist on the heart failure service at Jefferson Hospital. We spent much time educating patients, and this has affected how I will inform patients about their medications and disease states.



EMILY B. CRAINE PHARM D

Harrisburg, PA
Cum Laude
Global Health ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Being a part of the Pitt Ski and Snowboard Team

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Friendships and experiences never forgotten

REFLECTION:

I presented a poster at the Midyear meeting on a quality improvement project with the Birmingham Free Clinic. This increased awareness about social determinants of health and z-codes that have the potential to improve the quality of care for our patients.



KARA A. DEGRAVE PHARM D

Pittsburgh, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Meeting four of my best friends, traveling America and Europe, and presenting at national conferences.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Challenging but irreplaceable.

REFLECTION:

Under Dr. Coons direction, a classmate and I created a dual pharmacist and patient education program on pharmacogenomic implications for the post-acute coronary syndrome. The project continues and is being adopted into use at UPMC.



KIM N. DAO PHARM D

Tarentum, PA
Global Health ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Kappa Psi

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Life changing

REFLECTION:

With Dr. Sharon Connor as my faculty research mentor, my classmates and I presented a clinical research project at Kappa Psi's 59th Grand Council Convention in Washington D.C.



RAVI J. DESAI PHARM D

Somerset, PA

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Dinosaurs Vs Mailmen

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Life Changing

REFLECTION:

At the Pharmacy healthcare solutions consulting firm, I utilized the unique coding and data analytic skill set I learned through the python elective and developed a program for predicting which patients will start biologics for migraines, based on their previous fill histories and co-morbid conditions.



GARRETT M. DAY PHARM D

Wexford, PA

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Exploring Pittsburgh

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Good friends, fun times, great memories

REFLECTION:

I had the privilege of having a close faculty mentor follow my development over the past four years. They viewed my success as their success and took time to foster and grow my interests in pharmacy. I'm excited for what the future holds!



RACHEL E. DOUGLASS PHARM D

Belle Vernon, PA

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

My favorite Pitt memory is the first day of P4 rotations as it was the beginning of a new journey!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Hard work and very rewarding!

REFLECTION:

I had a great experience during my acute care rotation at Excelsa Westmoreland hospital. I helped evaluate information for an initial treatment algorithm for the novel coronavirus. It was a great learning opportunity and way to end my final pharmacy year.



SHANNON L. DUDICH PHARMD

New Castle, PA

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Meeting my life long friends!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

challenging, meaningful, personalized

REFLECTION:

During my rotation with a CVS district manager, I learned the business aspects of the company and developed meaningful relationships with my district manager and regional supervisor. This solidified by desire to work as a community pharmacist for the company.



DOMENICK J. FRANCIS PHARMD

Rochester, NY

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Playing bass at three bowl games for the Pitt Varsity Marching Band

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Challenging: both academically and financially

REFLECTION:

My conversations with Dr. Schiff regarding medicinal chemistry and herbal supplements and time at the United States Pharmacopoeia were incredibly important for me and my choice to pursue a non-traditional pharmacy path after graduation.



LAUREN E. EXLEY PHARMD

Hellertown, PA
Magna Cum Laude
Pediatrics ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Having the whole day off for the polar vortex, and venturing out to Pam's for breakfast anyway!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

late nights, coffee, and lifelong friendships!

REFLECTION: My greatest accomplishment was completing a project in pediatrics at the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and presenting it at the Pediatric Pharmacy Association Annual Conference. It was a great experience to be surrounded by so many people as passionate about pediatrics as I am!



OLIVIA M. FRITZ PHARMD

Middletown, MD
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

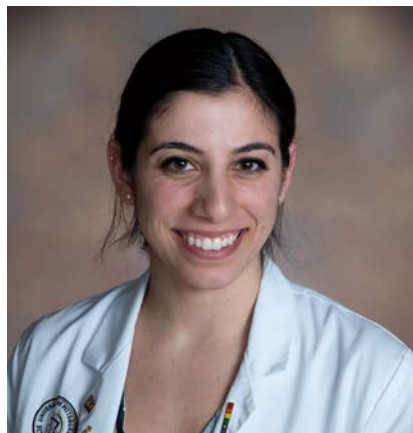
Meeting Maura McGonigal

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

I am in insurmountable debt.

REFLECTION:

My favorite experience was my Rotation in Sitka, Alaska at the Indian Health Services.



NICOLE C. FARAH PHARMD

Cleveland, OH
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Pitt vs. Penn State game in 2016 - the largest attended sporting event in the history of the city of Pittsburgh!!!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Find your passion and follow it!

REFLECTION:

I am incredibly grateful that I become professionally involved. These experiences provided me with a passion for pharmacy, prepared me for a career in hospital administration, and gave me excellent evidence to present during my interviews.



KEELY C. GAMBLER PHARMD

York, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Geriatrics & Palliative Care ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Finishing off every finals week with brunch at Pamela's

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Constantly learning and making new friends

REFLECTION:

My favorite rotation was my geriatric psychiatry rotation where many patients were hospitalized for an extended period of time. It was rewarding to know the patients and see the impact of a pharmacist's recommendations. I will never forget the patients I met and their stories.



SAMANTHA T. GEORGE PHARM D

Pittsburgh, PA
Community Leadership, Innovation
& Practice and Geriatrics & Palliative
Care ARCOs

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Receiving my admission letter to the
University of Pittsburgh School of
Pharmacy during my sophomore year
as a Pitt undergrad

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Hard work and great memories!

REFLECTION:

I had the opportunity to complete two
different areas of concentration that
allowed me to focus my education on
outpatient pharmacy practice with a
focus on geriatric patients. I was able
to work with faculty that have a similar
interest.



MELANIE T. HAWN PHARM D

Huntingdon, PA
Magna Cum Laude
Geriatrics & Palliative Care ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Patient interactions

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Fun, innovative, personalized

REFLECTION:

During one of my rotations, I met
a patient who could not afford
her inhalers. I found coupons and
reassured her she would have her
medication. The patient sent a thank
you letter to the clinic. This reminded
me that even students can have a
lasting impact on patients' lives.



KIANA R. GREEN PHARM D

Butler, PA
Magna Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Watching Black Hawk Down with the
SSHP E-board at Dr. Seybert's house
with her wonderful family!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Stressful and expensive, but worth it

REFLECTION:

Through my internship at the VA, I
realized my passion for working with
the veteran population. I am grateful
for my wonderful mentors and the
patients who I will never forget. I am
excited to continue my training and
I look forward to a rewarding career
serving veterans.



JEONG W. HEO PHARM D

San Antonio, TX
Cum Laude
Pediatrics ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

APPE rotations at the USP and FDA!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Four years of personalized
development

REFLECTION:

My professional development has been
filled with so many experiences and
valuable lessons from our wonderful
professors. I am grateful for my unique
rotations across the nation, and the
projects and mentors who helped
me discover my passion for drug
development. I thank my family and
friends for their continued support; I
would not have been able to receive
this PharmD without them!



SAMUEL T. GUNDLING PHARM D

Hudson, OH

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Memories I have made with my friends
over the past six years

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

What a ride this has been!

REFLECTION:

I had the great opportunity of working
as an intern at Cleveland Clinic for the
past 3 years and this enabled me to
refine my clinical and research skills
to prepare me for a post-graduate
residency.



GWANG-YEE J. HU PHARM D

Eatontown, NJ
Magna Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Meeting all of my lifelong friends!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Challenging yet rewarding, Hail to Pitt!

REFLECTION:

An experience that had a significant
impact on me was using my bilingual
skills for the school's SilverScripts
program. I counseled a Mandarin-
speaking, geriatric patient on
medications and scheduling a doctor's
appointment. Using my personal and
professional skills to provide patient
care has been extremely rewarding.



ESTHER Y. HWANG PHARMD

Boise, ID
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Meeting my best friends sophomore year as a Pitt undergrad

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Best six years of my life!

REFLECTION:

I mentored and helped educate many pre-pharmacy students and fostered trusting relationships with patients and other health care professionals throughout my Pitt Pharmacy education. These experiences were the foundation of my passion for academia and direct patient care.



KELLY A. JENNICHES PHARMD

Natrona Heights, PA
Magna Cum Laude
Geriatrics & Palliative Care ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Going to Pitt football and basketball games

REFLECTION:

My favorite rotation was at the Indian Health Service in Tuba City, AZ. I experienced a much different culture, pharmacist-run clinics, and had the opportunity to explore many beautiful national parks.



JARAD W. ICKES PHARMD

Altoona, PA

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Sitting in the student section during the first Pitt vs Penn State game where Pitt pulled through in the end of the game and won!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Unforgettable six years!

REFLECTION:

During a P4 rotation I studied pharmacy at King's College Hospital in London, UK. I learned about healthcare providers in a country that has free healthcare for all. I would not trade my experience in London for the world and will use what I learned there.



JENNIFER L. JORDAN PHARMD

Aurora, CO
Summa Cum Laude
Community Leadership, Innovation & Practice ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Pitt beating Penn State at home in 2016.

REFLECTION:

On an ambulatory care rotation, I taught a patient how to use an injectable medication they had for months and did not use it because he didn't know how. This experience was impactful because as a retail pharmacist I will be able to teach and counsel patients.



JENNA M. INGRAM PHARMD

Saint James, NY
Magna Cum Laude
Global Health ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Being in the third row at Heinz Field when Pitt beat Penn State 42-39 in 2016!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Making friends, learning, hailing to Pitt!

REFLECTION:

Because of the wonderful mentorship I received at Pitt Pharmacy and the Global Health ARCO, I had many unique opportunities for community engagement and service, including serving as a Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellow where I partnered with Literacy Pittsburgh to develop a health literacy curriculum and teach classes to refugee and immigrant students.



HARAM KA PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

International rotation at South Korea

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Professional, Responsibility, Hardworking, Sweat, Family, Opportunity

REFLECTION:

One of my unique experiences was learning about the pharmacists' role in research on small cell lung carcinoma through an international rotation in my home country, South Korea. I learned the value of the effort that many scientists and pharmacists devote to developing solutions to overcome the difficulties in cancer treatment.



CAMERON C. KARNICK PHARMD

Browndale, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
PPIP

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Pitt forms. portfolio reviews. 402.

REFLECTION:

My experience at Pitt provided me the tools to pursue my interests in pharmacy. I met great mentors and had strong collaborative interactions with my peers through my involvement with organizations like PDC, PPIP, AMCP, and made possible through my many friendships.



NATHAN Z. KIEBLER PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Pitt Football Games

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Very fun, but glad I'm done

REFLECTION:

I enjoyed the opportunity to learn in various environments and meet and work with many people both in my class and in the industry.



HANNAH KELLY PHARMD

Tunkhannock, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
My first Pitt - Penn State football game.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
I made great friends.

REFLECTION:

During my time with PittPharmacy, I traveled across the country and the world to experience pharmacy practice in different settings. I made lasting friendships and relationships.



EMILY L. KISTLER PHARMD

York, PA
Cum Laude
Geriatrics & Palliative Care ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Making life-long friends, participating in Pittsburgh races, and eating Chinese take-out in Schenley plaza.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Full of personal and professional growth

REFLECTION:

A meaningful experience was helping implement the fidget blanket initiative with our ASCP student chapter to craft and deliver personalized sensory blankets to dementia patients. This reinforced my interest in working with older adults and the importance of collaboration when caring for this population.



JORDAN M. KESTER PHARMD

Freedom, PA
Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Attending the American College of Clinical Pharmacology in Bethesda, Maryland my P3 year with PhD and PharmD students. I met so many amazing people and had the opportunity to learn while having a great time!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Never stop when you face adversity.

REFLECTION:

Participating in Pittsburgh's Mission of Mercy as a pharmacy volunteer was an amazing experience. After our underserved patients underwent minor dental surgeries, I filled their medications and counseled them. This was a great way to become more involved with my community and improve my basic pharmacy practice skills.



ABIGAIL K. KOIS PHARMD

Rochester, NY
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Living across from Mad Mex

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Finding lifelong friends

REFLECTION:

My best experience was finding a fellowship and pursuing this fellowship. I enjoyed connecting with non-pharmacy mentors through internships and P4 rotations.



**CHRISTOPHER M.
LAFRATTE
PHARM D**

Dallas, PA
Magna Cum Laude
Global Health ARCO

REFLECTION:

One unique experience I cherish was an externship with the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). This fostered a passion for under-served care that I hope to eventually manifest through a career in the global health arena.



**ALYSSA M. LEAR
PHARM D**

Jefferson Hills, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Being on the cheerleading team and traveling to Death Valley to watch Pitt beat Clemson in football.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Life long friends and memories

REFLECTION:

My favorite experiences include a Special Topics with Dr. Smithburger, author on a systematic review publication, presenting a research poster at ASHP Midyear, and participating in a Medical Intensive Care Unit quality improvement project at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital.



**KIMBERLY L. LANDSITTEL
PHARM D**

Pittsburgh, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Having a great time with my friends at our pharmacy formals.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Met my best friends

REFLECTION:

My two rotations with Dr. Schonder have were my favorite experiences. These rotations initiated my interest in transplant pharmacy, and I helped recent transplant patients by counseling them on their medications and helping the interprofessional healthcare team develop a safe and effective medication regimen for them.



**JENNY S. LI
PHARM D**

Long Grove, IL
Summa Cum Laude
Community Leadership, Innovation & Practice ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Using my language skills in Mandarin Chinese to conduct medication reviews and blood pressure screenings with Mandarin-speaking-only adults at the senior center in Greenfield.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

I'll bleed blue and gold forever.

REFLECTION:

My research experiences initiated a career path that I never would have previously considered. I cannot wait to start graduate school this fall at Wisconsin, and I have to thank my research mentors, Kim Coley and Joni Carroll, as well as my former research mentor, Dr. Abraham, for all their support.



**POLINA LANGER
PHARM D**

Pittsburgh, PA
Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Pitt beating Penn State

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Life-long friends and memories

REFLECTION:

My best experiences were working in Dr. Lisa Rohan's HIV lab on the development on a new drug formulation.



**HALEY M. LIEN
PHARM D**

Downingtown, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Meeting great friends.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Learned a lot about myself.

REFLECTION:

My favorite experiences involved working with patients in an intensive care unit and the lung transplant rotations. At my internship I followed them as outpatients. I observed patient care from many perspectives and built relationships with patients and their families.



DANIEL LIM PHARMD

Flemington, NJ

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Pitt football winning the ACC Coastal Division

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Only in it for the money

REFLECTION:

My experiences revealed that retail pharmacists are very important when it comes to patient care. Community pharmacists are "the people's pharmacist" since they impact more lives in a very short time period.



THOMAS G. MANCUSO PHARMD

Reading, PA
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Schenley Park

REFLECTION:

My didactic and experiential education experiences were supplemented and better mastered by working 4 years as a student pharmacist with the staff, associated medical personnel, and customers of Asti's, a unique community pharmacy in the South Hills. Thank you to the Asti's team for the opportunity to grow as a professional and as a person.



CALEB F. LYNCH PHARMD

Johnstown, PA
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Pitt Football beating Penn State at Heinz Field. H2P

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

6 years went way too quick!

REFLECTION:

I interned for PANTHERx for 3 years and helped create the first student chapter for the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy at Pitt. I won Dr. Salk Hall which helped me discover my hidden dance and pageantry talents.



DIANA H. MANSOUR PHARMD

Greensburg, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Geriatrics & Palliative Care and
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCOs

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

My favorite Pitt memory is watching the football team's win over Penn St in 2016.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Challenging, Inspiring, and Uplifting

REFLECTION:

As chapter president, I championed the Pitt ASCP Fidget Blanket Project to help alleviate the behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia through sensory stimulation and ultimately decrease the administration of antipsychotic medications. This motivated me to care for vulnerable patient populations.



KEVIN M. MAHAR PHARMD

Delmar, NY
Summa Cum Laude

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Never the easy way out

REFLECTION:

Without my rotation with the BGB Group, I would not be on my current career track. I had a limited knowledge of the possibilities in medical communications and its importance to improving patient care. I would like to thank Professor Skledar for her persistent effort to ensure my rotations were tailored toward my career goals.



ALEXANDRA N. MARESH PHARMD

Cherry Hill, NJ
Cum Laude
Research ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Attending the 2016 Pitt vs. Penn State football game and watching Pitt defeat Penn State in person!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Balance is the key to success.

REFLECTION:

My FDA rotation in the Office of Clinical Pharmacology and Pediatrics was one of the most enriching experiences. The professional partnerships I forged shaped my career goals and motivated me to apply for fellowships. I am forever thankful to have collaborated on research projects with such incredible pharmacy leaders.



MADISON G. MCCONNELL PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Receiving my acceptance to Pitt Pharmacy!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Went way too fast!!

REFLECTION:

I was fortunate to work with and learn from Dr. Susan Meyer on a variety of projects, special topics, and a rotation. We were accepted as an AACP Walmart Scholar mentor/mentee pair, and attended the AACP Meeting and Teacher's Seminar in Chicago. I am very excited to pursue a career in academia along with my clinical aspirations.



ERIN N. MCINTYRE PHARMD

Lebanon, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Meeting four of the greatest girls in the world (Haley, Rachel, Amy, and Dillan :))

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Challenging but amazing

REFLECTION:

One of the most unique experiences was the canceling of my Italy rotation two weeks before the start. Although the end of pharmacy school did not go as planned, I learned how to handle sudden change and focus on the positives in a situation. I completed a new rotation, which became one of my favorites, with new mentors.



EVAN R. MCGARRY PHARMD

Reading, PA

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Spending time with my fraternity brothers.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

An unforgettable six years.

REFLECTION:

I had a great experience during pharmacy school because of the friendships I made as a brother of Phi Delta Chi pharmaceutical fraternity. We created experiences and memories that will last a lifetime, and I'm proud to call each and every one of them my brother.



ALEXANDER K. MILLER PHARMD

Johnstown, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Joining Phi Delta Chi and making lifelong friends in pharmacy school.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

This could have been an email

REFLECTION:

As an active member of the Phi Delta Chi pharmacy fraternity I served as the secretary and then president during P3 year. I learned the importance of networking and how to become a better leader. A shoutout to the 22 pledge class brothers for sticking together every step of the way through pharmacy school.



MAURA K. MCGONIGAL PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Too many to pick!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

It went too fast!

REFLECTION:

Pitt Pharmacy enabled me to pursue my passion of reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness. I participated in community outreach, expanded my psychiatric pharmacy knowledge by attending the annual CPNP conferences, and developed my clinical skills and patient interaction skills during my psychiatric rotations at WPIC.



MITCHELL E. MIRABILE PHARMD

Johnstown, PA
Magna Cum Laude
Pharmacodynamics ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

PDC Retreat to Gatlinburg, TN

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Learning by doing

REFLECTION:

My oncology rotation at West Penn Hospital solidified my decision to pursue a residency and I hope to continue my career as an oncology pharmacist.



ELLIS P. MIRONE
PHARMD

Erie, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE: I bought a stapler for use in the communal printing room, and it was broken by the next day. Thanks guys.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
It was fine.



GABRIELLE C. NAM
PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Global Health ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Saturday Pitt Football Games!

REFLECTION:

I am thankful for my time at Pitt School of Pharmacy.



KATHY E. MONANGAI
PHARMD

Roseland, NJ
Pediatrics ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
My three years serving as a Resident Assistant

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Unexpected, Laughter-Filled, Humbling, Exciting, and Inspiring

REFLECTION:

I never knew I would end up in Pittsburgh, let alone at PittPharmacy. I will forever be grateful to my family, the faculty, friends, and SNPhA. Having the opportunity to lead a national pharmacy organization has been one of my favorite moments. Everyone helped shape me into the leader and person I am today.



EMILY A. NOVAK
PHARMD

Mount Prospect, IL
Summa Cum Laude
Pharmacoanalytics ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Beating Penn State football in 2016

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Creating lifelong memories, Hail to Pitt!

REFLECTION:

For the Pharmacoanalytics ARCO, I worked with a group of students to complete a research project, present a poster at Midyear, and submit a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal about changes and trends in reporting 15 years of opioid adverse event data.



STEVEN R. MORETTI
PHARMD

Chalfont, PA
Cum Laude

REFLECTION:

My pharmacy school experiences prepared me for my future career.



DIVYA A. PATEL
PHARMD

Galloway, NJ
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Attending PPA and APhA Conferences and being able to network and engage members of the pharmacy community with my fellow peers.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Open to different career possibilities

REFLECTION:

As Vice President of the Student Industry Organization, I was exposed to many industry opportunities. With Dr. Bertz as a mentor, I received an internship at AstraZeneca, published my first paper in Clinical Pharmacokinetics and presented my work at the FDA. The support of the SIO and Dr. Bertz was essential for my accomplishment.



MEGHA A. PATEL PHARMD

Harrisburg, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Making memories and friends that will last a lifetime!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Very unexpected, but definitely memorable!

REFLECTION:

My first P4 rotation made me realize that I want to practice in an inpatient hospital setting. While learning a great wealth of knowledge, I found my passion for teaching students on a one-on-one basis. This experience has made me excited to be a preceptor one day.



MARISA R. POSTAVA PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Pharmacy Business Administration
ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Participating in 7 university theatrical productions, one of which I got to work with Senior Vice Chancellor Humphrey!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Don't let anything stop you!

REFLECTION:

During my P4 rotations, I was identified a patient in the hospital with an orphan disease, educated the physicians about the condition, and aided in the patient diagnosis. It was great to be able to apply my specialty pharmacy knowledge in a clinical setting.



ADAM R. PATRICK PHARMD

Jefferson Hills, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Pitt 42 - Penn St 39

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

This could have been an email

REFLECTION:

Thanks to Dr Tucker Freedy of Allegheny General Hospital and the Allegheny County Medical Society, I was able to publish a Materia Medica on the novel cystic fibrosis drug Trikafta.



ALLEN L. POTTER PHARMD

Elysburg, PA
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

The SIO symposium

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Challenging, Exciting, Rewarding

REFLECTION:

Going to ASHP midyear to apply for fellowships and present my research abstract was an incredible experience. It was exciting to meet other students interested in the pharmaceutical industry.



CATHERINE I. PFENDNER PHARMD

Downingtown, PA
Community Leadership, Innovation & Practice ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

When Pitt beat Penn State in 2016

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Counting days until graduation from 900.

REFLECTION:

I loved completing a P4 rotation in a remote bush town in Alaska. We were able to fly to smaller villages to provide healthcare and vaccines. It was truly an experience I will never forget.



DHANUVARSHINI PRAKASAM PHARMD

Monroe, NJ
Cum Laude
Global Health ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Exploring the city and trying new restaurants.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Meaningful and memorable.

REFLECTION:

I presented my research at the International Pharmaceutical Federation conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE. It was a great experience to share my work with pharmacists and learn more about pharmacy from all over the world.



DOMENICA G. RICCIUTI PHARMD

Huntingdon Valley, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Global Health and Pharmacotherapy
Scholars ARCOs

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Spending six years at Pitt and meeting so many great friends and mentors

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Personalizing my education through two ARCOs

REFLECTION:

With the experiences and knowledge I have gained through the Global Health Area of Concentration, I am excited and prepared to address health disparities as a pharmacist and serve my community.



CAYLEE R. SAMS PHARMD

Washington, PA
Cum Laude
Pediatrics ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Living in South Oakland for two years; its not nice but its an experience that all Pitt students should have!

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

It was always interesting!

REFLECTION:

I had the great honor of serving as the president of the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy at Pitt and worked as an Advisory Group Chair for the ASHP Pharmacy Student Forum. My greatest accomplishment during pharmacy school was the creation and implementation of the PRIMERx Program with the help of my fellow student Dan Schrum.



KATELYN N. RUDZIK PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Magna Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

REFLECTION:

My involvement with the APhA-ASP chapter greatly shaped my pharmacy experience. I developed leadership skills and met students from across the country. Giving back to my community through the Stronger Than Hate fundraiser and patient care activities has been incredibly meaningful and rewarding.



CARLY N. SCHAECHTER PHARMD

Flanders, NJ
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Tuba City rotation, running the half marathon, football and basketball games, being extremely shambly in Hillman/Scaife

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Fun while it lasted!

REFLECTION:

I enjoyed being a part of the pharmacy school organizations, particularly SIO, which helped grow my passion for a career in the pharmaceutical industry, and connect with other Pitt students and alumni with similar interests.



SHIVANI SAMPATHKUMAR PHARMD

Bridgewater, NJ
Pharmacoanalytics ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Meeting up with friends at Hemingways Cafe

REFLECTION:

During my FDA rotation, I learned about regulatory pathways for generic and new drug approvals, and how products are monitored after they are approved. I also met many pharmacy students from across the country.



SPENCER G. SCHLECHT PHARMD

Marion, OH
Pharmacy Business Administration
ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

3236 Juliet

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

It never be like used to

REFLECTION:

Working with classmates and faculty members in the development of PIER Miami was the best experience I had in pharmacy school. Not only was I able think creatively, but I developed lasting relationships with everyone involved.



ERIC A. SCHNEIDER
PHARMD

Lancaster, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Intramural Soccer

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
A good six years

REFLECTION:

During an ambulatory care rotation, I interacted with an organ transplant patient at every stage of the process. I met the patient during the evaluation, completed their pre-operation appointment, and saw them after their surgery. This was a rewarding experience to see a patient undergo such a change and the wonderful things healthcare can do for a patient.



LINA SHAO
PHARMD

Lancaster, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
The diverse experiences I have had throughout my rotations.

REFLECTION:

My favorite experience was during my academia rotation with Dr. Falcione where I developed a patient case that she used during her advanced infectious disease elective.



JEFFREY M. SCHOTTENFELD
PHARMD

Woodbury, NY

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Laser tag in Salk Hall

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Towers, Dithridge, Bouquet, Bates, Wharton

REFLECTION:

One of my favorite P4 rotations was at a medical communications agency in New York City. I worked as the medical expert among a team of professionals with varying backgrounds. I cherished the opportunity to express scientific information to clients in a creative and educational manner.



CARSON E. SHOEMAKER
PHARMD

Richmond, VA
Magna Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Planning the annual Phi Lambda Sigma auction

REFLECTION:

One of my favorite Pitt Pharmacy memories was planning the Phi Lambda Sigma annual auction where I helped facilitate activities between professors and students, and to serve the community.



DANIEL P. SCHRUM
PHARMD

Jefferson Hills, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Attending Pitt athletic events

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Stallings was a bad hire

REFLECTION:

I had the fortune of working with Dr. Thomas Nolin and his laboratory team throughout my pharmacy school education. I received clinical-translational laboratory training and mentorship that has played heavily into my future goals.



JULIANNA E. SLOMER
PHARMD

Butler, PA
Magna Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:
Being a part of Pitt Dance Ensemble for 4 years

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:
Hail to Pitt!

REFLECTION:

Experiences during my transitions of care rotation at Lee Memorial Hospital in Florida inspired me to pursue a community-based residency because of the long-lasting relationships I formed through direct patient and provider interactions. I was also part of a quality improvement project that demonstrated the value of a pharmacist in an ambulatory setting.



DANIELLE E. SNYDER PHARMD

Lansdale, PA
Cum Laude
Community Leadership, Innovation &
Practice ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Learning to complete CMRs
and finding great friends during
SilverScripts

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

A good six years

REFLECTION:

During pharmacy school, I discovered
my passion for community pharmacy
and the advancement of outpatient
care especially through my work with
the CLIP team. These experiences
allowed me to travel to conferences,
present my research, and develop
my leadership skills and passion for
pharmacy.



DAMARIS A. SZMACIASZ PHARMD

Kunkletown, PA
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Holding the human brain in Dr. Gibbs'
class

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Personalized, prestigious, and
priceless!

REFLECTION:

Being an active member of the
Christian Pharmacists Fellowship
International continually reminded me
that I'm honored to be a pharmacist
serving others in my community
and ultimately serving Jesus Christ,
who blessed me with the gifts and
opportunities to become a pharmacist
today.



ANDREW W. STEHLEY PHARMD

East Berlin, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Getting accepted into Phi Delta Chi

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Learning, Passing Exams, and Having
Fun

REFLECTION:

I had a very unique rotation experience
at the Organic Remedies Medical
Marijuana Dispensary in Enola, PA. I
found the rotation to be so interesting
and engaging that I started working
for them on weekends throughout my
P4 year.



TSION TAFESSE PHARMD

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Lunch time with my group of friends

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Coffee, laughter, "wait...what?!", great
people

REFLECTION:

As a student pharmacist, I was able
to take what I have learned in class
and make recommendations for better
drug treatment options for patients
coming to my internship pharmacy.



BRITTANY E. STEINER PHARMD

Lancaster, PA
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Going to Pirates games with my
friends and enjoying the nice weather.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Hard work, but worth it

REFLECTION:

I loved my rotation at an independent
pharmacy in Lancaster and all of the
relationships that pharmacists and
technicians built with their patients.
I plan to follow that example in my
community pharmacy.



GINA E. TAMANINI PHARMD

New Cumberland, PA
Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

The feeling of accomplishment
finishing my last day of rotation

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Unique opportunities and life-long
friends

REFLECTION:

During rotations I worked with many
unique populations, from a Navajo
reservation in New Mexico to a small
town in the rural Adirondacks. I've
seen the difference a pharmacist can
make in a patient's health, and I enjoy
the interactions and relationships. I am
excited to continue making an impact
in my own community.



ALEXANDRIA M. TAYLOR PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Summa Cum Laude
Global Health ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Volunteering at Panther/ Birmingham Free Clinic. Helping patients improve chronic disease management and forming comradery with medical students.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Gaining mentors, serving others, and growing

REFLECTION:

I cannot thank PittPharmacy enough for the mentors in my life. Thank you, Drs. Connor, Jonkman, and Carroll for all profoundly contributing to my professional development. I learned how to address health disparities and improve health outcomes for patients in limited resource settings.



KATHERINE A. VAN GOLEN PHARMD

Landenberg, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

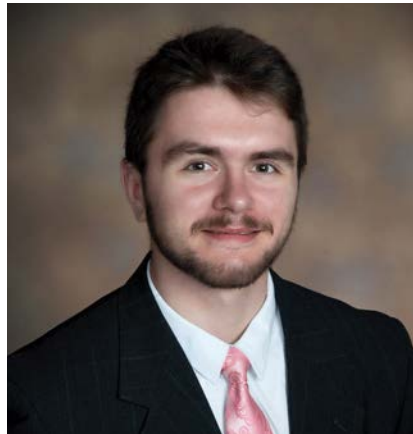
My favorite Pitt memory is meeting my best friends in my undergrad sorority.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Are you going to Peters tonight?

REFLECTION:

One favorite pharmacy school experience was competing and winning with three fellow students in the Achieving Independence Competition through the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association.



GERALD R. W. TAYLOR, III PHARMD

Lake Como, NJ

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

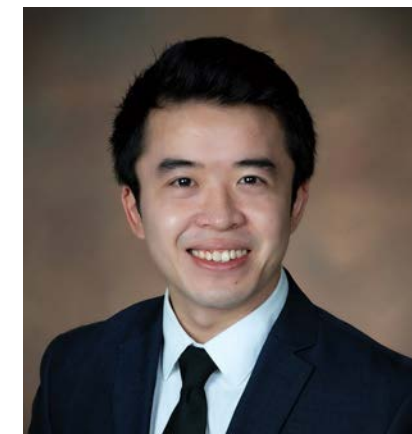
The variety of IPPE and APPE experiences that have gradually shaped my interests in pharmacy

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Constant improvement

REFLECTION:

My experiential P1 service site was West Penn Hospital's Care Partner Clinic, where I eventually became an intern, and will continue there as a resident.



JOHN M. WANG PHARMD

Pittsburgh, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Meeting the friends that got me through pharmacy school

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Work hard and It'll work out.

REFLECTION:

During my ambulatory care rotations, I had conversations with patients about their health and medication use. This was an enjoyable experience, helping patients understand their medications and the proper use. In the future I plan to continue having these types of conversations and interactions in the community setting.



YUWEI V. TSAI PHARMD

Madisonville, KY
Summa Cum Laude
Pharmacotherapy Scholars and Research ARCOs

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Those late night struggles at Scaife hall coffee shop with laughter, tears, and constant desire for bubble tea.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

A bittersweet roller coaster ride

REFLECTION:

I worked with Drs. Falcione and McCreary on a project that led to an update to the hospital's NSTI treatment protocol. This experience solidified my interest in pursuing clinical outcomes research as part of my future career endeavor.



ERIN L. WASYLSON PHARMD

Valencia, PA
Summa Cum Laude

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

White coat ceremony and beating PSU at home at Heinz field

REFLECTION:

One unique experience was traveling abroad to London, England for a rotation. This was a great learning experience and an opportunity to observe healthcare in a different country. This was definitely a highlight of pharmacy school for me.



JOSEPH W. WEIDMAN PHARMD

Elizabethtown, PA
Cum Laude
Research ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

The day I and Pitt Athletics gave an honorary high school commitment sign-on press conference to a high school-aged girl with muscular dystrophy and she gave the most genuine smile I'll ever see.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

The best decisions I ever made.

REFLECTION: I had the pleasure of serving as the University's Varsity mascot, Roc, and supported the University at the Pinstripe and Sun Bowls, Pitt ACC athletic competitions, Tournaments and Championships, news and TV shows, community and charity events throughout Pittsburgh and PA. I visited many patients and tried to make the students and people of Pittsburgh smile.



AMY L. ZAHN PHARMD

Palatine, IL
Cum Laude
Global Health ARCO

REFLECTION:

I traveled to Honduras and worked with attendings and residents at a local clinic in San Jose to provide care to patients who overcame the most grueling circumstances just to receive medical care. I served as a resource for providers; filled, dispensed, and counseled patients.



RACHEL L. WRITER PHARMD

York, PA
Cum Laude
Community Leadership, Innovation & Practice ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

At an 8am colloquium in Scaife 6 preparing for the white coat ceremony, a small group of us were called to the stage to practice the Alma Mater, and

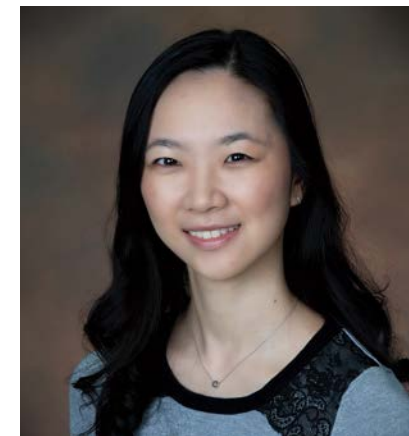
I was the only one who could be heard singing, loud and clear.

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Scaife Library: Home Away from Home

REFLECTION:

I am thankful for the CLIP Area of Concentration's exposure to a wide variety of projects and research and for the team's guidance and support throughout pharmacy school. You are all the best!



JINLI ZHAO PHARMD

Wexford, PA
Cum Laude
Community Leadership, Innovation & Practice ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

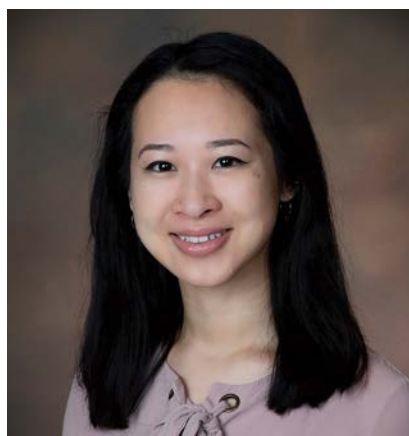
Attending formals and seeing everyone dressed up

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Fun, Educational, Transformative

REFLECTION:

It is incredibly difficult to identify just one moment of my journey and I have grown so much on a personal and professional level. I've collaborated on innovative projects through CLIP and impacted the lives of many patients. Thank you to the professors, preceptors and classmates who've helped me along the way.



LAUREN XU PHARMD

Lansdale, PA
Research ARCO

BEST PITT EXPERIENCE:

Research ARCO rotations

PITT IN SIX WORDS OR LESS:

Diverse and personalized

REFLECTION:

My favorite rotations were the Phoenix Indian Medical Center and working in Dr. Rohan's lab on antiretroviral film research.

CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION AWARDS

STUDENT AWARDS

RISHI ARORA – Robert W. Taylor Award – Outstanding performance in patient care rotation, specifically his transplant rotation where he provided passionate care and worked expertly side-by-side the clinical team.

VICTORIA BLAKE – University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, Innovations in Community Practice Award – Significant Contribution to the advancement of patient care services in the community, specifically through her work with the Pennsylvania Pharmacist Care Network.

JESSICA CANONGE – Robert W. Taylor Award – Outstanding performance in patient care rotation specifically her ambulatory care/academic rotation.

TAYLOR CONRAD – John Herman Wurdack Award – Demonstration of superior academic performance.

RACHEL DOUGLASS – University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Advancement of Patient Care Services – Significant contributions and enhancing patient care services.

KIANA GREEN – Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Outstanding Pharmacy Student Award – Superior contributions to the organization, including the organization of legislative day and serving as class president.

KELLY JENNICHES – Mylan Pharmaceutical Excellence in Pharmacy Award – Superior proficiency in drug information services and outstanding professional motivation, especially in the care of geriatric patients.

DIANA MANSOUR – Pennsylvania American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Graduation Award – For her leadership in Pitt's ASCP Chapter and her dedication to the care of patients.

KATHY MONANGAI – Merck Award – Commitment to and participation in community service programs and her national leadership in SNPhA.

CATHERINE PFENDNER – Merck Award – Leadership in fostering the Student Association of Specialty Pharmacy at PittPharmacy and performing at a high level during rotations.

VINCE PIRO – University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Excellence in Research Award – His compassion and dedication to leading a research project specifically his work with a drug pricing study of specialty medications

MARISA POSTAVA – Merck Award – Her courage and perseverance in overcoming formidable obstacles while providing outstanding patient care.

KAITLYN RUDZIK – APhA Academy of Students of Pharmacy Senior Recognition Award – Demonstrated exceptional service and commitment to APhA, serving as the Pitt student chapter president, and performing outstanding on her patient care rotations.

CAYLEE SAMS – The Pennsylvania Society of Health Systems Pharmacist – PSHP Daniel J. Cobaugh Award – Leadership and commitment to hospital practice, leadership of the student chapter of ASPH, and co-developer of the PRIMERx Program.

SPENCER SCHLECHT – The Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Business of Medicines Award – Exceptional work in the Business ARCO and during rotations.

DANIEL SCHRUM – University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Achievement and Leadership Award – Superior scholastic and professional achievement including his leadership in SCCP, RxAmbassadors, the PIER program and co-developer of PRIMERx Program.

ALEXANDRIA TAYLOR – US Public Health Service Award – For her leadership roles and her passion in developing programs with the underserved clinics and patients.





**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**
CLASS OF 2020



YUANG CHEN MS

THESIS:

Farnesylthiosalicylic Acid-derivatized PEI-based Nanocarrier for Improved Tumor Vaccination

ADVISOR:

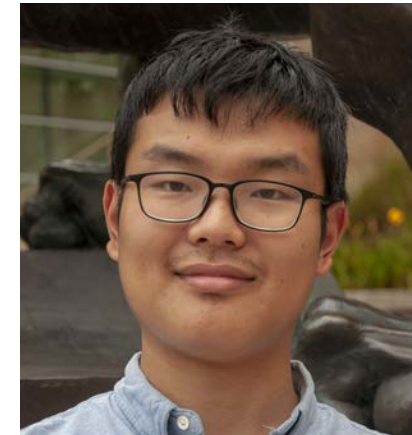
Song Li, MD, PhD

FUTURE:

PhD Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

REFLECTION:

What I cherish most from my time at Pitt is the opportunity to build bridges between School of Pharmacy and Department of Immunology. I am proud to be working on collaboration projects that can be implemented into therapies among both fields. I also treasure the care and love from all faculty, staff, and students that make me feel at home here at Pitt Pharmacy!



XIGUANG QI MS

THESIS:

The Performance of Gene Expression Signature-Guided Drug-Disease Association in Different Categories of Drugs and Diseases

ADVISOR:

LiRong Wang, PhD

FUTURE:

PhD Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

REFLECTION:

My most memorable experience came during the first few months when I began my research. I was eager and passionate and applied various methods of trying to accomplish my experiment. And most of my ideas didn't work out! But I still think that was the most creative time in my university life. Throughout it all I learned many important skills that will help me as I move forward with my education.



YUNSHAN CHIANG MS

THESIS:

Development of a Vaginal film for Delivering a Sperm-Deactivating Non-Hormonal Contraceptive Candidate

ADVISOR:

Lisa Rohan, PhD

FUTURE:

Career in Industry.

REFLECTION:

I'm proud to have successfully developed an immediate-release non-hormonal contraceptive vaginal film. This film prototype can be employed at the discretion of each user. Our research is now moving onto in vitro sperm motility studies using these film prototypes. It was a great experience working with my advisor and fellow students.



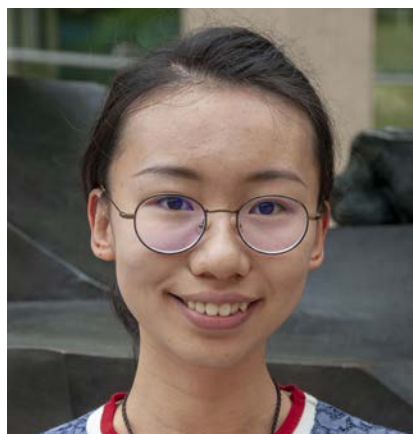
MINGZHE SHEN MS

THESIS:

PAIN-CKB: A Pain Chemogenomics Knowledgebase for Systems Pharmacology Target Mapping and PBPK Modeling Investigation of Opioid Drug-Drug Interactions

ADVISOR:

Richard Bertz, PhD, Zhiwei Feng, PhD



SHUHAN LIU MS

THESIS:

In Silico Simulation of DUSP-YIV906 Protein-Ligand Interactions and DUSP3-ERK Protein-Peptide Interactions

ADVISOR:

Junmei Wang, PhD

AWARDS:

Primary and co-author on multiple peer-reviewed papers.

FUTURE:

PhD Program Clinical Pharmacy Translational Sciences, University of Michigan

REFLECTION:

I've really enjoyed my time at Pitt and am grateful to my advisor and lab mates for they have taught me. After my successful MS defense I've been privileged to take part in research directly related to the COVID-19 crisis. I'm currently studying drug re-purposing for the treatment of COVID-19.



AISHWARYA VASUDEVAN MS

THESIS:

Development of Micropatterned, Mucoadhesive, Ocular Films for the Treatment of Diabetic Keratopathy

ADVISOR:

Vinayak Sant, PhD

FUTURE:

Career in Industry.

REFLECTION:

What I consider as the best part of my graduate education is that despite being so far away from home, I made such wonderful friends here in Pittsburgh and now have having a lovely home away from home. I have learned so much from all of my peers, my advisor and the professors here at Pitt Pharmacy and I treasure my experience very much.



SIYI WANG
MS

THESIS:

Characterizing the Binding Region of GPCRs Based on Molecular Simulation and Energy Decomposition

ADVISOR:

Zhiwei Feng, PhD

AWARDS:

Published first author peer-reviewed paper.

REFLECTION:

I applied the methods that I learned from workshops into my research, and successfully completed it by myself in two weeks.



YIFEI WANG
MS

THESIS:

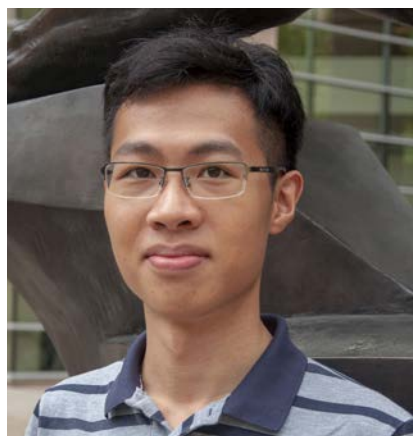
MYC-binding lncRNA EPIC1 Promotes AKT-mTORC1 Signaling and Rapamycin Resistance in Breast and Ovarian Cancer

ADVISOR:

Da Yang, MD, PhD

FUTURE:

PhD Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Pittsburgh



ZIQIAN ZHANG
MS

THESIS:

YAP/TAZ-Inhibitor-Based Drug Delivery System for Cancer Therapy

ADVISOR:

Song Li, MD, PhD

AWARDS:

Co-author peer-reviewed journal article.

FUTURE:

PhD Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

REFLECTION: My thesis defense is a wonderful memory for me. It was the first research project that I led. It wasn't easy and I worked diligently to solve many problems. But I learned so much and am proud of the recognition I received from my committee members. What an honor for me.





**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
CLASS OF 2020**



CELESTE ALVAREZ PHD

DISSERTATION:

Synthesis and Structure-Activity Relationship of Allosteric Inhibitors of the AAA ATPase p97

ADVISOR:

Peter Wipf, PhD

FUTURE:

Post-Doctoral Fellow, National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland



ASHLEY FANCHER PHD

DISSERTATION:

Disrupting Androgen Receptor Transactivation Domains to Identify Lead Compounds with Potential to Be Optimized and Developed into Prostate Cancer Therapeutics

ADVISOR:

Paul Johnston, PhD

AWARDS:

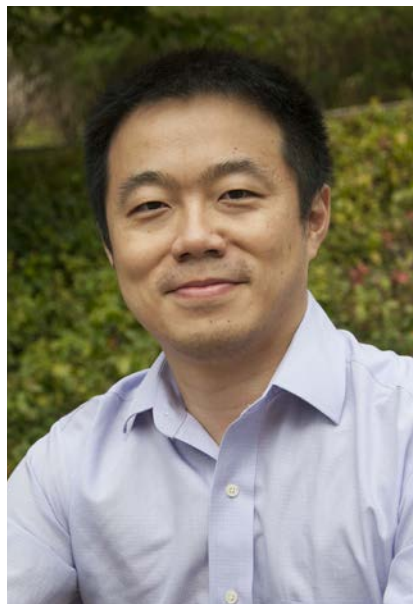
2015 Teaching Assistant of the Year

FUTURE:

Medical Writer Nucleus Global Health Hamilton, New Jersey

REFLECTION:

A memorable experience for me was when I was asked to present my research at the state capitol building in Harrisburg for Pitt.. After my presentation, I was asked for my contact information. I had just completed my comprehensive exam, and I was delighted to hand over my new business card that read: Ashley Fancher, Doctoral Candidate. I felt a great sense of achievement in that moment.



HAIZI CHENG PHD

DISSERTATION:

The Role of Bone Morphogenetic Protein in Regulating Cell Cycle of Aged Muscle-derived Stem Cells Osteogenic Potential In Vitro and Bone Regeneration In Vivo

ADVISOR:

Johnny Huard, PhD,
Samuel Poloyac, PharmD, PhD

AWARDS:

2018 American Society for Bone and Mineral Research Young Investigator

FUTURE:

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Baylor College of Medicine Houston, Texas

REFLECTION:

In my third year, my advisor Dr. Johnny Huard, moved to the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. And I followed. I was excited, but also anxious with uncertainty. Dr. Randy Smith sent me heartening words of support and encouraged me to believe in myself and never give up. I packed my small car and drove over 1400 miles, amazed with the most beautiful views in so many states. I'm so grateful I did it. And no matter the distance between me and the School of Pharmacy, I will always be guided to move forward ... bravely, and with no regrets.



FIRUZ FETURI PHD

DISSERTATION:

Site-specific Immunosuppression for Promoting Vascularized Composite Allograft and Reducing Systemic Immunosuppression-related Morbidity

ADVISOR:

Raman Venkataramanan, PhD

AWARDS:

2018 American Foundation for Surgery of the Hand Basic Science Award

2020 Pitt-CIRTL Associate Certification in STEM Teaching, University of Pittsburgh

FUTURE:

Post-Doctoral Fellowship University of Pittsburgh

REFLECTION:

I feel extremely happy and proud to have received my PhD from Pitt's School of Pharmacy. I have had some of the best moments of my life on this campus. Through the graduate program I've developed excellent research skills while also being exposed to many academic, professional, and social networking opportunities. I am grateful to have made significant contributions in the areas of transplant pharmacology, and drug formulation and delivery. I'm incredibly excited to continue developing new therapeutics to advance the science and to improve patient quality of life.



ZIHENG HU PHD

DISSERTATION:

Achieving Personalized Medicine Using Machine Learning: Clinical Data Mining Studies on Coronary Heart Disease, Substance Use Disorder, and Alzheimer's Disease

ADVISOR:

Xiang-Qun Xie, PhD, EMBA

AWARDS:

2020 Best Teaching Assistant Award

FUTURE:

Pharmacometrician at CSL Behring, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

REFLECTION:

With the support from the School of Pharmacy and my advisor Dr. Xie, I completed multiple courses on topics such as Machine Learning, Computational Genomics, Python, R, Matlab. With this experience, I became one of only 16 worldwide achievers to complete the Matlab Programming Contest on the 5th Anniversary of the Cody Challenge hosted by MathWorks.



ZIV KIRSHNER PHD

DISSERTATION:

Effects of Estradiol and Selective Estrogen Receptor Agonists on Biochemical Endpoints in the Brain: A Comparison between Transitional and Surgical Menopause Rat Models

ADVISOR:

Robert Gibbs, PhD

AWARDS:

Teaching Assistant of the Year Award; 2013 "TEVA Avraham Cohen" Award in Biological Sciences Exceptional Achievements

FUTURE:

Scientist, Noveome Biotherapeutics, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

REFLECTION:

My most memorable event was my first attendance at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting with over 30,000 people and over 5,000 posters. I'm proud of achieving the ability to isolate and culture adult cholinergic neurons, a difficult cell model. I'm very grateful for the privilege of being part of the Pitt Pharmacy Family.



KUNAL JHUNJHUNWALA MS, PHD

DISSERTATION:

Rectal Suppository as a Versatile Platform for Delivering Physicochemically Diverse Antiretrovirals for HIV Prevention

ADVISOR:

Lisa Rohan, PhD

AWARDS:

Student Representative Graduate Program Council

FUTURE:

Clinical Pharmacology Reviewer, FDA Silver Springs Maryland

REFLECTION:

I'm so grateful for the exposure offered me by the School of Pharmacy. I was presented with many opportunities and was able to achieve my short term and long term goals. You will never hear a NO from the School when seeking to learn something new. I'm proud to have been a mentor to high school, undergraduate and graduate students in our lab.



STANTON KOCHANEK PHD

DISSERTATION:

Data-driven HTS Strategies for Selection of Drug Combinations and 3-D Models for Physiologically Relevant Drug Discovery

ADVISOR:

Paul Johnston, PhD

AWARDS:

2020 Latin Dance World Champion

FUTURE:

Associate Scientist Western Oncolytics, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

REFLECTION:

One of my fondest experiences was presenting my research in San Diego Automation and Screening conference through a travel award in 2018. Additionally, I was invited to participate in a discussion panel on current innovations in 3D models of cancer. This was both humbling and exciting given the skill and experience of the scientists on the panel. The company of both Dr. Ashley Fancher and Dr. Paul Johnston added to the quality and memorability of this experience.



JOSHUA NIZNIK PHD

DISSERTATION:

Deprescribing of Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors in Older Adult Nursing Home Residents with Severe Dementia.

ADVISOR:

Carolyn Thorpe, PhD, MPh, Samuel Poloyac, PharmD, PhD

AWARDS:

Randy and Rénee Juhl Graduate Scholar Award

FUTURE:

Assistant Professor University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

REFLECTION:

Receiving the Scientist in Training Award from the American Geriatrics Society at their Annual Meeting in Orlando was an incredible experience. The Society's annual meeting has become one of my favorite conferences that I look forward to each year because of all of the geriatric pharmacists and research colleagues I've met each year.



ALEXANDER PROKOPIENKO PHD

DISSERTATION:

Effect of Kidney Disease and Gut-derived Uremic Toxins on Flavin Monooxygenases: Clinical and Translational Research Studies

ADVISOR:

Thomas Nolin, PharmD, PhD

AWARDS:

NIH Post-doctoral Fellowship; the Teaching Assistant of the Year Award; NIH Loan-repayment Program

FUTURE:

Clinical Pharmacologist Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Boston, Massachusetts

REFLECTION:

One of the most memorable experiences was visiting Sun-Yat Sen University in Guangzhou, China Where Dr. Akhil Patel and I won top prizes for our podium presentations. We were fortunate to also spend a few days in Beijing to see the Great Wall and Wangfujing Market (and no, I was not brave enough to try the scorpions on a stick.



AKHIL PATEL PHD

DISSERTATION:

Bioinspired Hydrogel Formulations for Bone Regeneration: Fabrication, Characterization, and In Vivo Efficacy Evaluation in Mice and Rabbits

ADVISOR:

Shilpa Sant, PhD

AWARDS:

2017 Graduate Student Excellence Award.

FUTURE:

ORISE Postdoctoral Fellow, Food and Drug Administration, White Oak, Maryland

REFLECTION:

My entire journey, from the orientation all the way until my dissertation defense, is memorable. The most special moments were when I saw sparkles in the eyes of high school students and visiting scholar trainees when they were in the lab for the first time and beginning their research journey. I owe my utmost gratitude to SOP leaders, my colleagues, advisor, and family to encourage me to bring the best out of me throughout this journey.



AMINA SHEHU PHD

DISSERTATION:

Pregnane X Receptor Activation Potentiates the Hepatotoxicity of Pharmacoenhancers

ADVISOR:

Xiaochao Ma, PhD

FUTURE:

ORISE Post-doctoral Fellow, Food and Drug Administration, Silver Springs, Maryland

REFLECTION:

I have so many beautiful memories from Pitt. One of my most cherished memory was working as a TA for the PharmD self care course. I learned a lot from interacting with the course instructor and the students and came to discover a hidden passion I had for teaching and mentoring. That experience has inspired me to take up teaching/mentoring the next generation of scientists as part of whatever career path I pursue. I am grateful to God, my advisor, the faculty, staff & students at the school of pharmacy, my family in the lab & abroad and all the friends I made over the years for making my time at Pitt one of the best journeys of my life. It wouldn't have been possible without you! Hail to Pitt!



HARISUDHAN THANUKRISHNAN PHD

DISSERTATION:

Pharmacological Approaches to Preserve Renal Grafts and to Optimize Immunosuppression in Renal Transplantation

ADVISOR:

Raman Venkataramanan, PhD

AWARDS:

Member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology; Student abstract award winner from the American College of Clinical Pharmacology

FUTURE:

Clinical Pharmacology Reviewer, Food and Drug Administration, Silver Springs, Maryland

REFLECTION:

What a memorable experience to conduct clinical research at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute in UPMC. It was an unique experience to interact with renal transplant patients from the time of informed consent and all along the follow-up visits. I'm grateful to the trust of patients who had volunteered and the nurses, pharmacists and physicians at UPMC who taught me so much and became my friends. I will cherish this memorable academic experience at Pittsburgh, forever; nurses, pharmacists and physicians at UPMC who taught me so much and became friends and colleagues. I will cherish this forever.



HONGFEI ZHANG PHD

DISSERTATION:

Optimization of Buprenorphine Dosing in Pregnant Women

ADVISOR:

Raman Venkataramanan, PhD

AWARDS:

2018 Graduate Student Excellence.

FUTURE:

Clinical Reviewer, Federal Drug Administration, Silver Springs, Maryland

REFLECTION:

I found my graduate school journey to be so challenging and yet so rewarding. I am proud to have earned my degree and am truly grateful to the professors and friends who have helped me along the way. The School of Pharmacy at Pitt has become my family.

FACULTY AND PRECEPTOR AWARDS

Stanford I. Cohen Teacher of the Year
Scott R. Drab, PharmD, CDE, BC-ADM

Graduate Faculty Member of the Year
Junmei Wang, PhD

DR. SCOTT R. DRAB PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

IPPE

Joan Maple – UPMC Presbyterian

APPE Faculty

Jennifer A. Pruskowski, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, CPE

APPE Volunteer

Stephanie Ballard – UPMC Shadyside

OATH OF A PHARMACIST

I promise to devote myself to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy. In fulfilling this vow:

I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.

I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skill to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for my patients.

I will respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.

I will accept the lifelong obligation to improve my professional knowledge and competence.

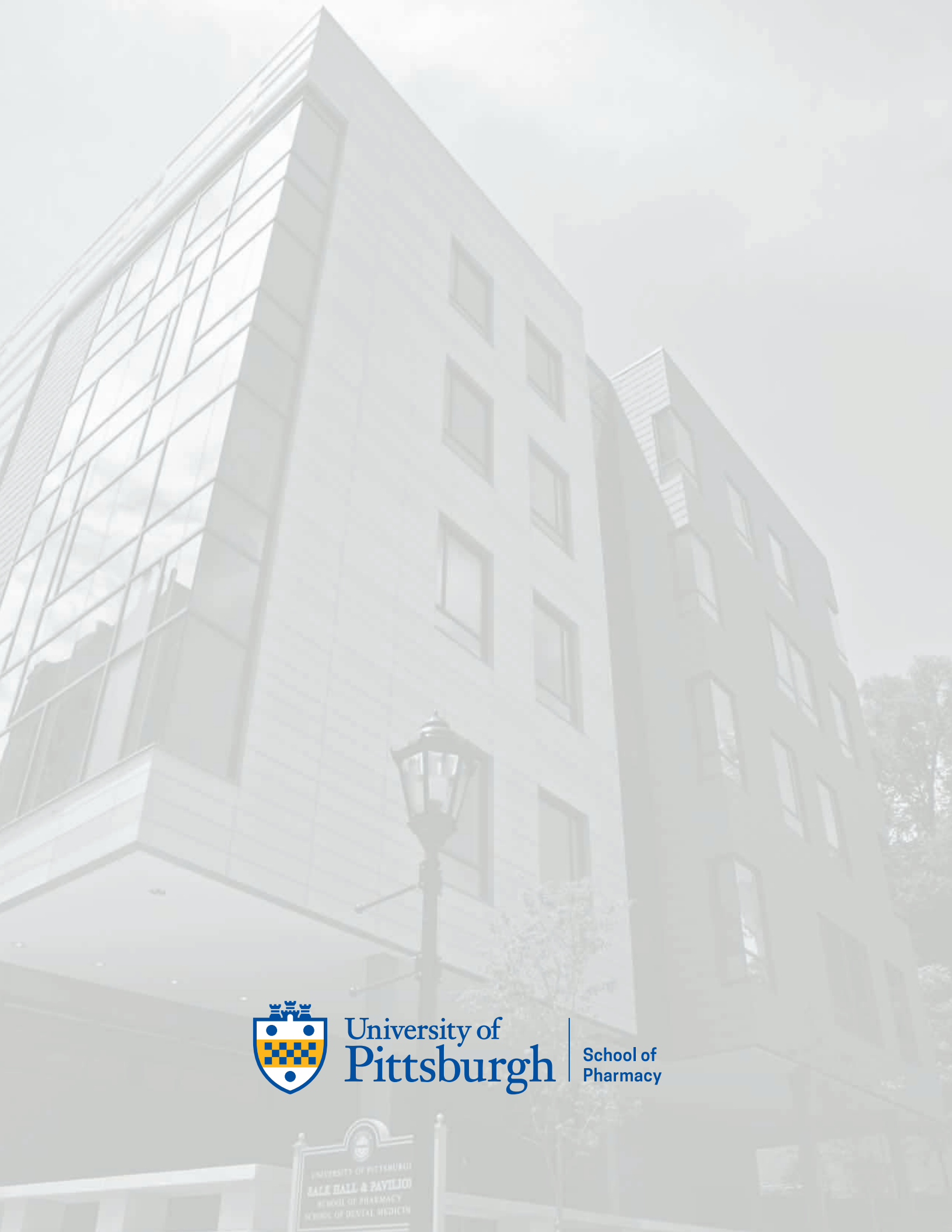
I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession's moral, ethical, and legal conduct.

I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.

I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists.

I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.





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Pittsburgh

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Pharmacy

