University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy | Fall 2022



The Legacy of Dean Kroboth
20 Years of Excellence, Leadership, and Innovation



University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy | Summer 2022







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From My Desk

Active Ingredients >>> Awards, Accolades, & News



Dean Amy Seybert (left), and Dean Emeritus Patricia Kroboth (right) together in the newly renovated Salk Hall

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY LEADERSHIP

Dean: Amy L. Seybert, PharmD

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Associate Dean for Research and Sponsored Programs:

Thomas D. Nolin, PharmD, PhD

 $\label{thm:continuous} Associate\ \mbox{Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Programs:}$

 ${\sf Kerry\,Empey,\,PharmD,\,PhD}$

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Associate Dean for Research Innovation: Xiang-Oun Xie, MBA, PhD

Associate Dean for Research Innovation: Xlang-Qun Xle, MBA, PhD

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Awards, Accolades, & News

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI

Seybert Named New Dean of University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy



my Lynn Seybert, who has served the past 12 years as chair of Pitt's Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, has been named the new dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy after a highly competitive national search. She succeeded Dr. Patricia Kroboth, who served as dean for twenty years, on July 1, 2022.

The following message is an excerpt of the official announcement from Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences, Anantha Shekhar, MD, PhD:

I am pleased to announce the selection of Amy Lynn Seybert, PharmD, as the next dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. In her role, Dr. Seybert will oversee the continued growth and success of the School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Seybert is the administrative director of the pharmacy residency programs, director of the PharmacoAnalytics fellowship and associate director for pharmacy programs at the Winter Institute for Simulation, Education and Research (WISER).

Dr. Seybert completed her undergraduate and doctoral education in pharmacy at Pitt. She then completed her residency in cardiovascular critical care pharmacy at Tampa General Hospital in Florida in 1997, after which she returned to Pitt Pharmacy as an assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics.

Dr. Seybert's research focuses on the scholarship of education using simulation as well as improvement of clinical outcomes in cardiovascular disease and critical care, with an emphasis on medication safety. She is recognized as an international leader in simulation education in pharmacy and pioneered the use of high-fidelity human patient simulation to advance pharmacotherapy knowledge, clinical decision making and medication safety skills in health care professionals. Her clinical research in cardiovascular and critical care pharmacy practice and medication safety has led to substantial advances in patient care as well as growth of pharmacy and patient safety services throughout the UPMC health system and beyond.

In addition to her research and clinical care, Dr. Seybert is responsible for all pharmacy residency programs at UPMC Presbyterian, UPMC Shadyside, UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital and the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy while also serving as the administrative lead for the residency and fellowship council in her role as chair.

Dr. Seybert has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Distinguished Teaching Scholar Award, and is a fellow of both the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists (ASHP).

Dr. Seybert succeeds Dean Patricia Kroboth, who ably led the School of Pharmacy for two decades. Dean Kroboth's tenure saw the emergence of the School of Pharmacy as a national leader in pharmacy education and research, with expansions in postgraduate training and advanced practice residency programs and significant increases in the school's enrollment, extramural research funding and endowment.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. Kroboth for her service and her leadership. I am also grateful to the members of the search committee, chaired by Dr. Steve Reis, for their thoughtful deliberations in bringing this search to its successful conclusion.

There will be opportunities for you to meet her (virtually and in-person) during the next year, and we hope you will participate to ensure the continued success and growth of our programs.

In the meantime, please join me in welcoming Dr. Seybert to her new role at the helm of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.

Active Ingredients >>> Awards, Accolades, & News

Active Ingredients >>> Awards, Accolades, & News



Pitt Pharmacy Ranked in Top 5 Nationwide for Research

The research rankings are in and Pitt Pharmacy has risen to #5 in total research funding nationwide among U.S. schools of pharmacy! A detailed breakdown of the achievement shows that Pitt Pharmacy has had a steady rise in the rankings across nearly every category for the federal fiscal year ending on September 30, 2021:

BY THE NUMBERS

#5 in total research funding #5 in total federal grants #2 in other federal grants #14 in NIH grants #9 in non-federal grants



From left to right: Thomas Nolin, Morgan Casal, Jan Beumer

Pitt Pharmacy Team Publishes Study in Lancet Oncology

A team of Pitt Pharmacy researchers, including graduate student and primary author Morgan Casal, PharmD ('19), and faculty members Jan Beumer, PharmD, PhD, and Thomas Nolin, PharmD ('99), PhD ('03) published a study in Lancet Oncology. The work evaluated the impact of removing the race factor from kidney function-estimating equations on anticancer drug selection and dosing. The analysis showed that removing the race term from the CKD-EPI equation will calculate a lower kidney function estimate for Black patients, which would make more patients ineligible for cancer treatments and may lead to prescription of lower doses of anticancer medications than clinically needed. The study was performed with the goal of expanding discussion on racial disparities in health and promoting accurate kidney function estimation, personalized pharmacotherapeutic decision-making, and equitable care in all patient populations.

Morgan Casal is a PhD Candidate in the Pitt Pharmacy Clinical Pharmaceutical Scientist track. Her primary advisor is Thomas Nolin, who is Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics and in the Department of Medicine Renal-Electrolyte Division. Jan Beumer is Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Department of Medicine Hematology/Oncology Division and in the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center.



Students representing APhA-ASP, pictured with all five awards

Pitt Pharmacy Shines Bright at the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX

With one of the largest sections of student and faculty attendance,
PittPharmacy APhA-ASP students earned FIVE awards at the conference. The students competed for these national awards among 144
schools/colleges of pharmacy nationwide, and received the following:

- Operation Immunization National Award: First Runner-Up
- Operation Diabetes National Award: First Runner-up
- · OTC Medication Safety National Award: Second Runner-up
- Overall Chapter Achievement Award Division AA: Second Runner-Up
- Operation Heart Regional Award

Brooke Kulusich, PharmD Class of 2022, served as National APhA- 3. ASP Speaker of the House – a nationwide elected position she served in since July 2021.

Melissa McGivney, Professor and Associate Dean of Community Partnerships, and Sophia Herbert, Assistant Professor, serve as overall faculty advisors. Drs. Joni Carroll, Kim Coley, Kelsey Hake, Catherine Rebitch, Amy Donihi and Karen Pater have all contributed to support the student's patient care and projects that contributed to these awards.

There were three faculty presentations:

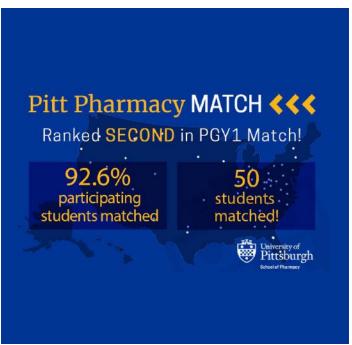
- Ravi Patel, Lead Innovation Advisor: Preparing Current and Future Pharmacists for New Roles in the Digital World
- 2. Melissa McGivney, Associate Dean and Professor: All this Money: Pharmacy Payment, Billing and Reimbursement
- B. Luke Berenbrok, Associate Professor, and Elaine Mormer, Professor: OTC Hearing Aids: Partnering with Local Audiologists

Nine Posters were presented at the conference:

- Koverman MS, Herbert SMC, Carroll JC, Coley KC, Klatt PM, Ossman KL, McGivney MS. Advancing Interprofessional Connections through a University-based Vaccination Center.
- Berenbrok LA, Tang S, Gabriel N, Guo J, Sharareh N, Patel N, Dickson JD, Hernandez I. Access to Community Pharmacies: A Nationwide Geographic Information Systems Analysis.
- Havens FM, Novack AG, Jeschonneck AE, Bowen J, Coley KC, Carroll JC, McGrath SH, McGivney MS, Hake KL. Community Pharmacies' COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts: Partnering with their Communities
- 4. Hake KL, Coley KC, McGivney MS, McGrath SH. Community Pharmacy Interns as Practice Transformation Change Agents: A Novel Statewide Summer Intern Program
- Tang A, Carroll JC, Richardson R, Gessler C, McGivney M, Coley KC. Health Inequities in Vulnerable Communities: Pharmacists Supporting Medication Adherence.

Active Ingredients >>> Awards, Accolades, & News





APHA 2022: BY THE NUMBERS

5 AWARDS **3** FACULTY PRESENTATIONS **9** POSTERS

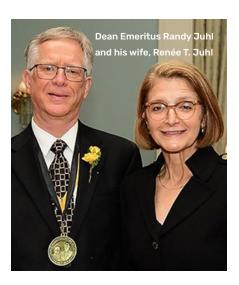
- 6. Herbert S, Trinh M, Schmidt M, Maher R, Coley K, Carroll J. Facilitating Implementation of the Appointment -based Model at a Rural Independent Community Pharmacy Chain.
- 7. Spielberger M, Shagavah S, Connor S, Jonkman L, Isaac J. The Role of the Pharmacist in Health-focused Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs): Evaluating Factors Influencing Pharmacist Engagement.
- 8. Kampas L, Schork C, Marciniak M, Hake KL, Coley KC, Rebitch C, Herbert SMC, McGivney MS, Carroll JC. Vaccine Equity: The Role of Community Pharmacists.
- Schmidt M, Tsuchihashi K, Patel R. Qualitative Approaches to Identifying Barriers and Resources in Technology for Effective Medication Adherence Interventions for Pharmacists in the Community.

Alexandria Rothey, PharmD ('18), was named an APhA Immunization Champion, a national award given to select individual practitioners for their recent efforts in the push to vaccinate their communities. According to APhA, "When Hilltop Pharmacy in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was cut out of receiving a sufficient number of doses of COVID-19 vaccines from the government, Dr. Rothey and her father, pharmacist Patrick Lavella (PHARM '85), worked with state legislators to ensure more vaccines would be on the way to their area. She then forged ahead to vaccinate thousands of people in her community."

Pitt Pharmacy Ranks Second Nationwide in Residency Match

Pitt Pharmacy students placed second among schools of pharmacy in residency match rate this spring after the first round of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Resident Matching Program. The ranking is representative of stats for the PGY1, or first post-graduate year residency programs. According to the ASHP website, "The Match provides an orderly process to help applicants obtain positions in residency programs of their choice, and to help programs obtain applicants of their choice."

92.6% percent of PharmD students from Pitt Pharmacy who participated in the process were matched with a residency program. The match occurs in two phases to ensure that programs and potential candidates find the best fit for their needs.







Juhl Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Randy Juhl, PhD, Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Service Professor of Pharmacy Emeritus, was chosen to receive the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy Osterhaus Medal for Lifetime Achievement. He was recognized in October, in a ceremony that took place at the historic Old Capitol Building in Iowa City, during the University's 2021 homecoming.

The Osterhaus Medal is the highest honor given out by the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. Every year, the award is bestowed upon one or more individuals who have achieved extraordinary excellence in the profession of pharmacy. The award was named after Robert and Ann Osterhaus, of Maquoketa, Iowa. Robert is the former owner of Osterhaus Pharmacy, a business that has been recognized nationally for their advancements in patient-centered care. The Osterhaus Medal for Lifetime Achievement celebrates practitioners who have also advanced the field of pharmacy in profound ways.

During his time as Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy (1986–2002), Juhl converted its entry level practitioner degree program from the Bachelor's level to the PharmD, instituted advanced practice residencies in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and other partners, developed an innova-

tive clinical scientist PhD program and increased its endowment more than tenfold. In 2015, Juhl retired as the Vice Chancellor for Research Conduct and Compliance for the University of Pittsburgh and Distinguished Service Professor of Pharmacy.

Kane-Gill Receives ASHP Foundation Literature Award

Sandra Kane-Gill, PharmD, MSc, FCCM, FCCP, Professor of Pharmacy & Therapeutics, received the 2021 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Foundation Award for Sustained Contributions. The program awards pharmacists nationwide - across five categories - who have made significant contributions to biomedical literature. The Award for Sustained Contributions recognizes a pharmacist who has at least a 20-year record of publishing high quality and impactful peer-reviewed biomedical literature. The recipient's work is evaluated based on significance, impact, quality and innovation. As noted in the ASHP press release, Kane-Gill has "...published over 200 articles and book chapters related to critical care and patient safety and serves on the editorial boards of Critical Care Medicine and Annals of Pharmacotherapy."



Dean Amy Seybert

Pharmacy Dean Amy Seybert Elected Vice President of ACPE

Pitt Pharmacy Dean Amy L. Seybert, PharmD, FASHP, FCCP, CHSE, was elected Vice President of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) for 2022–2023. She served as Treasurer of ACPE from 2021–2022.

ACPE is the national agency for accreditation in pharmacy education in the United States and U.S. territories. ACPE sets standards for assuring and advancing quality in the education and continuing education of pharmacists to prepare them for the delivery of pharmacist-provided patient care. The work of the agency extends collaboratively to include pharmacy technician education programs and reaches around the world through the quality certification of programs outside of the United States and territories.

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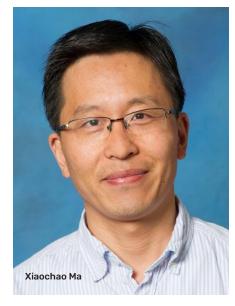


Beumer Receives Multiple Awards, Eligible for Nearly \$10 Million Over Five Years from NCI Contract

Pitt Pharmacy professor Jan Beumer, PharmD, PhD, DABT, was awarded a new National Cancer Institute (NCI) contract for Preclinical Drug Development Research.

The NCI contract is one of only three awarded in the nation. Beumer's research will support the development of new cancer medications and he'll conduct preclinical pharmacology research to support preclinical and clinical trials to define the most effective means of drug delivery. This NCI award makes his group eligible for up to \$9.9 million in task orders over five years.

In addition to the NCI award, Beumer was selected for two other awards - the Michaele Christian Oncology Drug Development Award and Lectureship and the Merrill J. Egorin Excellence in Scientific Leadership Award. The first is intended to honor the contribution of individuals, particularly those in mid-career, to the development of novel agents for cancer therapy. The award consists of a plaque and a lectureship, delivered at the annual fall NCI Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program Early Drug Development meeting. The latter honors a UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Research faculty member that displays biomedical expertise, scientific passion and scholarly dedication.



Ma Awarded NIH Grant

Pitt Pharmacy Associate Professor Xiaochao Ma, PhD, was awarded an NIH R01 grant for his work titled, "The ABCG2 transporter in protoporphyrin IX (PPIX) disposition: From toxicity to therapy."

Ma also has two other NIH grants, one funded by The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the other by The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health.

This grant focuses on protoporphyria and a pathway to treatment. People with the genetic diseases erythropoietic protoporphyria (EPP) and X-linked protoporphyria (XLP) suffer from severe toxicity, including sensitivity to light and liver damage, and there is no cure. The project, led by Ma, will deter-

mine how suppressing a transporter called ABCG2 lessens these toxicities. The results from this project may lead to new treatments for EPP and XLP.

Xiaochao Ma is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and a member of the Center for Pharmacogenetics at University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.





Coons Recognized by ASHP Foundation

Pitt Pharmacy professor Jim Coons, PharmD ('01), FCCP, FACC, BCCP was awarded a Collaborative Care grant from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation and American Nurses Foundation. The project is entitled, "Achieving Medication Optimization for Patients with Heart Failure through an Innovative Nurse Practitioner-Pharmacist Collaboration."

Coons is a co-principal investigator with Jennifer Kliner, CRNP, ACNP-BC. Co-investigators include Mary Keebler, MD, Michael Mathier, MD, Suresh Mulukutla, MD, Floyd Thoma, BS, and Ahmet Sezer, PhD. The project will advance the care of patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction through the UPMC Heart and Vascular Institute's Medication Optimization Clinic (MOC). The goal of the MOC is to enhance optimal guideline-directed medical therapy for patients through use of evidence-based treatments and target doses shown to improve clinical outcomes. The project will scale the existing MOC using an innovative pharmacist-nurse practitioner collaboration and evaluate its impact on reducing heart failure hospitalization and mortality versus standard of care.



Coons was also recognized as the 2021 recipient of the ASHP Foundation Pharmacy Residency Excellence Preceptor Award. The honor recognizes the sustained contributions of a residency preceptor who, throughout their career, has used creative methods to train, mentor, and motivate pharmacy residents.

Pitt Pharmacy Students Excel Nationally in Phi Lambda Sigma

Two students of Pitt Pharmacy's chapter of the Pharmacy Leadership Society, Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS), have achieved outstanding recognition! Yihan Li (Class of 2022; located in above collage) was one of two students nationwide elected to the National Executive Committee. She served as 2021–2022 National Member-at-Large, a position where she worked to connect chapters with the National Executive Committee to further the mission of PLS.

Aarti Zaver (Class of 2022; right photo), was selected to be a Regional Liaison for PLS. In this role, she worked to ensure seamless communication between the 13 collegiate chapters she was overseeing and the National Office.



Aarti Zaver

In addition to the election of these two students, the chapter had a successful year, recently earning the "Chapter Development Award". This award is a supplemental grant, given to fund a proposed event that supports the mission of PLS, which is "to foster and recognize leaders and to support leadership commitment".

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Pitt Pharmacy Awarded National APhA Pinnacle Award

The American Pharmacists Association Foundation has awarded the 2021 Pinnacle Award for Public/Private Partnerships who have enhanced the medication use process to the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in partnership with the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, the Pennsylvania Pharmacist Care Network-CPESN, and Value Drug Company. The award recognizes the leadership of Pitt Pharmacy in the inception, development, support and quality improvement of the Pennsylvania Pharmacist Care Network. Winners were selected from across the nation in three categories.

Pitt Pharmacy Team Awarded HOPA Grant

A team made up of Pitt Pharmacy Research Scientist Katherine M. Eichinger, PharmD, PhD, MS (PhD '19), graduate student Keito Hoshitsuki, PharmD (PharmD '17) and Associate Professor Christian A. Fernandez, PhD, was awarded a Sponsored Early Career Leukemia/Lymphoma Research Grant (ECR) from the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA). It is supported by unrestricted funds from AcertaPharma, a member of the AstraZeneca Group.

Eichinger will serve as Principal Investigator supported by co-investigator Hoshitsuki and faculty mentor Fernandez. Eichinger's funded proposal entitled "Inhibition of anti-PEG antibodies to maximize PEG-asparaginase treatment in pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia" will investigate the role of anti-PEG antibodies on PEG-asparaginase efficacy and screen pharmaceutical compounds that can inhibit anti-PEG antibody production. The end goal of this project is to improve acute lymphoblastic leukemia and other hematologic malignancy treatment outcomes by identifying strategies to stop the adverse effects of PEG-asparaginase. The early career grant will advance Eichinger's path to becoming an independent investigator.

Eichinger is a Research Scientist and alumnus of the PhD graduate program in Pharmaceutical Sciences at Pitt Pharmacy. Eichinger also currently holds a NIH Loan Repayment Program (LRP) award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Hoshitsuki is a PhD graduate student and alumnus of the Doctor of Pharmacy program at Pitt Pharmacy, and he currently holds a TL1 Postdoctoral scholar appointment through the University of Pittsburgh Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and Institute for Clinical Research Education. Fernandez is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, a member of the Center for Pharmacogenetics, and has a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor in the University of Pittsburgh CTSI. Fernandez is also funded by an Ro1 grant from the NIH National Cancer Institute.



Pitt-UPMC Residency Programs Receive Maximum Accreditation

Nine pharmacy residency programs, offered in conjunction between Pitt Pharmacy and UPMC, received the maximum 8-year cycle of accreditation from ASHP!

Pitt Pharmacy has a longstanding history of excellence in pharmacy residency training, and we are exceptionally proud of our programs, residents, residency program directors, and preceptors. We are thrilled with our results from the ASHP site evaluators and the ASHP Commission on Credentialing notification of accreditation. The School has been recognized for numerous best practices and a continued tradition of educational excellence.

 $Congratulations\ to\ all\ the\ program\ directors,\ preceptors,\ residents,\ and\ administrators!$



Sandra Kane-Gill

Kane-Gill Awarded Two NIDDK Grants

Pitt Pharmacy professor Sandra Kane-Gill, PharmD, MS, FCCM, FCCP, was awarded two grants from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NID-DK). The first is a R01 grant for the project entitled, "Multi-hospital Implementation of an Electronic Decision Support System for Drug-associated AKI", in which she is a co-principal investigator. Co-investigators include Pitt Pharmacy faculty members Dr. Colleen Culley, PharmD, BCPS; Dr. Pamela Smithburger PharmD, MS, BCPS,

BCCCP, FCCP, FCCM; and Dr. Alexis Gaggini, PharmD. The project will assess the effectiveness of a clinical surveillance alert system augmented with real-time EMR predictive analytics to support a pharmacist-led intervention to reduce the progression and complications of Drug-associated Acute Kidney Injury. This work advances Kane-Gill's research program theme of medication safety and nephrotoxin stewardship.

The second grant focuses on processes of care after AKI hospitalization, which have been found to be suboptimal – with lack of continuity of care, delayed follow-up, and suboptimal medication management exacerbating the risks of adverse outcomes. The Caring for OutPatiEnts after Acute Kidney Injury (COPE-AKI) Consortium – which includes NIDDK, Cleveland Clinic, John Hopkins University and the Vanderbilt University Medical Center – will develop and test interventions to optimize processes of care and identify key pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions to reduce morbidity among these high-risk patients.

Active Ingredients >>> Awards, Accolades, & News



Empey Recognized as ACCP Fellow

Philip E. Empey, Pharm.D., Ph.D., was recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (FCCP) during a virtual ceremony at the 2021 ACCP Annual Meeting last fall. Fellowship in the College recognizes excellence in the practice and science of clinical pharmacy. This honor is awarded to individuals who have made sustained contributions to the College and who have demonstrated exceptional performance in clinical pharmacy practice and/or research.

Empey is an Associate Professor at Pitt Pharmacy, and the Director of the Pharmacogenomics Center of Excellence and Associate Director of the Pitt /UPMC Institute for Precision Medicine.

xcellence and Asso- tations in Block Symposia. /UPMC Institute for

Pitt Challenge 2021

Let's change healthcare together!



Pitt Pharmacy PhD Student

from American Association of

Jessica Kosanovich received an American

Association of Immunologists (AAI) Trainee

Abstract Award for her work describing how

the presence of maternal antibody at initial

respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection

shapes innate and T cell responses follow-

ing repeat RSV exposure. This prestigious

award is given to students or postdoctoral

fellows whose abstracts submitted to the

AAI annual meeting are selected for presen-

Receives Abstract Award

Immunologists

By the numbers

400+ Registrants100+ Final Hackers33 Teams / Completed projects

6 Countries9 States32 Universities



The mission for AAI states that the "American Association of Immunologists is an association of professionally trained scientists from all over the world dedicated to advancing the knowledge of immunology and its related disciplines, fostering the interchange of ideas and information among investigators, and addressing the potential integration of immunologic principles into clinical practice."

Best Year Yet for the Pitt Challenge!

This past year, the Pitt Challenge was bigger and better than ever! What exactly is the Pitt Challenge? It is an event that is held at Pitt, that brings students together from a variety of disciplines to solve problems within the field of healthcare. Hundreds of students came together last fall to take part in the event, considered technically, to be a "Hackathon" – or an invention marathon. Students had 24 - 48 hours to work in teams, where they built software and developed hardware hacks. The event was highly successful, attracting a record number of registrants (over 400) from 6 countries who worked together virtually to create many new and innovative projects. The Pitt Challenge was sponsored by numerous companies - including, but not limited to: Google, the American Pharmacists Association, UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Enterprises. Stay tuned for information about this year's results!



Skledar Appointed Chair of ASHP Pharmacy Educators Advisory Group

Sue Skledar (Pharm '88; MPH '91), BS, MPH, FASHP, Professor and Director of Experiential Learning and Continuing Professional Development at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, was appointed as Chair of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Section of Pharmacy Educators Advisory Group (SAG) on Student Education and Learning Experiences.

In this role, Skledar works with over 20 educators from across the US to create tools and resources to support pharmacy educators in preparing, engaging, and advancing student pharmacist learning as part of the pharmacy workforce to optimize health. The SAG works to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and cultural competence/humility among the pharmacy workforce; advance the well-being and resilience for student pharmacists; promote interprofessional learning experiences; and advocate for inclusion of student pharmacists in early practice learning experiences.



Venkataramanan Awarded AAPS Distinguished Service Award

Raman Venkataramanan, Ph.D., FAAPS, was chosen as the recipient of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences 2021 Distinguished Service Award. Honoring and recognizing members for a lifetime of service, this award is given to recipients who demonstrate inclusive and collaborative volunteer leadership.

Venkataramanan is a Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Pitt Pharmacy. He was an AAPS member during his time as a student, and currently serves as the University of Pittsburgh AAPS Student Chapter Advisor.



Rebecca Babalola (left) and Madeline Lipp (right)

Babalola and Lipp Receive AACP Walmart Scholars Award

Pitt Pharmacy graduate Rebecca Babalola, and current graduate student Madeline Lipp, each received 2021 AACP Walmart Scholar's Awards. Recipients of this award were chosen from across the country — with over 1,200 students, residents, and fellows being selected to participate with their mentors since the programs' inception, 16 years ago.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to foster recipients' commitment to academic pharmacy, while helping them to develop skills in this area.

Rebecca Babalola is a 2020 graduate of Pitt Pharmacy's PharmD program. Her faculty mentor is Lauren Jonkman, PharmD, MPH. Madeline Lipp, whose faculty mentor is Kerry Empey, PharmD, PhD, is one of five Clinical Pharmaceutical Science students who graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Clinical Research Education (ICRE) with their Certificate in Clinical Translational Science for Doctoral Students.

Active Ingredients >>> Awards, Accolades, & News



Peter Hallisey (left) and Joan Mapel (right)

Hallisey and Mapel Selected as Pitt Pharmacy Recipients of AACP Preceptor of the Year Award

Peter Hallisey, PharmD, and Joan Mapel, PharmD (PHARM '92), were chosen as the Pitt Pharmacy recipients of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Preceptor of the Year Award for 2021.

This award is given to adjunct/affiliate preceptors who have shown strong commitment and dedication to precepting and educating our next generation of pharmacists, and involves a two-year complimentary AACP membership, complete with access to programming and preceptor tools. Hallisey and Mapel have precepted numerous Pitt Pharmacy introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experience students, and are also part of expert panels, practica events, and student orientation sessions at the School of Pharmacy.

Hallisey, Manager, Clinical Pharmacy Services at Jefferson Hospital, part of the Allegheny Health Network, was nominated for his years of dedication in precepting our student pharmacists in hospital/health-system practice. He is a critical care clinical pharmacist, who has precepted over 150 advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE) and introductory pharmacy practice experiences (IPPE) to-date. He has previously received recognition for his precepting efforts, including the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy APPE

Preceptor of the Year in 2018. In addition to precepting, Hallisey guest lectures and facilitates workshops in the Health-System Pharmacy course related to critical care pharmacy practice, challenges of hospital pharmacy leadership, and clinical services in the hospital setting. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he worked closely with the team at Allegheny Health Network to provide unique team-based teaching experiences for our students during the most challenging times of the state-wide lockdown. The Experiential Learning Team was proud and honored to nominate Dr. Hallisey for this prestigious award from AACP.

Mapel (PHARM '92), Transplant Medicine Service Line Lead Pharmacist, UPMC Presbyterian, was nominated for her years of dedication and creativity in precepting our student pharmacists in hospital/ health-system practice at UPMC Presbyterian. She has precepted over 100 advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPE) and introductory pharmacy practice experiences (IPPE) to-date, and has received accolades for her precepting efforts, including the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy IPPE Preceptor of the Year in 2020. In addition to precepting, Mapel guest lectures in the Health-System Pharmacy course related to hospital pharmacy practice, preceptor-student keys to success, and sterile product compounding and technique assessment. She also precepts numerous students on their hospital-based internships,

hosts tours for our prospective pharmacy students, and serves on our Pitt Pharmacy Continuing Education Steering Committee. Additionally, she worked closely with Pitt Pharmacy faculty during the COVID-19 pandemic to create robust, innovative, remote learning experiences for our students during the most challenging times of the state-wide lockdown. The Experiential Learning Team was proud and honored to nominate Dr. Mapel for this prestigious award from AACP.



Lipp Receives AAI Young Investigator Award

Madeline Lipp, PharmD, received an American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Young Investigator Award for her work titled, "The effect of age and maternal antibodies on infant TRM response". This award recognizes Lipp's achievement of having the best scientific abstract in her workshop: Immune Responses to Viruses. The award was announced at the 2021 Autumn Immunology Conference in Chicago.

Lipp began her PhD studies in Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences at Pitt in 2019. Her research focuses on the infant immune response to RSV following maternal immunization, and how the mucosal immune system contributes to protection as well as disease pathology.



Michael Einodshofer

LEADINGTHE WAY

Einodshofer Named Chief Pharmacy Officer of OptumRx

Pitt Pharmacy alum Michael Einodshofer (PHARM '97) was named Chief Pharmacy Officer of OptumRx. Holding previous leadership positions at Maxor National Pharmacy Services, Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy, and UPMC Health Plan, Einodshofer brings with him a wealth of knowledge in managed care and clinical pharmacy services. He is responsible for leading 7,500 pharmacists and pharmacy technicians throughout the company and plans to optimize operational performance and service.



Brian Bobby



Alum Bobby Awarded President's Club Award, Sponsored by Employer for Certification

Brian Bobby, PharmD (PHARM '03) received sponsorship from his employer, Novartis, to attend the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Physicians and Pharmaceutical Medicine (IFAPP), Global Certificate in Medicines Development program. He successfully graduated from the program with the highest honors. With this certification, Bobby earned CMD (Certificate in Medicines Development) credentials.

Bobby also completed a certification course for Mental Health and First Aid (MHFA) that provided him with the knowledge and expertise to assist those that may be experiencing a mental health issue or crisis. After recently transitioning into the pharmaceutical industry as an MSL for Novartis, working in the Respiratory Division of the franchise for 1 year, he was awarded the President's Club Award, which is given to the highest performing field medical associates across the organization. There are only a select few of individuals who are chosen based on performance as well as positively leading and influencing within the organization by demonstrating the highest adherence to internal values and behaviors at Novartis. Subsequently, he was promoted from a Manager level MSL to an Associate Director MSL a few months later.



The Legacy of Dean Kroboth:

20 Years of Excellence, Leadership, and Innovation

Dean Patricia Kroboth recently concluded 20 years as the School of Pharmacy's seventh dean, first woman dean and second longest serving dean since the school's founding in 1878; only Dean Julius Koch served longer with 41 years. She tirelessly and enthusiastically represented the School of Pharmacy at the University, state and national levels. She continually interacted with students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators and others to ensure our stakeholders had input into the direction of the programs and School. She grew the research program, expanded educational opportunities for students and enhanced direct patient care programs. She raised expectations, the standard of excellence and our reputation and rankings. She told our story to the world. Her time as dean will be remembered for engaging and welcoming all to the Pitt Pharmacy family.



With class of 2015 students in the Elmer H. Grimm Sr Museum after the White Coat Ceremony.



Visiting a Traditional Chinese Medicine Pharmacy; Beijing 2012.



At 2010 APhA Pitt reception with alumnus Ted Search (PHARM '05).



Talking with visitors from Fudan University (2012).



Talking with student Eric Abanquah at the Alumni Scholarship Golf Outing.



At a Board of visitors meeting with members Albert Wright, Dan Cobaugh, Herb Shear, Rick Bertz, Bill Bailey and Krista Pedley.



Getting the flu shot in Salk Hall from faculty member Kris Schonder.



With Pitt and Capital Medical University faculty; Beijing, 2012.



Reviewing finishing touches in a Salk Pavilion laboratory with Xiang-Qun (Sean) Xie, Randy Smith and Peng Yang (2015).



Double vision: Making remarks after receiving the APhA-ASP Outstanding Dean Award in Nashville (2018).



Homecoming "The Split Came from Pitt" with Dan and Irene Damratoski, Stan Jonas, Jay Stragand, Sam Poloyac, Joanne Bosilovic, Bill Kennedy and Randy Smith. (A celebration of the banana split, invented by Pitt Pharmacy alumnus David Strickler in 1904.)



Enjoying festivities at RxTravaganza with husband, Frank.



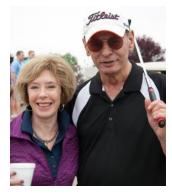
Talking with alum Harry Davis when his son, alum Tim Davis received the 2008 Ivan and Mary Novick Alumni Award.



Clapping at Dr. Maggie Folan's retirement party (2021).



With students at the "Squirrel Hill Rock-the-Block Health Fair" in 2016.



Coffee with Gary Haberle before the tee-off at the Alumni Scholarship Golf Outing.



Presenting Cohen Teacher of the Year Plaque to Scott Drab.



Dean Emeritus Randy Juhl at his retirement party receiving his Emertus Certificate. Also present: Dennis Swanson, Paul Schiff and Chancellor Mark Nordenberg.



Celebrating the 2015 opening of Salk Pavilion and the Commons with Dental Med Dean Thomas Braun and Park Rankin, Pitt Architect.



Celebrating the unveiling of the John P. and Constance A. Curran Pharmacy Student Center with Senior Vice Chancellor Arthur Levine, and Connie and John Curran.



RxTravaganza 2010 with Class of 2011 officers Mike Smith, Taylor Miller and Rhea Santangelo Bowman sharing their class pledge to fund RxPresso.



Reviewing blueprints with Randy Smith, Amy Seybert and Barry Gold (2016).



Ready to view Salk Pavilion construction with hard hat.



Speaking at 2012 Graduation.



With ASP President Elyse Weitzman (PHARM '12) showing plaque for Port Authority busses (2011).



A 2022 graduation laugh with Al L'Altrelli (PHARM '09).



Teaching in the newly renovated state-of-the-art Novo Nordisk Learning Center (2012).



Faculty and staff gather to celebrate Dean Kroboth during the final days of her tenure.



Pitt Pharmacy people in the eighth floor EC Reif Rite Aid Compounding Lab just prior to vacating Salk Hall for renovation (2018).



Visiting alums Simone Karp and Lloyd Myers at CE City with Susan Meyer (left) and June Stine (far right); 2015.



With graduates Aarti Zavar and Roshni Pattabiraman, Class of 2022.



With happy students at a Dean's Advisory Board Meeting.



 ${\bf Talking\ with\ faculty\ members\ Susan\ Meyer\ and\ Melissa\ McGivney}.$



Processing into final Pitt Pharmacy Graduation as Dean.



With alum Joe Gatto, who initiated the Pitt Pharmacy Alumni Scholarship Golf Outing (2008).



Onstage at 2017 AACP Meeting with students who won the Creative Interprofessional Script Your Future Award. Shown with representative from NCPA along with Melissa McGivney, Ann McAndrew, Erika LeBakken, and Jesse Valentino.





By Randy Smith

A few years ago, I invited you to take a "walk with me" tour of Salk Pavilion, the new research facility, and Commons at the time they opened. At the end of that walk, we stepped through the connecting doors into Salk Hall and I shared our dream for transforming it into a powerful new learning and working environment. We envisioned a modern, bright, and welcoming place that would enhance the experience of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors. Today, our dream is finally a reality. I invite you to experience the transformation as you "walk with me" once again.



The Fifth Floor Monumental Staircase

(Photo courtesy of DRS Architects, Inc.)

start in the Commons between the Pavilion and Salk Hall and walk through the large double doors. I am greeted by gold letters on a blue wall that remind me that Salk Hall is the home to two schools: Pharmacy and Dental Medicine. The beautiful terrazzo flooring continues from the Commons into Salk Hall. To my right stands the stately Elmer H. Grimm, Sr. Museum, the Novo Nordisk Learning Center and the "Shot Heard Around the World" display all finished in gleaming dark walnut. I continue through a new wider hallway and into the elevator lobby and stand in the amazing three-story natural light-filled space known as the Larry J. Merlo Atrium.

On my way to explore '03 Hall (after the 1903 classroom on the Bluff), I pass the open conversation area with seating and glass boards that invite students to gather. Once through the doors to '03 Hall, I see new lighting and bright colors on the new seats and walls that energize the spirit. The room is powered by technology, including a power source at every seat and AV equipment with Zoom accessibility for remote participants, including alums at a distance who we can easily now bring into this and other classrooms.

I exit the classroom to face the wide Monumental Staircase and walk up to the fifth floor. As I look up, I see the brass School of Pharmacy lettering above the elevators.



How great it is to see the confirmation that we are entering School of Pharmacy terri-I take a short walk to the left and see a

student hub that opens to the hallway and that is partially separated by a glass writable wall. The natural light streaming from windows into the hallway is a remarkable and welcome change. Bright white student lockers line the walls of the student hub where tables and chairs are found. In the fall, I facilitated as we assigned lockers to students and personally saw the excitement and appreciation of students for the lockers and the space.

Across from the student hub is a new glass-walled 80-person flat-floor classroom. Our redesign of Salk Hall focused on relocating and centralizing neighborhoods of activity. Most space frequently used by students is now located on floors four and five. That contrasts with the need for elevators to span five floors prior to renovations. Further down this long corridor are double doors that lead to faculty and staff glasswalled offices and the Ella P. Stewart 1916 Conference Room. Many faculty from the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics have offices here and all focus on patient care in either hospitals or the community along with teaching. The area is home to the Grace Lamsam Program for Underserved and the Community Leadership and Innovation in Practice. The CLIP Center has helped create one of the most successful pharmacy networks in the country and partners with many pharmacies and third-party payers to improve patient care in the community with reimbursement for care.

Walking back past the elevator, I turn left and see the entrance to the John P. and Constance A. Curran Pharmacy Student Center, which can be conveniently accessed by students and visitors as well as by applicants and their families. I am drawn in by the large, impressive, and colorful painting by our alumnus, Tabe Obi-Tabot '06. Graduates will remember this stunning painting that includes many symbols of pharmacy from its former location in the PCLC (second floor).

Conference rooms, open working spaces and glass-walled offices fill the Curran Center that is generously bathed in natural light. The Center serves students from the PharmD and Graduate Programs starting at their time as applicants through registration for courses, advising, student organization participation, experiential learning, research support and graduation.

As I return to the main hallway on five, I turn left and see another student hub with lounge space and lockers to my right.

The E.C. Reif Rite Aid Maker Lab, the replacement for the eighth-floor lab of the same name, is on my left. The space has Feature Feature



Student Study Area

(photo courtesy of DRS Architects, Inc.)

tables with adjustable height and a central demonstration station where a faculty member can show the proper techniques and students can observe on the video monitors around the room. This room can also be used for classes and students working on projects in our innovation lab. All Salk Hall Pitt Pharmacy classrooms have card access for our students which gives them many spaces to use for meetings, studying, and projects when classes are not in session.

As I continue down the corridor I face the doors to the Rite Aid Patient Care Studio, which has four glass-walled rooms around the perimeter. In the center is an open area where students can prepare for their interaction with standardized patients or high-fidelity human simulators in the rooms.

The fourth and fifth floors are the largest of our "wedding cake shaped" Salk Hall. I look to my left and right and see another classroom on one side and the bridge to Salk Pavilion on the other.

Just to the left is our new state-of-theart Video Production Room. When I open the door, I see everything we need to make quality videos for our classes and student projects: pull down backdrops, new cameras, microphones, and computers. An innovative light board allows an instructor to create videos where they write on glass while facing students. Cleverly, a computer



Students Working in the Lab

(Photo courtesy of DRS Architects, Inc.)

creates and records a mirror image making it appear that the faculty member is writing backwards on the board so students can read the writing properly. I am sure that this room will be well used by students as many of their national competitions require them to create videos.

I turn around to head toward the bridge to the Pavilion and see there is a new office suite on the right for our education support staff specialists. This makes for a quick stop for students between classes – especially since they no longer need to wait for an elevator. A student pantry with microwave ovens and refrigerators, a self-serve printing station, and large storage lockers for student organizations complete the amenities on this floor.

As I walk back toward the elevators, I stop to talk to a group of students studying. I join them for a few minutes and ask what they like best about the renovation. Without any hesitation they all start letting me know:

"Having access to all of the classrooms when not in use for classes."

"Power at our seats and study areas."

"We love the glass boards for studying and projects."

"Connecting to the computer monitors in all of our spaces."

"Having a locker."

Next, we take the elevator to the sixth floor and exit to the right and see a small new classroom for electives and graduate courses. Just across from the classroom is a suite of offices that a team of faculty committed to improving teaching and learning call home

Straight ahead, I walk through the double doors to find the Deb and Lloyd Myers Family PharmacoAnalytics Program. A glasswalled conference room is on my right and as I take another few steps, I find myself in a very large airy, bright and sunlit space. Low partitions separate works spaces for trainees. Glass-walled offices line the far wall, preserving light for those in the center. Most walls throughout Salk Hall have been removed and those interior walls that remain are largely constructed of glass.

Everyone in this area conducts research that uses large datasets and depends on computational skills. Some are computational chemists and systems pharmacology researchers. Others work with large clinical data sets to evaluate health outcomes, pharmacoeconomics and predictive analytics for patient care. We call the entire scope of data science that is focused on drugs,

Novo Nordisk Learning Center

(Photo courtesy of DRS Architects, Inc.)

"PharmacoAnalytics," which is a growth area for Pitt Pharmacy. Our new data science MS and PhD programs in Pharmacometrics and Systems Pharmacology (PSP) and Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research (POR) have attracted interest locally and abroad.

More amazing transformations await on the seventh and eighth floors. As the elevator doors open on seven, I see a large glass-walled open laboratory space, the Herb & Barbara Shear and Family Pharmaceutical Sciences Laboratory. As we walk to the right, we see graduate student workstations and lockers—again, all open to the hallway and bright. On the wall at the left is a display of research posters and papers. Faculty offices are at the end of the hall.

Shared special procedure, equipment, and tissue culture rooms are also found on this floor. At the opposite end of the hallway is a large pantry with a computer monitor, making the space also available for seminar practice. I look out the window to see the Petersen Events Center.

We walk up the stairs and see the eighth floor, which is similar in design to the seventh floor.

Looking through the glass walls, I see many more hoods needed to support synthetic medicinal chemistry and purifications of new chemical compounds.

As we get to the ninth floor, it is clear that we are reaching the top of the wed-



Open-air Workstation

(Photo courtesy of DRS Architects, Inc.)

ding cake. The short main hallway makes that apparent. The Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics Office suite faces the elevator. Around to the back of the elevator is a 40 person classroom in a sunset color of orange, which has become a favorite among students and faculty for elective courses and just plain studying.

A conference room, drop-in hotel office for faculty who have offices elsewhere and a pantry complete the floor. The tenth floor is very similar to the ninth and is home to the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. To complete our tour, we take the stairs to the eleventh floor and note how modern even the closed stairwell looks with new treads and fresh paint. I come out onto the floor of the Office of the Dean. Pale gray carpet, lighter walls and light-colored new chairs make the space bright and inviting. And speaking of inviting, I invite you to "walk with me" on an actual tour so that you can see the transformation for your-selves!

Interested in touring the newly renovated Salk Hall? Contact us! rxalumni@pitt.edu

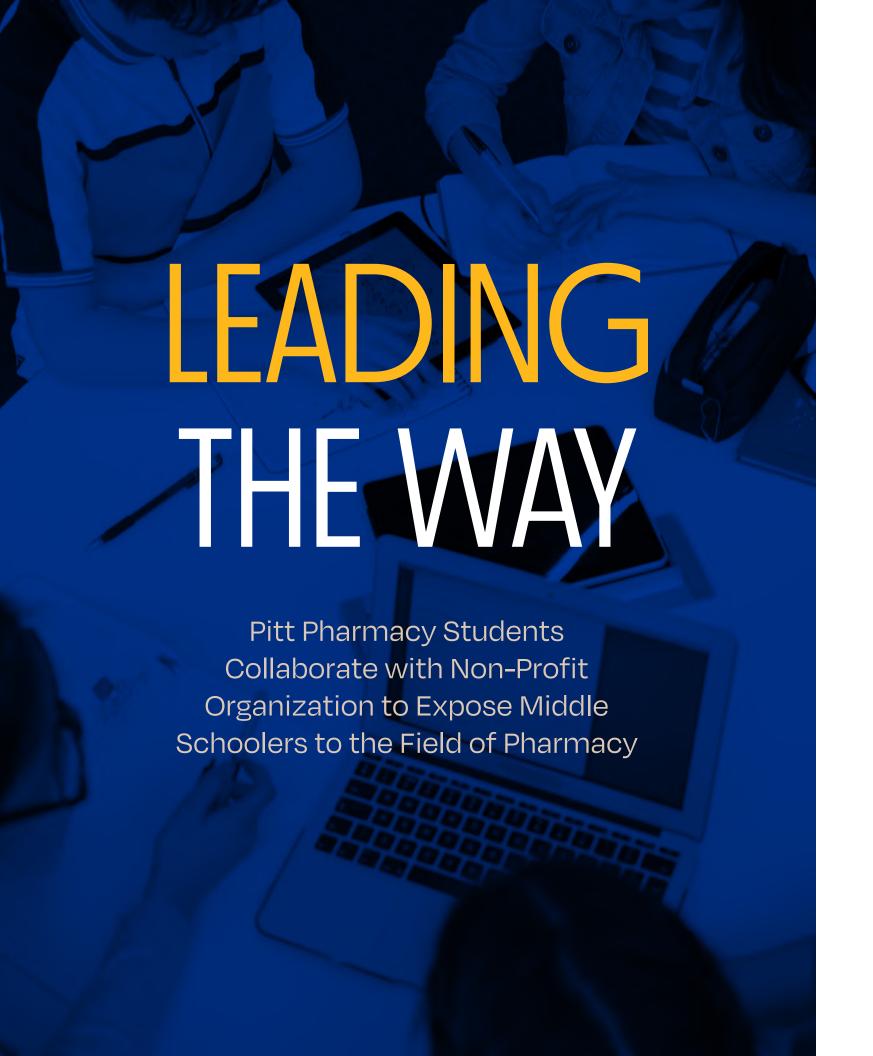


Ninth Floor Classroom

(Photo courtesy of DRS Architects, Inc.)



The Larry J. Merlo Atrium
(Photo courtesy of DRS Architects, Inc.)



PharmD degree opens the doors to many exciting careers and opportunities to improve patients' health and wellness. There is, however, little awareness of these opportunities among students choosing career paths. Student pharmacists Ben Johnson, Maggie Schmidt, and Jaccie Hisashima worked with Dr. Ravi Patel and took on the challenge of helping middle school students discover pharmacy careers through a collaborative project with Read-to-Lead. Read-to-Lead is a non-profit organization that creates immersive online educational games to enrich learning of middle school students. Read-to-lead provides educational game scenarios that connect literacy skills to real-life applications. They invite students to be the "boss" in a virtual workplace. Students complete formative assessments and decision-making prompts during their immersive day at work. Readto-Lead's holistic model incorporates engaging students with literacy skills practice, social-emotional learning (SEL), and career exploration during this critical middle school moment. Read-to-Lead provides curriculum and support for teachers in using the games, which have been used by more than 65,000 middle school students.

The Pitt Pharmacy team partnered with developers and educational specialists from Read-to-Lead with a few distinct goals. First, to develop an online pharmacy-themed game through Read to Lead that could be utilized to promote the profession of pharmacy to middle school students. And second, to engage middle school students through pharmacy-based scenarios on the career opportunities within pharmacy while introducing a professionally driven mindset. The Pitt Pharmacy team used their clinical knowledge and experience to help brainstorm story lines with specific problems, characters, and corresponding pharmacist interventions. They developed four unique story lines that help the young students understand multiple ways pharmacists can make a difference for patients. Read-to-Lead then crafted the online immersive experience.



Puzzling Prescription

The student encounters a pediatric patient having an asthma attack, and after speaking with the patient they identify inhaler misuse and counsel the patient on proper inhaler technique. The student uses socioemotional skills to calm down a stressful family situation and properly educate the patient and her family.

Vaccination Hesitation

The student encounters a patient hesitant to receive the second dose of her COVID-19 vaccine due the side effects she had after the first dose. After listening to the patient's concerns and explaining the benefits of the vaccine, the student empowers the patient to choose to receive the second dose.

Career Crossroads

The student comes across a pharmacy intern making a difficult decision about her career path. The student listens to the intern and helps her think about her decision, encouraging her to accept a fellowship that can help her become a medical science liai-

Unconscious Bias

The student uncovers an unconscious bias that the physician had against one of their patients that was negatively impacting the patients' care. The student respectfully educates the physician, helping the patient receive care tailored to his specific needs.

The Pitt Pharmacy Team did an initial test of the pharmacy experiences with 94 middle school students who attended the Junior Healthcare Explorer experience at Pitt. The Pitt Pharmacy team served as mentors and game guides to the middle school students. The Pitt Pharmacy team then presented at the Read-to-Lead Discover program, attended by 650 middle school students. Student pharmacists were able to provide insight about their career journey, speak about pharmacy areas of interest, and offer advice for middle school aged students.

The final product of the game design allows student pharmacists to help build the next generation of healthcare providers through an innovative and digital platform. Through gameplay, middle school students experienced comprehension of verbal and emotional cues through the lens of the lead pharmacist. Middle school students were

Honor Our Past. Shape Our Future.



able to work on independent decision-making skills as encouraged by the game. Moving forward, the Pitt Pharmacy team will continue to cultivate connections between student pharmacists and the younger generations of future healthcare providers, helping to make the world of pharmacy more accessible to younger students.

The pharmacy game experiences were well received by students and are now officially offered by Read-to-Lead to all middle school teachers and students (https://readtolead.org). The student pharmacists presented this project at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual meeting this past summer.

The Pitt Pharmacy team would especially like to thank Connie Curran for connecting them with Read-to-Lead.

Quotes from "Read-to-Lead" Organization

"Our collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy provided an incredible opportunity to bring to life meaningful workplace scenarios from the pharmacy industry for middle school students. During this creative process, University of Pittsburgh student pharmacists expertly crafted real-life experiences into relevant and timely game storylines. Their perspective was vital to the entire production cycle including serving on a mentor panel for youth during the first summer pilot program. It was this level of thoughtful engagement that ensured middle schoolers had the most authentic and engaging experience possible in the world of pharmacy."

Quotes from Student Pharmacists

"Most middle school students know little about the career of pharmacy, so being able to utilize our shared experiences to help educate and empower the future generation of students has been such an exciting experience. I especially enjoyed piloting the game with middle school students and answering their questions about pharmacy and college, it was so rewarding to see our hard work come to fruition and to see the impact we were having on young learners. I can't thank Read to Lead and the School of Pharmacy enough for providing me with this opportunity!

- Margaret (Maggie) Schmidt, PharmD Candidate, Class of 2023

"As a student in both the global health and pharmacotherapy scholars area of concentration, I was happy to bring in knowledge gained from both sides when creating these stories. While highlighting the clinical role of a pharmacist was not too difficult, I also wanted to emphasize the social determinants of health that many patients face, and how pharmacists play a role in improving their quality of care. It was great working directly with the middle school students and walking through the game with them. I could see, in real time, the impact our game had on their understanding of pharmacy!"

- Jaccie Hisashima, PharmD Candidate, Class of 2023

Where We Are Going

INSIDE SALK HALL & RESEARCH PAVILION

Exit Interviews with the Class of 2022



Aarti Zaver

Degrees: BSPS, PharmD **Hometown:** Carlisle, PA

Favorite Pitt memory: Learning about health care for underserved Native American populations in Arizona and exploring the national parks in AZ and UT!

Pitt experience: Transformational, inspiring, well-rounded, and nurturing

Post-graduation plans: Acute Care PGY1 residency at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System



Deanna Schnitzer

Degrees: Bachelor of Biological Sciences from Seton Hall University (2018) and PharmD from University of Pittsburgh

Hometown: Edison, NJ

Favorite Pitt memory: Being able to represent Pitt at the 2021 APhA Annual Meeting in the Patient Counseling Competition and making top 10!

Pitt experience: This was my first time leaving home and I felt very comfortable and welcomed by both students and Pitt staff/faculty. If I could do it all over again I would choose Pitt every time.

Where am I going: PGY1 residency with Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, Washington



Kimberly Tkach Pelgrim

Graduating Degrees: BSPS, Chem Minor, PharmD-Specialty Pediatrics

Hometown: Oceanside, NY

Favorite Pitt Memory: My first time doing the Sim Man in Cardiology with my P2 table group. We were looking at each other like, "What should we do?" and then I just went for it. We did our thing in the sim man room reading off diagnostics and what we would do and then we walked out and we realized what we had done. We still have a group text to this day! It was so much fun!

Pitt experience: Personal growth and self-assurance

Post-Graduation Plans: Moving to Washington State. PGY1 residency in Spokane at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center.

New Faculty



Dustin Walsh, PharmD, MSAssistant Professor,
Pharmaceutical Sciences



Simone Brixius-Anderko, PhDAssistant Professor,
Pharmaceutical Sciences



Velvet Journigan, PhDAssistant Professor,
Pharmaceutical Sciences



Viet Man, PhDResearch Instructor,
Pharmaceutical Sciences



Sophia Herbert, PharmDAssistant Professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics



BCACP, TTS
Assistant Professor,
Pharmacy and Therapeutics



Kimberly Burns, RPh, JDAssociate Professor,
Pharmacy and Therapeutics

New Staff



Matt Mraz Webmaster



Bailey Tobias, MEdDirector of Graduate Programs



Nicole Kocon
Assistant Dean of Business
and Administration



Nosipho DemiDepartment Administrator,
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Retirees



Susan M. Meyer, PhD: Professor Emeritus, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

graduate students, faculty and staff.

Maggie Folan, PhD: Assistant Professor Emeritus, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

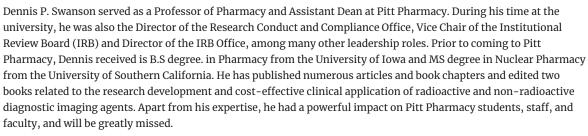


Susan Meyer, PhD, joined Pitt Pharmacy in 2006, in the role of Associate Dean for Education in the School of Pharmacy. Prior to joining the faculty at Pitt, she was faculty at Rutgers University then Vice President at AACP. When Dr. Meyer left AACP, she arrived at Pitt Pharmacy armed with tremendous experience, deep curricular and design knowledge, and an expansive professional network. During her time here, she has continued to influence the advancement of pharmacy education at the Pitt Pharmacy, Pitt, national, and international levels. Locally, she has been the Co-Director of the Pitt-UPMC Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education and the Pitt Interprofessional Center for Health Careers. Susan has had an enormous impact on our educational programs and during the last few years on Pitt's undergraduate program in her role as Director of the Pitt Interprofessional Center for Health Careers.

Maggie (M. Margaret) Folan, PhD is retired from the School of Pharmacy as of December 31, 2021. She began her time at Pitt as a Nurse Research Program Coordinator on February 1, 1988. Over the years, she earned a PhD, was recruited as a faculty member and served as the Director of the Graduate Program. In this role, Maggie served as advisor to all first year students and directed several initiatives. Among them: the Graduate Education And Research at the University of Pittsburgh (GearUP) mini-graduate school weekend and the summer research program held annually for students interested in pursuing a career in research at the graduate level. Her quick wit and caring manner are truly missed by

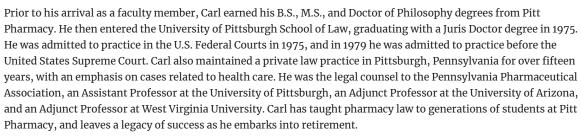


Dennis Swanson, MS: Professor Emeritus, Pharmacy and Therapeutics





Carl Gainor, JD, PhD: Clinical Assistant Professor Emeritus, Pharmaceutical Sciences





Margaret Beth Minnigh, PhD.: Lab Manager and Director of Research and Development

Beth Minnigh came onboard at Pitt Pharmacy in 2005, as a Senior Lecturer in medicinal chemistry and drug metabolism. She held positions in both the Schools of Pharmacy and Rehabilitation Sciences, teaching students on topics such as: Principles of Drug Action, Drug Development, Infectious Disease, Endocrinology and Neurology/ Psychiatry. Beth was supervisor of the Small Molecule Biomarker core, a laboratory that provided quantitative analysis of drugs and biomarkers. In the past, she also served as the Director of Research and Development focusing on the protein binding of drugs in children in neonates. Beth's warm and friendly spirit was contagious, and in retirement, she will be missed greatly by faculty, staff, and students.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

CLASS OF 2022

Abate

Samantha

Delapaz









Bartusek





Batman



Bendis

James

Cownie



Bendis



Bhalodia

Daniel

Dahmer





















Lisa



Markella

Cervenak





Nicholas

Hammond

Jasmine

Chang





Lindsay

Hui

Chen





Becker

Joshua

Cinicola









Amanda Adora

Cremeans



Emmett

















Seager



Jack



Wen

Subanky Peyton Sivagnanalingam Skinker



Wymer





Yee

Lauren

Snader

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

CLASS OF 2022

Jessica

Nguyen

Abigail Reigh

Bryn O'Mara

Grace Rong

Photo **Fall 2018**



Yoon

Christine



Zaver



Tsriztan Clyde Roshni Oliver Pattabiraman

Thomas

Rust

Kimberly

Tkach-Pelgrim

Zheng

Anika

Roy

Erika

Thomas

Zerfas



Joshua

Pogue

Roisin Sabol

Isabelle

То



Michael

Gilbert



Kobi





Casey

Gudenburr











Maia

Klimatcheva

Ann

Herbster



Knecht

Ben

Herrmann





Kulak

Emily Hicks





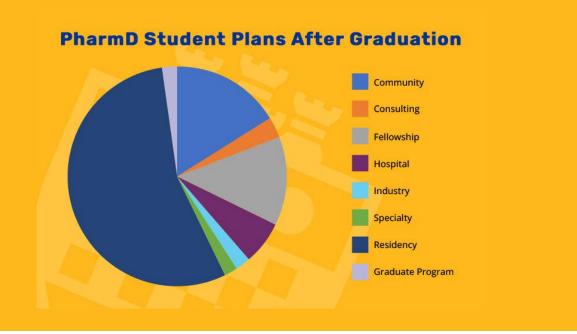














Kwok



Hannah

Madara



Mujtaba

Mahmud



Joseph

Mancini





Michael

Mast





Jim

Matis

Josephine



Marcus

McKinnon





Mercer







Miklus

Julianne Margot Victoria Mercer

PITT PHARMACY 37

Honor Our Past. Shape Our Future. Honor Our Past. Shape Our Future.

Q&A

Mary Beth Lang, Class of 1989

Chief Pharmacy Officer, Kaiser Permanente



What year and program did you graduate from? (BS/MS/PharmD/ PhD):

I graduated in 1989 from the BS Pharm pro-

Where do you live and practice now?

I currently live in Alameda, CA. I joined Kaiser Permanente in March 2019 as the Chief Supply Chain and Procurement Officer. In September 2021, I assumed the Chief Pharmacy Officer position.

Any fond memories from your time at Pitt Pharmacy?

My very first job was as a delivery clerk at a small independent pharmacy in Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At such a young age, I saw first-hand the impact a pharmacist could have not only on individual patients but a whole community. I watched the pharmacist play a vital role in the community with many residents struggling with health equity. I was inspired to apply to Pitt School of Pharmacy to become a difference maker as a pharmacist to be able to care for patients at their most vulnerable time when they seek care but also to find ways to add healthy years through strategies of prevention measures and addressing key social determinants of health.

How did Pitt Pharmacy help you get where you are today?

I am ever so thankful to Dr. Kroboth and the faculty of University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy for providing such a strong and lasting foundation. Being a pharmacist, well trained on integrated care delivery served me well to lead KP through the COVID-19 pandemic response and for leading a comprehensive pharmacy program.

How did you get into your current

Kaiser Permanente initiated a daily national command center during the COVID-19 pandemic response. As the chief supply chain and procurement officer, it was my role to give daily updates on how we were responding to global supply chain shortages. We had to create a quality team to perform product authenticity and source close to 1 billion PPE, lab collection and testing, pharmaceuticals and other related supplies. We were highly effective in ensuring that we had the necessary supplies for our patients and our front-line workers. I was an established leader in KP and was able to make the transition to the pharmacy leadership position. The CPO (Chief Pharmacy Officer) is responsible for the fully integrated enterprise pharmacy service, with direct reports for market operations, quality, compliance, regulatory, drug use management, pharmacy controls, benefits, analytics, drug procurement, and mail order services.

What are some of your day-to-day responsibilities?

The National Pharmacy Program at Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to improving the health of our members and the communities we serve by assuring safe and effective access and use of medications. With ~100 million prescriptions dispensed, \$10B in pharmaceutical spend and more than 60 million inpatient and ambulatory care doses administered per year, pharmacy delivers high-quality and affordable care to our members through major service lines that include: inpatient, outpatient, home infusion, ambulatory, oncology, central fill/mail order, specialty pharmacies, and member call centers. The Pharmacy workforce comprises over 15,500 professionals and associates nationally and is dedicated to consistently exceeding our members' service and quality expectations.

What advice do you have for students interested in pursuing your type of career?

If you are looking to advance, learn the skills or experience that you will need to get to that next level and work with pharmacy leaders or industry mentors to gain those skills. This may require you to take lateral roles before you can advance. If you look at my resume, some of my career moves appear to be a step backwards in title. I could not be in the position I am in today at one of the largest non-profit integrated health plan/system without being willing to take the time to gain the skills necessary for this position. When I was recognized as a University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy 2017 Distinguished Alumna, I encouraged students to be open to new opportunities throughout their careers. Be brave to take risks and take advantage of new opportunities. This could mean becoming part of a project team, participating in an industry committee or association activity.

Alumni Updates

Kaleen Hayes '17

- Published article in American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education with Taylor Watterson '15- Addressing the Challenges of Precepting Students Enrolled in Remote Research Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences
- Published article in Annals of Internal Medicine Comparative Fracture Risk During Osteoporosis Drug Holidays after Long Term Risedronate Versus Alendronate Therapy

Michael Tortorici '02

Began new position as Vice President, Clinical Pharmacology and Nonclinical Development at Aro Biotherapeutics

Al L'Altrelli '06

Received Preceptor of the year award from Duquesne School of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Learning

Brian Potoski '99

· Elected officer for ASHP

Maria Langas '17

· Became Associate Director of Franchise Integration at Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson and Johnson

Megan (Reilly) Langer '11

Selected as one of 40 Under 40 in Cancer: Rising Stars and Emerging Leaders, Class of 2021

Jiangin Lu '14

- Published article in Nature Nanotechnology.
- Elected Secretary of Knowledge Management in Pharmaceutics Section of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, a two-year post.
- Awarded the PhRMA Foundation 2022 Research Starter Grant in Drug Delivery (\$100,000)

Gretchen Garofoli '09

• 2020 Beal Award recipient and 2022 Fellow (APhA-APPM) for her notable contributions to the profession related to COVID, immunizations, and residency training and support

Collin Wolf '17

Lumicera Health Services and Collin's Company CassianRx formed a strategic partnership to deploy an intelligent patient engagement platform

Kim Cromie Burns '94

· Authored and published Pennsylvania Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination® (MPJE®) review book

Henry James Mattie '72

· Authored digital Googa Stories

Gary Garofoli '84

Retired from Weis-Markets

Alexandria Rothy '15

· Selected as APhA immunization champion 2022

IN MEMORIUM

The following individuals have passed away as of May 2022.

Carol Ann Lobur Abt (PHARM '81) John A. Allen (PHARM '62) Teresa Marie Beyer (PHARM '85) Donald F. Bondi (PHARM '53) Edward Joseph Borovatz (PHARM '75) Rodger W. Myer (PHARM '54) Anthony X. Collings (PHARM '50) John Rossman Crone (PHARM '55) Sanford Darling (PHARM '56) Harry G. Eisentrout Jr. (PHARM '59) John William Fairman (PHARM '60) Joseph A. Finkelpearl (PHARM '54) Xavier W. Folino (PHARM '65) James Allen Fortuna (PHARM '72) Deno Grande Gelmini (PHARM '61) Patricia Watters Hammarstrom (PHARM '63)

David Clair Healy (PHARM '65)

Ha-Kyung Cho Kim (PHARM '69)

Dolores H. Kinnard (PHARM '55)

James Andrew Korczynski (PHARM '82) Joseph J. Mazur (PHARM '59) Joseph C. Missigman Jr. (PHARM '63) Roy D. Moffitt (PHARM '61) George J. Norkus (PHARM '72) Mary A. Olsen (PHARM '63) Victor A. Pisano (PHARM '59) Stefanie A. Sicari (PHARM '94) Mark Alan Tillman (PHARM '82) Samuel John Vitanza (PHARM '69) John Volk (PHARM '71) Kenneth James Vollmer (PHARM '70)

If someone you know from the Pitt Pharmacy family has passed away, please feel free to contact the School to let

us know: rxalumni@pitt.edu

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Q&A

Sherri (Fisher) Progar, Class of 1977

Former Manager of Retrospective Clinical Programs at CVS Caremark; Award-Winning Fiction Author



Tell us about your career path...

I began pharmacy school in the fall of 1972 as Sherri Fisher, and married Ralph Progar (PHARM '71) in 1984. I spent my first 25 years in retail. I interned with Thrift in their student program, and was promoted to assistant manager the day I was licensed and made store manager at age 24. I worked for Thrift, then Revco for a couple of years, then went to Kroger. After marrying Ralph, I worked part-time to help raise his daughter and to travel with him while he represented the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP).

In 2003 I went to work full-time in managed care as a staff pharmacist and worked my way up to manager of retrospective clinical programs at CVS Caremark. I supervised 90 pharmacists in Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Phoenix. I retired in 2015 due to the development of blepharospasms and other tremors.

Shortly after my retirement, my father's health declined. He was the caregiver to my mother, who suffers from head trauma-induced memory loss. I moved my parents to Pittsburgh for quality and ease of care. When my father died, I wrote to channel the

pain and grief of his passing. The result was my first novel A Mystery of Grace, published in 2019 by Newman Springs Publishing. Realizing I had no clue how to write or produce a work of fiction, I began attending lectures and enrolling in writing courses which led to Self-Publishing School, where I learned the ins and outs of self-publishing, promoting, and advertising with Amazon. I have since established my own company, RNS Publishing, and published a series of 3 novels and 1 novella: Becoming Olive W. (book 1); Westchester Farm (novella 1.5); Under the Grapevine (book 2); Hill House Divided (book 3). I am currently working on the conclusion Between Two Dreams (book 4) which will be published in November 2022.

Becoming Olive W. won seven awards and is nominated for several others.

My pen name is S. Lee Fisher, my maiden name used to honor my beloved father, the catalyst to my writing journey. I intend to continue writing as long as possible.

Did you know that this was something you always wanted to do?

I decided to become a pharmacist in 9th grade. I never changed my mind. I even inserted 'will be a pharmacist' in my high school senior yearbook.

As for writing, I wrote work instructions, policies, and procedures during my stint as a Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) lead pharmacist, before entering management.

I began scanning old files, and it seems I have had an inconspicuous interest in writing most of my life. I dabbled in poetry, usually when I was angry or frustrated as a venting mechanism. I have forgotten folders filled with ideas, character descriptions, and plot overviews for potential novels. I also wrote several short stories for Ralph. I even have two outlines for cookbooks. I guess subconsciously, I have always wanted to write

What was a skill that you had when you came to pharmacy school that was nurtured and that you fostered through your career?

The ability to talk to strangers. As a pharmacist, if you want to engage people and talk to them, you have to get them to talk to you or they won't listen to anything you say. I was always in really busy stores in retail, but I connected easily with patients — something I was able to develop and nurture in pharmacy school.

Who was the most influential faculty member and why?

John Colaizzi. I had him for Dosage Forms, the first year of pharmacy school. He really made an impression on how significant we were in the whole scheme of healthcare. He made me want to learn. And he actually helped me identify areas where I was weaker. Ralph and I continued our relationship with Dr. Colaizzi after he moved to Rutgers.

Is there anything you wished someone would have told you when you were a student?

I think it would have been extremely helpful if I had learned how to study before entering pharmacy school. As with most pharmacy students, I entered the program graduating in the top three percent of my high school class. High school work was easy and I really didn't have to study. When I entered pharmacy school, not only was I struggling to understand complicated material, but I was also desperately trying to teach myself how to study efficiently. I went into pharmacy school assuming it would be hard but not knowing how hard.

What was the best thing about being a pharmacist, and what is the best thing about your life as an author now?

Goodness, pharmacy has afforded me so much. A great lifestyle, beautiful homes, financial stability, travel opportunities, delightful, brilliant colleagues, the opportunity to mentor students, build lasting relationships, and a rewarding career helping patients from which I gave back to the community. I don't think I could want more.

The best thing about being a writer is the ability to passionately share via my stories. I write women's fiction, literary fiction. I express sometimes disturbing emotions through strong female protagonists. Writing is a means to both entertain and educate. My novels are all historical (to date) and I thoroughly enjoy researching and learning about history. It is a way for me to continue personal growth and learning while (hopefully) inspiring other women to stand strong and work hard.

What advice do you have for current students?

Work hard and don't give up. It is a challenge well worth the effort. And give back to the school that afforded you a great lifestyle.

Your years at the university are not only career formative years but also life formative years. There is more to that experience than a perfect QPA. It is a rite of passage from a student to a contributing citizen.

I had the privilege of working with students during my time at the PBM. I sometimes invited them to my home. As one example of those visits, on several occasions, my dear friend and wine connoisseur taught them about the different types of wines. They tasted wine

and food pairings and we introduced labels that they could afford on a student's budget and recognize in a restaurant.

I think it is important for students to utilize their university time to broaden life experiences beyond academics. I did not graduate with the highest GPA in my class. I believe I was solidly in the middle. But my pharmacy education was not memorization and regurgitation, I took away a meaningful knowledge base on which to expand throughout my career. When sitting for the NAPLEX exam, I realized that I knew much more than I thought I knew. More importantly, I knew where to find the answers to questions.

The first several months of practicing retail on my own were sometimes intimidating, but Pitt prepared me. I remember a professor stating that statistically three of the 95 students in my class would witness a patient suffering a heart attack within the first five years of practice. Two months after licensing, I became that statistic. Pitt gave me the tools to handle the incident.

I continued to learn many lessons, some of them the hard way, throughout my twenties and thirties before fulling developing into the person, pharmacist, and writer I am today.

Work hard. Don't be afraid. Go out there and explore every opportunity that you're given and don't feel like you're stuck in one career path. Pharmacy has so many diverse career avenues to follow. Keep looking until you find the one that brings joy to your heart. Look for that job that you know you can work at until it's time to retire — whenever that is — and once you find it, enjoy it. Enjoy every minute of it.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

hope that you enjoyed this Pitt Pharmacy Magazine as we highlight many of the proud moments of Dean Emeritus Kroboth's legacy, our newly completed renovations to Sak Hall, and our tremendous accomplishments of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. I am reminded each day and in every conversation that what we do here at Pitt Pharmacy matters and changes lives in direct and diverse ways. I thank you for your friendship, dedication, and commitment to our profession, our world, and directly to Pitt Pharmacy: we are honored that you are a part of our family. Over the upcoming weeks to months, we will be gathering to celebrate our alumni, continuing our fall term curricula, presenting scientific discoveries, caring for the health of our region and world....and, hoping to hear from you! Please keep in touch with us here at Pitt Pharmacy, you are an essential part of who we are and what we do! As I am starting my new role as dean, I want to leave you with the vision of Pitt Pharmacy being simply the best, so I look forward to continuing our communications and our commitment to excellence! Thank you

University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy 3501 Terrace St Pittsburgh, PA 15261



RxAmbassadors, a group of student pharmacists dedicated to helping potential students on their path to becoming part of the PittPharmacy community.

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.

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