

# PITTPHARMACY

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | SPRING 2014

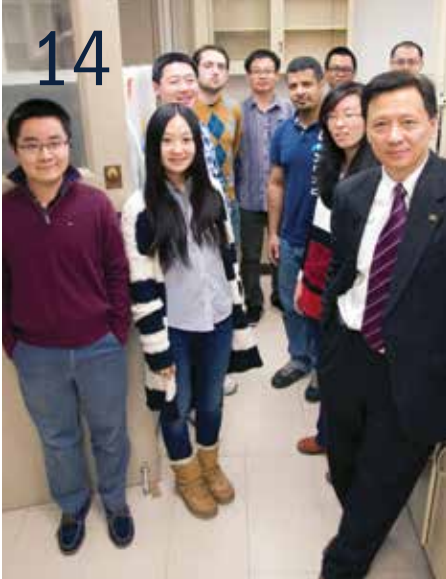
**LEADING**  **THE**  
**WAY**



PITTT

# PITTPHARMACY

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | SPRING 2014



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*Dear Friends,*

I write this letter as I wait for my flight back to Pittsburgh after attending the American Pharmacists Association Meeting in Orlando. What a great meeting for PittPharmacy. Our alumni, students, and faculty absolutely shined with their accomplishments. Two alumni, one of whom is a faculty member, were honored as fellows of APhA; two alumni were named National Immunizer of the Year and Runner-Up Immunizer of the Year. For the third year in a row, a student placed in the Top Ten in the National Patient Counseling Competition; three Pitt student chapters (Rho Chi, Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society, and APhA-Academy of Students Pharmacists) received national honors. And a seemingly countless number of students, alumni, and faculty members presented podium and poster presentations.

The above accomplishments and recognitions are representations of the excellence, innovation, and leadership that have become hallmarks of PittPharmacy and our people. Those of you who know me know that I would only use the statement “Leading the Way” if I had the evidence worthy of such a bold statement. And we do. What is even better is that our excellence, innovation, and leadership have been sustained—across the alumni, the students, our faculty, and our staff. Over the course of the three days of the meeting, I repeatedly heard stories that reaffirm how in every realm, PittPharmacy is leading the way.

The words of Aristotle come to mind.

*“We are what we repeatedly do; excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” —Aristotle*

I believe those words describe our PittPharmacy family. Hail to Pitt!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Kroboth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia D. Kroboth, Dean

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### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY LEADERSHIP

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# Awards & Accolades

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI



Samuel Poloyac with P1 students in the Principles of Drug Action class

## Poloyac 2014 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award

Associate professor **Samuel M. Poloyac**, PharmD, PhD, was recently selected for the **2014 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award**. This award underscores the high institutional priority that the University assigns to instructional responsibilities.

This award recognizes Poloyac's impact on the teaching mission of the School of Pharmacy as well as the other health sciences schools. As chair of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute Education Core Curriculum Committee, Poloyac developed the interdisciplinary course Translational Research in the Health Sciences; which has made major contributions to the curriculum. Beyond that important contribution, this course has been instrumental in introducing students to the objectives, concepts, models, and processes of clinical and translational science.

Poloyac's commitment to teaching and creating engaging learning situations in the classroom is demonstrated by the fact that he has received consistently excellent teach-

ing evaluations from students. His influence on the learning experiences of undergraduate, graduate, and first professional students has been reflected through the receipt of the student-selected 2003 Faculty Member of the Year Award and the 2008 Phi Delta Chi Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award.

## Kroboth Recognized 2013 ACCP Award Winner

School of Pharmacy Dean **Patricia D. Kroboth, PhD**, was awarded the **Bristol-Myers Squibb Mentorship in Clinical Pharmacology Award** during the 2013 annual meeting of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology in September 2013 held in Bethesda, Md.

The Bristol-Myers Squibb Mentorship in Clinical Pharmacology Award is given on a biannual basis to an individual who demonstrates exemplary promotion of clinical pharmacology, with emphasis on training/guidance of junior scientists and/or colleagues.

Kroboth's personal dedication to mentoring and educating of the next generation of scientists embodies the goals of the American



Samuel M. Poloyac  
(PharmD '93)



Patricia D. Kroboth  
(MS '80, PhD '83)

College of Clinical Pharmacology, making her highly deserving of this award. Her commitment to excellence in mentoring, her ability to foster the long-term development from student to colleague, and her method of teaching by example have influenced many successful scientists and pharmacologists. Kroboth served as major advisor for nine PhD students and for dozens of other professional graduate students and faculty at Pitt and elsewhere.



L to R: Robert Maher Sr. (father), Robert Maher Jr. (BS '93, PharmD '97), Thomas Mattei (nominator)



Stephanie Harriman McGrath (PharmD '07)



Karen Steinmetz Pater

### Pitt Dominates PPA Awards

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) recently awarded the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy with the **Membership Award** during PPA's Annual Conference held at the Wyndham Gettysburg on September 28, 2013, in Gettysburg, Pa. The membership award recognizes a school that excels at membership recruitment, retention, and involvement. Points were awarded for a number of activities based on these criteria and also gave special credit for creative and innovative efforts.

The University of Pittsburgh School of

Pharmacy not only significantly grew its membership in the past year, it also had a major presence in all PPA activities including 11 posters with 16 students at the 2013 PPA Mid-Year Conference. Additional PittPharmacy PPA 2013 awardees include faculty member **Karen Steinmetz Pater**, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, who won the **Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) Preceptor of the Year Award**. This award is given to a PPA member from any practice setting who has demonstrated outstanding interaction and knowledge sharing and served as an exceptional pharmacy role model for students.

Pater was nominated by PittPharmacy 2013 graduates Elizabeth McCartney, Erin Burke, and Chelsea Fitzgerald for her contributions in the classroom, to the School's PPA chapter, and in practice to all of the students she precepts. Students from every year recognize the diligence and passion that Steinmetz Pater puts into her work as well as her desire for every single one of her students to succeed.

PPA also presented faculty member **Stephanie Harriman McGrath**, PharmD '07, with the **Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Companies Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award**. The Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Companies Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award recognizes new pharmacists for their dedication to and participation in PPA, commitment to the practice of pharmacy, and involvement in community activities.

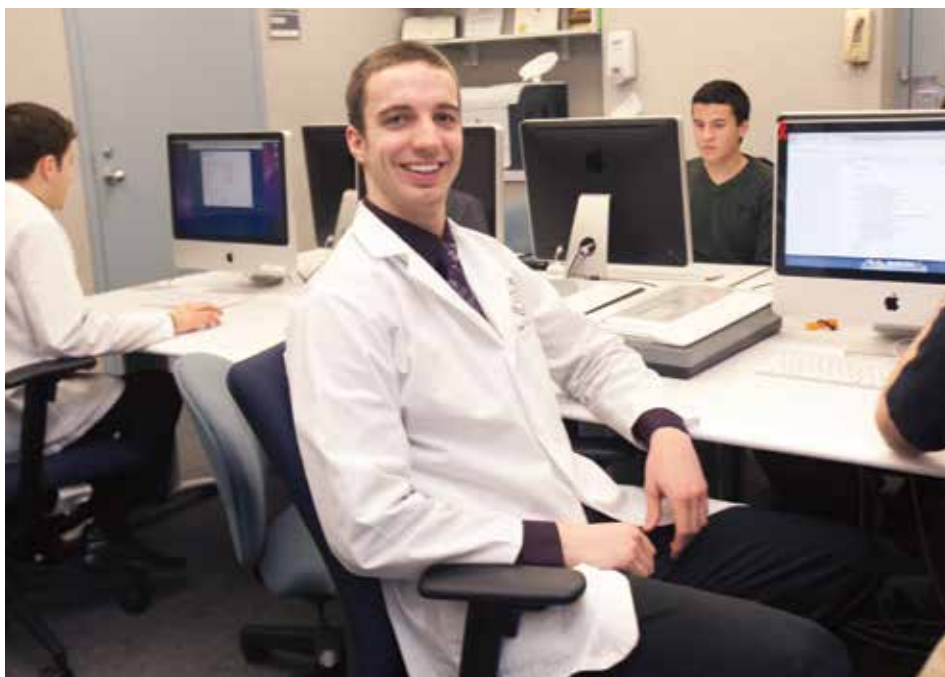
**Robert Maher Jr.** BS '93, PharmD '97, CGP, was recognized as the winner of the **NASPA Excellence in Innovation Award** sponsored by Upsher-Smith Laboratories, Inc. The Excellence in Innovation Award recognizes a pharmacist who is involved in an innovative pharmacy practice resulting in improved patient care.

### McCormick Appointed to PPA Board

The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association has appointed **Kyle McCormick** (2014) as the **Academy of Student Pharmacists Director** for a two-year term. The newly appointed directors will work with other board members to fulfill the mission and goals of the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association and advocate for the profession of pharmacy.

Kyle McCormick is in his final year as a PharmD student at the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to his role with the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association as Student Director, he serves as president of the University of Pittsburgh American Pharmacists Association—Academy of Student Pharmacists Chapter for the 2012–2013 year. He is also an active member of PPA's public relations committee. McCormick plans to pursue a career in independent pharmacy with the plan of owning a pharmacy focused heavily on pre-





Kyle McCormick

ventivepharmacy services. His experience at Findley's Pharmacy, an independent pharmacy in Somerset, Pa.; the Pitt Student Health Services Pharmacy; and the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's Community Leadership Innovation and Practice program have given him a background in pharmacy services implementation and community pharmacy operations.

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### Faculty Recognized at National Meetings

#### SKLEDAR RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED ASHP AWARD

**Susan Skledar**, RPh, MPH, FASHP, associate professor, pharmacy and therapeutics, was recognized at the 2013 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Mid-year Clinical Meeting as the 2013 recipient of **ASHP Section of Inpatient Care Practitioners Distinguished Service Award**. This award recognizes Skledar's work nationally with ASHP and with advancing inpatient hospital and health-system pharmacy practice through teaching, service (clinical program development and implementation) and scholarly work.

The award was presented at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in December in Orlando, Fla. Skledar is an alumni of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and the Graduate School of Public Health.

#### KANE-GILL WINS CRITICAL CARE AWARD

**Sandra L. Kane-Gill**, PharmD, MS, FCCM, FCCP, is the recipient of the **2013 American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Critical Care PRN Achievement Award**. This award recognizes an ACCP member who has demonstrated leadership in the area of critical care pharmacy; has sustained a high level of contribution related to practice, education, research, service, and/or advocacy in the critical care arena; and has a history of a high level of active service and contributions within ACCP and the Critical Care PRN.



Susan Skledar (BS '88)



Sandra L. Kane-Gill

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### Cressler Named Franchisee of the Year

Clyde Cressler, BS '69, founder of Care Capital Management in Mechanicsburg, Pa., and his wife, Carol, were awarded the **2013 Franchisee of the Year** by the Medicine Shoppe Organization. This special recognition is given to one outstanding franchisee who best exemplifies the effective use and promotion of the Medicine Shoppe brand and Operating System. The 2013 Franchisee of the Year joined the Medicine Shoppe family in 1992, and in 2001, Cressler founded Care Capital Management, creating a centralized operating team. CCM operates 16 Medicine Shoppe pharmacies, both retail and institutional, in the states of Pennsylvania and New York. The CCM team is able to provide a variety of specialized packaging, long-term care, and institutional services. CCM stores also service 340B clinics, National PACE-LIFE programs, HIV support, and a long list of pharmacy and patient care services.

This year's Franchisee of the Year has instilled in his team the values, commitment, and integrity to put the customer first. He has succeeded in truly "Caring Beyond Prescriptions."

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### McGivney Honored With APhA Fellow

Associate Professor **Melissa A. Somma McGivney**, PharmD '98, FCCP, was recognized as a **Fellow of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA)** at its annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., in March 2014. Individuals recognized as Fellows of APhA have rendered outstanding service to the profession through activities in APhA and in other organizations, their impact on the profession (innovative practice/research/scholarly activities), and service to the community.

McGivney has been a member of APhA since 1993 and has maintained active involvement serving on a number of committees and task forces to advance the role of the pharmacist in providing care to patients in their communities through the provision of Medication Therapy Management. She has served as an invited speaker, coauthored papers in the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*, and supports numerous students and residents in presenting poster presentations at the APhA meetings each year.



Clyde Cressler (BS '69)



Kellie Mitchell

ciation, and supports numerous students and residents in presenting poster presentations at the APhA meetings each year.

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### Mitchell to Chair AACCP SIG

**Kellie Mitchell** was elected as the new **AFO-SIG chair-elect**. The position is to serve as the chair of AACCP's Administrative and Financial Officers Special Interest Group (AFO-SIG). Mitchell has been an active member of the AFO-SIG since its inception in 2007. The mission of AFO-SIG is to lead and partner with members to contribute financial/administrative expertise in a manner that supports the AACCP and its institutional members in advancing pharmacy education, research, scholarship, practice, and service to improve societal health.

Mitchell has been with the School of Pharmacy for 17 years and is currently the director of finance and administration in the school.

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### Alumnus Welch Receives APhA Fellowship

**Adam Welch**, PharmD '03, was honored with a **Fellowship from the American Pharmacists Association (APhA)** at its annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., in March 2014. In-



Melissa A. Somma McGivney (PharmD '98)

dividuals recognized as fellows of APhA have rendered outstanding service to the profession through activities in APhA and in other organizations. Welch is an associate professor at Wilkes University and recently awarded the School of Pharmacy Rising Star 2013 award.



## ALUMNUS ADVANCES HEALTH DIRECTION FOR PHARMACY

**O**n February 5, CVS Caremark announced that it will stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products at its more than 7,600 stores across the nation by October 1, 2014. The move by CVS is slated to cost the company about \$2 billion a year in revenue or approximately 3% of overall sales. PittPharmacy graduate, Pitt Trustee, and CVS Caremark CEO and President Larry J. Merlo called the sale of tobacco products “inconsistent” with the store’s purpose and said that “ending the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products at CVS/pharmacy is the right thing for us to do for our customers and our company to help people on their path to better health.”

The decision to stop selling tobacco products was triggered by the changes coming to the pharmacy industry due to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Merlo stated that “as the delivery of health care evolves with an emphasis on better health outcomes, reducing chronic disease and controlling costs, CVS Caremark is playing an expanded role in providing care through our pharmacists and nurse practitioners. The significant action we’re taking today by removing tobacco products from our retail shelves further distinguishes us in how we are serving our patients, clients, and health care providers and better positions us for continued growth in the evolving health care marketplace.”

CVS Caremark Chief Medical Officer Troyen A. Brennan, MD, MPH, echoed Merlo’s sentiments by saying that CVS Caremark is continually trying to encourage good health while simultaneously reducing the burden of disease. “Stopping the sale of cigarettes and tobacco will make a significant difference in reducing the chronic illnesses associated with tobacco use,” Brennan said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, smoking causes approximately one in every five deaths in the United States each year. In fact, more than 480,000 deaths can be attributed to smoking and exposure to second hand smoke annually. In addition to causing chronic and life threatening diseases such as cancer, stroke, and coronary heart disease, smoking suppresses the immune system; exacerbates ear infections; can trigger asthma attacks; and can be associated with pneumonia, bronchitis, and COPD.

With these facts at hand, the decision by CVS to stop selling tobacco products is both a gutsy business move and an historical decision that will undoubtedly change the landscape of public health in the United States. The American Medical Association lauded the company’s decision by saying that “We commend CVS for putting public health ahead of their bottom line and recognizing the need for pharmacies to focus on supporting health and wellness instead of contributing to disease and death caused by tobacco use.”

In addition to removing tobacco products from its stores, CVS Caremark is also launching a nationwide smoking-cessation program in the spring. The program will offer personal, one-on-one counseling with a nurse practitioner, nicotine assessments, individualized cessation plans based on personal needs and goals, ongoing coaching and support, nicotine-replacement recommendations or prescriptions, visit summaries sent to individual’s primary care providers, and comprehensive online resources.

“Tobacco products have no place in a setting where health care is delivered,” said Merlo. “And when we asked ourselves where we expect to be in the future as a health care company it became clear that removing tobacco products from our stores became the right thing to do.”

Merlo is a 1978 graduate of the School of Pharmacy. He is also a member of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees, a University of Pittsburgh 225th anniversary medallion recipient, a Distinguished Alumnus award winner in 2010, and a Legacy Laureate in 2008.



Larry Merlo (BS '78)





### LKS Wins 2013 National Awards

PittPharmacy's Lambda Kappa Sigma (LKS) celebrated its 100th anniversary along with chapters from around the country and Canada at the international organization's annual convention held this year in Boston, Mass.

The school's chapter of LKS was awarded the Chrysanthemum Award for member retention and the Northeast Region Chapter of the Year Award.

Natalie Valentino (2015) of LKS was awarded the Ruth Davies Flaherty Service Award.

LKS was also chosen as the winner 2012–13 Dean's Theme: Operation Inspiration for its No, Ifs, Ands, or Butts Toolkit Campaign. Over 300 toolkits were distributed in the Greater Pittsburgh area to assist those supporting a loved one through the smoking cessation process as well as to those trying to quit themselves.

### PittPharmacy's PDC Chapter Wins 2013 Achievement Award

PittPharmacy's Phi Delta Chi Mu chapter has been awarded the Achievement Award based on the successful submission of all the items in the monthly reports during the academic year.

Each month has a different focus such as scholarship, leadership, service, or brotherhood. These reports are documents written by brothers in response to given prompts. The reports are published in a professional manner and include both documentation as well as reflections of the group's activities and values.

The purpose of the program is to encourage communications with the national office and to ensure that chapters are upholding the ideals of Phi Delta Chi.

### Beta Kappa is Kappa Psi Chapter of the Year 2013

University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy Kappa Psi chapter Beta Kappa was awarded Collegiate Chapter of the Year during the national meeting in St. Pete Beach, Fla., last summer. All collegiate Kappa Psi chapters nationally and internationally have the opportunity to compete for the award. The award is based on the chapter's dedication to Kappa Psi and the profession of pharmacy. Categories evaluated include: number of service projects conducted within the community; number of members involved in other pharmacy school organizations; number of members that hold leadership positions in other pharmacy school organizations; number of members that have attended a regional, state, or national pharmacy conference; number of members that have attended regional or national Kappa Psi meetings; and number of members that have received National Scholarship Honors certificates.

Some of the Beta Kappa service projects include volunteering at Family House, Global Links, Relay for Life, Pitt Project Oakland and making valentines for veterans at the VA hospitals in the Pittsburgh area. Members also participate in the Heart Walk, smoking cessation education clinics, and health fairs and are currently working to put together a program on prescription drug abuse to present in Pitt's resident halls.

This is the third time in the chapter's history that Beta Kappa has won this award—first in 2002 and again in 2007. Advisors for Kappa Psi at the School of Pharmacy are faculty members Deanne Hall BS '96, PharmD '98, and Kristine Schonder and alumni Christopher Miller PharmD '08, Dave Maszkiewicz '86, and Erin Lopata '08.

### McGrath Interviewed For APhA Pharmacist Provider Status Article

Assistant Professor Stephanie H. McGrath, PharmD '07, was recently interviewed by APhA for input on pharmacist provider status in the article "Few Health Plans Cover MTM Services Because Pharmacists Lack Medicare Provider Status" published in *Pharmacy Today* magazine.

According to the article: "McGrath is particularly well qualified to manage patients with diabetes, as her pharmacy is a site certified to provide diabetes self-management education through the American Association of Diabetes Educators."

Read the full article at: <http://www.pharmacist.com/few-health-plans-cover-mtm-services-because-pharmacists-lack-medicare-provider-status>



### Alumna Lauffenburger Outstanding PhD Candidate

Julie Lauffenburger, PharmD '10, and current graduate student in the Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Pharmacy, received the 2013 Kathryn A. Brewington Graduate Student Research Award.

The award, a grant worth \$1,500, recognizes the school's most outstanding PhD candidate in pharmaceutical sciences. Lauffenburger is in her fourth year at UNC's PhD program. Her research focuses on pharmacoepidemiology and health-services research, specifically myocardial infarction and atrial fibrillation.

Lauffenburger plans to use the Brewington grant to support her dissertation work, which examines the anticoagulants for ischemic stroke prevention in patients with atrial fibrillation. In addition to winning the Brewington grant, Lauffenburger was also recently published in *Circulation*, a scientific journal published by Lippincott Williams and Wilkins for the American Heart Association.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH OUR PITT FAMILY



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



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



**TWITTER:** @pittpharmacy and @RxDeanKroboth



**KEEP IN TOUCH:** [rxalumni@pitt.edu](mailto:rxalumni@pitt.edu)



**HOME BASE:** [www.pharmacy.pitt.edu](http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu)



## IN MEMORY FUND

To establish an award in memory of an alumnus, family, or friend that will provide a deserving pharmacy student needed funds, please contact Maurissa Vergari, 412-648-0185 or [mmv20@pitt.edu](mailto:mmv20@pitt.edu).

## IN MEMORIAM

RECENTLY DECEASED SCHOOL  
OF PHARMACY ALUMNI

Samuel B. Alloway Jr. - BS '57	Robert V. Kiel - BS '69
Marvin M. Bahm - BS '53	Gary W. Leach - BS '60
Amy Schweinsberg Barr - BS '88	James P. McKay - BS '45
Arthur J. Berger - BS '50	Dennis W. Middler - BS '71
R. Lee Bloom - BS '61	David Enoch Milhous - BS '01
Robert H. Botzer - BS '53	Paul David Pretter - BS '52
Mary Skinner Brumback - BS '70	Charles L. Raugh - BS '42
Arthur J. Bucci - BS '76	Wilmer H. Schweitzer Jr. - BS '55
Uri A. Carpenter Jr. - BS '77	Robert S. Trethaway - BS '69
Leonard L. Fine - BS '53	William R. Walter - BS '49
Rose Goldfield - BS '49	Raymond F. Zawicki - BS '42
Michael R. Karnis - BS '49	
James N. Kellogg - BS '52	



# Zane Gates (BS '90)

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS 2013



William Thompson III (BS '88), Zane Gates (BS '90),  
William Thompson Jr. (BS '62)

**Zane Gates** is the director of the Altoona Community Health Center Partnering for Health Services, which provides access to free health care for about 3,500 people yearly in the Altoona, Pa., area. He is the founder of the Gloria Gates Foundation, named after his mother, the driving force for his success and influence of his compassion and the need to help others. The foundation provides academic enrichment for more than 100 children in Altoona public housing.

Gates is an alumnus of both the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy '90 and the School of Medicine '95.

Gates has been honored with the WebMD Medical Hero of the Year 2009, the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader 2010, and the Daughters of The American Revolution on three levels: Local, State, and National 2012.

Zane Gates is a published author, *Lessons Learned from Game Theory about Health Care Price Inflation* published in *Applied Economics Health Policy* 2012.

**I**t is my tremendous honor to accept this award. It means so much to me. It is my great honor because I am what you call "the American dream." A kid born in the projects nobody ever thought would do anything ... my mother had an eighth grade education. We used to pull furniture out of the garbage and now I am standing here amongst all of you. Pharmacy was something that I always dreamed about and the reason why I became a physician is because I felt pharmacists had been standing on the sideline. I wrote a paper that won an award at graduation called "The Invisible Professional" because pharmacists know so much more about medication and treatment than even physicians and because I am one. I have always felt that we have been standing on the sideline and not using our skill—putting a big bottle of medication into a little bottle of medication when we should be reaching out to the people, changing their lives. That's what I believe a pharmacist truly is, that's why this award means so much to me and is such a great honor. Pennsylvania State Senate bill 819, which we worked very hard to pass with Senator Ted Erickson, the governor, and Senator John Eichelberger, provides for insuranceless offices or these clinics, which is a new generation of clinic, that will now compensate pharmacists, which they deserve, to do nothing but consultation because that's what pharmacists believe. And in closing, I would just like to say why I do what I do because I know that the key to life is changing other people's lives. The world has been around for a billion years, you might get 80 years on this, but if you change somebody's life, you have the greatest life and you will have a celebration of your existence from that moment until the end of time. Thank you.



Zane Gates

# Roger Morris (BS '86)

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI 2013



Ernest Sanchez (PharmD '02), Roger Morris (BS '86),  
Dean Patricia Kroboth (MS '80, PhD '83).

**Roger Morris** is chairman of Quarles & Brady's Health & Life Sciences Industry Group. His practice focuses on the representation of health care providers emphasizing health care and pharmacy law and pharmaceutical and medical device and products liability cases.

Morris is a graduate of University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy '86 and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law '89.

Among his many accomplishments, Morris has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2005-present: Health Care Law); Best of the Bar—Health Care Lawyers," *Phoenix Business Journal* (2003–5); Arizona Pharmacy Alliance—Pharmacist of the Year 2005; *Nightingale's Healthcare News* 2005—Outstanding Healthcare Transaction Lawyer nationwide and was selected for inclusion in the 2007–10 Southwest Super Lawyers® lists (Health Care) and the 2011 Bowl of Hygeia Award.

Morris is also an adjunct faculty at Midwestern University College of Pharmacy, University of Arizona College of Pharmacy, and Arizona State University College of Law. Roger Morris is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council for Midwestern University School of Pharmacy and the University of Pittsburgh.

**T**hank you. This is incredibly humbling and very exciting.

I realize the last time I was in this room was 30 years ago when I was in pharmacy school and I took a class in my last semester on nonverbal communication, one of the few non-pharmacy-related classes we were allowed to take at the time. I am truly excited to be here. I was thinking about all the folks who helped me get here. I am third-generation pharmacist and a second-generation University of Pittsburgh pharmacist. My father passed away a few years ago, but was from the Class of 1954, and he taught me so much about the practice of pharmacy and what is necessary. I thought I wanted to go into the practice of law from when I was in about seventh grade. I found an old yearbook that says I wanted to practice pharmaceutical law from that age. I was lucky enough to go into pharmacy and had a wonderful time in pharmacy school and enjoyed very much the classes from Carl Gainor, Stan Cohen, and from several others who helped to get me in the right direction, and I couldn't be more thrilled with how my career has gone. I have the opportunity to supervise 140 lawyers around the country doing nothing but health care, 25 of whom do nothing more than pharmacy law. So the odds are if any of you fill a prescription in the next week or two, I have given advice to multiple players in that chain from the pharmacy to the wholesaler to the manufacturer to the insurer who's paying for it. All of this is a start from the University of Pittsburgh, and I truly, truly appreciate that and look forward to being here more frequently than every 30 years in this building. So thank you so much.

Roger Morris



# Rising Stars 2013

MICHELLE ZINGONE FARLAND (PHARMD '04)  
AND ADAM WELCH (PHARMD '03)

The Rising Star Award was established by School of Pharmacy in 2013 to honor recent pharmacy alumni.

Awardees are graduates of the school within the last five to 15 years and have demonstrated educational, professional, and university achievements.



Michelle Zingone Farland (PharmD '04)



Adam Welch (PharmD '03)

## HONORED & INSPIRED

“ I do want to say thank you to the Alumni Society for even thinking about me as a potential candidate for this award. It's a great honor to be given such a distinguished recognition from my college of pharmacy at University of Pittsburgh.”

— MICHELLE ZINGONE FARLAND

“ Some of the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh certainly have inspired me and shaped me as the person that I am and what I do with pharmacy. Scott Drab and his elective that I took—I still take things from his class and I use it when I teach my students.” —ADAM WELCH

Michelle Zingone Farland (PharmD '04) received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2005. She completed a pharmacy practice residency at Shands Jacksonville Medical Center (now UF Health at Jacksonville) in Jacksonville, Fla., and a specialty residency in ambulatory care/primary care at the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical College of Virginia Hospitals.

Farland joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy in 2007 and was promoted to associate professor in 2012. Farland's research focuses on pharmacist impact on patient outcomes for chronic disease states in outpatient interdisciplinary care settings, and implementation of team-based learning in the professional curriculum. Farland currently serves as the director of the University of Tennessee Pharmacist Practice Based Research Network.

Adam Welch (PharmD '03) is an associate professor at Wilkes University, acting assistant dean for academic affairs and assessment, and acting chair of pharmacy practice. Welch is a national speaker for the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Pharmacy Based Immunization Delivery, a national training program for pharmacists, and also sits on its advisory board. He has traveled across the country preparing pharmacists to provide immunizations to their patients. Welch has prepared faculty at six schools, including the University of Pittsburgh, to adopt this training in their curricula.

Welch served on the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Board of Directors for seven years, and as their President in 2011–12. Welch was named Pennsylvania Pharmacist of the Year in 2012.





Annual School of Pharmacy P1 photo: Class of 2017 during the first week of class.



Career Round Table 2013



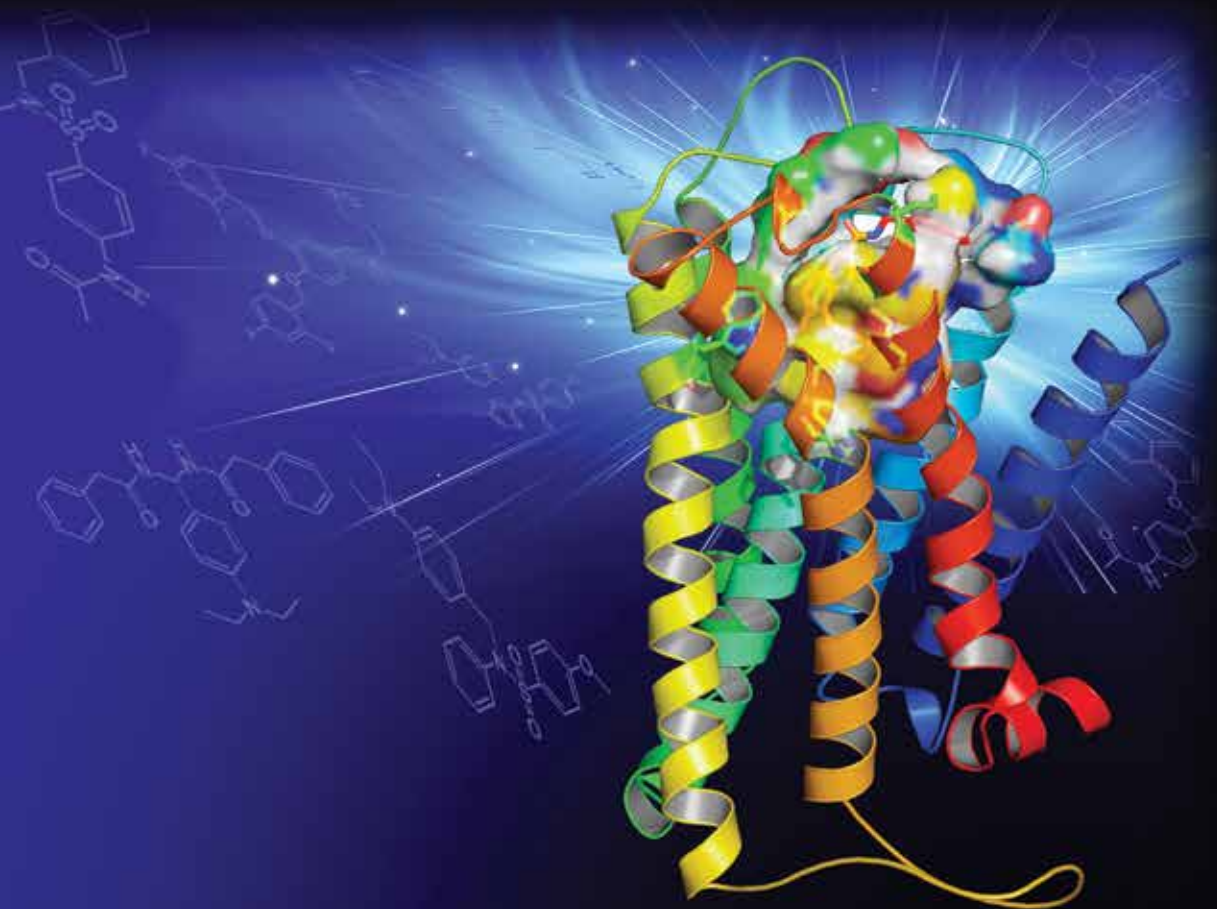
White Coat Recipients 2014: Meredith Bollinger, Kevin Groff, Maeghan Moss, and Brittany Stocks



Enjoying Homecoming 2013 are, left to right, Kelly Stell Bobby '04, Brian Bobby '04, daughter Ava, and pharmacy staff member Kathy Stell.



Trey Draude (Class of 2015) and Neil Turco (Class of 2016) entertain during RxTravaganza 2013: We Have Something in Common.



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# TARGET HUNTER

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Xie's lab matches molecules to disease states,  
at warp speed



Imagine a world in which science could customize medications to interact with a person's unique enzymes, metabolism, and other biomechanics to zero in on a disease with minimal side effects—a drug specifically tailored to that patient instead of an off-the-rack, one-size-fits-all approach.

That is the space in which Xiang-Qun (Sean) Xie works, the scientific horizon he is cresting. Using a formidable background combining structural biology, computational chemistry, and medicinal chemistry, the Shanghai-trained Xie functions as the *de facto* chief executive officer of a School of Pharmacy group that is rapidly pursuing drug development at its most sophisticated level to date.

Since 2006, when he was recruited to Pitt from the University of Houston, Xie has built his lab around three distinct, yet interdependent, groups: one specializing in biology, one in chemistry, and one in computation, which integrates the other two. The computation group identifies potential compounds for development which are then validated by the biology group and processed by chemistry to raise potency and lower toxicity.

It's a powerful combination, one that has already won approval for five patents.

"I try to operate my group in a productive way, because we have about 12 people," says Xie "I run my group like a small biotech company ... I want to reach out to companies, even investors, to see whether we can license our patents."

### In pursuit of the new

At stake is the potential to more deftly and efficiently create new drugs and also to repurpose existing compounds to treat diseases other than those for which they originally were developed. To do that, Xie creates cloud computing models and a sourcing chemogenomics knowledge base that perform a variety of functions. For example, they can screen libraries containing hundreds of thousands of compounds, whittling them down to a handful with characteristics worth investigating further for a particular use. Xie's approach lops significant time and expense from traditional screening methods while increasing success rates by more accurately predicting how a substance might respond under various conditions.

**"I run my group like a small biotech company... I want to reach out to companies, even investors, to see whether we can license our patents."**

In addition to his status as a professor of pharmaceutical sciences and a faculty member with the Drug Discovery Institute, Xie also directs the Computational Chemical Genomics Screening (CCGS) Center and is a prolific collaborator with scientists both at Pitt and elsewhere.

In fact, it was the University's collaborative atmosphere that convinced Xie to move to the School of Pharmacy.

"At that time, Pitt was forming the Drug Discovery Institute," he recalls. "The environment was very appealing to me because I could use my expertise and integrate it well."

One tool Xie's lab has built to encourage collaboration is a database of all disease-specific chemical genomics, from proteins and genes to drug molecular levels. Researchers worldwide can access the information as they develop treatments: what the molecule interacts with, what metabolic enzyme is used, potential side effects, and potential new uses.

### Widening the impact

Xie's group is working to identify and develop molecules for a variety of diseases including a project with Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC to target diabetes and another with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to use technology for allergy prediction modeling. An initiative tied to Alzheimer's disease, which involves multiple targets due to the complexity of the condition, seeks to integrate all marketed drugs, compounds, and reported molecules in clinical trials.

One disease Xie's group is studying is multiple myeloma, which is a cancer of the plasma cells in bone marrow. The group has discovered novel chemical agents in collaboration with former Pitt clinician David Roodman.

Working with Barry Gold, who chairs the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and

is codirector of the Drug Discovery Institute, Xie's lab developed a lead compound to treat the disease through its discovery of a small molecule.

"His role is vital," Gold says of Xie, whom he helped to recruit to the University. "He has his own areas of research, but he has a big impact on lots of people around campus. The bottom line is, if you want to treat human disease, you have to come up with a drug. People take medicine to treat disease. That means you have to have people like Sean and chemists to synthesize molecules that can be evaluated and, hopefully, eventually get into the clinic."

Ever curious, Xie and his team are often experimenting, refining, finding new uses for their skill sets: predicting how well a compound can cross the blood-brain barrier. Developing a graphics processing unit-accelerated computing chemical library. Studying natural products to identify their potential targets in complex disease states. Customizing compounds is another passion of Xie's. When a single drug hits multiple targets within the body, the unintended targets can result in side effects. Different programs can help predict these side effects even as the group works to narrow its target.

Xie also uses his software, TargetHunter, to repurpose old drugs for new applications. For example, he cites sildenafil™ citrate, which is sold most famously as Viagra but also treats pulmonary arterial hypertension and has shown promise in treating altitude sickness.

### A science matchmaker

A secondary feature of TargetHunter recently introduced by Xie's lab is an embedded geography tool, BioassayGeoMap, which is meant to help facilitate collaboration. When a user clicks on the predicted target, the program creates another window mapping other sci-





Sean Xie

entists who have published papers studying a similar problem and may help to validate the target experimentally, along with e-mail information lined to the National Institute of Health's PubMed program. These links encourage authors to work together, accelerating research production.

"Right now, we made it open access to encourage people to come back with feedback," Xie says.

Such projects reflect a hallmark of Xie's research, says Gold. "He loves to work with other scientists, which is fortunate, since his expertise is in such high demand. His dynamic, energetic style excites colleagues, which is often a key ingredient in groundbreaking research.

"In collaborative research, a lot of it has to do with personalities," explains Gold. "You can be an absolute genius, but sometimes very difficult to work with. Sean is pretty easy, very cooperative. And that makes a difference in successful collaboration."

## **One disease Xie's group is studying is multiple myeloma, which is a cancer of the plasma cells in bone marrow. The group has discovered novel chemical agents in collaboration with former Pitt clinician David Roodman.**

### **What lies ahead**

In addition to his research, Xie teaches three courses, mentors six graduate students, and serves as the associate editor of two journals as well as the guest editor for the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

"I like to give lectures, because I find it's more interesting to interact with students," he says. "To do research is one thing, but if you want to pass your knowledge to new people, it's more stimulating to teach," he adds.

Future pursuits may include the development of an exchange program between the School of Pharmacy and universities in Chi-

na. Xie is also the principal investigator for a proposal submitted to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in September for a new center that would develop technology to integrate government research into drug abuse, in hopes of finding a compound that would address the problem. The team includes Lirong Wang, assistant research professor/scientific administrator of the CCGS center; Ivet Bahar, John K. Vries Chair in Computational & Systems Biology at the School of Medicine; and Eric Xing and Wei Wu from Carnegie Mellon University.

Despite widely publicized congressional cutbacks to the NIH, Xie is optimistic that his research will continue to flourish, possibly with the help of the pharmaceutical industry and private investment.


“We try to diversify,” he says.

### Attracting new talent

That atmosphere, and the opportunity to work with a scientist of Xie’s caliber, was one strong draw for Hyun Jin Kim, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, who came to the School of Pharmacy in January 2013.

Kim earned his PhD in bioengineering with an emphasis on computational biology. Since his arrival at Pitt, he has placed more emphasis on computational clinical pharmacology and he considers Xie a mentor.

“It’s an emerging field, and there are a lot of exciting opportunities waiting to be explored,” says Kim, whose research interests include developing computational methods that work in conjunction with “wet lab” research (where scientists conduct physical experiments) to reduce or prevent risks from drugs before they go to market.

Kim describes his research as more systems oriented, but his hope is to integrate his work with smaller-scale biological and chemical research to create a more holistic approach toward drug development. The idea is to better understand the interaction between individual patients and pharmacological interventions. 



Sean Kim

## NEW FACULTY MEMBER WORKS TO TAKE THE GUESSWORK OUT OF DRUG DEVELOPMENT

**W**hen Hyun Jin Kim first considered moving to the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, what excited him most was the opportunity to help position the school as a leader in a field that he believes will greatly impact the safety and productivity of future drug development.

Kim’s work involves the application of computer modeling to help researchers better understand how drug interventions affect the patient and how individual patient characteristics impact outcome.

“There is a momentum within the University of Pittsburgh and the UPMC system to become a leader in this emerging field,” says Kim. “My work takes a step further to establish approaches to link genomics and lower-level dynamics to systems-level phenomena.”

Some specific projects include the modeling and simulation of drug-induced liver injury and the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics in patients with liver diseases such as cirrhosis and liver fibrosis.

Kim is beginning to build virtual model systems of humans and animals that better translate their pharmacological exposure and response to make them more predictive. One goal is to use models in virtual clinical trial settings, where ideally they will be able to run simulations of human clinical trials to determine how individual patients would respond to specific therapeutic regimens. Scientists could then apply the models at a large scale to develop a targeted, more efficient strategy.

Pharmaceutical companies can benefit from the reduction of cost, but more importantly, the models will maximize the likelihood of therapeutic success for the patients, Kim says. With estimated costs of more than \$1.5 billion to develop a new drug and increasing failure rates, he believes such model-based strategies will continue to gain momentum.

# EDUCATING TOMORROW'S PHARMACISTS

**First of a series about  
PittPharmacy's approach  
to educating the next  
generation of pharmacists.**

## **Part 1: Getting to Expert Faster**

**T**he air is bitter cold and the light is dim in the morning as Deanne Hall, (BS '96, PharmD '98), enters the physician office building where she sees patients. Warming up as she reviews her list of patient appointments for the day, she sees that her first patient is a new referral. She notes that the physician has requested a thorough review of medications in a patient with cardiovascular disease who has hyperlipidemia and hypertension complicated by newly diagnosed atrial fibrillation. Warfarin therapy is to be started.

This is a real scenario for Hall, associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics. She is an expert in managing patients with these diseases and problems. She has been doing this work since 1999 after graduating with her PharmD from Pitt in 1998 and completion of a Pharmacy Practice Residency at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz. In addition to her technical and extensive pharmacology and disease-state knowledge, she is a therapeutic decision maker who institutes drug therapy, changes doses, discontinues unnecessary medications, and orders laboratory tests under a collaborative practice agreement. She listens to patients, often uncovering information about medications that patients may not have shared with other health professionals. She empowers patients to take charge of their own health.

So how do we prepare our student pharmacists today to become experts like Hall through our PharmD curriculum?

"Our goals are to personalize education and to facilitate getting to expert faster," according to Randall Smith, senior associate dean. "We seek to graduate students who are decision makers and leaders—students who will work with health care teams, become entrepreneurs and business leaders, develop the next pharmacy practice model, and make important discoveries and lead research groups.

"Our strategies are to immerse students in experiences that develop problem identification and decision making. And we provide substantial opportunities for personalizing education. The students' learning experiences are rooted in complex problem solving, team work, and self knowledge."





Deanne Hall with pharmacy student Nick Tymochko (Class of 2014)



Students gathering information during a patient care class



Stanton Jonas (BS '51), a volunteer for the patient interaction class

From the very beginning of the P1 year, students actively engage in patient care experiences. Their first exposures are simple problems in standardized patients. Over time, students are gradually required to integrate information from multiple sources and make decisions about complex problems where the answers are not necessarily black and white. Philip Empey, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, remarks, “In a traditional testing situation, answers are fixed as right or wrong. In real life, situations are often more complicated and professionals are expected to address complex problems. By changing our model of learning and assessment, we are getting to that stage earlier and develop higher performing professionals.”

In the school’s standardized patient program, which is one form of simulation, trained actors portray specific symptoms, personality traits, and behaviors, while students master the art of patient interaction, clinical inquiry, and critical thinking in an environment where mistakes cost little but significant knowledge is gained.

By second semester of the P1 year, students meet real patients through the SilverScripts™ program. Students go into the community to interview patients at senior centers, review their medications, and hear their questions. Over the next two weeks, they develop answers to those questions, review them with



Simulation practice with high fidelity human simulator



a preceptor, and provide answers directly to the patients on their next visit. After the first experience a decade ago, the seniors and the staff of the centers asked for more. Melissa Somma McGivney (PharmD '98), assistant dean for community partnerships, is one of the originators of the program and remarks that “the experience makes our students mature quickly and gain confidence as professionals. Students have their first interaction with a real patient wearing their newly acquired white coats. They feel empowered and responsible for the patient. In one giant step, we move from just talking with actors to talking with real patients who have real medication questions.”

The experience has been mutually beneficial for students and seniors. Today, each student returns to visit their patient the next fall (P2 year), and then transfers the responsibility for the specific patient to a P1 student the following spring. To further integrate SilverScripts™ in a longitudinal fashion, we engage P4 students in a layered educational approach where the P4 students learn to mentor P1 students under the oversight of licensed pharmacy faculty members and residents.

Student experiences with patients continues to expand with real patients when, in the spring of the P2 year, they interact with a minimum of 35 patients at community pharmacies during required community practice experiences.

As they learn disease states and therapeutics, they hone clinical decision-making skills through simulated experiences, which have been integrated throughout the PharmD curriculum. “Simulation enables students to grow their problem solving, communication, and collaboration skills, the most crucial tools at any pharmacist’s disposal. Interactive computer-delivered cases, standardized patients, and high-fidelity human simulators (mannequins) allow learning in a safe environment where students can learn by trial and error,” says Neal Benedict, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, a national leader on the use of simulation in student learning.

Benedict is an early innovator of VpSim™, a software system of virtual patient cases that is an interactive version of case-based, self-paced learning. The cases in VpSim are used to supplement lectures, are used in practicum

sessions, and are sometimes a primary method of instruction to stimulate classroom discussion. A great advantage to these cases is that students receive immediate feedback—a technique known to enhance learning and motivation.

The goal of getting to expert faster seems to accelerate when students make drug and dosage decisions using a high-fidelity human simulator that gives immediate feedback through sophisticated computerized responses. Principles of pharmacology are reinforced when students witness the mannequin’s EKG rhythm change, hear changes in breathing, or develop a seizure as effects or side effects of drugs. The impact of the mannequin’s responses is so realistic that students have been known to faint at the sight of blood, or at the sound of agonal breathing. Through these mannequins, students practice giving their first immunizations, taking their first blood pressures, and performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation all on mannequins.

These realistic scenarios allow students abundant opportunities to make clinical decisions and most importantly, build a sense of responsibility for each patient’s care. Benedict illuminates, “Simulation makes students aware that patients are *their* responsibility and gives them experience clinical decision making. Simulation prepares them for the responsibilities they will face as licensed pharmacy professionals.”

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**“Our goals are to  
personalize education  
and to facilitate getting  
to expert faster.”**

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Student pharmacists apply all of their previous learning and experience to patient care in their Advanced pharmacy practice experiences (APPEs) in the fourth year.

Sandra Kwarteng, P4 student on APPE rotation with Hall, is just finishing up her review of her last patient of the day when Hall stops by to go over Kwarteng’s recommendations and approach to the patient’s problems. The two have a short discussion and then go to meet the patient. Afterwards, they debrief how the patient visit went and the problems Kwarteng helped solve for the patient. Kwarteng, in her last week of rotation, has seen many patients and is feeling confident in her patient care skills. As the day’s end, as they leave the clinic to go to journal club, Hall confirms Kwarteng is progressing well on her journey to “expert.” ☺

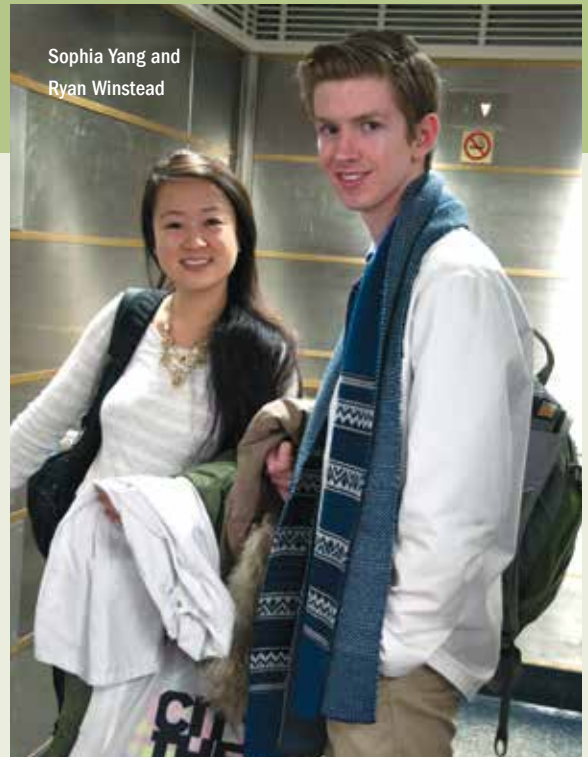


# LEADING → THE WAY

## UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY SCHWEITZER FELLOWS

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF) is improving the health of vulnerable people now and for the future by developing a corps of Leaders in Service—professionals skilled in creating positive change with and in our communities, our health and human service systems, and our world.

To date, nearly 2,500 Schweitzer Fellows have delivered nearly 500,000 hours of service to nearly 300,000 people in need. Through this work and through the contributions of the 99 percent of fellows whose professional careers serve their communities, ASF perpetuates the legacy and philosophy of famed physician-humanitarian Dr. Albert Schweitzer.



### SCHWEITZER FELLOW PROJECTS 1998-2014:

**2013-14:** Address self-esteem of adults suffering from mental illness and limited support systems (Mercy Behavioral Health Center) + Empower inmates to take charge of their health (Allegheny County Jail)

**2011-12:** Establish asthma clinic providing underserved patients in McKeesport with counseling and education (9th St. Clinic) + Prevent opioid overdose within the Wilksburg community (Metro Family Practice, Prevention Point Pittsburgh)

**2008-09:** Provide increased medication access and an educational programs, emphasizing culturally competent care to empower patients (Birmingham Free Clinic)

**2005-06:** Improve pharmaceutical care delivery to homeless and underserved (Birmingham Free Clinic)

**2003-04:** Educate newly diagnosed and/or poorly controlled patients at a local health care center and advise patients on self-management skills (The Diabetes Risk Assessment, Education, and Management Program)

**1998-99:** Work with youth in rural and underserved areas to strengthen their skills in science and foster interest in the health professions (Hosanna House)

Danielle Mayer, Ryan Winstead, and  
Sophia Yang

2013-14

Lauren Cirrincione, Jessa Koch, and  
Alicia Lichvar

2012-13

Michele Doan and Cristina Elgin

2011-12

Sarah Krahe Dombrowski and  
Melissa Ruminski

2009-10

Steven Zona

2008-09

Rachel Busby, Julie Lauffenberger, and  
Alissa Mittereder

2007-08

Lauren (Fields) Jonkman

2005-06

Robert Reynolds

2004-05

Margie Snyder

2003-04

Susan Bellack

2002-03

Sima Bajpayee

1998-99

## MARGIE E. SNYDER



Margie E. Snyder, (PharmD '06) MPH is an assistant professor of pharmacy practice and director, Community Pharmacy Programs at Purdue University College of Pharmacy. She was selected as a Fellow for 2003–04, when she was a student in the School of Pharmacy.

**“I WAS EXCITED** for the opportunity to apply ‘practical’ knowledge of diabetes management that I had acquired from helping loved ones with the disease to helping a new population of people. The Schweitzer Fellows program was

a wonderful way to gain experience in patient care as a student still very early in the curriculum.

“This experience further educated me on the struggles of the medically underserved and served as a foundation for involvement in the Schweitzer Fellows Community. After my fellowship ended, I stayed involved as a Schweitzer mentor for other students and ultimately as an advisory board member. It also prompted me to spend two months in 2005 as a volunteer at Hopital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti. My experiences prompted me to create a lecture on ‘Safety Net Resources’ for our pharmacy students to expose them to ways in which they can assist the medically underserved.

“The Schweitzer Fellows program is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience while serving their community.”

## LAUREN JONKMAN



Lauren Jonkman (PharmD '06) is an alumna, faculty member in P&T, and chair of the Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program Advisory Board. She was selected as a fellow for 2005–06, when she was a student at the School of Pharmacy.

**“AS A STUDENT,** I was often intimidated by all the great things that others did and I didn't think I would be able to do the same. My friend Margie Snyder suggested that I apply for the fellowship when I was a P3 student. I loved the

idea of putting my passions to work and actually doing something rather than talking about it. I had been volunteering at the Birmingham Clinic as a student in the underserved elective and I asked Dr. Connor to serve as my mentor for a project where I would continue to work at the clinic and try to expand access.

“I go back and forth about which events were the most meaningful to me and allowed me to develop the skills and connections to get where I am now, but the Schweitzer Fellowship has always been at the top of that list. It was the first time I had worked closely with other health care students/providers as equals and built my confidence in my skills.

“This program isn't just about developing a service project and carrying it out—it's about putting our money where our mouth is, about taking the initiative to be a part of a community.”

## SCHWEITZER AT THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL

Ryan Winstead (Class of 2016) and Sophia Yang (2016) are implementing individual counseling sessions that empower inmates to take charge of their health at the Allegheny County Jail for inmates aged 30–60. Many patients often improperly use medication or lack access to the medication they need.

**“OUR SCHWEITZER PROJECT** takes place on the fifth floor of the Allegheny County Jail, on units 5E (men) and 5MC (women). Inmates who have previously struggled with drug and alcohol addiction problems attend individual counseling sessions and daily groups for a set period of time. This program is meant to guide them to take charge of their choices when it comes to addiction.

We lead a weekly group session on each unit where we cycle through a 6-week curriculum focusing on various health conditions, medications, and healthcare access. The Allegheny County Jail was our site of choice because of its lack of a pharmacist on duty, as well as it giving us access to a population that may not have access to as many resources as the rest of the population. Lower education and income levels are common in the jail, which is associated with lower health literacy rates. Our goal is to empower the inmates to take charge of their health by providing them with the information and resources that they need to do so—and also by promoting their utilization of pharmacists as a key resource in the community.

“As an inmate, there are few opportunities to make decisions regarding medications and health. Daily medication administration time is dictated by the nurse (and numerous other factors throughout the jail)—which can cause large variances in medication timing. The only control given to the inmate is whether or not to ingest their medication, though at times they don't even know what their medication is meant to treat. Many inmates have asked for information on their medications, so we provide them with verbal or printed resources. We also work with the inmates to help them understand the potential harms of self-discontinuation of medications, but also when to see a physician about potentially dangerous side effects.

“The best way for the men and women to take charge of their medications in these restrictive circumstances is to become knowledgeable about their health and medicine. Many inmates will soon be reintegrated into society where our hope is they will take and apply the knowledge they gained through our group and work towards improving their own health and that of those around them.

“There have been many challenges along the course of our project: right before beginning our groups, the jail switched health care providers (from Allegheny Correctional Health Services to Corizon Correctional Healthcare) which delayed our project and prompted a transitional period amongst health services, effects of which are still seen today. It is also difficult as a guest in the jail: advocating for inmates' health is a challenge as we are not employees. We must always be conscious of overstepping our bounds and not stepping on anyone's toes in the process. One of the goals for our project was to implement individual medication reconciliation/counseling sessions with the inmates, which has not yet happened due to red tape. Being in a controlled, bureaucratic setting such as this makes it more difficult to implement our goals, but we are still hopeful and pushing for what we believe will be most beneficial to the inmates, both now and when they return to the community. Our hopes are to make our classes, and eventually medication reconciliation sessions, sustainable and worthwhile for both the inmates and any future pharmacy students who may be involved.

# Where We Are Going

## INSIDE SALK HALL

### GRANTS

A team of School of Pharmacy investigators led by faculty members **James Coons (PharmD '00)**, **Philip Empey**, and **Susan Skledar (BS '88)** were the recipients of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative Demonstration Grant. Their project proposal titled "Pharmacist-delivered Pharmacogenomic Care," will focus on the clinical implementation of pharmacogenomics for patients that receive clopidogrel for percutaneous coronary intervention.

Assistant Professor **Philip E. Empey**, PharmD, PhD, BCPS was awarded a Central Research Development Fund grant from the University of Pittsburgh to support his project, "Evaluating the role of the transporter ABCG2 following traumatic brain injury." The project aims to determine the importance of this drug transporter in modulating outcomes after pediatric neurotrauma through innovative preclinical studies.

Four School of Pharmacy PharmD students secured all available grants in a statewide competition hosted by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA). PPA's Special Interest Group for Independent Pharmacy is proud to announce the year's recipients of their grant to attend the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCAA) Convention lastfall in Orlando, Fla.: **Kyle McCormick** (Class of 2014), **Brandon Antinopoulos** (Class of 2014), **Kyle McGrath** (Class of 2015), and **Andrew Nguyen** (Class of 2015). These students attended the NCPA Conference and learn more about forging a career in independent pharmacy and also used the opportunity to network with Pennsylvania owners in attendance.



Left to right, Class of 2015 project directors Ukwen Akpoji, Trey Draude, Gordon Watkins, Kyle McGrath, Andy Nguyen, and Joni Carroll.

PittPharmacy's APhA-ASP chapter was recently awarded a grant through the Cardinal Health Foundation's Prescription Drug Abuse and Misuse Prevention Grant Program. PharmD students **Meera Vachhani**, (Class of 2016) **Joshua Niznik** (Class of 2015), **Katherine McGuire** (Class of 2015) and **Danielle Mayer** (Class of 2015) developed a program entitled "PHARxM: Parents Helping to Avoid Rx Misuse." The PHARxM Program will focus on educating the parents of the Pittsburgh area on the dangers of prescription drug abuse. The program will provide parents with the knowledge and tools to make interventions in their own communities. PHARxM: Parents Helping to Avoid Rx Misuse was launched during the spring 2014 semester with the assistance of the members of the APhA-ASP Generation Rx Committee.

Professor **Song Li**, MD, PhD has received a grant from the National Cancer Institute for his study titled "Targeted Combination Ther-

apy for Breast Cancer." The goal of this five-year study is to develop a dual functional drug carrier to achieve synergistic antitumor activity with codelivered anticancer agents to improve the treatment of breast cancer.

Associate Professor **Xiaochao Ma**, PhD, was awarded a grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for his project Mechanisms of Adverse Effects of Anti-tuberculosis Drugs. Rifampicin and isoniazid co-therapy frequently causes liver injury and even liver failure. This proposed project will provide a novel mechanistic understanding of the liver injury induced by rifampicin and isoniazid co-therapy, which can be applied to predict, prevent, and treat this toxic event.

**PittPharmacy Class of 2015** is excited to receive a \$5,000 grant from the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) in conjunction with the Million Hearts Campaign (see photo above).



The announcement was made during their POP6 class with faculty member **Melissa A. Somma McGivney** (PharmD '98) FCCP, and Nick Dorich, the manager of pharmacy care and foundation programs at NACDS via FaceTime.

This project started with a \$1,000 grant awarded last year for patient care screenings involving blood pressure, aspirin therapy, smoking cessation, and immunizations. Through classwide efforts, students managed to reach nearly 1,000 patients at over 80 community pharmacy sites across Allegheny County. Out of the 48 projects submitted to NACDS from across the country, the University of Pittsburgh was selected as the national recipient of the additional \$5,000 grant to go towards future projects that are now under development.

A video was created to highlight last year's health screenings which can be found using the following link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChVQ-\\_hiQ6w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChVQ-_hiQ6w)

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has awarded a grant to Associate Professor **Xiaocha Ma, PhD**, for his project "Drug-induced Liver Injury Associated with Anti-retroviral Therapy."

The results from this project are expected to provide a mechanistic understanding of liver injury associated with ritonavir-containing protease inhibitor regimens, which will be applied toward the development of an evidence-based approach to improve the safety profile of HIV protease inhibitors.

Assistant Professor **Sean H. J. Kim, PhD**, has been awarded a grant from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for his study "Quantitative Mechanistic Modeling of Drug Disposition with Variable Interactions." "The goal of this project is to establish a novel, quantitative and systems pharmacology approach to unravel common and patient-specific mechanisms of drug disposition and develop in silico simulations that explain and predict the pharmacokinetics of complex oral formulations.



PharmD students  
Meera Vachhani,  
(Class of 2016)  
Joshua Niznik  
(Class of 2015),  
Katherine McGuire  
(Class of 2015)  
and Danielle  
Mayer (Class of  
2015)

**Shilpa Mukundan**, a first-year PhD student working in the laboratory of Assistant Professor Shilpa Sant, PhD, has received the prestigious Sigma Xi Grant in Aid of Research award for her proposal "Polymeric nanocomposite scaffolds for skeletal muscle tissue engineering." Sigma Xi is an international, multidisciplinary research society whose programs and activities promote the health of the scientific enterprise and honor scientific achievement. The Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research program has a highly competitive application process and only approximately 20% of applicants receive this award.



**BY THE NUMBERS**

The School of Pharmacy has formalized partnerships with **15** international organizations across **6** continents—Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Americas.

## LEADING → THE WAY

THORPES RECEIVE  
INFLUENTIAL GRANTS

In 2011, the School of Pharmacy was fortunate to hire the husband-wife faculty team of Carolyn T. and Joshua M. Thorpe to the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. Their hiring was particularly strategic for the School of Pharmacy because of the growing importance of “big data”—the evaluation of data from very large databases—as a source for ongoing discovery. Carolyn Thorpe, PhD, MPH, is now assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics. Joshua Thorpe, PhD, MPH is associate professor in the same department.

Both conduct research on national drug databases, including Medicare Part D and VA databases, to influence policy decisions and drug use. The Thorpes often work as coinvestigators on each other’s projects due to their overlapping research interests in medication access and adherence for older adults with multiple chronic conditions. Both have had a particularly productive year.

Carolyn Thorpe has recently been awarded the three grants as the principal investigator.

The Vasculitis Foundation has awarded a two-year grant for her study, “Impact of Healthcare Utilization and Informal Caregiver for Primary Systemic Vasculitis: A National Perspective.”

In this study, Thorpe and her team will use national administrative data from Medicare as well as the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project to characterize variations in health care utilization, medication use, costs, and mortality by individuals who have a form of primary systemic vasculitis. They will also survey patients and their family and friends to describe the nature and impact of informal caregiving for systemic vasculitis and identify predictors of greater burden.

The Aging Institute of UPMC Senior Services and the University of Pittsburgh awarded a grant to support her project “Communication about Type 2 Diabetes Treatment Decisions in Older Patients with Comorbid Dementia.”



Carolyn T. Thorpe



Joshua M. Thorpe

The project consists of semistructured interviews with health care providers and informal caregivers of diabetes patients who have comorbid dementia to understand how prescribing decisions for antidiabetes medications are made and identifying barriers to pursuing moderate glycemic control in this population.

The VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion and VISN 4 VA Healthcare Network have awarded a grant for her project “Supporting Medication Adherence in Veterans with Dementia and their Caregivers.”

The long-term goal of this research is to generate strategies to include in a comprehensive intervention to support medication adherence in community-dwelling patients with dementia and their informal caregivers.

Joshua Thorpe has recently been awarded two grants as the principal investigator.

The VA Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion awarded him a grant for his project “Developing a Typology of Veterans’ Healthcare Experiences,” which will apply machine-learning methods to National VA survey data in order to develop and validate a risk prediction model of veteran satisfac-

tion with VA outpatient care and pharmacy services.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded a VA R01 equivalent grant for his project “Dual Use of VA-Medicare Drug Benefits and Unsafe Prescribing in Dementia Patients.” Thorpe and his team will evaluate the potential unintended consequences of the current federal policy allowing older veterans who are dually eligible for VA Pharmacy Benefits and Medicare Part D to receive prescriptions from both VA providers and non-VA providers—a policy that may be especially risky for patients with memory problems. His project will provide the VA and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with the evidence needed for making informed policy adjustments and clinical interventions.

The husband-wife team, collaborating with faculty and scientists from the Division of General Internal Medicine and RAND, will be conducting research to evaluate the use of antedementia drugs in a national population sample. This comparative effectiveness study is funded by the RAND-University of Pittsburgh Health Institute.





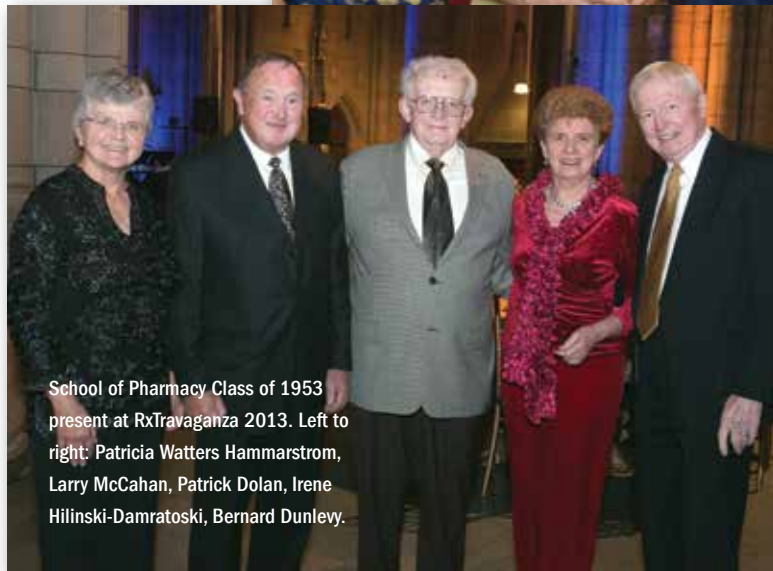
Getting ready for the Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony 2014



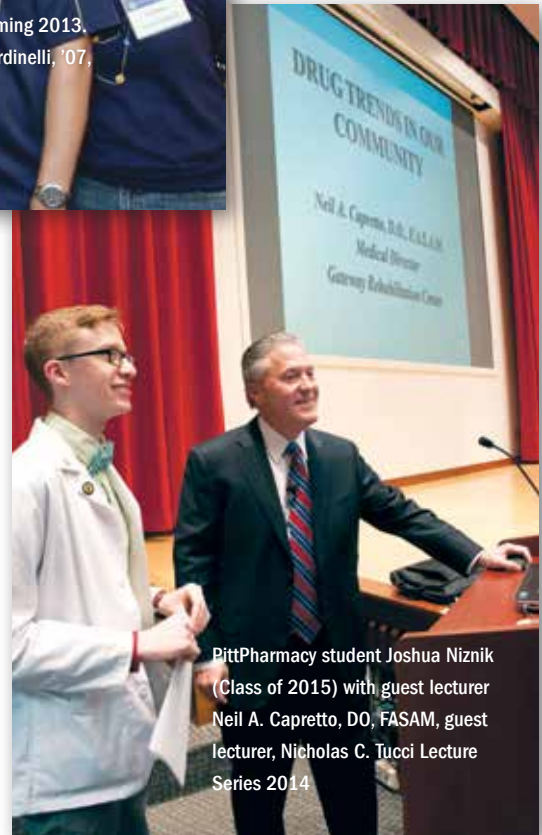
CLIP guest lecturer David D. Pope, chief of innovation CreativePharmacist.com Brands



Pharmacy alumni enjoying Homecoming 2013. Left to right: Kristen Topolosky Berardinelli, '07, Mark Garofoli, '04, Chris Miller, '08 and Gretchen Kreckel Garofoli '09.



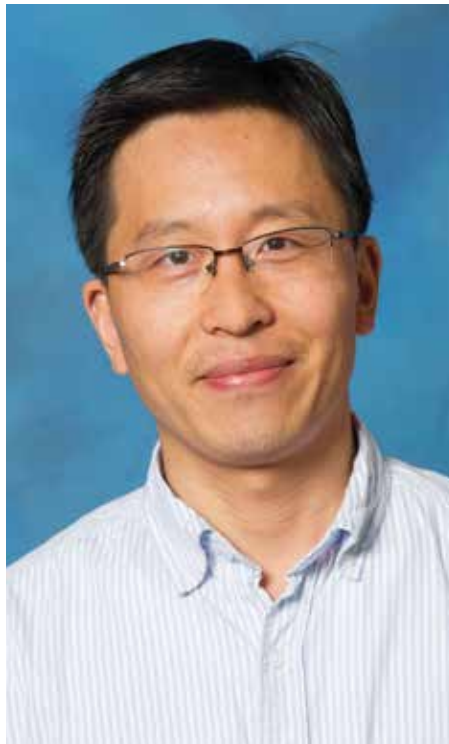
School of Pharmacy Class of 1953 present at RxTravaganza 2013. Left to right: Patricia Watters Hammarstrom, Larry McCahan, Patrick Dolan, Irene Hilinski-Damratoski, Bernard Dunlevy.



PittPharmacy student Joshua Niznik (Class of 2015) with guest lecturer Neil A. Capretto, DO, FASAM, guest lecturer, Nicholas C. Tucci Lecture Series 2014



**NEW  
FACES:  
FACULTY**



Xiaochao Ma



Olufunmilola K. Odukoya

**Xiaochao Ma**

Xiaochao Ma, PhD, is an associate professor in the department of pharmaceutical sciences and a member of the Center for Pharmacogenetics. Ma obtained his PhD in pharmacology and toxicology from Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2003. From there, he went to the National Institutes of Health and completed his postdoctoral training in Frank J. Gonzalez’s laboratory in 2008. Afterward, he worked as an assistant professor at University of Kansas Medical Center, until he joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy in 2013. Ma’s research focuses on the role of nuclear receptors in drug-drug interactions and adverse drug reactions. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles.

**Olufunmilola K. Odukoya**

Olufunmilola K. Odukoya is an assistant professor in the department of pharmacy and therapeutics. Odukoya received her Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from University of Lagos, Nigeria, and practiced as a hospital and community pharmacist in Nigeria. Odukoya received her MS and PhD in social and administrative pharmacy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She also received a PhD minor in industrial and systems engineering, focused on human Factors and ergonomics and a patient safety graduate certification and training from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Odukoya’s research has focused on using human factors and ergonomic concepts to examine the use of electronic prescribing in community pharmacies and its impact on patient safety and pharmacy workflow.

# NEW FACES: STAFF



Suzanne Mannino



Nancy Spice

## **Suzanne Mannino**

Suzanne is a talented addition to the Dr. John P. and Constance A. Curran Center for Pharmacy Students. She joins us with extensive experience in working with students, as she was a part of the University's Office of Admissions and Financial Aid. Part of Mannino's job responsibilities was the development and management of Pitt's Pathfinders program. This group serves as student representatives of the University to help prospective students make a well-informed college decision. In her role with Student Services, Mannino works closely with the PharmD students and the student organizations. Mannino gets to know and interact with each student as they move through the PharmD program.

## **Nancy Spice**

Spice is the new research project manager for the School of Pharmacy. Spice has been involved in sponsored research administration since 1997, first at the Allegheny-Singer Research Institute and then at the University of Pittsburgh. Spice comes to the school from the University's Office of Research. During her tenure at the Office of Research, Spice served as the assistant director for grants management and, most recently, the assistant director for training. As the research project manager, she works in the area of preaward and postaward grant administration.

# Q&A

RICHARD J. BERTZ (PHD '95)

Richard J. Bertz (PhD '95) is vice president and head of clinical pharmacology and pharmacometrics at Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

Richard J. Bertz



**You have been described as an academically oriented industry person. Do you agree?**

I think so—there are a couple of things that I do that would tie me into the academic environment even though I have been in industry since graduate school. I do like to teach and have been an active member of the PittPharmacy Board of Visitors. I have been involved in teaching, mostly scientists that are either just out of school or are preparing for the industry environment. I am extremely passionate about pharmacy so I see a lot of parallels between academia and industry science. It's not cut and dry; one or the other. The commonalities are that high quality science is important in both areas, to get a drug developed, approved and to patients in industry, and to retain funding for a research program in academia. The idea of collaboration is important in both areas, and training, teaching, and mentoring scientists are a big focus, as well.

**Pharmacy education and innovations are changing. What are the things that are changing?**

From my visits to the University of Pittsburgh and other schools of pharmacy I see the idea of experiential-based learning being critical. I don't know if you can have enough of that. Looking at cases, real situations, being involved in the clinic and the like are things that are important. As the role of pharmacists change, we need to be even more active as a member of the health care delivery team, which seems like it is inevitable, trying to look at cost effective delivery methods of health care. Pharmacists need to be prepared for the advent of personalized medicine, using genomic information to optimize the choice and dose of medicine for individual patients.

**What are pharmacists doing right?**

The thing that I see from a standpoint of what they're doing right—pharmacists continue to play a critical role in the effective use of medicines. I have seen more of a focus on patient counseling and the teaching about medicines and the proper use of medicines. The pharmacist as a deliverer of information, I think, is important. That they recognize and understand drug interactions, the optimal dose for a patient based on what's known; intervening in health care where appropriate is critical. I think it's really cool that pharmacists are now giving vaccinations.

**What advice do you have for our present graduates going in the field?**

From my perspective, there are many opportunities for pharmacists. And one of the things that I know I had experienced during my career was that I wasn't aware of all of the opportunities that existed. Some advice is to understand that there are more opportunities than just the traditional areas in community

and hospital pharmacy. There are opportunities with insurance providers and health care delivery services. There are many opportunities for PharmDs to work in pharmaceutical industry, either as medical information providers, protocol managers, or medical writers. The other thing is to consider the opportunities that you can obtain with a graduate degree. Good strong graduates in pharmaceutical science are highly valuable in industry and highly valuable and important for the next generation of research that's done within our academic centers and within our pharmacy schools.

**What challenges did you have during your HIV research?**

If I would say there were no challenges, no one would believe me. One of the really cool things is that when I began my industry career, a new class of drugs called HIV protease inhibitors was in clinical development, and those drugs turned the disease of HIV from a universally fatal disease to a chronic illness that could be controlled with medicine, so that was something, the reward—doing research, with all its challenges, in an area where you know these drugs are making a difference. A specific challenge we faced on the first drug that I had worked on, ritonavir (slows progress of HIV), was that it had the potential for numerous drug interactions and it was not recognized until that point in time, so the task I was given was to characterize those drug interactions with the ultimate goal of proposing labeling for health care providers to follow, including pharmacists, to facilitate the safe use of this drug. Challenges in research make the work fun and dynamic.

[Q&A continued on next page](#)



**PHARMACY PERSPECTIVE:**

CATHY CAO (CLASS OF 2015) AND KATIE MCGUIRE (CLASS OF 2015)

**A LOOK INTO THE ANCIENT PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE IN A MODERN MEGACITY**

“ Last July, we had the incredible opportunity to travel to Shanghai, China, to seek knowledge about Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) at its country of origin. Our first 10 days were spent alongside students from China, Ireland, and the United States at a local university attending the Summer Academy on Traditional Chinese Medicine. Through the academy we learned about TCM from its history and modernization to the current practices. TCM is complex practice using millions of different herbs, animals, and minerals along with practices such as cupping and acupuncture. As student pharmacists from the United States, we have minimal exposure to this practice of medicine and its over 2,000 years of history. The most important lesson

we learned was that to truly appreciate TCM, practitioners should not try to make it fit into the scheme of Western practice, but instead to look at illness as a complex multivariable process and to address each individual problem.

“We made our way across the city to observe at two large hospitals. The first hospital we observed at was the modern 6th People’s Hospital. We were very surprised by both the differences and the similarities in pharmacy practice between China and the United States. Additionally, we went to YueYang hospital to observe the practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine. By interacting with doctors of TCM, we saw that they interviewed patients a similar systematic manner we are taught in pharmacy school.”

**This is an opportunity for School of Pharmacy, alumni, faculty, students, and friends to share their viewpoints about pharmacy related subjects. Submit your Pharmacy Perspective to [shawj@pitt.edu](mailto:shawj@pitt.edu). The School of Pharmacy reserves the right to edit and post all submissions.**

**What was the most beneficial part of your pharmacy education?**

One thing that was extremely beneficial was the graduate program that I chose when I did decide to go back five years after receiving my pharmacy degree. I chose to go to a program that was pretty unique around the country, the Clinical Pharmaceutical Scientist program at Pitt. I think the clinical skills that I have picked up, understanding the patient on a clinical level, along with the research skills that I acquired in grad school, were a huge benefit. Also, learning how to learn, which is what you need to do because things are con-

stantly changing. If you don’t know how to continuously learn, you’re going to fall behind.

**What was one thing that you know now that you wish you knew back when you were at Pitt?**

I think, again, much centers around understanding and awareness of the opportunities and the options that existed while in the process of getting a pharmacy education and a professional degree. I think that may have helped steer my career path a little bit sooner. Maybe the opportunity to do an industry fellowship or industry internship would have



Katie McGuire and Cathy Cao



Katie McGuire and Cathy Cao

been beneficial. It would have been great to be in a setting to help me understand what that was all about and what opportunities were available in those areas.

In fact, if I had to do it again, for me, the route that I took was very beneficial and the time that I took working in the practice before going to graduate school was something that I just needed to do. A final word of advice: Keep your career options open. **Hail to Pitt!**

# Check It Out



Michael Smith (PharmD '11)

## Alumni

School of Pharmacy Alumnus **Michael A. Smith** (PharmD '11), BCPS, was elected by his peers to serve as the secretary/treasurer for the American College of Clinical Pharmacy GI/Liver/Nutrition PRN for 2013–14.

Smith is also an alumnus of the residency program completing a PGY1 pharmacy residency and a PGY2 internal medicine pharmacy residency at UPMC. Smith is an assistant professor of clinical pharmacy in the department of pharmacy practice and pharmacy administration at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

**Matthew Sarnes**, (PharmD '98), is now the senior vice president of commercial consulting at Xcenda, a strategic consulting firm that specializes in health economics, outcomes research, reimbursement, health policy, market research, and market access strategy to support global pharmaceutical companies.



Kim Coley (BS '87)

**John Kim** (PharmD '99) is the new director of value access and policy for Latin America, Canada, and Australia at Amgen, the world's largest independent biotechnology firm.

**Jennifer Stover Jaber** (PharmD '06) recently began her new position as director of medical science liaisons for respiratory diseases at GlaxoSmithKline.

## Faculty

Professor **Kim C. Coley** (BS '87), PharmD, FCCP, has been selected to serve as a scientific reviewer for the August 2013 cycle of Addressing Disparities funding applications for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). PCORI's mission is to "improve health care delivery and outcomes by producing and promoting high integrity, evidence-based information that comes from research guided by patients, caregivers, and the broader health care community." Coley's responsibilities include reviewing up to 10 grant applications and participating in an in-person Merit Review Panel Meeting.



Brian Potoski (PharmD '99)

Assistant professor **Pamela L. Smithburg-er** (PharmD '07), BCPS, was elected by her peers to serve as the secretary/treasurer for the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Critical Care PRN for 2013–14.

Associate Professor **Brian A. Potoski** (PharmD '99), BCPS, was selected by the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists as recipient of the Outstanding Clinical Practice in Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy Award. The award recognizes a pharmacist specializing in infectious diseases who has developed an innovative and/or excellent clinical practice site. The Outstanding Clinical Practice in Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy Award is given to those pharmacists with exemplary skills as a practitioner and educator, and demonstrate expertise in infectious diseases pharmacy practice.

Associate Dean for Education **Susan M. Meyer**, PhD, served as the U.S. Conference Cochair for Collaborating Across Borders IV and cochaired the Executive Committee and

the Program Planning Committee. Convened by the American Interprofessional Health Collaborative (AIHC) and the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative, Collaborating Across Borders is the premier North American conference focused on interprofessional education and collaborative practice in health care. The largest meeting of its kind ever, the meeting was attended by over 800 health professions students, practitioners, educators, patients and patient advocates, and leaders from 14 countries.

Meyer has also been selected as chair of the AIHC for 2013–14. AIHC transcends boundaries to transform learning, policies, practices, and scholarship toward an improved system of health and wellness for individual patients, communities, and populations.

Meyer was a featured speaker at the Making a Difference with Pipeline to Practice Initiatives that Promote Diversity conference hosted by Northeast Ohio Medical University. The conference was sponsored by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation and the Sullivan Alliance. Meyer focused on Interprofessionalism as Diversity.

**Susan M. Meyer**, PhD, associate dean for education and professor, served as the lead author on a curriculum development guide recently released by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) and endorsed by the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC).

*Advancing Interprofessional Clinical Prevention and Population Health Education* is a resource for health professions educators engaged in the design of instruction to prepare students to participate effectively as members of interprofessional health care teams delivering clinical prevention and population health services. The Curriculum Guide provides examples of how elements of the APTR Clinical Prevention and Population Health Curriculum Framework may be linked to competencies outlined by the IPEC in its 2011 publication, *Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice*. Meyer also served as a coauthor on the documents “The Curriculum Guide, APTR Curriculum Framework, and IPEC Core Competencies.”

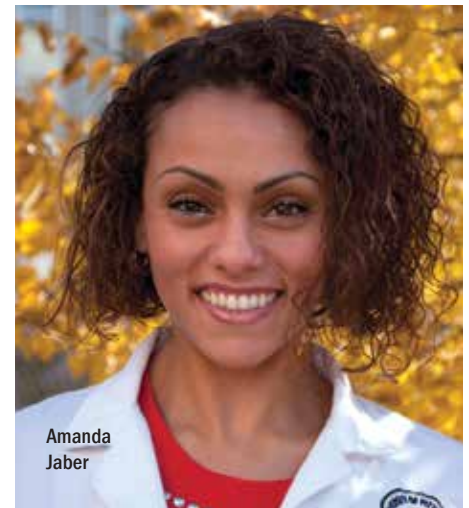
Assistant Professor **Karen Steinmetz Pater**, PharmD, was elected as president-elect of Allegheny County Pharmacist Association. She will serve as president-elect for one year and take office for one term as president in July 2014.

Professor **Wen Xie MD**, PhD, has been invited to serve as a member of the editorial board for *Molecular Endocrinology*, a leading endocrine journal published by the Endocrine Society. Xie’s term will begin in January 2014 and continue for three years.

Associate Professor **Janice L. Pringle**, PhD, is a coauthor of the recent publication *Understanding Education Research: A Guide to Critical Reading*. This book is designed to help students within upper-level undergraduate courses and graduate courses learn to read educational research articles carefully, systematically, and critically.

## Students

Graduate student **Kacey Anderson** was selected to receive the Student/Trainee Award offered by the American College of Clinical Pharmacology for the 2013 ACCP Annual Meeting in Bethesda, Md. The award is being given for her abstract titled “Effect of hypothermia on ABCG2- and ABCB1-mediated drug transport.”



Amanda  
Jaber

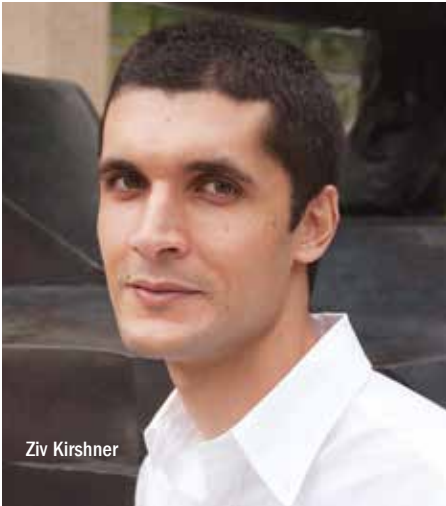
**Amanda Jaber** (Class of 2015) has been selected as the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy representative to the 2014 National Association of Chain Drug Stores NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill. Jaber joined over 300 advocates from across the nation in Washington, D.C., to educate members of congress about the importance of pro-patient, pro-pharmacy policy and key issues related to health care reform. Jaber will work with student pharmacists nationally and meet leaders of chain pharmacies nationally to advocate for the profession.

Graduate students **Hari Kaluri**, **Kacey Anderson**, and **Tao Long** were selected to participate in the Jonas Salk Fellowship for 2013–14. The Jonas Salk Fellowship is a unique educational program that brings together students from a diverse array of health-related graduate programs throughout the region to discuss paramount issues confronting health care. This year’s fellowship is particularly exciting, as students will focus on the recently passed



Susan Meyer





Ziv Kirshner

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its effect on the health care system.

Graduate student **Katherine Eichinger**, PharmD, was awarded the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences. Eichinger is now a member of a very distinguished group of men and women who have received national AFPE Pre-Doctoral Fellowships since 1942.



Katherine Eichinger

Graduate student **Ziv Kirshner** was honored to be the first recipient of the Abraham “Barry” Cohen z”l Fellowship Award in Biological Sciences during the ISEF foundation gala event in New York, N.Y. The award was presented by Cohen’s family members in honor of his long career in the pharmaceutical industry, where Cohen played a key role in the development of international business for Merck & Co. The award is given to young researchers who show promising achievements in both pharmaceutical industry and fundamental research in academia.



Lori Schmotzer

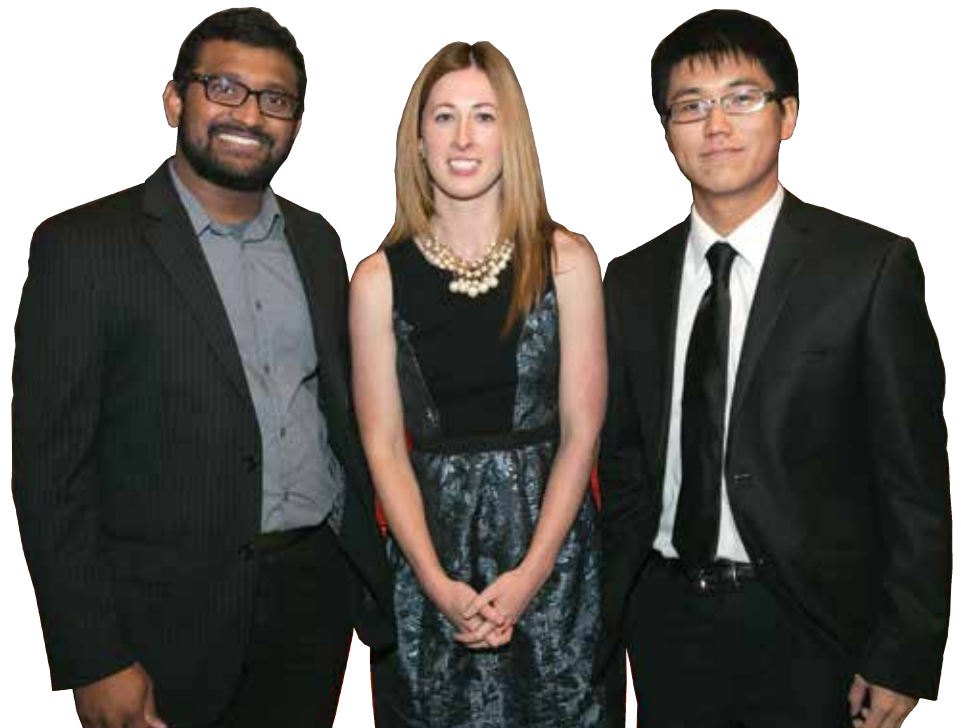
Graduate program coordinator **Lori Schmot-**

**zer** has been elected as a member of the Health, Safety, Technology, and Transportation Committee for the University of Pittsburgh Staff Association Council.



Kacey Anderson

Hari Kaluri, Kacey Anderson, Tao Long



# Investing in the Future



Anthony Civello (BS '67)

In recognition of a career dedicated to the advancement of public health, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Foundation announces a gift of \$50,000 to the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy to establish the Anthony Civello Pharmacy Scholarship.

Civello's leadership spans nearly five decades serving the pharmacy and chain drug industry. He joined the NACDS Board of Directors in 1998 and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors from 2005–07. He also served on the NACDS Foundation Board from 2003–13.

This gift to the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy honors Civello's leadership and commitment to the NACDS Foundation. It is the foundation's hope that this fund will help support promising students engaged in meaningful patient-care research.

"We are pleased to recognize Tony's vision for the advancement of public health through this scholarship gift. There is no finer person and no finer leader worthy of this honor," said NACDS Foundation Chairman Steven C. Anderson, IOM, CAE. "I read somewhere that people should strive not only to be successful, but to be 'people of value.' Tony Civello has been both.

**33.3%**

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**33.3% of the alumni were engaged with the School of Pharmacy and/or University in some way**

“ Tony has long had the vision of pharmacists as health care providers; through his endeavors, he has changed the face of community pharmacy. We are proud to call him a Distinguished Alumnus of our School of Pharmacy and Legacy Laureate of the University and are thrilled to connect our community-research-focused student pharmacists to Tony Civello's legacy through the scholarship that carries his name.” —Dean Patricia Kroboth



Kathy Stell



Paul Schiff



Kellie Mitchell



Marcia Borrelli

## Why I Gave

**THE MOTIVATION** behind philanthropic giving is different for each person. For some, it is the altruistic feeling one gets after making a gift. For others, it could be their way of showing support for a specific person or cause. The School of Pharmacy faculty and staff share why they donate to the School.

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**“I’m going to give the ultra-simplistic answer: it’s the right thing to do.”**

— Paul Schiff, PhD professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences



## Why I Gave

**“When I think of writing a check to the School of Pharmacy, I stop and think that ‘I am a part of Pitt now. I want to invest in our current success. It’s not about what happened in the past. It’s about now.”** —Susan Meyer, PhD: associate dean for education, professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics

**“I chose to donate money to create the Irene C. Smith Student Fund at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy because I wanted to honor the great foundation that my mother had given me and my siblings. I wanted to honor her love of students and learning.”**  
—Randy Smith, PhD: senior associate dean; professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

**“This is my way of showing the students that I believe in them and their career choice.”** —Marcia Borrelli, director of student services

**“We have been fortunate enough to have both our daughter and son-in-law graduate from the School of Pharmacy. It’s a way to express our appreciation for the wonderful education they received at the school.”**  
—Kathy Stell, Office of the Dean

**“One of the funds that I have a particular affinity for is the Gary Haberle Scholarship Fund. Mr. Haberle is an assistant dean in the school and has truly made a difference in hundreds of student lives. Alumni come back to share with me how he made a difference in their life.”** —Kellie Mitchell, director of budget and finance

**“Giving is an important part of who I am. Most people go into pharmacy as a profession because they want to help others and giving is just another way to help people.”** —Kim Coley, PharmD, FCCP, professor, Pharmacy and Therapeutics



Susan Meyer



Randy Smith



Kim Coley

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(For instructions on how to make a corporate matching gift, please contact your company's human resources department or matching gift office.) Visit [www.pharmacy.pitt.edu](http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu) to keep up to date with the School of Pharmacy.

For more information, contact Maurissa Vergari, director of development, at 412-648-0185 or [mmv20@pitt.edu](mailto:mmv20@pitt.edu) or <http://shape.pharmacy.pitt.edu/>

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## **WE WANT YOU BACK FOR THESE ALUMNI EVENTS:**

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**RXTRAVAGANZA  
SPRING 2015**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MEG OSBORNE,  
412-648-8186 OR OMEGHAN@PITT.EDU**

