

PITTPHARMACY

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY | FALL 2015







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The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, as fully explained in Policy 07-01-03, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability, or status as a veteran. The University also prohibits and will not engage in retaliation against any person who makes a claim of discrimination or harassment or who provides information in such an investigation. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs and activities*. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

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For complete details on the University's Nondiscrimination Policy, please refer to Policy 07-01-03. For information on how to file a complaint under this policy, please refer to Procedure 07-01-03.

*Except where exempt by federal or state laws.

From My Desk

Dear Friends,



I hope that your first glimpse of our new building photos excite, intrigue, and entice you to visit and see our space for yourself. You will see how light gloriously enhances every work and meeting space. You will see design features that stimulate collaboration. You will hear the quiet in open, populated spaces. And you will feel the energy of the people of the School. It has been a long time in coming—and it is transformative.

John Kotter is noted for his work and publications about change and transformation in organizations. Creating a mission, a sense of urgency, and communicating a vision are a part of the transformation process. Our space is symbolic of the more significant programmatic changes in our School of Pharmacy. It is said that you don't learn from experience, you learn from reflecting on that experience. Reflect with me on our transformation.

- **We have doubled the number of degree-awarding programs** from two programs, the PharmD and PhD programs, to four that now include **the MS in pharmaceutical sciences** and a **MS in pharmacy business administration**, which we will have an inaugural class as of January 2016.
- **We have created six areas of concentration for PharmD students**, which have tremendously enriched the student experience.
- **Space available to us through the University has increased by more than 150 percent in the past five months**, with the addition of the Research Pavilion and additional fifth floor space.

- We have grown to four centers of excellence—the Center for Pharmacogenetics, the Center for Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Computational Chemical Genomics Screening Center, and the Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research.
- **Our international program has grown.** We have gone beyond specific faculty-based agreements to agreements with **17 international universities** and institutions.
- The people of the school—faculty, staff, students, and alumni—continue to be recognized regionally and nationally for their leadership and for their outstanding work.

PittPharmacy looks pretty great from where I sit. And we have even bigger visions and more significant opportunities—both for transforming our programs and for physically transforming Salk Hall. We will lift ceilings and tear down walls. We will make learning studios for faculty and students. We will build an innovations program to impact our profession. And we will continue to transform our school. To use one of Kotter's points—our work is urgent. We have a vision, and with each of you, we will have a powerful coalition that will continue our transformation.

Visit us! Join in the fun, during RxTravaganza Weekend, when you can experience our School of Pharmacy with fresh eyes. Come be a part of our coalition that will continue our transformation.

Hail to Pitt!

Patricia D. Kroboth, Dean

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY LEADERSHIP

Dean: **Patricia D. Kroboth, PhD**
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Associate Dean for Community Partnerships: **Melissa A. McGivney, PharmD**
Associate Dean for Education: **Susan M. Meyer, PhD**
Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Programs: **Samuel M. Poloyac, PharmD, PhD**
Associate Dean for Business Innovation: **Gordon J. Vanscoy, PharmD, MBA**
Associate Dean for Research Innovation: **Xiang-Qun Xie, MBA, PhD**
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PITTPHARMACY

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Awards & Accolades

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI



Dean Patricia Kroboth, (MS '80, PhD '83)

Patricia D. Kroboth, PhD Dean and Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Distinguished Service Professor

Dean **Patricia Kroboth** earned two honors this past year from the University of Pittsburgh. She now holds the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy endowed chair, which was generously gifted by Vanscoy as part of his legacy at our School of Pharmacy; she has also earned the title of Distinguished Service Professor. Both titles are distinguished academic appointments that are made through a national peer-review process.

Kroboth has served the profession of pharmacy, the University of Pittsburgh, and the School of Pharmacy with her leadership, commitment, and passion for excellence. Although the two awards are not linked, Kroboth's overall accomplishments contributed to both distinctions.

Examples of the results of her leadership and accomplishments are found in the form of innovative and enduring educational

programs; our research programs that have grown in funding and impact; our international presence; and our new facilities.

Lauren Cirrincione Awarded Fulbright Scholar Award

Recent Alumnus **Lauren Cirrincione** (PharmD '15) was selected for a 2015-16 Fulbright U.S. Student Award. Cirrincione will conduct tuberculosis research at the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for TB and HIV in South Africa starting in September 2015. Selection of Fulbright scholars is highly competitive and based on factors that include quality and feasibility of an individually designed research project proposal, academic record, and personal qualifications.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program of the United States, intended to "fund the promotion of international good will through the exchange of scholars in the fields of education, culture, and science." Fulbright scholars represent the United States as cultural ambassadors while overseas, helping to enhance mutual understanding between Americans and the designated host country.

McGivney 2015 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Awardee

Assistant Dean for Community Partnerships **Melissa A. McGivney**, PharmD, FCCP, FA-PhA was awarded the 2015 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award at the University of Pittsburgh Honors Convocation held on February 28, 2015.

The Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award recognizes teaching excellence by members of the University of Pittsburgh's faculty. In his letter to McGivney, Gallagher took note of her Community Residency Preceptor and Preceptor of the Year awards given by



Lauren Cirrincione (PharmD '15)



Melissa McGivney, (PharmD '98)

the American Pharmacists Association. "You are a recognized leader in the development of patient-centered pharmacy practice in the community," Gallagher wrote, commending McGivney for her role in developing a community pharmacy post-PharmD residency program, a community pharmacy research fellowship program, a shared research course for community pharmacy residency in Pennsylvania, a research training course for faculty of other pharmacy schools, and modifications to Pitt's PharmD curriculum.

LEAD → ING THE WAY



Gretchen Kreckel Garofoli (PharmD '09)

Alumna Receives Prestigious National Award

On March 29, 2015, **Gretchen K. Garofoli**, PharmD, BCACP was awarded the Distinguished New Practitioner Award by the American Pharmacists Association at the Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Diego, Calif.

The award recognizes a new practitioner within his or her first five years of practice whom has demonstrated distinctive achievements in mentorship, service, and commitment to the profession of pharmacy.

Garofoli, a 2009 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, is currently working as a clinical assistant professor at West Virginia University School of Pharmacy. Honored for her commitment to the education and mentorship of residents, Garofoli serves as the primary preceptor for the Waterfront Family Pharmacy Community Pharmacy Resident.

Humbled and honored by the award, Garofoli tipped her cap to her parents, Peter and Denise Kreckel (PHARM '81). "Both of my parents are community pharmacists, so I grew up with pharmacy in my life," Garofoli said. "Seeing the impact that they made in their patients' lives and seeing the students they have taught and the differences they have made in their lives made me want to pursue a career in pharmacy. It made me want to make those same differences in my career."

Garofoli also gave credit to her mentors saying, "I have had some amazing mentors throughout my professional career, including Melissa McGivney at Pitt, and Kelly Goode, Kelly Oliver, and Ron Davis in my residency year. I have had a lot of amazing mentors who have helped me get to this point in my career, so I am just very lucky to have received this award."

Garofoli attributes her success to surrounding herself with the right people. "Learning from my aforementioned mentors and surrounding myself with great people, whether it's the other pharmacists who I work with, the students who I get to teach, or the residents I am able to mentor, this award wouldn't have been possible without all of them and the work that we were able to do together," she said. "Never think that there's something you can't accomplish. If you surround yourself with great people, anything is possible."



Samuel Poloyac (BS '93)

Professor Samuel Poloyac, PharmD, PhD Appointed Associate Dean for Graduate and Postdoctoral Programs

As the magnitude of the graduate programs and the needs of students and postdoctoral fellows have grown, the complexity of leading, managing, and financing the many aspects of the programs have also grown. The time was right to appoint someone to a primary leadership role for those programs, in order for the programs to continue to flourish. Professor **Sam Poloyac**, PharmD, is that person.

Poloyac has been a member of the PittPharmacy faculty since 2000 and has consistently demonstrated his commitment and leadership in graduate education. He has served as the director of the Clinical Pharmaceutical Scientist PhD Program since 2005 and director of the Center for Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences; through the latter, the group proposed the research area of concentration and the combined PharmD/PhD degree. He has mentored 23 PhD students either as an advisor or committee member, seven MS students, three postdoctoral fellows, and numerous PharmD students and residents.

He has demonstrated scholarship related to graduate education through several peer-reviewed manuscripts and a book chapter and has shown creativity in developing funding opportunities for students. He has been recognized as a Chancellor's Distinguished Educator, has been the recipient of the Provost's



Lisa Rohan (PhD '95)

Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence Award, and presently serves on the Internal Advisory Board of the Education Core of the University's Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

PittPharmacy Rohan Receives Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant

Faculty member **Lisa C. Rohan**, PhD was awarded a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation entitled Assessment of Films for Multi-purpose Prevention Technology (MPT) Development. There is a need for MPT to address sexual and reproductive health issues for women, specifically products that provide both contraception and HIV prevention to women represent an identified, unmet need.

Studies planned within this funded program will serve to generate critical gap activities toward the application of vaginal polymeric thin film dosage forms to address female sexual and reproductive health issues.

Rohan is an associate professor in the pharmaceutical sciences department at the School of Pharmacy.



Dylan Atkinson (Class of 2017)

Atkinson Chosen as Paul G. Cano Legislative Intern

From nearly 100 applicants across the country, **Dylan Atkinson** (Class of 2017) was chosen as the Paul G. Cano Legislative Intern through the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP). Each year, one student is selected to participate in an eight-week internship in Alexandria, Va. at the ASCP headquarters. The internship is designed to offer student pharmacists experience and training in legislative and regulatory advocacy on a federal level, and a chance to see first-hand how politics shape pharmacists' practice across the nation. The internship provides the opportunity to visit lawmakers in Washington, D.C. and advocate for pressing issues in pharmacy. In addition, the intern is presented with the opportunity to attend congressional hearings, monitor changes in legislation and regulations, and meet with federal regulatory agencies and national coalitions.



Kacey Anderson

Anderson Receives Distinguished AFPE Predoctoral Fellowship

Graduate student **Kasey Anderson** was awarded an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) Predoctoral Fellowship in pharmaceutical sciences. AFPE Fellowships support exceptional PhD students during the research phase of their pharmaceutical sciences course of study. AFPE invests in future leaders for pharmaceutical science research and education through highly competitive fellowships that enable recipients to focus intensively on subjects such as drug development, drug delivery, clinical trial design, pharmacoeconomics, and manufacturing quality control, among others. Founded in 1942, AFPE has provided fellowships, scholarships, and grants to help educate thousands of the best and brightest students in the pharmaceutical sciences in preparation for distinguished careers in industry and academia. Working with her faculty mentor, Samuel Poloyac, Kacey conducts clinical and translational research aimed at understanding how clinical covariates, such as targeted temperature management, impact drug pharmacokinetics, and response in critically ill patients.

Yang Awarded APhA Scholarship

Sophia Yang (Class of 2016) was awarded the George F. Archambault Scholarship during the 2015 APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Diego, Calif. on Saturday, March 28, 2015. The APhA scholarships recognize those students who choose to invest their time through active involvement in their school's APhA-ASP chapter. These exceptional students help shape the future of the pharmacy profession while managing the demands of a full-time curriculum. Student scholarship recipients are selected by the dedicated members of the Student Scholarship Review Committee.



Sophia Yang (Class of 2016)

Empey Recognized with National Innovative Teaching Award for Test2Learn

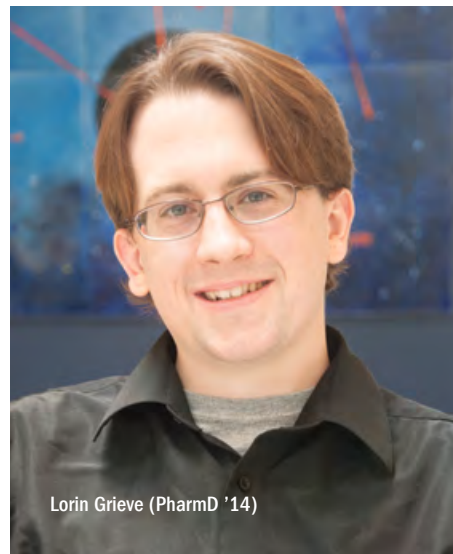
Philip E. Empey, PharmD, PhD, BCPS was awarded the 2015 Innovations in Teaching Competition Award from the American Association of College of Pharmacy (AACP) for his innovative approach to teaching pharmacogenomics. Empey presented *Test2Learn: Advancing Pharmacogenomics Education in the Core PharmD Curriculum through Student Personal Genetic Testing* at the July AACP annual meeting in National Harbor, Md.

Test2Learn is a novel educational program, supported through an Innovation in Education Grant Award from the University of Pittsburgh provost's office that provides students the option to undergo personal genomic testing and in order to use their own genetic data in unique learning activities. Through this program, Empey and colleagues Solomon M. Adams, PharmD and James Coons, PharmD, BCPS (AQ CV) developed new teaching materials, custom software for analyzing genetic data, and a novel partnership with a direct-to-consumer genetic testing company.

The program launched in 2014 and has already trained nearly 250 first- and second-year PharmD students.

Lorin Grieve Federal Executive Board Gold Awardee

The Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Science (Medical) Gold Award Human Factors Evaluation Team to team members including Grieve, at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System. The objective of the study was to provide impartial data to help VA Pittsburgh decide whether an automated chest compression device would be beneficial for use and if so, which of two available devices would be safest for patients. The team demonstrated a creative and unique approach to ensuring that the safest medical devices are used in the delivery of care to Veterans.

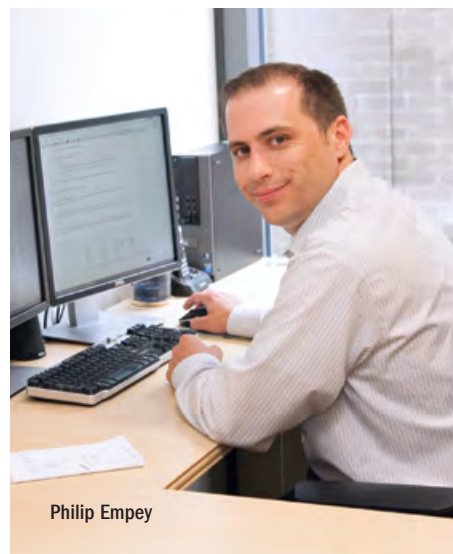


Lorin Grieve (PharmD '14)

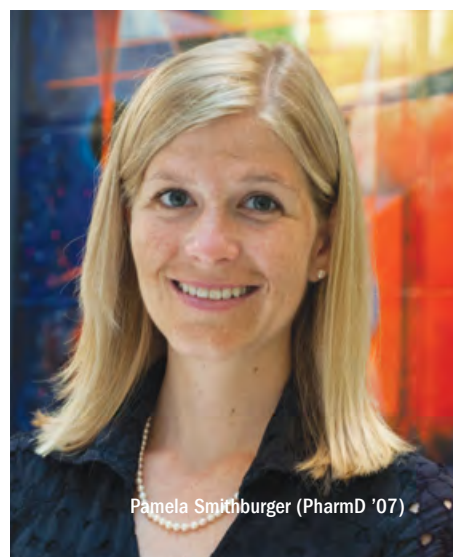
Smithburger National LKS Advisor of the Year

Pamela Smithburger, PharmD, MS, BCPS was awarded the 2015 Lambda Kappa Sigma Advisor Award during the 2015 National Convention in St. Louis, Mo. The award is presented by LKS every two years in recognition of a faculty advisor for their outstanding service and dedication to their local chapter.

As quoted by the LKS, Delta chapter sisters, "Dr. Smithburger is available to the sisters of the Delta chapter as an advisor, professor, and friend. Somehow with her busy schedule, she dedicates the time and attention to LKS providing advice, guidance, and support. She is a prestigious faculty member and is truly an inspiration and role model to our chapter!"



Philip Empey



Pamela Smithburger (PharmD '07)

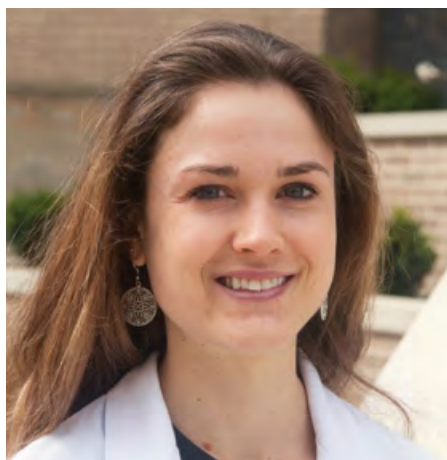
In the News

FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI

Woolley Named 2015-2016 Schweitzer Fellow

Lauren Woolley (Class of 2017) was selected as a 2015-16 fellow through the Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program. Woolley will work with FOCUS Pittsburgh to implement medication management and education services at a free health clinic in the Hill District. She will answer questions regarding prescriptions and disease states with patients seen through the Community Trauma Outreach project.

The Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship is an interdisciplinary fellowship program, which started in the region in 1997. The fellowship builds community capacity and trains a professional workforce that is skilled in addressing the underlying causes of health inequities, committed to improving the health outcomes of underserved communities, and prepared for a life of continued service. Upon the completion of her fellowship, she will join a network of nearly 3,000 fellows for life—Schweitzer Fellowship alumni who are skilled in and committed to addressing the health needs of underserved people throughout their careers.



Lauren Woolley (Class of 2017)

AAPS Presents Award to Exemplary Researcher Sean Xie

During the opening session of the 2014 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Annual Meeting and Exposition, AAPS President Marilyn E. Morris, Ph.D. presented researchers with awards commemorating their contributions to the pharmaceutical sciences. Among the awardees was PittPharmacy faculty member **Xiang-Qun (Sean) Xie**, PhD, MBA who received the Research Achievement Award in Drug Discovery and Development Interface (Sponsored by Allergan).

Xie is known for his pioneering research into developing diseases specific for chemogenomics databases and cloud computing drug target identification platform for “big data to knowledge” translational research. His work includes Alzheimer’s, multiple myeloma, osteoporosis, and colon cancer knowledge bases, as well as hematopoietic stem cell and cannabinoid molecular information databases, accessible worldwide. Xie is the director of the NIDA Center of Excellence for Computational Drug Abuse Research, a joint initiative between the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University to centralize state-of-the-art computational technologies and big data knowledgebase to advance neurological systems pharmacology and precision medicine research for preventing and treating drug abuse and addiction.

Williams and Myers Selected as Walmart Scholars

Recent PittPharmacy graduate **Kiersten Williams** (PharmD ’15) and faculty mentor **Karen Pater**, PharmD, BCPS, CDE were selected as recipients for the 2015 Walmart Scholars Program at the American Association of Colleges



Sean Xie and Marilyn Morris



Kiersten Williams (PharmD ’15) and Karen Pater



Olufunmilola Odukoya
and Michelle Myers
(Class of 2016)



Cassandra Bloor
and Kelsey Moss
(Both Class of
2016)



Kim Coley (BS '87)

of Pharmacy (AACP). **Michelle Myers** (Class of 2016) and faculty mentor **Olufunmilola K. Odukoya**, BPharm, PhD were also selected as recipients for the 2015 Walmart Scholars Program at the AACP Annual Meeting. AACP and Walmart share the commitment to help colleges and schools of pharmacy ensure there are an adequate number of well-prepared individuals who aspire to join the faculties of their expanding programs across the country. The goal of this scholarship program is to strengthen the recipient's skills and commitment for a career in academic pharmacy through participation in programming and activities at the 2015 AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars.

PittPharmacy Students Earn APhA-APPM Merit Awards

Cassandra Bloor and **Kelsey Moss** (Class of 2016) were awarded the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management (APhA-APPM) Presentation Merit Award on Monday, March 31, 2015 at the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting and Exposition in San Diego, Calif. Their poster presentation was titled Collaborative Practice Agreements: Potential for Community Pharmacists to More Efficiently Resolve Drug Therapy Problems.

The APhA-APPM Presentation merit awards recognize the authors of exceptional poster presentations from the 2015 APhA contributed papers poster session. The poster session provide practitioners, scientists, and student pharmacists an opportunity to share innovative practice information, disseminate research findings, and/or share educational tools. Over 400 posters, with a wide array of practice and research-related topics, were selected to be displayed at the APhA 2013 contributed papers poster session.



Sandra Kane-Gill

Kane-Gill Appointed Editorial Board Member

Sandra L. Kane-Gill, PharmD, MS, FCCM, FCCP was invited by Medical Director Ellen Deutsch of the Patient Safety Authority, to serve a three-year appointment as an editorial board member of the *Pennsylvania Patient Safety Advisory*, a peer-reviewed journal that is published quarterly.

Coley Appointed PPA Editorial Board Member

Kim C. Coley (BSP Pharm '87), PharmD, FCCP was appointed to the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association editorial board for the journal *Pennsylvania Pharmacist*. Coley is serving a two-year term that began January 1, 2015. *Pennsylvania Pharmacist* is a peer-reviewed journal that includes feature articles as well as member, legislative, and regulatory news. It reaches more than 2,300 pharmacists across the state of Pennsylvania.

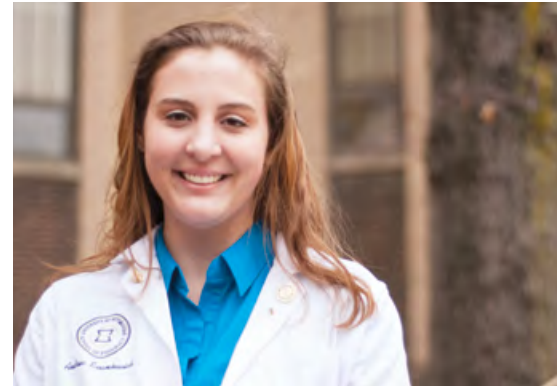
PittPharmacy Wins Awards at APhA Poster Presentation

PittPharmacy presented 28 out of the approximately 300 posters at the recent 2015 APhA meeting in San Diego, Calif. Two of the posters won the APhA-APPM Merit Award representing members of PittPharmacy faculty, alumni, residents, and students:

- *Financial Models Utilized Throughout the United States by Nonacademic, Out-patient Primary Care Practices to Justify Incorporation of Pharmacists in Team-based Primary Care.* Presenters: Sarah Krahe Dombrowski, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy; Jennifer Bacci, University of Pittsburgh; Trish Klatt and Maria Osborne, UPMC St. Margaret; Greg Castelli, West Virginia University; Melissa McGivney, University of Pittsburgh.
- *Collaborative Practice Agreements: Potential for Community Pharmacists to More Efficiently Resolve Drug Therapy Problems.* Presenters: Cassandra Bloor, Kelsey Moss, Jennifer Bacci, Brandon Antinopoulos, Melissa McGivney, University of Pittsburgh.

Evankovich Awarded Nationality Rooms Scholarship

Andrea M. Evankovich, (Class of 2017), was awarded a Nationality Rooms Scholarship from the Polish Room Committee. Evankovich was part of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation Student Exchange Program and traveled to Poland this summer to shadow hospital and community pharmacists.



Andrea Evankovich (Class of 2017)

Ching Receives University Honors Scholarship

Kathryn Ching (Class of 2018) has been awarded a University Honors College Scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year. The University Honors College Scholarship is awarded to third-, fourth-, or fifth-year undergraduate students who have participated in Honors College activities and have a 3.5 GPA. Ching's faculty mentors are Associate Professor Samuel M. Poloyac, PharmD, PhD and Assistant Professor Lucas A. Berenbrok, PharmD



Kathryn Ching (Class of 2018)

CLIP PROGRAM PROVIDES LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION



Each spring PittPharmacy second-year students complete the Community Leadership Innovation & Practice (CLIP) Experiential Learning Series in partnership with community pharmacies in the greater Pittsburgh area. Since the initiation of the program in 2013, our students have learned to provide patient care, documentation, and “bill” faculty for their patient encounters while learning from innovative pharmacists on a regional and national level.

In 2015, 110 students cared for over 4,500 patients at 77 community pharmacies in the Pittsburgh area. They engaged in three public health initiatives focused on medication adherence, immunizations, and antibiotic use. They shared their experiences with 82 legislators at our state capitol in April.

Also, the school engaged our community pharmacy partners Giant Eagle, Rite Aid Pharmacy, CVS, Walgreens, Gatti, Pharmacy and University Pharmacy, and over 15 alumni facilitated sessions on campus that mimicked national meetings. Faculty advisors for CLIP series are Melissa McGivney and Lucas Berenbrok.

PittPharmacy alumni volunteers and affiliates for the four-day sessions included Kristine Ossman (Residency '14), Ravi Patel, '14, Jamie Montgomery, '86, Aaron Dailey, '12 and Renee Richardson, PharmD, Pitt residency preceptor. The most recent community residents Kyle McCormick '14, Chrissy Jordan '14, Brandon Antinopoulos '14, and Gale Garmong, PharmD also facilitated and shared knowledge with our students.

DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY NETS 450 POUNDS OF MEDICATIONS



PharmD student Kelsey Knotts, Assistant Professor James Pschirer, PharmD student and coordinator Justin Saver, Deputy District Attorney Tom Swan, PharmD student Danielle Bellan, University Pharmacist Patrick Pugliese, PharmD student Hetvi Kaashyap, Dean Patricia Kroboth, and Officer Anthony DiPaolo.

On March 4, 2015, the School of Pharmacy conducted a successful Drug Take-back Day at the University Pharmacy in Mark A. Nordenberg Hall. In just seven hours, over 450 pounds of drugs were collected from nearly 150 people. The participants were 61 percent University and UPMC staff, 24 percent faculty and 15 percent students.

This event was made successful through the joint collaboration of Dean Patricia D. Kroboth from the School of Pharmacy; Kenyon Bonner, interim vice provost and dean of students; Deputy District Attorney Tom Swan from the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office; Patrick Pugliese, director of the University Pharmacy, and James Kenna from the University of Pittsburgh Police Department.

Events like this one are crucial in promoting the responsible disposal of drugs. The improper disposal of drugs poses a great risk to public health. Improper drug disposal contaminates the water supply and also poses a risk for abuse and theft, which can lead to injury and overdose. In the United States, prescription drugs are now the second most abused illegal substances after marijuana. Allegheny County, like many urban municipalities, has been increasingly affected by prescription drug abuse. Our community has seen a spike in the number of prescription-related overdose deaths in the last few years.

In accordance with the mission of the University-wide initiative known as the Year of Sustainability, this project prevented the potential release of over 450 pounds of pharmaceuticals into our environment. Also, this event helped prevent countless cases of drug abuse and overdose.

Due to the success of Drug Take-back Day and the lack of accessibility of permanent drug-disposal facilities, another University-wide disposal event is being planned for spring 2016.

7 HOURS

AT UNIVERSITY PHARMACY

450 POUNDS

DRUGS COLLECTED

35 FILE BOXES

FILLED WITH DRUGS

142 PARTICIPANTS

BROUGHT BACK DRUGS

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH OUR PITT FAMILY

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



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NEWS FLASH



**KEEP CURRENT WITH PITTPHARMACY
VIA OUR NEWS FLASHES.**

Don't wait to update your email information! Get the next electronic issue.
Contact Meg Osborne at omeghan@pitt.edu.

IN MEMORY FUND



To establish an award in memory of an alumnus, family, or friend that will provide a deserving pharmacy student need-ed funds, please contact Meg Osborne at omeghan@pitt.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

RECENTLY DECEASED SCHOOL OF PHARMACY ALUMNI

Ellen G. Antal (BS '73)
John P. Curran (PhD '68)
Marc W. Donegan (BS '90)
Raymond H. Eazer (BS '59)
Wilbur T. Euston (BS '42)
Charles F. Gerson (BS '52)
William Winston Goode Jr. (BS '63)
Donald Z. Grubbs (BS '48)
Robert A. Heiser (BS '63)
John G. Hupp (BS '67)
Casmer C. Iannuzzi (BS '48)
Paul Jendral (BS '47)
Vivian Turner Kalberer (BS '62)
Elizabeth A. Clarke Kessling (BS '74)
David W. Lehr (BS '55)
Patricia Plecenik Linder (BS '78)

Robert P. Lucatorto (PharmD '08)
Timothy G. Manning (BS '82)
Fred Marcus (PhD '67)
James Pappas (BS '49)
Michael D. Pezze (PharmD '13)
Earl Reiser (PhD '51)
Robert A. Santos (BS '69)
Albert Simmons (BS '58)
Charles H. Stahl III (BS '59)
Paul M. Stephan (PharmD '01)
Robert L. Stevens (BS '48)
Brian K. Swank (BS '96)
Violet M. Tamburo (BS '42)
Mary C. Vito (BS '47)
Roger Lee Wheat Jr. (BS '88)
Howard W. Yanda (BS '49)



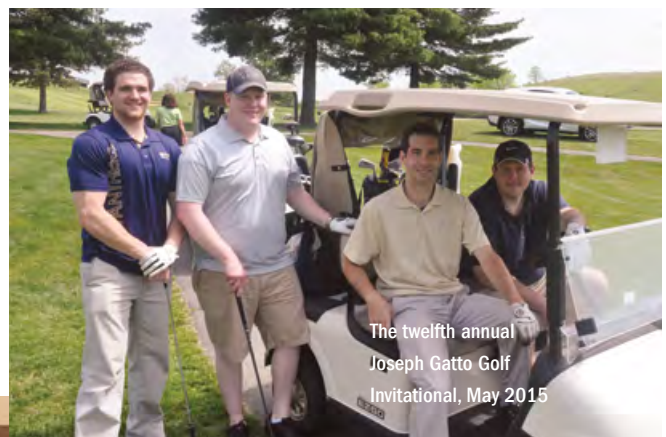
Health Fair,
April 2015 Hosted
by Class of 2018



Newly Coated Pharmacy
Students, 2015 White Coat
Ceremony



AAPS Regional Research Forum 2015 Winners
Morgantown, W.Va.



The twelfth annual
Joseph Gatto Golf
Invitational, May 2015



Happy School of Pharmacy graduates, 2015

PittPharmacy Students Meet and Win National Challenge

Efforts and innovation from the students of the Class of 2017 helped win the National Challenge Award in the 2015 Medication Adherence Team Challenge as part of the national Script Your Future public awareness campaign, coordinated by National Consumers League. The fourth annual competition was designed to engage health profession students and faculty across the nation by encouraging teams to develop creative ideas, events, and initiatives to raise public awareness about the importance of medication adherence.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy partnered with medical, dental, and nursing students to educate more than 1,100 patients about proper medication adherence, both on campus and throughout their county. To achieve this goal, the team created a standardized intervention for patients that could be applied to different health care settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, and medical clinics. The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy held a variety of community outreach events and educated patients on the importance of adherence by distributing Script Your Future materials, offering on-site blood pressure screenings, and counseling patients who shared drug therapy concerns. Through social media, the class shared daily tips on improving medication adherence. Additionally, the team created a public service announcement, stressing the importance of taking medications as directed and spreading the Script Your Future message.

Congratulations to our student leaders Dylan Atkinson, Alex Marshall, Taelr Eason, Ingrid Pan, and their faculty advisors Associate Professor Melissa McGivney and Assistant Professor Luke Berenbrok.

Middle: Script Your Future Winners, Class of 2017

Right: PittPharmacy and PittMedical students Christopher Hong, Anthony Popovich, Alex Marshall, Joy Trybula, Patrick Squires, Ingrid Pan, and Emily Taylor near the UPMC Presbyterian Prescription Shop.



LEAD →
ING THE
WAY



WALK WITH ME

RANDY B. SMITH

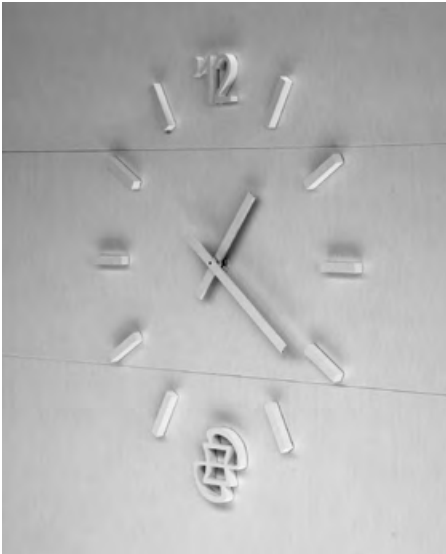
Finally—the fourth floor entrance to Salk Hall has reopened! On my way out of Salk Hall, I pass the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum and walk through the doorway. I stop, remembering the old brick walkway and the concrete steps to the parking lot.

How different it is now! Instead of stepping onto the bricks, I see the sparkling terrazzo floor of our beautiful new Commons. The new tables and chairs, which are located in an area brightened by skylights, catch my eye. As I look up toward the skylights, I am impressed by the architectural giant clock that was donated by the Class of 2012. On the clock, noon is appropriately marked '12 and the six position displays the School of Pharmacy seal—just like my Pharmacy scholarship golf outing shirt.

Finally, I can get a cup of coffee without leaving our building. Right below the clock is a coffee shop that was generously donated by the Class of 2011. The alumni voted on the possibilities for names and I see the sign that says “Rxpresso.” I really like the cup logo because, to me, it looks like the letters, U P—as in University of Pittsburgh. What do you think?

FEATURE

As I sip my latte, I turn back to look at the students in the Commons. Thank goodness they have a place where they can take a break.



Commons area clock donated by the Class of 2012



Expresso Coffee Shop underwritten by the Class of 2011



Students study, relax and socialize in Commons Area



Pharmacy Brick Walkway

I walk to the glass doors of the CVS Health Conference Room and peer through the doors. With its red chairs (see photo inside cover) and maple table, it looks like a great place to hold a meeting. An interesting arrangement of monitors in the inside perimeter of the table allows each person to look at the other people across the table and see the media at the same time. You will have to see this room for yourself!

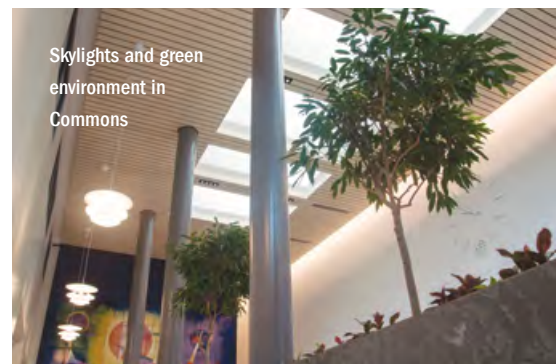
Walk with me now to the front door. As I go out the main entry across from the John M. and Gertrude E. Petersen Events Center, I walk outside through large glass doors to a big patio area. And here, I find our new brick walkway where all of the older bricks have been relocated. Phew, we didn't lose any! I spot bricks a few old friends donated and it occurs to me that I should get my own. There is room for your brick, too, if you do not already have one.



Randy Smith on the piazza at the main entrance on Sutherland Street.



DNA wall: Honoring our past and shaping our future



Skylights and green environment in Commons



Randy Smith and Patricia Kroboth on the bridge that connects Salk Hall to Research Pavilion



Corporate Donor wall at entrance

The area outside our door on Sutherland Drive has been transformed into what looks to me like an Italian piazza. The students are going to love this area to catch some Pittsburgh sun.

I turn around and look at the impressive School of Pharmacy entrance (yes, finally). When I enter the glass doors, I am greeted by a magnificent granite piece with the University of Pittsburgh seal etched into the granite.

As I turn to go up the steps, I see the enormous wooden plaque that recognizes two main corporate sponsors, whose generous gifts helped make the Commons possible. Thank you Giant Eagle Pharmacy!

Walking back toward the Grimm Museum, I walk up the steps by the extraordinary donor recognition wall. I see the familiar phrase “Honoring our Past, Shaping our Future.” Names of alumni and friends who generously supported to the School of Pharmacy with lifetime gifts of \$10,000 or more during our capital campaign will be etched inside an abstraction of a DNA double helix. I am glad that I am part of our DNA and that my name will be there. All names will be etched after June 2016. There is still time for you to be a part of our DNA.

I decide to experience one more aspect of

the new building—the bridge. I head into Salk Hall. As I walk through what is now a door at the end of the hallway on the fifth floor, I am on a glass-walled bridge that connects Salk Hall and the Research Pavilion. I stop to look toward the end of the Commons. There, I see the beautiful piece of artwork *Aerial Scope*, a large enamel on steel mural, by the late Virgil Cantini, who was chair of the Department of Studio Arts at Pitt. It is bright, colorful, and brings energy to the room. I love it!

Now I want to show you why all of our research faculty and staff have been smiling and are so happy. I continue across the bridge and walk through the door to the research building.

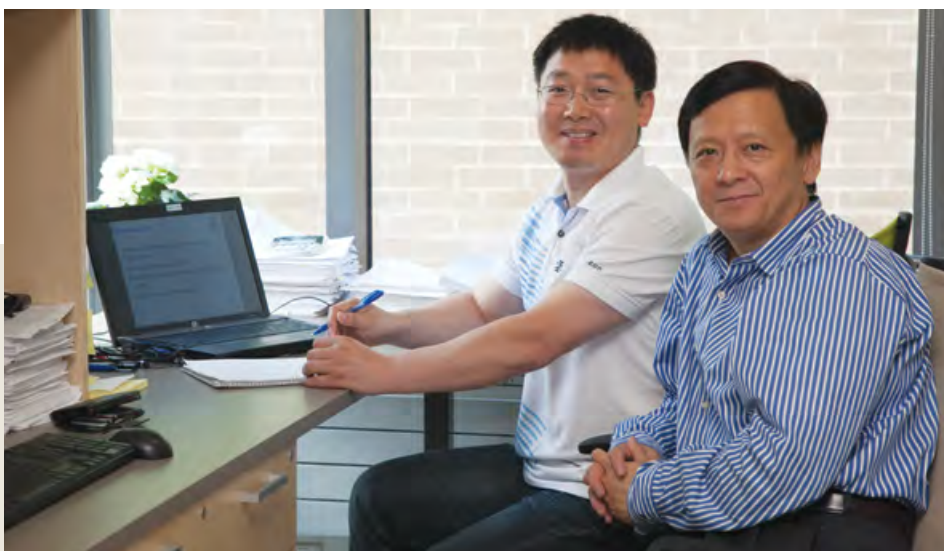
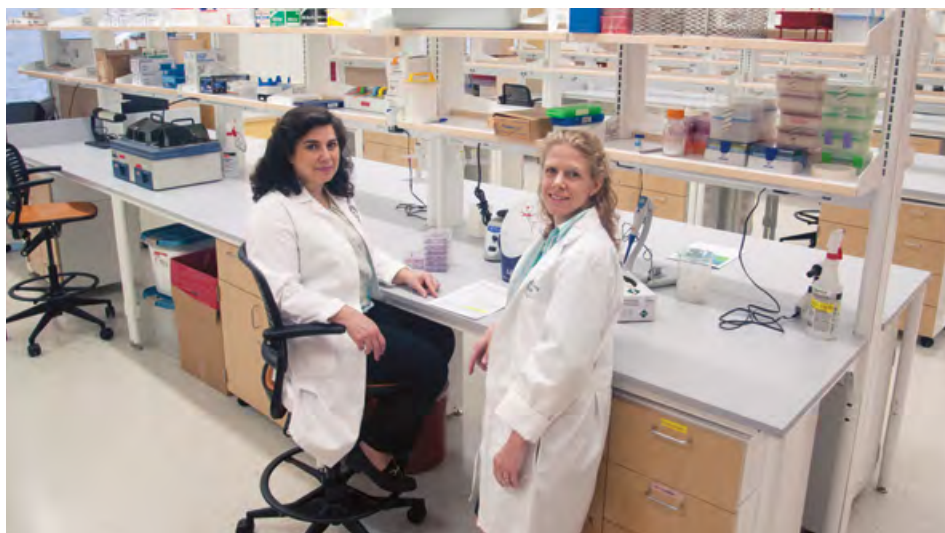
A PLACE TO DISCOVER— OUR NEW RESEARCH BUILDING

As I enter the door to the research building, I am now on the second floor (fifth floor Salk to second floor of Research—we are on a hill). The first thing I notice is the newness of everything—the maple doors and the patterned carpet.

To my left is the new, open laboratory space. To my right are faculty offices, which we will inspect first. The offices are grouped together to encourage faculty members to share ideas through repeated interactions (another way of saying they frequently meet each other in the hallway or lab entrance).

Pharmacy occupies two floors of the Research Pavilion, both with “research neighborhood” groupings of faculty, students, and staff. This floor houses the Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences Department and the Drug Discovery and Development Department. Lisa Rohan has a large group working on antiviral drug delivery for the prevention of HIV transmission in women. Kerry Empey’s team is working on the RSV virus and has created great models to develop new vaccines. I ask Kerry how she likes the new space and, without hesitation, she says, “I love it! Being in this new laboratory space makes it so easy to collaborate. Lisa and I are starting a new project together!” Collaborations are already forming and the building has only been open for one week!

Sean Xie has a group from his recently funded National Institute of Drug Abuse Center of Excellence for Computational Chemogenomics Drug Abuse Research working on the discovery of new drugs through computa-



Top: James Stevenson and Philip Empey in the conference room; Center: Lisa Rohan and Kerry Empey in the research lab; Right: Research associate Peng Yang with Sean Xie.



Reflective image of the exterior of the research pavilion



Song Li in conference room with his research team



Kellie Mitchell with Sam Poloyac in his new office space

tional chemogenomics and rational drug design. One of the pathways he is investigating happens to be of immediate interest to Sam Poloyac, whose team is investigating the roles of cytochrome P450 metabolizing enzymes in traumatic brain injury. Sam tells me that he did not realize that Sean was interested in this particular cellular pathway until recently when the pair was discussing graduate student projects. Now, as a result of their shared interests, they are working together using Sean's tools combined with Sam's experimental techniques to find a treatment to lessen the damage caused by traumatic brain injury. The dean designed the placement of the labs to create research neighborhoods and, in just a short time, it seems to be working well.

Sam Poloyac is ecstatic about the new, specifically purposed space for his mass spectrometry laboratory or, more accurately, his "Small Molecule Biomarker Core Laboratory." His laboratory provides research support for the analysis of biomarkers that help define response to drugs, better define disease, and identify new targets for drug discovery.

The next group is Tom Nolin's research team, which is studying the effects of renal disease on drug metabolism. Tom is excited about the efficiency of the laboratory and its potential to facilitate graduate student's interactions. Tom explains, "The open space will increase students helping students. It will be easy for a beginning student to ask a more senior student for help and advice which will enhance our program."

As I walk past Tom's research benches, I see Phil Empey talking with Jim Stevenson. They are discussing the implementation of a pharmacogenomics service for hospitalized patients. In Salk Hall, they were on different floors; now, their offices are only a few feet apart and their lab areas are adjacent. Their pharmacogenomics project is an essential element of the precision medicine strategy at Pitt.

Also, Phil is working on the role of ATP-binding cassette transporters in neurological injury and overcoming drug transporters to treat pediatric traumatic brain injury. This work fits well with Sam Poloyac's research program and it is great that their students can share learning opportunities.

I walk back to the elevators and head up to the next floor that houses the Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences and Drug Discovery and Development departments. The Center bridges pharmacy and genetics by developing cutting-edge research and applying it to drug discovery and development. As I exit the elevator, I walk down the hall towards the break room where I see Director Wen Xie talking with some students.

Wen reinforces the collaboration theme of the research space, "The open lab space is great for increasing interactions within our Center. I like that one person may be weighing some compound and next to them is someone preparing to extract and they have the opportunity to exchange ideas. A lot of great ideas start in these small random interactions." This is really important now that the Center has grown to include five faculty members and about 35 research staff and graduate students.

Wen walks with me into the laboratory and shows me the area where his research group is studying the nuclear receptor control of energy metabolism. Part of their work is identify-



Wen Xie with his research team.

ing new potential drug targets that may help control obesity and diabetes.

Da Yang's research team is next to Wen's and he is talking with a postdoctoral researcher. I ask Da what he likes best about the open lab and he laughs and says, "I love showing off to our collaborators from outside the school!" Da is integrating genetics and functional studies to improve cancer therapy. Recently, he found the unexpected result that ovarian cancer patients with BRCA2 gene mutations respond to cisplatin. His work is definitely contributing to the precision in precision medicine.

Xiaochao Ma's team is also located in this part of the lab. His research team is using sophisticated analytical techniques and study designs to study the role of nuclear receptors in drug-drug interactions and adverse drug reactions. He is evaluating the metabolome to determine if there are small molecule biomarkers for drug-induced liver injury. His work will help guide the development of safer drug therapies.

Wen shows me an empty lab area that is being held for Christian Fernandez, a new faculty member who will be joining the Center in the fall. Currently, Christian is at St. Jude's Research Hospital working with Mary Relling, an internationally recognized researcher in pharmacogenomics. Wen says, "The new research

space is a great recruiting tool and significantly helped in our recruitment of Christian."

The last person I see on my way out of the lab is Song Li. Generally, Song has a smile on his face, but it is extra wide since he moved his group into the new research space. He is doing some incredible work on developing systems to deliver medications to the lung, including nanoparticles and gene delivery systems.

Song shows me how the new procedure and equipment rooms have made it easier to share equipment and have increased the efficiency of research. He takes me to the conference room where a meeting with his lab assistants is about to take place.

As I walk back across the bridge to Salk Hall, I think about how the recurring theme of the open concept in the laboratory space and the colocated offices have stimulated interaction and collaboration. I know that graduate students, staff, and faculty are all benefiting from being in closer proximity to one another. The people and environment makes it a pleasure to come to work every day.

Walk with me back to Salk Hall.



Architect rendering of Salk Hall classroom renovations

A PLACE TO LEARN: REIMAGINING SALK HALL

As I walk back into Salk Hall, I see that the vacant, empty laboratories can be used in different ways. Our goal is to create the same type of neighborhoods and interaction spaces for our faculty, staff, and students in Salk Hall as we did in the Research Pavilion.

Some of the repurposing of Salk Hall laboratories is already underway. We created a temporary, new computational space for Sean Xie's NIH-funded Center of Excellence in Computational Chemogenomics in Drug Abuse Research. A plan for a permanent space is being developed that will be a collaborative area for faculty members who use computation as part of their research. Josh and Carolyn Thorpe's outcomes research groups and some pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics modelers will share the newly conceptualized computation laboratory. We will gain efficiency in the use of hardware and software licenses and with luck, peer learning will occur just as it did in the Research Pavilion. The space will have enough computers and workstations to allow use of the computational tools on an

ad hoc basis and to hold small graduate and advanced, professional student computer-based classes.

Right next to the future computational space will be a new mid-size classroom. We are so excited for the transformation, which will make use of the large windows found in older buildings. This classroom room is being designed to have multiple uses. It will provide a new learning space for the PharmD and graduate programs and provide a unique space for group work in smaller classes. We need this and more teaching spaces. On its own, the graduate program has grown to more than 80 students over the last few years.

The classroom will also serve as the main "maker" space for the Pharmacy Innovation Laboratory. One space in the room will have a glass wall partition. This space can be used to simulate a pharmacy patient area or other activity to try various ideas for improving practice and the patient experience.

In the evenings, we plan to make this space available to students for project work, inventing, and studying.

We have been fortunate to have been given additional laboratory space on the fifth floor that will be the home of Shilpa Sant and Paul Johnson's laboratories. Shilpa is working on tissue-engineered tumor models that recreate the three-dimensional structure, cell-cell/



cell-matrix interaction, stromal environments, and signaling cues present in vivo. These three-dimensional models will be used for preclinical evaluation of drug safety and efficacy. Paul's team is working on high-content screening methods to identify chemicals with the potential to become drug products. This laboratory space is much more open than their previous space and will leave room for expansion.

I head up to the sixth floor, which is almost totally occupied with bench laboratories. This does not look like much now, but it has many large windows that will create a bright environment for our community pharmacy program, which is working to improve pharmacist care and patient health in the community.

Currently, the space is divided into many small laboratories. With a little bit of imagination, you can picture a group of offices and a conference room for the faculty similar to those in the new research building—all with windows and modern lighting. This will make it easier to share and stimulate more great work in the community. We will have a defined space for our residents and fellows to share and interact with faculty and staff. This is where we could also locate our ever-ready video recording room for creating new content for online learning.



Salk Hall, the connecting bridge, and the Research Pavilion

We can transform other vacated laboratories into small classrooms that will allow us to effectively use new methods of teaching and learning, such as the high-fidelity human simulator. We could have enough rooms to efficiently offer more simulated experiences with standardized patients. We are national leaders in the training and development of patient care services in the community and this Community Center would enhance collaboration and great ideas, like the new research building does for our laboratory scientists.

We are preparing the professional leaders of tomorrow. I am excited about the benefits to the future of pharmacy that will result from our students who learn in these environments that support innovation, problem solving, and critical thinking.

We see the tremendous potential to build state-of-the-art learning environments and research environments. As I take the elevator back to my office on the eleventh floor, I think about how generous our alumni and friends have been to the School and hope we can continue to work together to make our reimagined Salk Hall a reality.

SUPPORT THE REIMAGINING OF PHARMACY EDUCATION

[SECURE.GIVETO.PITT.EDU/G16CPNR](https://secure.giveto.pitt.edu/g16cpnr)

Where We Are Going

INSIDE SALK HALL AND RESEARCH PAVILION

Multiple Grant Awardee: Faculty Lisa Rohan

Associate Professor **Lisa C. Rohan**, PhD is part of a multi-institutional team led by Craig Hendrix from Johns Hopkins University on the grant, “Delivery of Rectal Enema as Microbicide (DREAM)”. The development of a rectal enema as Microbicide (DREAM) program addresses the critical need to develop a highly effective, safe, and more behaviorally-congruent alternative for the prevention of rectal HIV infection. The overall goal of the program is to develop a single-dose pericoital enema to deliver a tenofovir prodrug capable of providing one week of HIV protection. Rohan leads the activities related to enema product development to support efforts within the program.

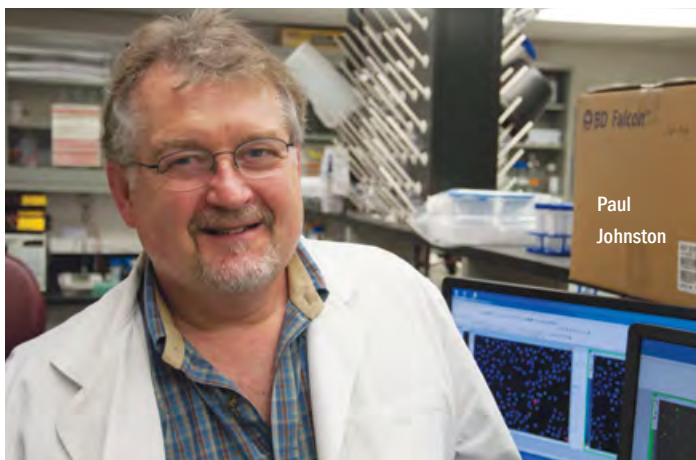
Rohan is also part of a multi-institutional team led by Kenneth Palmer from the University of Pittsburgh on the grant, “Griffithsin-based Rectal Microbicides for Prevention of Viral Entry (PREVENT).” Rohan serves as the PI for the PREVENT product development core for the program. PREVENT is an integrated preclinical/clinical program, with the overall goal to provide a comprehensive set of data to facilitate an informed decision on whether the antiviral lectin Griffithsin should progress in the topical microbicides pipeline.

Additionally, Rohan is part of the team led by Ian McGowan MD on a grant from Janssen, entitled “Employing Pharmacology in Human Disease Relevant Tissue to Support Pharmaceutical Discovery in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.” Her role in this program is to study the permeability characteristics of inflammatory bowel diseased (IBD) tissues in comparison with that of normal tissues to develop a model for evaluation of drug candidates for treatment of IBD, including ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease.

NIH Grant Awarded to Johnston

Paul A. Johnston, PhD is the primary investigator for his research High-throughput Discovery of Chemical Probes for HIV-1 Nef Function, funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Nef is an HIV-1 accessory factor essential for viral pathogenesis and immune escape of HIV-infected cells. Many Nef functions require self-association (dimerization), and Nef dimers bind to and co-opt host proteins and redirect them towards HIV-1 replication and the spread of infection. Small molecules that interfere with Nef dimerization may represent a new approach to HIV/AIDS therapeutics. Johnston’s lab will use the Nef-dimerization BiFC assay to screen a 60,000 compound library to identify hit compounds that prevent or disrupt Nef dimerization and would have the potential to be developed into new antiretroviral HIV-1 drug leads. The most potent and selective inhibitors of HIV-1 Nef function will progress into a medicinal chemistry lead optimization effort to develop novel HIV/AIDS therapeutics.



Paul Johnston



Vinayak Sant

Vinayak Sant Awarded Grant to Investigate Iron Deficiency

Vinayak Sant, PhD received a grant by North American Hoganas to develop color-masked iron powder. The objective is to evaluate feasibility of masking the black color of ultrafine iron powder using food-grade polymers without causing particle agglomeration. Another objective is to incorporate suitable additives

with food-grade polymers to enhance iron absorption.

Powdered iron is widely used to fortify various food products. However, the black color of iron powder restricts its use only in certain food products such as cereals, wheat flour, etc. If successful, the color-masked iron powder can be used in fortification of other food products such as rice, noodles, milk,



Kerry Empey

yogurt, salt, sugar, etc. This will help in reducing iron deficiency anemia in various parts of the world.

According to World Health Organization, 2 billion people—almost 30 percent of the world's population—is anemic. Iron deficiency is the most common nutritional disorder causing anemia globally.

Kerry Empey Awarded NICHD Grant

PittPharmacy faculty member **Kerry M. Empey**, PharmD, PhD has received an R03 grant awarded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH.

The goal of this proposal is to determine if infant alveolar macrophages are responsible for the accumulation of mucus and cellular debris and the mechanism by which IFN γ enhances resolution of this debris.

Airway occlusion is a hallmark of severe infant respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection due to the accumulation of cellular debris and mucus and contributes to significant morbidity and mortality. Alveolar macrophages are largely responsible for clearing cellular debris and mucus, suggesting that alveolar macrophages may be impaired in infants with severe RSV infection. IFN γ is an antiviral cytokine shown to correlate with reduced disease severity. However, it remains unclear its beneficial effects in RSV disease are related to reductions in mucus production or cellular debris.

PittPharmacy Students Awarded CPNP Grants

Natalie Valentino (Class of 2015) and **Rebecca H. Campbell** (Class of 2016) have been awarded travel grants and complimentary registration for the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists Foundation (CPNP) Annual Meeting in Tampa, Fla. Students were selected by the CPNP Student Committee based on the merits of their applications.

These students represent our future and the future of neuropsychiatric pharmacy, said CPNP Foundation President Barbara Wells, PharmD, FCCP. The CPNP Foundation is pleased to support these student grants, providing access to the networking opportunities and educational programming that is so valuable to our development as professionals in the field.



Janice Pringle

Pringle Receives Grant for Phase II Overdose Prevention

Janice L. Pringle, PhD received funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for Phase II of her study Overdose Prevention.

The goal of this project is to provide a public access Web site that can support efforts with in Pennsylvania counties to reduce overdoses and overdose deaths. Overdosefreepa.pitt.edu is a public access Web site that includes overdose death statistics in close-to-real-time; presentations and curricula tailored to specific audiences (i.e., the public, substance use disorder treatment professionals, criminal justice personnel, health care professionals, and school and community leaders); strategies for building and maintaining community coalitions that address overdose prevention; an expert speaker's bureau; and information about recovery. For more information visit overdosefreepa.pitt.edu.

Natalie Valentino (PharmD '15) and Rebecca Campbell (Class of 2016)





Da Yang



Tom Nolin (PharmD '99, PhD '03)



Olufunmilola Odukoya and Lucas Berenbrok (PharmD '14)

Yang Receives Cancer Research Grant

Da Yang, MD, PhD has received a grant from the Elsa U. Pardee Foundation for a research project aimed at characterizing miR-506 as a novel therapy for ovarian cancer targeting metastasis and drug resistance. Tumor metastasis and drug resistances are the two biggest obstacles for improving ovarian cancer patients' survival. The goal of Yang's research is to identify novel therapy that can target ovarian cancer metastasis and drug resistance simultaneously. The insights generated by this study will result in a comprehensive understanding of ovarian cancer progression, and provide potential therapy for ovarian cancer patients. Established in 1944, the Elsa U. Pardee Foundation funds prominent research groups that formulate new approaches to treat and cure cancer.

Nolin Awarded Five-Year NIGMS Grant

PittPharmacy faculty member **Thomas D. Nolin**, PharmD '99, PhD '03, was awarded a new five-year NIH R01 grant through the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) for his work, Drug Metabolizing Enzyme and Transporter Function in Chronic Kidney Disease. Nolin was awarded this multiple PI grant with fellow principal investigator and Pitt alum Melanie Joy (BS '91) of the University of Colorado.

The goal of the work is to define the impact of vitamin D deficiency and treatment on the functional expression of several key drug metabolizing enzymes and transporters in patients with chronic kidney disease.

Pediatric Patient Care Grant Awarded to Faculty

Faculty member **Olufunmilola Odukoya**, BPharm, PhD is the lead investigator with co-investigator faculty member **Lucas A. Berenbrok**, PharmD and University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy co-investigator Delesha Carpenter, PhD, MSPH on the research proposal, Engaging Pediatric Patients in Counseling and Medication Therapy Management Services in Urban and Rural Community Pharmacies by the Community Pharmacy Foundation. The ultimate purpose of this study is to identify innovative and sustainable strategies for



Residency Class
2015-16: Forty-four
residents in 13
programs from 23
different schools
of pharmacy in
18 states



Christina Xia and Kelsey Moss (Class of 2016)

engaging children and their caregivers in medication therapy management services in community pharmacies.

The National Council on Patient Information and Education has recognized that the improper use of prescription medicines in children is a national health problem that affects children of all ages, in all parts of the country, and of every ethnic and socioeconomic group. The largely unmet need for pediatric care in community pharmacies offers significant new opportunities for pharmacists to establish and expand patient care services. The knowledge gained from this research will shed light on the value that community pharmacists bring to the larger health care team, specifically focusing on the essential educational role pharmacists fulfill with regards to pediatric patient care.

PittPharmacy Student Team are Grant Winners for MEDivate

Christina Xia and Kelsey Moss (Class of 2016) were recently awarded the Innovation Institute—Pitt Ventures first Gear Enterprise Creation Team grant to serve as Student Entrepreneurial Leads with faculty member and principal investigator Philip Empey. The program is designed to stimulate university technology commercialization and entrepreneurship through business mentorship and participation in an eight-week intensive process focused on advancing a Pitt innovation through the initial stages of customer discovery and validation. The grant will be used to improve marketing outreach and business development for their project, MEDivate.

Moss and Xia have been working closely with their business mentor, George Kerestly, to complete customer discovery and market analysis activities.

Where We Are Going: Pharmacy Alumni

Kristi Bigos (PhD '07) is the principal investigator of Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacogenetics at the privately-funded Lieber Institute for Brain Development, which is affiliated with the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Bigos is also an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Clinical Pharmacology at Johns Hopkins, where she tests current and novel drugs for psychiatric disorders, specifically schizophrenia.

Anthony Boyd (PharmD '15) began his residency in pharmacy practice at the University of Michigan Health System.

Allison Doherty (PharmD '15) became a Rutgers pharmaceutical industry fellow at Merck

Beth Fabian Fritsch (BSPHR '91) recently celebrated 15 years with the FDA.

Darem Dughri (PharmD '06) been named director of pharmacy process optimization for Walgreens.

Jennifer Jaber (PharmD '06) became the regional medical lead at Novartis.

Cory Krebs (BSPHR '99) was recently promoted from district pharmacy Supervisor to area health care supervisor at Walgreens.

Julie C. Lauffenburger (PharmD '10) recently published an article in the *Journal of Cardiology* titled, "Factors Driving Anticoagulant Selection in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation in the United States."

Alicia Lichvar (PharmD '13) accepted a highly competitive research fellowship with the University of Cincinnati. Lichvar will be completing a two-year fellowship in transplant pharmacotherapy outcome research.

Anand Pandya (PharmD '07) became the director of pharmacy operations at Ohio Guidestone.

Nicole Pezzino (PharmD '13) was recently named assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Wilkes University. Pezzino is also a clinical pharmacist at Weis Markets.

The Virginia Society of Health-system Pharmacists named **Carl Tulli** (BSPHR '70) as Pharmacist of the Year, acknowledging his outstanding service to the profession of pharmacy, his impactful contributions to pharmacy programs, his unwavering cooperation with the Virginia health care system, and his service to the community.

Adam Welch (PharmD '03) was named Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assessment for the Gatton College of Pharmacy at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tenn.

Q&A

GARRETT SIPES (PHARMD '11)

Pharmacy Manager for Walgreens, St. Louis, Mo.

Would you tell us about the work you've done with underserved populations and some of the challenges that you experience on a day-to-day basis?

Yes, I live in North City, St. Louis, Mo., which is about five miles from Ferguson, Mo. The population is predominately African American, so we see a lot of diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure. What that means for me is that there are a lot of hard decisions to make as far as managing medications. There are many emergency room prescriptions and that can be difficult because those are often prescriptions that require multiple steps and must be handled with a great amount of care and diligence. I also see a lot of issues with insurance or lack of insurance and the cost of prescriptions. I spend a fair amount of time calling the insurance companies, practitioners, and even the emergency room making sure we can get cost-effective medications. We are an HIV Center of Excellence so we stock more HIV meds than most Walgreens, and the pharmacists undergo additional training in managing the disease state. As part of that, we've reached out to a nonprofit that provides free HIV testing as well as a number of other preventative screenings and health education to the underserved population. They provide free HIV testing in our pharmacy once a month and we do a number of events with them throughout the year.

By the Numbers

**Congratulations,
PittPharmacy Grads of 2015**

**PittPharmacy graduated 108
PharmD students with
100% jobs or postgraduate
training opportunities.**

**We also graduated 12 PhD
and 19 MS students.**

Kudos to all!



Garrett Sipes

And similarly, to stay where I am. It's not easy and can be thankless. Since I have been at my store, I've seen a significant amount of manager turnover because people see this location as a stepping stone. It's frustrating, but it reminds me that I am here for a reason and I am able to do a lot of good work here. I continue to stay here even though it is stressful and hard, and sometimes it seems like I am spinning my wheels. I know that there is a lot of good being done.

Has your view of pharmacy changed since you have transitioned from student to alumnus?

Yes and no. It was a bit of a shock coming out of college. I was working as a pharmacist and working long hours and weird shifts and that's exhausting and stressful, so I thought, "What am I doing this for?"

There is a lot that I learned in school that I use on a daily basis. The importance of MTM, the importance of adherence, the importance of pharmaceutical care, being a good communicator—these are things I utilize constantly. I get to do what I wanted to do all along, which is help people fix them up, and make sure they are getting better and living healthier lives.

Which would you say is one of your biggest challenges: Medication adherence or dealing with the insurance companies? How do these barriers affect how you approach your day-to-day work?

MTM and insurance are struggles that all community pharmacists deal with. I would say that education is one of my biggest challenges. Education is a difficult thing to gauge. One of the biggest things I learned in school was how to ask the right questions. How do you gauge someone's health? How do you gauge someone's health literacy or even if they are literate? Judging those things is incredibly important. Empowering my patients is something that I have found that I am in a unique position to do. It's encouraging to see patients step up for themselves and take ownership over their health.

Are there difficult decisions you make as a pharmacist?

My store is very busy, so I think making sure I take the time to truly care for our patients instead of just filling the drug can be tough. For example, we are not a 24-hour store; we open at 10 a.m. on Sundays. There is a large emergency room (ER) down the street from us and they do a lot of prescriptions on weekend nights. By Sunday morning, depending on the night before, we'll have a line of people who have been in the ER for who knows how many hours and they are irritable and they need a prescription filled. I have to make the decision to truly care about each person because they matter. They really, really do. It's so important that I provide that same level of care for my patients as I would my family.

What has been the best decision you have made as a pharmacist?

Two decisions: One was spending a rotation in Honduras. That was not an easy decision for me to make. My future wife and I were planning on getting married right after I graduated, and I wanted to go to the APhA National Conference. Financially, there were a lot of sacrifices that I had to make, but my rotation has been an experience that has continually affected me. To see that level of poverty—the level of poverty here doesn't compare; it put everything into perspective for me.

As a recent graduate, is there a piece of advice you would give to our new graduates?

One of the most important things I could tell a recent graduate is "be open to anything." I did not want to do community pharmacy the entire way through pharmacy school, and look where I am! You have a lot of opportunities because the field is vast. There are many different paths where you might say, "Oh, I would never do that," and you might end up having to do that very thing. You might end up loving it. You might end up hating it, but you have to give it a chance.

What changes would you like to see in the future of pharmacy?

I want to see more of a provider-based role given to pharmacists. I'm encouraged by all of the changes that I see in the health care landscape. Between the changes in the immunizations in Pennsylvania and in states like Oregon and Kentucky, where pharmacists are able to administer birth control or naloxone therapy, we are quickly moving becoming providers and being seen as a crucial part of the health care team that helps to provide meaningful care to people.

By the Numbers

PittPharmacy
NIH
Ranking

9



NEW FACES: FACULTY

**Terence McGuire, PhD**

Research Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Terry McGuire holds a BS in chemistry and a PhD in biochemistry, both from the University of Pittsburgh. He was mentored as a post-doctoral fellow in the laboratory of Said Sebti, where he investigated signaling pathways in normal and cancer cells and was trained in rational drug design of anticancer agents. After postdoctoral training, McGuire joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (initially in the Department of Pharmacology and subsequently in the Department of Pediatrics). As faculty, he continued signal transduction research, investigating pathways that play key roles in cancer cell biology and cellular decision making (i.e., survival/apoptosis, motility/metastasis, stemness/differentiation, and cell division/senescence). McGuire is scientific administrator for The Computational Chemical Genomics Center.

**James M. Stevenson, PharmD, MS**

Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics

James M. Stevenson received his PharmD from the University of Michigan and completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). After his residency, Stevenson completed a fellowship in psychopharmacology and pharmacogenomics at UIC in parallel to a Master of Science degree in clinical and translational sciences at the same institution. His thesis, "Antipsychotic Pharmacogenetics in First Episode Psychosis: Is There a Role for Glutamate Genes?" employed multiple pharmacogenomic strategies to identify genetic markers of antipsychotic response. Stevenson's work at the University focuses on the clinical implementation of established pharmacogenetic relationships, as well as the identification of novel genetic predictors of clinically-relevant, drug-related outcomes.

NEW FACES: STAFF



Jacqueline Detty

Executive Assistant to the Dean and International Partnerships Coordinator

In May, Jackie Detty joined the School of Pharmacy as executive assistant to the dean and international partnerships coordinator. Upon arriving at Pitt, she worked in the Office of the Provost as the executive assistant to the provost. Previously, Jackie served as sports medicine fellowship coordinator and executive assistant to Christopher Harner, medical director and chief of UPMC Center for Sports Medicine. Prior to joining UPMC, Jackie worked in various capacities within the field of higher education, including admissions, development, distance education, and student services, at Regis University, Troy State University, and Arizona State University. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Ohio Dominican University.



Matthew Freidhoff

Educational Support Specialist

Matt Freidhoff is the new education support specialist for the School of Pharmacy. His journey with Pitt began in June 2007 when he started as a temp and was hired full time five months later with the Department of Emergency Medicine and Division of Medical Toxicology. During his time with Emergency Medicine, he coordinated the medical toxicology fellowship, multiple medical school clerkships, and assisted with the day-to-day operations of the Division of Medical Toxicology. He has a passion for education and working with students, and is really excited to bring what he has learned to the School of Pharmacy. He is excited for the opportunity to work with pharmacy students and learn new, educational-based technology. He is a 2004 graduate from Marywood University, in Scranton, Pa., with a BA in arts administration and hopes to pursue his MBA in the near future.



June Stine

Director of Development,
Office of the Dean

Stine started her career as an executive director of a 38-employee YWCA in Mansfield, Ohio, with three satellite daycare facilities, a women's boarding facility, and a cafeteria. She moved to higher education and as director of alumni relations, managed a successful Alumni Relations Office for the College of Health and Human Development at the Pennsylvania State University.

Stine became the director of advancement for Linden Hall School in Lititz, Pa., for over 10 years. She was responsible for complex and creative supervisory and administrative work in planning, cultivating, and soliciting gifts to the school, including capital campaigns, as well as all ongoing aspects of the permanent development program, including the annual fund.

In 2010, Stine became the assistant vice president for Alumni Relations and Annual Giving for Roosevelt University in Chicago, Ill., responsible for the leadership, direction and management of the Alumni Relations and Annual Giving operations.

ANTHONY BOYD

Graduating with Pitt degree(s): BSPS, PharmD
Hometown: Columbus, Ohio **Favorite Pitt Memory:** Postgraduation Beach Trip **Your Pitt Experience In Six Words or Less:** Overall great experience, Hail to Pitt! **Where Do You Go From Here:** PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Resident at the University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, Mich.

KYLE MCGRATH

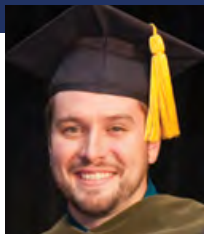
Graduating with Pitt degree(s): BSPS, PharmD
Hometown: Ringoes, N.J. **Favorite Pitt Memory:** Performing with other students at the Annual Gala for all the alumni in attendance. It was a blast to sing with a live band and have all the alumni get up and dance with us. **Your Pitt Experience In Six Words or Less:** Unique, exciting, formative, impactful, friendships, fun **Where Do You Go From Here:** I am completing an executive fellowship with the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation in Arlington, Va., where I will be able to make an impact on public health through research, project management, and interacting with industry thought leaders.

HILARY NAVY

Graduating with Pitt degree(s): BSPS, PharmD
Hometown: Strongsville, Ohio **Favorite Pitt Memory:** The annual Lambda Kappa Sigma formals **Your Pitt Experience In Six Words or Less:** Valuable learning experiences and unforgettable memories **Where Do You Go From Here:** I will be doing a PGY-1 Residency at HealthSpan in Parma, Ohio.

ANDREW NGUYEN

Graduating with Pitt degree(s): BSPS, PharmD
Hometown: Harrisburg, Pa. **Favorite Pitt Memory:** 2014 PLS Auction—seeing all the students and faculty be so involved in raising money for such a great cause and breaking the record in the process **Your Pitt Experience In Six Words or Less:** Personalized, adaptive, diverse, and truly incredible **Where Do You Go From Here:** I will be starting my career with CVS Health as a community pharmacist in Fairfax, Va.



PAULA NOCIOLOLO

Graduating with Pitt degree(s): BSPS, PharmD
Hometown: Fair Haven, N.J. **Favorite Pitt Memory:** P2 year back to school party at Peters, seeing all my friends again after the summer! **Your Pitt Experience In Six Words or Less:** You will never regret taking the harder road! **Where Do You Go From Here:** Working as a pharmacist for Walgreens, but this is just the beginning!

LINDSEY RIHTARCHIK

Graduating with Pitt degree(s): PharmD
Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pa. **Favorite Pitt Memory:** Although I have many fond memories from my Pitt experience, I would have to say my favorite was the Pharmacy school's graduation ceremony. It is an indescribable feeling to celebrate our accomplishments and be recognized for our hard work as we thanked our mentors for their support throughout the years. **Your Pitt Experience In Six Words or Less:** Truly unforgettable foundation for my future **Where Do You Go From Here:** Pharmacy Practice Residency at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio.

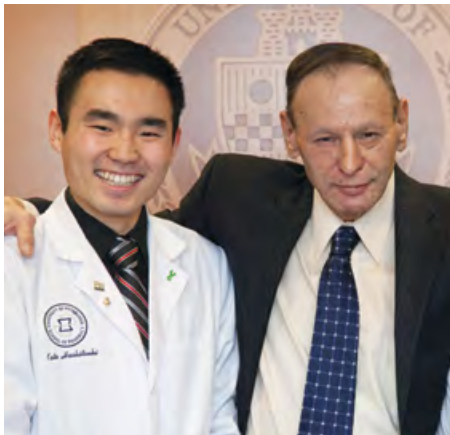
KIMBERLY ULSHAFFER

Graduating with Pitt degree(s): BS, PharmD
Hometown: Northampton, Pa. **Favorite Pitt Memory:** All the great friends I made in undergraduate and pharmacy school. **Your Pitt Experience In Six Words or Less:** Best eight years ever! **Where Do You Go From Here:** Moved to Long Island, N.Y.

KATHRYN WERSOSKY

Graduating with Pitt degree(s): PharmD
Hometown: Mechanicsburg, Pa. **Favorite Pitt Memory:** Feeling like I found the right profession for the first time when I helped senior citizens understand their medications at Silver Scripts **Your Pitt Experience In Six Words or Less:** Amazing friends, unique experiences, excellent faculty **Where Do You Go From Here:** I am a pharmacist at Wegmans pharmacy in the Greater Philadelphia area.

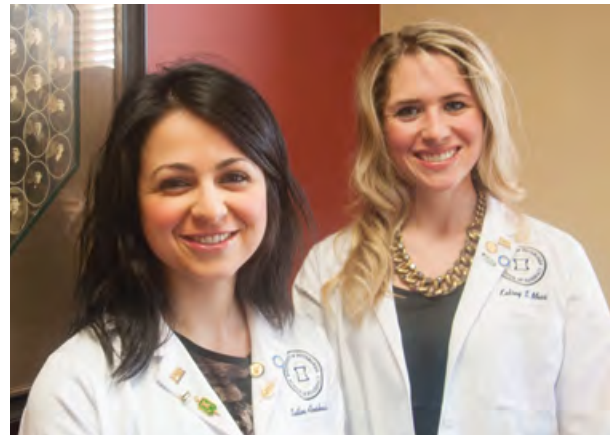
Check It Out



Keito Hoshitsuki (Class of 2017) with Gary Haberle



Daisy Zhu (Class of 2017)



Svetlana Avshalumov and Kelsey Moss (Class of 2016)

Hoshitsuki Participates in St. Jude Children's Research POE Program

Keito Hoshitsuki (Class of 2017) accepted a 2015 summer internship with the Pediatric Oncology Education Program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Hoshitsuki worked in the laboratory of faculty mentor Jun J. Yang, PhD in the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He studied and conducted research on the pharmacogenomics of pediatric leukemia. The goal of this predoctoral program is to encourage students to pursue a career in cancer research either as a laboratory-based scientist or clinician. Trainees attend lectures and conferences to supplement their research training. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital offers an internationally renowned academic environment that provides interaction between clinicians, basic scientists, postdoctoral fellows, and other trainees.

APhA-ASP Committee Selects Zhu

PittPharmacy student Daisy Zhu (Class of 2017) was selected as a member of the 2015-2016 APhA-ASP National Communications Standing Committee. The APhA-ASP National Executive board appoints four members to serve on the the National APhA-ASP Communications Standing Committee to serve for one year.

Students Moss and Avshalumov Accept NACDS Rotation

Svetlana Avshalumov and Kelsey Moss (Class of 2016) were accepted to complete the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Rotation in Association Management in Arlington, Va., as an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience. NACDS offers this opportunity to pharmacy students to enhance their understanding of community pharmacy practice and the issues impacting the chain drug industry. Avshalumov and Moss will receive experience in pharmacy care, government affairs and public policy, and patient-

cused research through the association's charitable foundation. Avshalumov and Moss have been working closely with faculty mentors as part of the Community Leadership Innovations and Practice ARCO to prepare for their final year rotations. They will both be completing their experience during the spring 2016 term.

PittPharmacy Top Winners at American Geriatric Society Annual Scientific Meeting 2015

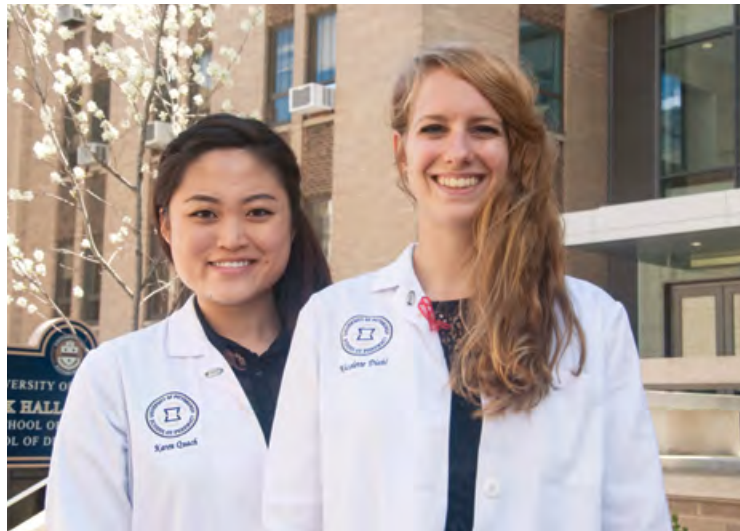
Members of PittPharmacy were well represented in the winner's circle at the American Geriatrics Society Annual Scientific Meeting held in National Harbor, Md. in May 2015. This study was funded by research grants from the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and the ASHP Research and Education Foundation.

A list of winners at www.pages.pharmacy.pitt.edu/epittpharmacy/2015/05/26/pittpharmacy-top-winners-at-american-geriatric-society-annual-scientific-meeting-2015/

Bridging the Gaps Summer Internship Awards

PittPharmacy students **Karen Quach** and **Nicolette Diehl** (Class of 2018) were selected to participate in the 2015 Bridging the Gaps Summer Internship. During the internship, Quach and Diehl will be working directly with underserved populations in interprofessional teams to provide service while gaining a better understanding of the social determinants of health.

Assistant Professor Sharon Connor, PharmD is their faculty mentor.



Karen Quach and
Nicolette Diehl
(Class of 2018)

Faculty Receive Patient and Family Support Specialty Award

Ryan Rivosecchi, PharmD, **Sandra L. Kane-Gill**, PharmD, MS, FCCM, FCCP, and **Pamela Smithburger**, PharmD, MS, BCPS received the Patient and Family Support Specialty Award at the Society of Critical Care Medicine Congress in Phoenix, Ariz., in January 2015, for their research, Giving Your Patients MORE: Implementing of a Non-pharmacologic Protocol to Prevent ICU Delirium.

Their research concluded that after bundling effective, single non-pharmacologic interventions together in an institution protocol there was benefit in reducing the time patients spent delirious. The investigators' abstract was the top scoring in the patient and family support category. This research ranked as one of the top scoring abstract submissions out of all the submissions for the meeting.



Ryan Rivosecchi
(PharmD '13),
Sandra Kane Gill, and
Pamela Smithburgher

AACP Webinar Hosted by PittPharmacy Faculty

Jennifer Bacci, PharmD, **Kim C. Coley**, PharmD, FCCP, and **Melissa A. McGivney**, PharmD, FCCP, FAPhA, presented a nationally broadcast webinar titled, Utilizing Patient Encounters to Personalize Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Rotation Selection to the membership of the experiential education section of the American Academy of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) on Monday, April 20, 2015. They spoke about their experiences in using mixed methods in experiential learning based scholarship and about their research using the school's clinical documentation system, the Patient Interaction Tracking Tool. Other members of the research team included PittPharmacy members James Pschirer, Deanne Hall, Karen Pater, Anna Schmotzer, and Joni Carroll.

The recorded webinar is available to AACCP members to view online.

A Fond Farewell



Professor Paul Schiff, Dean Patricia Kroboth, Dean Emeritus Randy Juhl, Assistant Dean Dennis Swanson, and Chancellor Emeritus Mark Nordenberg

Randy Juhl, PhD, former dean of the School of Pharmacy and the school's first Distinguished Service Professor, retired in July after a 36-year career at the University of Pittsburgh.

Juhl arrived at University in 1979 and served as the dean of the School of Pharmacy from 1986 until 2002. A few of the most notable successes that occurred under his leadership include the establishment of the PharmD Residency Program, the transition from a two-year postbaccalaureate degree program to the PharmD program, and development of the Clinical Pharmaceutical Scientist

PhD program. His focus on the growth of the research program led the School of Pharmacy to become one of the top 10 NIH-funded Schools of Pharmacy in the country.

In addition to his institutional responsibilities, Juhl was appointed chair of the FDA Advisory Committee on Non-prescription Drugs, a position he held from 1992-1996. Continuing his work

with the FDA, in 1998, he was named chairman of Pharmacy Compounding Advisory Committee. He is a former past president of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science in the American Pharmaceutical Association (1992-1993).

In 2002, Juhl was appointed vice-chancellor of research conduct and compliance by Chancellor Emeritus Mark Nordenberg. As vice chancellor, he was charged with the administrative oversight of the University's Institutional Review Board, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and the University's conflict of interest reporting and monitoring functions.

During his tenure as vice chancellor, he facilitated the development of the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation, formed in 2002. Earlier this year, he served as interim athletic director and chaired the search committee for new Athletic Director Scott Barnes.

Renée and Randy Juhl



Faculty and Preceptors Honored at Graduation Dinner 2015

Graduate Program Faculty of the Year:
Raman Venkataramanan, PhD

Preceptors of the Year:
Christopher R. Ensor, PharmD
Luis S. Gonzalez III, PharmD

Stanford I. Cohen Teacher of the Year:
James J. Pschirer, PharmD



Investing in the Future

Cobaugh Honors Pitt and Pittsburgh Roots with 1980's Pittsburgh Pharmacy Fund



Daniel J. Cobaugh (BS '87)

Daniel J. Cobaugh (BS' 87), PharmD, FAACP, DABAT, has established a new endowed student fund, the 1980's Pittsburgh Pharmacy Fund. The fund will provide financial support for tuition, books, lab fees, travel, or other educational expenses. Cobaugh is a first generation college graduate whose parents were hard-working people who, like many of their era, envisioned a better life for their children and encouraged him to pursue a university education.

Currently, Cobaugh is the editor in chief of *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* (AJHP). Prior to joining AJHP, he was a vice president at the American Society

of Health-System Pharmacists Foundation where he oversaw the awarding of over \$2 million in research grants that aimed to advance patient care. Before that, he was on the staff of the American Association of Poison Control Centers where he was responsible for implementing the nationwide poison center number. Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., he spent 10 years in academia at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Rochester. Cobaugh was recognized as a School of Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus in 2012. Cobaugh currently resides in Washington, D.C. with his spouse, Nicolas Lagomarsino. Cobaugh returns to Pittsburgh often.



the Cathedral of Learning

RXTRAVAGANZA 2015
OCTOBER 24th

pharmacy.pitt.edu/gala

Once Upon a Time in Pharmacy

By Jack Ogun, 1952

The October Pitt Pharmacy Gala invitation states, “special recognition of classes ending in 4, 5, 9, and 0”. Just a minute! As a member of the Class of '52, I decided to gather a few memories to hopefully share with other '52s from our lengthy professional careers. Starting at age 16, I began working nights and weekends at the Bergad drug store in Irwin, Pa. I quickly learned about male (in the middle drawer) and female needs (brown bags over long boxes), as well as filling prescriptions and curing illnesses. Thus, I blushingly started growing up, still unable to afford the 19 cent cigarettes (often called cancer sticks). Fortunately, I was taught serious things like rolling out opium suppositories, as I had dry palms on hot days with no air conditioning. A classic sale included five cent Ludens cough drops to school kids for “coughs,” as candy was not permitted in class. Today? A screeching halt to drugs in school.

Making a lucky choice, this 17-year-old was talked out of engineering and into pharmacy by the pharmacist (my cousin, who did need the help). Joining World War II veterans, off I went to the Pitt cathedral by bus, then later shared a ride to the brick school on the bluff, overlooking the Monongahela. Lectures in '03 Hall, chemistry and prescription labs, and pinochle on lunch breaks were all a steady diet. Finally, time carried me forward to graduation, then an army tour and back to the corner drug for nine years. When the thalidomide birth defect incidents occurred in the late 50s, Pennsylvania adopted a new drug law and began searching for pharmacists to staff the project. I thought a change would be helpful, so I applied, was hired, and took off for Harrisburg to direct the Division of Drugs, Devices, and Cosmetics for almost 28 challenging years.

What an amazing period that was! The broad parameters of the law plus later laws covered everything imaginable. Drug quality, distressed drugs, controlled substances, drug abuse education, drug and device fraud (huge problem), and of course, the Generic



Jack B. Ogun (BS '52)

Drug Act. Everyone disliked that law and I was stuck as the “front man.” Our bright, yellow formulary, and the required sign “Pharmacist Dispenses Generics” new prescription pads all created an uproar from physicians and pharmacists state wide. This antagonism was short-lived, as insurance companies refused to pay for many branded drugs. Generic drug quality was accepted as our formulary committee met to determine choices other than narrow therapeutic range drugs. Venkatamaranan graciously represented Pitt on the committee. The work continued until the FDA published the National Orange Book of Generics.

At the close of my state service in 1991 and bored by retirement, I tinkered with the idea of returning to retail, my first love. PittPharmacy memories came to tease and push the idea forward. Could I, after 28 years, go back? My brain said, “try it, you’ll like it!” My old freshman economics book was no help, with a long chapter on soda fountain operation. The tasty recipe for chocolate milkshakes didn’t seem useful this time around. I applied to a new chain pharmacy. After a rapid interview, I was suddenly slammed into a huge 90s design pharmacy. The computers, full-page print-

er labels, safety closure vials, and credit and insurance card issues zapped my brain. Surprisingly, medication orders were not as challenging as I had expected. The compounding of capsules, suppositories, and blended cough syrups that I hoped to dispense had all but disappeared from most prescriptions.

It is indeed hard to compare pharmacy then and now, but for me it was the best of times. Serving patients again took me back to the little corner drug and Pitt. I was grateful returning, after all those years with state government laws and regulations, working with the FDA and DEA, and so many legal, head scratching drug issues.

What a wild carousel this ride has been! Now retired after completing 16 more years of pharmacy, my spatulas away in the drawer, I still have my unusual, humorous, and warm memories. When I get my own prescriptions filled, and the clerk asks if I have any questions for the pharmacist, I look up at the generic poster, smile, and say “no thank you,” with a twinge of jealousy as I walk out.

I would remind today’s students that pharmacy services come right behind (and often in between) the required food, clothing, and shelter needed by humans. Pitt will prepare you for an exciting, challenging, and very busy future. The October Gala? Time and distance may prevent my return to the Commons. But then, who knows?

Jack B. Ogun BS Pharm

PITT PIONEERS NEW MASTER PROGRAM THAT FUSES PHARMACY AND BUSINESS

In response to the growing demand for pharmacists to be knowledgeable in both pharmacy and business, the University of Pittsburgh has launched a new and unique executive-style Master of Science in pharmacy business administration (MSPBA) program. The 12-month program fuses the expertise of Pitt's renowned Schools of Pharmacy and Business and is designed specifically for working pharmacy professionals striving to reach new heights in their career and increase their marketability. The 36-credit curriculum comprised of 18 credits of graduate business courses, 12 credits of pharmacy business administration courses, and six credits where students can further develop their business acumen in a focused industry track.

mspba.pitt.edu



Are You Ready to Lead?



MSPBA
Master of Science
in Pharmacy
Business
Administration

John P. Curran (MS '68, PhD '71)



Left: John P. Curran
Right: John and
Constance Curran

Distinguished Pharmacy Alumnus John P. Curran, PhD passed away Saturday, August 1, 2015, at the age of 72. John is survived by his wife of 47 years, Constance; daughter; son; two grandchildren; and many friends and relatives. Born and raised in Bronx, N.Y., John was the son of Francis and Ann Curran. A 1966 pharmacy graduate of Fordham University, John went on to receive his PhD in pharmaceutical economics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1971.

Shortly before receiving his PhD, John accepted a position in New York City with Pfizer, Inc. working in public policy research. Five years later, he began working for G.A. Saxton, a brokerage firm, as a drug company analyst. John started his own hedge fund, Curran Capital Management, in 1987, and retired in 2002.

John leaves behind an amazing legacy at the School of Pharmacy and University of Pittsburgh. A scholarship fund established in 1999 by John and Constance P. Curran is one of the largest scholarship funds in the school's history. The Currans believed that higher education is the key to success. The John P. and Constance Curran Scholarship has been awarded to over 20 students in the past 17 years.

The University named John as a Legacy Laureate in 2002. Through the overwhelming generosity of John and Constance Curran, the student services area on the ninth floor of Salk Hall was renovated and re-named Curran Center for Pharmacy Students, John P. and Constance A. Curran, in 2007; a fine tribute to a gentleman with vision and kindness. John, we will miss your easy laugh and ready smile.

Pharmacy Alumni Society President's Message

How will you honor our past? How will you shape our future?

Through networking with PittPharmacy alumni early in my career, it became apparent to me that there is enormous potential within the unique connection between alumni and their alma mater. This connection has allowed for alumni engagement not only with the school, but more importantly, with the next generation of pharmacists. As a proud graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, I am now fortunate to serve as president of the alumni society for the 2015-2016 academic year.

On behalf of the alumni society board, I would like to thank each of you for the continued support and commitment to the next generation of pharmacists. Our alumni have a proud history of involvement, whether that be through teaching, mentoring, serving as a preceptor, or participating in alumni events, which allows for an enriched experience for our students.

Each year, the alumni society hosts several events that promote interaction between students and alumni. I encourage you to consider joining us for the career roundtable, the Joseph Gatto Scholarship Golf Outing, the annual homecoming reception, and the RxTravaganza. Stay connected to the Pitt School of Pharmacy through Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Visit the school's Web site to reconnect with old friends and share a story about your experiences at Pitt

One hundred and thirty-seven years have passed since a group of inspiring 'druggists' in Western Pennsylvania organized to form the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy. Today, with the opening of the new Research Pavilion, take a look back and celebrate our past accomplishments while looking to the future, as we continue to advance the profession through innovation, excellence, and leadership.

Hail to Pitt!

Christopher Miller (PharmD '08)



Chris Miller
(PharmD '08)

PHARMACY ALUMNI SOCIETY BOARD 2015-2016

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Julene Vidic '88

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SALK
HALL

1941