

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

PITTPharmacy

ALUMNI NEWS FALL 2002



Is it *written* on
their **genes**?

DEAN'S MESSAGE

By now, you have heard that Randy Juhl is the vice chancellor for research conduct and compliance here at the University of Pittsburgh and that the leadership reins in the School of Pharmacy have been passed on to me. You—like I—will miss Randy as our dean. As alumni and friends of the school, we owe him a debt of gratitude for the leadership he has provided over the years.

For those of you who don't know, Randy was my major advisor when I was in the graduate program, my department chair when I was a faculty member, and my dean when I was department chair. For 23 years, he is the only person who has done my annual evaluation. That is unusual in any time, but particularly in this era when the average number of jobs people hold in their careers is seven. Randy has been my mentor and my friend.



On moving day, I watched as Randy packed the last of his office furnishings. We reminisced about some of our accomplishments and some of our funnier moments during our history together in the school. We had seen incredible changes in every aspect of the school during his tenure of leadership, first as department chair, then as dean.

Randy led us through the very difficult times of our potential closing in the 1980s. In addition to the incredible accomplishments listed in *The Juhl Years* (see pp. 28-29), we now have School of Pharmacy classrooms in Salk Hall; we are the home to four centers of research excellence; we are in the top 10 schools of pharmacy based on research funds; and we have an endowment that has increased five fold since 1997. Indeed, Randy leaves us a legacy of excellence. He also developed a leadership team that will carry on this legacy.

As part of that leadership team, I was responsible for leading the development of the strategic plan; we will continue this ambitious outcomes-driven process during my tenure. Michael A. Zemaitis, who is well known to many of our alumni, now serves as the interim chair of pharmaceutical sciences (see *Rx News*). Mike and I—along with the rest of the leadership team—are committed to making our vision a reality. I am confident that with the continued support of our faculty, students, alumni, and friends, our future is brighter than ever.

I am honored by this opportunity for leadership, and I am excited about our future.

Patricia D. Kroboth, PhD

P.S. Thank you to all of you who have sent me your congratulations and support during the past few months.

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Ralph Tarter, PhD



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Is it *Written* on Their Genes?

Center Working to Unlock the Secrets of Drug Abuse



Ralph Tarter
director of CEDAR

Written in the genes of the drug addict and the alcoholic is a potential solution to an epidemic that has plagued millions: Variations in genetic coding that can predict the likelihood that a teenager will one day turn to drugs.

The discovery—that experts can foresee with 80 percent accuracy which teens between 16 and 19 will become addicts—is one of the groundbreaking findings currently under investigation at the Center for Educa-

tion and Drug Abuse Research (CEDAR). Housed in the School of Pharmacy, CEDAR currently stands in the midst of a 20-year study of at-risk children and their families.

Researchers hope the study will yield data that can help create more effective strategies for combating drug abuse, including the development of a better pharmaceutical response resulting from a more comprehensive understanding of the biology of addiction.

“The whole idea behind this program is that we can move the field of drug-abuse prevention away from generalities, like ‘Just say no to drugs’ or ‘Your brain is fried eggs on drugs,’ to more specific, targeted factors that we can fix,” says Ralph Tarter, PhD, MPA, director of CEDAR and the man

who has been with the center since its 1988 inception.

As Tarter notes, pharmacists play a key role in preventing substance abuse by learning about the addictive properties of the drugs they dispense.

“Virtually all drugs that we consider addictive agents were at one time used as medicines. And this has a lot of implications in the thoughtfulness of what we do,” Tarter says. “Pharmacists need to be informed of the two sides of these medicines.”

He points out that many drugs developed as prescription medicines—OxyContin, for example—ultimately find a more destructive second life as street drugs. Pharmacists need to be aware of what kinds of people are at risk, particularly as society shifts to a greater dependence on chemistry to solve problems with mood disorders, appetite, and sleep.

By studying 675 families to date, the center’s researchers have determined common factors that predict the likelihood a child will face addiction: parental history of substance abuse; younger ages of sexual maturity; and anxiety and depression in childhood. While no single factor can definitively target a child as a future addict, when viewed collectively, these indicators could lead to more effective early intervention—and therefore prevent the child from ever experimenting with drugs.

The center, which is financed through a \$1.2 million annual grant from the National Institutes of Health and is scheduled to exist for

20 years, ultimately aims to study 1,000 families. In each case, the research begins when one of the family’s children is between 10 and 12 years old and lasts until that child turns 30. This structure helps researchers examine the influence parents have on their children’s propensity to use drugs, because of both the genes and the environment they provide.

The baseline assessment of the family takes a day and a half. Subjects spend the night at the center and undergo a battery of physical and psychological tests, including biochemical and endocrinological analysis, the most extensive of which is performed on the 10- to 12-year-old. After that, the families come in at two-year intervals until the subject is 16, when testing lasts another 15 to 20 hours. Another 15-hour

Findings of the CEDAR study

Some key early findings of the Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research (CEDAR):

- Researchers can now predict with 80 percent accuracy which teens between ages 16 and 19 will transition to drug use disorder.
- With 75 percent accuracy, researchers can predict which teens from ages 12 to 19 will commit a violent act.
- Eighty percent of the variation in risk for drug abuse can be attributed to differences in a person’s genetic makeup.

Playing the percentages

- Eight to 10 percent of Americans will become addicted to an illegal drug in their lifetime.
- Up to 20 percent of the population will develop an addiction to alcohol.
- More than 20 percent will develop an addiction to nicotine.

(Source: Ralph Tarter, PhD, MPA, CEDAR director)

series of tests occurs when the subject turns 25.

The NIH grant also supports a database that CEDAR researchers analyze with the help of cutting-edge statistical technology using multivariants and longitudinal analysis.

Michael Vanyukov, PhD, a geneticist and director of the center's scientific core faculty, says data collected to date show genes play a significant role in a person's risk for substance abuse. In fact, differences in genetic type account for 80 percent of the variation in risk.

That finding is noteworthy because keeping people away from drugs and alcohol—without addressing biological factors—is not terribly effective, he says.

"Unfortunately, just taking the drugs out of the environment hasn't worked so far," Vanyukov says. "As you remember, Prohibition failed miserably."

Despite CEDAR's historic findings, the project has had its share of emotional highs and lows. Because the children enrolled in the study carry, by definition, a high risk for substance abuse, researchers must brace themselves for the possibility that some may wind up as addicts, become infected with HIV, or endure other tragic consequences. Already, two children have died, one from suicide and the other from a traumatic injury.

As a result, although research is their mission, CEDAR's staff members also reach out to the subjects, offering information about the risks they face.

"We have a responsibility," Tarter says. "These kids are engaging in activities with high risks for drug use, and often in high-risk sexual behaviors. We're

not just a cold, detached entity doing research. You can't do that when kids are involved. There is a stewardship, and we take that very seriously."

Another challenge has been keeping track of the subjects for two decades of their lives. Imagine meeting someone at the age of 10, then visiting him or her at one- and two-year intervals until age 30. That's what the study participants do, through many milestones of their lives—moving, graduation, marriage, divorce, and childbirth.

Although the study is structured to allow for some attrition, the fact that CEDAR is located in Pittsburgh, which has a historically stable population, has contributed to its viability, Tarter says.

"The major problem is that the families, in many cases, are severely disrupted. Given that there's a lot of chaos in the subjects' personal lives, the follow-up becomes extremely challenging," he says.

According to data from the U.S. Census, Pittsburgh has the highest population of "stayers," or people who remain in the same house for 30 years or more, among major metropolitan areas. That stability means the University of Pittsburgh is a natural fit for a study of a notoriously transient population, who might prove too nomadic in another city to keep the study viable.

Expectations for the center run high. Owing in part to CEDAR's presence, the School of Pharmacy now ranks sixth nationally in NIH funding. And the center operates on the largest etiology grant from the NIH's National Institute on

Drug Abuse. So far, CEDAR researchers have published more than 250 papers on their findings—and they still have six years to go.

Vanyukov adds that the pharmaceutical industry will benefit once researchers isolate more factors contributing to substance abuse, because drug manufacturers can then develop substances to aid in new treatments.

"That definitely makes the school more visible," he says. **R**

Michael Vanyukov
geneticist



School of Pharmacy Plays Key Role in Fight against Medical Errors



Medication error facts and figures

- 7,000 people die annually as a result of medication errors.
- 8 to 9 percent of all medical errors involve medication.
- 2.4 to 4.6 percent of all those admitted to a hospital experience some medication error.
- Each instance of medication error adds \$3,500 to \$4,000 in health-care costs.

(Source: Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative)

Thanks to unprecedented cooperation from competing southwestern Pennsylvania hospitals and a multimillion-dollar federal grant, researchers at the School of Pharmacy are leading the charge to create an error-free system for prescribing, preparing, and administering medications.

During the next three years, the school will lead the region in the use of MedMARx®, an anonymous, Internet-based medication error reporting system developed by the United States Pharmacopeia (USP). Thirty hospitals will use this reporting system, with research analyzing this data, in an effort to detect patterns in the mistakes and create solutions that will eliminate such problems in the future.

Traditionally, competing healthcare organizations don't share such data for fear of lawsuits or public disclosure of the sensitive information. That secrecy is one reason many common errors—such as a pharmacist misreading a doctor's illegible handwrit-

ing and dispensing the wrong drug—persist. But School of Pharmacy researchers, along with the Pittsburgh Regional Healthcare Initiative (PRHI), of which the school is a part, believe they have found a way to overcome that traditional reticence.

Their goal is ambitious: To virtually eliminate all medication errors from the participating hospitals. And the stakes couldn't be higher. In 1999, a report by the Institutes of Medicine (IOM) estimated that up to 98,000 Americans die each year from medical errors, 7,000 of which are related to medication. Preventable medication errors cost approximately \$2 billion nationwide.

The research is part of a national effort resulting in proposed patient safety legislation that would protect the confidentiality of medical error information reported by healthcare workers, including pharmacists. In June 2001, Senators Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts and Bill Frist of Tennessee, Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson visited Pittsburgh to get a real-world perspective from the researchers at the University of Pittsburgh, PRHI, and the UPMC Health System. Their visit was instrumental in the Patient Safety Improvement Act, introduced by Frist and three other senators in June 2002.

In many cases, pharmacists are the best line of defense against medication errors. For instance, the American Hospital Association notes that prescriptions commonly carry such miscommunications as inappropriate abbreviations, misplaced decimal points in dosage figures, or drugs with names that sound like other medications.

Other problems include doctors not knowing about patient allergies or other medications the person is taking; lack of appropriate labeling when a drug is prepared and repackaged into smaller units; and lack of information about previous diagnoses. As the medication experts, pharmacists who are aware of the potential for such problems can play a key role in their prevention.

"I've been working to reduce medication errors for all of my career, which is about 22 years," says Robert Weber, chair of the school's Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. "From my perspective, it is a significant clinical and public health problem."

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) issued the \$4.8 million grant, "A Systems Approach for Improving Region-Wide Patient Safety," to fund patient safety research through the PRHI, a coalition of southwestern Pennsylvania hospitals, major insurers, healthcare purchasers, corporations, and civic leaders that was organized by PRHI.

Pittsburgh is the only region in the country where competing hospitals have agreed to share data on these issues.

Robert Weber



In October 2001, the AHRQ issued the three-year grant to the University of Pittsburgh and PRHI as part of a \$50 million national research initiative. The School of Pharmacy, which includes the data center handling all information on study outcomes, will receive \$1.3 million of the grant. However, Weber notes that a primary goal of the program is to "devise a sustainability for the investigation," and thus continue the research beyond three years.

Weber, who also serves as the executive director of pharmacy for UPMC Presbyterian and UPMC Shadyside, is the coprincipal investigator on the grant for studying medication errors.

Currently, one of the biggest barriers to collecting useful information on medication errors is the healthcare industry's culture of blame. According to Weber, workers are loath to report incidents of error for fear of retribution, so many incidents that could provide valuable information go unreported. Even the 1999 Institute of Medicine report carried the title "To Err Is Human," a tacit acknowledgment of the blame factor.

Weber says a major goal of the study is to foster a sea of change in that culture by demonstrating a working model of hospitals that share vital information, contribute to a safer environment, and face no consequences.


"Our big focus is that medication errors occur, for the most part, because people are working in broken systems," he says. "This approach is used to change

the culture of reporting so that people feel comfortable and safe in reporting an error. Our big goal is really to promote a blame-free environment."

Another key goal of the research is to standardize the healthcare industry's definition of medication mistakes.

"People all have different ideas as to what constitutes a medication error," says Weber. "It could be a near miss. It could be a drug that a patient gets in error. It could be when a physician writes the incorrect dose of medication for a patient."

To standardize definitions for its participants, the researchers are using a single national reporting database called MedMARx developed by the United States Pharmacopeia, a private, not-for-profit group. Each hospital will report, track, and share medication error information that has been stripped of identifying information. Reports generated by that information will guide systems-based solutions.

"It's a huge opportunity for the School of Pharmacy to improve public health," Weber says. It fits very well with what pharmacists should be doing, and in moving ahead to prevent errors as well." 

Common medication errors

- **Missed or omitted doses.** The most common medication error in the hospital setting occurs when a patient does not receive his/her dose of medication.
- **Documentation.** Documentation mistakes are the second most common medication error. Miscommunication, either verbal or written, is the most common cause.
- **Administration.** These mistakes happen when patients take the wrong dose of medication, or take it in the wrong frequency.
- **Prescribing medication.** These errors are the most underreported and often go undetected. Due to the complex information on medications and their uses and side effects, physicians may prescribe a medication that is not the proper dose for the patient's physical characteristics or interacts with a patient's current drug therapy.

(Source: Robert Weber; chair, Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy)

Fast facts about the Patient Safety Improvement Act

The Patient Safety Improvement Act legislation

- Establishes a Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (CQIPS) at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
- Provides legal protection for information submitted voluntarily to patient safety improvement systems that are designed solely for the purposes of quality improvement and patient safety.
- Creates a National Patient Safety Database consisting of aggregate, anonymous patient safety information for education and wide dissemination.
- Instructs AHRQ to work with experts in the field to develop a common format for reporting information to the database.
- Creates incentives for voluntary reporting systems that are nonpunitive and promote learning.
- Requires the secretary to report to Congress any steps that should be taken to implement safe practices.

(Source: American Medical Group Association)


Measure for measure: Antique Balances Merged Form, Function

In the back room of the pre-World War II pharmacy stood one of the profession's most frequently used and most graceful pieces of equipment: the prescription balance.

"The modern balances, though more accurate, fail to match the aesthetic beauty of these earlier designs," explains Richard A. Lithgow, '50, museum coordinator.

Balance manufacturers "wanted to make them look nice, and they also wanted them to last forever. It was one of the more expensive pieces of equipment in your practice."

In an era when style mattered, even these most functional instruments were crafted to please the eye. Three elegant examples from this era are part of the collec-

tion at the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum. Two balances (lower left and right) from the former Regent Pharmacy in Edgewood, were donated by the late Ardella Sidehamer, wife of the late Charles Sidehamer, '22. A third balance (top) came to the museum from the Gromoll Drug Store in Sebring, Ohio, by way of Frederick Gaunt, '50. 



The Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum offers School of Pharmacy students, faculty, and alumni a chance to step back to a bygone era in pharmacy. "A Snapshot from Pharmacy's Past" provides alumni who cannot visit the museum (on the fourth floor of Salk Hall) an opportunity to see some of the valuable items on display there. The school's alumni and friends can also view the museum online by visiting the School of Pharmacy's Web page at www.pharmacy.pitt.edu and then clicking on Alumni and Friends and then Virtual Museum and then Elmer H. Grimm Virtual Pharmacy Museum.

Mahmoud A. ElSohly

From stimulating the appetite of AIDS patients to developing a vaccine for poison ivy and poison oak, Mahmoud A. ElSohly, PhD '75, has dedicated his career to helping others through science.

When ElSohly was a young PhD student studying pharmacognosy at the University of Pittsburgh, his advisor, Paul Schiff, helped place him at the University of Mississippi, where he has worked as a research professor since 1984. He also runs his own private facility, ElSohly Laboratories Inc. in Oxford, Mississippi, serving as its president and laboratory director.

"Dr. Paul Schiff was more than an advisor for a PhD. He was my mentor and good friend," says ElSohly, who earned his undergraduate and master's degrees at Cairo University in his native Egypt. Thanks to financial support and a teaching assistant's position, he was able to pursue his doctorate at Pitt. "It's the degree I had there that put me here at the University of Mississippi. The University of Pittsburgh will always be in my heart and in my soul. I will never forget the good people there."

From the time he left Pitt in 1975 to the present, ElSohly's research primarily has focused on the chemistry of marijuana. As part of a contract with the National Institute on Drug Abuse, ElSohly grows the plant and conducts research on its active component, THC. Approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to reduce nausea in cancer patients and to stimulate the appetite of people with AIDS, THC ultimately may be used to manage pain, migraine headaches, spinal cord injuries, and multiple sclerosis, ElSohly says.

"The University of Pittsburgh will always be in my heart and in my soul. I will never forget the good people there."

—ElSohly

Asked why he has spent nearly three decades of his life researching marijuana, ElSohly points out, "I really didn't pick it—it picked me," because the project was simply what was available when he arrived at Ole Miss.

In the 1980s, as part of the country's nascent anti-drug policies, ElSohly served as a consultant to the White House Office of Drug Abuse Policy. He also helped with the refinement of the military drug screens, making them more accurate and legally defensible, and in 1982, he was nomi-

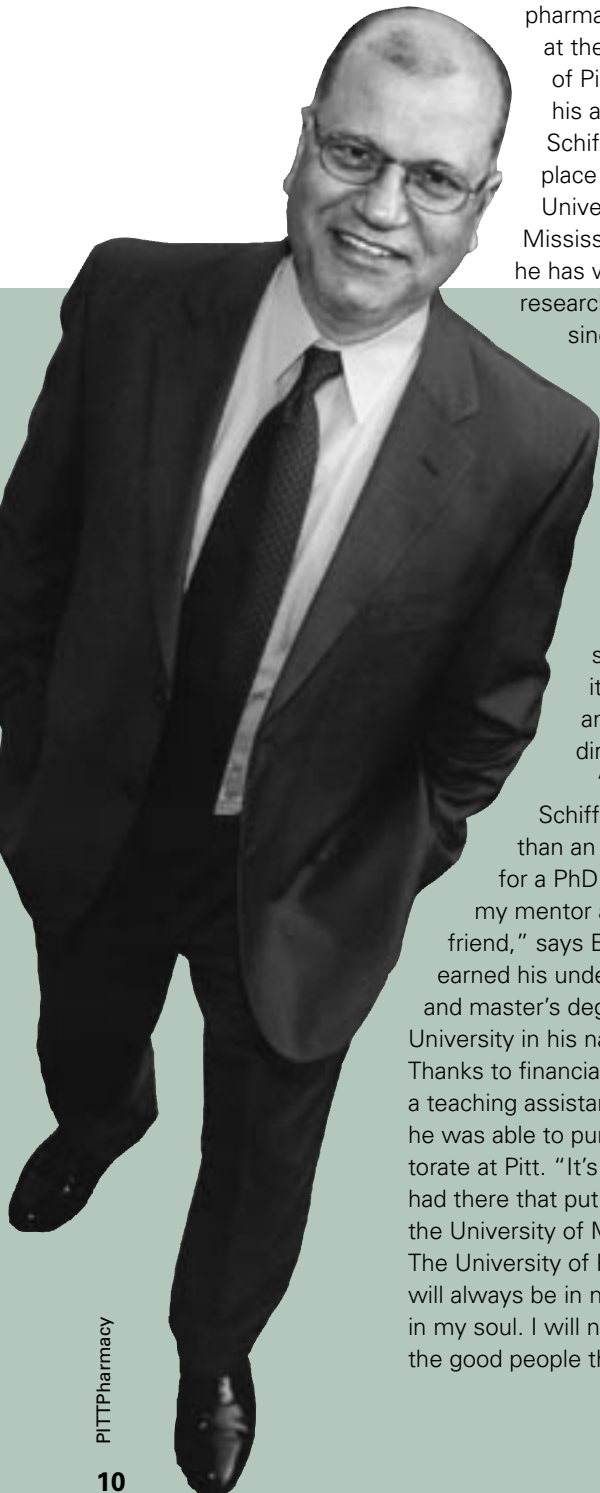
nated for director of the United Nations Narcotics Laboratory. In 1995, both *The Scientist* and *Science Watch* recognized him as the second most-cited author in forensic sciences in the world from 1981 through 1993.

Despite his international reputation as an expert on the effects—and potential benefits—of marijuana, ElSohly has other professional interests as well. Early in his career, he developed a vaccine that would offer protection from the prickly effects of poison ivy and poison oak. Although a patent was issued in 1984, ElSohly could never convince a major drug manufacturer to produce the vaccine. But he hopes a smaller company may take a renewed interest in it and bring the vaccine to market.

Both ElSohly and his wife, Hala ElSohly, PhD '76, worked in 1985 to isolate a kilogram of artemisinin, the active component of an herb native to southeast Asia that can be used to treat malaria, so that the World Health Organization could use it for clinical trials. Their work helped to create the first supply of the drug for western Europe on a large scale, and as a result, the Chinese opened their market, ElSohly says.

More recently, in March 2002, ElSohly was named to the National Drug Testing Advisory Board for a three-year term.

"I'm forever grateful to the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy—and particularly to my friend and mentor Dr. Paul Schiff—for the opportunity to be who I am today," ElSohly says. **R**



Ronald G. Cameron

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Ronald G. Cameron, '57, never took any classes in economics or finance when pursuing his pharmacy degree. But while he was working as a rotating pharmacist in suburban Los Angeles, his innate business sense helped him recognize the market niche that would define his career for the next three decades.

As a pharmacist serving a three-store chain in Van Nuys, California, Cameron would work two days in one store, two in a second, and one in the third, giving other employees the chance to take their days off.

"That's where the wheels started turning," he says.

Instead of the rotating employee system, Cameron thought a temporary agency could supply pharmacists to fill in for people who wanted vacations, needed sick time, or required extended leaves of absence. Ironically, it was when a different business venture failed that he had the opportunity to put this plan into action and become the chief executive officer of the nation's first—and largest—pharmacist's registry.

Cameron had planned to buy a pharmacy where he had once worked in Denver, Colorado. Although he had met with the owner and had a handshake agreement to buy the drugstore, once Cameron quit his Van Nuys job and drove to Denver, the terms of the sale suddenly changed. Chagrined, Cameron backed out of the deal and returned to Los Angeles.

"So here I am in L.A. I have no job; I have no apartment. All of my stuff is in storage in Denver. So I decided then and there that I would take the money that I was going to use to buy this pharmacy, and I would open a temporary pharmacy services business."

In January 1970, he launched Cameron and Co. Inc., which billed itself as "The Pharmacist's Registry." He was the sole employee, and his previous employer was his sole client. Business poked along at first while Cameron tried to persuade prospective clients to buy into his idea.

Cameron discovered that he wasn't the only pharmacist who had no formal business training. It took him nearly five years to begin convincing clients that it was cheaper for them to pay his temporary pharmacists a few dollars an hour more than they paid their staff employees.

"We don't get a business background," explains Cameron of his fellow pharmacists. "We're not CPAs; we're not accountants. We don't get any classes on finance. So the biggest thing I had to overcome was that pharmacy owners and managers didn't understand what their true cost of labor was. They didn't understand all of the hidden expense items that go along with hiring someone."

Cameron would break down salaries, Social Security expenses, Medicare, state unemployment taxes, and workers' compensation to demonstrate how he was actually saving the client money.

"We had to do that with each and every client we went to, because nobody understood the true cost of labor. And believe me, we still hear that same story 30 years later," he says.

But his efforts have paid off. Today, Cameron and Co. employs more than 500 full- and part-time pharmacists and is used by virtually every major chain store, as well as hos-

pital, retail, and independent settings. The company, now headquartered in Las Vegas, has 30 offices from Hawaii to the East Coast. The workers fill vacancies ranging from one-day emergencies to four-month maternity leaves.

Apart from earning more money and getting better benefits than they would receive by working directly for a chain, the pharmacists who work for Cameron and Co. enjoy the chance to work in a variety of practices without getting embroiled in internal politicking. And with the rise in pharmacies that are open seven days a week, Cameron says his service cuts down on industry burnout.

When he's not running the registry, Cameron makes presentations in a course in pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. He likes to teach in an informal, open-forum style, giving students a real-world glimpse at the kind of settings where they may practice. He also helps to instill some of the business sense that has impacted his own career.

"The university helped me, and it's payback time," says Cameron. "Everybody should give something back in life. I feel it's my obligation." **R**



Michael Shullo

2002 Copreceptor of the Year

Gina Zurick, '02, had only a vague idea of working in community pharmacy and virtually no interest in a postgraduate residency. Then, in October 2001, preceptor Michael Shullo became her mentor, and her professional life changed forever.

Shullo ran into a common teaching challenge: Finding a

“The most important thing, bar none, is to try to impress upon the students to take ownership for their responsibility, particularly in patient care.”

—Shullo

way to spark enthusiasm in a student who, at the time, did not view a career in pharmacy as an exciting prospect.

“When we started off, frankly, she just really wanted to get through things. I told her to give me a month to show her something different from what she had done before,” Shullo says. “I have expectations, and they’re high.”

He got the results he wanted. In her nomination letter for Preceptor of the Year awards, Zurick noted that Shullo and his colleague, Kristine Schonder, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, both became her mentors and inspired a true dedication to her profession.

“Dr. Shullo and Dr. Schonder really opened my eyes to clinical pharmacy and encouraged me to consider the possibility,” wrote Zurick, who since has applied for a general practice residency. “It had taken me five years to find two people who really encouraged me and never gave up on showing me a love for pharmacy and a dedication to the profession. They made

me feel that I could make a difference.”

Shullo, who shared the 2002 honor with Schonder, says his broad background in several pharmacy disciplines allows him to introduce his students to professional avenues they might otherwise never consider.

That style—trying many approaches, offering support, and raising the bar—has characterized not only Shullo’s teaching methods, but also his own career. As the first member of his immediate family to attend college, Shullo arrived at the University of Pittsburgh in 1988 with the idea of earning a degree in computer science. But two years later, he switched to pharmacy, graduating cum laude in 1995 and earning his PharmD in 1997.

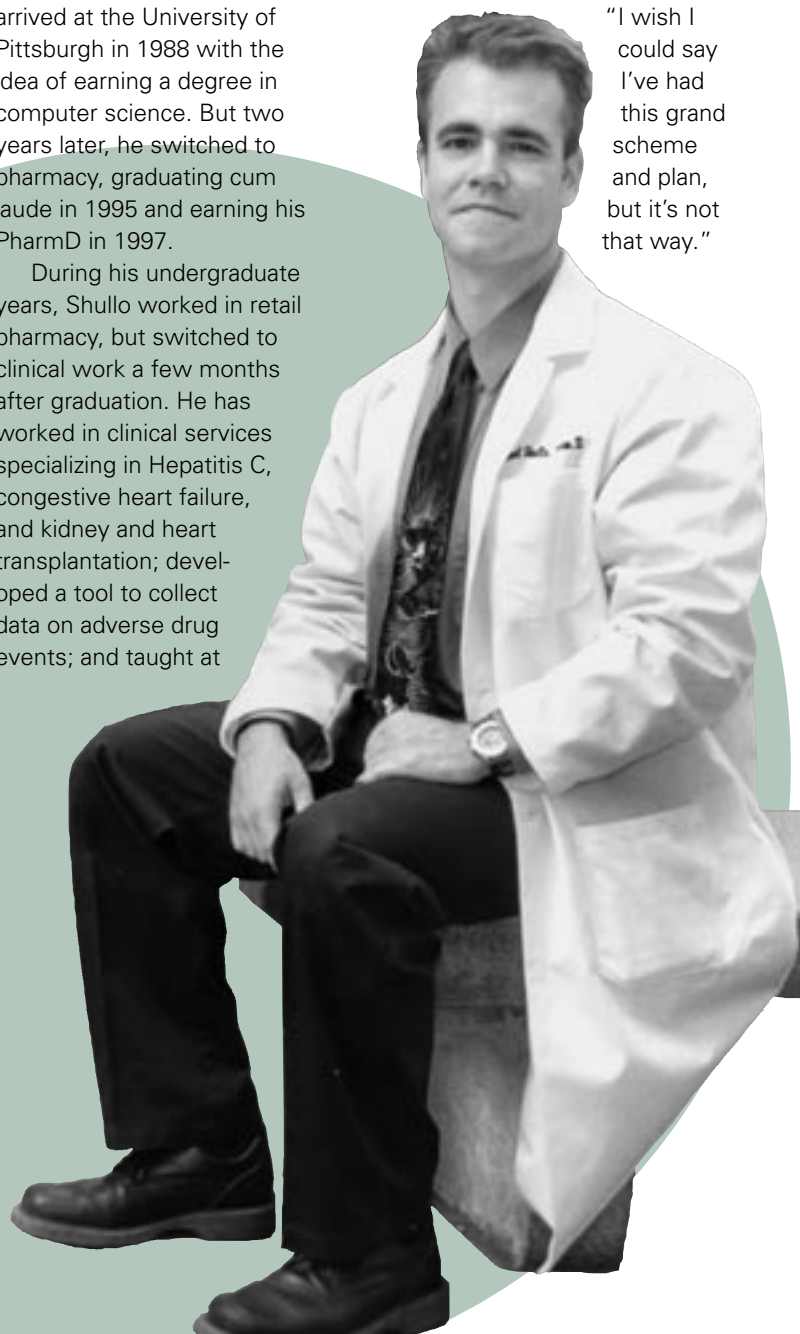
During his undergraduate years, Shullo worked in retail pharmacy, but switched to clinical work a few months after graduation. He has worked in clinical services specializing in Hepatitis C, congestive heart failure, and kidney and heart transplantation; developed a tool to collect data on adverse drug events; and taught at

Pitt since July 1997. Currently, he is both an assistant professor at the School of Pharmacy and the coordinator of ambulatory care medicine in UPMC Health System’s Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. He also serves as a UPMC clinical pharmacist for cardiology, transplantation, and ambulatory care.

Now 32, he admits that serendipity has guided most of his career choices.

“I’m not one of those people who says, ‘I’ll be this by this age and this by that age.’ It has been a windy path,” Shullo notes.

“I wish I could say I’ve had this grand scheme and plan, but it’s not that way.”



Pharmacists on the Front Lines

TUCCI
LECTURE

The growth of mass manufacturing and the advent of premeasured and prepackaged drugs in the 1950s and '60s dramatically shifted the pharmacist's role from medication maker to medication dispenser. Today, that role continues to evolve, according to John Gans, who was this year's speaker at the annual Nicholas C. Tucci Lecture.

"We have gone from making medications to making medications work better," said Gans, executive vice president and CEO of the American Pharmaceutical Association (APhA), speaking before a crowd of 250 students and faculty members in Scaife Hall.

As a national and international leader in the field, Gans is one of many distinguished speakers the School of Pharmacy has invited to campus through the annual lecture series, established in 1986 in memory of Nicholas Tucci, '32. Mr. Tucci and his wife, Josephine—a Duquesne University Mylan School of Pharmacy graduate—owned and operated a pharmacy for many years in Washington, Pennsylvania. Before his appointment to APhA in 1989, Gans was the dean

of the School of Pharmacy at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, where he earned his pharmacy degree in 1966 and his doctorate in pharmacy in 1969.

Since first launching his career as a community pharmacist just outside of Philadelphia in Broomall, Gans has covered diverse ground—working as a pharmacist at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania before becoming managing director of Pharmaservices, a consulting firm to nursing homes. Internationally, he has held several leadership positions with the Pan American Federation of Pharmacy.

Noting that 2002 marks APhA's 150th anniversary, Gans talked about dramatic changes since the association's early years, when pharmacists followed their own formulas, compounding ingredients and making medicines tailored to individual needs. Today's pharmacist plays a greater patient-education role—dispensing information about medications, providing smoking cessation services, and offering blood pressure and cholesterol screenings.

In this expanded capacity of pharmaceutical care, more pharmacists now provide immunizations, and 26 states have authorized pharmacists to administer vaccines.



"Can we make an impact?" Gans asked. "Studies say, 'yes.' " The evolution of pharmacy, he said, translates into better patient care and cost savings. However, with this growing role comes added accountability, a responsibility that extends beyond the pharmacy practice to the patient and the community.

"Today, it's not about the quality of the product. It's about whether people can use the product," Gans said. Patients on drug therapy manage their own care, and problems occur when they don't take medications as prescribed—or don't take them at all. Studies show that patients with cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and HIV often do not maintain prescribed treatment regimens over the long term, with medication compliance rates dramatically

*From left to right:
Former Dean Randy Juhl,
Evelyn Chiao, P2,
John Gans,
Melanie Stanish, P3,
Victor Tucci, and
Julie Mannello, P3*

dropping after one year.

With their public accessibility, pharmacists play a key role in reversing this trend, improving compliance rates, and helping patients better understand their treatment.

"Pharmacists are the most accessible medical professionals in the nation," Gans said. "The pharmacist will see the patient far more often than any other health professional. We're on the front lines." **R**

One principle that he has followed throughout his professional career, and which he strives to instill in his students, is the importance of viewing patients as people, not diseases. And while he acknowledges that he carries "a certain degree of intensity," he tries to give his students meaningful projects, not busy work.

"That lets students take ownership of their patients. Because if they feel like they're doing something that doesn't really mean anything, they tend to be more of an observer," Shullo says. "The most important thing, bar none, is to try to impress upon the students to

take ownership for their responsibility, particularly in patient care. Each action they take can change this person's life, either positively or negatively."

That hands-on approach left a strong impression on Zurick, who wrote, "I never felt that I was working on something that was unnecessary or useless. I learned how to look at the patient as a whole and not just an individual disease state."

So great was the impression left by Shullo and Schonder that Zurick now hopes one day to serve as a preceptor or mentor herself.

"My whole professional career, without a doubt, will

always be due to the two of them striving to make me a better pharmacist, continual learner, and person," she wrote. "Without their influence, I would never be on the pathway I am going on."

For himself, Shullo hopes to one day rise through the ranks of academia, possibly earning a promotion from assistant to associate professor in a few years.

"That's where I'd like to see myself," he says, though he adds, characteristically, "but I don't like to be locked into a pathway." **R**

The Patient Counseling Center

Generous gifts from alumni and friends support the school and its students.

John and Connie Curran



Students pursuing their PharmD degrees at the School of Pharmacy now have a more authentic setting in which to hone their patient counseling skills, thanks to the generosity of John P. Curran, MS '68, PhD '71, and his wife, Connie A. Curran.

With the Currans' donation, the School of Pharmacy opened a three-room laboratory, known as the Patient Counseling Center, on March 1, 2002. The rooms are set up in the style of offices, and there is a small waiting room area. Inside the offices are computers through which students can access

numerous drug information resources.

Students learn patient counseling competencies such as communication skills, disease state knowledge, and interaction knowledge as part of the school's curriculum. In the new center, they can hone those skills in a real-world environment.

One of the first events held at the new center was the School of Pharmacy's Patient Counseling Competition, sponsored by the Academy of Students of Pharmacy. During the competition, students role-played a counseling session with a patient and were videotaped. A panel of pharmacy and faculty judges reviewed the tapes and scored each student on a number of competencies.

At the center's ribbon-cutting ceremony, Adam Welch, the winner of the school's competition, and Becky Godesky, the second-place winner, demonstrated a patient counseling session, after which they conducted a question-and-answer session with attendees. Both Welch and Godesky are now fourth-year (P4) students.

The Currans have long advocated communication as a key skill necessary for the advancement of students. In 1999, after establishing the John P. and Constance A. Curran Scholarship Fund, John Curran remarked, "If students can't communicate, they will have a difficult time succeeding."

Curran founded Curran Capital Management and also serves on the university's Board of Trustees. **R**

Corporate Gift Presentations



Left to Right: Former Dean Randy Juhl and Deborah Hannum, (BS '88) pharmacy recruiter, Giant Food Stores, LLC. Hannum presented Juhl with a \$5,000 scholarship gift from Giant Food Stores, LLC/Giant (an Ahold USA Company).

Eckerd Corp. Scholarship gift and presentation, from left to right: Ralph Progar, PHA '71, vice president of pharmacy relations, Eckerd, former Dean Randy Juhl, and Ray Smith, pharmacy operations manager of Eckerd



Left to right: Scott Jackson, regional healthcare manager; Dorothy Hart, pharmacy human resource manager of CVS; and Former Dean Randy Juhl at the CVS Scholarship gift presentation



PITPharmacy

The Cameron and Co. Inc. Pharmacy Award

Ronald G. Cameron, PHA '57, who has taken time off from his thriving pharmacist's registry each semester to make presentations in a Community Pharmacy Management course, has also created an endowment to help students enrolled in the PharmD program. Selection is based on financial need, with preference given to students who are permanent residents of Westmoreland County.

Cameron, a Westmoreland County native, founded Cameron and Co., the nation's first and largest pharmacist's registry, in 1970.

Cameron, now of Las Vegas, has followed several



diverse career paths, including stints as a ski instructor and pilot.

"I'm very happy to help the university any way that I can," he said. **R**

(See page 11 for the story on Ronald G. Cameron, 2002 Distinguished Alumni awardee.)

July 1, 2001– June 30, 2002

The value of the School of Pharmacy and its graduates is recognized in many ways, including philanthropic support. From July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002, a total of \$747,994 in gifts and charitable grants was donated to the School of Pharmacy from alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations to support students, teaching, and research. Of this total, \$265,585 was contributed by 858 alumni and included \$108,553 in gifts to the Annual Fund from 835 of the alumni.

Philanthropic support resulted in much progress. The school granted a total of \$282,028 in scholarships and awards to 160 students (40 percent) for the 2001-2 academic year. The median scholarship was \$1,000. The Edward C. Reif Memorial Laboratory on the eighth floor of Salk Hall was remodeled through a \$100,000 gift from the Rite Aid Corp. The new Patient Counseling Center student laboratory facility was opened in March 2002.

More than 260 alumni and friends honored Dr. B by making a gift to the Joseph A. Bianculli Pharmacy Award endowed fund during the fiscal year. The School of Pharmacy thanks all contributors and acknowledges the 11 volunteers who asked their colleagues and peers to make a gift in Dr. B's memory:

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We at the School of Pharmacy gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the many listed here who contributed to the School of Pharmacy in fiscal year 2002 (July 1, 2001–June 30, 2002). Gifts of all amounts are sincerely appreciated. Thank you to all donors for your thoughtful and generous support of the School of Pharmacy.

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Class reunion volunteer Richard Hill, '72

Richard Hill, '72

"The resort was wonderful. We were all very pleased. There were a lot of opportunities there for hiking and a lot of restaurants. It was very reasonably located; I would certainly go there again if another event were held there."

"Our class has been one that has been very close over the years, both personally and professionally. We have very fond memories of our education at Pitt, particularly the pharmacy school experience. I think the people who came showed that pharmacy is a good profession, and they have had successful careers."



Sally Ann Jacobs, '57, laughs with George Buerger, '57.

Jeff Goff, '91, who attended with his wife, Cynthia Goff, '92

"This was actually the first alumni event we attended. We had a great time, and we didn't know what we were missing over the years."

"There were a lot of people and faces that we haven't seen in so long. We were able to enjoy the activities and CEs [continuing education credits] and dinner, yet we had time to go out and see Fallingwater and see a lot of friends we hadn't spent time with in a while."



Donald Schonenthal, '52, and James Mattie, '72, talk with fellow alumna.

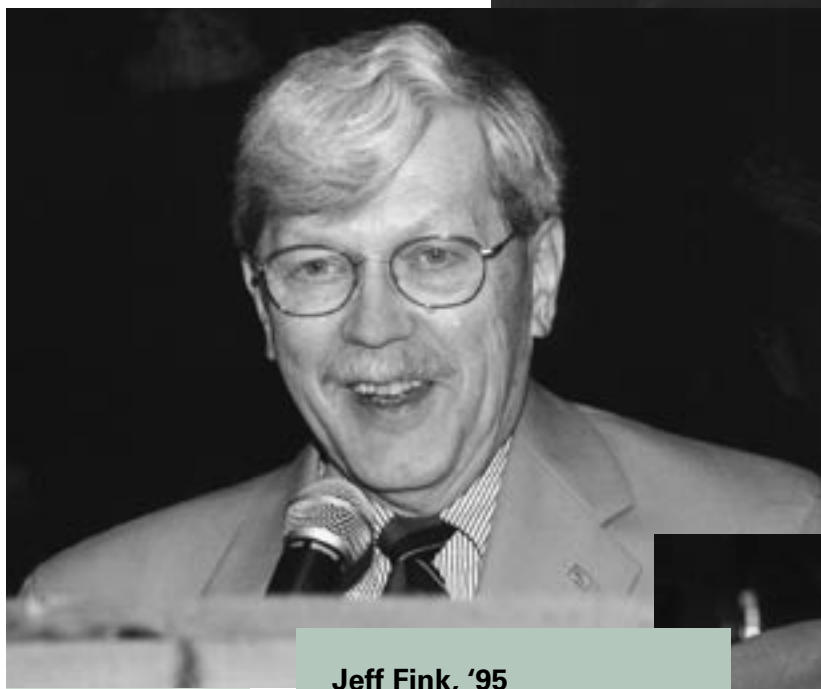
William Liepack, '52

"We had a nice turnout; the dinner itself brought us all together as a group. The resort lends itself well to an alumni weekend, there's no question about it. A place like Seven Springs is the best way to go. It works out really well. You can take CE [continuing education] credits, and in the afternoon, you have some time to get together with the people you want to see."

"The camaraderie you have seeing people and reliving events is something that really helps strengthen the bonds between the alumni and the school."



Above: Class reunion volunteer William Liepack, '52



Above:
Richard A. Lithgow, '50

Jeff Fink, '95

"Seven Springs is a spectacular golf course. The winery tour was very interesting and educational to see the process that goes into producing a commercial wine. I would definitely recommend it to others."

Patricia McDonald, '62

"I loved Seven Springs—it was great. I really didn't need the CEs [continuing education credits], so I went horseback riding and took the Alpine ride. There were so many different places to have lunch, and the food was excellent. It was absolutely beautiful. Everybody was super nice; it was very well organized."



Paul and Mary Walsh

PHARMACY ALUMNI WEEKEND 2003

May 30–June 1
Seven Springs Resort

Alumni

Degrees conferred by the University of Pittsburgh have a year following the degree, degrees without a year following were conferred by another institution of higher learning.

1950s

Wayne C. Miller, '56, of Columbus, Ohio, received the 2002 Beal Award of the Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA), presented at the association's 124th annual conference in Columbus from April 19–21. The award honors pharmacists who offer continued, outstanding contributions to the advancement of the pharmacy profession in Ohio. In addition to serving as the association's treasurer, a trustee, and a member of several committees, Miller also is the past chair of the Ohio Department of Health's Public Health Council, a member of the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy, a former president of the Academy of Pharmacy of Central Ohio, treasurer and trustee of the Pharmacists Rehabilitation Organization, and treasurer of the Pharmacy Foundation of Ohio.

George F. Buerger Jr., MD, BS '57, was named one of The Best Doctors in America in ophthalmology. Buerger, who earned his MD from George Washington University, is an oculoplastic surgeon with Pittsburgh Oculoplastic Associates. He was listed in the April 2002 issue of *Pittsburgh Magazine*. Doctors are nominated by their peers, and the nominations are weighed, scored, and filtered for bias by Best Doctors Inc. of Aiken, South Carolina.

1960s

John L. Colaizzi, PhD, BS '60, will see his name immortalized in the form of a new endowed chair at Rutgers University, where he is dean of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. The John L. Colaizzi Chair in Pharmacy, which was funded



with the help of a \$5 million grant from the Ernest & Mildred Martha Mario Foundation, honors Colaizzi for the leadership he has demonstrated in heading the school since 1978. During his tenure, the school doubled the size of its faculty and enjoyed significant increases in research funding and enhancements to the academic programs. Colaizzi, who served on the school's faculty before leaving Pittsburgh, also holds an MS and PhD from Purdue University.

Anthony N. Civello, '67, is the new treasurer of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), having been named by the association's board of directors at the annual meeting in Palm Beach, Florida, from April 27–May 1. Civello is the chair, president, and CEO of Kerr Drug Inc., in Durham, North Carolina, and a former member of the school's Board of Visitors.

John P. Curran, MS '68, PhD '71, was named a member of the University of Pittsburgh

Legacy Laureate Society 2002. During a ceremony at Carnegie Music Hall, Chancellor Mark Nordenberg praised Curran for "combining scientific knowledge with business savvy as a Wall Street analyst specializing in pharmaceutical companies." Curran founded Curran Capital Management and, along with his wife, established the John P. and Constance A. Curran Scholarship Fund. He also serves as a member of the Cathedral of Learning Society. On June 20, 2002, Curran was elected to the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees.

1970s

Steven Strauss, PhD '70, of Ardsley, New York, was appointed to a five-year term as an adjunct member of the New York State Board of Pharmacy. Strauss was one of 75 distinguished honorees at Long Island University's 75th anniversary celebration. A Konseal Filling and Dosing Apparatus donated by Strauss is on display at the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum on the fourth floor of Salk Hall.

Depression-Era Alumnus Visits

In the 1920s, Gerrit Riley, '29, mopped floors, filled the icebox, and made ice cream sodas at his uncle's independent pharmacy in East Liberty. And he worked for free. At the time, it was not an unusual way for a teenager to get started as a pharmacist. "I had to do a lot of dirty work," said Riley, one of the school's earliest African American graduates. "But I was determined to be somebody."

Last fall, the 94-year-old Titusville, Pennsylvania, resident revisited the School

of Pharmacy, met faculty and students, and shared some of his early experiences as a student and pharmacist—experiences dramatically different from those of today's students. "In those days, you had to make your own pills and emulsions in class. There were lots of salts and chemicals you had to work with," he said. "All they provided was a Bunsen burner and a scale."

Riley graduated shortly before the Great Depression, and because of limited full-

time opportunities, he worked part time as a porter at the Pennsylvania Railway Station while he worked evenings as a pharmacist.

In 1937, Riley joined Lincoln Drug, also in East Liberty, full time. He went on to become manager, and eventually, part owner of the pharmacy, which served a unique and vital role in the community. For many years, Lincoln Drug was a resource for the neighborhood's African-American physicians, who otherwise would have had to



purchase drugs from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

In 1981, Riley retired and returned to Titusville. **R**

Lawrence Hruska, '73, earned a promotion to vice president of pharmacy at Kmart. Hruska formerly served as director of pharmacy marketing for the retail giant. He joined Kmart last July from Rx.com.

1980s

James W. McAuley, BS '87, PhD '93, of Powell, Ohio, was promoted and earned tenure at the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy, where he is currently an associate professor of pharmacy practice and neurology.

Doris (Durko) Auth, '88, of Honolulu, Hawaii, received the Pharmacy Practice Research Award given by the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation for co-authoring the article "Quality of Pharmacotherapy Consultations Provided by Drug Information Centers." The award was presented at the 36th Annual ASHP Mid-year Clinical Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

1990s

J. Christopher (Chris) Meilinger, '90, of Phoenix, Arizona, earned his MBA from the University of Phoenix in

1999 and was promoted to regional pharmacy manager for Safeway Pharmacy in the Phoenix area.

Robert Tosatto, '90, is serving as a senior international health officer for the Office for Europe and the New Independent States of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He was promoted to commander and is responsible for coordinating the Biotechnology Engagement Program, which seeks to involve former Soviet bio-weapons scientists in peaceful activities to develop civilian-oriented research skills.

Christopher Beebe, '93, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, received his MBA from Lebanon Valley College and was promoted to director of pharmacy at Lancaster Regional Medical Center, a 268-bed acute care community hospital.

Jennifer Gonos Devinney, '98, of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, earned her doctor of pharmacy degree from Shenandoah University in December 2001. She is the manager of Rite Aid Pharmacy in Portage, Pennsylvania. **R**



13th Annual Alumni Day 2001

Three alumni—joined by Nikki Hudak, '95, chair of the Pharmacy Alumni Society, and Randy Juhl, former dean—spoke to undergraduate students as part of the School of Pharmacy Alumni Society's 13th Annual Alumni Day on October 12, 2001. **Janet Misko, '84**, a pharmacist at Allegheny General Hospital, addressed first-year students studying principles of drug action. **Erin Conley, PharmD '99**, the clinical program manager for the managed care division of Express Scripts in St. Louis, Missouri, spoke with second-year students in a cardiology class, while **Alicia (Gallagher) Mack, '96**, the clinical coordinator for Three Rivers Health Plans, spoke to third-year students in an immunology class. **R**

Faculty

Degrees conferred by the University of Pittsburgh have a year following the degree; degrees without a year following were conferred by another institution of higher learning.

Janet A. Amico, MD, professor of medicine and pharmaceutical sciences, was named among The Best Doctors in America in endocrinology and metabolism in the 2002 issue of *Pittsburgh Magazine*. Doctors are nominated by their peers, and the nominations are then weighed, scored, and filtered against bias by Best Doctors Inc. of Aiken, South Carolina. Amico, who directs an active research program in the school examining the physiological role of oxytocin and other hormones, also practices medicine within the UPMC Health System.

Nicole Ansani, BS '95, PharmD '98, along with **Randy Smith, PhD**, associate dean for research, and **Robert J. Weber, MBA**, chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, earned one of four research grants from the Drug Information Association for their proposal "Provision of Drug Information to Patients with Diabetes Using an Interactive Forum Established by a Health System and a School of Pharmacy's Drug Information Center (DIC Diabetes Project)."

The project will help determine how professionals in the pharmaceutical industry can use technology to enhance the effectiveness of their products. It also bolsters the School of Pharmacy's goal of enhancing patient medication education through better use of technology.

Francis Balog, clinical instructor, recently retired from the U.S. Army reserves as a lieutenant colonel with 22 years of both reserve service and active duty. Balog previously was assigned as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) officer serving in the position of chief of pharmacy services at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Fort Gordon, Georgia. He is also a clinical pharmacy specialist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

Randy P. Juhl, PhD, former dean and professor, a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association since he was a student at the University of Iowa, was named an APhA fellow by the Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science Awards Committee. The honor recognizes an academy member who has demonstrated progressive, exemplary service and achievements. Juhl received the honor in March at the association's annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Assistant professors in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics **Sandra L. Kane, PharmD**, **Emily Wade, PharmD**, and **Ted Rice**, along with Levent Kirisci, PhD, and Mitchell Fink, MD, won this year's prestigious American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Amgen Biotechnology Research Award. The award was based on their submitted research proposal, "Clinical and economic outcomes of Epoetin Alfa."

Brian Potoski, PharmD '99, and **Blair Capitano, BS '91, PharmD '99**, experienced a case of déjà vu when they returned to their academic roots three years after they were classmates at the School of Pharmacy.


Potoski and Capitano join the faculty in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, both specializing in clinical activities related to the UPMC Presbyterian Antibiotic Management Program.

The newly appointed assistant professors will contribute to the program's research in outcomes assessment and antibiotic resistance. They will assess patient needs for antibiotics and mentor students and other faculty members in their understanding of antibiotic management. They will also participate in the School of Pharmacy's didactic and residency programs and develop outcomes research proposals related to antibiotic use.

After receiving his PharmD in 1999, Potoski completed an American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) accredited residency in pharmacy practice and an infectious disease specialty residency at Ohio State University. Capitano completed an infectious disease residency at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation and a two-year fellowship in infectious diseases at Hartford Hospital.

Gary P. Stoehr, PharmD, BS '73, associate dean for student and academic affairs, was named president-elect of the Rho Chi Society, pharmacy's academic honor organization. Founded in 1922, the Rho Chi Society has active chapters in schools of pharmacy throughout the United States. The group recognizes, encourages, and rewards outstanding scholarly achievement. Stoehr has been an advisor of the Alpha Omicron chapter at the University of Pittsburgh since 1985 and served as a regional councilor for the national society from 1992 to 1998.

Wen Xie, MD, PhD, joins the faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Center for Pharmacogenetics. Using a combination of cultured cells and genetically engineered mice, Xie's research focuses on nuclear receptors that regulate genes encoding drug metabolizing enzymes and drug transporters. The regulation of these genes has well-established implications in drug metabolism, drug-drug interactions, and drug toxicity, as well as steroid hormone synthesis and metabolism.

Xie is the only researcher in the United States using transgenic mice, which are equipped with human genes, to study drug interactions. He obtained his MD from Peking University Health Science Center in 1991 and his PhD in cell biology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1997. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California. 

Students

Julie Aaron, P2, was selected as a recipient of the 2002 Pfizer Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship for her project titled "Drug Metabolism and Transport during Hepatic Regeneration." She and her mentor, School of Pharmacy Professor Raman Venkataramanan, will travel to Pfizer in Groton, Connecticut, to present the poster that results from research they conducted in the summer of 2002.

Vera Donnenberg, PhD candidate, was awarded a Student Award for 2002 from the 2002 Program Committee of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology in recognition for her outstanding research abstract that was submitted for the 31st annual meeting in San Francisco, California, this past September.

Tanya Fabian, PharmD '98, and a PhD student, was selected for a 2002 New Clinical Drug Evaluation Unit (NCDEU) New Investigator Award. She received a check for \$1,000 from National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Acting Director Richard Nakamura, PhD, and participated in a closed workshop at the NCDEU's June meeting. The award was based on an abstract of original research, a letter of recommendation from the department chair or mentor, an updated curriculum vitae, and a brief description of research and career goals.

Bernard Komoroski, PharmD '00, won a predoctoral fellowship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education, entitling him to \$6,000 for the 2002-3 academic year. The award is designed to encourage outstanding predoctoral students who have completed at least three semesters of graduate study, yet will graduate within three years. Komoroski also has

won several other prestigious awards, including the Rho Chi-Schering-Plough-AFPE First-Year Graduate Scholarship and the Merck Research Scholar program award. Fellow graduate students **Christopher Bolcato** and **Matthew Hruska, PharmD '00**, were both selected as alternates for American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) fellowships.

Brandon Nornhold, P3, spent 12 weeks during the summer at the U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) after winning one of six spots in the 2002 USP Summer Internship Program. As part of the program, Nornhold was assigned to projects related to reference standards operations and the research and development laboratory. The USP, which has sponsored the internship program since 1992, is a private, not-for-profit organization that promotes public health by establishing quality standards for medicines and healthcare technologies.

Pradeep Tyagi, a graduate student who expects to earn a PhD in 2005, won a Graduate Student Travel Award to the XIVth World Congress of Pharmacology in San Francisco, California. The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Technologies funded the award.

The School of Pharmacy extended a tradition dating back 15 years by winning its fifth achievement award from the American Pharmaceutical Association's Academy of Students of Pharmacy. The Pitt chapter took first place in 2002 for its exceptional efforts in increasing APhA student membership on campus. The school won first place in 1987 and 1988 and took third place in 1997 and 2000. **R**

Students Honored for Managed Care Project



Left to right: Dan Vanderpoel, P3; Gordon Vanscoy, PharmD, MBA '91, BS '84, assistant dean for managed care and AMCP chapter advisor; Evelyn Chiao, P2; and John Cargioli, P4. Not pictured: Asha Tata, P1

A team of four students from the School of Pharmacy won recognition for the best presentation in the 2002 National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Competition of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP).

Asha Tata, P1; Evelyn Chiao, P2; Dan Vanderpoel, P3; and John Cargioli, P4, of the School of Pharmacy's AMCP student chapter won the competition at the academy's 14th annual meeting April 3-6 in Salt Lake City, Utah. They had advanced to the national competition by winning a local contest held at the School of Pharmacy in February. The local contest was organized by pharmacy student Katrina Diehl, P4. Faculty members Nicole Ansani and Terry Schwinghammer served as judges for the local competition. AMCP faculty advisor Gordon Vanscoy,

assistant dean for managed care, obtained \$2,500 in AMCP academy funding to finance the team's attendance in Utah.

In recognition of the team's success, the winners divided the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Pharmaceutical Endowment Award of \$1,000. Moreover, Darlene M. Mednick, RPh, MBA, PAHM, NPDP, who won a \$500 donation to the pharmacy school of her choice as the recipient of the AMCP Spirit of Volunteerism Award, chose the University of Pittsburgh. In notifying former Dean Randy Juhl of her donation, she praised the students as "truly the best and brightest."

According to the AMCP, the purpose of the competition "is for students, in a team experience, to gain exposure to a decision-making process simulating the real life of managed care pharmacy." **R**

Rx School

GEAR UP Program Seeks a Few Good Grad Students with Help of Grant

With the help of a grant from the Merck Company Foundation, the School of Pharmacy is working to increase the number of U.S.-educated graduate students in the pharmaceutical sciences.

The recruitment program, known as Graduate Education And Research at the University of Pittsburgh (GEAR UP), pairs pharmacy students with School of Pharmacy faculty members who provide guidance about research and careers.

That mentoring program attracted the attention of Merck, which granted \$29,000 to the program. On February 9 and 10, 25 GEAR UP students—including 10 from other universities—attended a minigraduate school program at the School of Pharmacy that provided an introduction to research in the pharmaceutical sciences. Students were then eligible to compete for one of six summer research internships with the school's faculty.



"Judging from the enthusiasm of my student, Laura Frankum, on her return from Pittsburgh, the GEAR UP program was a huge success," said Vickie Roche, associate dean of education and faculty development at Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professionals, one of the participating schools. "She is absolutely fizzing about graduate school in general, and Pitt in particular." **R**

School of Pharmacy Rises to Sixth in NIH funding

For the second consecutive year, the University of Pittsburgh ranks in the top 10 for research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for schools and colleges of pharmacy.

Viewed as a measure of the quality of a school's research programs, NIH funding indicates the School of Pharmacy faculty have

undergone a competitive and painstaking peer-review process in order to procure funding for their research.

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy reports that Pitt's School of Pharmacy now ranks sixth in the nation, up from seventh in 2001. Recent strengthening of the school's research programs in substance abuse,

neuroendocrine psychopharmacology, pharmacogenetics, and other disciplines boosted NIH funding from less than \$1 million two years ago to more than \$5 million during the past year.

"This recognition provides solid evidence of the faculty's commitment in their pursuit of excellence in research," said Randy Juhl, former dean. **R**

Traineeships Educate Four in Anticoagulation Techniques



Through the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System—University Drive (VAPHS), the School of Pharmacy hosted the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Anticoagulation Traineeship.

The traineeship program aims to teach pharmacists how to establish and maintain specialized services, which maintain patients undergoing long-term anticoagulant therapy. The program provides intensive instruction in organization and manage-

ment, patient assessment and education, and quality control.

Four pharmacists participated in the traineeship the week of May 1, 2002. Directing the traineeship were Gordon Vanscoy, PharmD, BS '84, MBA '91, assistant dean for managed care and the director of anticoagulation services at the VAPHS, and Assistant Professor Lauren Trilli, '89, the manager of the Anticoagulation Clinic at the VAPHS. **R**

10th Annual Career Roundtable

The 10th annual School of Pharmacy Career Roundtable was held this past February. Thirty practicing pharmacy alumni were on hand Salk Hall to discuss career opportunities with current pharmacy students. **R**



New Appointment

Michael Zemaitis, PhD, has been appointed by interim Dean Patricia Kroboth to serve as the interim chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Zemaitis has been the vice chair of pharmaceutical sciences and has been making his mark by bringing state-of-the-art teaching technology into the classrooms. Zemaitis and the rest of the School of Pharmacy leadership team will work closely with Kroboth to making the school's vision a reality. **R**



Michael Zemaitis

March of Dimes 2002 National Ambassador Justin Washington

was at the University of Pittsburgh on February 1, 2002, visiting the Salk Exhibit in the Elmer H. Grimms Sr. Pharmacy Museum. Seven-year-old Washington was born four months premature, weighing just 1 pound, 8.5 ounces. As the national ambassador, Washington shares his triumphant story as part of a program to educate the public on the mission of the March of Dimes to save babies from birth defects and infant mortality, as well as WalkAmerica. **R**



The Juhl Years

After 16 years at the School of Pharmacy's helm, Randy P. Juhl moves to a vice chancellor's post.

During the years in which Juhl served as dean, the School of Pharmacy underwent a transformation that secured its reputation as one of the finest academic and research facilities for pharmacy in the United States.

So it should come as no surprise that when Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg was looking

to add someone to his leadership team, he tapped Juhl for the position of vice chancellor for research conduct and compliance.

"Juhl's 16-year tenure as dean of the School of Pharmacy has been marked by high achievement, and I look forward to the broad-ranging contributions that I know he will make to the continued progress of the university," says Nordenberg.

For Patricia Kroboth, who is serving as the school's interim dean, Juhl's new appointment has brought mixed feelings. In the 23 years he has been with the school—starting as a 30-year-old chair of pharmacy practice in 1979—Juhl served as Kroboth's advisor, department chair, mentor, and friend.

Although she misses Juhl as dean, Kroboth adds, "I remind myself that he is only a few blocks away in one of the most



Randy P. Juhl, PhD

1987: Named dean of the School of Pharmacy.

1986: Appointed interim dean.

1979: Joins School of Pharmacy as chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice.

School of Pharmacy

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

1984: Pharmacodynamic Research Center created.

1984: Clinical pharmaceutical scientist graduate program begins.

1986: PHA awards \$52,000 in scholarships to 25 students; the school's endowment fund is valued at approximately \$500,000.

1987-91: Partial Salk Hall renovation with financial support from the commonwealth of Pennsylvania and \$1 million in corporate, alumni, and friends gifts that provided new classrooms, practice lab, conference rooms, and offices; school entrance; and the alumni Brick Walkway.



beautiful buildings on campus. He is still a member of our faculty, he is still a member of our pharmacy community, and he is now our vice chancellor. If he was going to stop being dean, this was the best place for him to go!"

Under Juhl's leadership, the School of Pharmacy rose from 33rd to seventh in National Institutes of Health (NIH) research funding, all in the span of one fiscal year. The school also doubled the size of its faculty,

renovated 39,000 square feet of its physical facilities, and established the postbaccalaureate and entry-level PharmD programs and several residency programs. Since 1986, the school's endowment has increased 10-fold.

Reflecting on his tenure a dean, Juhl says, "I have treasured the time I spent in this position. It has been both an honor and a pleasure to represent the faculty, staff, students, and alumni as the dean of our

School of Pharmacy. Although I am quite biased, I cannot imagine a better group of people with whom to work—both personally and professionally. I hope that in my new position (and through my continuing faculty appointment) I will still be able to serve the school and maintain the great many friendships that I have been privileged to form among the Pitt pharmacy family." *R*

1990–93: Presidential officer, Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science, American Pharmaceutical Association.

2002: Named vice chancellor for research conduct and compliance for the University of Pittsburgh.

1992–96: Served as the inaugural chair of the FDA Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee.

1998–2002: Served as the inaugural chair of the FDA Pharmacy Compounding Advisory Committee.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This June, Dean Randy Juhl announced his resignation after 16 exemplary years of service. Dr. Juhl has been appointed by Chancellor Mark Nordenberg to serve as the vice chancellor for research conduct and compliance for the University of Pittsburgh. His numerous accomplishments throughout his tenure as dean are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, but on behalf of the Pharmacy Alumni Society, I wish to extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Juhl for his dedication and guidance throughout the years. The success of our organization has largely been inspired by his commitment to our school and vision. We will miss him dearly, and wish him the very best in his new endeavor.

The Pharmacy Alumni Society has enjoyed another year of success in achieving its goals. The members continue to be true to their mission by supporting the interests of the school and alumni and promoting the profession of pharmacy. We witnessed near-record attendance at the eighth Pharmacy Alumni Weekend/Golf Outing at Seven Springs Resort, which offered alumni the opportunity to see some old friends and make some new ones. The Alumni Day and the annual Career Roundtables provided students opportunities to meet with our alumni and discuss the variety of career options available to pharmacists. The Brick Walkway and the recently established Alumni Board Scholarship are among the charitable contributions that the Pharmacy Alumni Society has established to benefit the school and its students.

If you ask anyone who has participated in any of the alumni-sponsored events what it was that caused them to do so, you can't help noticing a recurring sentiment. It is the fulfillment of helping others, devotion to the profession of pharmacy, and the spirit of school pride that are their motivating force. We have been fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers help us to achieve our goals, and I wish to express our sincere appreciation to them for their contributions.

The Pharmacy Alumni Society looks forward to another successful year and invites you to join us. We welcome your ideas, suggestions, and participation in any or all of our activities. You can find out more about the Pharmacy Alumni Society by contacting us or visiting our Web site at www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni. 



*Pharmacy Alumni
Society President
Janet Traynor, '87, '95*

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The school remembers the passing of the following alumni:

IN
MEMORIAM



- Thomas A. Bianculli, '40
- Franklin G. Hurl, '41
- Stuart L. Albrecht, '52
- Frank E. McKnight, '52
- Joseph T. Janosik, '54
- Herman Langkamp, '55, MS '66
- Gust Markis, '54
- Kenneth Alan Wilson, '70
- Gerald Kohing Shiu, PhD '78

Ben Sniderman, PhG '29, of Columbus, Ohio, once the oldest practicing pharmacist in the United States, died November 3, 2001. He was 93. Sniderman sold his pharmacy store in 1946 and started a wholesale drug business in Charleston, West Virginia. He later worked as a top insurance salesman and started his own insurance business. His entrepreneurial career also included a stint as the owner of an earth moving business, and he was an active trader in the stock market. Until April 2001, seven months before he died, Sniderman worked as a pharmacist at an Ohio drug store.

Samuel I. Manco, '41, formerly of Bellevue, Pennsylvania, died February 4, 2002, of congestive heart failure. He was 89. Manco, the son of Czechoslovakian immigrants, used a silhouette of Abraham Lincoln on all the advertising for his Bellevue drug store, Lincoln Pharmacy, because he liked the image of "Honest Abe," according to his son, David Manco.

The store was a classic 1950s pharmacy, complete with penny candy, ice cream sodas, and chrome stools. Manco ran accounts for regular customers who couldn't afford to pay their bills, and he took an interest in every aspect of the pharmacy, from filling prescriptions to mopping the floors. His sons delivered prescriptions on their bicycles, and Manco often filled orders in the middle of the night.

Later, Manco worked as a manager for Thrift Drug before retiring in the late 1970s. In addition to his son David, he is survived by two other sons, Edward Ernest and Ronald Manco, as well as six grandchildren.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please complete and return to:
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Please send us information about your career advancements, papers presented, honors received, appointments, and further education. We'll include your news in the Alumni section as space allows. Please indicate names, dates, and location. Photos are welcome. Please print clearly.

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 Degree and Year of Graduation: _____
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