EXTENDING HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) community is full of generous supporters who understand the importance of our mission to improve the human condition and serve the public good. I want to take the opportunity to celebrate the tremendous impact of philanthropic giving on our University community. These acts of philanthropy have enriched UMB, supported our faculty and students, and propelled our research and innovation forward.

I am continually inspired by the dedication of our donors, who recognize the transformative power of education and invest in our students’ futures. This philanthropic leadership ignites a ripple effect, inspiring others to join in the pursuit of excellence and create a lasting positive impact on the world. I want to share some of the major gifts we’ve received across the seven schools over the past year.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

• Nobel Biocare has committed $1.5 million over three years as a gift in-kind of dental implants and componentry, helping to keep the cost of dental care in our clinics affordable while simultaneously providing our students with essential clinical experience.

• The Delta Dental Community Care Foundation has given the School of Dentistry $375,000 in patient care funds for underserved and underinsured children and seniors participating in the Maryland Healthy Smiles Dental Program, augmenting dental services not covered or that they may not be able to afford. The Delta Dental Community Care Foundation works with nonprofit partners across 15 states and Washington, D.C., to strengthen communities through increasing access to dental care, providing access to oral health education, and supporting the organizations doing this vital work.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

• The Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Fund Authority is providing $500,000 in matching funds for the newly established Leslie S. Robinson, MD, Endowed Professorship in Health Professions Education (HPE). The endowed professor will hold a research leadership role in the Graduate School’s PhD and MS in Health Professions Education programs and take the lead in the acceleration of the HPE program.

• Marco and Debbie Chacón have given $255,000 to support the Alicia and YaYa Global Fellowship in Aging Research, a collaborative effort between UMB and the University of Costa Rica to recognize and support outstanding predoctoral or postdoctoral students pursuing aging research and to reinforce diversity in aging research. The fellowship, the first collaborative program between the two universities, allows

Continued on p. 2
fellows from Costa Rica to spend six months to one year in Baltimore, and fellows from UMB to spend six months to one year in Costa Rica, engaging in an immersive experience at the host campus with exposure to research, education, culture, and leadership in science.

FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

- The Oscar S. Gray Teaching Fellowship has been created through a $750,000 bequest from Sheila Gray. It will support individuals with a demonstrated commitment to and capacity for legal scholarship who are engaged in teaching the core curriculum at the School of Law, with a preference that the selection of fellows reflects Gray’s commitment to social justice in civil and military law. Professor Gray was one of the nation’s preeminent tort scholars from the 1970s until the time of his death and taught at the law school from 1971 to 1996.
- Brian and Martha Gibbons have made a $500,000 pledge that will provide seed funding for the law school to launch a Community Development Clinic in collaboration with UMB’s Community Engagement Center.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- The Kahlert Foundation provided a $10 million gift to fund the Kahlert Institute for Addiction Medicine. The new Kahlert Institute will bring together leading addiction experts to transform the prevention, treatment, education, and research of addiction and create the synergies necessary to make long-term systemic change in this critical area.
- Joseph and Corinne Schwartz provided a $1.5 million gift to establish the Joseph and Corinne Schwartz Professorship in Surgical Sciences Research in Transplantation within the Department of Surgery. This endowment will support translational research in transplantation to ensure the best patient outcomes and discover new and improved methods of treatment.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

- Bill and Joanne Conway’s gift of $7.145 million will create 218 additional Conway Scholarships over the next four years, increasing the total number of UMSON Conway Scholars to more than 1,000. The gift also will support the creation of a full-time faculty position dedicated to preparing entry-into-nursing students for the Next Generation NCLEX, the newest version of the National Council Licensure Examination. In addition, a portion of the new funding is from the Conway Innovation Challenge, which will fund a pilot of the school’s Nursing Professional Residency for Outstanding Faculty.

- Sharon Michael, BSN ’71, committed an additional $775,000 to the Sharon Michael Scholarship endowment through her estate plans. This new commitment increased Michael’s total bequest to $1 million. Her endowed scholarship will support undergraduate students at the school.

“I am continually inspired by the dedication of our donors, who recognize the transformative power of education and invest in our students’ futures.”

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

- Ellen H. Yankellow, PharmD ’96, BSP ’73, UMB Foundation Board trustee and Correct Rx Pharmacy Services president and CEO, announced a new $500,000 gift to the school in honor of Natalie Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP, who stepped down as dean this year.
- School of Pharmacy alumna Jill R. Molofsky, RPh, BSP ’81, has committed $200,000 in 2023 to be spent outright on an awareness marketing campaign for the school’s exclusive Pharmapreneurship initiative.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

- Margaret and Sam Woodside have committed $500,000 to create an endowment to support a School of Social Work Professorship in Economic Justice and Financial Social Work, the first such endowed professorship in the United States. Additional matching gifts will bring the total fund to over $1.5 million.
- An anonymous donor has given $400,000 to provide multiyear funding for the director of the Positive Schools Center in the school’s Center for Restorative Change.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of the generous donors above and every donor not mentioned here who have made a difference in the lives of our students and the success of our University. Their generosity helps build a community where learning thrives, ideas flourish, and lives are forever changed.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT
NEW HIRES: JUNE 2023

UMB

STAFF
Marshae Allen
Lorri Angelloz
Donielle Atkins
Aniya Buckland
Brian Cashion
Shawnette Christian
Paula Coffman
Brione Daniel
William Diggs
Dajuan Dooley
Beverly Ellerbe
Eric Gu
Jacob Gulso
Peter Henderson
Barbara Holloway
Jermaine Jones
Antonio Lanzo
Christopher Mack
Kairee McCain
Christopher Musoke
Delayn Partlow
Antonio Pennix
Donald Preston
Tony Price
Kori Scott
Jeremy Simpson
Anney Smith
Steven Staton
Brandon Stokes
Dajiona Sturgis
Aaron Thompson
Kenesha Williams

FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

STAFF
Jason Cook
Natalie Ferrara
Frederick Hiers
Terrell Moore
Erica Smith

FACULTY
Lillian Assatourian
Mackenzie Heywood
Nasita Islam
Thomas Jou
Ethan Sandler
Xiangbing Wu

TRAINEES
Aishwarya Anand
Jacob Brooks
Zachary Hough
Yijia Li
Nagarajan Maharajan
Rachel Massalee
Martha Rondon
Analisa Stevens
Shan Wang
Bradley Wihelmy

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

FACULTY
Yasmine Farah
Star Fernandez
Joy Foster
Bryce Fowble
Trinity Gourdine
Emma Gudmundsdottir
Jacqueline Hendricks
Yushu Huang
Tyler Jackson
Soorya Janakiram
Virginia Jeppi
Tavon Jones
Daniel Kadji
Adway Kanhere
Ria Kapoor
Ryan Kim
Da’Neal Knight-McCoy
Maheder Kere
Vivian Li
Joshua Libby
Danielle Matheny
Ryan McFarland
Maura McGinn
Prarthiba Meesala
Adriana-Isabela Melendez-Munoz
Leslie Mohler
Kristina Monari
Abigail Mucheritsi
Vyas Muralidharan
Laura Nnadi
Oluwakemi Okiji
Cynthia Paige-Desi
Megan Palmer
Samir Patel
Ananya Patri
Claire Pfaffeli
Dominique Pittman-Kidd
Cassidy Reandeau
Peyton Roberts
Belinda Rodriguez
Abigail Rosenberg
Colleen Russell
Nicholas Schaffer
Hannah Shen
Lauren Staub
Merel Verhoeven
Mikolaj Walczak
Vaughn Waldron
Jane Wang
Shigang Wang
Daniel Yamoh
Mohammad Yousaf
Timothy Zhang

SCHOOL OF NURSING

STAFF
Derek Edwards
Erik Nordquist

TRAINEES
Makenzie Blackstone
Kelly Hoang
Patricia Hoye
Judith Martinak
Arianna Pluk
Lydia Stoehr
Mary Katherine Weigman
Janet Zhang

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

STAFF
Cindy Baez
Maya Montenegro
Nayely Rivera-Lavaire

TRAINS include post-doctoral fellows, research fellows, and resident G1 fellows.

THIS LISTING OF NEW HIRES IS PROVIDED BY UMB HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES.
Jessie Bauer, library services specialist in resources, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented “Data for All: Lessons Learned from a Mini-Course on Data Accessibility and Inclusivity” at the 48th Annual International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology Conference in Philadelphia.

Faith Steele, MLS, AHIP, outreach and education librarian, Region 1, Network of the National Library of Medicine, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was promoted to librarian level 3.

Tiffany N. Chavis, MSW, MLIS, LCSW-C, health literacy librarian, Region 1 of the Network of the National Library of Medicine, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, had her review of the book “Indigenous Public Health: Improvement Through Community Engaged Interventions” published in the Journal of Consumer Health in June.

Thomas Leone, MSL, assistant vice president for public safety and chief of police, received the 2022-2023 International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) Award for Innovations in Community Policing at the IACLEA Conference in June.

Christine Nieman Hislop, data management librarian, Region 1 of the Network of the National Library of Medicine, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented “Book It Forward: Library Outreach to West Baltimore” at the Maryland Library Association Annual Conference in Cambridge, Md.

Yasmin Lotfalikhani-Zand, third-year dental student Elvia Jimenez Ciriacco; and UM SOM faculty members Jeffery B. Price, DDS, MS, and Nasir Bashirelahi, PhD.

Alison Scott, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, and colleagues received a $2.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to research lipid droplet homeostasis in Alzheimer’s disease.

Oksana Mishler, RDH, MS, DHSc, clinical instructor, Division of Periodontics, received the Teacher of the Year Award from the graduating dental hygiene Class of 2023.

Suephie Nazemian, fourth-year dental student, was the lead author of “What Every Dentist Needs to Know About the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry,” which was published in General Dentistry. The co-authors included fourth-year dental students Steven Boggs, Esther Jung, Heba Abu Shakra, and Shereece F. Singleton, MS, office manager, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, was a finalist in the Loyalty Award category of the 2023 Philadelphia Admin Awards, which recognize the achievements, dedication, and important roles played by administrative professionals.

Donald Donahue, DHEd, MBA, MSJ, professor, was elected president of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine.
Cheri Hendrix, DHEd, MSBME, PA-C, associate professor and assistant dean for physician assistant education, completed the UMB President’s University Leadership Program, an eight-month program designed for associate and assistant vice presidents and associate and assistant deans who have demonstrated strong potential to lead and are motivated to advance and grow at the University.


Melissa Murfin, PharmD, MPAS, PA-C, associate professor, and Jeanine Gargiulo, MPAS, PA-C, assistant professor, presented “Pharmacogenetics in Clinical Practice: Focus on Opioids” at the 2023 American Academy of Physician Associates Conference in Nashville.


Patricia Campbell, JD, professor and director, Intellectual Property Law Program, was appointed to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine’s Global Microelectronics: Models for the Department of Defense in Semiconductor Public-Private Partnerships Research Committee.

Deborah Eisenberg, JD, professor and associate dean for academic affairs, presented “Leading Change in Law Schools Through ADR Skills” at the American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Conference on May 10.

Sara Everhart, JD, visiting assistant professor and managing director, Agriculture Law Education Initiative, wrote “Growing Carbon Credits: Strengthening the Agricultural Sector’s Participation in Voluntary Carbon Markets Through Law and Policy,” which was published in the NYU Environmental Law Journal.

Larry Gibson, JD, professor, was quoted in “For Seat, the City Might Be Wild Card,” which was published in The Baltimore Sun on May 21.

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, co-authored the op-ed “Prison Can’t Prevent Domestic Abuse. Transformative Accountability Programs Can,” which was published in Truthout on May 13.

Mark Graber, JD, professor, received the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Law & Courts Section of the American Political Science Association.
Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and founding director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was named to the Maryland Daily Record’s Power List for Cybersecurity/Technology.

Diane Hoffmann, JD, professor and director, Law and Health Care Program, was quoted in “Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission Announces Over $14 Million in Awards to Accelerate Cures,” which was published in Business Insider on May 9.

Renée McDonald Hutchins, JD, dean and professor, was quoted in “How Lawyers Can Take Advantage of ChatGPT and Other Large Language Models Disrupting the Legal Industry,” which was published in the ABA Journal on May 11.

Paula Monopoli, JD, professor and founding director, Women, Leadership & Equality Program, was quoted in “SPLC Lawyer Nancy Abudu Confirmed to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals,” which was published on the Southern Poverty Law Center website May 18.

Aadhithi Padmanabhan, JD, assistant professor and director, Federal Appellate Immigration Clinic, wrote the op-ed “The Border Comes to Baltimore,” which was published in The Baltimore Sun on May 22.

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, presented “Enforcement of International Environmental Law” at the Comparative Enforcement of International Law Workshop at Rutgers Law School-Newark on May 15.

Michael Pinard, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was a moderator for the session “Excavating Hope Through Clinical Teaching and Substantive Practice” at the Association of American Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education on April 28.

Natalie Ram, JD, professor, wrote “The Ethics of Human Sequences in Environmental Samples,” which was published in Nature Ecology & Evolution on May 15.

Donald Tobin, JD, professor, wrote “A Preliminary Analysis of the New U.S. News Law School Rankings,” which was published on the “TaxProf Blog” on May 10.

Liza Vertinsky, JD, professor, was interviewed on “CBS Saturday Morning” for its story “How Lawsuits Against Opioid Manufacturers, Sellers Are Making an Impact.”

Marley Weiss, JD, professor, presented “From the Shop Floor to the Bargaining Table: The Resurgent Labor Movement in the US and Globally” at the American Bar Association International Labor and Employment Law Committee Mid-Year Meeting in Amsterdam on May 2.
Maureen Black, PhD, professor emeritus, Department of Pediatrics, was among the co-authors of “Association Between Material Hardship in Families with Young Children and Federal Relief Program Participation by Race and Ethnicity and Maternal Nativity,” which was published in JAMA Health Forum.

Miriam Blitzer, PhD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, was among the co-authors of “The 2019 Medical Genetics Workforce: A Focus on Laboratory Geneticists,” which was published in Genetics in Medicine.

James Campbell, MD, MS, professor, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, received an 18-month, $1,062,081 grant from the National Institutes of Health’s Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases for “A Phase 2 Randomized, Open-Label, Multisite Trial to Inform Public Health Strategies Involving the Use of MVA-BN Vaccine for Mpox.”

Siddhartha Dante, MD, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, was the second author of “Treatment Guideline Nonadherence Pretransport Associated with Need for Higher Level of Care in Children Transferred to a Pediatric Tertiary Care Center for Status Epilepticus,” which was published in Pediatric Emergency Care.

Emily DeMarco, graduate student, Program in Neuroscience, received a three-year, $122,178 F31 Individual National Research Service Award Fellowship from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Elucidating the Dynamic Role of PTPσ in Synaptic Nano-Organization and NMDA Receptor Function.”

Megan Deming, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, received the Early Career Investigator Award from the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium.

Jonathan Fay, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was the co-corresponding author of “Ligand and G-Protein Selectivity in the K-Opioid Receptor,” which was published in Nature.

Roy Film, PT, MPT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, presented “Shelter from the Storm: Mitigating the Risk of Chronic Postsurgical Pain” as the keynote speaker at the Society of Opioid-Free Anesthesia Annual Congress in Panama City Beach, Fla.


Martin Flajnik, PhD, professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, gave the lecture “Whence the Adaptive Immune System?” at the Harvard University School of Medicine.

Karen Kotloff, MD, professor, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was interviewed by Montgomery Community Media for “Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Update.”

Miriam Laufer, MD, MPH, professor, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was appointed to the Scientific Consultant Group of the USAID Malaria Vaccine Development Program.
Mary Kay Lobo, PhD, professor, Department of Neurobiology, presented “Molecular and Cellular Basis of Preclinical Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders” at the 20th Annual Mariann Blum Memorial Lectureship in the Neurosciences at UT Health San Antonio.


Rosangela Mezghanni, PhD, associate professor, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, presented “Early Controllers of Salmonella Infection: An Organoid Perspective” at the 2nd Annual Herman and Walter Samuelson Foundation Symposium in Stem Cell Research.

Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA, professor and director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was a panelist for the 2023 Women in Medicine Breakfast for Edwards Vaccinology and Infectious Diseases Symposium at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Marcela Pasetti, PhD, professor, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, received a one-year, $201,792 grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency for “Measures for Establishment of Memory Signatures in Early Activated Lymphocytes (MEMSEAL).”

Stephanie Pollitt, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Physiology, received a three-year, $202,746 F32 Individual National Research Service Award Fellowship from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Mechanisms of Cell Adhesion Molecule LRRTM2 in Basal and Potentiated Synaptic Signaling.”

Milagritos Tapia, MD, professor, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, presented “A Phase II Study to Evaluate the Safety, Immunogenicity and Effect on Infant Immune Responses of a Single Dose of Tdap in Pregnant Women in Mali” at the 2023 Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium Annual Meeting in Bethesda, Md.

Jinghao Zhou, PhD, associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors of “An Improved 3D KiU-Net for Segmentation of Liver Tumor,” which was published in Computers in Biology and Medicine.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Oluremi Adejumo, DNP ’19, RN, FIAAN, and Charlotte Nwogwugwu, DrPH, BSN, HIV PCP, CPH-BC, both assistant professors, were named the fall 2023 UMSON Dean’s Scholarship Scholars, which recognizes their outstanding achievements and potential in research.

Jamal Beale was promoted to senior maintenance mechanic.
Amanda J. Billig, DNP ‘23, CRNA, was named the Student Registered Nurse Anesthetist of the Year by Baltimore Veterans Affairs.

Yvette Conyers, DNP, RN, FNP-C, CTN-B, CFCSN, CFCS, was appointed associate dean for equity, diversity, and inclusion and assistant professor.

Amanda J. Billig

Candice Bracey was promoted to senior accountant.

Candice Bracey

Andrea Brassard, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, CNE, associate professor, wrote the op-ed “Nurse Staffing Standards Act Is First Step in Solving Nursing Shortage,” which was published on the American Journal of Nursing’s “Off the Charts” blog May 11.

Andrea Brassard

Hershaw Davis Jr., MS, BSN ’09, RN, clinical instructor, was quoted in “‘A Target on My Back’: New Survey Shows Racism Is a Huge Problem in Nursing,” which was published on StatNews.com on May 30.

Hershaw Davis Jr.

Megan Doede, PhD ’19, MS ’13, RN, assistant professor, was recognized in the Educator category in Baltimore magazine’s Excellence in Nursing Awards.

Megan Doede

Kelly Doran, PhD ’11, MS ’08, RN, FAAN, associate professor, is the co-investigator on the “Preventing Early Career Burnout and Attrition in Early Career Behavioral Health Professionals in Social Work and Nursing: A Qualitative Pilot Study,” which received a one-year, $50,000 Science to Systems pilot grant from the University of Maryland Center for Addiction Research, Education, and Service.

Kelly Doran

Erika Friedmann, PhD, professor and associate dean for research, and Robyn Gilden, PhD ’10, MS ’01, RN, associate professor and director, Environmenal Health Certificate Program, were among the co-authors of “Systematic Review: Association of Pesticide Exposure and Child Wheeze and Asthma,” which was published in Current Pediatric Reviews in May.

Erika Friedmann

Maeve Howett, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC, CNE, associate professor and associate dean, Baccalaureate Program, was quoted in “Some Schools Have Boycotted U.S. News & World Report College Rankings. Do Maryland Educators, Students Care?” which was published in The Baltimore Sun on May 18.

Maeve Howett

Linda J. Hickman, PhD, MBA, RN, FACHE, assistant professor, received the University of Maryland School of Nursing Colleague Award at the University of Maryland Medical Center’s Nursing Excellence Awards Ceremony on May 9.

Linda J. Hickman

Stacey Conrad, MBA, associate dean for development and alumni relations, was one of 12 UMB employees who comprised the fourth cohort to graduate from the UMB President’s University Leadership Program.

Stacey Conrad

Eun-Shim Nahm, PhD ’03, RN, FAAN, FGSA, professor and associate dean, PhD Program; Mary Etta Mills, ScD, MS ’73, BSN ’71, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, retired professor; and Kristin L. Seidl, PhD, RN, assistant professor, presented during a virtual Nursing Ground Rounds on March 22 as part of the UMNursing Care Coordination Implementation Collaborative.

Veronica “Ronnie” Quattrini, DNP, MS ’99, BSN ’85, FNP-BC, assistant professor and senior director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, and Amanda Roesch, DNP, MPH, FNP-C, assistant professor, delivered the presentation “Addressing Nurse Practitioner Role Core Competencies in Advanced Health Assessment” at the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla., in April.

Janet Selway, DNSc, AGNP-C, CPNP-PC, FAANP, associate professor and director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Specialty, was quoted in “How a Bill That Sounds Good and Has Lots of Support Gets Quietly Killed, with Good Reasons,” which was published on MarylandReporter.com on May 9.

Shari L. Simone, DNP ’11, RN, CPNP-AC, APRN-BC, FAANP, FCCM, FAAN, assistant professor, was selected for the Society of Critical Care Medicine’s (SCCM) Best of SCCM Congress for her presentation “How to Implement Delirium Screening in the PICU and What to Do with Your Results?”

Veronica “Ronnie” Quattrini
AMANDA ROESCH

Nicole E. Smith, PhD, MS ’14, RN, CNE, CHSE, CNE-cl, assistant professor, received the 2023 Kendall Service Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Universities at Shady Grove.

B. Elias Snyder, MS ’14, FNP-C, ACHPN, director, Office of Global Health, received a $20,000 seed grant from the UMB Center for Interprofessional Education for “Ethics, Decolonization, and Social Justice in Global Health.”

Rebecca Weston, EdD, MSN, RN, CNE, assistant professor; Patricia Schaefer, DNP, RN, CNE-cl, CHSE, CNE, assistant professor and director, Simulation Lab at the Universities at Shady Grove; and Nancy Culpepper, MBA, director, Standardized Patient Program, received a $25,000 seed grant from the UMB Center for Interprofessional Education for “Collaborating Across Disciplines to Recruit, Train, Retrain, and Effectively Utilize People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities as Standardized Patients.”

Kari Wheeler, DNP ’23, RN, CPHON, BMTCN, CPN, received the 2023 Outstanding DNP Project Award at the DNP Poster Day event May 9 for her work focusing on enhancing self-management of chemotherapy-induced vomiting with patient-reported outcome measures.
Claudia Baquet, MD, MPH, affiliate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a two-year, $550,000 cooperative agreement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for “Racial and Ethnic Minority Acceleration for Health Equity Consortium.”

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, MBA, BCPP, CGP, FASCP, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and executive director, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, received a two-year, $170,000 contract from Enterprise Community Development for “Contract with Enterprise Community Development, Inc.”

Andrew Coop, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and associate dean of academic affairs, was named interim associate dean for graduate programs.

Susan dosReis, PhD, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, was appointed to the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute’s Standing Reviewer Board.

Allison Dunn, PharmD, MS, research assistant professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a two-month, $37,500 contract from NewAmsterdam Pharma for “Proposal for PK Analysis of Obicetrapib.”

Joga Goburru, PhD, MBA, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and director, Center for Translational Medicine, was named to UMB’s Digital Health Advisory Board.

Michelle Medeiros, MS, MA, CCRP, director of research, PATIENTS Program, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research (PSHOR), and Claudia Baquet, MD, affiliate professor, PSHOR, received a one-year, $499,998 grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for “Community-Defined Measures to Bridge Health Equity Gaps for COVID-19: Small Town and Rural Needs.”

Nick Montes, graduate student, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a National Institutes of Health Diversity Supplement Award.

Jason Noel, PharmD, MPA, BCPP, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a two-year, $276,264 contract from the Maryland Department of Health for “Facilities and Community Based Psychopharmacology Consultation.”

Katy Pincus, PharmD, BCPS, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a certified diabetes care and education specialist credential.

James Polli, PhD, the Noxell/Shangraw Endowed Chair in Industrial Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics and co-director, Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation and the Center for Research on Complex Generics, received a five-year, $50 million cooperative agreement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for “University of Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation.”
Julia Slejko, PhD, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received an eight-month, $15,983 contract from the National Health Council for “Dissemination of Recommendations for Patient-Centered Value Assessment.”

Deanna Tran, PharmD, BCACP, FAPhA, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, was appointed to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy PioneerRx Workgroup.

Hongbing Wang, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Angela Wilks, PhD, the Isaac E. Emerson Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, were named interim co-chairs of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Fengtian Xue, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a one-year, $99,999 contract from Johns Hopkins University for “Developing Novel Therapeutics for ALS-Associated Proteotoxicity.”

Richard Barth, PhD, and Bethany Lee, PhD, both professors, were among the co-authors of a paper that was published in Residential Treatment for Children & Youth and explores shared family care, which involves placing children and parent(s) together in out-of-home settings to avoid the complexities of family separation without diminishing safety.

Christabel Cheung, PhD, assistant professor, was among the co-authors of “Excess Risk of Chronic Health Conditions in Hispanic Survivors of Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers,” which was published in the Journal of Cancer Survivorship.

Laurie Graham, PhD, assistant professor, was among the co-authors of “Intimate Partner Violence Circumstances for Fatal Violence in the US,” which was published in JAMA Network Open.

Nancy Kusmaul, PhD, associate professor, was among the co-authors of a paper that was published in Social Work in Health Care and explores what factors influence nursing home social workers who report they are thriving at work.

Bethany Lee, PhD, professor, received the Dr. Patricia Sokolove Outstanding Mentor Award, which is selected by the University Student Government Association and recognizes a faculty member at UMB who provides outstanding mentoring to students.

Corey Shdaimah, PhD, the Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, and Nancy Franke and Todd Becker, both PhD students, were among the co-authors of a paper that was published in Anti-Trafficking Review Special Issue: Home and Homelessness and explores housing in the context of court-affiliated prostitution diversion programs in Baltimore and Philadelphia.
SAVE THE DATE

Please join President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, at the second annual

CONVOCATION
welcoming our

Outstanding Faculty

TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14, 2023 | 10 A.M.
Under the tent at 650 W. Lexington St. (Koester’s Lot)

FACULTY SPEAKERS

Glenn Canares, DDS, MSD
School of Dentistry

Laundette Jones, PhD, MPH
School of Medicine

Amal Mattu, MD
School of Medicine

Recognizing UMB’s Distinguished University Professors

William T. Carpenter, MD
School of Medicine

Robert K. Ernst, PhD
School of Dentistry

Claire Fraser, PhD
School of Medicine

Donald G. Gifford, JD
Francis King Carey School of Law

Geoffrey Greif, PhD, MSW, LCSW-C
School of Social Work

Margaret M. “Peg” McCarthy, PhD
School of Medicine

Fadia T. Shaya, PhD, MPH
School of Pharmacy

J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD
School of Medicine
‘STANDOUT’ OGBOLU NAMED DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

Yolanda Ogbolu, PhD ’11, MS ’05, BSN ’04, CRNP-Neonatal, FNAP, FAAN, is the new Bill and Joanne Conway Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON), succeeding Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, who stepped down after a 10½-year tenure.

An experienced researcher, educator, clinician, and public servant, Ogbolu is an associate professor at UMSON and has served as chair of the Department of Partnerships, Professional Education, and Practice and co-director of its Center for Health Equity and Outcomes Research. Ogbolu’s work in community health embodies the University’s mission to improve the human condition, said UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, who announced her selection as dean June 9.

“I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of Dean Kirschling and grateful for her many contributions to the school and to the nursing profession,” Ogbolu said. “I also have great hope and optimism for the future as we begin the next chapter in our history as a trailblazing school of nursing, building on the work of our predecessors and the school’s 134-year legacy of excellence.”

Ogbolu has dedicated her career to addressing health disparities in marginalized communities here and abroad. Most recently, her efforts have focused on addressing local health inequities, including improving the provision of care to culturally and linguistically diverse patients and addressing social determinants of health and social isolation.

Raised just two blocks from UMB, Ogbolu describes her commitment to UMB and Baltimore as “unwavering, partly because this is the neighborhood where I grew up and in which I now have the capacity to lead change.”

As chair of the Social Determinants of Health Taskforce of Baltimore City, formed in 2018, Ogbolu leads a group charged with identifying and examining the negative social factors that cause hardship for Baltimore residents and for developing and implementing solutions.

Fifteen years after becoming a nurse and while continuing to practice as a board-certified neonatal nurse practitioner, Ogbolu returned to nursing school and became a three-time UMSON graduate, earning her BSN, MS, and PhD from the school.

Ogbolu has received numerous honors, including the 2022 UMB Public Servant of the Year Award and the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. UMB Outstanding Faculty Diversity Recognition Award. She was recognized as a UMB Champion of Excellence in 2015 and was one of the faculty speakers at the University’s inaugural Convocation in 2022.

— Emily Chappell

Read more about Ogbolu’s appointment at this link. 🌐

YOLANDA OGBOLU ASSUMED HER NEW ROLE AS THE BILL AND JOANNE CONWAY DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF NURSING ON JULY 17.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW D’AGOSTINO
GETTING THEIR ‘DOGTORATES’: UMB HONORS THERAPY AND SERVICE DOGS

Make no bones about it: These dogs are a breed apart.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) honored therapy and service dogs during Paws to Honor: UMB Service and Therapy Dog Awareness Day in which “dogtorate” degrees were “confurred” on the companions of three recent graduates:

- Caroline Benzel, MD ’23, School of Medicine, and therapy dog Loki
- Paola Urbistondo-Jimenez, PharmD ’23, School of Pharmacy, and service dog Kylo Red
- Courtney Bergan, JD ’23, Francis King Carey School of Law, and service dog Kiera

While other universities have honored service dogs alongside their humans during commencement ceremonies, UMB’s ceremony in June is believed to be one of the first in the U.S. to be held separately by a university to honor the companions who accompany students to class and offer comfort to patients at hospitals and others in need.

Dressed in regalia, UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, presided over the event on the Health Sciences Research Facility III patio, giving special recognition to Benzel and her 5-year-old Rottweiler nicknamed “Dogtor” Loki, for their work at the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC).

In virtual therapy sessions with UMMC front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, Benzel noticed the wear and tear that personal protection equipment was causing. She started Dogtor Loki’s Hero Healing Kits, distributing supplies such as lotion, powder, Vaseline, lip balm, instant coffee, and tea to front-line workers, with Loki as the face of the effort. Loki and Benzel, who raised over $100,000, have received numerous awards for their work, including the American Kennel Club Paw of Courage Award and the American Rottweiler Club Heroism Award.

“After seeing the impact of Dogtor Loki and Dr. Benzel, the University of Maryland Medical Center expanded its therapy dog program,” Jarrell said. “Loki has clearly had a tremendous impact on people’s lives, and this wouldn’t have been possible without Dr. Benzel.”

Jarrell then asked Loki, who was wearing her doctor’s coat and a mortarboard, for her paw to present her with the Dogtorate of Medicine and also awarded her a special medal.

Benzel, who hopes to continue her therapy work with Loki during her residency in family medicine at West Virginia University in Harpers Ferry, joked that while she is Loki’s owner, she sometimes feels like her manager, PR person, trainer, and masseuse.

“My family said they thought it was special that my dog was way more successful than I’ll ever be,” she said to laughter. “And I told them, one year of medical school is seven dog years, so she probably should have a PhD as well.”

“It truly has been an honor to meet so many amazing people at the University of Maryland and for them to welcome us with such open arms. A lot of times having a Rottweiler that is a working dog can come with a little rocky territory, but Baltimore has a very open personality.”

BROAD SCOPE OF THERAPY WORK

Before the event, Benzel recounted two memorable and meaningful patient interactions with Loki at UMMC. Loki comforted a woman who was alone by her dying mother’s bedside because other family members were traveling from a distance to the hospital.

“Loki ended up spending six hours with her head on her lap so the woman wouldn’t be alone,” Benzel said. “It shows that there’s
Continued from previous page

a broad scope of what you can do with therapy work. It’s not just being there when they’re doing well but also the worst times.”

She also described how Loki helped a teen at Christmas who was injured in a car accident and was not doing well emotionally.

“She really missed her friends and family and her dog and home,” Benzel said. “The moment Loki walked in the room, the girl’s whole demeanor changed. She was willing to start doing physical therapy. She ended up jumping out of bed. Her recovery improved drastically from that moment.”

Kerry Sobol, MBA, RN, director of patient experience at UMMC, said Benzel made an impact on the hospital’s therapy dog program, which now includes nine teams.

“The pandemic was such a stressful time for everyone. Having someone like Caroline helping us build our program and make a difference every day was not only effective, but also built such a warm and friendly relationship that continues today with many people at the hospital. She has quite the following,” Sobol said.

‘SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE’
The ceremony continued with Jarrell recognizing recent graduates Urbistondo-Jimenez and Kylo Red and Bergan and Kiera with a Dogtorate of Pharmacy and Juris Dogtorate, respectively.

“Paola is starting her career as a pharmacist and hopes to bring visibility to the medical center providers and service animals of their own in health care settings,” Jarrell said. “Courtney has shared that Kiera has helped to embrace their disability and to live independently in the community.”

Urbistondo-Jimenez, who learned that morning she had been accepted to a compound pharmacy fellowship in Boston, said after the ceremony that being honored was unexpected but joyful.

“I’m excited that disabilities are not seen as a weakness but something to celebrate, living your life and being successful with a disability,” she said. “It’s nice to have these kinds of events that show disabilities don’t stop you and don’t define you, and we have tools like dogs to help us through it. I was able to have him throughout my journey and all the acceptance throughout the whole campus.”

Urbistondo-Jimenez said Kylo Red, a 3-year-old goldendoodle, was her pet when her physician suggested training him as her service dog since he was still a puppy. He was trained during the pandemic and later accompanied her to classes, exams, and experiential learning.

Bergan’s service dog, Kiera, a 6-year-old labradoodle, nearly stole the show as she took the degree from Jarrell in a completely acceptable way: with her mouth.

Bergan, who will be a public service law fellow working with Disability Rights Maryland on community inclusion, said Kiera was trained on a college campus.

“It was nice to have an opportunity for her to get acknowledged for all her hard work,” said Bergan.

— Jen Badie

Read more, see photos, and watch a video about the event at this link. 👉
UMB EXPERTS DISCUSS SUPREME COURT’S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION RULINGS

Only four hours after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down race-conscious admissions policies at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina on June 29, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) held a Q&A to discuss the ruling and what its impact might be on the University, its students, and its programs.

Among the key takeaways from the discussion is that UMB will abide by the law and its commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) will remain unwavering; that proxies for race such as ZIP codes and essay questions could help promote a diverse student body; and that the University had prepared in advance on how to respond to the court ruling that eliminates affirmative action in admissions policies and other areas such as pipeline programs and grant applications.

“We will follow the law, the law will have to be interpreted for us, and we’ll figure out how to do that,” said UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, who presided over the Q&A. “We won’t change our core principles. We’re committed to equity and inclusion on this campus. And we’ll continue to be committed to it. There may be a lot of other ways that we can continue to become a more diverse campus.”

Jarrell introduced two expert panelists, Diane Forbes Berthoud, PhD, MA, chief EDI officer and vice president, UMB, and professor, University of Maryland Graduate School; and Mark Graber, PhD, JD, MA, University System of Maryland Regents Professor, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

Graber, who is one of the leading U.S. scholars on constitutional law and politics, said it was important to look at what Chief Justice John Roberts wrote about in the opinions and what he ignored. According to past Supreme Court precedent, Graber said, the only legitimate use of race is to promote diversity, not to rectify a societal disadvantage, and the University of North Carolina and Harvard failed to demonstrate that the advantages of diversity were measurable.

“In the last part of the opinion, the chief justice says it’s perfectly legitimate if an applicant says, ‘Here’s how race has affected my life’, ” Graber said. “You simply can’t give any credit to the person who just says, ‘I am African American, Hispanic, Asian, white, or whatever.’

“But you can use proxies for race,” he added. “You can say, for example, ‘At UMB, our students have been historically underrepresented from these ZIP codes.’ You can ask students to say things about how prejudice has affected their life, but whether that will suffice to hit certain goals [for student population diversity], I don’t know.”

Forbes Berthoud cited a statement released by the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education that read in part, “The Supreme Court has erred grievously in overturning decades of precedent that has affirmed the legality and value of race-conscious admissions practices. Today’s rulings present yet another obstacle for students seeking equitable access to the opportunities that a college degree offers, such as higher earnings and lower rates of unemployment.”

She talked about some of the benefits of diversity — “improved critical thinking skills, richer understanding, learning from different disciplines” — and said the University had been preparing for the rulings by reaching out to UMB’s schools to learn about their race-conscious practices.
“We’ve discussed things such as: To what extent does your admissions practice consider what we call non-cognitive factors, as well as contextual, experiential, and academic criteria in admissions?” Forbes Berthoud said. “Non-cognitive factors are things like life experiences, community service experience, leadership, engagement. Or questions like: Have you worked in a clinic before? Have you taught before? What are the ways in which you’ve served your community?

“It is important for us to think about how can UMB continue to live out our core principles of equity and justice, and to remember that UMB’s longstanding commitment to equity remains strong,” she added.

Asked about how the rulings could affect admissions of other minoritized populations, Graber said the high court historically has reserved its scrutiny for race and religion, adding, “There is a lesser degree of scrutiny on gender or sexual orientation and expression. So it’s highly probable that if there were stark disadvantages for gays and lesbians in the dentistry program, for example, it looks like under the present doctrine of the Supreme Court, you could directly say we are giving more consideration to people of non-heterosexual orientation.”

Jarrell said UMB must continue to fund diversity pipeline initiatives like CURE Scholars, encourage faculty members to serve as mentors in pipeline and tutoring programs, and promote such programs to increase participation, awareness, and funding.

At the start of the Q&A, Jarrell provided updates on a number of other topics, praised UMB Police and Public Safety for winning two recent awards, discussed major construction projects occurring around campus, and announced that the second annual Convocation welcoming faculty back to campus in the fall will be held Sept. 14.

He pointed out that Jane Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, who was attending the Q&A, was in her final weeks as the Joanne and Bill Conway Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing and that Yolanda Ogbolu, PhD ’11, MS ’05, BSN ’04, CRNP-Neonatal, FNAP, FAAN, would be replacing her in mid-July.

Jarrell congratulated Thomas Leone, MLS, assistant vice president for public safety and chief of police, for receiving the 2022-2023 International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators Award for Innovations in Community Policing, and Lt. Matthew Johnson, commander of the Community Outreach and Support Team, for being named among the 12 inaugural winners of The Baltimore Banner’s Emerging Leader Award.

Jarrell noted the large amount of construction occurring on campus, saying that part of the work is the laying down of cables for a new electrical substation to provide backup in case of a power outage such as the one UMB experienced in November 2011.

Watch a video of the Q&A at this link.

— Lou Cortina
FALL KICK-OFF

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KAHLERT INSTITUTE TO SPUR INNOVATION IN ADDICTION TREATMENT, PREVENTION

With an urgent mission to address the alarming rise in drug overdose deaths, the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) announced plans May 31 to open the new Kahlert Institute for Addiction Medicine. It will be funded with a $10 million gift from the Maryland-based Kahlert Foundation, with an additional $10 million provided by the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and $5 million from UMSOM to renovate research facilities on campus. UMSOM has committed to raise an additional $5 million in philanthropic donations for the Kahlert Institute.

With a commitment of $30 million in funding, the Kahlert Institute will bring together leading addiction experts in a shared research space to collaborate and create the synergy necessary for systemic change. UMSOM faculty will serve as an integral part of this institute. They will include neuroscientists, studying the brain mechanisms underlying substance use and its lifelong consequences, and clinical researchers investigating potential interventions in patient trials. Institute members also will include substance use disorder specialists who understand the daily realities of caring for patients with complex disorders often involving psychiatric illness, trauma, and socioeconomic stressors.

“We need revolutionary progress in the area of addiction treatment and recovery. The Kahlert Foundation recognizes that to achieve radical innovation, you need to bring together the leading experts across multiple disciplines,” said Greg Kahlert, president of the Kahlert Foundation. “Millions of people are affected by addiction in this country. We are hopeful that the Kahlert Institute for Addiction Medicine will discover new treatments that will save countless lives in the future.”

Maryland has experienced a more than doubling in its rate of drug overdose deaths from 2015 to 2020 — from 21 deaths to 44 deaths per 100,000 people. This increase is one of the highest in the nation, with an overdose death rate that is 50 percent higher than the national average. In Baltimore City, 964 deaths were attributed to opioid overdose in 2020, nearly triple the number of deaths from homicide.

“There is not a person I know who hasn’t been impacted by this opioid epidemic. It’s clear we need to do more,” said Kahlert Institute associate director Eric Weintraub, MD, professor of psychiatry and director of the Division of Addiction Research and Treatment at UMSOM. “One critical goal is to establish a collaboration between basic scientists in the field of addiction and clinicians who are treating patients. We need to develop strategies for research and treatment that will be effective in the long term.”

Education will serve as a foundational pillar of the Kahlert Institute with interprofessional training on addiction treatment provided within the University system, as well as to the greater Maryland community. Trainees will include community members, peer counselors, health professionals, and UMB graduates entering the medical field. The aim is to educate and increase the next generation of addiction counselors and health providers and to create a model that will serve as a national blueprint for community-academic partnerships.
“UMB is a research powerhouse dedicated to finding solutions to the most pressing problems of today, including addiction. Opioid use disorder and addiction have created a public health crisis in Baltimore, in Maryland, and across the country,” said Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, president of UMB. “UMB’s mission — to improve the human condition and serve the public good — means that we have a responsibility to do what we can to address this crisis, and I expect the research we will conduct at the Kahlert Institute will make a powerful difference.”

The Kahlert Institute will create a central hub allowing multidisciplinary investigators to bring together their knowledge and accelerate innovation by sharing the same physical space. It will be located at Health Sciences Research Facility III on the UMSOM campus with state-of-the-art labs to accelerate fundamental and translational science alongside a fully integrated space for clinical care, clinical research, and education.

“Last year, 20 million Americans were diagnosed with substance use disorder, and only 10 percent received treatment. Overall, more than 100,000 people nationally died from a drug overdose,” said UMSOM Dean Mark T. Gladwin, MD, who also is vice president for medical affairs, UMB, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, UMSOM. “The Kahlert Institute seeks to build a bridge from the lab bench, where rapid advances in fundamental neuroscience will spur innovative therapies, to the clinic, where lifesaving medications like buprenorphine and methadone require an optimized system to ensure access to any patient in need.”

Fundamental research will focus on developing and testing novel interventions, including behavioral therapies, drugs, and innovative technologies to reduce cravings, drug use, and the many complications of addiction. Faculty members also will conduct accelerated preclinical research to identify why certain individuals are more susceptible to addiction. Others will explore the cause of the high comorbidity between substance abuse disorders and neuropsychiatric diseases such as depression and schizophrenia.

Clinical studies will include analyzing innovative treatment strategies to determine, for example, how supportive therapies delivered by peer counselors can prevent relapse. The Kahlert Institute also will establish a Community Advisory Board that will include individuals with substance use disorder, community members affected by addiction, and harm reductionists.

The Kahlert Institute also intends to improve the continuum of care for individuals with addiction. Patients with addictions often face additional challenges in accessing traditional health care settings. Experts will focus on creating a more effective care model to address these patients’ primary health care needs and ensure that they have continued access to medication like suboxone or methadone and psychiatric services for mental health issues.

— Deborah Kotz

Read more about the Kahlert Institute at this link.