

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECIPIENTS

Dr. Harvey Arbit '70: Distinguished Alumni Recipient

A veteran of the pharmaceutical industry, Harvey Arbit '70, RPh, PharmD, MBA, has devoted more than 40 years to regulatory affairs, clinical research, quality assurance, and product development.

He is the founder of, and a consulting partner for, Arbit Consulting, LLC, which provides regulatory knowledge, strategy and support for industry, academia, and investigator-initiated sponsored clinical research. He is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Care and Health Systems at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

During his career, Dr. Arbit served in senior leadership regulatory positions for Baxter Travenol Laboratories, 3M Medical Products, Upsher-Smith Laboratories, Denvey Pharmaceuticals, SmithKline Beecham's Diversified Pharmaceutical Services and Coloplast Skin Care. In 2002, he launched the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center IND/IDE Assistance Program which has been recognized as a model for providing regulatory support for investigator-initiated research in academic institutions.

In 2022, Dr. Arbit was invited to serve as an ACPHS adjunct professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences to assist in the development of a certificate program for regulatory affairs/regulatory sciences.

He holds a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Albany College of Pharmacy; a PharmD from Duquesne University; and an MBA from Northern Illinois University. He completed a residency in clinical hospital pharmacy at UPMC Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Arbit has his Regulatory Affairs Certification and his Clinical Research Professional Certification and has served on the board of directors for the Society of Clinical Research Associates. A published author, Dr. Arbit is a frequent presenter, a licensed pharmacy preceptor, and a seasoned mentor for PharmD students.

Phil Hritcko '83: Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Philip Hritcko '83, RPh, PharmD, is currently dean and clinical professor of Pharmacy Practice at the UConn School of Pharmacy, where he has been on faculty since 2003. He was appointed to dean in 2020 after serving as interim dean for one year.

He had previously served as associate dean for Admissions and Student Affairs and as assistant dean for Experiential Education at the School of Pharmacy. Prior to joining the UConn School of Pharmacy, Dr. Hritcko practiced as a clinical pharmacy specialist in Ambulatory Care at the Veterans Affairs Connecticut (VACT) Health Care System. Prior to VACT, Dr. Hritcko practiced as a community pharmacist and district pharmacy supervisor while working for CVS/Pharmacy.

An active member of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), he was Speaker of the House of Delegates from 2013-15. He is also an AACP Fellow, participated in the 2008-09 AACP Academic Leadership Fellows Program, and is a past chair of the AACP Experiential Education Section. Dr. Hritcko is also an active member and past president of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA). He was the 2019 recipient of the CPA's American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Bowl of Hygeia Award. In addition, he was recognized in 2021 as one of the *Hartford Business Journal's* Health Care Heroes for his work in the category of community service, advocacy and policy.

He earned his B.S. in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy cum laude from Albany College of Pharmacy.

Rose Zobel Lang '69: Distinguished Alumni Awards Recipient

Rose Zobel Lang '69 RPh, has served in the pharmacy field for 43 years encompassing retail, independent, hospital, and the managed care arena. Her career has been punctuated with integrity, respect, collaboration, and community.

Passionate for developing people, the Class of 1969 valedictorian hired, trained and managed RPh and technicians while directing overall operation policy and implementing procedures for AARP/ NY Retired Persons Services and PCS/PA. While overseeing three facility closings as VP/GM, she maintained morale and customer service standards while expertly managing the transition of personnel and operations.

She was a formidable advocate for patients, clients, and those she mentored and counseled. As CVS/CAREMARK director, she oversaw the successful implementation of the largest pharmacy client, Federal Employee Program. As CVS/CMK VP/GM, she motivated and developed employees, consistently exceeding corporate goals and objectives, filling more than 1.4M prescriptions per month.

Lang serves as a Parkinson Foundation Volunteer and Regional Advisor for SE Florida, promoting Hospital Care Initiatives, community outreach, and the rollout of CE/online learning for healthcare professionals. She continues to leverage her professional expertise and leadership to elevate the awareness of Parkinson's by publishing a weekly newsletter and providing seminars to local support groups, home care facilities, and hospital healthcare personnel.

Lang joined ACP classmates to plan and implement a medicinal garden on the campus green as a legacy gift from the last class to study pharmacognosy. She hopes the results of this project will inspire current and future students to embrace the fundamentals of a time-honored profession.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

Tasmina Hydrey '11: Outstanding Young Alumni Recipient

Tasmina Hydrey '11, PharmD, MBA, BCGP, currently serves as associate director of Digital Solutions at AmerisourceBergen, she is a team lead with FormularyDecisions®, a digital platform that facilitates the exchange of information between biopharma companies and healthcare decision makers.

Dr. Hydrey currently holds a faculty appointment at MCPHS (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences) University in Boston and previously at Boston College Connell School of Nursing and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She also contributes to consulting engagements in value and access strategy to help biopharma companies demonstrate product clinical and economic value and improve market and patient access.

Before joining AmerisourceBergen, Dr. Hydrey was in a lead clinical role for the consulting division at the University of Massachusetts Medical School with areas of focus in immunology, dermatology, rheumatology, hepatology, infectious diseases (including hepatitis C), and rare diseases. She has authored a variety of peer-reviewed publications appearing in the *Journal of Managed Care and Specialty Pharmacy*, *Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, *Drug Target Insights*, *Pharmacotherapy*, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, and others.

As an expert in payer research and managed care concepts, Dr. Hyderly has delivered podium and poster presentations at the Asembia Summit, Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP), Drug Information Association, and Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research conferences. She has served on national committees with AMCP and was honored with the inaugural AMCP Diplomat of the Year award in 2020.

Dr. Hyderly earned her PharmD at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and an MBA from Boston College Carroll School of Management in 2013.

Zachary Hecox '16: Outstanding Young Alumni Recipient

Zachary Hecox '16, PharmD, currently serves as a pharmacist at Samaritan Hospital-Albany Memorial Campus Anticoagulation Management Clinic, an Anticoagulation Center of Excellence. Dr. Hecox is also a per diem pharmacist at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital.

Dually licensed in New York and North Carolina, he formerly served as a pharmacist with Wal-Mart Pharmacy.

Dr. Hecox recently completed a term as president for the Northeastern-New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists. During his term as president, he raised more than \$15,000 for the non-profit pharmacy organization and helped to pass a resolution supporting health systems throughout New York State to develop and implement successful anticoagulation stewardship programs.

He precepts for the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience student pharmacists at ACPHS, University of Connecticut, University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, Binghamton University, and Creighton University. Dr. Hecox is a volunteer for the Capital City Rescue Mission Free Clinic and Tim Tebow's Night to Shine.

He earned his PharmD at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHS) and holds a Certified Anticoagulation Care Provider degree from the National Certification Board for Anticoagulation.

VALUES

COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION

Vincent "Chuck" DiTrapano '69: Community and Collaboration Recipient

Vincent "Chuck" DiTrapano '69, RPh, is a pharmacist, seasoned healthcare executive, military veteran, and the founder of RxToolKit.

In 2001, DiTrapano founded RxToolKit, a web-based software application designed to improve patient safety, enhance clinical competencies, and increase confidence by preventing medication errors dedicated to bringing best-in-class medication education and clinical training to infusion and pharmacy providers across the country. He was inspired to build this company when he saw firsthand the need to enhance medication safety through process improvement.

RxToolKit has evolved to include patient safety applications for use in neonatal intensive care and pediatrics, drug monographs of over 200 infusion and injectable medications, printable patient resources, medication-specific calculators, and comprehensive training programs for clinicians.

DiTrapano has also served in various leadership roles within large healthcare organizations, including his time as senior VP of Operations at Vitalink Pharmacy Services and as Pharmacy Operations Manager of Reading Hospital.

His passion for medication safety, clinical competency, and process improvement was deepened when he nearly approved a patient's infusion therapy that contained a critical calculation error in 2007. His near miss led him to befriend Eric Cropp and Chris Jerry, and he later became a board member and Treasurer of the Emily Jerry Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to creating awareness about preventable medication errors and pursuing legislation promoting the proper education of clinicians.

Bob "Bookstore Bob" Kern: Friend of the College Award

Bob Kern came to Albany College of Pharmacy in November of 1997, and quickly earned the nickname "Bookstore Bob" by Tom Weaver, a former ACPHS employer.

During his 25-year tenure at ACPHS, he helped to move the bookstore three separate times, served as captain of the faculty basketball intramural team for two decades, worked on the merger between Albany Law School and Russell Sage College in 2006, and estimates to have served more than 55,000 ACPHS, Albany Law School and Russell Sage College students.

In 2006, he received the "PR Litzsinger Store Manager of the Year" award from Follett Higher Education Group.

Gary Hall '57: Student-Centered Values Award Recipient

Gary D. Hall '57, RPh, holds state pharmacist registrations in Vermont, New York and Florida practicing in both community and hospital pharmacies.

He has served as a research pharmacist specializing in inhalation aerosols, injectable products, and packaging problems at Sterling Winthrop Research Institute. During this time, he coauthored several research papers and a chapter on inhalation aerosols in Lea & Febiger's "Current Concepts in The Pharmaceutical Sciences."

Hall also served as lecturer at Albany College of Pharmacy, advancing in rank to full professor. He was elected Chair of the Faculty for over 10 years and chosen by the student body as Teacher of the Year in the first year of its inception. He was also part of the refurbishing efforts for the Throop Pharmacy Museum with curator, Lee Anna Obos.

Hall coauthored 10 editions of McGraw Hill's "Pharmacy Review" and 10 editions of "Guide to Federal Pharmacy Law," considered the most popular book for pharmacy graduates preparing for NYS licensure.

Hall has served as president of the Northeast New York Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists and the Upper NY Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.

A native of Binghamton, NY, he earned his RPh in pharmacy from Albany College of Pharmacy. During his time at ACPHS, he was editor-in-chief of yearbook *Alembic Pharmakon*, became a member of the pharmaceutical fraternity, Kappa Psi, and was elected to RhoChi, the national pharmacy honor society. Hall then earned a master's degree in pharmacy education and drug development from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

Stephen Sullivan '16: Integrity Values Award Recipient

Major Stephen J. Sullivan '16, PharmD, is the Flight Commander of Diagnostics and Therapeutics, assigned to the 412th Medical Group, Edwards Air Force Base, California. In this role, he is responsible for 17 personnel and manages a \$4.5 million budget, dispensing 70,000 prescriptions, 115,000 laboratory tests, and 2,400 radiology scans for 7,100 patients annually.

Dr. Sullivan leads the Defense Health Agency Outpatient Pharmacy Expert Panel where his team supports the standardization and transition of Military Treatment Facility Pharmacies to a new \$10.4 billion electronic health record. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air and Space Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal. Other achievements include the 2017 Air Combat Command Biomedical Specialist Company Grade Officer of the Year, the 2021 Next Generation Pharmacist Rising Star of The Year, the 2022 412th Test Wing Lance P. Sijan Nominee, and the 2022 Air Force Test Center Field Grade Officer of the Year.

Following graduation, Dr. Sullivan was commissioned into the Air Force and completed his Commissioned Officer Training at Maxwell Air Force Base. After training, he arrived at Holloman Air Force Base and served as the Pharmacy Element Chief until 2019. Dr. Sullivan was then stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, serving in various positions including outpatient, clinical, and inpatient pharmacy chief from 2019-22.

He earned a PharmD from Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Steven Bellantoni '84: Respect Values Award Recipient

Steven Bellantoni '84, RPh, is the owner of Hopewell Drugstore in Hopewell Junction, New York. Founded with his wife in 2017, the community pharmacy has experienced yearly growth despite the proliferation of chain pharmacies. They work closely with Hospice to care for patients countywide.

Prior to that, Bellantoni served as pharmacy manager at Rite Aid Pharmacy for 35 years.

Bellantoni earned his RPh from Albany College of Pharmacy in 1984 and has been very fortunate to have mentored several pharmacy students over the years, including a 2023 ACPHS graduate and an anticipated 2024 doctoral candidate.