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Preceptor of the Year Awards

The Preceptor of the Year Awards were presented at a reception following the Annual Preceptor Training Program on August 11, 2016 in both Albany and Vermont.

This year's Preceptor of the Year award was given to **Dr. Darren Grabe**, Associate Professor and Interim Department Chair of Pharmacy Practice at ACPHS. Dr. Grabe received his B.S. and Pharm.D. from ACPHS, and did his residency and fellowship training in internal medicine/nephrology at Albany Medical Center. After a brief stint in Texas, Dr. Grabe returned to ACPHS and joined the faculty and has precepted students and residents on inpatient and ambulatory care nephrology rotations for 16 years. The award was presented by Dr. Laurie Briceland, Assistant Dean for Experiential Education.



Distinguished Preceptor Awards were also presented to:



Dr. Kevin Costello of Albany Medical Center, a Team-Based Care preceptor. Dr. Costello is an internist and geriatrician at Albany Medical Center and an Assistant Professor at Albany Medical College. A preceptor for ACPHS since 2011, he has shown many students what it is like to be an integral part of a health care team. He introduces them to a world outside of the pharmacy, giving them the opportunity to work directly with patients during home visits. Many students have commented that Dr. Costello allows them to learn beyond a typical shadowing experience. While many students are only with Dr. Costello for a week, the lessons they learn are long-lasting, serving them well throughout their education and careers. The award was presented by Dr. Courtney Caimano, Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) Director.

Mr. Mike McGinn, RPh, of the Rite Aid on Central Avenue in Albany. He precepts Community IPPE students. He has been an Experiential Education Advisory Panel Member for ACPHS, participated in the ACPHS/AMC Interprofessional Experience (IPE) event this year, and volunteered for the ACPHS pharmacy skills lab/self-care integration. He has been a preceptor for Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences for more than nine years. The award was presented by Ms. Debra Feinberg.



The Experiential Education Director's Achievement Award was presented to **Ms. Hayley Hooks, RPh**, of Kinney Drugs in Essex Junction, VT. Ms. Hooks, received her B.S. degree in Pharmacy from the University of Rhode Island in 1997. After graduating, she accepted a pharmacist position with ProMark/MIM Health plans, a Pharmacy Benefit Manager based out of Wakefield, RI. Hayley was involved in the clinical review process that was responsible for formulating the clinical criteria guidelines that governed the Tennessee Medicaid Formulary. Upon arriving in Vermont, Hayley took a position as a Long Term Care Pharmacist at NCS/Omnicare in South Burlington, VT. She is now the Pharmacy Manager at Kinney Drugs in Essex Junction and has been precepting students for four years as well as taking an active part in Vermont Campus activities by being a guest speaker and coordinator of student outreach programs. The award was presented by Ms. Sandra Rosa, Experiential Coordinator, Vermont.

ACPHS Receives Certificate of Appreciation from Epilepsy Foundation of VT

On November 19, 2016, the Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont held its Annual Meeting and Appreciation dinner at the Elks Club in Burlington. Audrey Butler, Executive Director of the Foundation and longtime preceptor for our Health and Wellness rotation, presented a certificate to ACPHS "in appreciation of outstanding support of the Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont." Experiential Coordinator Sandra Rosa accepted the certificate on behalf of the College. In her acceptance remarks, Ms. Rosa commented that the support is a "two-way street" and read student comments on the valuable experiences they have received during their Foundation rotations.



University of Vermont Medical Center Mass Casualty Drill

When Jacob Hildebrand volunteered to take part in the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMMC) Mass Casualty Drill on July 27 while on his IPPE Institutional rotation, little did he realize he would be playing a “starring role.” Jacob was designated as Patient Zero in a Plague scenario and was picked up at his apartment by EMTs in full hazmat gear, transported down four flights of stairs on a stretcher, and taken to the hospital via ambulance. When asked to describe his experience, Jacob wrote: “The experience was very eye-opening. I was pretty excited to be able to take part in the drill, especially in this role. We were presented with the opportunity during a meeting, and I volunteered to take part. I was not really ‘afraid’ since they had informed me what they were going to be doing and a general idea of what to



expect, but it definitely worried some of my neighbors before they were told it was only a drill. The professionals acted as such and upon arrival explained to me what they were going to be doing, how they would be doing it, and why. They did their best to make me feel comfortable considering I had two people showing up at my door in full personal protective gear. The operation ran very smoothly. Even though I live on the fourth floor and they had to get a stretcher up to my apartment and back down with me on it, there were no problems. I have never ridden in an ambulance before, especially as a patient, so it was very interesting to see how they handle transferring someone to the hospital and the delivery at the hospital. I also had my clinical experience while onsite in the ED so I would say that the whole process helped me better understand what it is like being brought to the hospital by ambulance, and that perspective is something that I believe will help me as a professional if I ever were to encounter a situation such as this.”

Obviously, some student experiences are more dramatic than others!

Jessica Farrell at Degos Disease Summit

On June 30, 2016, Preceptor and ACPHS Associate Professor Jessica Farrell, Pharm.D., presented “Navigating the Insurance Approval Process for Medications Used to Treat Degos Disease” at the Global Summit for Degos Disease in Saratoga Springs, NY. In addition to her role at the College, Dr. Farrell is a Clinical Pharmacist at the Rheumatology Center and Co-Director of Steffens Scleroderma Center.

Degos Disease is a rare illness, also known as malignant atrophic papulosis. Degos Disease affects a person's blood vessels. Cells in the linings of veins and arteries under the skin become swollen, restricting blood flow. Affected blood vessels include those that supply the skin, eyes, gastrointestinal tract, heart, bladder and nervous system. Drugs for this often fatal illness are expensive and often experimental. Dr. Farrell and her students have been involved in helping provide justification to insurers for coverage of eculizumab and treprostinil for patients suffering from the disease.

Dr. Farrell says: “It has been incredibly rewarding to be involved with the care of these patients, and I want their stories to be heard by as many people as possible ... I think this is a perfect example of how a pharmacist and pharmacy students can be involved with patient advocacy on multiple levels. We want our students to advocate for improved patient care. We want them to be involved with legislative advocacy. We want them to serve as an advocate on behalf of the appropriate use of medications and needs of patients. This type of advocacy requires an emotional connection. I think that we can all agree that the affective domain skills are the most challenging to ‘teach’ our students and therefore more challenging to assess. I know that this is an incredibly rare condition that most health care providers will never see in their lifetimes, BUT, I think, we, as a school, can come up with creative ways to incorporate this type of patient advocacy on a larger scale, maybe as part of co-curricular activities.”

Kudos to Dr. Farrell for providing such an enriching experience to her students.



LR Mitesh Patel (P4), ACPHS President Greg Dewey, ACPHS Provost Tarun Patel, Assoc. Professor Jessica Farrell, Shari Hyman (P4)

Student Pioneers Innovative Pharmacy Practice Site



Danielle Eisel had the unique experience to be the first rotation student at the first Marijuana Dispensary in Albany. Her preceptor, Megan Veselov, Pharm.D. (an ACPHS alumna) practices at the top of her license, according to Danielle, and is a pioneer in the newest aspect of pharmacy practice.

Here is the scoop in Danielle's own words:

"The elective APPE rotation I recently completed at PharmaCannis was an absolutely amazing learning experience. I feel incredibly lucky to have been able to be one of the first students to learn on site in the field of medical cannabis.

"My time at PharmaCannis started with a tour of the dispensary and an explanation of each stage of the dispensing process. I then read the regulations and took the CE course required for physicians to certify and pharmacists to dispense. I was able to shadow every role at the dispensary including security, patient care representatives, and the pharmacist.

Once I became familiar with the products, I began counseling patients on the safety information, proper usage of the different dosage forms, and initial dosing recommendations. I got the opportunity to really have an open conversation with the patients regarding their goals of therapy, prior experiences, and concerns with using cannabis. These conversations helped me to build confidence in one-on-one counseling, which I believe will greatly benefit me in the future. I was also able to travel with the pharmacist and other staff members to do outreach in the community, which included a physician education meeting, a discussion at the Damien Center for patients with HIV/AIDS, and providing information at the ACPHS Community Day. This rotation also gave me the opportunity to work on developing a Symptom Assessment Tool, which can be used to help subjectively determine the success of cannabis therapy for each patient.

"I had very little knowledge of medical marijuana coming in to this rotation, how it fit into our current health care system, or the role of a pharmacist in this setting. After finishing the rotation, I feel as though I am able to help educate others, whether it be potential patients on how to find a doctor and get registered for the program or my peers and current pharmacists on the current regulations, the inner workings of a dispensary, and products available.

"Overall this rotation has been an incredible experience. I really value the opportunity to have been able to participate in this area of pharmacy, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for medical cannabis."

Dr. D'Epiro's Guatemala Experience

Dr. Giselle D'Epiro Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Preceptor at the Milton (VT) Family Practice, recently put a new spin on her Ambulatory Care rotation. This fall she took two APPE students, Desmond Martz and Gavin O'Brien, to Guatemala on a one-week medical mission as part of her clinical rotation. Working with the native population and providing triage at a local clinic gave these students a new appreciation for the plight of health care in third world countries.

Desmond wrote: "Over the span of five days, our small group of 38 volunteers provided care to more than 1,200 people. Our clinic included stations for dental, pediatrics, general medicine, women's health, and a vision center. The vast majority of our patients had limited-to-no access to medical care and were fully dependent upon the biannual visit by our providers. It was usually very busy in the triage unit every day. From early morning to mid-afternoon, we collected vitals and directed patients to a suitable provider. It took a few days to adjust to daily business. There were many patients to be seen and given the language barrier, it was difficult at times to organize and maintain the workflow. The time I spent working in the medical clinic was the most memorable experience of my sixth year so far. After participating in this mission trip and providing care in another country, I wholeheartedly believe that it would be beneficial for any provider to participate in a similar mission trip to garner a better sense of how medical care varies throughout the world and apply that knowledge to their practice."

Gavin said: "Going to Guatemala changed me in so many ways. First, it made me think about and experience how so much of the world's population lives on a daily basis. Whether that means housing conditions, availability of food, crime rate, it was all very different. I like to think I'm a pretty grateful person in many respects, but now I'm thankful about so much more."

This experience not only fulfilled a core requirement but also left both students with an appreciation for the state of global health.



Desmond Martz is in the top row, far left, Dr. D'Epiro is in the top row, 3rd from the left and Gavin O'Brien is in the bottom row, 2nd from the left.

Student Instrumental in Implementing New Program



Tricia Bartel spent Module A with Dr. Dan Woodcock at the Capital District Psychiatric Center in Albany developing and implementing a new program to benefit patients.

She describes the incredible experience in her own words: “During my APPE rotation at the Capital District Psychiatric Center, I rotated through their inpatient, outpatient, and crisis units. The Office of Mental Health was implementing a new program called Managing Our Prescriptions geared towards helping people in the outpatient setting. From a list of topics that should be included, I helped to develop a lesson plan for each topic. Some of the topics that were planned for included knowing when to fill your prescription, what the difference is between side effects and allergic reactions, how to read a prescription label, how to properly store medications, and who to use as a resource if you have questions about medication. The topics were focused on helping patients maintain medication adherence and be more knowledgeable about their medications. The program is designed over 14 weeks and ends with a certificate of completion. Each week has a summary-of-information page and an activity related to what was learned that week. For example, when learning about reading prescription labels, the activity stressed the differences between daily or twice daily or three times daily. The program was launched during the last week of my rotation, and the first lesson seemed to be successful. I was greatly appreciative of all the experiences I had at the Capital District Psychiatric Center. It was a wonderful learning opportunity.”

Tricia showed initiative and elevated her rotation to a high level. Credit should also go to her preceptor, Dr. Woodcock, who provided such a valuable experience and encouraged Tricia to apply her skills in the education of this patient population.

11 ACPHS Pharm.D. Candidates Accepted for Poster Presentations at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

Eleven ACPHS student posters were accepted for the 2016 ASHP Midyear Clinical meeting in Las Vegas. This highlights not only the achievements of the listed students, but the support and encouragement of our preceptors, who go above and beyond in giving the students an exemplary experience. Thank you all!

Title: Association between dialysate calcium concentration and parameters of chronic kidney disease- mineral and bone disorder in hemodialysis patients
Affiliation: Stratton VA Medical Center, Albany, NY
Authors: **Jeffrey Bettinger, PharmD Candidate**, Co-Authors: **Andrea Glogowski, PharmD Candidate**, Amy Murdico, PharmD, Kovesdy Csaba, MD, FASN, Elvira Gosmanova, MD, FASN



Jeffrey Bettinger



Andrea Glogowski

Title: Impact and cost benefit of pharmacy student provided medication reconciliation in community hospital
Affiliation: Samaritan Hospital, Troy, NY
Authors: **Olivia Emerson, PharmD Candidate**, Alyssa Smith (Shangraw), PharmD, Piyush Amin, PharmD



Olivia Emerson

Title: Community pharmacy survey regarding naloxone education, access, and distribution
Affiliation: Stratton VA Medical Center, Albany, NY
Authors: **Mara Garfinkel, PharmD Candidate**, Co-Authors: Lisa Dragic, PharmD, **Jeffrey Bettinger, PharmD Candidate**, Jeffrey Fudin, PharmD, DAAPM, FCCP, FASHP, Jacqueline Cleary, PharmD



Mara Garfinkel



Jeffrey Bettinger

Title: Prolonged hypocalcemia in a patient with reduced renal function post denosumab injection
Affiliation: Stratton VA Medical Center, Albany, NY
Authors: **Andrea Glogowski, PharmD Candidate**, Co-Authors: **Jeffrey Bettinger, PharmD Candidate**, Paul Der Mesropian, DO



Andrea Glogowski



Jeffrey Bettinger

Title: Pharmacist participation on pediatric emergency response teams
Affiliation: University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY
Authors: **Andrea Goettel, PharmD. Candidate**, Sierra Stauber PharmD., BCPPS, Nicole Acquisto PharmD., BCPS, and Meghan Baldo PharmD., BCPPS



Andrea Goettel

Title: Assessment of institutional fluoroquinolone use for uncomplicated infections
Affiliation: St. Peter's Hospital, Albany, NY
Authors: **Steven Lane, PharmD Candidate**, Steven Brown, PharmD (resident), Monique Bidell, PharmD



Steven Lane

Title: Dobutamine-induced rash in a critically ill full-term neonate: A case report
Affiliation: University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMHC), Burlington, VT
Authors: **Hailey Lipinski, PharmD Candidate**, Brian Cowles, PharmD, Dr. Leslie Young



Hailey Lipinski

Title: Evaluation of an adjusted body weight based vancomycin dosing guideline
Affiliation: St. Peter's Hospital, Albany NY
Authors: Emily Falli, PharmD (resident), Amilee Poucher, PharmD, **Christina Lombardi, PharmD Candidate**, Daniella Ferri, PharmD, Monique Bidell, PharmD

Title: Assessing Sugammadex Use in Accordance with Pre-Established Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Approved Criteria
Affiliation: St. Peter's Hospital, Albany NY
Authors: **Kortney L. Morrell, PharmD Candidate, Cassandra L. Marsh, PharmD Candidate**, Carley Luker, PharmD, BCPS, Lauren B. Gimlin PharmD, BCPS, Thomas P. Lombardi, PharmD, FASHP



Kortney Morrell



Cassandra Marsh

Title: Optimizing Efficiency with Automated Dispensing Cabinets (ADC)
Affiliation: St. Peter's Hospital (Albany, NY) and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (Albany, NY)
Authors: **Gavin M. O'Brien, PharmD Candidate**, Brendan M. Kuchenbecker (CPhT), Nicholas J. Nobles (PharmD), Laura A. Caracci (RPh) Thomas P. Lombardi (PharmD, FASHP)



Gavin O'Brien

Poster title: Evaluation of pharmacy services on blood pressure control and adherence to antihypertensive medications in patients with diabetes and uncontrolled hypertension
Affiliation: ACPHS
Authors: **Marci Wood, PharmD Candidate** (primary author), Michael Biddle Jr., Pharm. D., BCPS (Idaho State University - Meridian College of Pharmacy)



Marci Wood

Title: Quantifying the minimum adherence threshold associated with the development of reverse transcriptase mutations among HIV-infected Veterans' Affairs patients receiving antiretroviral therapy
Affiliation: Albany Medical Center and Stratton VA Medical Center, Albany, NY
Authors: **Jenna Yager, PharmD Candidate**, John Faragon, PharmD, Nimish Patel, PharmD

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