**Message from the Editors**

Dear Readers:

We are excited to bring you this year's first issue of The Fellowship Chronicles. This edition provides details for the upcoming Fellowship Information Day and ASHP Midyear Meeting, the Alumni Spotlight feature, and updates from all of our very active fellowship committees.

This year, we will publish the newsletter more frequently to keep you up to date with the most current information and events. Furthermore, we are distributing the newsletter electronically to ensure that our key stakeholders are also kept informed.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue. We look forward to continuing to bring you the latest news throughout the upcoming year!

-Elizabeth Lucini and Anna Levit

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**Fellowship Information Day**

Bhavini Patel and Twyla Thompson

The Fellowship Information Day Committee will lead the coordination of the 4th Annual Fellowship Information Day, scheduled for Friday, November 16, 2007 from 3:30 - 8:00 pm at the Busch Campus Center. This event is designed to complement the recruitment efforts of the OOC and UOC by providing candidates with the opportunity to learn more about the program, meet company representatives, and jump-start the interview process prior to the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting by watching an informative video and presentation. Last year’s event drew a record 159 students from 26 different pharmacy schools. Our goal is to increase attendance and provide students with the opportunity to expand their awareness of the various fellowship opportunities.

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**ASHP Midyear Committee**

Scott Adamczyk and Suzanne Maahs

The 42nd ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada from December 2-6, 2007. The Midyear Committee has been hard at work the last few months preparing for what should prove to be an exceptional event. Chairing the Committee this year are Scott Adamczyk and Suzanne Maahs; the Co-Chairs are Nina Gutman, Tami Hunke, and Jennifer Morrone. The Committee leadership works closely with lead contacts from each partner company to ensure that every aspect of the meeting is fully staffed and coordinated. When asked about the expectations for Midyear, Suzanne Maahs replied, “Our committee’s primary goal is to make ASHP MCM 2007 a very successful meeting by obtaining the highest recruitment rates in the program to date!” Fellow Chair Scott Adamczyk adds that, “Having the Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas poses unique challenges and opportunities to our committee. We look forward to ensuring the future success of the program by recruiting elite PharmDs from around the country.”

All preceptors and fellowship alumni are cordially invited to attend the Rutgers reception, which will be held on Tuesday, December 4th from 7-10 pm at the Venetian. Hope to see you there!

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**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Fellowship Information Day**
November 16th, 2007
3:30pm - 8:00pm
Busch Campus Center
Piscataway, NJ

**ASHP Midyear Meeting**
December 2-6, 2007
Venetian Resort and Sands Expo Center
Las Vegas, NV
Community Development Committee (CDC) Kicks off Another Great Year
John McBride, Neelum Patel, and Katie Picone

The beginning of a new fellowship year has come and gone, the fellows have settled into their new roles at their partner companies and are adjusting to life as a fellow. From the first day, this fellowship class has come together very closely, and we hope that this strength continues to grow over the course of the year!

The Community Development Committee (CDC) is dedicated to fostering relationships between fellows and has seen great success to date. One week after Rutgers Orientation, all the fellows participated in the annual ROPES course at Rutgers on July 12. The weather was beautiful as the group gathered together and played games to learn each other’s names and a little more about each other! It was utter chaos as the fellows ran through the circle to the other side to look for a space to stand if they too had graduated pharmacy school in a game of “Never Have I Ever.” After a few more group games, we split up into smaller teams and headed into the woods to face the challenges of “the acid rivers” and the “balancing plank.” The fellows quickly learned how to work with new team members, but also discovered their own strengths and weaknesses. The fellows saw the importance of asking clarifying questions, effective communication and planning, and how these lessons learned would carry over into their workplace.

Another one of the CDC’s goals is to encourage the alumni of the program to participate in fellowship events and give the fellows an opportunity to network with the 450 alumni! The second annual Canoe Trip took place on August 12 in the Poconos in which 27 fellows and alumni bonded over a 10 mile trip down the Delaware river. The scenery was picturesque, although the calm waters were broken occasionally by the Adamczyk twins’ “unsynchronized” paddling and the 4 canoe ambush water fight!

Happy hours have always been a tradition with the Rutgers Fellowship Program, and this year has been no different. Many fellowship alumni stopped by after the Fellowship Orientation on July 5 (some all the way from California) and again after the first Professional Development Day on August 16. As always, we hope that the alumni will continue to show their support at these events, meet the dynamic fellows, and have a drink or two!

The final goal for the CDC is to take part in philanthropic activities. This year two of the first year fellows, Trixia Camacho and Nina Gutman, have coordinated the efforts to lead the “Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellows” team in the Susan G. Komen Race for a Cure 5K run/walk in Central Park on September 9. This event is the premiere fundraiser of the Greater New York City Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Thank you to all the fellows and alumni for the generous donations, support and participation for this worthy cause!

The rest of the year is planned to be just as action-packed as the past few months with more networking opportunities, community service projects, happy hours, and another CE event. Stay tuned for information and we hope to see you there!

Message from the Chief Fellows
Jay Paul Singh and Stephanie Whalen

The new Fellowship year, with the largest Fellowship class to date, is officially underway. Within the first two months, this year’s fellowship class has already demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm, and the high caliber of talent lends itself to another strong year for the program.

The year has kicked off to a great start, and with the energy and focus of the various committees, many activities are in the planning phases. Midyear, recruitment, and teaching preparations have already begun, and we continue to develop a strong community as well give back to the community, largely in part of events organized by the Community Development Committee. Upcoming in September, members of the Fellowship community will host a team at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in NYC to support breast cancer research. All fellows truly benefit from the work and efforts of the committees.

With orientation and a few Professional Development Days gone by, the year will continue to be filled with many new experiences and training opportunities. We should take advantage of all the opportunities the fellowship program has to offer to help enhance professional development. Let’s maintain the high energy and outstanding work that has kicked off the year!

As a reminder, we openly accept new ideas, thoughts, and feedback to improve the program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to let us know anytime.
Carolyn Seyss, Pharm.D.

By Rachel Savidge

Like many aspiring healthcare professionals, when Carolyn Seyss was preparing for college, she thought that she wanted to be a doctor. She had a strong background in math and science and decided to pursue an undergraduate degree in pharmacy and then apply to medical school. While completing her undergraduate degree at Rutgers College of Pharmacy (now Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers the State University of NJ), Carolyn enjoyed clinically evaluating medications and their various disease states and realized that as a pharmacist she could have the critical role in patient care that she was seeking.

Carolyn's first exposures to the pharmaceutical industry came during a summer internship at Hoffman-La Roche and a clerkship rotation at Ortho Biotech, both in medical information. During these experiences, she realized that she could impact patient care on a national level as a pharmacist in the pharmaceutical industry. Her experiences in the industry and desire to have a broader effect on the treatment of patients led Carolyn to pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Rutgers. Even though Carolyn already had experience in medical information at two pharmaceutical companies, she wanted to further her knowledge of the field and applied to a one-year Fellowship at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

After a rigorous interviewing process, Carolyn was accepted as one of three Fellows during the inaugural year of the Rutgers/Bristol-Myers Squibb Fellowship. During that year, Carolyn worked with the Neuroscience portfolio for Medical Information, most significantly with an analgesic product. In her previous roles at other companies, she completed tasks that were assigned to her. As a Fellow, she was given the opportunity for greater ownership of tasks and projects. Throughout the year, Carolyn established herself as a team member and accepted leadership responsibilities. Her Fellowship year provided Carolyn with the experience of being relied upon as a colleague and a valued team member. It also allowed Carolyn the opportunity to begin to establish relationships and build a strong network of contacts, which she continues to maintain.

One of her most memorable experiences as a Fellow came as she started to benchmark her progress after she received feedback from her preceptor. Learning how to develop herself as a professional was a vital lesson Carolyn learned that year. “Sometimes we don’t know what we need to develop because we’re not there yet.” In addition, Carolyn learned several other important lessons during her Fellowship. For example, she realized the importance of reaching consensus among people with differing opinions in order to meet challenging objectives. Also, managing the perceptions that others have of us is a lesson that Carolyn would like to pass on to current and future Fellows. “People will form their own perceptions…we need to know how we’re being perceived by others and actively manage that perception.”

At the completion of her Fellowship year, Carolyn accepted a role as a Manager in the Cardiovascular/Metabolics portfolio for Medical Information at Bristol-Myers Squibb. Her Fellowship prepared her for the challenge of being an employee, but at the same time, she felt that she needed to prove herself all over again. Carolyn had to re-establish herself as a Manager in a new therapeutic area. After about a year, she moved back to the Neuroscience portfolio as an Assistant Director. She continued to build her experience and skill sets with various products and experiences in Dermatology, Cardiovascular, Metabolics, and Immunoscience and accepted various roles, becoming a Director. Her geographic scope of focus expanded too as the accepted responsibility as a Regional Medical Information Lead and Co-Lead for the Global Medical Information Practice. This gave Carolyn the opportunity to impact patient care on a global scale.

Carolyn’s involvement in Medical Information was not limited to her job at Bristol-Myers Squibb. She has been an active member of the Drug Information Association’s Medical Communications Special Interest Area Community. Carolyn has presented in general session and co-led workshops at national medical communications meetings and participated in their program committee last year. In total, Carolyn has spent over twelve years in Medical Information at Bristol-Myers Squibb, taking on new challenges and responsibilities with each new product/initiative that she supported, and building the respect of her colleagues.

After building such depth and respect in medical information, Carolyn determined that her next opportunity was to transfer her skills to build expertise in another area. She had established a wide network in Medical Information, including colleagues in the regulatory organization. Carolyn was interested in leveraging her medical background in ensuring that promotional materials comply with regulations. At the end of April 2007, Carolyn accepted a position as the Director of Promotion Compliance for Sustiva® (efavirenz). Some of her new roles include conducting review of promotional materials to ensure compliance with regulations, approval of promotional materials, supporting Global Labeling in the Physician’s Labeling Rule to reformate package inserts, and providing promotion compliance guidance to the Sustiva® (efavirenz) team. While nothing in life is easy, Carolyn considers her transition into a new area to be a good one. She already knew a lot of the people in her group and was familiar with the basics of the organization, which helped her quickly assimilate and contribute in a meaningful way.

Carolyn is also actively involved in the development of the Fellowship Program at Bristol-Myers Squibb. Several years ago, she became a member of the program’s Steering Committee, and now serves as a leader for the group. Although her leadership role is not officially tied to any of her job responsibilities, Carolyn wanted to continue her involvement with the Fellowship Program. With her participation in the Steering Committee, Carolyn has been able to further expand her network of contacts throughout Bristol-Myers Squibb and across the other companies involved in the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program. Carolyn’s goal for the program is for it to be the best…and continue to develop best practices that contribute to career paths.” She could not accomplish this goal without working closely with the Executive Sponsor and the other Steering Committee members. Carolyn believes that the strength of the Fellowship Program at Bristol-Myers Squibb lies with the strengths of all of the Fellows, Preceptors, Mentors and Steering Committee members. “It is through their commitment that we have the Program we have today. The sense of community we’ve created is energizing.”

One piece of advice that Carolyn would like to share with current and future Fellows is, “You always need to focus on your own development…never stop developing as professionals.” Carolyn has always looked at her own career development as a continuous learning opportunity because, “There is learning in everything.” She advises Fellows who are seeking jobs to not just look at what the title or salary will be, but to ask themselves, “What will I learn and what experiences will I gain?” Carolyn believes that, “By focusing on your own development, you will also help to develop the company you are working for.” Carolyn continues to follow her own advice with a challenging and successful career path.
University Outreach Committee (UOC)
Salah El-Saheb, Christina Chi, and Bond Vo

The University Outreach Committee is pleased to announce that recruitment visits are fully underway. We would like to thank everyone who has showed interest in increasing our recruitment efforts! This year, over 40 universities across the country will be visited. With the majority of visits occurring before Fellowship Information Day on November 16th, 2007, we hope to increase our attendance number at FID and applicant number at this year’s ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas. With a new focus on “Why Industry?”, our mission is to open the eyes of prospective applicants to the unlimited opportunities within the pharmaceutical industry. We want to promote the Rutgers Fellowship program as a catalyst towards an exciting and successful career in industry and the building block to a network of colleagues and friends. Please feel free to contact any of the chairs with any questions and/or concerns.

Teaching Committee
Tamy Dang and Matt Brammer

The Teaching Committee offers a unique opportunity for fellows to collaborate with the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy to educate Pharm.D. candidates. This fall, twenty-five fellows will be participating in six different courses at the School of Pharmacy including Leadership for Pharmacy Professionals, Herbal & Alternative Medicines, Community Practice Management, Pharmacy Communications I, Physical Assessment, and Drug Information & Literature Evaluation. The courses offer a variety of settings from small, interactive classrooms to large lecture halls, allowing each fellow to choose the atmosphere that each one prefers. The Teaching Committee is grateful to the faculty for their continued support of the Fellowship’s involvement in the school’s curriculum and looks forward to the upcoming Fall semester.

Organization Outreach Committee (OOC)
Nikul Shukla and Natasha Singh

The role of the OOC is to raise awareness of career opportunities for pharmacists within the pharmaceutical industry and specifically through the Rutgers Fellowship Program by reaching out to professional organizations. Initiatives planned for this year include attending the APhA Midyear Regional Meetings, the AMCP Educational Conference, and the 2007 APhA Annual Meeting to recruit potential candidates for the fellowship. At each of these events, our goal is to increase awareness of the Rutgers fellowship program among pharmacy students from a wide variety of geographic regions around the country.

To complement our recruiting efforts and help to better prepare pharmacy students for the Rutgers Fellowship, the OOC will continue to publish an Internship database. This tool provides pharmacy students with a central database of listings, application dates, and preceptor contact information for internships within the pharmaceutical industry. Additionally, the OOC will raise fellowship awareness by presenting a poster at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Conference and publishing a national article in APhA Student Pharmacist on Pharmaceutical Career Opportunities for Pharmacists.

Professional Development Day Committee
Melina Cioffi and Shilpa Kurpad

Over the past quarter, the Professional Development Day Committee (PDDC) has transformed from a draft concept initiative to a fully functioning group. The PDDC’s first activity was held during the August 16th PDD in which the movie “Sicko” and related managed care/health care topics were discussed and debated by the fellows. Overall, a great discussion brewed and the PDDC hopes to see this as a frequent occurrence! During the next few months, the PDDC will bring to PDD two new highly recommended external trainers. The PDDC additionally anticipates future discussions regarding current events pertinent to Fellows in Industry.

Shilpa Kurpad has accepted the role as co-chair for the 2007-2008 Fellowship year. Vanessa Kan will head all vendor-related issues associated with external developmental training. Bhavini Patel, Leslie Servidio, Suzanne Maahs, and Robert Adamzyck are contributing members of the PDDC and have worked tremendously thus far. We are looking forward to a productive Fellowship year!

Website Committee
Eunice Chung, Ami Patel, and Myah Tran

The Website Committee welcomes the new co-chairs, Ami Patel, a 2nd year Regulatory Affairs Fellow at Roche, and Myah Tran, a 1st year Clinical Research fellow at Novartis. The Website Committee is designed to maintain and update the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship website. Over the past year, the Website Committee has been engaged in the redesign of the website. It is successfully coming to completion and is expected to launch later this month. The redesign includes 3 phases: Phase 1 consists of developing a design concept and updating materials for Midyear preparation; Phase 2 encompasses the review and restructure of website content and design; Phase 3 focuses on implementing new user-friendly features.

Please visit http://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu at your convenience.

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