Gearing up for Midyear!

By Madonna Krawczyk and Amy Patel

The 41st ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting will be held in Anaheim, Orange County, California from December 3-7, 2006. The Midyear Committee has been hard at work over the last few months preparing for what should prove to be an exceptional event. Chairing the Committee this year are Amy Patel and Madonna Krawczyk; the Co-Chairs are Suzanne Maahs and Scott Adamczyk. The Committee leadership has been working 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, Amy Patel replied, “We look forward to a very successful meeting and are aiming to have the highest recruitment rates yet in the history of the program!” Fellow Chair Madonna Krawczyk adds that, “This is the first year that the Midyear meeting will be held in Anaheim, so we are really excited and expect to bring in some superb candidates.”

All preceptors and fellowship alumni are cordially invited to attend the Rutgers reception. See information below.

Community Development Committee (CDC) Events at Midyear

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<th>Team Building Event</th>
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<td>The CDC will be hosting the annual team building event for the 2006 ASHP Midyear. This year’s event will take place on Sunday night, December 3rd at 7:30 p.m. All fellows will be gathering at Dave &amp; Buster’s in Anaheim, CA for a night of fun, festivities and food. More details to follow.</td>
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<th>Rutgers Reception</th>
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<td>Attention All Program Alumni attending the 2006 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Anaheim, CA! The annual Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Reception will be held on Tuesday night, December 5th in the Hilton, Pacific Ballroom A. The festivities begin at 7pm. All program alumni are cordially invited. Hope to see you there!</td>
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Message from the Editors:

Dear Readers:

This edition highlights all of the hard work and dedication of the Rutgers Fellowship Committees. Through the efforts of the University Outreach, Organizational Outreach, and Midyear Committees, the tradition of the fellowship by recruiting dynamic and motivated pharmacy students is continued. Furthermore, the newly formed Community Development Committee has strengthened its efforts to foster a sense of unity between current and past fellows. Furthermore, the Teaching Committee has provided an opportunity for fellows to shape the minds of future pharmacy students and the Website Committee is in the process of revamping the website. Our sincere thanks goes to these committees as the fellowship continues to rise to new heights!!

Jennifer, Maricel and Elizabeth
Community Development Committee (CDC)

By Jessica Winnie, Nimit Upadhyaya, and John McBride

The start of the new fellowship year brought together newly graduated pharmacists from around the country, as well as the emergence of a new committee within the Rutgers family: The Community Development Committee. The Community Development Committee, or “CDC” as it has been affectionately nicknamed, encompasses the activities of two prior committees: the social and alumni committees. The CDC also incorporates a third activity revolving around community service.

The committee is founded on three objectives to better serve the needs of three key stakeholders within the Rutgers organization: current fellows, past fellows, and the community in which we live. Our first objective is to foster relationships between current fellows. We started the year off with a day of fun in the mud at the annual ROPES course. During the course of the day, fellows from all companies came together in a unique team building event. The first task of the day was to learn each other’s names. We started off by using a verb that began with the first letter of our name, then demonstrating that verb...One notable phrase from this activity: “Chi Chi likes to Cruise.” Once we got the basics down, we moved on to more difficult tasks, such as the cargo net and the “river of acid.” During the day, each of us learned our individual strengths and weaknesses. We also learned the importance of teamwork, planning and communication. We will be able to carry the learnings from this day into our daily work at our respective companies.

In addition to the ROPES course, the CDC continually tries to help fellows to get to know one another. One tactic for this is our traditional ice breakers at PDD. A notable ice breaker this year involved M&Ms. Each fellow received a bag of M&Ms, and had to identify the most prominent color. Based upon this color, fellows had to say something about themselves. For example, those with more green M&Ms had to identify their favorite food. During the course of this exercise, we learned that many fellows are sushi-lovers!

The CDC has also hosted some summer/fall events as well. We hosted the first annual canoe trip on the Delaware River. About 8 fellows joined together for a day of fun and adventure on the river. We picnicked on the shore and enjoyed the day by swimming in the calm water. We all made it down stream safely, however due to some fierce rapids (class 3 perhaps?), a few fellows lost their shoes and shirts after tipping their boat!

The second objective for the CDC is to foster relationships with our program alumni. Recognizing the importance of our program alumni, we sent a survey of them via Zoomerang asking how current fellows strengthen our relationships with our alumni. Out of the 361 surveys sent, we received responses from 157 participants, a response rate of 44%. The preliminary results of the survey show that many of our program alumni are interested in attending a CE credit event. Most encouraging is that over 60% of program alumni who responded are interested in becoming mentors to current fellows. The final results of the survey are still being analyzed and will be presented at an upcoming PDD. In the meantime, the CDC is hard at work organizing a CE credit event for fellows and alumni and discussing strategies to increase the role of the program mentors.

As many know, Happy Hours after PDD are a tradition in the Rutgers program. We’ve had a number of happy hours in which many fellows and program alumni attended. Each happy hour is a great time for fellows to network with each other, as well as the program alumni and guest speakers in attendance. Traditionally Happy Hours have been at Nova Terra in New Brunswick. However, this year, the CDC organized a few events at other local watering holes, including Harvest Moon. It is here that we celebrated Dr. Barone’s birthday, with a very unique birthday cake!

Finally, the third objective of the CDC is to foster relationships with the community in which we live. In years past, individual fellows have brought forward ideas of community service to the fellowship family. We were very successful in raising money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina last year. This year we hope to give back to our community in a big way. The CDC is in the process of organizing a day of community service in conjunction with the United Way to occur in the Spring. While the activity has not been planned yet, we are looking forward to giving back by donating our time to a valuable project. All fellows and program alumni are encouraged to participate in the event. More details will be disseminated when they become final.
Todd Paporello, Pharm.D., M.B.A.

By Elizabeth Lucini

Todd began his pharmacy career path at Rutgers University where he completed his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Pharmacy education in 1999. While a Pharm.D. student at Rutgers, Todd was impressed with his industry rotation at Janssen Pharmaceutica. He enjoyed meeting the seasoned professionals and found the discussions he had regarding their careers intriguing. His experience clearly guided his career choice upon graduation. In his current position as Associate Director & Liaison, Global Regulatory Affairs at Schering-Plough, Todd serves as a preceptor to both pharmacy students and fellows. Todd’s advice to fellows: “Take every available opportunity to meet with new and different people. By learning from others you learn a lot about yourself.”

Upon graduation from Rutgers University, Todd decided to pursue a career in industry and although his experience at Janssen was informative, Todd was not certain which department within the industry was the “best fit” for him. So, in an effort to gain a better understanding of the options available, Todd decided to apply for a pharmaceutical industry fellowship. Although other fellowship programs existed, he pursued the Rutgers fellowship program because he was familiar with the school, faculty, and national recognition of the program.

Todd accepted an offer with Hoffmann-La Roche in the Drug Safety/Risk Management department. As one of the first Drug Safety fellows, Todd found his fellowship both challenging and rewarding. During his rotation in the Drug Safety department at Roche, Todd was appointed to the Accutane Life Cycle Management Team and worked with the team to prepare for an open public Advisory Committee meeting with the FDA to discuss the pregnancy risk of Accutane. “Participating in the Accutane Advisory Committee Meeting was one of the best experiences I had during my fellowship at Roche and was one of the main reasons I elected to explore an off-site rotation at the FDA.”

Looking back, the Accutane Advisory Committee meeting planted the first seed in Todd’s mind about a career in Regulatory Affairs.

At the end of his first year of the fellowship, Todd had the opportunity to rotate to a different department. His first rotation brought him to the clinical pharmacology department. Next, Todd worked at the FDA in the fall of 2000 and during his time with the Review Division, he had many opportunities to interact with various FDA employees, company representatives and other fellows and pharmacy students. After his rotation at FDA, Todd returned to Hoffmann-La Roche to work in the marketing department for the Tamiflu Brand Team.

At this point in time, Todd began to look for jobs in companies throughout the industry but soon uncovered that it was not easy to sell himself as a Regulatory Affairs candidate after having limited regulatory experience. One opportunity Todd applied for was at Schering-Plough as a US Regulatory Affairs Manager. “The requirements were for someone who had 5-7 years of industry experience, it was a long shot but I figured I had nothing to lose.” Fortunately for him, Schering-Plough recognized the value of his experience at the FDA and his potential to learn quickly. Todd was quick to note: “If it were not for my experience at the FDA, I don’t think the Regulatory Affairs position at Schering would have been available to me. I highly recommend that any fellow interested in a Regulatory Affairs career pursue a rotation at the FDA.”

Todd started his career at Schering-Plough as an Associate Manager of US Regulatory Affairs representing the allergy/respiratory franchise. During his five years with Schering-Plough, Todd has been the regulatory representative for several therapeutic areas including dermatology, biotechnology, HIV and anti-infectives and has also seen quite a lot of change. Eventually, Todd ended up switching therapeutic areas in support of a new antifungal agent that was recently approved by the FDA and other health authorities worldwide. "It is every Regulatory Affairs Manager’s dream to file a New Drug Application (NDA) and because of the changes in the organization I had that opportunity to file one. Next to the Approval of NOXAFIL, filing the NDA was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had at Schering.”

Recently, Todd was appointed the Director of the Schering-Plough / Rutgers University Fellowship Program. "If it were not for the fellowship, I would not be where I am today, so, for me, it is a great honor to run the Schering-Plough program."

While at Schering-Plough, Todd obtained his M.B.A. in pharmaceutical management through a program offered at Schering-Plough by Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU). He enjoyed the M.B.A. program because it introduced him to other individuals who served different functions within the pharmaceutical industry as well as other business industries.

When asked what advice he has for an aspiring Regulatory Affairs Manager, Todd emphasized the need to “Build Trust-Based Relationships.” “In Regulatory Affairs, communication is everything, internally you are dealing with your team and your management; externally you are dealing with health authorities such as the FDA. Building and maintaining trust-based relationships is essential.” Another important quality for a Regulatory Affairs Manager is leadership. “You are the primary voice for the organization. As a Regulatory Affairs Manager, you will need to lead your team in multiple discussions. To do this you need to know what is going on with your project at all times; communication and leadership are key components of a successful career in Regulatory Affairs.”

Laura Fields, Pharm.D.
Sanofi-Aventis

UPCOMING FEATURE:

Laura Fields, Pharm.D.
Sanofi-Aventis
Organization Outreach Committee (OOC)
By Kinnari Patel and Nikul Shukla

The OOC is designed to raise awareness of career opportunities for pharmacists within the pharmaceutical industry and specifically through the Rutgers Fellowship Program. Committee accomplishments thus far include successful recruitment efforts at APhA Midyear Regional Meetings (reached more than 200 pharmacy students) and the 2006 AMCP Educational Conference (reached more than 50 pharmacy students). During these events we increased awareness of the program to pharmacy students from around the country. To aid this effort and help better prepare pharmacy students for the Rutgers Fellowship, the OOC developed the 1st ever Pharmaceutical Industry Student Internship Database. This free tool gives students a centrally available database of internship listings, internship application dates, and internship preceptor contact information.

University Outreach Committee (UOC)
By John Vaile, Jessa Ford, and Doha Aboubakr

The University Outreach Committee (UOC) is designed specifically to target individual Pharmacy Schools and increase exposure to the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program. By Fellowship Information Day (FID), Rutgers Fellows will have visited 33 Pharmacy Schools ranging from Michigan to Southern California. At this point, we have already exceeded last year’s outreach efforts! This year the UOC has been very successful in reaching out to several Midwest and West Coast Schools that we have not visited in the past. We anticipate a very diverse applicant pool at Midyear due to these efforts. Many of the Fellows were able to return as Alumni to his/her Alma Mater to offer personal experience and advice to friends and colleagues interested in the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Website Committee
By Alfreda Chung and Eunice Chung

During the past few months, the website committee has taken great strides with the current revamping of the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship website. The redesign process has been structured into 3 phases: Phase 1 includes developing a design concept and updating materials/forms pertinent to Fellowship Information Day, ASHP Midyear Meeting and the upcoming application processes; Phase 2 includes the review and restructure of website content; and Phase 3 includes implementing “nice to have” features (i.e. message board forum/job postings, interactive event calendar). The new website is expected to launch in late December. Visit http://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu.

Teaching Committee
By Andy Kistler and Jay Paul Singh

The Fall 2006 semester got off to a great start at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy on Tuesday, September 5th. Fellows are currently participating in seven different classes at EMSOP: Leadership for Pharmacy Professionals, Introduction to the Pharmaceutical Industry, Pharmacy Communications I, Physical Assessment, Gerontology, Drug Information, and Community Practice Management. For the Spring 2007 semester, the Teaching Committee is pleased to announce fellow involvement in Pharmacy Communication II, Self Care, Medical Writing, Neuropsychiatric Therapeutics, and Advanced Neuropsychiatric Pharmacotherapeutics. Many thanks to the faculty for their continued support and the fellows who are actively involved in the EMSOP curriculum.