



June 2006

Volume 1, Issue 2

# The Fellowship Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Rutgers Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships

## Message from the Co-Chief Fellows

Anish Patel & Na Young Goh



Dear Fellows & Alumni,

Welcome to our new fellows and congratulation to our continuing fellows on completing their first year in the program. We are excited to kick-off this upcoming year, which is promising to be filled with fun activities as well as some challenging aspirations.

We hope the year ahead of us

will: i) increase interactions among fellows & alumni, ii) provide fellows with an opportunity to maintain activities throughout the year, and iii) give back to our community. Through the creation of two new committees, Community Development and Newsletter, we hope to strive towards a successful year in accomplishing these goals. The Community Development Committee headed up by Angela Stevenson was established to build relationships between fellows, alumni, and our community. This committee is challenged to not only provide fellows with the opportunity to collaborate with alumni, but also serve as a philanthropic resource to our community.

Furthermore, the Newsletter Committee under the leadership of Maricel DeJesus and Jennifer Kim will better connect our

stakeholders together and provide top-line information of fellow's accomplishments and program milestones. Overall, these committees will provide fellows with an increased scope of opportunities to stay involved throughout the year. For the success of our committees and program, the fellows are encouraged to be involved and enthusiastic in our mission.

As the year processes, we welcome new ideas to improve and enhance the program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. Your involvement and commitment to the program is appreciated

Anish Patel & Na Young Goh

### Message from the Editors:

This is our End-of-the-Year issue of the RPIF Newsletter. Through this edition, we hope to reflect upon the amazing fellowship year as well as provide insight to the next year. Through the newsletter, we hope to promote continued involvement and success for the new year!

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this issue and congrats to all the graduating fellows and welcome to all the incoming fellows!!

-Maricel & Jennifer

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## 2006-2007 RPIF Committees

Committee	Chair(s)	Brief Description
ASHP Midyear	Amy Patel & Madonna Krawczyk	Coordination of all aspects of ASHP Meeting
University Outreach	Jessica Winnie & John Vaile	Organization of recruitment visits to Universities and Colleges
Organization Outreach	Kinnari Patel	Coordination of RPIF representation at pharmacy associations
Fellowship Information Day	TBD	Coordination of FID to increase awareness of RPIF
Website	Alfreda Chung	Maintain integrity and content of RPIF website
Teaching	Andy Kistler	Coordination of courses and provide teaching opportunities at Rutgers Pharmacy School
Newsletter	Marcel DeJesus & Jennifer Kim	Connect RPIF Community through newsletter
Community Development	Angela Stevenson	Build relationships with students & alumni and community outreach

### Newsletter

#### Announcements!

- Lead contacts from each company are needed! If interested please contact:

Jennifer Kim  
(Jennifer.kim@sanofi-aventis.com) or

Maricel DeJesus  
(maricel.dejesus@pfizer.com)



*A Year To Remember  
Congratulations to the Graduating Fellows  
We wish you the best of luck!*

**Bristol Myers Squibb:**

- Angie Bakshi
- Matthew Bunn
- Carol Davis
- Jaclyn Forish
- Aneta Fornal
- Jaime Linton
- Ursula Marek
- Amy Padalia
- Christine Pang
- Susan Yi
- Won Hee Yi

**Bimark:**

- Mary Habib
- Richard Tyska

**Hoffman La Roche:**

- Ahmad Alrawi
- Jessica Cairns
- Kavita Johal
- Tiffany Lin
- Antonella Lozito
- Arpita Shah
- Jenny Tsang
- Windy Wang

**Novartis:**

- Ira Do
- Aaron Huang
- Michelle Libner
- Erika Massenburg
- Felice Pang
- Emily Scalise
- Bijal Sheth
- Lucio Volino

**OBI:**

- Mazen Baisa
- Lorraine Shui

**Ortho McNeil Janssen:**

- Shelly Dhir
- Ashwini Phatak
- Sagar Shah
- Shraddha Shah

**Sankyo:**

- Theresa Kporha
- Nana Wiafe-Ababio

**Sanofi-aventis:**

- Peter Mar
- Bryan McCreery
- Jennifer Nugent
- Simone Rakhit

**Tibotec:**

- Vinod Kalathiveetil

**TKL:**

- Staci Lymperopoulos
- Sarang Rastogi



## Alumni Connection

From “In Focus– Profiles from our Alumni”

For more info, see <http://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu/locked/alumni-infocus.php>

### Bardia Akbari, PharmD

By Buu Chung, PharmD



Dr. Akbari was introduced to the pharmaceutical industry early on in his career. While at the University of Colorado, he completed summer internship at Glaxo (now known as GlaxoSmithKline). At Glaxo, he had the opportunity to rotate in various departments, and became most intrigued with clinical research. This inspired him to earn his PharmD degree and pursue career in pharmaceutical industry. Bardia believes: “If you do what

you love to do, then you’ll be really good at it.”

Bardia participated in a two-year clinical research fellowship at Hoffmann La-Roche through the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program. Upon completion, Bardia decided to stay with Hoffmann La-Roche as a Clinical Science Specialist. He later assumed other internal positions prior to being promoted to his current position as Operations Project Leader, Clinical Team Leader.

Bardia’s most memorable fellowship experience was during his second year. He and his team were working on a pediatric compound in development for a pediatric indication. Upon administration to 10-year old patient, he saw the immediate impact that the drug had on the child. “Making a difference in others’ lives is not always visible but that’s what we, as a pharmaceutical industry, are trying to do.”

#### Key Advices:

- Establish relationships
- Learn to align scientific and business visions
- Seek out a mentor
- Rotate with FDA
- Success in Clinical dept involves organization, detail-orientation, and understanding the work instead of
- Develop skills to market yourself for a position

Bardia aspires to have a perfect clinical trial, where there’s no extra patient enrolled in the study and not an extra dollar is spent unnecessarily—everything is done perfectly. “My career goal is to be in a position where I can influence a much more efficient and effective way of conducting clinical trial

studies than what are currently being done in the industry—I guess you can call it the pursuit of a ‘perfect’ clinical development program.”

TITLE
Operations Project Leader, Clinical Team Leader
COMPANY
Hoffmann-La Roche
OTHER ROLES
Roche-Rutgers Fellowship Director
FELLOWSHIP YEARS
1996-1998
FELLOWSHIP COMPANY
Hoffmann- La Roche
FELLOWSHIP DISCIPLINES
Clinical Investigations
ALMA MATER
University of Colorado (BS Pharm), SUNY Buffalo (PharmD)

### Irene Laurora, PharmD

By Maricel DeJesus, PharmD

Upon receiving her B.S. degree from St. John’s University and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Medical College of Virginia, Irene Laurora knew she wanted to pursue a career in clinical research. Though the fellowship at Sandoz, she was able to pave the way to many opportunities.

Through her fellowship in clinical research, Irene was involved with monitoring sites, writing study protocols, and interacting with people in various departments. She was able to develop her skills in presenting as well as persuasive writing. Most importantly, she was able to further develop her critical thinking skills and apply her acquired knowledge to her job.

After her fellowship, Irene took a job at Warner-Lambert. There she was involved with the Rx-to-OTC

switch projects and participated in the Zantac 75 switch. From there, she moved to Parke-Davis. Here Irene was involved with the Lipitor launch by leading one of Lipitor’s largest primary care trials. Afterwards, she transferred back to Warner-Lambert to head the Rx-to-OTC switch clinical efforts.

Throughout her successful career, Irene has been involved with managing many clinical trials mostly involving Rx to OTC switches. She loves what she does. She thinks “clinical research is a nice mix of clinical medicine, research, understanding and interpreting regulations, medical writing, and supporting marketing efforts. It is a very goal-oriented field.”

Irene’s future goals are to be more involved with strategic business and decision making that will impact the

company in a significant way.

Irene’s advice to the fellows is to “gain your own experience.” You have to experience things for yourself before you really know what something entails.

Despite her busy career and pre-cepting fellows, Irene balances her personal life. She and her husband, Nick have two lovely children, Christopher and Nicholas. She is very involved in her children’s activities.

TITLE
Director, Medical/Clinical Research
COMPANY
Pfizer Consumer Healthcare
OTHER ROLES
Medical/Clinical Preceptor
FELLOWSHIP YEARS
1991-1993
FELLOWSHIP COMPANY
Sandoz
FELLOWSHIP DISCIPLINES
Clinical
ALMA MATER
St. John’s University; Medical College of Virginia

#### UPCOMING FEATURES:

[Laura Fields,](#)

[Market Development,](#)

[Rimonabant](#)

[Sanofi-Aventis](#)

## 2006 RPIF Certificate Dinner



The Rutgers Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships held their annual certificate dinner on Thursday, June 8th at the Hilton Short Hills. Fellows, preceptors, alumni, and family members of fellows were all gathered to celebrate the completion of the fellowship program but celebrating the start of their professional career.

The night was spent with fellow colleagues sharing fond memories from this past year and for some of the fellows, saying their farewells as they part in their separate ways.

Speakers from the night included Program Directors, Dr. Alexander and Dr. Barone and 2005-

2006 co-chief fellows, Staci Lymperopoulos and Lucio Volino. Guest speakers included Cathy Segal and.... from BMS. They brought gave inspirational and thoughtful speeches. After dinner, the graduating fellows received their completion certificate and the night ended with a slide show presentation of this past year made by next year's Co-chief fellow Na Young Goh.

We would like to congratulate the graduating fellows and wish you the best of luck with your new careers!

## Welcome to the New Incoming Fellows

### Berlex:

John McBride, Tammy Dang

### Bimark:

Lisa Varghese, Nissa Pisano

### Bristol Myers Squibb:

Amit Duggal, Arpan Shah, Annette Gbemudu, John Holt, Jennifer Stover, James Lau, Chinedu Momah, Tiffany Marsh, Stacy Matthew, Nanrita Nandra, Christine Ghobrial, Joe Jiang

### Hoffman La Roche:

Neelam Patel, Salah El-Saheb, Scott Adamczk, Ami Patel, Mohammed Issa, Natanya Jennings, Jay Paul Singh

### Novartis:

Suzanne Maahs, Stephanie Whalen, Leslie Servidio, Dale Butterfloss, Vanessa Kan, Chris Sung, Melina Cioffi, Kathy Dong, Melody Magliano

### OBI:

Nimit Upadaya

### Ortho McNeil Janssen:

Mary Cheriyan, Tony Lan, Robert James, Victoria Hui

### Pfizer:

Ramona Derkits, Eunice Chung

### Sankvo:

Chhaya Shah, Jessica Ford

### Sanofi-aventis:

Drilon Saliu, Melissa Gallo, Manita Singh, Nikul Shukla

### Schering Plough:

Robert Adamczk, Elizabeth Lucini, Bhavini Patel

### Tibotec:

Elizabeth Fung

### TKL:

Doha Aboubakr

## Scientific Advantage Award Recipients

Congratulations to **Anish Patel, Pharm.D.** and **Jessica Winnie, Pharm.D.** on winning the PharmD Fellowship Award from *Scientific Advantage*.

*Scientific Advantage* is an integrated company that helps build, model, train and refine Medical Science Liaison teams. They work with pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies to expand and dramatically improve their medical marketing impact. Recently, *Scientific Advantage* invited all of the Rutgers Fellows who were interested in pursuing a career as an MSL to apply for the PharmD Fellowship Award. The recipients were able to attend the Annual *Scientific Advantage* Medical Science Liason Seminar On April 25-26.

According to Jessica Winnie, "Attending the meeting was a great experience. I learned a great deal about the regulations governing the role of an MSL, the opportunities for career development in the MSL role, and I had a chance to network with and meet many past, current and future MSLs. I would recommend this meeting for all those interested in pursuing a career as an MSL, and I look forward to the future collaboration of *Scientific Advantage* and the Rutgers Fellowship."

## Mark Your Calendars!

**ROPES Course**

**First Professional Development Day**

**S** **Editors:** Jennifer Kim, Maricel DeJesus  
**T** **Contributors:** Buu Chung, Na Young Goh, Anish Patel, Jessica Winnie  
**A** **Advisor:** Dr. James Alexander  
**F**  
**F** Special Thanks to- Svetlana Kurinsky

**Contact:**  
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
160 Frelinghuysen Road, Room 405  
Phone: (732) 445-5215 ext. 455