Schering-Plough Hosts On-Site Professional Development Day!

By Schering-Plough Fellows

Tina Dabovic, James Dvorsky, Matthew Klimek, Sunny Kumar, Tony Lin, Gowri Murthy, Tonia Nesheiwat, Adeleye Ogunkanmi, Katie Picone, Ripal Shah and Craig Trusley

On November 13, 2008 eighty-two Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellows were invited to the Global Headquarters of Schering-Plough in Kenilworth, NJ to attend their regularly scheduled Professional Development Day (PDD). Although PDD is normally held on Rutgers’ campus, a new initiative was started this year. Dr. Alexander, Dr. Barone, and the Chief Fellows, John Noh and Katie Picone, wanted to explore a new PDD atmosphere at a partner company. The goals were to increase awareness of the Fellowship program at Schering-Plough and introduce the fellows to one of our partner companies.

The day started with networking and a light breakfast in the cafeteria. This was followed by an invigorating morning session with an external trainer from Jeff Dorman & Associates. The Fellows learned about working with and influencing colleagues with personality types different from their own.

After lunch, the Fellows had the great opportunity to hear from Carrie Cox, RPh, Executive Vice President and President of the Global Pharmaceutical Business at Schering-Plough. Her global perspective on our industry and her background as a pharmacist provided the Fellows with a greater awareness of how pharmacists have a substantial role in this industry. We were very grateful that she took the time to speak with us.

The day concluded with a two-hour Continuing Education program accredited through Rutgers on the new and evolving topic of biosimilars. Four of our own Schering-Plough Fellows, James Dvorsky, Matthew Klimek, Sunny Kumar and Tony Lin all presented to almost eighty Schering-Plough employees including pharmacists, mentors, project team members and various interested departments. Their presentation was a huge hit, and the feedback from the audience was very positive.

Overall, our mission was accomplished! The Fellows seemed to enjoy the entire day at Schering-Plough’s location and the Schering-Plough employees were impressed with our Fellows and gained a better perspective of our program. Most importantly, the day was especially meaningful to all of us Schering-Plough Fellows. We all worked diligently to put this entire day together, and were rewarded to see it turn into such a success.

Finally, we want to extend a warm thanks to Rob Kowalski, Vice President of Global Regulatory Affairs and the entire Fellowship Leadership Team for the guidance and support offered in the Fellowship’s first ever company on-site PDD! We also want to thank Dr. Alexander, Dr. Barone and all of the Fellows for their support as well. We are looking forward to the upcoming spring ’09 PDD at Novartis.
**Fellowship Highlights**

**Best experiences of fellows completing the fellowship in June 2009**

**Alex Ganetsky**: “My most memorable experience was going with all of the BMS fellows to spend an afternoon at the Trenton Boys and Girls Club and interacting with all the kids there.”

**Tami Hunke**: “Meet great people and make long-lasting friendships and impact thousands of patients daily by the medication and programs that we produce within our companies.”

**Bond Vo**: “If I had to choose one word to describe my fellowship experience, it would be “diverse.” During my fellowship at Roche, I was able to develop a solid foundation in both clinical and commercial operations. Some of my most memorable experiences include training the transplant sales force on new promotional materials at the national sales meeting and co-monitoring with an experienced field clinical trial monitor at an investigational study site. Furthermore, the highlight of my fellowship experience would have to be establishing numerous professional and personal relationships with both Roche and Rutgers colleagues. These life-long connections have truly changed the course of my personal and professional career.”

**Jully Kim**: “My most memorable Fellowship experience would be when the BMS Fellows went to Miami together after Midyear.”

**Shawn M. Leland**: “One of the most memorable things from the fellowship year is Mike getting called out at almost every PDD as a hostile.”

**Katie Picone**: “My best experiences over the two years has to be 1. The ski trips each year, where we put out fires and learned about octopus. 2. Professionally, being a part of an Advisory Committee team and obtaining an unanimous recommendation. I am so grateful to have been part of this Fellowship and be able to experience such great people and opportunities, experiences that would have never been possible without this program.”

**John Noh**: “Midyear 2007 - Vegas baby, Vegas”

**Michelle Nebro**: “Although I’ve had the privilege of working in a great company and then had to endure the sadness of losing my home site, Bimark Inc., to the current economic environment, I was blessed in becoming a part of the Daiichi Sankyo family. This experience has provided me with the knowledge and confirmation that “Everything Happens for a Reason.”

**Alex Azrilevich**: “The whole CV/Metabolics medical team went out to celebrate a colleague’s milestone achievement. After those 3 hours I understood what it means to be part of a team of capable individuals, and saw myself as a true member of the group.”

**Matthew Wong**: “Memorable experiences were Midyear, ROPES, and touch football with the fellows. Also, the time when Nisha, my preceptor, and I were sprinting across Charlotte’s airport to catch a connecting flight.”

**Vrinda Mahajan**: “The Rutgers fellowship program has allowed me to become a competent healthcare professional in industry. I had the blessing to work at both Bimark Inc., and Daiichi Sankyo, Inc., which allowed me to excel in my professional experiences and develop long-lasting relationships with many colleagues and mentors.”

**Matt Brammer**: “My most memorable experience in the fellowship has to be the soccer game between the NJ Red Bulls and the LA Galaxy. More importantly, I remember (sort of) the tailgating before and after the game. It was a grand time with food, friends, and David Beckham…for some reason, I also vaguely remember a flamingo being involved. Good time had by all. My other favorite part of the fellowship was acting. This year, I played Richard Dawson in Family Feud. Last year, I played a Texas oil baron in a mock FDA meeting and a southern Belle involved in an M & A deal.”
Fellowship Highlights (cont.)

Stephen Esker: “Beyond the plentiful opportunities to grow professionally at BMS and at Rutgers with the PDDs, the best experiences are by far the many times I spent with the other fellows having fun and forging long-lasting friendships. The one that stands out in my mind the most is the day I spent putting my life on the line by going skydiving with a small group of the guys. As I walked towards the tiny little Cessna plane I realized that no matter what happened, I’d be ending that day with an entirely different view of life! The times spent with the other fellows at events such as "Skydive: Jersey Shore" are certainly the ones I’ll never forget.”

Lisa Patel: “My most memorable fellowship experience was driving down to and spending the weekend in Miami with the BMS fellows after Midyear.”

Who is Kim Bicknell??
By Kim Bicknell, RPIF Program Coordinator

Mark: “did you play any sports in high school, college?” “What else were you active in?” “Favorite teams?”

I loved field hockey in middle school. I was 1 of 2 girls on the advanced boys team; but was too intimidated to try out in HS. I was active in the Drama Club and Key Club in HS.

Mark: What was your first job? How long did you work there?

My first job (besides babysitting) was as a maid at hotel in my town when I was 15. I proceeded on to the front desk, sales and Corporate office, as well as hostess in the adjacent restaurant; lasting 6 years.

Mark: Describe your worst date.

I was set up by my dentist’s office on a blind date. When he picked me up and we walked to his car, he said ‘Oh yeah, can you drive I have my moms car and there is no AC. Then when we got to the restaurant (he made the reservations) he was not dressed appropriately, and wanted to share my dessert (yuck).

Mark: What is something that most people probably don’t know about you?

Hmm... let’s see....I have 3 tattoos - wouldn’t be opposed to a 4th.

Mark: How did you meet your husband and was he your worst date?

My husband and I went to HS together. I had a crush on him for 4 years. We went to our senior prom together and dated for a year after graduation and then went our separate ways. Fifteen years later his sister was working with one of my friends and asked me if I would want to meet up with him for dinner and I said sure. As soon as I saw him, the rest is history. We were married a little over a year and a half later at The Somerset Hills Hotel and the General Manager there was my first boss!!!

Mark: What accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my 2 children. They amaze me on a daily basis and I am so lucky to be their mom.

Mark: And your personal accomplishments?

I think my children also fit here. In addition, I guess I am pretty proud that with each career choice I have made over the years, I have been able to utilize the knowledge and skills from previous employment to enhance the present.

Mark: What do you do to entertain yourself?

I love to read and have been known to stay up almost all night just to finish a book! I also enjoy catching up on my ‘shows’ that I recorded on DVR.
Who is Kim Bicknell?? (Cont)

Mark: Can you cook?

Yes. I make a pretty mean spaghetti sauce, broccoli rabe, home made bread and peach sangria

Mark: What is the first thing you do when you go home?

Shoes come off, I light a few candles, work laptop gets turned on and dinner gets started.

Mark: How do you wind down from a stressful week?

There is never a stressful week at Rutgers!!!! Actually, when I have a stressful week I often follow it up with some time in front of the fireplace or fire pit (depending on the weather) with my husband, and some good wine.

Mark: Describe something that your kids did that upset you but made you laugh at the same time.

My daughter decided to ‘clean’ her stuffed cat. It was a tremendous mess but you just had to laugh.

Mark: Where would you rather be right now?

I would love to be at an all-inclusive spa/resort, soaking up the sun with a good book in one hand and a frozen drink in the other!

Mark: What is the most annoying request you’ve received from a fellow?

I honestly have had none to date.

Mark: What superpower do you wish you had (exclude: ‘flying’ and ‘X-ray vision’)?

I doubt it would be considered a superpower, but I would love the ability to eat anything and not worry about weight gain!!

Mark: Describe your perfect night out.

It would probably start with a day on the beach with my husband and the kids, followed by a dinner by the water with just my husband while the kids slept at their grandparents.