Imagine for a moment it’s a blissful spring day with the cool breeze blowing through your hair as you head down an empty highway in a cherry red 1969 Stingray Corvette. Such a beautiful car, a vintage classic, symbolizes many things as it barrels down the open road: a future full of possibilities, an invitation to be innovative, a touch of class commanding respect for its many years in the making. This year marks the 26th year for the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program - a vintage, a classic program, in its own right. Not so different from that 1969 beauty, the Fellowship program offers nothing short of an opportunity for continued enhancement and development for each Fellow entering the program. As the 2011-2012 co-Chief Fellows, we are thrilled for the opportunity to sit behind the steering wheel of such an esteemed program. As we maneuver through the twists and turns on the road ahead, we strive to add another layer of gloss to the shine and appeal of that RPIF Program red.

Our first milestone is to continue the RPIF Program tradition, and it could not be accomplished without YOU: the fellows, alumni, preceptors, stakeholders, EMSOP faculty, and candidates for the program. The shiny paint is nothing without the strong framework that shapes this classic. We take pride, as we are sure you do too, that this beauty is maintained year after year due to the recruitment of the best PharmDs in the country!

Just as importantly, we cannot forget the smooth road paved before us is due to the hard work of our past fellows. Without their efforts to build a strong foundation, we’d be in for a bumpy ride. Due to its unprecedented success last year, the Alumni/Fellow Mentorship Program remains in drive for the 2011-2012 year. Like fuel to engines, networking is a necessary component of a fellow’s future. Over 55 fellows, or protégés, have been matched this year. To the current fellows, we encourage you to approach this opportunity with the same enthusiasm you had during your candidacy. Gain as much advice as possible to help plan your journey ahead!

As always, the recruitment of top-notch candidates is essential for the continued success of the program. This year’s goal is to do just that, but also expand our reach through social media. Look for the RPIF Program on Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn and stay tuned for a possible FID webcast recorded replay for those candidates unable to join us live on the East Coast this November. As expected all of our committees are out of idle mode and switching gears to ensure another successful Fellowship year. This year, we have challenged the committees to work more collaboratively than ever before. We applaud them for their initial cross-functionality and are excited to see how the road unfolds before them!

Another theme important to the RPIF Program this year is to give back by engaging in more community service and philanthropic events. We encourage each and everyone of you to help support at least one cause this year. Your support and involvement will help fuel this program to go further than ever before!

In closing to this year’s fellowship class, we’ve all climbed into this caravan together to begin our professional careers. As comfortable as this bright red vintage classic is, the RPIF Program can only transport us so far. Remember, you are ultimately in your own driver’s seat so don’t accelerate too quickly. The race to the finish line is up to you so take advantage of the Professional Development Day series and other personal developmental pit stops along the way. You’ll be driving your own classic vintage before you know it.
This has resulted in the evolution of a category of drugs known as biosimilars. A biosimilar is a successor to a biologic drug that has lost exclusivity. With the emergence of biosimilars, health authorities are developing new regulations and guidelines. The European Union health authority, the EMA, has been at the forefront of this new regulatory pathway. An important act that has been passed in the US is the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCI Act), which allows biosimilars to apply for abbreviated Biologic License Application (BLA) for biological products shown to be biosimilar to or interchangeable with an FDA-licensed reference product. The BPCI act addresses issues such as quality, non-clinical data, clinical studies, pharmacovigilance and risk management, interchangeability and substitution and data protection for reference products.

Issues that have not yet been addressed include naming, labeling and extrapolation of indications. With the increasing demands for biosimilars the regulatory landscape will have to continue to evolve to address these issues and additional issues that will arise.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming PDDs

September 22— at Cook Campus Center
Commercial and Marketing Work shop

October 6— at Busch Campus Center
Market Place Influences

October 20— Off site at Sanofi

November 3— Busch Campus Center
Blessing White (all day training event)

Upcoming Events

Susan G Komen Walk in Central Park NYC—
September 18th
Team: Industry’s Finest— RPIF
Website (search using the team name) to make a
donations : http://www.komennyc.org/site

Fellowship Information Day— November 11th, 2011

GOOD TIMES IN THE GARDEN STATE
A NEWCOMERS GUIDE

Music Festivals
Hoboken Arts & Music Festival
Sunday, September 25, 2011
Hoboken, NJ
This festival will feature 3 stages with live music, artists, food vendors and local businesses

3rd Annual Somerville Jazz Festival
Sunday September 11, 2011
Somerset County Courthouse
This outdoor festival is free and parking is free! Also local restaurants will be featuring their cuisines outdoors near the festival.

Places to Eat

Tomato Pie— Morristown, NJ
Some of the fellows swear this place has the best Grandma Pie around!

Mamoun’s Falafel— Hoboken, NJ
This famous NYC falafel restaurant is now in New Jersey! Be sure to try their falafel (of course!) or any of the kebob sandwiches.

Grease Trucks— New Brunswick, NJ
This is a famous Rutgers institution that everyone should try at least try once! These are unique combinations of sandwiches with all sorts of different toppings... hard to describe, you will just have to taste for yourself!

Send your favorite spots and upcoming events to the newsletter committee.

Sporting Events
It is Rutgers Football Season!
For all you football fans, fall and football is finally here!
Saturday, September 10 North Carolina (Away)
Saturday, September 24 Ohio (Home)
Saturday, October 1 Syracuse (Away)
Go Scarlet Knights!

Cultural Events
Irish Fall Festival
September 22-25, 2011
Olde New Jersey Ave
North Wildwood, NJ
This four day event celebration includes dancing, music, food, crafts and a parade to celebrate Irish heritage.

The Cape May Octoberfest
October 1st, 2011
Cape May, NJ
This celebration of the German Octoberfest includes a beer garden, crafts, music, food and events for the whole family!
The Drug Information Association (DIA) regulatory training conference was a great professional experience for me. I knew from the course title that the conference would involve an extensive review of the IND / NDA applications and processes, but what really impressed me was the degree of intimacy that was maintained by the coordinators. The class was relatively small in size and the schedule allowed for ample time to network with fellow industry professionals. The result was a truly collegiate environment in which the asking of questions and sharing of knowledge were highly encouraged. A lot of what I learned in this course is already proving to be invaluable to what I do on a day-to-day basis, and I am certain that it will continue to aid me as I develop in my regulatory func-

Fellow Spotlight

Demetre Stamatis
1st year fellow
Regulatory Affairs
Novartis Pharmaceuticals

During my time in the fellowship I’ve had the opportunity to serve as co-chair of the website committee. As a personal hobby and interest, this was an exciting new challenge. With the help of Mercy Mathew and Eric Pasarin I quickly learned the ropes of the fellowship website, and equally quickly discovered several key areas of potential improvement. Our two major initiatives that I have supported are the revamp of our interview scheduling process as well as an upgrade to the site to include database capabilities. The latter initiative will allow the program to develop a deeper level of interaction with candidates, company stakeholders, and alumni. It will also serve as the building block for a streamlined and transparent application process. Finally, in an effort to broaden our reach on the internet to pharmacy students we’ve taken steps to integrate social media capabilities more extensively. These and other initiatives have helped to broaden my technical understanding while striving to leave the program better than I found it.
Time to Celebrate

Happy Birthday to you:

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<td>Narin</td>
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<td>Jerald</td>
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<td>Jose</td>
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<td>Dana</td>
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Check the web for important forms and guides:
http://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu/
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