



## EIGHTY-SEVEN STRONG! A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-CHIEF FELLOWS

### FEATURED STORIES

- ALUMNI IN THE NEWS:  
RISING STAR AWARD  
RECIPIENTS—PAGE 3
- SAWEBONA, FROM  
SOUTH AFRICA!—PAGE 2
- IMMUNIZATION  
AWARENESS MONTH—  
PAGE 3

### UPCOMING PDDS

- 8/27/09 — CLINICAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
WORKSHOP
- 9/10/09 BIOLOGICS
- 9/24/09 MEDICAL  
AFFAIRS WORKSHOP
- 10/8/09 REGULATORY  
AFFAIRS WORKSHOP
- 10/22/09 OFF-SITE:  
BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

By Dr. Shih-Yi Kim and Dr. Tonia Nesheiwat

As the fellowship year kicks off, we look forward to developing our professional careers and strengthening the bonds between all fellows - 87 strong! Our first gatherings included Orientation and ROPES, where new friendships blossomed through various team-building events. Establishing a high level of rapport amongst fellows is undoubtedly an important goal of ours, as evidenced by the inception of the *Frentor & Fren-tee Project*. The objective of this new project is to work with the Community Development Committee (CDC) and match the second-year fellows with the first-year fellows for mentorship and guidance throughout the program.

We are very enthusiastic about the Professional Development Series this year, which is packed with dynamic speakers and trainers. The PDDC has greatly contributed to the fellows' presentations in the past by compiling feedback for each presenter. We are confident that the committee will continue to deliver high quality presentations to enhance our professional training. To expand on the offsite PDD initiative, we are



Shih-Yi Kim and Tonia Nesheiwat at the 2009 Certificate Dinner

pleased to announce Bristol-Myers Squibb and Ortho-McNeil Janssen as hosting companies this year.

Although the fellowship year has just begun, we have already witnessed many new fellows eager to engage in teaching and leadership opportunities. Approximately 30 fellows have been selected to teach in five different pharmacy practice courses and the Outreach Committees have started the recruitment process to spread knowledge of our program to the finest recruits.

Congratulations to all of the newly selected committee co-chairs! FID and Midyear Com-

mittees have also begun preparing for the ASHP Midyear Meeting in Las Vegas, where "Rutgers Nation" will be well represented.

Keep an eye out for the updated fellowship branding, which can be seen in the newsletter, our marketing materials, and the revamped website.

A special thanks to all of the committees who have worked so vigorously on recent activities. It is because of your active roles that the fellowship program is so successful!

**Let's make this a  
year to remember!**

..... I N E V E R Y I S S U E .....

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE	3	SEEN AND HEARD	4
ANECDOTES FROM AFRICA	2	ALUMNI IN THE NEWS	3
MARK YOUR CALENDAR	5	TIME TO CELEBRATE	5

# ANECDOTES FROM AFRICA

By Dr. Imbi Ichile



Dr. Imbi Ichile smiles in the company of her new friends in front of the Nelson Mandela House in Soweto, South Africa.

As part of her residency program in conjunction with Rutgers, The State University of NJ and Bristol-Myers Squibb, Dr. Ichile has travelled halfway across the world to South Africa (SA). She will spend six months there as a part of BMS's Secure the Future (STF) program, which is dedicated to supporting communities by providing HIV/AIDS education and medical care.

Thus far during her stay, Dr. Ichile has had the opportunity to visit some of the country's clinics and learn about their HIV and AIDS related health-care programs. She has already been to the Ladysmith Provincial Hospital and Clinic, Mpilonhle Project Center, Baragwanath Hospital, and the Senkatana Clinic.

Dr. Ichile has kindly offered to share some of her experiences with us.

For more information about STF, please visit:  
[www.securethefuture.com](http://www.securethefuture.com)

## Sawebona, from South Africa!

**Policy and Healthcare**  
 At each of the sites that I have visited for my initial interviews and introductions, I have learned

For every problem identified, a "way forward," as they call it, will most assuredly be mentioned.

one key thing about the people of SA and Lesotho: They are a solution-based society. With a very long, tumultuous history wrought with racial tension and war, the people of these countries have managed to remain very optimistic about progress. From my observation of television newscasts to my many conversations with natives of SA and Lesotho, it has become evident that transparency and equality are highly favored. For every problem identified, a "way for-

ward," as they call it, will most assuredly be mentioned. Health-care, as it is for many countries, including the US, is a major focus for both national governments and local municipalities. They have been working to resolve the single most pervasive issue of fair, equitable, and quality health services delivery for all citizens. They seek real, implementable solutions that will yield sustainable results. The Ministry of Health of Lesotho, for example, has developed its own National Guidelines for HIV Care along with an Essential Medications List. South Africa has Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medications Lists for both adults and pediatrics, differentiated by Primary vs. Hospital Settings. Each country has tailored its guidelines such that they are sensitive to available resources, while meeting the needs of their populations. Admittedly, these countries have fallen behind many of their northern and western neighbors, as resources have become more and more constrained, but they are fighting these constraints.

### Living in SA

My experiences have certainly been a mixture of the good and bad. Daily living entails many of the same considerations that I have always known. How do I get around town? How many minutes do I have left on my cell phone for chatting? When can I get on Facebook and check out friends and family? What's a good restaurant? There are major differences, though. For example, internet is not paid monthly through a carrier. Instead, the internet is prepaid through use of a 3G card. You buy a certain amount of MB or GB and you have a certain amount of time to use it. If you don't use it, you'll lose it!

### Culture

To say the least, there are many cultures represented here. Not to

mention that there are 11 official languages. Yes 11! That means that in any given workplace, like the BMS office where I am stationed in Johannesburg, you may hear Zulu, Xhosa, English, Afrikaans, or a host of other languages spoken. Fortunately for me, everyone speaks English, so communication hasn't been a problem. I am quickly learning at least the greetings in each, which has been great! People really respect you when you at least give it a try.

Seeing people drive on the right side of the road has probably been the biggest cultural adjustment, surprisingly. I have tried to enter cars on the wrong side ten too many times. I often still look the wrong way when crossing the street. I almost got hit by oncoming traffic one time! I just didn't realize how programmed I was.

There's much more on the horizon and much more to learn. I am getting started with my many STF projects now, while also concentrating on "deprogramming!" I wish everyone success on their projects as well.

## Goodbye for now!

### Nisalakahle!

If you have any questions or comments for Dr. Ichile, please email your newsletter co-chairs!

[erica.winter@roche.com](mailto:erica.winter@roche.com)  
[payal.patel@bayer.com](mailto:payal.patel@bayer.com)

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Take a moment to cater to your senses!



**Summer Evening on Echo by Christy Williamson**  
This photograph captures the calm Echo River (Forestburgh, NY) during sunset, following a strong summer thunderstorm.



**Hibiscus in Bloom by Alyson Sous**  
Chalk pastel, circa 2003

AUGUST: NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

Take this opportunity to be an advocate, facilitator, or administrator of vaccines.

**By Dr. Payal Patel**

Following the discovery of the smallpox vaccine by Edward Jenner, achievements in vaccine development have allowed for prevention, minimization, and eradication of diseases. Unfortunately, despite these milestones, the CDC states that many Americans still die of vaccine preventable diseases.

For a long time, pharmacists served only as advocates for vaccination and facilitators of immunization programs. However, as of April 6, 2009, the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy (NJ BoP) granted licensed pharmacists the opportunity to become immunizers of patients aged 18 or older. According to these recently implemented laws, pharmacists may directly administer vaccines to patients when working under a government-sponsored program or pursuant to a prescription or physician-directed standing order.

To become certified as immunizers in NJ, pharmacists are required to complete an educational seminar regarding vaccine administration and a practical exam that assesses their injection technique. Once certification is granted by the NJ BoP, pharmacists must obtain a minimum of two hours of immunization related continuing education credits per biennial renewal period.

Currently, 49 states allow their pharmacists to vaccinate patients. Although regulations may vary from state to state, the unique opportunity allowed by these new laws represents a universal advancement of the pharmacy profession.

As of June 2009, more than 60,000 pharmacists across the United States have been certified to vaccinate by their respective Boards of Pharmacy.

**Are you certified?**

RISING STAR AWARD

**By Dr. Erica Winter**

Since its humble beginnings in 1984, the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program has grown both in size and accomplishments. Now with 87 fellows enrolled, much of the success of the program is attributed to the accomplishments of the more than 500 post-doctoral fellows who have graduated from the program and gone on to become leaders and role models who have contributed significantly to the healthcare industry.

This year, the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association (HBA) has recognized the achievements of three RPIF Program alumni, honoring Mary Alice Dwyer, Cheryl B. Elder, and Rene Russo with the *HBA Rising Star Award*.

The HBA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering the advancement of women in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries. This is a highly distinguished award that recognizes women who have demonstrated noteworthy achieve-

ments that have made a significant impact in healthcare and inspired others.

Not only are these successful women an asset to the industry, but they are an inspiration for those of us who have sacrificed the 20k sign-on bonuses provided by community pharmacies to pursue a more meaningful career path less traveled by Pharm.D.s.

**Congratulations to the Rising Star recipients!**



**Mary Alice Dwyer**  
VP, Medical Affairs  
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, L.P.



**Cheryl B. Elder**  
Senior Director,  
Regulatory Affairs,  
Strativa Pharmaceuticals,  
A Division of  
Par Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



**Rene Russo**  
Senior Director,  
Medical Affairs  
Cubist Pharmaceuticals

# SEEN AND HEARD



Fellows enjoy the snowball fight icebreaker during Fellowship Orientation Day.



Dalal Nesheiwat, Tonia Nesheiwat, and Tony Lin enjoy each others' company at the Funky Monkey in Morristown.



Leaning on each other for support proves to be a successful tactic for these fellows, whose balancing skills were tested during the ROPES course.

“We want to try this challenge again. We think we can do it! We want to do it until we finish the task,” Julie Chang said to the facilitator, before her team’s third attempt on the telephone pole alphabetizing challenge, which was a team success!



Kimberly Mazzarisi, Puja Patel, and Krista DeLissio enjoy the pregame festivities.



RPIF fellows and alumni find a shady area to pose for a picture before attending a Red Bull soccer game.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## Upcoming Community Development Events

### Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

When: 9/13/09, 9 AM

Where: Central Park, NY, NY

Come support the fight against breast cancer or sponsor our team!

Registration is now open: [www.komennyc.org](http://www.komennyc.org)

Contact Julie Chang (JChang@tklresearch.com), Christopher Morrison (christopherR.morrison@novartis.com), or Puja Patel (Puja.Patel@Novartis.com) for more information.



### CDC Event: Canoe Trip

When: 8/29/09, 10 AM - 4PM

Where: Delaware River

Bond with fellows and build your biceps as we canoe down the Delaware River. \$25.50/person. Contact Julie Chang, Christopher Morrison, or Puja Patel for more information. (Contact info above)



## Continuing Education at

### Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

9/25/09-9/26/09:

13th Annual Northeastern Psychiatric Pharmacotherapy Symposium

9/30/09:

Therapeutic Updates: What Every Pharmacist Should Know

10/14/09:

Understanding and Preventing Medication Errors

11/14/09:

Case Studies in Pharmacy Law and Professional Ethics

Visit the following website for additional information:

[http://pharmacy.rutgers.edu/content/office\\_continuing\\_education](http://pharmacy.rutgers.edu/content/office_continuing_education)

# TIME TO CELEBRATE

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU:

- |                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 7/3 Wilson Liu        | 8/11 Tony Lin             |
| 7/7 Michael Guskey    | 8/11 Ann Howell           |
| 7/9 Arlene Bartolome  | 8/14 Suja Rajan           |
| 7/13 Shailey Parekh   | 8/19 Monique McCollough   |
| 7/14 Linda Park       | 8/22 Marian Ibrahim       |
| 7/16 Josephine Ohiona | 8/24 Josin James          |
| 7/19 Amber Griffies   | 8/30 Gowri Murthy         |
| 7/21 Kristina Dabovic | 8/30 Andrew Bogard        |
| 7/30 Nicole Butts     | 8/30 Katherine Carter     |
| 8/4 Sabrina Meyers    | 9/7 Vrunda Patel          |
| 8/8 Dr. Joseph Barone | 9/15 Payal Patel          |
| 8/9 Justin Dennie     | 9/19 Lawrence Petit-Frere |
| 8/9 Ruben Ayala       | 9/26 Suzanne Thomas       |

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RECENT WEDDINGS!

Rachel Anhorn  
Monique McCullough

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RECENT ENGAGEMENTS!

Maria Berkhin  
Rinal Patel

Check the web for important forms and guides:

<http://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu/>

[ifellows@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:ifellows@rci.rutgers.edu)

732/445-5215, Ext. 455

Fax: 732/445-7553

Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

Rutgers, The State University of NJ

William Levine Hall

160 Frelinghuysen Road

Piscataway, NJ 08854-8020

## CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

**Dr. Erica Winter**  
Newsletter Chair

[erica.winter@roche.com](mailto:erica.winter@roche.com)

Office: 973-235-3414

**Dr. Payal Patel**  
Newsletter Co-Chair

[Payal.Patel@bayer.com](mailto:Payal.Patel@bayer.com)

Office: 973-487-2372

**Carol Rutgers**  
RPIF Program Manager

[crutgers@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:crutgers@rci.rutgers.edu)

732-445-5215 x431