Getting Ready for the Midyear Clinical Meeting

Anna Levit

The 42nd ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada from December 2-6, 2007. 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 Suzanne Maahs and Scott Adamczyk; the Co-Chairs are Nina Gutman, Tami Hunke, and Jennifer Morrone. 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.

This Midyear Meeting we will not have the benefit of the on-site support of a fellowship coordinator, therefore the Midyear Committee has stepped up to the task and set up the Administrator position. They will be your go-to people with any questions and will be available at the Rutgers suite at all times the interviews are taking place.

Thank you everybody who volunteered for the set-up/break down committees!
Outreach Committees Had Broad Reach

Christina Chi, Salah El-Saheb, Bhavini Patel, Nikul Shukla, Natasha Singh, Twyla Thompson, and Bond Vo

Organizational Outreach Committee (OOC)

The Organizational Outreach Committee has been extremely active spearheading recruitment activities throughout the country. This year, 13 fellows attended APhA Mid Regional Meetings (MRMs) in 7 out of the 8 regions: Albany, Baltimore, Jackson, West Lafayette, Minneapolis, Houston, and Denver. Fellows attending these MRMs increased awareness of the fellowship program through their participation in student receptions and exhibition halls, explaining the potential roles of pharmacists in the pharmaceutical industry and answering questions.

The OOC has also sent fellows the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Educational Conference in Boston, where they participated student career panels, networking events, and residency/fellowship showcases.

Finally, the OOC has been working to develop poster presentations to further educate students about RPIF opportunities. These will be presented at the 2007 ASHP Midyear Meeting and also at the 2008 APhA Annual Meeting.

University Outreach Committee (UOC)

The University Outreach Committee is excited to announce the completion of University visits to 34 Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy across this country, meeting over 500 students. Thanks to everyone for their hard work to contribute to our successful recruitment efforts. Special thanks go out to Mark Amman for recruiting at University of Michigan’s career fair. It is always appreciated when our alumni take time out of their busy schedule to help us out. The UOC committee is hopeful that the hard work of this year’s fellows who went on recruitment visits will translate into an even greater candidate pool interviewing for our program at Midyear.

Fellowship Information Day (FID)

The recruitment efforts of both of our outreach committees have paid off, as shown by the number of attendees at this year’s FID, up again from last year to a record-breaking 166 students from 25 schools! The FID Committee worked hard to plan this event to provide the interested students we’ve reached with an opportunity to learn more about the RPIF Program and network with the current fellows, preceptors, and key program leaders.

Community Development Committee (CDC) Update

John McBride, Neelum Patel, and Katie Picone

On September 9th, twenty-six fellows and alumni gathered in Central Park to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, along with thousands of breast cancer survivors and supporters. The Rutgers Fellowship Team raised an amazing total of $4,407.00 to the cause, with our largest contributions raised by Priti Lad, Snehal Patel, Trixia Camacho and John Noh. Special thanks go out to the preceptors, mentors and managers who sponsored many of our fellows. We would also like to acknowledge Trixia Camacho and Nina Gutman for their hard work and dedication to organizing this event and to the cause. It was a great event and a wonderful opportunity for the fellows to give back!

Another event held recently was a battle on the paintball fields. The teams were evenly matched and each member tried to demonstrate their shooting skills; some more so than others. We are pleased to report there were no apparent rivalries among the fellows present. Adeleye Ogunkanmi showed no fear as he continually ran through the fields without cover, getting shot by just about everyone including his own team. Anna Levit surprised us all with her quick movements and silent attacks. Jay Paul Singh was clearly the most experienced but it was not until half way through the game that he revealed his frequent paintball outings. Overall, the fellows demonstrated great teamwork, friendly competition and had a lot of fun together.

In light of the upcoming holiday season and as a continued effort to reach out to our community, the next philanthropic event we have participated in is with the Kids Division of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. We have been collecting new children’s winter clothing for underprivileged families and would like to thank everyone who contributed so far.

The CDC has appreciated all the enthusiasm the fellows have demonstrated this year and we look forward to the continued participation! There will be many more networking opportunities and community service projects throughout the year. Thanks for a great start this year!
When you ask anyone at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy about Dean Colaizzi, you are bound to realize the intense respect his students and peers have for him. I went back to the school to find out more about this legendary leader. Upon asking Dean Colaizzi what has made him so successful, he stressed 3 character traits that fit him appropriately. The first is responsible and hard-working. He mentioned that sometimes getting to your goal requires sacrifice and dedication. The second trait that he referred to was his enthusiasm for the profession of pharmacy and continued desire to learn. Finally, high ethical standards are another attribute to describe Dean Colaizzi, evident through his teaching of pharmacy ethics in the Pharmacy Law and Bioethics class at the pharmacy school. In his mind, “if you don’t have character, then you don’t have anything.” The three main topics our interview covered included Dean Colaizzi’s career path, his opinion on the role of Pharm.D’s in the pharmaceutical industry, and advice for us as fellows in this competitive and opportunistic industry.

Dean Colaizzi’s career path began when he received a B.S. in pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh and then proceeded to get a Ph.D. and M.S. from Purdue University. He explained how the Pharm.D. was not available in these days. He then began his teaching career at West Virginia University in 1965, where he stayed for a year. Dean Colaizzi noted that in evaluating opportunities, he was strongly considering a career in the pharmaceutical industry and was even offered a position at Upjohn, now owned by Pfizer. However, there was an opening at University of Pittsburgh which offered more opportunity for research and involvement with graduate students. Over 13 years, he moved from assistant professor to associate professor to professor and ultimately, associate dean and department chair. He then made the transition to Rutgers to take over as Dean in 1978.

On the role of Pharm D’s in the industry, Dean Colaizzi shed some interesting light. He discussed the perception some pharmacists held that they would not have a role in industry due to a narrow perception of what pharmacists could do. However, Dean Colaizzi was of an opposite mind set. He felt that Pharm.D’s with their strong understanding of pharmacotherapy could play a strong role in areas such as medical affairs, pharmaceutical marketing, drug information, clinical trials, post marketing surveillance, and drug safety. He is not surprised at all that his prediction turned out to be true and that Pharm.D’s are showing that they do have valuable skills to offer in the industry. As we move into the future, Dean Colaizzi predicted that the pharmaceutical industry will see significant changes in the next 10 years. He foresees a great revolution in the area of molecular biology, the continued concern over cost containment and managed care, and the implementation of a new health care system. He predicts that the new system will not be universal such as in the UK or Canada but that there will be movements to address the issue of patients lacking health care insurance. He elaborates that the pharmaceutical industry must learn how to adapt to the changes instead of resisting them in order to continue to be prosperous and successful.

Anyone who knows Dean Colaizzi knows that teaching and interacting with students is a very big part of his life. He explained why teaching is so important to him, commenting that nobody has as long-lasting of an influence as a teacher. In his words, “if a school of pharmacy doesn’t pride and value the importance of teaching, it doesn’t have a reason for existing.” Dean Colaizzi has been in academia his entire career. The motivating factor that continues to drive him is the interaction with his students and recent graduates which caters to his strong desire to continue learning. He will be teaching next year in classes such as introduction to pharmacetics, drug delivery, pharmacokinetics and biopharmaceutics, and a freshman seminar class on pharmacy and roles of drugs in society.

On the subject of failure, Dean Colaizzi provided some encouraging guidance. His underlying message was to not be burdened by the past and to just move forward. He touched upon the fact that everyone makes mistakes, but emphasized that you cannot let them destroy you. Dean Colaizzi’s key to success is a formula of hard work, effective communication, high and consistent ethical standards, and to some extent luck. A close friend of Dean Colaizzi, Harvey Holzberg, recently retired from his position as the CEO and President of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, summed it up best, saying, “If he had a choice between being smart and being lucky, he would rather be lucky.” Dean Colaizzi admitted that there is some truth to that statement, noting, “A big component of success is being at the right place at the right time. One must realize that you cannot control all the factors that will influence your career.” Dean Colaizzi’s advice for the fellows or anyone who wants to be successful in the pharmaceutical industry is to be diligent, cordial, and to seek help when you need it.

Speaking with Dean Colaizzi about his career and his visions was a very interesting and inspiring experience. He provided a brief synopsis of his career path, his predictions for the future of the pharmaceutical industry, and some encouraging words to take with us. We wish Dean Colaizzi the best of luck in his new role as a faculty member at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy.
New Fellowship Coordinator

We would like to welcome Kim Bicknell to the RPIF Program! Kim joined us this fall and has been serving as Fellowship Program Coordinator for the past month.

We would like to thank Svetlana Kurinsky for her dedication to the RPIF Program, having served as Fellowship Program Coordinator from 2004-2007. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors!

RPIF Website Redesigned

The RPIF website has undergone a transformation over the past few months. If you have not done so already, please visit the new and redesigned RPIF website. The website committee (Eunice Chung, Ami Patel, and Myah Tran) has been working diligently to get the new site up and running, while enhancing its appearance and improving its ease-of-use.

See it for yourself at:
http://pharmafellow.rutgers.edu/home.php

New Pharmacy Dean

Rutgers has appointed Christopher J. Molloy, Ph.D., R.Ph. as Dean of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP). Dr. Molloy is an alumnus of Rutgers and spent many years in the pharmaceutical industry, most recently at Johnson and Johnson.

Dean Molloy succeeds longstanding Dean John L. Colaizzi, who will return to the EMSOP faculty.

Fellow Posters at Midyear

Be sure to check out the work of some of our fellows while you are at the ASHP Midyear Meeting!

Wednesday, December 5, 2007: 8-10 am
RP 237 Post-doctoral fellowship career opportunities: a clinical research focus
Natanya M. Jennings, Salah El-Saheb, Neelum Patel, Jay Paul Singh, James G. Alexander, Joseph A. Barone

RP239 A day in the life of a pharmaceutical industry fellow

RP240 Survey of fellowship experiences of current and recent medical science liaisons
S. Elizabeth Lucini, Trixia A. Camacho, Bhavini Patel, Jack Bradley, James G. Alexander, Joseph A. Barone

Wednesday, December 5, 2007: 1-3pm
RP 710 Trend analysis of three post-graduate pharmacist training programs within the pharmaceutical industry
Farrell A. Simon1, Christopher C. Nieset2, Kavita N. Singh3, Jonathan T. Weiner1, Rebecca J. Harmon3, Allison J. Nourie3, Travis S. Fischer1, James G. Alexander2, Joseph A. Barone2, David Riggs3
Procter & Gamble, Cincinnati, OH1
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ2
Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN3