2027 - 2028

RUTGERS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

MERCK

In collaboration with

RUTGERS HEALTH
Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships

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A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

On behalf of Merck, and the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University, thank you for expressing your interest in the Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program. As you move forward in your career, I encourage you to consider the fellowship opportunities at Merck.

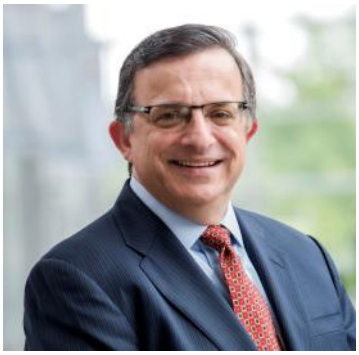
Led by former fellows and senior members of the management team, Merck Research Laboratories (MRL) has designed two-year fellowship programs that will offer you a tremendous opportunity to learn, grow, and be part of a dynamic and exciting culture in the areas of Translational Medicine, Clinical Sciences and Study Management, Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Global Regulatory Affairs, Global Medical and Scientific Affairs, and Global Medical Information. In addition, Merck has expanded its fellowship program into its Human Health (HH) division and offers Marketing fellowships. We believe these critical areas in the drug development process and commercial organization offer fellows a unique opportunity to build skills and gain hands on experience that will be invaluable as they pursue a rewarding career in the pharmaceutical industry.

We have a strong commitment to continually develop a program that can generate success for you, Rutgers University, and Merck. We recognize that you are among the best and the brightest coming out of pharmacy school, bringing a strong track record of high achievement. Our program is designed to allow you to continue your success in a post-doctoral environment and for us to work with and train the potential leaders of tomorrow.

The fellowship program at Merck is occurring at an exciting time as we have the most powerful R&D engine in our company's history. Merck is a strong and diverse company with an extensive global reach. We have a broad pipeline, a number of products to help people, and we are more passionate than ever about what matters most to our customers and the patients we serve.

At Merck, we see every employee as both a team member and a potential leader with the power to influence others through their actions. Our ability to excel depends on the integrity, knowledge, imagination, skill, diversity, and teamwork of our employees. While Fellows are employees of Rutgers, this fellowship program is a component of our organizational focus on people.

As many of you will learn from the Merck fellowship leadership team during your interviews, we all take great pride in our work and our business of improving human health. We have an excellent program, and we're looking for exceptional candidates to become a part of that program. I wish you the best of luck during the recruitment process and hope you will



With Best Regards,

Eliav Barr, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer, Senior Vice President
Global Clinical Development
Merck Research Laboratories

MERCK
INVENTING FOR LIFE

ABOUT MERCK

HISTORY VALUES PHILANTHROPY PRODUCTS

OUR VALUES

PATIENTS FIRST

We are all accountable for delivering high quality products and services. We aspire to improve the health and wellness of people and animals worldwide and to expand access to our medicines and vaccines. All of our actions must be measured against our responsibility to those who use or need our products.

RESPECT FOR PEOPLE

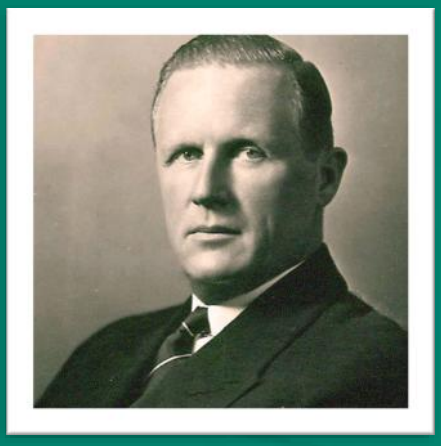
Our ability to excel depends on the integrity, knowledge, imagination, skill, diversity, safety and teamwork of our employees. To this end, we work to create an environment of mutual respect, inclusion and accountability. We reward commitment and performance and are responsive to the needs of our employees and their families.

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

We are committed to the highest standards of ethics and integrity. We are responsible to our customers, to our competitors, to distributors and suppliers, to shareholders and to the communities we serve worldwide. In discharging our responsibilities. We do not take professional or ethical shortcuts.

INNOVATION AND SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

We are dedicated to innovation and scientific excellence. Our research is guided by a commitment to improving health and the quality of life. We strive to identify the most critical needs of patients and customers, and through continuous innovation across all areas of our business.



"We try to remember that medicine is for the patient. We try never to forget that medicine is for the people. It is not for the profits. The profits follow, and if we have remembered that, they have never failed to appear. The better we have remembered it, the larger they have been."

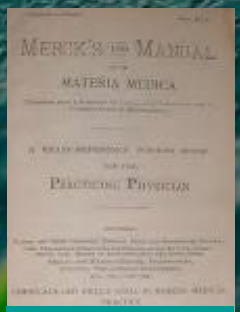
George W. Merck, Merck President and Chairman 1925-1957

AT MERCK, WE ASPIRE TO SOLVE THE WORLD'S CHALLENGES TO HEALTH AND WELL-BEING TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF HUMAN PROGRESS

WHAT WE DO
ENABLE GENERATIONS

1891

Leaving Darmstadt, Germany, George Merck arrives in New York and establishes Merck & Co, Inc.



1899

The first Merck Manual was published in 1899 and went on to become one of the most widely used medical references.

1933

The founder's son, George W. Merck, launches major new research laboratories in Rahway, New Jersey, soon leading to breakthroughs in vitamins, antibiotics, and anesthetics.

1942

Merck's penicillin "G" is used in the first successful treatment of blood infection with penicillin in the U.S. Ramping up production for the war earns Merck the Army-Navy "E" Award for excellence in manufacturing.

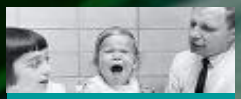
1943

Dr. Selman Waksman and Albert Schatz discovered streptomycin, the first effective treatment for tuberculosis. Merck had supported Dr. Waksman's research lab and held the new drug's patent rights. Once its significant health benefits were recognized, Merck relinquished its exclusive patent on the antibiotic to ensure maximum patient access.

1953

The merger with Sharp & Dohme brings to Merck important new expertise in biological and vaccine research and global distribution.

HOW WE DO IT
BRAVE INVENTION



1971

Measles, mumps, and rubella virus vaccine is launched in an innovative combined form.

1986

Recombinant hepatitis B vaccine is launched –the first genetically engineered vaccine approved for humans, and the first to pre-

1987

Ivermectin is developed for river blindness and distributed free to all who need it. As of 1987, the company has donated 2.5 million tablets (estimated value of $3.75 billion).

1996

Following a decade of intensive research, Merck's protease inhibitor is approved for treating HIV in just 45 days, one of the fastest FDA reviews to date.

2006

The first vaccine to prevent cervical cancer (the fourth most common cancer in women).

2006

The first DPP-4 inhibitor for type 2 diabetes is approved by the FDA.

2009

The company and Schering-Plough merge to create a stronger, more diverse global healthcare company.

2011

The company launches the Merck for Mothers initiative, a global effort to bring the issue of maternal mortality to the forefront of global consciousness.

WHY IT MATTERS
ADVANCE SOCIETY

2014

Helping people fight cancer is our passion. The first anti-PD-1 for the treatment of advanced melanoma receives approval for use in the U.S.

2015

The Nobel Prize in Medicine is awarded to Dr. William Campbell, one of the scientists who discovered avermectin, which later led to the creation of ivermectin, the key component of the company's revolutionary anti-river blindness drug.

2019

Merck remains dedicated to solving global health challenges. ERVEBO becomes the first FDA-approved vaccine for prevention of disease caused by the Ebola Zaire virus for adults.

2024

WINREVAIR, a first-in-class, breakthrough biologic, is approved for treatment of adults with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension.

2025

ENFLONSIA, is approved for the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) lower respiratory tract disease in newborns and infants born or entering their first RSV season.

2026

IDVYNSO combines islatravir, a next-generation NRTI with multiple mechanisms of action, including translocation inhibition, with doravirine, an NNRTI with an established efficacy and safety profile. As the only two-drug, non-INSTI, tenofovir-free regimen, IDVYNSO expands therapeutic diversity beyond the currently available oral treat-

OUR KEY INITIATIVES

Merck for Mothers

Applying Merck's business and scientific resources, Merck for Mothers works with grantees and collaborators to improve the health and well-being of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the months after.

Over 30 million women have been reached through programs promoting safe, high-quality, and respectful care. There have been over 115 million people reached through improved access to quality facilities.

Over 35 Years: The Mectizan® Donation Program (MDP)

More than 35 years ago, we committed to donate our medicine, Ivermectin (later named Mectizan) — as much as needed, for as long as needed , with the goal to help eliminate river blindness.

Today, the MDP is the longest-running, disease-specific drug donation program of its kind and has been influential in the development other drug donation programs.

Merck Medical Outreach Program

The Merck Medical Outreach Program (MMOP) was established over 60 years ago to help provide lifesaving medicines and vaccines to those in need.

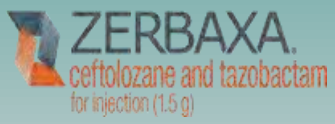
The MMOP is the primary means through which the company donates its pharmaceuticals and vaccines for humanitarian assistance in the developing world and in support of disaster relief worldwide.

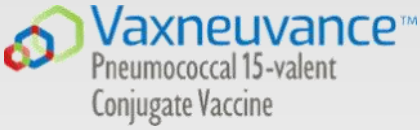
Richard T. Clark Fellowship for Global Health

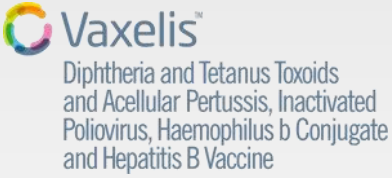
Our corporate pro bono program connects our employees with non-governmental organizations worldwide to help increase access to health services and to education in local communities.

368 RTC fellows between 2012 and 2025 from 43 different countries worked with 48 non-governmental organizations.

SELECTED CURRENT PRODUCTS







MERCK PROGRAM LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE SPONSORS

Piero Magnarelli, B.S. Pharm, MBA
Executive Sponsor
Vice President

Eliav Barr, MD
Executive Sponsor
Chief Medical Officer, Senior Vice President

Dean Y. Li, MD, PhD
Executive Sponsor
President of Merck Research Labs

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sauzanne Khalilieh, PharmD, RUCIF
Fellowship Director
Program Alumna
Executive Director
Translational Medicine

Ripal Shah, PharmD, RUCIF
Fellowship Director
Program Alumna
Executive Director
Worldwide Regulatory Group

Gowri Murthy, PharmD, MBA, RUCIF
Professional Development Lead
Program Alumna
Senior Director
Biomarker Policy, Translational Medicine

Anne Flanigan-Minnick, PhD
Medical Affairs Fellowship Lead
Executive Director
Global Medical and Scientific Affairs

Zunaira Iftikhar, PharmD
Chief Fellow
Late Stage Clinical Development

Sania Ray, PharmD
Chief Fellow
Oncology Global Medical and Scientific Affairs

MERCK FELLOWSHIPS

- Clinical Safety & Risk Management
- Regulatory Affairs (GRA & RAI)
- Regulatory Affairs Advertising and Promotion
- Global Labeling
- Late Stage Clinical Development
- Translational Medicine (Early Clinical Development & Clinical Operations)
- Publication Management
- Global Medical & Scientific Affairs
- Global Medical Information
- Global Scientific & Value Content
- Global Scientific Training
- Outcomes Research
- US Oncology Marketing
- Global Vaccines Marketing

Some fellowships are not recruiting applicants. Please see individual fellowship descriptions for additional information.

CLINICAL SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

Within Global Regulatory Affairs and Clinical Safety (GRACS), the Clinical Safety & Risk Management (CSRM) department's mission is to improve public health by assuring the safe use of Merck products worldwide through proactive safety assessment, effective risk management, and transparent risk communication throughout the developmental and marketed product life-cycle.

The goal of the CSRM fellowship is to prepare the fellow for a career in pharmacovigilance and risk management in the pharmaceutical industry. This will be done through a rigorous, hands-on training program that exposes the fellow to the various aspects of global product safety in an industry setting.

Under the general direction and mentoring of the preceptor, the fellow will develop expertise in, and gradually assume greater responsibility for, the overall clinical risk management and safety surveillance of assigned marketed products. The fellow will learn about all aspects of safety surveillance, including assessing safety information, safety signaling, along with ensuring completeness of that safety information in worldwide package circulars. The fellow will have joint responsibility for the development of periodic safety update reports and risk management plans and will collaborate with appropriate Merck departments and therapeutic areas to ensure efforts are aligned to meet our global risk management strategies for assigned products. The fellowship will also involve working with the CSRM group to help develop processes for the improved functioning of the fellowship program, and implement specific initiatives to achieve identified goals.

The fellow will have the opportunity to interact with other departments within Merck, such as Medical Affairs, Epidemiology, Clinical Research, Biostatistics, and Regulatory Affairs to learn how Clinical Safety & Risk Management is incorporated throughout the organization. Additionally, the fellow will learn how pharmaceutical manufacturers use data to support research, development, approval, and access for new therapeutic products.

Mujtaba Shahsamand, PharmD, RUCIF
Principal Scientist
Clinical Safety & Risk Management
PRECEPTOR

Rece Parker, PharmD
Second Year Fellow

Recruiting: 1 Fellow

REGULATORY AFFAIRS (GRA & RAI)

GRACS REGULATORY FELLOWSHIPS

The goal of the regulatory fellowships in Global Regulatory Affairs and Clinical Safety (GRACS) at Merck is to prepare the fellow for a career in regulatory affairs in the pharmaceutical industry. This will be done through a rigorous, hands-on training program that exposes the fellow to a variety of functional areas where they will support key strategic regulatory milestones. There are two regulatory departments within GRACS in which the fellow will work on regulatory activities: Global Regulatory Affairs (GRA) and Regulatory Affairs International (RAI). While both departments have a focus on regulatory strategy and providing regulatory intelligence, they differ in responsibilities and geographic focus.

Tonja Hampton, MD
Executive Director
Global Regulatory Affairs
PRECEPTOR

Global Regulatory Affairs (GRA)

Key Therapeutic Area Liaison (TAL) Responsibilities:

- Serve as the global regulatory strategy lead for assigned programs proactively provide regulatory expertise and strategic guidance in all aspects of the drug development process.
- Provide global regulatory strategic input in the design of preclinical and clinical development programs for Merck pharmaceutical, biological and vaccine products, with a focus on the US, Canada, China, and Japan.
- Lead the development of initial and supplemental world marketing applications and global filing strategies, contribute to the creation and maintenance of the company core data sheet, and participate in launch and post filing activities.
- Oversee health authority (HA) meetings, particularly in the US, and support HA requests, such as Agency inquiries, preparation of Agency background packages, and drug development plans.
- Ensure that the content, organization, and quality of all regulatory documentation follows regulatory requirements and commitments.

Marisa Ulmer
Senior Principal Scientist
Regulatory Affairs International
PRECEPTOR

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REGULATORY AFFAIRS (GRA & RAI)

Regulatory Affairs International (RAI)

Key RAI Liaison Responsibilities:

- Provide regulatory oversight for development/approval of Clinical Trial Applications (CTAs) in countries outside the US and use clinical outcomes to build regulatory strategy with a high focus on access.
- Facilitate responses to Health Authority questions for CTAs and lead the Response to Query process outside of the US.
- Support the clinical development programs in Phase I-IV, with a focus on Most-of-World (MOW). MOW represents Latin America, Asia Pacific, Eastern European, Middle East, and African countries.
- Provide MOW regulatory expertise, country specific regulatory knowledge and an understanding of the changing regulatory landscape within these countries.
- Support strategic registrational activities, including the development of filing strategies, in MOW countries as part of a broader team.
- Advocate for consideration of MOW requirements in development programs.
- Ensure that the content, organization, and quality of all regulatory documentation follows regulatory requirements and commitments.

Kaylea Zhang, PharmD
Second Year Fellow

Not recruiting for 2027-2028

REGULATORY AFFAIRS ADVERTISING & PROMOTION

As part of Merck's Global Regulatory Affairs and Clinical Safety (GRACS) group, Regulatory Affairs proactively provides regulatory expertise and strategic guidance in all aspects of the drug development process in order to ensure the production of quality submissions that meet Health Authority requirements and allow for expeditious review and approvals.

Regulatory Affairs is also responsible for maintaining marketed products in compliance with FDA's regulatory requirements. The focus of this two-year fellowship is in the Office of Promotion and Advertising Review (OPAR) group within GRACS. This group is responsible for ensuring advertising and promotional materials are compliant and accurately reflect the unique characteristics which differentiate our products and our company in the marketplace.

During this 2-year fellowship, the fellow will:

- Develop an understanding of the federal laws, regulations, and guidance that guide the promotion of prescription drugs and biologics for both healthcare professionals and consumers.
- Analyze Office of Prescription Drug Promotion enforcement letters to assess the impact on current promotional activities within the industry
- Understand the Collaborative Review Team process at Merck to review internal product training and external promotional materials.
- Collaborate with a variety of functional areas (marketing, legal, and medical) to ensure promotional activities are aligned with federal regulations and Merck corporate policies.
- Assist in identifying and mitigating regulatory risks within promotional materials to support the business.

In addition to the focus on promotion, the fellow will be provided with exposure to other departments within GRACS, such as Global Labeling and Global Regulatory Affairs, to appreciate the role of GRACS in prescription drug and biologic development and maintenance.

The goal of the OPAR fellowship is to prepare the fellow for a career in advertising and promotion regulatory affairs in the pharmaceutical industry through a rigorous, hands-on training program in an industry setting.

Rachel Henderson, PharmD, MS
Senior Director
Office of Promotion and Advertising Review
PRECEPTOR

Tammy Tran, PharmD
First Year Fellow

Not recruiting for 2027-2028

GLOBAL LABELING

Global Labeling (GL) is an organization in Global Regulatory Affairs and Clinical Safety (GRACS). GL includes two capabilities: Labeling Strategy and Labeling Operational Excellence. The purpose of Labeling Strategy is to drive labeling strategy and ensure high-quality and compliant labeling documents, which summarize the product information to support the safe and effective use of products for healthcare providers and patients. Labeling Strategy is accountable for developing and maintaining labeling content for Core, US, and EU Labeling for marketed products, developing early (target) labeling for developmental products, and supporting development and maintenance of the other country's Local Labeling. Labeling Operational Excellence provides leadership on our systems and e-Labeling and efficient execution on our operational activities, including US artwork.

A product's labeling contains a comprehensive summary of scientific and medical information gathered during product development and throughout its lifecycle. All finished drug products must be labeled, as required by country regulations. Labeling, as approved by a Health Authority (HA), helps healthcare providers and patients understand product usage, safety, and efficacy.

The responsibilities of the fellow in Global Labeling may include:

- Developing, maintaining, and implementing Core and US labeling in line with internal standards and guidelines, and assisting with the development and maintenance of Local Labeling (most of world).
- Leading cross-functional labeling teams in collaboration with regulatory affairs, clinical safety, clinical research, and other functional areas within Merck to develop labeling strategies .
- Providing labeling expertise and guidance to teams while ensuring compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.
- Evaluating risks associated with Core or Local Labeling content, developing mitigation strategies, and appropriately escalating issues to Global Labeling management and the Global Regulatory team.
- Providing information to Global Labeling Compliance, as required, to support internal and external (i.e., Regulatory Authority) requirements and support audits/inspections as a labeling subject matter expert.
- Developing and updating standard operating procedures and other departmental documents.
- Process improvement projects and other department specific projects.
- Contributing to the continuous improvements to the end-to-end labeling process, including labeling policies, procedures, quality, and system tools.
- Serving as secondary preceptor for PharmD students rotating through Global Labeling if opportunities exist.

The goal of this two-year fellowship in GL-TA is to provide the fellow the essential tools to become a poised labeling strategist with the experiences and opportunities to interact with subject matter experts and other regulatory professionals.

Recruiting: 1 Fellow

Lori LaRosa, PharmD
Senior Director
Regulatory Affairs, Global Labeling
PRECEPTOR

Edina Avdic, PharmD, MBA, BCPS
Assoc. Prin. Scientist
Regulatory Affairs, Global Labeling
PRECEPTOR

Arianna Beltran Vega, PharmD
Global Labeling
Second Year Fellow

LATE STAGE CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT

Global Clinical Trial Operations (GCTO) supports Merck's Mission to discover, develop, and provide innovative products and services that save and improve lives around the world. Clinical Sciences & Study Management (CSSM) is a sub-functional unit within GCTO accountable for all operational, technical, and scientific aspects of headquarters -sponsored clinical trials, including local registration trials and regulatory commitments. The Clinical Scientist (CS) fellows will support the scientific aspects of late stage clinical development within therapeutic areas of oncology, ID/ vaccines, or general and specialty medicine, as well as play a key role in the operational planning and execution activities for our late stage development clinical studies around the globe.

Through involvement and interaction with other functional areas, the fellow will become familiar with protocol design, scientific and operational oversight of trials, reporting trial results, and more. The fellow will serve as a core member of a Clinical Trial Team (CTT) and collaborate with other functional areas including Clinical Directors, Statistics, Regulatory Affairs, Therapeutic Area Document Review Committees, Data Management, Clinical Supplies, and Regional Clinical Operations. The principle goals of the fellowship will be to provide an overview of the functional role of the CS in the drug development process, and training opportunities aligned with the role of the CS at Merck.

Mark Armanious, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist
Oncology CSSM
PRECEPTOR

Annemarie Thornton
Principal Scientist
ID/Vaccines CSSM
PRECEPTOR

Ifrah Ansari, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist
Oncology CSSM
PRECEPTOR

Casey Macfarlane, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist
Oncology CSSM
PRECEPTOR

Nicholas Ryan, PharmD
Principal Scientist
General & Specialty Medicine CSSM
PRECEPTOR

Jacob Pyrzynski, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist
Oncology CSSM
PRECEPTOR

Erik Everton, PharmD, RUCIF
Assoc. Principal Scientist
Oncology CSSM
PRECEPTOR

Courtney Wong, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist
Oncology CSSM
PRECEPTOR

Mital Modi, RPh
Principal Scientist
Oncology CSSM
PRECEPTOR

Lucy Manzanero, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist
Oncology CSSM
PRECEPTOR

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LATE STAGE CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT

The fellow will have the opportunity to be involved with study start-up, conduct, closeout, and potentially registration activities.

Responsibilities may include:

- Study planning and management
- CTT leadership
- Protocol/amendment authoring
- Case report form development
- Protocol feasibility
- Working closely with the study management team to discuss patient enrollment activities
- Medical monitoring of clinical data
- Identify trends, risks, and mitigations
- Program and study communication
- Clinical point of contact for scientific issues/questions for internal and external stakeholders
- Clinical study reports and/or publication authoring

Overall, the fellow will have the chance to help advance Merck's pipeline of innovative drug candidates so that they might benefit people around the world.

Xiyu (Steven) Zhou, PharmD
ONC - Second Year Fellow

Sarah Mostafa, PharmD
ONC - Second Year Fellow

Zunaira Iftikhar, PharmD
ONC - Second Year Fellow

Darren Chu, Pharm D
GSM - Second Year Fellow

Ezaldean Kahil, PharmD
GSM - Second Year Fellow

Hillary Reeves, PharmD
ID/VAX - Second Year Fellow

Astha Jeloka, PharmD
ONC - First Year Fellow

Olivia Justice, PharmD
ONC - First Year Fellow

Karen Saad, PharmD
GSM - First Year Fellow

Abhirami Elayidom, PharmD
ID/VAX - First Year Fellow

Recruiting: 4 Fellows (2 Oncology, 1 General & Specialty Medicine, 1 ID/Vaccine)

TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE (EARLY CLINICAL DEVELOPMENT & CLINICAL OPERATIONS)

Within the Discovery, Preclinical & Translational Medicine (DPTM) department, the Translational Medicine (TMed) group oversees the transition of new drug candidates from discovery into clinical trials. TMed also leads the clinical evaluation of the safety, pharmacokinetics (PK), and pharmacodynamics (PD) of molecular and biological therapeutics in healthy and patient populations within the regulatory requirements for new investigational products. The TMed group includes the following divisions: TMed, TMed Operations (TMed Ops), TMed EU Ops, TMed Molecular Biomarkers, Integrated Biomarkers Operations, Translational Imaging, Discovery and Clinical Pharmacogenetics, Global Digital Analytics & Technologies (GDAT), and Quantitative Pharmacokinetics & Pharmacodynamics (QP2).

Kelly Duncan, PhD
Sr. Principal Scientist, Clinical Director, TMed
PRECEPTOR

The TMed Therapeutic Areas are aligned with the Discovery Organization and include Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases, Neuroscience, Oncology, Infectious Disease/Vaccines, and Immunology. The mission of TMED is to oversee the early clinical development of new targets stemming from discovery research. This involves the design and conduct of first in human (FIH) and clinical proof of concept studies (PoC), building of novel clinical platforms to test therapeutic hypotheses, and leading multi-functional early clinical development teams. TMed also conducts trials to evaluate clinical pharmacology and support programs across the entire life cycle of a product from FIH and through the development of novel post-market formulations. Collectively, TMed provides all the preliminary safety, PK, and PD scientific support for the progression into late-stage clinical studies in patients across all Merck Research Laboratories therapeutic areas. TMed Ops provides efficient operational support for all clinical trials within DPTM, and the EU Operations group conducts non-US trials to advance compounds and establish safety and clinical PoC.

James Sagun, PharmD
Second Year Fellow

Within TMed Ops, the Early Clinical Scientist fellow will be a member of the study team and involved with:

- Collaborating with other functional area representatives including Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, and Drug Metabolism, Statistics, Data Management, Clinical Supplies, and Regulatory Affairs
- Initiating studies that are geared toward the understanding of new molecular entity safety and tolerability in healthy subjects and patients, mechanism of action, PK, drug-drug interactions, PD, as well as PoC
- Performing all study start up activities required for trial initiation
- Authoring program level and regulatory documents, such as protocols, informed consent forms, investigator brochures, clinical study reports, development safety update reports, and suspected unexpected serious adverse event reports
- Leading cross-functional team meetings to ensure appropriate execution of clinical trials and completion of the final study report by setting objectives, maintaining study timelines, ensuring deliverables, and providing support and corrective action for trial associated matters
- Being the primary site contact for all operational and protocol issues in support of clinical studies
- Participating in data monitoring and database lock activities at the end of studies.

Recruiting: 1 Fellow

PUBLICATION MANAGEMENT

Publication managers are responsible for leading cross functional Global Publication Teams, developing indication/product specific publication plans, coordinating the creation of medically accurate scientific publications, and tracking all publications activities within their indication/product. Situated within Scientific Communications and Information Sciences (SCIS), publication managers liaise cross functionally and serve as the central source of information regarding publication activities.

The goal of this 2-year fellowship is to provide the fellow with foundational experiences and necessary skillsets to become a successful publications professional.

Responsibilities may include:

- Leading publication teams and driving strategic publications discussions with cross-functional colleagues (i.e., Clinical Development, Translational, Commercial, Medical Affairs, Outcomes Research, etc.)
- Developing innovative ways to integrate technology into scientific and medical publications while gaining a comprehensive understanding of publications metrics and database
- Supporting the creation and/or update of Scientific Communication Platforms and Lexicons
- Overseeing medical communication agencies and freelance writers to transform cutting-edge data into abstracts, presentations, posters, and manuscripts while staying within the approved budget
- Develop an expertise in the Datavision module of iEnvision, the industry standard software for publication tracking and repository
- Nurture and grow relationships with key internal stakeholders and external scientific leaders when leading abstracts, poster, presentations, and manuscripts
- Oversee compliance with Merck publication policies and procedures
- **Optional Rotational Opportunities**: The fellow will have the opportunity to rotate, or take on project within SCIS (i.e. Merck Manuals, Medical Writing, Scientific Nomenclature) or other functional areas of interest

SCIS looks forward to welcoming the fellow into a hands-on experience that offers exposure to various aspects of scientific and medical data dissemination.

Anne Zephirin, PharmD
Associate Director
Publication Management
LEAD PRECEPTOR

Joseph Naggar, PharmD
Senior Director
Publication Management
PRECEPTOR

Rylie Whitaker, PharmD
First Year Fellow

Not recruiting for 2027-2028

GLOBAL MEDICAL & SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS- ONCOLOGY

Global Medical and Scientific Affairs (GMSA), which is part of Merck Research Laboratories (MRL), plays a critically important role in communicating about our scientific program and advancing patient care. We engage in peer-to-peer, bi-directional scientific exchange with external stakeholders to improve understanding of our company's innovative pipeline and licensed products. These exchanges also yield valuable insights, which we share with our internal partners in Global Clinical Development, Human Health and Outcomes Research to help inform decision making regarding product development, commercialization, and life-cycle management activities.

This 2-year fellowship provides a unique opportunity to focus in the oncology therapeutic area, one of the most exciting areas of pharmaceutical research and development. Individuals participating in this fellowship will gain a broad understanding of Medical Affairs through collaborative leadership experiences in areas including Global Medical Information (GMI), Global Scientific & Value Content and Training, and Global & U.S. Medical Strategy.

GMSA Oncology Fellows will expand their knowledge by gaining exposure to a wide range of oncology therapeutic areas including thoracic, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, hematology, lung, melanoma, head & neck, breast and gynecological cancers.

First Year Opportunities and Responsibilities in Oncology:

- Work primarily in GMI on the Oncology Therapeutic Area Teams.
- Gain solid foundational knowledge of assigned Oncology products and tumor types.
- Become familiar with responding to unsolicited Medical Information Requests (MIRs) and learn how fair, balanced, and accurate responses are developed and sent to customers.
- Gain experience in the medical review of promotional materials and scientific content for marketed Oncology products, while learning how training materials are developed/ delivered.
- Assist with Compendia and Pathways submissions.
- Become involved in worldwide launch activities.

Second Year Opportunities and Responsibilities in Oncology:

- Rotate through multiple functional areas within Medical Affairs per Oncology business opportunities and personal interest. Rotational opportunities include but are not limited to: Global Scientific & Value Content and Training, Global & U.S. Medical Strategy, and Health Systems Oncology.
- Collaborate with stakeholders within the U.S. and around the world to develop medical strategy plans, and create resources to support the Field Medical Team's scientific leader engagements in Oncology.

Lisa Kao, PharmD
Senior Director, Global Medical Information
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs
PRECEPTOR

Michael Vozniak, PharmD, BCOP
Executive Director, Payer & Health Systems
Oncology
US Medical Affairs
PRECEPTOR

Sania Ray, PharmD
Second Year Fellow

Recruiting: 1 Fellow

GLOBAL MEDICAL INFORMATION

Global Medical Information (GMI) is a critical part of Global Medical and Scientific Affairs (GMSA) at Merck. GMSA serves as a strategic partner, providing high quality medical expertise to the business and to our external customers. GMSA helps to meet the needs of healthcare professionals and organizations by generating resources and communicating information that helps them make informed choices to help improve health outcomes for patients.

GMI includes a diverse group of scientists and healthcare professionals with a mission to:

- Review and approve medical/scientific content that is leveraged by Field Medical and local Medical Information colleagues to provide accurate and timely medical information to unsolicited requests from healthcare professionals, hospitals, and managed care organizations.
- Provide medically accurate review/approval of US and Global advertising and promotional materials created by marketing/promotion, training, and managed care.
- Develop and deliver medical assets for product and disease training.
- Submit summaries of groundbreaking data to Compendia organizations to expand patient access to our medicines and to support evidence-based decision making by healthcare professionals.
- Support launch activities around the globe.

GMI interacts cross-functionally and collaboratively with many departments, including the Office of Promotion & Advertising Review, Regulatory Affairs, Learning and Development, Global Safety, Clinical Research, Center for Outcomes and Real-World Evidence, Legal, Compliance, Global Quality, Merck Manufacturing Division, and US and Global Marketing.

During this two-year fellowship in GMI, fellows will work in one or more key therapeutic areas within the General Medicine or the ID/Vaccines space. Fellows will become familiar with responding to unsolicited Medical Information Requests (MIRs) and learn how fair, balanced and accurate responses are developed and sent to customers. They will gain experience in the medical review of promotional materials and scientific content for marketed/investigational products, learn how training materials are developed/delivered, and become involved in worldwide launch activities.

The Fellow in this Merck Rutgers program will receive broad experience and exposure across the GMSA organization, and beyond.

Frank Palumbo, PharmD
Director
Global Medical Information
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs
PRECEPTOR

Lara Smith, PharmD
Second Year Fellow

Timothy Hudson, PharmD
First Year Fellow

Recruiting: 1 Fellow

GLOBAL SCIENTIFIC & VALUE CONTENT

Global Scientific & Value Content (GSVC) is a part of Global Medical and Scientific Affairs (GMSA) and includes a diverse group of scientists and healthcare professionals. GSVC focuses on the planning, development, and management of scientific content used by Global Medical Information (GMI) and Field Medical to facilitate scientific exchange and respond to unsolicited medical information requests from healthcare professionals, hospitals, and managed care organizations. The mission of GSVC is to provide world-class scientific content for use at the global and regional levels.

The GSVC fellow will have the opportunity to support various indications and therapeutic agents. The fellow will create and work with external vendors to develop scientific content, including medical information letters, verbal response documents, slide decks, and digital/web-based medical content. The fellow will engage key departments, such as Global/Regional Medical Strategy, Field Medical, and Legal, in the review of scientific content to ensure cross-functional alignment on scientific content under development. Congress support and launch activities are a key focal point and will entail preparing/sharing scientific content plans and developing content aligned with the cross-functional medical team. Another component is the contribution to key scientific content-related training initiatives. The first year of the fellowship will consist of rotational experiences in the GSVC Oncology, ID/Vaccines and General Medicine teams. During the second year, the fellow will have an opportunity to rotate through GMI, GHS, and GST.

Diana Altshuler, PharmD, BCCCP, BCPS, FCCM
Director
Cardiometabolic/ Respiratory GSVC PRECEPTOR

Rebecca Sing, PharmD
Director
Oncology GSVC PRECEPTOR

Nate Meridor, PharmD
Director
Team Lead GM & Cardiometabolic/ Respiratory GSVC-HS PRECEPTOR

Sagar Dembla, PharmD
Director
General Medicine GSVC PRECEPTOR

Not recruiting for 2027-2028

GLOBAL SCIENTIFC TRAINING

The Center for Scientific Exchange Excellence (CSEE) and Global Scientific Training (GST) department is a function within the Global Medical and Value Capabilities (GMVC) organization of Value & Implementation (V&I). The mission of CSEE & GST is to drive a learning culture to enable industry-leading scientific engagement. We design, develop, and deliver contextualized scientific training that cultivates knowledge, skills, and capabilities for high quality scientific engagements. This is achieved through active partnership with key cross-functional stakeholders and by being prompt and responsive to stakeholder needs.

Sarah McClain, PharmD
Senior Director
GST Non-Oncology
PRECEPTOR

Abby Boylan, PharmD
Senior Director
GST Oncology
PRECEPTOR

Responsibilities may include:

- Working cross functionally with members of the V&I Team to develop and execute the GST plan in their respective therapeutic area for field medical professionals globally.
- Supporting execution of the GST annual plan. This includes developing and delivering the training to field medical professionals around the world via webinars, workshops, train-the-trainer sessions, or the field medical academy.
- Engaging globally through partnership with GMSA professionals within Merck and MSD regions.

The fellow will gain skills and experience in:

- Their respective therapeutic area, while working cross-functionally with members of the V&I team. The broad collaboration required for such implementation will expose the fellow to a variety of stakeholders within various global clinical development functional areas and help them develop a robust network within Merck.
- Communications between the functional areas responsible for global strategy, FM content and V&I leadership will foster a unique understanding of various focal points within the pharmaceutical industry.
- Understanding the policies and procedures related to the development and implementation of scientific training to ensure the fellow understands how to work compliantly.

GST Rotational Opportunities: In the second year of fellowship, the fellow will have the opportunity to rotate, or take on projects within other functional areas of relevance. Rotational opportunities include but are not limited to the following functional areas: Global Scientific & Value Content, Global Medical Strategy, Global Medical Operations, Health Systems Medical Affairs and other MRL & HH partner areas.

Not recruiting for 2027-2028

OUTCOMES RESEARCH

The Outcomes Research (OR) department is a function within the Value & Implementation (V&I) organization within Merck Research Laboratories (MRL); the group develops research strategies to demonstrate product value, generates real-world evidence (RWE) in accordance with those strategies, and works with our colleagues across the organization and across the globe to communicate this evidence to inform internal and external decisions made for our products.

Outcomes Research scientists apply research methods to answer scientific questions. OR executes primary data collection, secondary data analysis, hybrid studies, pragmatic trials, evidence synthesis/literature reviews, and other types of non-interventional research. OR collaborates across MRL to ensure the company's comprehensive evidence packages include the relevant clinical and value evidence that Health Technology Assessment (HTA) agencies and payers need for access decisions. OR also works closely with clinical teams and other cross functional collaborators to align our strategy with key decision maker evidence needs and develop RWE and economic evidence to complement our clinical evidence.

The goal of the OR Fellowship is to prepare the Fellow for an industry career in health economics and outcomes research, market access, or outcomes liaisons/payor facing roles. Demonstrated interest or previous research experience in health outcomes, health services, epidemiology, health economics, public health, payer systems, or other related fields is preferred.

Responsibilities of the Fellow over the 2-year Fellowship may include:

- Critically evaluate value evidence requirements.
- Assess current and emerging real world data sources across therapeutic areas.
- Contribute to the development of value evidence generation plans aligned with medical, clinical, and regulatory strategies throughout product development.
- Generate real-world evidence via non-interventional research.
- Execute Good Pharmacoepidemiology Practices (GPP) compliant / MRL scientific research processes.
- Communicate and disseminate scientific results internally and externally.
- Communicate RWE to inform and maintain patient access.
- HTA / Reimbursement assessments and formulary reviews.
- Support local/regional teams to customize evidence documents, such as protocols and dossiers, according to relevant team requirements.

Recruiting: 2 Fellows (1 Vaccines & 1 Oncology)

Kevin Baker, PhD
Principal Scientist
Outcomes Research Vaccines
PRECEPTOR

Ruixuan Jiang, PharmD, PhD
Senior Principal Scientist
Outcomes Research Oncology
PRECEPTOR

US ONCOLOGY MARKETING

Merck's Oncology team is dedicated to delivering breakthrough innovations that extend and improve the lives of cancer patients worldwide. This team of forward-thinking individuals achieve this goal through an unwavering commitment to support accessibility to medicine, providing new therapeutic solutions, and collaborating with governments and payers to ensure that people who need medicines have access to them. The focus on innovation and launch execution excellence allows us to translate breakthrough science into innovative medicines that help people with cancer across the globe.

The US Oncology Marketing Fellowship will be part of Merck's Human Health US commercial marketing organization. It will involve working with a marketing team to solve complex business challenges, improve product offerings, and utilize business analytics to identify insights, assess opportunities, and drive solutions.

The goal of the US Oncology strategic marketing fellowship is to prepare the fellow for a career in strategic pharmaceutical marketing, market access, market research, marketing communications, or regulatory promotions.

The Marketing Fellow will be part of a team driving strategy and growth. They will also support the development of strategic marketing resources and programs for assigned indication(s). Responsibilities may include:

- Strategic development of HCP and medical education resources.
- Digital promotion, including working with external agencies in execution and management.
- Brand management and launch planning.
- Communications planning and management.
- Supporting the review of promotional materials working in partnership with marketing colleagues, and our legal, regulatory, medical and compliance teams.
- Working across functional areas including field sales, training, compliance, legal, digital/consumer marketing, access and reimbursement; and market research.

The fellowship will provide hands-on experience solving complex problems; researching and addressing internal/external challenges and customer needs to improve product marketing offerings; as well as financial planning and management activities such as budget management, forecasting, and business case development.

Recruiting: 1 Fellow

Anil Melathe
Director
US Oncology Marketing
PRECEPTOR

Francesco Luppino, PharmD
Second Year Fellow

GLOBAL VACCINES MARKETING

Global Vaccines is dedicated to helping protect current and future generations from preventable infectious diseases. This is aligned with our company mission to discover and develop innovative medicines & vaccines that save and improve lives around the world. We are an engaged, diverse team of professionals building on Merck's 130-year legacy as a global leader and innovator of vaccines. The Global Vaccines Marketing Fellowship is part of Merck's Human Health Global Marketing Commercial organization, with direct alignment to the Global HPV Vaccines franchise marketing team. The HPV vaccines team is responsible for global marketing of inline and pipeline HPV vaccines.

The goal of the Global Vaccines Marketing Fellowship is to prepare the fellow for a career in strategic pharmaceutical marketing, commercial strategy, marketing communication, market research and general management.

Responsibilities may include:

- Scientific strategy and content development.
- Brand management and launch planning.
- Global marketing, market development, and international country marketing team engagement.
- Project ownership, Agile project management training and leadership.
- Working with enterprise cross-functional colleagues, including Investor Relations, Media & Communications, Medical Affairs, Health Outcomes, Market Access, Clinical, Regulatory and Manufacturing.

This exciting fellowship offers hands-on experience in global marketing for one of the world's largest vaccines. Reporting directly to the Strategy and Product Development Lead, the fellow will have opportunities to learn commercial strategy, strategic planning, scientific communication, and gain insight into financial forecasting and budgeting, customer insights, and promotional marketing.

Bobby Towcimak
Executive Director, Commercial Strategy & Product Development Lead
Global HPV Vaccines Franchise
PRECEPTOR

Teague Smith, PharmD
Second Year Fellow

Not recruiting for 2027-2028

RUTGERS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

RUTGERS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

Sauzanne Khalilieh, PharmD, RUCIF *
Executive Director, Translational Medicine
Pharmacology, Novartis, Class of 1998

Ripal Shah, PharmD, RUCIF *
Executive Director, Global Regulatory Affairs Liaison
Global Regulatory Affairs, Merck, Class of 2009

Gowri Murthy, PharmD, MBA, RUCIF *
Sr. Principal Scientist, Translational Medicine
Early Clinical Research, Merck, Class of 2010

Brett Krtizberger, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Director, US Medical Affairs General Medicine
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2011

Mujtaba Shahsamand, PharmD, RUCIF
Principal Scientist, Clinical Safety & Risk Management
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2014

Ripal Shah, PharmD, RUCIF
Principal Scientist, Clinical Safety & Risk Management
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2014

Brittany Yan, PharmD, RUCIF
Director, Global Medical Information– Oncology
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs, Merck, Class of 2016

Suneri Shah, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2017

Solomon Hassanzadeh, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Drug Safety, Early Development
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2017

Lindsey Sosnowski, PharmD, RUCIF
Director, Oncology Global Medical Affairs
Oncology Global Medical Affairs, Merck, Class of 2018

Saba Emami, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2018

Victoria Lopomo, PharmD, RUCIF
Principal Scientist, Clinical Safety & Risk Management
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2018

Abiola Ojo, PharmD, RUCIF
Principal Scientist, Oncology Global Medical Affairs
Oncology Global Medical Affairs, Merck, Class of 2019

Anna Yang, PharmD, RUCIF
Director, Oncology Global Medical Affairs
US Medical Affairs, Merck, Class of 2019

Laura Buckley, PharmD, RUCIF
Director, Medical Affairs, Genitourinary Cancer Team
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs, Merck, Class of 2019

Michelle Chawla, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Clin. Operations Clinical Trial Diversity
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2020

Lav Patel, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Regulatory Affairs, Promotion & Advertising
Office of Promotion & Advertising Review, Merck, Class of 2020

Punam Patel, PharmD, RUCIF
Director, Oncology Global Medical Affairs
Oncology Global Medical Affairs, Merck, Class of 2020

James Young, PharmD, RUCIF
Director, Compliance Officer, Oncology Strategy and Operations
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2020

Liz Paschka, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Clinical Safety & Risk Management
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2020

***Leadership Team**

RUTGERS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

Jena Patel, PharmD, RUCIF
Director, Medical Affairs Strategy
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs, Merck, Class of 2021

Andy Xu, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Translational Medicine, Merck, Class of 2021

Samuel Kwarteng, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Clinical Safety & Risk Management
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2021

Jacob Pyrzynski, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2021

Rax Wang, PharmD, RUCIF
Regional Medical Scientific Director, Medical Affairs
US Medical Affairs, Merck, Class of 2022

Hyebina Park, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Regulatory Affairs, Promotion & Advertising
Office of Promotion & Advertising Review, Merck, Class of 2022

Angela Lee, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Regulatory Affairs International
Regulatory Affairs International, Merck, Class of 2021

Monique Boliko, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Global Scientific & Value Content
Global Scientific & Value Content, Merck, Class of 2022

Olivia Vanscoy, PharmD, RUCIF
Director, Global Medical Information- Oncology,
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs, Class of 2021

Taylor Jones, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Regional Marketing
US Oncology Marketing , Merck, Class of 2023

Joseph Gendy, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Global Regulatory Affairs
Global Regulatory Affairs, Merck, Class of 2022

Adam Saluccio, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Clinical Safety & Risk Management
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2022

Lucy Manzanero, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2022

Erik Everton, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2022

Andrew Litovsky, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Translational Medicine
Translational Medicine, Merck, Class of 2022

Alicia Statler, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Global Medical Information
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs, Merck, Class of 2022

Georgia Pappas, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Medical Affairs
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs, Merck, Class of 2022

Mina Alsaigh, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Medical Affairs
Global Medical Information, Merck, Class of 2023

Michael Tomberlin, PharmD, FUCIF
Principal Scientist, Regulatory Liaison
Global Regulatory Affairs, Merck, Class of 2023

Kevin Weyand, PharmD, RUCIF
Director, Medical Affairs
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs, Merck, Class of 2023

RUTGERS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

Laura Starr, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Translational Medicine
Translational Medicine, Merck, Class of 2023

Shawn Kim, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Translational Medicine
Translational Medicine, Merck, Class of 2023

Holly Graber, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Principal Scientist, Clinical Safety & Risk Management
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2023

Mark Armanious, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2023

Kevin Kanu, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2023

Courtney Wong, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2023

Morgan Rose, PharmD, MBA, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2024

Ifrah Ansari, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2024

Parishay Khan, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Specialist, Global Scientific & Value Content
Global Scientific & Value Content, Merck, Class of 2025

Rupa Shan, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2025

Josh Cinicola, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2024

Ahmed Elasmar, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Clinical Safety & Risk Management
Clinical Safety & Risk Management, Merck, Class of 2024

Elle Ngo Gwet, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Medical Affairs ONC
Global Scientific & Value Content, Merck, Class of 2024

Natasha Boyette, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Clinical Research
Translational Medicine, Merck, Class of 2024

Casey Macfarlane, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2024

Ekene Oranu, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Regional Marketing ONC
US Oncology Marketing, Merck, Class of 2024

Jordan Plummer, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Global Scientific Training– GenMed/Vax/ID
Center of Scientific Exchange Excellence, Merck, Class of 2024

Aarsi Shah, PharmD, MBA, RUCIF
Associate Director, Regional Marketing
US Oncology Marketing, Merck, Class of 2025

Jerry Staret, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2025

Danielle Holdren, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Translational Medicine
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2025

RUTGERS PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

Salma Ansari, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Global Labeling
Global Labeling, Merck, Class of 2025

Sophie Kang, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2025

Nour Elsayed, PharmD, RUCIF
Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2025

Lauren Yoder, PharmD, MSCR, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2025

Karen Vo, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2025

Natalie Laurito, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Specialist, Global Medical Information
Global Medical Information, Merck, Class of 2025

Stephanie Kovnat, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, US HIV PrEP Marketing
Global Vaccines Marketing, HPV Franchise, Merck, Class of 2026

Natalie Young, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2026

Kao Tang Ying Moua, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Clinical Research
Translational Medicine, Merck, Class of 2026

Mena Gawargi, PharmD, RUCIF
Associate Director, Regional Marketing
US Oncology Marketing, Merck, Class of 2026

Lucy Evans, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2026

Chaya Campbell, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Regulatory Affairs
Regulatory Affairs Advertising & Promotion, Merck, Class of 2026

Brian Gyamfi-Mensah, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2026

Olivia Violette, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Specialist, Global Medical Information
Global Medical Information, Merck, Class of 2026

Peter Chung, PharmD, MSCR, RUCIF
Senior Specialist, Global Medical Information
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs, Merck, Class of 2026

Lauren Dougherty, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2026

Vivian Tran, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2026

Samantha Freiter, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2026

Joyce Kong, PharmD, RUCIF
Contractor in Global Scientific & Value Content
Global Scientific & Value Content, Merck, Class of 2026

Frances-Elli Dinger, PharmD, RUCIF
Contractor in Global Scientific Training
Global Scientific Training, Merck, Class of 2026

Shakhzoda Rakhimova, PharmD, RUCIF
Senior Scientist, Late Stage Clinical Development
Late Stage Clinical Development, Merck, Class of 2026

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"The post-doctoral fellowship at Merck gave me the opportunities that developed my core skill-set in Clinical Sciences and Study Management. It provided me with excellent mentors and colleagues who supported my growth personally and professionally. As a result of this challenging and immersive experience, I felt ready to dive into my professional career post-fellowship and make an impact."

Josh Cinicola, PharmD, RUCIF
RPIF Class of 2024
Clinical Sciences and Study Management

"Completing a 2-year Regulatory Affairs Fellowship established a strong foundation for my career. My experiences opened my eyes to the many challenges in drug development and the unique opportunities for pharmacists to be able to contribute to the pharmaceutical industry."

Ripal Shah, PharmD, RUCIF
RPIF Class of 2009
Global Regulatory Affairs

"The Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program at Merck provided me with the tools and skills needed to jump-start my career in the pharmaceutical industry. The challenging and rewarding experiences accelerated my professional development."

Mujtaba Shahsamand, PharmD, RUCIF
RPIF Class of 2014
Clinical Safety & Risk Management

"I had the privilege of completing a 6-week APPE rotation at Merck in Medical Information, which motivated me to apply for the Merck Oncology Global Medical & Scientific Affairs fellowship. This fellowship provided me with a strong foundation in the pharmaceutical industry and allowed me to collaborate with various teams within Medical Affairs. The cross-functional approach and strategic thinking skills I developed during the fellowship have greatly benefited me in my current position on the Medical Affairs Strategy team for Gynecologic cancers."

Kevin Weyand, PharmD, RUCIF
RPIF Class of 2023
Global Medical & Scientific Affairs


MERCK


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RUTGERS HEALTH
Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships

Soaring Ever Higher

Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP)

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

The RPIF Program has thrived under the leadership of the founder, Dr. Joseph A. Barone, Dean and Distinguished Professor of EMSOP, Dr. Carolyn Seyss, the Executive Director for the Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships, and is supported by a team of RPIF alumni experienced in the pharmaceutical industry.

Joseph A. Barone, PharmD, FCCP
Dean and Distinguished Professor

Carolyn Seyss, PharmD, RUCIF
Fellowship Executive Director

Joseph Fulginiti, PharmD, MBA, RUCIF
RPIF Associate

Erica Dankiewicz, PharmD, RUCIF
RPIF Consultant

Patrick Park, PharmD, MBA, RUCIF
RPIF Consultant

Program History

1984

EMSOP and 2 pharmaceutical companies began a first-of-its-kind collaborative pilot program to evaluate the potential contributions of clinically- trained pharmacists within a pharmaceutical industry practice setting. Following the successful pilot, the RPIF Program grew significantly and expanded to now include 26 companies within the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry with almost 300 Fellows.

2002

Dr. Ernest Mario generously provided an endowment to establish RPIF as an Institute to enhance and promote the role of pharmacists in industry through the RPIF Program. The Institute staff members:

- Create the Fellowship structure, providing strategic leadership and administrative support
- Promote quality, communication, scholarly activity, and professional development
- Arrange specialized training opportunities within the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry

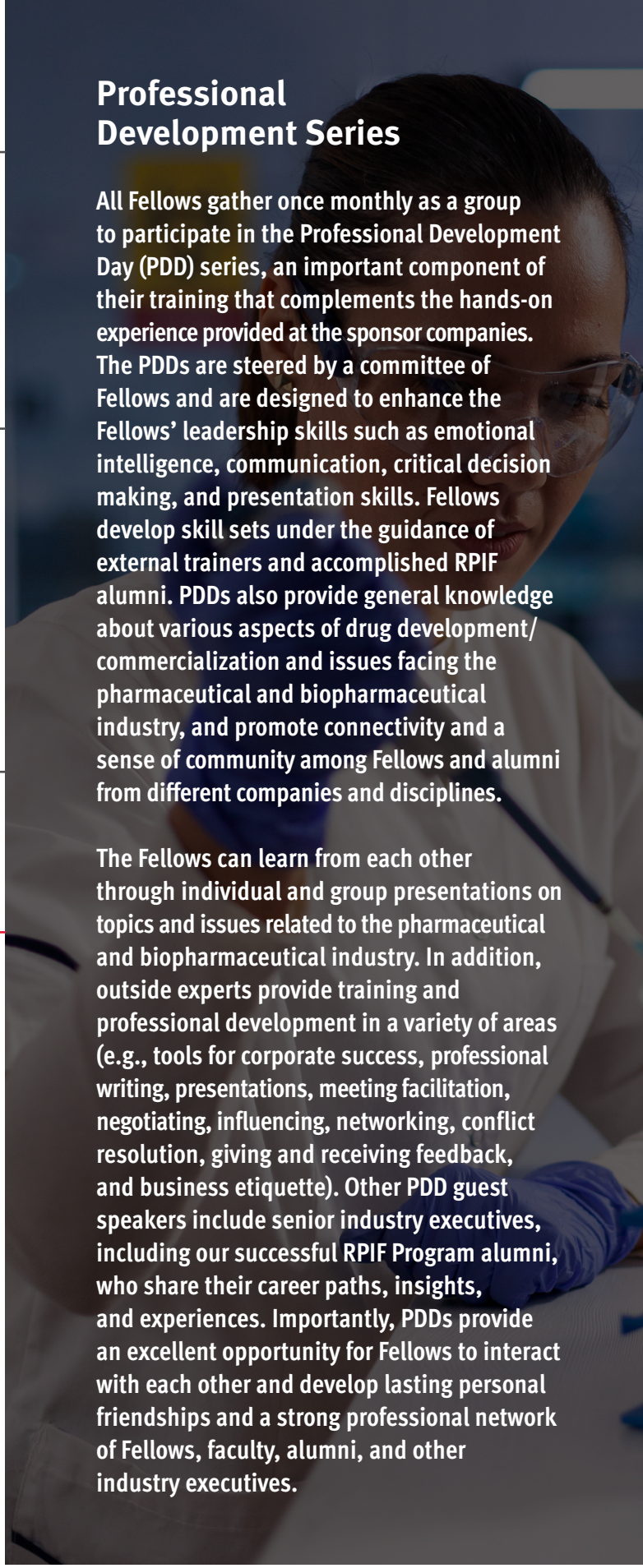
2018

RPIF expanded to offer interdisciplinary Fellows' training by adding physician Fellowship opportunities to our well-established program.

2023

The RPIF Certificate is recognized with special credentials so our alumni can now proudly identify themselves as **RUCIF (Rutgers University Certified Industry Fellow).**

Well over 1,900 Post-Doctoral Fellows have completed the RPIF Program, most of whom are experiencing influential and rewarding careers in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry throughout the US and abroad. The RPIF Program has Preceptors and Mentors from industry who share their knowledge and experiences with the Fellows through an intense but closely-guided training program. Assignments and projects are challenging, meaningful, and designed to enhance understanding of the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry and the Fellow's functional area(s). Our goal is to provide the environment for Fellows to build the foundations to fuel their careers as future leaders in the industry.



Professional Development Series

All Fellows gather once monthly as a group to participate in the Professional Development Day (PDD) series, an important component of their training that complements the hands-on experience provided at the sponsor companies. The PDDs are steered by a committee of Fellows and are designed to enhance the Fellows' leadership skills such as emotional intelligence, communication, critical decision making, and presentation skills. Fellows develop skill sets under the guidance of external trainers and accomplished RPIF alumni. PDDs also provide general knowledge about various aspects of drug development/ commercialization and issues facing the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry, and promote connectivity and a sense of community among Fellows and alumni from different companies and disciplines.

The Fellows can learn from each other through individual and group presentations on topics and issues related to the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry. In addition, outside experts provide training and professional development in a variety of areas (e.g., tools for corporate success, professional writing, presentations, meeting facilitation, negotiating, influencing, networking, conflict resolution, giving and receiving feedback, and business etiquette). Other PDD guest speakers include senior industry executives, including our successful RPIF Program alumni, who share their career paths, insights, and experiences. Importantly, PDDs provide an excellent opportunity for Fellows to interact with each other and develop lasting personal friendships and a strong professional network of Fellows, faculty, alumni, and other industry executives.

Key Program Features

RPIF FOSTERs the growth and development of future pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry professionals and leaders.

Because of its relationship with and close proximity to most of the nation's leading pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies, EMSOP and the RPIF Program are uniquely capable of providing Fellows with advanced training in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey is one of the major state university systems in the United States. EMSOP is part of Rutgers Health and is the only state school of pharmacy in New Jersey. EMSOP is located on the University's main science and technology campus in Piscataway, New Jersey.

While RPIF offers all the benefits of a large program with an extensive network of distinguished professionals, Fellows receive the individual attention of a small program where they are known and supported as individuals.

F

Family of Leading Companies

Partners include several top global pharmaceutical/biopharmaceutical companies and offer large to small company environments.

O

Outstanding Alumni Track Record

Well over 1,900 alumni hold prominent positions at many leading companies, including VP and C-suite levels.

S

Strong Network

Fellows develop valuable, lasting connections with each other, alumni, Preceptors, and Rutgers EMSOP faculty.

T

Trusted and Proven Since 1984

The Rutgers Fellowship Program is nationally recognized, trusted, and proven as the key pathway to industry, developing foundations for future leaders

E

Enhanced Career Development

Breadth of experiences informs career path choices, increasingly challenging assignments build depth of experience, and visibility creates opportunities - enhancing the potential for accelerated career paths.

R

Rigorous Academic Component

Rutgers affiliation provides academic and professional development opportunities.

Application Process and Eligibility Requirements

Pharmacy Fellows for the RPIF Program are selected on a nationally competitive basis. Candidates must have completed a Doctor of Pharmacy from an ACPE-accredited institution before July 1 of the fellowship term.

HOW TO APPLY:

The RPIF Program is highly competitive. **Candidates will be selected for interviews on a rolling basis, so we strongly encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible.**

Interested candidates may submit their application with short-answer questions and supporting materials (letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and 3 letters of recommendation) as soon as **Wednesday, October 14, 2026** by visiting our website at: **https://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu/how-to-apply/**

All application materials must be submitted electronically to the RPIF website per instructions on the site.

REQUIRED ITEMS:	SUBMIT BY:
Application with short-answer questions	Tuesday, October 20th
Letter of Intent (LOI)	Tuesday, October 20th
Curriculum Vitae (CV)	Tuesday, October 20th
Letters of Recommendation (LORs)	Tuesday, December 1st

ADDRESS LOI AND LORs TO:

Joseph A. Barone, PharmD, FCCP
Dean and Distinguished Professor
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
160 Frelinghuysen Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8020

RUTGERS HEALTH
Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships

"My experience as an RPIF Fellow has been one of the most meaningful and transformative parts of my professional journey, providing countless opportunities for growth while reinforcing the importance of giving back to the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy community. I am grateful to draw upon my nontraditional experiences prior to pharmacy school to mentor, support, and advocate for our RPIF Fellows, encouraging them to embrace their own unique backgrounds as strengths in their professional careers. Investing in their professional and personal development is especially rewarding because today's Fellows will become tomorrow's leaders, advancing innovations that improve the lives of patients and strengthen the communities we serve."

John (Eun Sik) Cho, PharmD
Global GMP QA Strategy

"I am incredibly grateful for the personal and professional growth I have experienced as a Rutgers Fellow. Through RPIF and my partner company, I have been able to learn from inspiring mentors, collaborate with talented peers, and pursue opportunities that have accelerated my development. Being surrounded by such a supportive fellowship community has made this experience especially meaningful and has helped me feel prepared and excited for the future!"

Brynn Gilbert, PharmD
Medical Communications

"It is hard to put into words how much this fellowship has meant to me in just my first year. RPIF has challenged me to grow, think differently, and embrace opportunities I never imagined having this early in my career. Knowing that my work has the potential to impact patient care on a global scale has been incredibly rewarding, and I am excited to see how RPIF continues to shape my career and growth as a leader. I encourage future fellows to take advantage of everything the program has to offer because the experiences you gain and the relationships you build will shape your future."

Hillary Anne Reeves, PharmD
Late-Stage Clinical Development

AIFA
Alliance of Industry Fellowship Associates

Aligned First Offer Date
December 11, 2026

The choice of a Post-Doctoral Industry Fellowship is an important decision. AIFA exists to promote a consensus first offer date for all Fellowship positions. We believe this is a positive reflection of the cultures our Programs offer, and that culture is a critical consideration in choice of Fellowship.

We hope that other academic and non-academic Fellowship Programs will NOT pressure candidates to accept offers prior to this AIFA-aligned offer date. Candidates should feel free to request an extension for any earlier offer to allow them to consider their options.

Connect with us on social media: @RutgersFellow

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