



**Rutgers-NPC 2026-2028 Health Policy & Communications Fellowship**



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# Leadership Statement

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Dear Prospective Fellow,

On behalf of the National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC) and the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, thank you for your interest in the Rutgers-NPC Health Policy & Communications Fellowship.

Health policy is essential to maintaining patient access to pharmaceutical innovation. Good policy is based on good evidence, and for over 70 years, NPC has developed credible evidence to inform policy development. For most of our history, NPC has partnered with respected academic institutions to help prepare emerging leaders for careers in the biopharmaceutical industry.

The 2026 fellowship, in partnership with Rutgers, represents our continued commitment to training the next generation of pharmaceutical policy researchers and communicators.

This unique two-year fellowship is an accelerated path to industry experience and an opportunity to be part of a best-in-class research team, while forging relationships with thought leaders across the pharmaceutical industry. We invite you to **dream big, deliver impactful research, and drive better health policy** as a Rutgers-NPC fellow.

**Sincerely,  
John M. O'Brien, PharmD, MPH  
President and CEO**



# About NPC

*NPC is committed to fostering an inclusive community and leveraging diversity of thought, background, perspective, and experience.*

The work of the National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC) has never been more relevant – or more important. NPC conducts policy-relevant research about the value of biopharmaceutical innovation and communicates it with impact.

Founded in 1953 and supported by the nation’s major research-based biopharmaceutical companies, NPC is better positioned to educate leaders than ever before. NPC serves

patients and society with policy-relevant research on the value of patient access to innovative medicines. We envision a world where advances in medicine are accessible to patients, valued by society, and sustainably reimbursed by payers to ensure continued innovation.

NPC is proud to be a Certified™ Great Place To Work®.



Our policy-relevant research agenda and communications-forward approach make NPC a uniquely credible, trusted, and impactful voice in the biopharmaceutical research and health policy communities.

NPC does not lobby but seeks to help educate stakeholders and policymakers on what the research reveals. Membership in NPC is limited to research-based biopharmaceutical companies with at least one product commercially available in the United States.

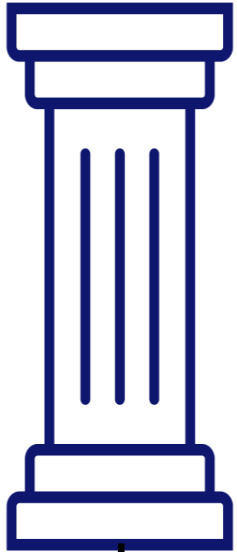
Our Board of Directors governs NPC and provides strategic direction through key committees. Board members and staff from our member companies contribute to our efforts through multiple workgroups. For more information, please visit [www.npcnow.org](http://www.npcnow.org).

**Stay up-to-date with NPC This Week, a weekly newsletter offering a timely look-ahead to the policy, research, and industry conversations that impact the future of biopharmaceutical innovation.**



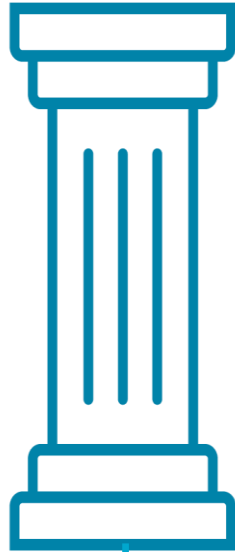
# NPC Prioritizes Policy-Relevant Research In Four Areas

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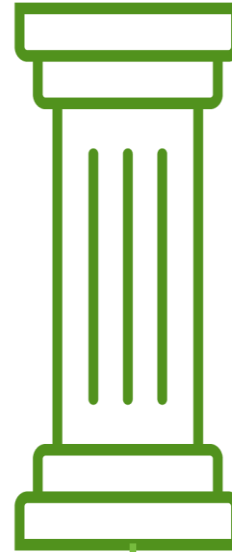
## **Misaligned Incentives**

Examine and explain how the incentives in the US healthcare system prioritize margin over patient access and affordability.



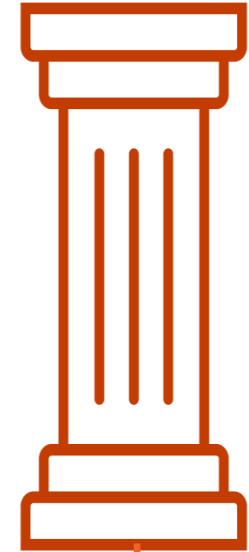
## **Access to Innovation**

Highlight the benefits medicines bring to patients and inform approaches to ensure patients benefit from innovation.



## **Value**

Engage in the Value/HTA discussion by highlighting shortcomings in current methods and proposing alternatives.



## **Government Regulation**

Scrutinize government approaches to price regulation and support with evidence alternatives preserving incentives for innovation.

# NPC Member Companies

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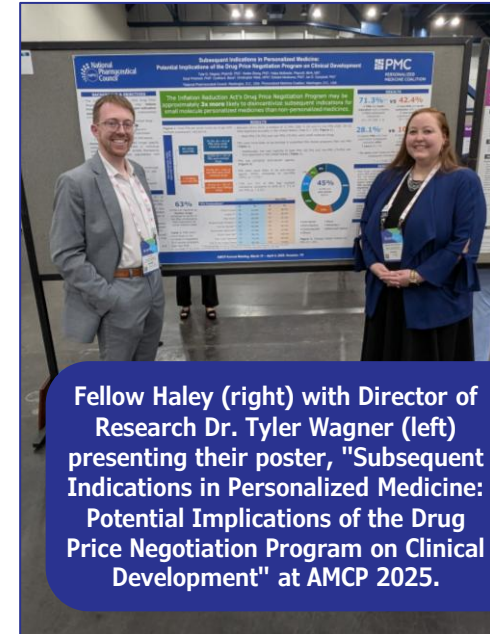


# Fellowship Overview

The Rutgers-NPC Fellowship is a unique two-year opportunity to learn the inner workings of a national health policy research organization supported by the U.S. pharmaceutical industry.

The fellow will report to and be mentored by the President and CEO, and work closely with NPC's senior leadership team, Board of Directors, and member company staff workgroups.

Alumni of the fellowship will be highly qualified to join NPC or a similar organization as a health policy researcher or communicator. They will also be qualified to join a pharmaceutical company in a health policy, market access, or strategic communications role. Past NPC fellows have gone on to work for NPC members in roles including Associate Director of Policy Research and Director of Public Payer and Health System Strategy.




### NPC This Week

NPC's look-ahead to the policy, research, and industry conversations that impact the future of biopharmaceutical innovation.

**In this issue: 340B benefits at the contract pharmacy counter, UM and clinical guideline misalignment, comments on IPAY 2025 and more.**

**Fellows play a leading role in policy-relevant research projects and communication initiatives.**

 National Pharmaceutical Council  
7,240 followers  
July 8, 2025



# Fellowship Responsibilities



## Policy

Completing the AcademyHealth Health Policy Orientation

Evaluating and summarizing legislation, regulations, and other health policy proposals to NPC members

Drafting an official response or comment letter



## Research

Completing selected ISPOR Short Course Core Curriculum

Advancing longitudinal research projects, including: research ideation and design, manuscript and publication drafting, and presentation of findings at a national meeting



## Communications

Completing executive media training and presenting to high-profile audiences

Leading all aspects of a communications rollout, including: content creation, press and social media plan, partner and KOL engagement, workgroup briefings



## Leadership

Participating in leadership and professional development sessions designed for a strengths-based culture

Executing against a strategic plan for a non-profit association

# Key Fellowship Mentors



**John M. O'Brien**  
**PharmD, MPH**  
President & CEO

Leads NPC's strategic vision for research, communications and partnerships, bringing deep experience spanning the private sector, academia and government, including senior positions at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.



**Jon D. Campbell**  
**PhD**  
Chief Science Officer

Leads NPC's research agenda in concert with the board and research team, providing deep expertise in health economics, health policy, and value assessment study design in addition to applying evidence to decision-making and stakeholder engagement.



**Kimberly Westrich**  
**MA**  
Chief Strategy Officer

Provides strategic guidance to NPC's policy-relevant research and communications activities with extensive experience in value assessment and patient-centered benefit design. She has deep passion for helping others learn and thrive and is a certified yoga teacher and life coach.



**Julie Patterson,**  
**PharmD, PhD**  
Senior Director of Research; Director, NPC Enterprise Lab

Oversees major Enterprise-led research projects at NPC with deep expertise in pharmacoeconomics, drug value and pricing, and patient preferences as well as over five years of experience in teaching graduate students.



**Michael J. Pratt**  
Chief Communications Officer

Leads NPC's communications and external affairs work with over ten years of experience in health, policy, and science-focused communications from working with biopharmaceutical companies and at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.



**Jackie McRae,**  
**PharmD, MS**  
Vice President of Policy & External Affairs

Bridges NPC's communication, policy, and research portfolios through strategic communications and health policy activities through her deep understanding of research and health policy.

# Fellowship Testimonials



"The NPC-Rutgers fellowship kicked off my career in health policy in ways that I could never have imagined as a fresh pharmacy school graduate.

Completing this fellowship in health policy research and communications, all in the heart of our nation's capital, exposed me to inspirational leaders, intellectually stimulating conversations, and the best team to learn from - both inside and outside of the boardroom. The work that NPC does to communicate data-driven research to thought leaders and policymakers is at the crux of patient access to innovative medicines - work that I'm proud to have played a role in."

**Rayan Salih, PharmD, RUCIF**  
**2023-2025 Fellow**



"The Rutgers-NPC fellowship has provided an accelerated experience in health policy research and high-impact communications within the pharmaceutical industry. As an aspiring strategic communications and public affairs professional, NPC has offered invaluable experiences in supporting research communications and informing policy discussions in the media, in Congressional testimony, and through leading industry voices like our executive leadership team."

**Haley McKeefer, PharmD, MHA, MS**  
**2024-2026 Fellow**



"I chose NPC because in a world with a 24/7 news cycle and constant access to information, communicating with impact is more important than ever. NPC's commitment to policy-relevant research that is communicated with impact allows fellows to develop valuable skills - and do it with a team who is committed to working with new professionals. This fellowship provides a unique opportunity to grow and nurture a network across the biopharmaceutical industry and policymakers."

**Roswell Cole, PharmD, MPH**  
**2025-2027 Fellow**



# Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program

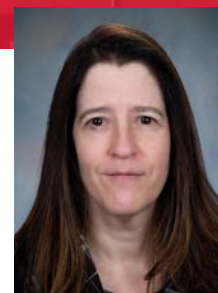
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP)

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 Dr. Michael Toscani as the Director Emeritus.



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



**Carolyn Seyss, PharmD, RUCIF**  
Fellowship Executive Director



**Michael Toscani, PharmD**  
Research Professor,  
Fellowship Director Emeritus

## 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 29 companies within the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry with over 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 1,800 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 through:

- 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 1,800 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.

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.

## 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 **October 8, 2025** 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	October 17th
Letter of Intent (LOI)	October 17th
Curriculum Vitae (CV)	October 17th
Letters of Recommendation (LORs)	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





**"The RPIF Program hasn't just opened doors. It has changed the way I walk through them—more grounded in where I stand and more intentional in how I move forward. It has given me the opportunity to use my PharmD education to serve patients in new ways, shaping the conversations and decisions that impact their care. It has given me the confidence to speak up, the space to grow, and the kind of mentorship that sees your potential before you do. If you're ready to take the next step toward a career in the pharmaceutical industry, let RPIF be where your journey begins."**

Pooja Singh, PharmD,  
Global Regulatory Affairs and Global Value & Access Fellow  
RPIF Chief Fellow



**"Being a Rutgers Fellow has been such a pivotal part of my professional story, truly exceeding my expectations. This journey has transformed my leadership skills, giving me the confidence and tools I know I'll use every day. I'm grateful to be part of this community!"**

Ginika Nwokeabia, PharmD  
USMA/Medical Science Liaison - Neuroimmunology Fellow  
RPIF Chief Fellow



**"As a Rutgers Fellow, I have experienced an incredibly wide variety of opportunities through RPIF and my partner company. Through these opportunities I have learned and expanded my network more than I had ever imagined. The RPIF program encourages and facilitates all fellows growth into leaders and prepares us for our bright futures in the pharmaceutical industry."**

Olivia Violette, PharmD  
Global Medical Information Fellow  
RPIF Chief Fellow



**Aligned First Offer Date**  
December 12, 2025

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.