



The Fellowship Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Rutgers Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships

WELCOME FROM THE CO-CHIEFS

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new fellows and a sincere congratulations to the second year fellows of the program. The first three months of the fellowship have kicked off memorably, and we greatly look forward to the time we will spend together this fellowship year and the numerous accomplishments of this fellowship class to come.

The next few months will be filled with many exciting events. From our University and Organizational Outreach events to the Fellowship Information and Networking Day (FIND) and ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, the fellowship is preparing to achieve our goal of recruiting high quality

candidates from a nationally competitive search. In addition to these exciting activities, we are eager to collaborate with alumni and colleagues to successfully publish and present scholarly activities.



Co-Chief Fellows Keith Fairall and Victoria Vazquez

IN THIS EDITION

Lucio Volino: From Industry to Academia

Ashley Brower:
Educating the Community
on the Ebola Crisis

...And Much More!

As the co-chiefs for the current fellowship year, we look forward to the many great opportunities to continue to improve and grow our program in collaboration with all of the fellows, preceptors, stakeholders, and the Rutgers community. Each fellow plays a crucial role in the continued success of the fellowship program and as one united team we are excited to continue to expand and educate upon the indelible role of pharmacists in industry.

Together we are not only pharmacists, colleagues, professional partners, and friends, but most importantly we are family. These are exciting times for everyone and we are extremely grateful for the dedication of all those that make this program possible. We would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Tosciani, Dean Barone, Melanie, Janet, Tom, Marissa, and of course all of the fellows for your continued dedication and support.

-Vicky and Keith

September 2014

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FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

By: Ashley Brower, Pharm.D., 1st Year Regulatory Affairs Fellow at Novartis



In August, I was honored to be invited to the Lambertville & New Hope Rotary Organization meeting to present on the Ebola outbreak in Africa. Rotary is an international organization committed to both local and global service. The organization's current missions are to eradicate polio and provide clean water

“It is important, as healthcare professionals, to dispel myths and answer questions.”

globally. During the local weekly meetings, they highlight chapter work, plan service work, and typically host a speaker to discuss a topic of interest, such as Ebola in this case. If you are interested in learning more about the Rotary Organization, I would highly encourage visiting their website at <https://www.rotary.org/en>.

The Ebola outbreak is a prime example of the importance of public health measures and emergency preparedness. With this situation in the news headlines, it is important as healthcare professionals to dispel myths and answer questions. My presentation reviewed transmission methods, highlighted necessary contact precautions, and discussed some aspects that may have contributed to it morphing into such a large outbreak. In addition, I reviewed the current medications and vaccines that are being used experimentally to treat patients. With the great interest of the members, I was pleased to see the end of my presentation morph into a discussion. As a Post-Doctoral Fellow, this was a wonderful opportunity to shed light on an important public health issue occurring currently and discuss how we can contribute.

Learn about WHO's efforts against Ebola:

The survival rate
during this Ebola
outbreak is
47 %

-World Health Organization



BIG 10 BEGINNINGS

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
enters the Big 10 Conference

On July 1, 2014, Rutgers officially entered the Big 10 Conference, joining a group of schools known for both their athletic and academic achievements. Rutgers became the 9th school of pharmacy in the Big 10, joining Ohio State University, Purdue University, and the Universities of Iowa, Maryland, Michigan Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.

On the football field, the Scarlet Knights have gotten off to a

3-1 start with victories over Washington State, Howard, and Navy and a close loss to Penn State. Be sure to catch a game at High Point Solutions Stadium this season.



Fellows cheer on Rutgers before the 38-25 victory over Howard University

See the 2014 schedule in its entirety:

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Lucio Volino, Pharm.D., Past Novartis Fellow 2004-2006

By: Joe Fiore, Pharm.D., 1st Year Clinical Development Fellow at Merck

The Rutgers Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships (RPIF) has an impressive track record of preparing its fellows for long careers in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industries. But what about those fellows who choose alternative career paths? I sat down with Dr. Lucio Volino, Clinical Assistant Professor at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP) at Rutgers University, to hear about his journey from the Fellowship to a successful career in academia and community pharmacy.

Dr. Volino began a two year fellowship at Novartis in clinical research in 2004 and eventually transitioned into regulatory affairs for one year. He loved the diverse opportunities at Novartis, allowing him to be challenged and learn something new every day. He also took advantage of opportunities at Rutgers, serving as Co-Chief Fellow and teaching the Pharmacy Communications class. Teaching all four semesters throughout his fellowship, Dr. Volino was a staple of the Pharm-Comm course.

After his fellowship, Lucio came to a crossroads, torn between a position at Novartis and an opportunity in academia. His passion for education won out as he accepted a clinical assistant professor position in community practice with Rutgers and A&P. Dr. Volino realized the time was right to enter academia. This position has allowed him to coordinate the Pharmacy Communications course as well as teach in a wealth of other classes including Community Practice Management, Self Care, and Endocrinology. At A&P, he is involved in clinical initiatives including developing the Medication Therapy Management (MTM) programs, immunization trainings sessions, pharmacist continuing education, and community outreach



events. His work has been highly recognized in the last few years, being honored with the *William and Helen Levine Teacher of the Year Award* at EMSOP for four consecutive years and serving as an *AACP Walmart Scholars Program Mentor*.

Dr. Volino looks back on the RPIF program as an instrumental piece of his development. He believes it made him a well-rounded individual, encouraging him to leave his comfort zone and try new things. He states that RPIF develops excellent soft-skills which have allowed him to effectively work with others. Furthermore, the fellowship provided him with "a foundation of skills to adapt and work in any environment."

Lucio also emphasized the strong bonds built during his fellowship. He keeps in touch with past fellows and mentors and feels a great sense of pride for RPIF. "The Rutgers program puts you at a new level," he claims. He urges current fellows to give back to the program and pay it forward. "Leave things better than you found them." He enjoys collaborating with fellows on scholarly activities and teaching with them in Pharmacy Communications. "They are very passionate about their work," he says of fellows and enjoys watching them develop the course of their fellowships.

“ [Fellows] are very passionate about their work.”

As Dr. Volino and I wrapped up our conversation, he urged fellows to try as many things as possible at their companies and Rutgers. "Don't be afraid to try something new, as you never know where it will take you."

Did you Know?

Lucio Volino helped coin the term "Professional Development Day" (PDD) during his time as Co-Chief.



RUTGERS RESOURCES

As members of Rutgers faculty, fellows have access to a variety of services and discounts.
Be sure to take advantage!

Rutgers University Libraries

Gain access to LexiComp, Ovid, MicroMedex, Cochrane, and more at libraries.rutgers.edu

AccessPharmacy

Preparing to get licensed? Try the Naplex Review section, featuring sample questions for both the NAPLEX and MPJE examinations.

libraries.rutgers.edu/indexes/accesspharmacy

Food and Entertainment Discounts

Discounts at restaurants, AMC theatres, Six Flags, and more at <https://rutgers.abenity.com/perks/>

Rutgers Golf Course

Faculty discounts at the course in Piscataway!

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



Free Museums

Do you like art? How about dinosaurs? Enjoy free admission to the Zimmerli Museum and the Geology Museum in New Brunswick. [Check it out.](#)

Campus Gymnasiums

Use your ID card to access multiple facilities on campus. <https://www1.recreation.rutgers.edu/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

By: Jenna Konkel, Pharm.D. & Kristina Bundra, Pharm.D., PDD Co-Chairs



Etiquette dinner at Steakhouse 85

The Professional Development Series Committee plays an integral role in ensuring that fellows derive the maximal benefit from the learning opportunities offered during the Professional Development Day (PDD) series. This year has brought many new initiatives into the PDD series that includes Applied Learning Challenges, Pharma Minute, stimulating workshops, and invigorating guest speakers. The Applied Learning Challenge incorporates hands-on, active learning which allows the fellows to make connections between key messages from the workshop and how this

knowledge can be used in their professions. The Pharma Minute stimulates fellows to explore and learn about current events in the world of pharmacy. Thus far, fellows have had the opportunity to learn about emotional intelligence, positive confrontation techniques, and dining etiquette during our etiquette workshop. We look forward to the upcoming events and future PDDs that will develop the fellows, provide learning opportunities, and foster teamwork.

View the complete PDD schedule on our website:

Upcoming PDDs

| Date | Topics | Location |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 09/25 | Commercial | Busch |
| 10/09 | Market Place Influences | Busch |
| 10/23 | BMS Presentations | BMS |
| 11/06 | Soft Skills | College Ave |

A JOURNEY TO SWAZILAND

By: **Priscilla Ko, Pharm.D., 1st Year Public Health Resident at BMS Foundation**



"So what do you actually do?" is a common inquiry I receive from many. It's the confusing enigma, lost in the distraction of my travel excursions. Here's just a snippet from the work of a Public Health Resident.



For the last few months, I've been working on a longitudinal quality improvement project with a pharmacy department at an outpatient clinic in Swaziland, Africa, traveling to and from the country about once a month. I contribute by identifying problematic areas of labeling, medication information, and discordant communication. This all stemmed from dissatisfactory results from a customer satisfaction survey but has evolved into a root cause analysis of the problems.

So our solution? We create labels from Microsoft Word, cut them to size, and using glue-sticks, adhere them to the medication bottles.

We design one-page handouts to give patients with common adverse effects and drug interactions, complete with graphics and translations.

At another hospital pharmacy we have noticed a copious amount of prescription dispensing errors, concerning for the pharmacist but seemingly unfazed by the other workers. "We just dispense what's written," they respond, attempting to shift blame on the prescriber, the nurse, or anyone but themselves. To conjure a presentation about Drug Therapy Problems or to develop some sort of error reporting form may seem like Pharmacy 101, but it is learning how to best assist given the needs of the area.

It seems elementary but "Low Cost, High Yield" is the name of the game. We try to make an impact without detracting from the other looming issues of a developing country. Often, it means the work you do isn't glamorous, and at superficial glance, it may not seem to add much value. But the keyword is sustainability, and if whatever you're able to implement is able to continue carrying forth in spite of your absence – that, my friend, is success.

26.5%
The prevalence of HIV/AIDS
in Swaziland—the highest of
any country worldwide.

-Central Intelligence Agency



- Follow along on Priscilla's blog: p.ko.in.j.bo
- Contact Priscilla for more info about the Public Health Residency



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

By: Benjit Singh, Pharm.D. and Agnes Hong, Pharm.D., CDC Co-Chairs

The Community Development Committee (CDC) aims to develop a strong sense of "family" and friendship among all fellows. We have already held multiple successful events, such as the RPIF Annual Canoe Trip, PDD activities and networking events! We look forward to having everyone join us for some of our upcoming events!

Upcoming CDC Events

NYC Scavenger Hunt

Saturday 9/27 - 12pm

An all-day event of competition, site-seeing, and delicious food!



Fellows worked together to build a spaghetti tower at last month's PDD

Over 70 past & current fellows paddled down the Delaware River during the annual canoe trip



Kicking off the year at the annual ROPES Course teambuilding day

Post-PDD Networking Events

| Date | Location | Address |
|--------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Sep-25 | Steakhouse 85 | 85 Church St, New Brunswick, NJ |
| Oct-9 | Harvest Moon Brewery & Café | 392 George St, New Brunswick, NJ |
| Oct-23 | TBA - PDD at BMS | TBA |
| Nov-6 | Mike's Courtside Sports Bar & Grill | 1 Elm Row, New Brunswick, NJ |

View more photos from these events:



ORGANIZATION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

By: Nick Bires, Pharm.D. and Mike Stamatis, Pharm.D., OOC Co-Chairs

The Organization Outreach Committee (OOC) has finalized fall recruitment plans to participate in 19 national, regional, and local conventions. The RPIF program will continue to communicate, educate, and network with students from all over the country. OOC will work closely with other committees to expand our outreach efforts including piloting a post-event survey to improve future visits. We look forward to meeting students and potential candidates this Fall!

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| ACCP: Austin, TX Oct 13, 2014 | AMCP: Boston, MA Oct 9, 2014 | APhA MRM Region 1 : Albany, NY Oct 18, 2014 | APhA MRM Region 3: Atlanta, GA Oct 25, 2014 | APhA MRM Region 4: Lexington, KY Nov 1, 2014 | APhA MRM Region 5: Omaha, NE Nov 1, 2014 | APhA MRM Region 6: Austin, TX Oct 18, 2014 |
| APhA MRM Region 7 & 8: Scottsdale, AZ Nov 1, 2014 | CA Society of Health System Pharmacists: San Francisco, CA Oct 31-Nov 1, 2014 | Delaware Valley Society of Health System Pharmacists: Philadelphia, PA Oct 28, 2014 | Illinois Society of Health System Pharmacists: Chicago, IL Oct 13, 2014 | MD Society of Health System Pharmacists: Annapolis, MD Nov 22, 2014 | MN Society of Health System Pharmacists: Brooklyn Center, MN Sept 19, 2014 | NC Association for Pharmacists Residency Showcase: Raleigh, NC Oct 27, 2014 |
| New England Pharmacists Convention: Foxwoods, CT Oct 24, 2014 | Ohio Society of Health System Pharmacists Residency Showcase: Columbus, OH Oct 25, 2014 | PA Pharmacists Association Residency Showcase: Mars, PA Sept 20, 2014 | SC Society of Health System Pharmacists: Columbia, SC Oct 16, 2014 | Southeastern Michigan Society of Health System Pharmacists: Garden City, MI Oct 8, 2014 | | |

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

By: Jennifer Chiu, Pharm.D. & Chris Isibor, Pharm.D., UOC Co-Chairs

From September 2013 – April 2014, our fellows visited a total of 72 pharmacy schools and interacted with approximately 1750 students face-to-face and 400 students through both Fall and Spring webinar. We hope to continue to maintain close relationships with universities and enhance our nationwide presence by working with our visiting fellows to increase the quality, depth, and scope of their visits this Fall. We have a tremendous committee that will help make this vision a reality. Please welcome these fellows to the University Outreach Committee (UOC):

- **Nik Borodin & Patrick Brooks – Webinar Co-Leads**
- **Anisha Bhagat – Public Relations Lead**
- **Khushbu Shah – Operations Lead**

On behalf of the UOC committee, we look forward to another exciting outreach season and appreciate all the fellows who volunteered their time to educate the pharmacy student community on opportunities in industry!

The UOC had

1750

face-to-face interactions
with students
last fellowship year.

FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION & NETWORKING DAY (FIND)

Save the Date
Friday November 14, 2014
3:30-8:00pm

"Helping you FIND your pathway to industry!"



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM WELCOME DINNER

Thursday October 30, 2014
6-9pm

Douglass Campus - Traries Hall

The Alumni Relations committee has connected current and past fellows to expand networks, share experiences, and facilitate mentoring.

We invite participants to attend this welcoming program.

IN MEMORY

In loving memory of Vishal Patel.
 You will always be in our thoughts,
 and forever a part of the
 RPIF Family.



Bristol-Myers Squibb Fellow 2012-2013
 08/11/1988 – 05/27/2014

For more information, please visit the RPIF webpage:



<http://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu/>
ifellows@pharmacy.rutgers.edu



Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

Rutgers, The State University of NJ

William Levine Hall

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Institute for Pharmaceutical
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Please contact us if you are interested in writing for the next edition of the *Fellowship Chronicles*.

Special thanks to all of our contributors!

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