



Rutgers Fellows Dress Down to Raise Victims of Hurricane Harvey Up

*Todd Gilbert, Pharm.D.,
MBA*

During the September 7th Professional Development Day (PDD), 96 fellows representing 14 companies from the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship raised \$550 in a fundraiser for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. All contributions go towards the American Red Cross in effort to provide shelter, food, comfort and emergency support. This charitable day was created by the Community Development Committee and promoted as a “dress down day” during PDD. Thank you to everyone who participated as we strive to get help for those in need. Special thanks to fellows from Actelion, Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celgene, Daiichi Sankyo, Genentech, Johnson & Johnson, McCann, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi,

Meet your 2017-2018 Newsletter Committee:



Brian Ung
2nd-year fellow
Celgene



Jen Mannino
1st-year fellow
Bristol-Myers
Squibb

Featured in this edition...

- 2 J&J fellows meet CEO Gorsky
- 3 Alumni Highlights
- 4 Faculty Spotlight: Janet Lupo
- 5 Familiar Faces & PDD
- 6 Community Development
- 7 Scholarly Activities
- 8 Metrics & Finance
- 9 Kemi in South Africa!
- 10-11 Pharma Minutes
- 12 Impact of Rx to OTC Switch
- 13 Amazon & Whole Foods
- 14 Importance of 1:1s & Adaptability
- 15 Idaho: Just Potatoes or Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority?
- 16 FDA Advisory Committees & Furry Friends
- 17 Celgene Community Service
- 18 Save the dates!

Johnson & Johnson Fellows and Preceptors Receive a Warm Welcome From CEO Alex Gorsky

Jalak Patel, Pharm.D., MBA



On August 1st, CEO Alex Gorsky, 42 Pharm.D. fellows and their preceptors from Johnson & Johnson Consumer, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and Actelion gathered at the first ever PharmD Fellowship Summit at the Johnson & Johnson headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ.

What was the PharmD Fellowship Summit?

This was a first-ever all-day event to collaborate across Johnson & Johnson sectors, highlight PharmD talent, and engage in professional development. Various activities were planned to build on personal and professional development which included performance and development planning, diversity and inclusion, time management, and handling difficult conversations. In addition, there was an enneagram activity for the fellows and preceptors as well as a philanthropic activity.



What was the Enneagram activity?

Prior to the Summit, all the fellows and preceptors completed a personality-type Enneagram test specifically the Riso-Hudson Enneagram Type Indicator (RHETI). The RHETI allowed each participant to have a full personality profile across all nine personality types. This activity helped better understand what each individual's strengths are when they are not stressed as well as when they are stressed. In addition, the activity helped better understand which personality types you can work well with,



which personality types stresses you out therefore allowing you to better understand your preceptor and co-fellows. Based on the results of the RHETI,

individuals were split into teams for a Lego-building competition which augmented the learnings from the RHETI session.

What was the philanthropic activity?

The philanthropic activity was a toy drive for the Children's Specialized Hospital, which is the nation's leading provider of inpatient and outpatient care for children from birth to 21 years of age facing special health challenges. Their pediatric specialists are located at 13 different New Jersey locations. Through this philanthropic activity, 73 new toys were collected for donation to be used to help with physical therapy for the children.

What did Johnson & Johnson's CEO Alex Gorsky speak about?

Alex Gorsky talked about the importance of having pharmacists at Johnson & Johnson in order to enhance diversity. He emphasized taking ownership of your own personal development to advance your career. His advice was to understand what you are passionate about which will help drive your career. He touched on the importance of working for a company with values rooted in caring for the patients and the consumers. Overall, he provided an impactful message for the group in regards to development leaving the participants truly inspired. The fellows and preceptors were truly grateful to have such an influential leader come speak to them.



Alumni Highlights



Alla Shatskov, Class of 2013

Since completing her Cardiovascular Medical Strategy Fellowship at BMS in 2013, Alla has had a variety of medical affairs roles across BMS and AstraZeneca. Her experiences have included 4 different product launches. Immediately after her fellowship, Alla joined the diabetes Medical Information Team at BMS. After an acquisition of diabetes assets by AstraZeneca, she switched companies and took on a position as Director of Medical Alignment where she was responsible for the development and execution of the US medical strategy for the oral diabetes brands. After relocating to Washington DC, Alla returned to the Medical Information team where she led the development of field medical materials for the Women's Oncology portfolio. In her current role, Alla is an MSL, covering DC, MD, WV and northern VA. Alla recently got married in June! Congrats, Alla!



Mona Patel, Class of 2015

Mona joined Celgene as a Medical Information Manager after the completion of her fellowship within Clinical and Medical Affairs at Bayer in 2013. Since then, she has taken on roles of increasing responsibility, most recently joining the Multiple Myeloma Medical Information team as an Associate Director. This new position follows Mona's most recent role as a launch lead and lead medical reviewer of promotional materials for a new product. Mona has been with the Celgene family since completing her fellowship and is excited to continue to be a part of the RPIF family as the Medical Information fellowship preceptor.

Manish Patel, Class of 2015

After completing his HEOR fellowship at Sanofi in 2015, Manish joined the Celgene's US Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR) team and was the research lead for Pancreatic cancer. He is a recent graduate of the Masters of Science-Health Outcomes, Policy and Economics (MS-HOPE), a degree which he started during his fellowship. At the end of last year, Manish transitioned into a Field Executive role within US HEOR to gain a different perspective. Manish and his wife have travelled to Greece, Japan, Spain and Portugal in the last year!

Faculty Spotlight: the Super Woman Behind the Scenes



Janet Lupo

Fellowship Program Coordinator

If you don't know her yet...you're going to want to! Meet Janet, the incredible organizer who somehow manages to keep all Rutgers fellows in line (in addition to Drs. Barone & Toscani) and plays a major role in the success of the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Program!

Could you tell us a little bit about your background & how you became affiliated with Rutgers?

You can take the girl out of Brooklyn, but you can't take Brooklyn out of the girl! I am Brooklyn born and raised. I've been married for 25 years and have 2 sons. I worked in the hotel business for 15 years before working at Rutgers. I started out in Rutgers, when my children were young as a part-time employee. I began working as the Program Coordinator for the Rutgers Fellowship in March of 2011.

What do you find rewarding about being in your position?

Being involved with the fellowship, I have seen its growth over the past 6 years. When I began here in 2011, there were 70 fellows in the program. Today we have more than doubled that amount to 191! We are also close to reaching 1,000 alumni. But, as we say, "We are the best of the best."

As Fellowship Program Coordinator, what are some of the challenges you face?

Challenges of my current role would be keeping all 191 fellows happy! In the six years I've been with the

Fellowship, I can say without a doubt that I have most definitely accepted the challenge and then some!

What pieces of advice would you give to the current fellows?

Most fellows are "millennials". The age of social media, digital technology, etc. My advice to you is stay true to yourself, stop thinking that you are privileged or entitled. Commitment and hard work will get you where you want to be. Most of all, do not take things for granted.

What does a girl do for fun these days!?

Fun you say? Spending time with my family is always a good time. I also like spending time at the shore, going out to dinner with friends, movies and traveling. Next month I will be traveling to Italy for the first time with a friend. I'm celebrating a BIG birthday and decided to give myself a birthday gift.

Familiar Faces & Fellows of 2017-2018



*David Abukhater, Pharm.D., RPh
Johnson & Johnson*



*Christine Li, Pharm.D.
Pfizer*



Dean Barone, Dr. Fierro & Dr. Toscani with the 2017-2018 Rutgers fellow committee chairs at the annual Beginning of the Year Kick-Off Committee Dinner

Committee Updates: Professional Development Day (PDD)

October 5th:

- Fireside Chat with Kim Wishnow-Per, the president of McCann Managed Markets.

October 19th:

- Presentation by Laura Pizzi from the Masters of Science, Health Outcomes, Policy & Economics (MS-HOPE) program. Dr. Pizzi will discuss in further detail about the MS-HOPE program, how health outcomes is used in the pharmaceutical industry and provide a little about her career path.
- Norward Harris, an experienced MSL, will present on understanding the culture in the pharmaceutical industry while also touching on how to use soft skills and emotional intelligence to gain MSL opportunities and be promoted to other roles.

November 2nd:

- PDD hosted by Bristol-Myers Squibb at the Princeton Pike Campus

Committee Updates: Community Development Committee (CDC)

The Community Development Committee (CDC) is looking forward to an exciting year filled with social and philanthropic events to strengthen not only the fellowship community, but also the communities around us. This year, we combined the Philanthropy and Social committees in an effort to maximize event attendance and fellow impact. One of the key components that continues to drive the program's success is the strong network we create during our time in the program, strengthening the bond between fellows and companies alike. We recently organized our **Annual Canoe Trip**, bringing fellows together for a fun day of rafting down the Delaware River. This event continues to be a fellow favorite, with nearly 100 fellows in attendance. We look forward to continuing the tradition for years to come.



We also have a very charitable Fall approaching us, with activities including the **Walk of Hope on September 16th** supporting mental health, the **AIDs 5K/Walk on October 15th** in Philadelphia to raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS, and the **Annual Breast Cancer Walk on October 22nd** in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Serving the community and helping those around us is an essential responsibility of not only a Rutgers fellow, but a pharmacist, too.

2017-2018 CDC Co-Chairs



Allison Bison
2nd-year fellow
Johnson & Johnson



Michael Hogan
2nd-year fellow
Johnson & Johnson



Leslie Harden
1st-year fellow
Bayer



Todd Gilbert
1st-year fellow
Johnson & Johnson

Committee Updates: Scholarly Activities Committee



Alumni Spotlight: Joseph Fulginiti

Joseph Fulginiti, a 2015-2017 Medical Communications Fellow at Acorda and current Regional MSL in Neurology for Celgene Corp., authored the article “The Impact of Professional Networking: A Worthwhile Investment” in the DIA Global Forum April 2017, Volume 9, Issue 2.

The following is a summary the article:

Networking is a crucial business tool that can catapult a career. Developing and maintaining professional relationships are critical in many ways. Whether your intent is to pursue a new career opportunity, accelerate your professional development, or discover your own personal brand, the recommendation is the same: create your network! It doesn't matter what stage you're at in your career; if you have ambition, you can always benefit from having a strong circle of contacts. Make introductions to others regardless of their title or status. There is something to learn from everyone. Your network grows along with you, so surround yourself with individuals that are ambitious, creative, and motivated. And when it comes to networking, don't forget about the power of LinkedIn! See the full article [here!](#)

Basirat Adeyemi, second-year fellow at Merck in Global Regulatory Affairs-Oncology, and Kate-Kastsetskaya, second year fellow at Novartis in Drug Regulatory Affairs were published in previous DIA Global Forums.

Links to their articles:

[June 2017 DIA Global Forum](#)

[August 2017 Global Forum](#)

Upcoming Conferences and Deadlines:

Let us know if you would like to be published in an upcoming issue of the DIA Global Forum or if you would like to partner with a student from the School of Pharmacy for your research project! Contact patel.himika@gene.com

Conference	Location	Date	Abstract Submission Opens	Abstract Submission Due
ASHP MidYear	Orlando, FL	Dec 3-7, 2017		Oct 1, 2017
TOPRA Annual Symposium	London, England	Oct 2-4, 2017	--	Aug 15, 2017
APhA Annual Meeting	Nashville, TN	March 16-19, 2018	--	Oct 4, 2017
AMCP Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy Annual Meeting	Boston, MA	April 23-26, 2018	Nov 8, 2017	Jan 12, 2018
DIA 2018 GLocal Annual Meeting	Boston, MA	June 24-28, 2018	Aug 31, 2017	Sep 23, 2017
ISPOR 23rd Annual Meeting	Baltimore, MD	May 19-23, 2018	Oct 2, 2017	Jan 17, 2018

Click the conference names for more information!

Committee Updates: Meet the Metrics & Finance Committees

The goal of the **Metrics Committee** is to support the continued prosperity and competitiveness of the RPIF program by ascertaining useful data in support of analyses that highlight strengths, expose weaknesses, and pinpoint opportunities. The committee's objectives are to reduce RPIF survey burden, enhance RPIF data collection, storage and analysis capabilities, and discover new insights to drive RPIF efficiency and competitiveness. To achieve these goals the Metrics Committee will have two key initiatives: 1) Launch the first Fellowship Annual Comprehensive Survey (FACS) and 2) Collaborate with RPIF committees to build an annual survey plan/calendar. In addition to these key initiatives we will continue to provide support to RPIF through ad-hoc analyses, survey development guidance, and potential poster opportunities for students. We look forward to providing newsletter readers further valuable insights gained through our data analyses this year.



Paul DiPietro
2nd-year fellow
Johnson&Johnson



Austin Ferrara
1st-year fellow
Novartis



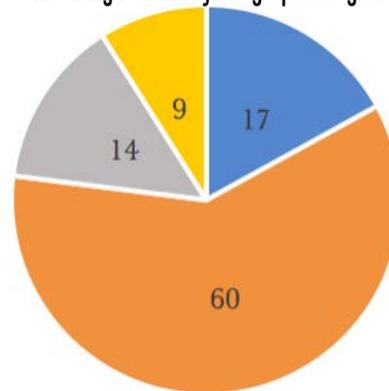
Amey Shroff
1st-year fellow
Johnson&Johnson

Metrics Committee

Did You Know...?

- 100 new fellows joined the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship Program this year!
- 40% of this year's incoming class graduated from pharmacy schools **outside** of the northeast geographic region!

Incoming Fellows by Geographic Region



■ Midwest ■ Northeast ■ South ■ West

Finance & Logistics Committee

The **Finance & Logistics Committee** comes into the 2017-2018 fellowship year having one year under their belts and looking to improve on the accomplishments of their initial formation. Leading the committee this year, Greg Shertzer, Jacob Martin, and Amey Shroff have big plans for the financial budget of the Rutgers Fellowship Program. The heart of which, is to successfully track committee spend in real time while assessing return on investment (ROI) to help maintain a balanced, and accountable program budget. In addition, the FLC has identified other important objectives which are: to plan and streamline the logistics of Dr.'s Toscani and Fierro site visits to partnering companies through an online scheduling tool; develop a standardized process for large line-item committee requests; and to identify and evaluate effective measures to cut unnecessary costs leading to a more functional budget that follows most corporate business models. Yes, the FLC may sound like the "bad guys" who just want to make cuts and limit spending. However, it is the FLC's sincere hope that through the accurate tracking of program spending and allocation of funds, more money will be freed up for fellowship events! (Perhaps sponsored happy hours after *each* PDD....who knows the possibilities!)



Greg Shertzer
2nd-year fellow
Bristol-Myers Squibb



Jacob Martin
1st-year fellow
McCann Health



Pharmacists in Public Health:

The best of both worlds to SECURE THE FUTURE®

Feyikemi D. Osundina, Pharm.D., MS, RPh

The vast world of pharmacy with different specialties and avenues of success has led to more and more pharmacists pursuing non-traditional roles. As a dual-degree graduate from the University of Toledo and an immigrant from Nigeria with a passion for global health and philanthropy, I knew that my career path as a pharmacist would be far from ordinary.



As the Rutgers/Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation Public Health Resident I am able to utilize both of my degrees (PharmD and Masters in Health Outcomes) while developing new skills in the global public health field. The primary goal of the program is to promote better health through a systems approach and decrease health disparities in areas such as, but not limited to, HIV/AIDS, TB, cervical, breast and lung cancers,

specialty care, and cardiovascular disease.

As I finish up the 2nd month of my 5 month stay in South Africa for the *Secure the Future*® initiative, I have begun my work with the various new cancer grants being implemented. Some of my current activities include going on clinical rounds with the ward (inpatient) pharmacists of the local government hospitals, preparing research protocols, creating patient education materials and conducting quality assurance and drug utilization reviews to improve pharmacy practice.

My overall goal with the projects I am involved in is a skills and knowledge transfer that flows both ways. I am not only here to provide my expertise but to learn and work together with the various partners of the foundation. The journey has just begun and I am excited to see the impact that I can make here and what more I can learn before I return to the states.



Visit www.bms.com/foundation to learn more, follow my activities on my Instagram page @Secure_TheJourney, and stay tuned for part two of my newsletter series.



*Samantha Kaufman
1st-year fellow
Johnson&Johnson*

Mavyret™ (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir) Approved

On August 3, 2017, the FDA approved Mavyret (glecaprevir/pibrentasvir), the first 8 week treatment, for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) genotypes 1-6. FDA approval is supported by an overall 98% cure rate in patients who received the recommended duration of treatment.

For more information, click [here](#)

Tremfya™ (guselkumab) Approved

On July 13th, the FDA approved Janssen's Tremfya (guselkumab) under an expedited review for treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in patients who are candidates for systemic or phototherapy. Unlike other next-generation injectable psoriasis treatments Cosentyx, Taltz and Siliq which are IL-17A antagonists, Tremfya inhibits IL-23. In its pivotal phase III trials, VOYAGE I&II, 7 out of 10 patients achieved 90% skin clearance from baseline at Week 16.

For more information, click [here](#).



*Matt Bermudez
1st-year fellow
Johnson&Johnson*

DOJ Forms the Opioid Fraud and Abuse Detection Unit



*Kaley Weintraub
1st-year fellow
Acorda*

On August 3rd the formation of a new Department of Justice pilot program, the Opioid Fraud and Abuse Detection Unit, was announced. The program was designed to crack down on opioid-related healthcare fraud through investigation and prosecution of "pill mill schemes" and pharmacies involved in the diversion or dispensing of prescription opioids for illegitimate purposes. Twelve prosecutors will be assigned to hotspots for opioid issues in the United States to focus on collecting prescription opioid data. "With these new resources, we will be better positioned to identify, prosecute, and convict some of the individuals contributing to these tens of thousands of deaths a year." -- Attorney General Jeff Sessions;

For more information, click [here](#).

CVS & CV Data

Early 2017, J&J's Invokana® matched up to Jardiance® from Lilly and BI with a 14% reduction in CV risks but with an increased risk of leg and foot amputations. A black box warning for increased amputation risk was added for Invokana® soon after the data was published. Despite all the evidence, in August, CVS Health replaced Jardiance® with Invokana® as its preferred SGLT-2 inhibitor. People are assuming it might be a price play to push manufacturers to reduce prices for SGLT-2 inhibitors. For more information, click [here](#).



*Dee Lin
1st-year fellow
Sanofi*



Helena Mavani
1st-year fellow
Novartis

A New Era in Oncology: CAR-T Therapy

This past July, the US Food and Drug Administration's Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee (ODAC) unanimously recommended approval of Novartis' chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) therapy – CTL019. On August 30th, 2017 the FDA has made their decision and approved CTL019 – named Kymriah™ (tisagenlecleucel)– for the treatment of patients up to 25 years of age with B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) that is refractory or in second or later relapse. Kymriah™ is a novel immunocellular therapy and a one-time treatment that uses a patient's own T cells to fight cancer and is the first therapy based on gene transfer approved by the FDA. For more information, click [here](#).

Keytruda® Trials Put on Hold

Keytruda® (pembrolizumab) is a humanized antibody used in cancer immunotherapy and is being studied in hundreds of different cancer trials. Earlier this year the FDA issued a clinical hold on two Keytruda® trials and stopped Keytruda® dosing in another, all of which focused on patients with multiple myeloma. The three studies paired Keytruda® in with dexamethasone and either Pomalyst® (pomalidomide) or Revlimid® (lenalidomide). In June 2017 an independent safety committee observed more deaths in patients receiving the Keytruda® combination than in the control group (regimen without Keytruda). This triggered a hold to be placed by the FDA and the discontinuation of all study subjects from Keytruda® treatment. However, this will not affect other Keytruda® trials.



Erin McGuire
2nd-year fellow
Actelion

GSK and AI

GlaxoSmithKline partnered with Exsientia in a research deal to use artificial intelligence to identify drug targets. This collaboration will shift focus on earlier stages of development by looking for patterns in chemical structures and cycling quicker through potential candidates to generate more and improved candidates. For more information, click [here](#) and [here](#).



Kate Kastsets kaya
2nd-year fellow
Novartis

Sickle Cell Disease Drug Approval

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a disease that arises from a genetic dysfunction which causes the malformation of hemoglobin, resulting in the production of sickle shaped red blood cells. It is a disease that disproportionately affects people from Africa or with heritage from Africa. According to the CDC, approximately 100,000 people live with SCD complications here in the United States. Endari (L-glutamine) oral powder was recently approved in July 2017 for patients 5 years and older to reduce sickle cell complications. This marks the first drug approved for SCD in 20 years. It's mechanism of action is not fully known but it possibly works via oxidative stress (NAD⁺ and NADH) pathway. This is good news for all persons suffering from SCD as finally, an alternative to hydroxyurea has been approved.



Kizito Kyeremateng
1st-year fellow
Bayer

Impact of Rx-to-OTC Switch on KOL Engagement

Vineeth Nair, Pharm.D., MPHc

As with any new drug entering the U.S. pharmaceuticals market, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) implements a very closely monitored drug approval process for prescription to non-prescription switch programs. Although the end-goal for switch programs is different, many of the processes involved in the development and post-approval life-cycle management of the product are very similar to prescription products, including those under the umbrella of Medical Affairs.

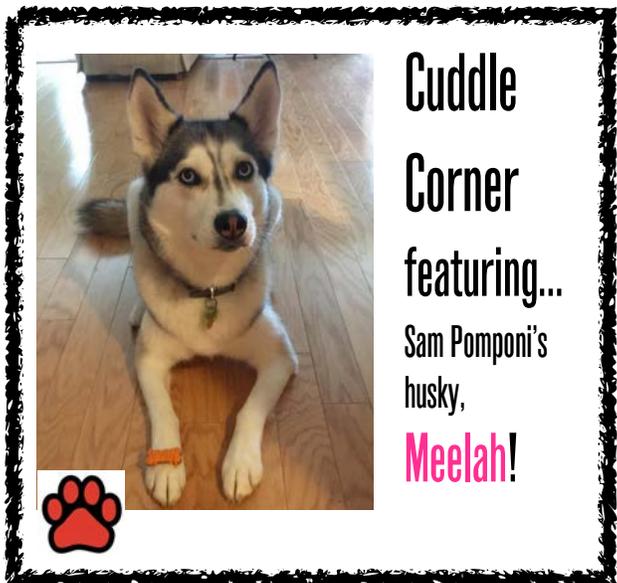
Medical Affairs can be described as the art of taking complex medical & scientific information, translating it to the understanding of a specific audience, and disseminating it to that audience so as to allow for a better understanding of how to safely and effectively use medicines. With the presence of learned intermediaries and strict regulations, it is crucial to identify individuals who are of influence in certain practice areas, as they will ultimately impact prescribing and recommendation patterns. We refer to these individuals as Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs). Traditionally in Medical Affairs, the designation of a KOL has almost always been granted to leading Physicians who have pioneered research in specific therapeutic areas, or have held leadership positions in influential medical organizations. However, in the past decade there has been an influx of secondary and tertiary healthcare providers into KOL mapping and strategy, perhaps due to the changing dynamics of the healthcare system. Today, one will find Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Pharmacists, Physical Therapists, and others present in Advisory Board meetings and other Medical Affairs tactics.



Vineeth Nair, Pharm.D., MPHc

Rx-to-OTC switch brings a unique opportunity for Pharmacists and patients. Making more OTC medicines available empowers patients to take their health into their own hands and promotes a generation of greater patient education and health literacy. Opportunely for Pharmacists, rather than needing an appointment with a Physician and a subsequent prescription, patients can simple walk in to their local Pharmacy and consult with a Pharmacist for recommendations on an OTC medicine for their symptoms.

With the current momentum towards reducing healthcare costs and self-care it is definitely an opportune time for more OTC medicines to enter the market. As benefit-risk, consumer behaviors, and a greater need for quick consultation arises, the expertise of leading Pharmacist influencers and advocates will be crucial to bringing more OTC drugs to market in the U.S. Practicing pharmacists would be best suited in this case to provide key input based on their clinical risk-benefit insights in the community. This doesn't just apply to the science behind the product, but also to consumer and Pharmacist behavioral trends in what they ask for and typically see in the community. For example, "If Drug X were to be available OTC, would you recommend it? What do you see being potential benefits from switching Drug X? What would be the risks?" As such, perhaps this could redefine the science behind KOL strategy and perhaps significantly impact the Pharmacist profession. Food for thought.



Amazon & Whole Foods: Buzz on the Street!



Christine Li
2nd-year fellow
Pfizer

Amazon Acquires Whole Foods: Prime Groceries and Pills to come?

In a swift move surprising many, Amazon announced in mid-June that they had acquired Whole Foods (WF). What is to come of this arrangement? Nobody can tell, but one such possibility is the fact that Amazon is looking to invest into more physical stores (WF owns 450+ retail locations), including but not limited to the expansion into the pharmacy world. The pharmacy market currently is a valued \$400 billion dollar market and Amazon is no stranger to the drug market; Amazon Japan currently sells prescription drugs to its local denizens. Not only does this acquisition broaden Amazon's footprint, but also places it in an advantageous position to enter into a billion dollar healthcare market for the potential to start future strategic acquisitions as well (think faster groceries, quicker cashier processes, improving communications with health clinics to get prescriptions in your hands faster, etc.). Is this the end of retail or is it just the beginning of the retail industry? We have yet to see, stay tuned! For More information click [here](#).

Will Amazon Venture Into the Convoluted Web of Pharmacy?

Rutgers Ernesto Mario School of Pharmacy Pharm.D. Candidates Class of 2018 : Sun Moon Kim, Melissa Yap, & Sungjoo Park

Amazon, originally an online book store in 1994, is now the go-to retailer for almost any online purchase. Today, Amazon continues to grow relentlessly and rumors of Amazon pharmacy have caught the attention of many. Although no confirmations have been made, the potential of Amazon pharmacy is an extremely intriguing concept to consumers and especially pharmacists. As more healthcare services are transitioning online with growing telemedicine, Amazon may change pharmacy as we know it.

Amazon is quick to adapt newest technologies and is an expert in customer service, website and application design. Amazon could help lower drug distribution costs by introducing their well established and highly technological system. An online medium would also help the pharmacy market gain insights and better personalize healthcare treatment for patients via extensive data collection. A more accessible "at-home" healthcare model could also improve clinical outcomes through accessible and affordable online counseling and personalized disease management.

However, among many challenges are high barrier to entry, regulation compliance and digital illiteracy among select populations, especially the elderly whom comprise majority of healthcare consumers. Amazon's market entry could be difficult due to the sheer complexity of healthcare, which comprises of pharmacy benefit managers, manufacturers, retailers, and insurance providers. Also, HIPAA is a crucial component of healthcare that Amazon must abide by. Lack of digital literacy and face-to-face interaction pose serious concerns for online pharmacies as well.

Despite these challenges, Amazon pharmacy may become a reality sometime in our career and we should be prepared.



Networking's Hidden Gem: the 1:1 Meeting

Stacie Noreika, Pharm.D.

You perfected the elevator speech, the strong handshake, and the reception discussion. One invaluable networking opportunity often overlooked is the 1:1 meeting, also called meet and greets. How can you maximize your 1:1 success?



Stacie Noreika
1st-year fellow

Meet with a variety of people.

There is no one too high or low on the organizational ladder to meet. Try to meet with different department and project team members as well as senior executives. As a fellow, I have found that people from nearly every part of the organization are excited to meet with me.

Prepare thoroughly.

Look up the person's credentials (i.e. MD, PharmD, etc.) so you can properly address him or her. Think of what you want to accomplish during the meeting. I reserve a mini spiral notebook for 1:1 meetings where I write a checklist of questions or points I want to discuss

beforehand. Bring business cards to distribute, if appropriate.

Discuss meaningful topics.

Inquire about the story of the person's career along with day to day functions. I have found that 1:1 meetings help me learn nuances about certain therapeutic and functional areas. These meetings are also a great way to get involved in new projects that spark your interest. During pharmacy school, I had a 1:1 with a study director who gave me the opportunity to work on one of her oncology studies after I shared my passion for it with her.

Solidify the connection.

Thank the person for meeting with you. After 1:1 meetings, I send a personalized LinkedIn request or email to the person hoping to keep in touch. This has allowed me to maintain my connections with people as they move onto different companies.

If used properly, the 1:1 meeting can be the strongest

Adaptability: Finding Certainty in Uncertain Situations

Stephen Lee, Pharm.D., RPh

Change is inevitable. As fellows, we are repeatedly faced with new trainings and projects, rotations into new roles, changes in managers/preceptors, transitioning into new teams/functions/



Stephen Lee
2nd-year fellow
Celgene

disease states. Working within a dynamic environment, things may seem uncertain at times and you may be within the unknown. Our titles may change, but situations such as these will continue to persist as we transition into

full-time positions. As we aspire to become better versions of ourselves, one valuable skill to have is the ability to adjust to

new conditions and navigate through change. Below are

a few tips that have helped me to find certainty within uncertain situations.

Keep an open mind:

- Be willing and able to "roll with the punches."
- Think positively and move forward.
- Take creative approaches to adapt to the changes.

Focus on the big picture:

- Ask yourself what the overall goal is.
- Shift your attention and focus on the purpose and how to get there.

Embrace ambiguity/uncertainty:

- Accept and understand the current situation.
- Make a conscious effort to maintain a positive outlook.

Exercise emotional intelligence:

- Work constructively with those around you.
- Be flexible and able to accept both positive and negative feedback.

Idaho: Just Potatoes or Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority?

Dylan Atkinson, Pharm.D.

AS a new practitioner, the expanding role of the pharmacist stands as a topic of the utmost importance. After all, when entering into the profession, it is vital to know what you can and cannot do through your practice. When considering where in the United States to begin practice, pharmacists always think of the “headline” states, such as California and Washington, as being the “holy grail” of pharmacy practice for their promise of progressive practice. Although these states have made efforts to expand their practices, the state with the highest level of pharmacist professional autonomy is Idaho.



*Dylan Atkinson
1st-year fellow
Bristol-Myers Squibb*

There is an excellent piece by Adams, et al. in the Annals of Pharmacotherapy entitled “The Continuum of Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority”. In this piece, the authors detail the differences in approach to allow pharmacists to prescribe medications, ranging from the most restrictive collaborative practice agreements to the professional autonomy of unrestricted authority. What we often see in many states is a push for a Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA), an agreement signed by a pharmacist and a physician that can detail what the pharmacist is allowed to do in regards to a patient’s, or population of patients’, medications. These CPAs can be useful as a stepping stone into what pharmacy practice

can be, but they should hardly be the endpoint in the pursuit of professional autonomy.

In the state of Idaho, pharmacists have unrestricted prescriptive authority for certain categories of drug products. These categories include smoking cessation products (including agents like bupropion and varenicline), TB skin tests, and epinephrine products. This differs from other states, as some states choose not use the word prescribe, but use the word “furnish” which can cause issues when dealing with insurance companies looking for a prescription for reimbursement. Additionally, other states can take the approach of having a state-wide protocol for certain products, allowing the pharmacist to dispense the medication after they have followed a rigid step-wise process. Again, this can run into reimbursement problems, as the pharmacist is often time not prescribing the medication. The state of Idaho has also recently passed a bill that allows the State Board of Pharmacy to formulate a list of drug products a pharmacist may prescribe. This allows the State Board to work faster in keeping an up-to-date list without having to first get legislative approval.

The approach taken in Idaho allows pharmacists to use more of their professional judgement to decide when is appropriate to prescribe therapy to patients. As licensed medical professionals, we must always be vigilant in caring for patients, but also be looking to practice at the top of our degrees, not the bottom of our licenses.

Cuddle
Corner



featuring...

Kaley Weintraub's
Shiba Inu named

ICHIGO!



FDA Advisory Committees

Michael Severo, Pharm.D. Candidate Class of 2018

Novartis' Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel) recently became the first chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell immunotherapy to become approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This approval follows recommendations made just months before by the FDA Oncologic Advisory Committee. The drug approval process is complex and costly. Amidst all the research and clinical development, the FDA advisory committee meeting is an often overlooked component that is key to attaining approval.

What is a FDA Advisory Committee?

Overall, an advisory committee provides the FDA with outside expert advice and recommendations on key scientific issues and questions related to human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products, medical devices, and food.

Where do these meetings fit in the drug approval process?

After a complete initial review of a product application, questions which require external input by the FDA reviewers are identified. With the help of the Division of Advisory Committee and Consultant Management, public committee meetings are convened and normally attended by competing product companies, press, as well as, patient and advocacy groups.

Typically, the meetings consist of an individual presentation by both the product sponsor and the FDA, a clarifying question and answer period, an open public forum, and a committee discussion. The advisory committee itself is comprised of outside experts, a patient advocacy representative, and a non-voting industry representative, who all have no conflict-of-interest. Ultimately, the members vote on a product's efficacy, safety, and approvability. Further, general comments or recommendations relevant to the meeting discussion are also made. The expert opinions and voting decisions made by the advisory committee provide the FDA with independent advice that is incorporated into the overall decision-making process regarding a product's application.



*Michael Severo
Pharm.D. Candidate
Philadelphia College
of Pharmacy*

Furry Friends Spotlight: Emi & Niko



Emi & Niko
(pronounced “emmie” and “nee-co”) are Jen Mannino’s three year-old spoiled pit bulls who were named after Game of Thrones actors Emilia Clarke (Khaleesi) & Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (Jamie Lannister). They were adopted separately but are presumed to be brother and sister. Their favorite activities include swimming, hogging the bed, and doing tricks for treats!
#adoptdontshop

Celgene Community Service

Antonia Miller, Celgene Fellowship Program Manager

On July, 17th, Celgene's current Post-Doctoral Fellows and alumni of the program took part in an experience that combined team building and volunteer work. The Post-Doctoral Fellowship Alumni Network partnered with Impact 4 Good, a company that organizes socially conscious team building programs, to plan a day that helped bring fellows together, and contribute to New Jersey-based charity, The Valerie Fund.



During their day of team building, the 26 participants were separated into teams to complete health/medicine-related challenges. After the points were tallied and the winning team determined, the teams received the materials to make stuffed animals for the patients of the Valerie Fund. Once stuffed and plush, the group put the finishing touches on their newly made teddy bears: Naming the bears, and hand-writing a 'message of hope' on the bears' white t-shirts. The messages were personalized to brighten the days of the children who receive them.

[The Valerie Fund](#) was founded in 1976 in memory of Valerie Goldstein, who lost her brave battle with cancer in the same year, at the age of nine. The difficulty of commuting from Warren, New Jersey, to New York City for Valerie's care inspired the Goldstein's to create a foundation that could mitigate the problem, and thus, the Valerie Fund was born. Now, the organization is responsible for the creation of 7 medical centers in New Jersey, New York, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and supports more than 4,000 patients and families.

Barry Kirschner, Executive Director of The Valerie Fund attended the event and expressed his gratitude to Celgene: "Thank you for your very generous donation of dozens upon dozens of beautiful stuffed animals for the children treated at our Valerie Fund Centers...Your generosity ensures that The Valerie Fund's mission to provide hope, care and compassion to children with cancer and blood disorders will continue."

SAVE the DATES

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10 Grandparents Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Fall Webinar! Rosh Hashanah	21 PDD & Alumni Mentorship Kickoff	22 ROPES Autumn Begins	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Yom Kippur	30

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 PDD	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15 AIDS 5K in Philly	16	17	18	19 PDD	20	21
22 Annual Breast Cancer Walk	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 				

SAVE the DATES

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 PDD @ BMS	3	4
5 Daylight Savings Ends	6	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17  FIND	18
19	20 Midyear Bootcamp Webinar	21	22	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 
3 MIDYEAR	4	5	6 	7	8	9
10	11	12 Hanukkah	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Winter Begins	22	23
24 New Year's Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa	27	28	29	30
31						