

RPIF NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by:
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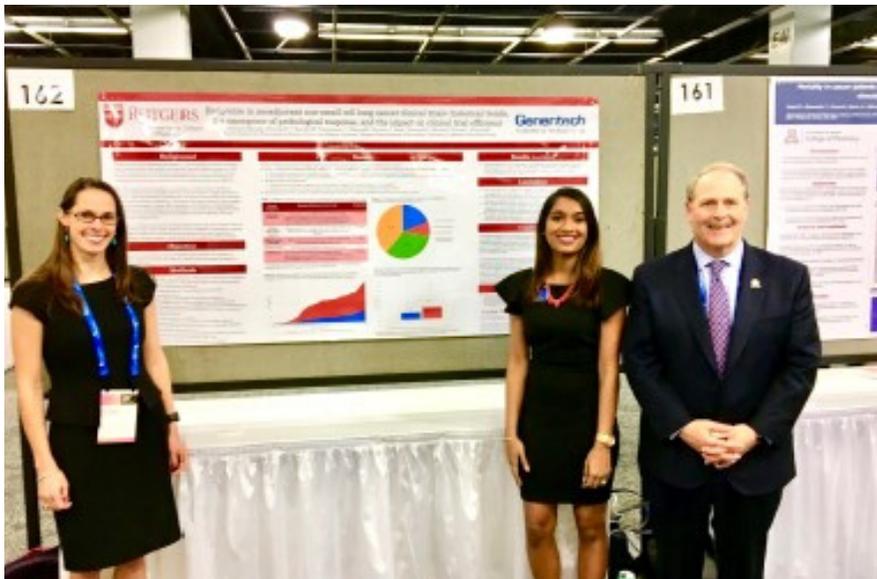
THIS EDITION INCLUDES:

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WELCOME!

Greetings, and welcome to the Spring 2020 edition of the RPIF Bi-Annual Newsletter! This publication is intended to provide an update to fellows, preceptors, alumni, leadership, and stakeholders on the activities of the RPIF Program over the course of the last year. The following pages document the impressive scientific and philanthropic achievements of the program, highlight this year's recruitment efforts, and much more! As the program continues to grow and evolve, we hope this newsletter serves as a reminder of the incredible impact Rutgers Fellows have as they begin their journey into the pharmaceutical industry. Thank you to all our contributors, and please enjoy!

RUTGERS
Institute for Pharmaceutical
Industry Fellowships



DRIVING SCIENCE FORWARD THROUGH SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

By: *Giuliana Campo & Kevin Lanzo*

The Scholarly Activities Committee functions to support and guide fellows in academic endeavors, such as posters or publications, through:

- Liaising Rutgers faculty and students with fellows for potential scholarly opportunities.
- Maintaining a database of conference dates and abstract deadlines, and regularly disseminating this information.
- Formulating conference agendas with posters/publications from RPIF fellows, faculty, residents and students.
- Working with other committees to communicate and execute other RPIF initiatives.

Our key engagements for the 2019-2020 year included the following: We published weekly updates through the RPIF Roundup to notify fellows of upcoming abstract deadlines, as well as new scholarly activity opportunities. We also composed various publications on the Drug Information Association (DIA) Global Forum - a digital magazine which offers expert global and regional coverage of the discovery, development, regulation, surveillance, and marketing of healthcare products, including interviews with thought leaders and topical summaries from educational events.

Fellows can provide content in various areas including leadership, interviewing skills, and networking. For the first time ever, we published a magazine of all scholarly activities completed throughout the 2018-2019 year through a collaboration with the marketing committee, providing a valuable resource for the RPIF Leadership Team to share with stakeholders.

In addition, we prepared conference agendas of all Rutgers poster presentations for conferences, such as the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting and the American Pharmacist Association Annual Meeting & Exposition. Of note, with a whopping 62, Rutgers broke the record for total number of posters presented at the ASHP Annual Meeting, in Las Vegas with collaboration among more than 130 Rutgers faculty, fellows, residents, and students! The quality and quantity of scholarly work performed by fellows continues to be a vital part for the success of the RPIF program and the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. Not only is it driving science and the pharmaceutical industry forward, but also professionally developing our fellows, students, faculty, and residents.



RECRUITMENT RECAP: ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS



By: Joe Hubbard

Among the experiences that make up the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program, perhaps the most memorable and important is new fellow recruitment. As the number of fellowship programs grows and applicants become more competitive, continuing the tradition of recruiting the strongest and most well-suited candidates remains an essential goal. This year was no different; given the combined efforts of stakeholders, leadership, preceptors, and fellows, the RPIF Program welcomed 148 new fellows for the 2020-2022 cycle. Recruitment season began in the Fall with a number of in-person and online events organized by the University Outreach Committee (UOC) and the Digital Outreach Committee (DOC), respectively, aimed at informing prospective applicants about the structure of the program and opportunities for pharmacists within industry. The UOC reached out to exactly 90 different university and organizational events, with presentations typically garnering an attendance of 20 or more student pharmacists. As a new initiative, the DOC organized a Facebook Live event in September, which encouraged candidates to submit questions, which were answered by current fellows in real-time. Webinars in October and November focused on descriptions of the main functional areas offered through RPIF positions and tips for navigating the Midyear process, respectively. Hundreds of potential candidates attended events organized by the UOC and DOC, and feedback indicated students felt more comfortable and knowledgeable going into the process as a result.



Next up on the recruitment calendar was Fellowship Information and Networking Day (FIND). Approximately 500 candidates arrived at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy for a first opportunity to network with fellows, preceptors, and program leadership. Following an informational program, applicants floated among the 17 recruiting companies, asking questions and learning about positions, program structures, and the vitally important company culture. The FIND event provides an early opportunity for fellows, preceptors, and candidates to determine which companies and positions might be the best fit. Recruitment season culminates in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting held this year in Las Vegas, Nevada. Over the course of four days, fellows and preceptors interviewed candidates from pharmacy schools across the country, evaluating key attributes, such as leadership, professionalism, and communication. The long days quickly transitioned into evenings filled with company and program receptions. The combination of formal interviews and more relaxed receptions allows company representatives to gauge not only an applicant's objective strengths, but also his or her social and interpersonal skills. After days of intense deliberation, company representatives left Las Vegas with a clear idea of their preferred candidates. This year's event saw record numbers, with approximately 800 candidates requesting an interview sign-up number and 847 total scheduling first-round interviews. It wasn't all work and no fun, however. Fellows, preceptors, and RPIF leadership took advantage of all Sin City has to offer, including late-night shows, strolls along the famed Vegas Strip, delicious restaurants, and, of course, a little gambling. After a break for the holidays, companies jumped back into gear, inviting top candidates on-site for interviews and eventually extending long-awaited fellowship offers. With the incoming fellows determined, candidates, fellows, preceptors, and program leadership enjoyed a much-deserved break. Another successful recruitment season in the books, it will be exciting to watch the growth and development of the new fellows in the coming year!



Featured RPIF Alumni: Ramya Mathew, Pharm.D.

1. What inspired you to pursue a career within the pharmaceutical industry?

Having worked as a pharmacy intern in both retail and hospital pharmacy during pharmacy school, I quickly realized that neither setting provided me with the growth opportunities I wanted in my career. When I learned of the plethora of roles pharmacists could have in the industry, I used my APPEs to gain as much experience to see if I could picture myself working in this setting, versus retail or hospital pharmacy as I originally planned. All of my pharma-related APPE rotations solidified my interest in Medical Affairs and led me to apply for fellowships at Midyear.

2. What did you learn from your fellowship that has allowed you to succeed in your current role?

Be open to challenges. From taking on a project you don't have much familiarity with, or jumping into a new role with responsibilities you haven't taken on before. Being out of your comfort zone and learning new responsibilities can make you a more well-rounded professional and might even steer your career in a different direction than you initially thought.

3. What advice can you provide to current fellows?

Take the job seriously and always put your best foot forward. Be present in every meeting, do your best work, regardless of how big or small you think the task is, and ask questions! No one expects you to know how to do everything from the jump. The fellowship is an amazing opportunity to kick start your career so make the best of every minute.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT #1



By: Josh Linton & Jacob Tebbe

Alma Mater: St. John's University, Class of 2015

Current Company and Position: Eisai - Associate Medical Director, Field

RPIF Fellowship Company, fellow position: Novartis, Regulatory Advertising & Promotion/US Medical Information

Fellowship Years: 2015 – 2017

Describe your current role and responsibilities: My role is primarily responsible for providing medical guidance and direction to our Medical Science Liaison (MSL) team in order to align the in-house medical strategy to our field. This includes providing medical leadership for field medical affairs planning and tactics for Women's Cancer, liaising with our key external thought leaders to obtain insights to inform our medical strategy, and translating MSL insights into actionable tactics for HQ.





ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT #2

By: Josh Linton & Jacob Tebbe



Alma Mater: University of Tennessee, Class of 2016

Current Company and Position: Pfizer, Field Medical Director

RPIF Fellowship Company, fellow position: Pfizer, Global Clinical Research and Development

Fellowship Years: 2016-2018

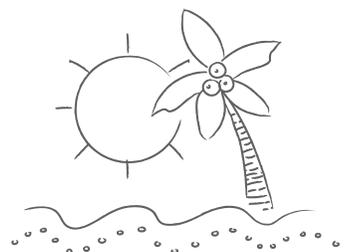
Describe your current role and responsibilities: I sit at home and Zoom into meetings.

1. What inspired you to pursue a career within the pharmaceutical industry?

I wanted to be a vet, but my parents thought that that meant I was going to be fighting in a war, so I had to change tactics.



Work from ~~home~~
beach!



Featured RPIF Alumni:

Christine Li, PharmD

2. What advice can you provide to current fellows?

Your network is your net worth. It takes an average of ~23 minutes to return to task after an interruption.

70% of interoffice emails are opened within 6 seconds (Adam Alter, Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked) (in other words, turn off your notifications.)

93% of communication is non-verbal. It's tone, posture, and most of all facial expression (and thus why the typical voicemail transcription is ridiculous).

3. What was the biggest learning curve you had to overcome as you transitioned from fellow to full-time?

How can I get wifi at the beach?



4. What are your long term career goals?

Reducing the inequality gap in America and how do I become red status on my CFA (Chick-fil-a) app?

5. What are your favorite memories from your time as a fellow with the RPIF program?

Learning what everyone was going to buy with their first paycheck. The support (from B&T, the fellows, Rutgers community). That PDD old carpet smell.

CREATING COMMUNITY WITHIN THE RPIF PROGRAM

By: Mark Hanna, Sowmya Mullapudi, Asia Cook, Ben LeMay

The Community Development Committee (CDC) kicked off the 2019 year in August with the annual RPIF Float Trip, which included participation from over 100 fellows! Fellows mixed and mingled during a mellow four-hour float down the Delaware Water gap. CDC continued to host several philanthropic and social events throughout the year. In October, CDC hosted the first RPIF Halloween costume contest, during which fellows were allowed to forego the usual business casual attire for Professional Development Days and dress in costume. To participate, fellows donated \$3 to the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” Walk. Through the fundraiser, we saw many innovative group and individual costumes and raised \$125 for breast cancer research. Along with the donation, fellows and Dr. Toscani attended and participated in the walk despite a downpour. In November, CDC hosted a “Letters for Love” campaign. For this initiative, fellows wrote electronic letters for children with cancer and other terminal illnesses. The letters were distributed to the families of those children to offer a bit of hope around the holiday season. In the Spring Semester, CDC planned to host a number of events, including an RPIF talent show and a TopGolf fundraiser in collaboration with the Rutgers chapter of the Industry Pharmacists



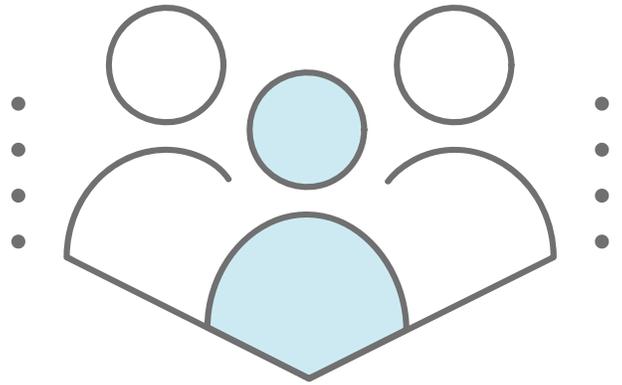
Organization. We also intended to participate in two walks in support of the American Lung Association. Due to the public health crisis of COVID-19, however, many of these events were canceled or rescheduled. CDC hopes to host a series of virtual happy hours for fellows to keep connected, as well as a fundraiser for COVID-19 efforts while social distancing measures continue. Throughout the year, CDC has been able to foster a sense of community and philanthropy amongst the fellows and hopes to host events during and after the COVID-19 crisis to continue to build fellowship throughout the RPIF community. Thank you for your continued support!



NEVAKAR: PAVING THE WAY AS A NEW COMPANY TO RPIF

By: Akash Lall

Each year, the Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) program receives a number of proposals from companies hoping to join our growing cohort. Following a thorough review process and careful consideration, only a small number of companies are afforded this prestigious opportunity. Nevakar, a 505(b)(2) company focused on developing sterile injectables and ophthalmology products, recently joined the ranks and became an RPIF partner company. Founded in 2015, Nevakar has the size and agility of a startup and the savvy and direction of an experienced company. As the first fellow at this new partner company, I can definitively say that my fellowship experience has been notably different from many of my peers in the program.



Prior to my arrival at Nevakar, my preceptor was responsible for leading the company through the RPIF application process and served as the primary source of knowledge on Rutgers and RPIF. As a program alumnus, they already had a good understanding of the program and what it meant to work with fellows. A few months into my fellowship, however, my preceptor transitioned out of the company. Despite the difficulties this posed, my department and I rose to the challenge. Working together, we identified a fantastic new preceptor, developed a plan that gave me increasingly important responsibilities, and ensured I would be mentored by members of our department at all levels. In addition, I took the lead on all Rutgers-related responsibilities such as FIND, Midyear, site visits, mentoring APPE students, and more. I can confidently say I am a valued and integrated member of the commercial team at Nevakar. To the stakeholders, preceptors, and fellows at newly accepted companies – you are in for an incredible experience! As a new company in the RPIF program, you are in a position to pave the way for the future and create a culture that engages fellows in a meaningful way. Make the most of it!

Pharmacy grad



POSTDOC FELLOW!

WORDS FROM THE OUTGOING CHIEFS

By: Kacie Trojanowsky & Jonathan Naylor

Building relationships has been one of the most important things we will take away from our time as Chief Fellows. Balancing the demands of being a full-time fellow while devoting many hours to leading and growing the program was demanding at times, but the relationships we fostered along the way made it all worthwhile. From interactions at Professional Development Days to networking events, FIND and Midyear, we interacted with countless fellows, providing us the opportunity to serve as both mentors and friends. We learned a lot about each individual fellow, but we also became more knowledgeable about different industry roles and the various partner companies.

We would be remiss to discuss our experience as Chief Fellows without thanking the Leadership Team and all of the Committee members for their hard work. They are the ones who truly “run the program” and deserve every bit of praise we can give them for the outstanding job they did this past year. In our eyes, the year was a success! Our community grew stronger, we made improvements in programming, we had extremely successful FIND and Midyear events, and the program ran smoothly overall. Thank you to Dean Barone, Dr. Toscani, and Dr. Fierro for giving us the opportunity to lead, and thank you to all the fellows for giving us a reason to try our best every day. We look forward to seeing how the RPIF program continues to grow and develop year after year.



thank
you