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### College of Pharmacy Annual Report for FY2016

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#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The College of Pharmacy fosters a learning-centered, research-oriented educational environment that encourages individuals to make positive lifelong contributions to global health. We prepare professional degree students to provide compassionate pharmacist-delivered patient care and inspire our students through innovative problem-based learning, rich experiential curricula, and interprofessional collaboration. We foster a community of scholars that will further the body of knowledge in pharmaceutical, biomedical, and clinical sciences. We strive to improve quality of life: locally, nationally, and globally.

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 4. A YEAR IN REVIEW
- ACADEMICS
- 14. RESEARCH
- 20. MEDICINAL GARDEN
- 22. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- 28. GIVING
- 30. TIME + TALENT
- 25. TREASURE
- 39. ADVISORY BOARD



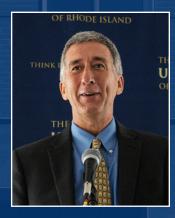
On the cover:
Gingko biloba is one of the plants grown in the
Heber W. Youngken Jr.
Medicinal Garden.
Read more on page 20.

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#### **DEAN'S MESSAGE**



As our health care system changes, it brings new opportunities and challenges. Action is essential, not only to address the demands of an evolving landscape, but to excel in our mission as educators, big thinkers, and caregivers.

This annual report documents some of our strategies and successes as we navigate this challenging landscape. In previous newsletters, you have read about innovations in our research and the achievements of our alumni and faculty. In this report, we also highlight the quality of our academic programs and students. They are vital to our ability to build on the College's strong foundation and shape our future accomplishments.

Health care evolves, but the secret to our success will always be the leadership of our faculty and staff, as well as the engagement and generosity of our alums, professional partners, and stakeholders. On behalf of our students, I offer a heartfelt thank you for your ongoing support.

Finally, I hope you enjoy this edition of our report. Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts or questions, and please don't hesitate to visit and see your College in action.

- E. Paul Larrat, Dean

Efalle-

#### A YEAR IN REVIEW

#### Reaccreditation

In October 2015, the College of Pharmacy received full, eight-year reaccreditation from ACPE (Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education), a mark of excellence that is the culmination of a rigorous review process.

Director Named for George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience In November 2015, Thomas M. Ryan Professor of Neuroscience Paula Grammas was named inaugural director of the George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience at URI. Grammas is an international leader in the study of neurogenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's.

#### **New Dean**

In December 2015, professor, epidemiologist, and health policy and economics analyst Paul Larrat was appointed dean of the College of Pharmacy after serving as the College's interim dean since February 2013.

#### Academic Health Collaborative

In March 2016, URI launched the Academic Health Collaborative, which will serve as the organizational home of the College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing, and newly formed College of Health Sciences; the Insititute for Integrated Health and Innovation; and a Shared Services Office.

#### Strategic Planning

Strategic planning for the next three to five years at the College began this year, with the goal of developing a simple, inclusive strategic plan in line with the University's Academic Plan that will provide the framework for Pharmacy education, research, and outreach and define our path for the future.



### Pharm.D. by the numbers

#### **INCOMING CLASS OF 2022**

Our competitive freshman class enters our program with a strong record of academic accomplishment and bright goals for the future. We are committed to supporting their success by creating a culture of excellence that prepares our graduates to become leaders and innovators in health care.



20%
ARE FROM
TOP 5%
OF HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATING CLASS



4.2 AVG. GPA

> 30 AVG. ACT SCORE

**TOP 25%** 

AVG. SAT SCORES
WERE IN THE TOP
QUARTILE OF TEST-TAKERS:

620 CRITICAL READING

633 WRITING

676 MATH



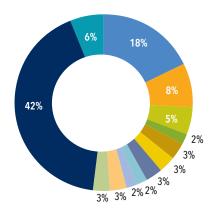
STUDENTS ARE FROM: 11 STATES 3 FOREIGN COUNTRIES



14:1
FACULTY TO STUDENT RATIO

#### **CLASS OF 2016**

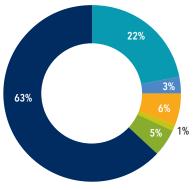
### CURRENT PLANS for primary employment upon graduation



42% Chain community pharmacy Independent community pharmacy 18% Hospital 8% Clinic-based pharmacy 5% Consultant 2% Home care Nursing home/Long-term care facility 3% 3% Academia 3% Pharmaceutical industry 2% Managed care 2% Government or regulatory agency Other Pharmacy related field

No plans for employment in the coming year

### **CURRENT PLANS** for education upon graduation



63% No plans for further education in the coming year
22% Pharmacy residency program
3% Pharmacy Ph.D. program
6% Master's

1% Other health professions (M.D., D.D.S., D.V.M., etc.)

5% Fellowship

URI College of Pharmacy has been ranked among the nation's top schools for post-graduate residency and fellowship matches. Following is a list of placements for our Class of 2016:

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

URI/Rite Aid, Kingston, RI

Providence Health and Services, Portland, OR

Coastal Medical Inc, Providence, RI

Norwood Hospital, Norwood, MA

South County Health, Wakefield, RI

Pharmacy Education & Administration, Touro University, Vallejo, CA

Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT

Xcenda Consulting/UFlorida, Palm Harbor, FL

VA Maine Healthcare System, Augusta, ME

CVS Health, Corporate Patient Safety, Woonsocket, RI

Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, TN

VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, CT

McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond, VA

St. Francis Hospital & Medical Center, Hartford, CT

University of Iowa Hospital & Clinic, Iowa City, IA

Bayhealth, Dover, DE

VA Ann Arbor Health Care System, Ann Arbor, MI

University of Utah Hospitals & Clinics, Salt Lake City, UT

West Virginia Center for Drug & Health Information, Morgantown, WV

Mission Hospitals, Asheville, NC

Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, Norfolk, VA

Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor, ME

John Dempsey Hospital/UConn Health Center, Farmington, CT

Rutgers University/Pfizer Oncology, Medical Affairs, NJ

Stony Brook University Medical Center, Stony Brook, NY

In an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy survey of graduating Pharm.D. students:

#### PREPAREDENESS 98%

98% of URI respondents felt prepared to enter pharmacy practice. \*

55% Strongly Agree

43% Agree

\*URI response rate: 105 out of 122 PharmD students

#### **SATISFACTION 92%**

Over 92% would choose to study pharmacy at URI again.

67% Strongly Agree

25% Agree

#### **FAMILY BUSINESS**

Five new graduates tell why their College of Pharmacy alumni parents are their greatest inspiration.



Nick Belviso '16 with father John '78

#### NICK BELVISO

Early inspiration: My mom worked for a neighborhood pharmacy when I was growing up, and my friends' parents were always calling her with questions. I admired that she was a person people went to for advice. My dad has been out of the practice setting for a while, working in management, so I got to see both sides of the business.

Why URI Pharmacy: I was looking at both chemical engineering and pharmacy programs, but as I saw how many things you can do with a pharmacy

degree, I was drawn to that versatility. My dad loved his experience at URI, and when we visited campus, I saw the new Pharmacy building; that was exciting.

What's best about following in my father's footsteps: I played lacrosse at URI, and my dad was a full scholarship football athlete. We have always bonded over URI. It's something we share together—trading stories, going to games.

What's next: Entering the Ph.D program in pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacoeconomics with Professor [Stephen] Kogut in the fall.



Adam Whalley '16 with father David Whalley '77 and grandfather Joseph Whalley '50

#### **ADAM WHALLEY**

Budding pharmacist: As a treat when I was a little kid, I sometimes helped blister-pack medications in my father's pharmacy. Once, I loaded Skittles into the machine.

High school inspiration: When I got older, I worked in the store. I saw how the pharmacists knew every person and helped them with their medications, and how the patients trusted and respected them. I saw the impact you can make.

What's best about following in my father's footsteps: Just being able to talk on the same level. We can have conversations that we wouldn't have

otherwise. It's the same with my grandfather. He loves to tease me about how he had to do everything by hand.

What's next: At my current residency, I get to do a little bit of everything. My goal is to eventually work in ambulatory patient care.



Emily Stoukides '16 with parents John '85 and Cheryl '85

#### **EMILY STOUKIDES**

All in the family: I grew up working in our family pharmacy. My great-grandfather opened it in 1929; then my grandfather owned it, and now it's my mom and my aunt. I loved the environment. The customers felt like part of our family.

#### What I learned from my parents:

Always put the patient first, always keep working to improve patient care. You don't treat someone like a number.

What's best about following in my family's footsteps: If my mom weren't a

pharmacist, I wouldn't have been texting her late last night to help clarify laws [before my board exam]. And it's fun to sit at the table together and tell stories or talk about treatments or a disease you saw. I don't understand what other families talk about at dinner.

What's next: In my current residency, I'm working with veterans with chronic diseases. I'd love to stay in the VA system; the veterans are so inspirational. And I'd like to come back to teach at URI.



Jenna and Chelsea Solomon '16 with father Peter '86

JENNA and CHELSEA SOLOMON Family tree: We have about 10 College of Pharmacy alumni in our family total. It's hard to keep track. Our cousin Jennifer graduated with us this year too.

Jenna's early impressions: When I was young, I would spend time with my dad at his pharmacy. I saw the relationship he developed with the customers and how he empowered them to take control of their health.

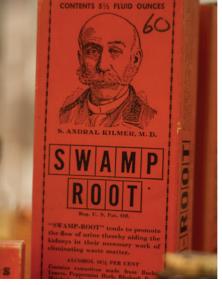
Why Chelsea chose URI: We loved the school, and then we saw the new building. My dad loved it. He couldn't get over the patient simulators. They talk back to you.

What Jenna learned from her dad: You can have knowledge, but if you can't connect to the patient or take time to listen and communicate in their terms, you're not making an impact.

What's next for Chelsea: I'm doing what I always wanted, working with my dad at his pharmacy. He is such an inspiration to me. Knowing I graduated from the same school and now work side by side with him in the field is a great feeling.

What's next for Jenna: I'm currently working at my post-grad residency, leaning toward pediatrics or oncology. We'll see. I'm excited.









### INTRODUCTORY PHARMACY PRACTICE EXPERIENCE PRECEPTOR OF THE YEAR

Jose Badillo, John T. Mather Memorial Hospital



Badillo with daughters Jessica '19 and Nicole '16.

As an oncology-infusion pharmacist at John T. Mather Memorial Hospital in Port Jefferson, NY, IPPE Preceptor of the Year Jose Badillo has not only worked with URI College of Pharmacy students for the past five years, his two daughters chose to study in the program. "I'm so impressed with URI," says Badillo, "from the excellence of the staff and faculty to the professionalism and preparedness of the students."

#### Why do you enjoy being a preceptor?

I particularly enjoy working with students who have never been in a hospital pharmacy. Everything is a new experience, and they get to see the various roles a pharmacist can have in a hospital. Many students worry about the job market as they approach their graduation. I like to give them several options as a career choice they may find interesting and perhaps pursue.

## You work with pharmacy students from numerous colleges. What makes URI students stand out?

Their professionalism. Number one. They come in with such a strong knowledge base; they're prepared. They already know how to use drug information networks. They actually iron their lab coats. They wear shirts and ties. When they leave, they send letters to the director and to me. Everyone who comes into contact with them is so impressed by what they bring to the table.

#### What has your experience been like as a URI parent?

I knew this was a very high quality program after visiting several pharmacy programs. It's great knowing that my daughters are learning in a state-of-the-art facility. The entire staff is truly committed to the students' success. It's nice to know you're putting your daughters in good hands.

#### **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

- 1088 Total rotations in 2015-16
  - 725 Advance Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE)
  - 242 Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPE)
  - **121** Service Learning Experiences
  - 80% of Class of 2016 had an APPE site visit
  - 200 New preceptors added (see page 30)

In an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Survey of 2016 graduates, 97.2% of URI College of Pharmacy respondents ranked their APPE Pharmacy practice as high quality (vs. 84.8% of respondents nationally).

"I was able to round with physicians of different specialties and other healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, nurses, paramedics, and nurse practitioners. These interactions showed me how a pharmacist works as a member of an integrated team to ensure optimal outcomes for patients."

- Colin DeWald '16 on his APPE rotation at Lawrence +
Memorial Hospital, New London, CT

#### INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Since 2008, P3 pharmacy students have participated in daylong interprofessional training exercises that take place in the Fall and Spring semesters as part of their required curriculum. This year's training included:

- 120 Second year medical students (Brown)
- 120 P3 students (College of Pharmacy)
- Nursing seniors (URI, Salve Regina University, Rhode Island College)
  - 60 Master's in social work candidates (Rhode Island College)
  - 30 Physical therapy students (URI)

NEWS: In September 2015, a \$916,851 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration was awarded to members of the longstanding interprofessional education team from URI, RIC, and Brown. The three-year grant was provided to train students in Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral for Treatment (SBIRT). This year's Spring IPE curriculum focused on SBIRT training.

### B.S.P.S. by the numbers

Since recruiting its first freshman class in Fall 2010, the bachelor of pharmaceutical sciences program has grown quickly, filling an important niche in the education of the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists.



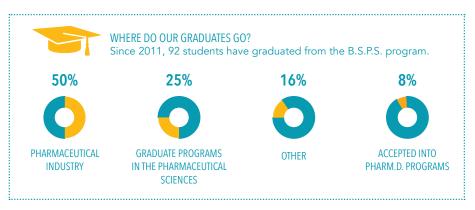


1111 SAT COMBINED SCORE (Critical Reading and Math)



7 STATES REPRESENTED2 FOREIGN COUNTRIES





THE BSPS ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM completed its first full year in May 2016. Seven mentors participated in offering job shadowing experiences, informational interviews, resume views, or career guidance. See list on page 30.



"Throughout the mentoring program, I received great academic guidance from my mentor. We had comprehensive discussions on topics such as academic courses, interviewing skills, professional etiquette, and career goals and opportunities. While shadowing him at his company, I had a chance to learn from him, attend professional meetings, and interact with professionals in different departments."

- Areeba Siddigui '16, on mentor Jeff Cehelsky '87

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS** by the numbers

Our graduate programs in the pharmaceutical sciences are nationally known for providing the highest caliber of M.S. and Ph.D. candidates opportunities to further their research in a highly collaborative, interdisciplinary environment, working with top experts in their fields.

C			
Ph.D. M.S.			AREAS OF GRADUATE STUDY
	12	1	PHARMACEUTICS AND PHARMACOKINETICS
	7	7	PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY
	9	2	MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY AND PHARMACOGNOSY
	9	5	PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY AND PHARMACOECONOMICS

#### **CLASS OF 2016**

This year, the University conferred six M.S. and the following five Ph.D. degrees in the pharmaceutical sciences:

Laura Elizabeth Armstrong, The Role of Nrf2 in Calorie Restriction; Angela Slitt, Major Professor

Elizabeth A. MacLean, Epidemiology of SCM in the US; Cynthia Willey, Major Professor

Pragati Pankaj Nahar, Biological Activities of Nutraceuticals; Navindra Seeram, Major Professor

Daniel B. Niesen, Stilbenoids, Gallotannins & Ellagitannins; Navindra Seeram, Major Professor

Prajakta C. Shimpi, Mechanisms of BPA Induced Steatosis; Angela Slitt, Major Professor

#### THE CURE FOR ADDICTION

Professor Fatemeh Akhlaghi looks at a possible drug to fight alcohol addiction.



"Alcohol use disorder is an unmet clinical need that's very complex," says Professor and Ernest Mario Distinguished Chair in Pharmaceutics Fatemeh Akhlaghi. "Although it's so prevalent, there is limited pharmacological treatment available."

That may change.

Working in partnership with National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Akhlaghi and co-investigator Dr. Lorenzo Leggio, chief of the Section on Clinical Psychoneuroendocrinology and Neuropsychopharmacology at the NIAAA, recently began clinical trials on a drug to treat alcohol use disorder, phase II of a \$1.65 million, 2013 grant from the National Institute of Health.

"Alcohol use disorder is devastating not only for the individual but for the family and society. If we can stop cravings, we may be able to treat it."

Their research is focused on repurposing a ghrelin receptor inverse agonist, originally developed by Pfizer to reduce food cravings in obese patients, based on findings that heightened ghrelin levels are correlated to alcohol cravings. The grant builds on their previous collaboration at The Brown University Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, where studies of neuro-circuit activity—observed in response to computer-simulated food and bar environments—further suggested a link between food and alcohol addiction.

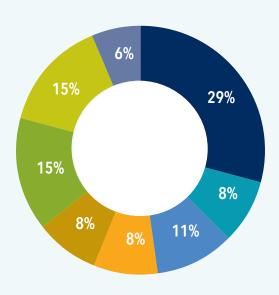
Akhlaghi will draw on her expertise in pharmacokinetics, specifically her work with organ transplant recipients and patients with diabetes, to study the timing, concentration, and safety of new drugs undergoing clinical studies in alcoholism. "Alcohol use disorder is devastating not only for the individual but for the family and society," she says. "If we can stop cravings, we may be able to treat it."



## RESEARCH

Together we strive for global research excellence. Our educational environment fosters intellectual leadership and creativity in our faculty and students to encourage them as innovators, scholars, and leaders who make a lasting contribution to global health.

#### RESEARCH FUNDING



#### DISTRIBUTION OF FACULTY BY RESEARCH FOCUS

**29% Pharmacotherapy** / Community Medicine, Antimicrobials, Geriatrics, Infectious Disease, Cardiovascular, Ophthalmology, Neuropharmacology, Neurodegenerative Diseases

8% Toxicology / Neurotoxicology, Nephrotoxicity, Metabolism

**11% Clinical Studies** / Design and Analysis, Community Medicine, Neuropharmacology

**8% Drug Delivery** / Nanoparticles, Powders, Natural Products, Metabolism, Neuropharmacology

8% Drug Discovery / Natural Products, Antimicrobials

**15% Health Policy and Economics** / Outcomes Research, Adherence, Community Medicine, Drug Safety, Benefit Management

**15% Pharmaceutical Chemistry** / Drug Formulation/Delivery, Drug Metabolism, Natural Products, Drug Discovery, Organic Chemistry

6% Pharmacology / Natural Products, Modeling, Metabolism

#### PROPOSALS FUNDED IN 2015-16

Pharmacotherapy / \$506,773

**Toxicology** / \$3,701,515

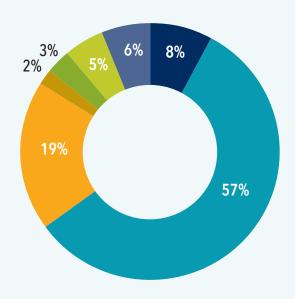
**Drug Delivery / \$1,231,303** 

Drug Discovery / \$135,701

**Health Policy and Economics / \$212,185** 

Pharmaceutical Chemistry / \$349,777

Pharmacology / \$389,300



#### **REPAIR MISSION**

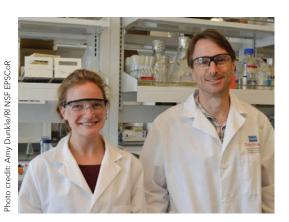
#### Deyu Li researches DNA damage and repair with support from RI-INBRE.



Assistant Professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences Deyu Li begins his second year of research funded by a two-year Early Career Development Award from the Rhode Island INBRE (IDeA Networks for Biomedical Research) program. Li's research on DNA damage and repair aims to understand factors that can affect repair capacity, with a particular focus on the AlkB family enzyme, in order to prevent the development and acceleration of cancer—as well as investigate how mutation rates can be manipulated to kill viral infections such as HIV, Zika, and Ebola. "Once we know why a certain pathway is working and figure out how we can interfere, our drug development efficiency will be much better," says Li, who also serves as a mentor to the INBRE Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program.

"We're using chemical, biological, and genetic tools to the solve the problem of these diseases. That's my dream—to find a cure."

**SEA STARS**The ocean's strong-surviving bacteria provide insight into disease prevention.



The study of probiotics that protect against bacterial disease in aquaculture species may provide clues to solving the antibiotics resistance crisis. Working on grants funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center, and R.I. Sea Grant, Professor and Chair of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences David Rowley is studying how disease-fighting bacteria found in marine environments may protect against disease outbreaks in oyster hatcheries and aquaculture species—a

potentially game-changing discovery for the shellfish industry that could also help lead to the development of antibiotic alternatives.

Ph.D. candidate Hilary Ranson is working with Rowley on the project. "I find these bacteria within marine systems interesting," says Ranson. "Bacteria in the ocean have to deal with a lot of environmental change beyond their control, so they develop strong abilities to adapt and survive in their ecosystems."

Ultimately, Rowley and Ranson hope that an increased understanding of microbial interactions, particularly how probiotics protect their host, could be a path toward future discovery of other beneficial bacteria. "There is already concern about antibiotic overuse and resistance," says Rowley. "If we can come up with alternatives, we can sustain the use of antibiotics for when they're absolutely necessary."

#### **NEW FACULTY**



Matthew Bertin spent a year as the senior research chemist at Biosortia Pharmaceuticals before joining the Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Pharmacy this fall. His research centers on isolating new bioactive molecules from marine cyanobacteria and elucidating the genetic architecture that creates these specialized metabolites. He utilizes chromatography, nuclear magnetic resonance, and mass spectrometry in his research, including MS/MS-based molecular networking. Matthew has completed over 200 scientific SCUBA dives and has extensive experience in underwater photography.



Nisanne Ghonem (PharmD '04) is an Assistant Professor of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences, specializing in targeted therapeutic approaches for the treatment of chronic liver and kidney diseases, including cholestasis and ischemia-reperfusion injury during organ transplantation. Her research focuses on molecular mechanisms of inflammation related to chronic gastrointestinal diseases; regulation of drug metabolizing enzymes and transporters in the setting of chronic liver and kidney diseases; and nuclear receptors as therapeutic targets for liver and kidney injury.



Paula Grammas is the inaugural director of the George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience. Grammas is best known for her pioneering research into the role that blood vessels and inflammation play in the development of diseases, including Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases. A former professor of neurology and holder of the Mildred and Shirley Garrison Chair in Aging at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, she has received numerous awards for her Alzheimer's research.



Ami Vyas is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, specializing in the area of Health Outcomes Research. She has worked in various therapeutic areas including cardiovascular diseases, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and multimorbidity. Her varied research interests include claims database analyses, systematic review and meta-analyses, and pharmacoepidemiology. Her current research interests include treatment patterns of medication use and associated health and economic outcomes across a range of chronic conditions including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and depression.

#### A YEAR IN RESEARCH

Visit web.uri.edu/pharmacy/news-and-events/ to read how faculty and students are leading the way in innovative research and advancements in pharmacy practice and scientific discovery. A few highlights from the past year:

A nicotine vaccine and accompanying drug delivery system being developed by Xinyuan Chen, assistant professor of biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, may pave the way for injection-free vaccinations. "URI Pharmacy Researcher Developing Nicotine Vaccine," December 2015

Professor Kerry LaPlante, Assistant Professor Aisling Caffrey, Clinical Professor Kelly Orr, and colleagues Haley Morrill and Jennifer DeAngelis are collaborating with URI political science faculty on a \$606,173 research grant to develop science-based messaging to improve pneumococcal vaccination rates in black and Hispanic/Latino populations. "Making New Connections: Pharmacy Meets Political Science," February 2016

Research led by Associate Professor Navindra Seeram on how "superfoods" interact with the body's microflora during gut microbial metabolism may lead to breakthroughs in protecting against Alzheimer's. "Product of Pomegranate Juice, Extract Promotes Pathway to Brain Health," March 2016

Neuroscience startup Mindlmmune has formed a collaboration with the George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience to find treatment for neuro-degenerative disorders. "Neuroscience Startup at URI to Focus on Alzheimer's, Parkinson's," April 2016

Clinical Professor Jeffrey Bratberg is working with researchers at Boston Medical Center on a \$1.3 million federal grant to create best practices for naloxone distribution by pharmacists. "The Fight to Distribute a Life-Saving Drug," June 2016.

Over the course of their URI careers, faculty in the College of Pharmacy's "Million Dollar Club" have each been awarded over \$1 million in research funding.



Pictured, left to right: Bongsup Cho, Fatemeh Akhlaghi, Ruitang Deng, David Rowley, Kerry LaPlante, Angela Slitt, Paul Larrat, Navindra Seeram, and Stephen Kogut. Not pictured: Zahir Shaikh, Dennis Hilliard, Bingfang Yan, Nasser Zawia, and Rita Marcoux



Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) is often used in treating memory disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease. Bed 16a



Flax (Linum usitatissimum) seed contains omega-3 essential fatty acids that have been shown to have hearthealthy effects. Bed 6



Common hops (Humulus lupulus)
have preservative qualities in their fragrant
flower cones. The extract is antimicrobial,
useful in making natural deodorant. Bed 1

# HEBER W. YOUNGKEN JR. MEDICINAL GARDEN

Named for the founding dean of the URI College of Pharmacy and a pioneer in the study of medicinal plants, the Youngken Garden features more than 200 medicinal plants that provide opportunities for research and education, in addition to over 500 ornamental plants that enhance this beautiful public space.

On this page: highlights and uses of medicinal plants grown in our plant beds. Visit uri.edu/pharmacy/facilities/medicinalgarden for a full list.





Witch hazel (Hamamelis virginia) has been used to relieve swelling, bleeding, itching, minor pain, and discomfort caused by minor skin irritations. Bed 17



Horse radish (Armoracia rusticana) is used to treat cough and bronchitis, as well as urinary tract infections. Bed 5



Marshmallow (Althaea officinalis) is used to treat inflammation of the throat and stomach. Bed 12



Feverfew (Tanacetum parthenium) is used to decrease migraine frequency, duration and intensity of pain. Bed 21



Olive tree (Olea europaea) leaf and extracts may help stabilize blood sugar and control diabetes. Bed 6



Valerian (Valerian officinalis) has been used for hundreds of years as a mild tranquilizer and sleeping aid. Bed 12





Yarrow (Achillea millefolium) contains aspirin-like derivatives that produce an anti-inflammatory effect. Bed 11



Gotu Kola (Centella asiatica) is used to treat various disorders of the central nervous system. Bed 19



Papaya (Carica papaya) is said to have burn and wound-healing effects. Bed 6

#### **SERVING BEHIND BARS**

Pharmacy faculty and students make an impact during the state's first health fair for incarcerated men.

The John J. Moran Medium Security Facility in Cranston is surrounded by chain link fencing and barbed wire, an unnerving first impression for the Pharm.D. students who attended Rhode Island's first-ever health fair for incarcerated men last fall, held in collaboration with the state Department of Corrections, Brown University's Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights, and the Damiano fellowship.



Then they stepped inside and got to work.

"The health fair was not only a valuable learning experience for the students, but it also reinforced for them that prisoner health is a public health issue."

The students joined Director of Pharmacy Outreach and Clinical Associate Professor Rita Marcoux, Outreach Program Coordinators Nancy Tortolani and Noemi Ramos-DeSimone, and Associate Professor Lisa Cohen to provide blood pressure checks, BMI calculations, and educational sessions on medications, nutrition, and naloxone treatment for opioid overdose to nearly 1,000 inmates who attended the health fair.

Brown medical students and volunteers from community agencies also offered vision and dental checks, as well as information on flu vaccinations and health topics such as diabetes, smoking cessation, and prostate health.

"The health fair was not only a valuable learning experience for the students, but it also reinforced for them that prisoner health is a public health issue for the communities where incarcerated individuals will eventually return," says Marcoux. "The care we provide in a correctional environment to help treat disease, substance abuse, and mental health issues has a critical impact."

In March 2016, the Outreach team was honored by the Rhode Island Department of Corrections with the 2015 Teamwork Award in recognition of their efforts. The next health fair for the incarcerated is scheduled for October 2016.

Photo credit: RI DOC Departmental Grievance Coordinator Cory Cloud



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Through student organizations, outreach initiatives, volunteer service, and professional development, our students and faculty are committed to building community partnerships and being advocates for health.

#### OFFICE OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Since its release in 2014, more than 10,000 pharmacists have been trained in the administration of overdose-reversing drug naloxone through "Prescribe to Prevent: Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Rescue Kits for Prescribers and Pharmacists," an online training program provided jointly with Boston University School of Medicine.

Faculty trained 31 Lifespan pharmacists during American Pharmacists Association's Delivering Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Services, an interactive certificate training in monitoring and improving medication use for patients with complex medication regimens.

Students and clinicians from a variety of health care disciplines participated in "TeamSTEPPS®: Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety," an interprofessional collaboration with the College of Pharmacy and Department of Physical Therapy to develop communication and teamwork skills aimed at improving patient safety in health care delivery.

The 31st Annual Seminar by the Sea brought health professionals together for an intensive three-day program on "Breaking Boundaries: New Opportunities for Pharmacists," highlighting information on biosimilars, new drugs, immunizations, patient care transitions, and clinical practice guidelines for transgender care.

The three-day 4th Annual Transporters in Drug Discovery and Development workshop, led by Associate Professor Angela Slitt with support from the Continuing Professional Development office, welcomed 72 scientists from around the world.



URI COLLEGE OF PHARMACY faculty and students headed to the Rhode Island State House on April 5 for the 13th Annual Face of Pharmacy event, where they joined forces with organizations including the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association and Rhode Island Society of Health-System Pharmacists to "put a face" on the issues and legislation that affect pharmacy and help legislators understand the collaborative role

pharmacists play in health care. Past-president of the Rhode Island Pharmacists Association (RIPA) and URI Clinical Professor Kelly Orr, Pharm.D. '01 was one of the speakers at the event. She notes: "This event shows our students the connection between their profession and the need for advocacy. They need to know they have a voice in testifying for or against legislation that affects their profession and how they care for patients."

#### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Our students are active in student organizations that provide ongoing opportunities for professional development and community outreach, from bone marrow drives and high school career days, to fundraising initiatives that support local, national, and global health organizations.











#### **CHANGE AGENTS**

The URI chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) competed in the National Clinical Skills competition at the annual SNPhA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, with support of a \$4,000 gift from College of Pharmacy alumnus Anthony Palmieri III '71, M.S. '73. Says Marisha Okpala, chapter vice president: "The conference served as a catalyst for career development, inspiring our members to be agents of change in our community and profession. We were so thankful for the opportunity to be part of this amazing event."

#### SENIOR CONNECTIONS

The URI student chapter of American Society of Consultant Pharmacists hosts an annual Red Carpet Gala with seniors from Brookdale South Bay in Wakefield. "It's a great celebration of our work with the residents over the year," says Pharm.D. student Jim Handshaw, who helped organize the 2016 event. "It's very rewarding to give back to the local community and learn from another generation. And it's fun to see everyone all dressed up."

## PHARMACY OUTREACH 2015 by the numbers



ANNUAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



19

**BROWN BAG SESSIONS** 



450

PRESENTATIONS



145 +

STATEWIDE LOCATIONS

HEALTH FAIRS AND BLOOD PRESSURE CLINICS





100+

2500+

SITES

PARTICIPANTS



18

ADVANCED PRACTICE PHARM.D. CANDIDATES

### ADVANCE PHARMACY PRACTICE EXPERIENCE PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR

Noemi Ramos-DeSimone, Pharm.D. '06 and Nancy Tortolani '81, URI Pharmacy Outreach Program



Nancy Tortolani; Director of Experiential Education Brett Feret, Pharm.D. '98; and Noemi Ramos-DeSimone

"Nancy and Noemi encompass the qualities of great preceptors—patience and caring. Passion exudes from their work; they truly enjoy what they do. They care about educating the community as well as their students."

—Jada Taglione, Pharm.D. '16





#### **ALUMNI AWARDS**

In 2015-16, College of Pharmacy alumni and health partners were honored by the University.

#### 2015 Distinguished Achievement Awards

President's Award, Mostafa Omar, Ph.D. '82 Corporate Award, CVS Health Dean's Award, Matt Leonard '88 Dean's Award, Richard Piacentini '77

#### **ROTC Hall of Fame**

Brigadier General Paul E. Casinelli '76, Medical Corps (Retired)

#### 2016 URI Diversity Award

Anita Jacobson, Pharm.D. '98

#### Alumni of the Game

Paul E. Casinelli '76 Christine Collins '90 John and Cheryl Stoukides '85 Saul '79 and Susan Kaplan

URI College of Pharmacy Alumni Achievement and Professional Achievement Award Kelly Valente, Pharm.D. '00

Dr. Norman A. Campbell Award for Ethics and Excellence in Healthcare
Heather Larch '98



#### **ON A MISSION**

Clinical Associate Professor Margaret Charpentier '87, Pharm.D. '93 traveled with students in August to Guatemala on a medical brigade with Timmy Global Health. Says Joe Nardolillo, Pharm.D. '16: "Along with our team of pre-med students, physicians, physical therapists, and a nurse, we served over 400 patients in five clinics. Working side by side in our pop-up pharmacies with the local professionals, with limited resources and varying working conditions, we were able to see an entirely different side of health care."

#### **BIG SUPPORT**

New funding provides the support—and big data—to study medication adherence in older adults.

It's a critical issue in Rhode Island and across the nation—unsafe and ineffective use of medications among older adults. Under a new fund established by CVS Health, Professor Stephen Kogut, who specializes in pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacoeconomics, is leading a team to use CVS prescription data to assess and improve the quality of medication use among older adults. The researchers will examine medication safety, effectiveness, and efficiency to develop performance measures and provide evidence-based recommendations to prescribers in Rhode Island.

"We will be looking at medication adherence and issues such as poor information, poor prescribing and over- and under-use that undermine safe and effective use of medication," says Kogut. "These are all important factors because many older adults need multiple medications to treat co-existing diseases."

"This fund is supporting research that will directly benefit patients and allows us to foster collaboration with experts outside the College of Pharmacy and the University."

Kogut will collaborate with colleagues Norma Owens, professor of pharmacy practice; Phillip Clark, professor of gerontology and director of the Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center; and Ami Vyas, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, to work with data spanning the most recent two years of prescription dispensing for CVS pharmacies located in Rhode Island for patients 65 or older. Educational outreach will be facilitated by pharmacy students trained on interprofessional teams through the Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center.

"Safe use of medications in older adults is a priority," says Kogut. "Approximately 100,000 older Americans experience adverse drug reactions each year requiring emergency care."

College of Pharmacy Dean E. Paul Larrat says CVS former chief and URI alumnus Tom Ryan '75 played a role in establishing the fund in 2009. It is now close to \$1 million in value.

"This fund is supporting research that will directly benefit patients, and specifically health care providers who treat ambulatory patients," says Larrat. "This fund allows us to foster collaboration with experts outside the College of Pharmacy and outside the University."



### **GIVING**

Our continuing success will be defined by the ability to support our students, attract and retain top faculty, and compete with peer institutions. Through the Annual Fund for URI: Pharmacy, the Pharmacy Innovation Fund Endowment, and our endowed scholarships and professorships, our donors make a lasting impact on the advancement of pharmaceutical research and education.

#### TIME + TALENT

Our College of Pharmacy community is indebted to a vast network of alumni, parents, partners, and friends who dedicate their time and expertise to support to our mission.

#### **BSPS ALUMNI MENTORS**

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James Fratantonio, Pharm.D. '14

David Ludwig '80 John J. Mastrianni '83 Jean-Marie Pflomm '96 Randy Vogenberg '75

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Amey Larrat Richard Youngken Robin Rodgers

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Kelsey Albuquerque, Pharm.D. '14

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Joshua Alonzo, Pharm.D. '07

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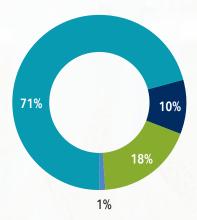
Corporation & Foundation / \$816,283

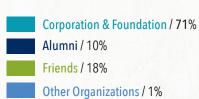
Alumni / \$129,283

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Other Organizations / \$22,625

#### PARTICIPATION BY DONOR TYPE





#### 2016 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL GIVING - \$1,058,077

TOTAL DONOR COUNT - 547

TOTAL GIVING TO ANNUAL FUND

FOR URI: PHARMACY - \$74,249

## ANNUAL FUND FOR URI: COLLEGE OF PHARMACY GIFT USE



Pharm.D. and B.S.P.S. student scholarships and aid



Graduate student scholarships, assistantships, and fellowships



Student professional meetings and travel assistance



College-wide seminars, meetings, and activities



Miscellaneous, including interprofessional opportunities



#### **TREASURE**

We are sincerely grateful to all of our alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, and corporate and foundation partners who enhance the mission of our College through their generosity.

#### \$250,000 and above

CVS Health

**Champlin Foundations** 

#### \$50,000 - \$249,000

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These pages reflect gifts made to the College of Pharmacy during the 2016 Fiscal Year.

#### **GIVING BACK**



"It's one big family," says David Whalley '77. He is reflecting on the close-knit community of College of Pharmacy students, faculty, staff, and alumni—but he also means it literally; his father, Joseph Whalley '50, and son Adam Whalley '16, plus cousin Frederick Burgess '78 and nephew Harrison Burgess '15, are all College of Pharmacy alumni. In honor of Adam's graduation this year, he was inspired to make a special gift: The Whalley Family Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy. "Pharmacy is a six-year program, which is an expensive education proposition," he says. "I wanted to do something to support our future pharmacists." For Whalley, who contributed to the Independent Community Pharmacists Classroom named

in the new Pharmacy building in 2013, support has also meant staying engaged; he cites the annual Seminar by the Sea as a valuable opportunity to reconnect with former classmates. "Each year, it reminds me how important the College has been to all of us," says Whalley. "I give back as a way of saying thank you."

#### TREASURE cont.

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