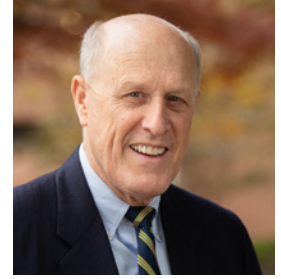


the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JULY/AUGUST 2021



GREAT MINDS, BRIGHT IDEAS CONVERGE AT UMB-LED CONFERENCES

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) has long been a place that brings together bright minds to address the issues of today and look forward to what may come in the future. Recently, UMB was privileged to host three large international conferences: the Data Science to Power Implementation with Social Determinants of Health Conference; the 3rd International Conference of the Society for Interdisciplinary Placebo Studies (SIPS); and UMB's second Global Health Summit.

The Data Science to Power Implementation with Social Determinants of Health Conference served as the inaugural event for the conference series hosted by the Data to Action! Program. The goal of the conference was to open up data science to the health care community and other stakeholders. Supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (1 R13 TR003552-01; principal investigators Fadia T. Shaya, PhD, MPH, and Stephen N. Davis, MBBS, FRCP, FACE, MACP), the conference engaged over 1,000 people including students, researchers, health care providers, social scientists, public health professionals and officials, patients and patient organizations, health agencies, data scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

Social determinants of health are the conditions in environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes. I was able to share a keynote address about the relevance of social determinants of health to clinical practice, and UMB's executive vice president and interim provost, Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MSL, MPA, emphasized the relevance of data science to the University and education context.

Speakers from multiple institutions such as NIH, University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Maryland Higher Education Commission, and IQVIA presented throughout the day. This international conference marked the beginning of a research, education, and outreach program and a series of activities centered on leveraging data science and social determinants of health to improve health outcomes, reduce cost, and inform drug and health care practice and policy. Recordings of the entire conference are available [*here*](#).

SIPS is an international association that seeks to understand the placebo effect in medical treatment, psychotherapy, and complementary and alternative treatment. SIPS worked with expert faculty from our schools of medicine, nursing, and pharmacy to design a three-day interdisciplinary and international scientific conference

designed to provide an unparalleled platform for integrating current knowledge on placebo research in pain, alcohol use disorders, and substance use disorders. Three UMB deans — E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, School of Medicine; Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP, School of Pharmacy; and Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, School of Nursing — offered remarks at the conference that attracted over 480 participants from around the world.

The organizing committee did a phenomenal job of putting together an agenda that included seven plenary speakers, a lifetime achievements lecture, three special sessions including a conversation about COVID-19, and three career development sessions. The goals and themes of the conference were fulfilled with additional research throughout the 21 workshops, two poster sessions, and five oral presentation sessions. The conference had extremely high engagement and has received glowing comments from many who attended. The UMB team that helped organize the conference did an exceptional job and used a virtual platform necessitated by COVID-19 to bring together people from around the world.

Plenary and keynote speakers included George Koob, PhD, director, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; David Rakel, MD, professor and chair, Department of Family & Community Medicine, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, who is the author of the book "The Compassionate Connection" and recipient of NIH funding to study the "clinician effect" and incorporate healing modalities into medical school curricula; Wayne B. Jonas, MD, executive director, Integrative Health Programs, Samueli Foundation (co-sponsor of the conference), who is an expert in health care delivery, a widely published scientific investigator, and author of the book "How Healing Works"; and Vinay Prasad, MD, MPH, associate professor, University of California, San Francisco, a practicing hematologist-oncologist who studies cancer drugs, health policy, clinical trials, and better decision-making and author of over 250 academic articles and the books "Ending Medical Reversal" and "Malignant."

UMB's second Global Health Summit also brought the world to our University with close to 300 attendees from 25 countries. Organized by the UMB Graduate School and our Center for Global Engagement (CGE), the theme of the summit was "Decolonizing Global Health Education." The term "decolonization" recently has become the focus of conversations within global health. Diverse voices worldwide are calling for a re-examination of the assumptions and practices underpinning global health education and practice. The UMB Global Health Summit was a direct response to these

Continued on p. 2

Continued from previous page

calls and an opportunity to rethink and reflect on the theories, processes, and methods of global health education.

The summit provided the space for productive, action-oriented dialogue toward the reimagining of a shared vision for a decolonized global health field. It was a forum for global health practitioners, researchers, educators, students, scholars, and trainees who are committed to mutual respect and advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in global health education. It also was an intentional attempt to build trust among the UMB global health community through an open and honest conversation. It is another way to show UMB's commitment to a climate of inclusion and belonging.

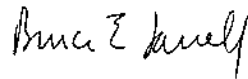
Three high-level, thought-provoking keynote presentations opened the first two days of the summit. The first keynote speaker was Ijeoma Nnodim Opara, MD, of Wayne State University School of Medicine, whose talk was titled "The Courage to Be Free: Cultivating a Decolonizing Imagination." On the second day, there was an expert dialogue between two former African Ministers of Health: Agnes Binagwaho, MD, PhD (Rwanda), and Samba Sow, MD, MSc, FASTMH (Mali). Dr. Sow also is a faculty member with our School of Medicine's Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health.

The core of the summit was interprofessional panels of students/trainees who engaged in pre-summit work around a mini-curriculum devoted to decolonization. Students from 12 professional training programs offered at UMB and from UMB partner programs

around the world shared their reflections from the pre-summit sessions. It was an extraordinary experience for listeners to hear future professionals ideate about the best ways to conduct truly equitable international education in the future. These student panels were followed up by "reactor panels" featuring experts in multiple fields. The overall goal of the summit was to engage in discussions and reflections aimed at the development of actionable ideas and recommendations for decolonizing global health education. Students and faculty mentors who participated in the summit are compiling reflections that will appear in a special collection of the *Annals of Global Health* that will come out in early 2022. Videos from the summit are available on CGE's **YouTube channel**.

These are but a few examples of how UMB continues to be a convener of bright minds from around the world — and how we've been flexible and open to new ways of gathering. I see ingenuity and solution-seeking behavior across the seven schools throughout the pandemic and, importantly, as we look to the future of UMB.

Sincerely,



Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND BALTIMORE

Virtual
FACE to FACE
with **PRESIDENT BRUCE JARRELL**

SUMMER BREAK
The program is on hiatus.
The next planned episode will be a "Back to School" edition in late summer.

Watch previous episodes at umaryland.edu/president/face-to-face.

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2021

UNIVERSITYWIDE

UMB's **Division of Student Affairs** was recognized for the third year in a row as one of the "Most Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs" by *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* magazine and the American College Personnel Association. The award focuses on workplace diversity, staffing practices, and work environment, including but not limited to the following categories: family friendliness, salary/benefits, and professional development opportunities.



LISA RAWLINGS

Lisa Rawlings, MBA, director of workforce development and job readiness, Office of Community Engagement, was named to a two-year term

on the Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education's Board of Directors. She also was named to the Sandtown-Winchester Harlem Park Master Plan Collective's Advisory Group.



CHRISTINE SCHMIDT

Christine Schmidt, enrollment services specialist, Office of the Registrar, was named UMB Employee of the Month for April for

her hard work and dedication to helping students with transcripts, degree and enrollment verification, diplomas, and much more.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



CHRIS CHOI

Chris Choi, DMD, MS, clinical assistant professor, Division of Prosthodontics, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, appeared in a

documentary about dentistry in the United States produced by South Korean cable news company YTN.

Mary Anne Melo, DDS, PhD, associate professor and interim chair, Department of General Dentistry, and **Abdulrahman A. Balhaddad, BDS, MS**, PhD student, Dental Biomedical Sciences, were among the co-authors of "Photodynamic Therapy for Biomodulation and Disinfection in Implant Dentistry: Is It Feasible and Effective?" which was published in *Photochemistry and Photobiology*.



VASILEIOS IONAS THEOFILOU

Vasileios Ionas Theofilou, DDS, resident, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, received the Gorlin Award, given for the best oral abstract

among U.S. and Canadian oral and maxillofacial pathology programs, at the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology's Annual Meeting. Joining Theofilou as co-authors of "Stromal Inflammatory Subtypes of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma Correlate with Patient

Clinical Characteristics, Demographics, and Gene Expression" were UMSOD's **Donita Dyalram, DDS, MD, FACS**; **Ioana Ghita, DDS**; **Donita Dyalram, DDS, MD, FACS**; **Joshua E. Lubek, DDS, MD, FACS**; **Robert A. Ord, DDS, MD, FRCS, FACS, MS**; and **Rania H. Younis, BDS, MDS, PhD**.



RANIA H. YOUNIS

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



PETER DANCHIN

Peter Danchin, JD, associate dean, research and faculty development, presented "Between Legality and the Protection of Rights: The Jurisprudence of Arthur Chaskalson" and "Theorizing the Backlash Moment in International Law" at the Law and Society Association's Annual Meeting on May 27.



DONALD GIFFORD

Donald Gifford, JD, professor, wrote "Foreword: A Torts Festschrift in Memory of Professor Oscar S. Gray," which was published in *Maryland Law Review*.

LAURELS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS BY REPRESENTATIVES IN VARIOUS UNIVERSITYWIDE OFFICES. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN THESE SELF-SUBMITTED LAURELS.

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2021



SARA GOLD

Sara Gold, JD, clinical law instructor, Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic, was a panelist on “Closing the Justice Gap Through Medical-Legal Partnerships” at the Maryland Pro Bono Resource Center’s Partners for Justice Conference on May 14.

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was quoted in “Prosecutors Ignored Evidence of Her Estranged Husband’s Abuse. She Faces 25 Years in Prison for Murder,” which was published in *The Intercept* on May 24.

Mark Graber, JD, professor, wrote “Original Expectations,” which was published in *University of Connecticut Law Review*.

Liz Graham, head of technical services, Thurgood Marshall Law Library, received the Emerging Leader Award from the American Association of Law Libraries.



DIANE HOFFMANN

Diane Hoffmann, JD, professor and director, Law and Health Care Program, was a roundtable participant on the “Bodies in Law” panel at the Law and

Society Association’s Annual Meeting on May 29.

Quince Hopkins, JD, director, Levitas Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention, co-authored the op-ed “Focus on Middle Schoolers in Effort to Prevent Sexual Assault,” which was published in *The Baltimore Sun* on May 20.



SEEMA KAKADE

Seema Kakade, JD, associate professor and director, Environmental Law Clinic, wrote “Revitalizing Greenhouse Gas Permitting Inside a Biden EPA,” which was published in *Environmental Law Reporter*.



ROBERT PERCIVAL

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, wrote “Refreshing Unanimity in Court’s Interpretation of Superfund Law,” which was published in the SCOTUS Blog on May 25.



MICHAEL PINARD

Michael Pinard, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was a panelist on “The Effects of Mass Incarceration on Communities of Color in the Wake of COVID-19” webinar, which was hosted by the American Bar Association Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice on May 10.



AMANDA PUSTILNIK

Amanda Pustilnik, JD, professor, was quoted in “Novel Opioid Lawsuit Goes After Ad Agency,” which was published by *Courthouse News Service* on May 6.



NATALIE RAM

Natalie Ram, JD, professor, was quoted in “Two New Laws Restrict Police Use of DNA Search Method,” which was published in *The New York Times* on May 31.



MATIANGAI SIRLEAF

Matiangai Sirleaf, JD, professor, wrote “Disposable Bodies: COVID-19, Experimental Trials & the Uprising,” which was published in

Columbia Law Review Forum, and “Racial Valuation of Diseases,” which was published in *UCLA Law Review*.



MARLEY WEISS

Marley Weiss, JD, professor, wrote “Breaking the Chains of Bondage Among Foreign Suppliers of Imported Goods,” which was published in the winter/spring issue of the American Bar Association Section of Labor and Employment Law’s newsletter.

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2021

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The following is a select list. For all the SOM laurels, visit www.somnews.umaryland.edu.



CLEMENT ADEBAMOWO

Clement Adebamowo, BM, ChB, ScD, FWACS, FACS, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, presented “GWAS of Persistent High-

Risk HPV Infection: Results from an H3Africa Collaborative Center” at the National Cancer Institute’s SeqSPACE Forum on June 8.



AMBER BEITELSHEES



DANIEL LEMKIN

Amber Beitelshes, PharmD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Medicine, and **Daniel Lemkin, MD, MS**, assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Opportunity for Genotype-Guided Prescribing Among Adult Patients in 11 US Health Systems,” which was published in *Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics*, and “Prescribing Prevalence of Medications with Potential Genotype-Guided Dosing in Pediatric Patients,” which was published in *JAMA Network Open*.

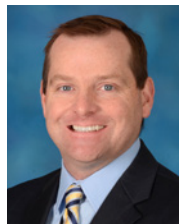
Maureen Black, PhD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, was the lead author of “Grow Smart: A Cluster Randomized Trial of Point-of-Use Fortification of Preschool Meals with Multiple Micronutrient Powders Improves Expressive Language and Reduces Anemia and Iron Deficiency in Rural India,” which was published in the *Journal of Nutrition*.



THOMAS BLANPIED

Thomas Blanpied, PhD, professor, Department of Physiology, received a one-year, \$600,000 \$10 grant from the National Institutes of

Health’s Office of the Director for “A Lightsheet Microscope for an Established Core Facility.”



PETER BOWMAN

Peter Bowman, PT, DPT, FAAOMPT, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, was appointed as director of clinical

therapy services for University of Maryland Orthopaedic Associates.



LINDA CHANG

Linda Chang, MD, MS, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, received a \$5,407,500 grant from the Avant-Garde Award Program for HIV/

AIDS and Substance Use Disorder Research for “MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound to Eradicate CNS Viral Reservoirs and Promote Neurogenesis in the HIV-Infected Brain.”



ELIZABETH CLAYBORNE

Elizabeth Clayborne, MD, MA, adjunct assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, was interviewed for “Doctor on J&J Vaccine: ‘You

Have a Much Higher Risk of Getting a Blood Clot If You Smoke,’ ” which was published by Yahoo Finance.

Dheeraj Gandhi, MBBS, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the last author of “Evidence-Based Vascular Neuroimaging” and “Management of Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysms,” which both were published in *Neuroimaging Clinics of North America*.



ERIN HAGER

Erin Hager, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, is the principal investigator on “COVID-19 Policies: Impact Over Time on Child

Health, Obesity, and Disparities,” a \$3,033,138 R01 grant from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. **Maureen Black, PhD**, professor, Department of Pediatrics, and **Elizabeth Parker, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, are co-investigators.

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2021



STELLA HINES

Stella Hines, MD, MSPH, associate professor, Department of Medicine, presented “Beryllium and the BeLPT: What Every Occupational Medicine Provider Needs to Know” at the American Occupational Health Conference on May 3.

Mirosław Janowski, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, received a \$1.9 million R01 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Image-Guided, Intra-Arterial Delivery of Antibodies to the Central Nervous System.”



WENDY LANE

Wendy Lane, MD, MPH, clinical associate professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, was appointed director of the Maryland CHAMP

(Child Abuse Medical Professionals) Program, a Maryland Department of Health-sponsored initiative that provides training and peer review to Maryland physicians and nurses who do clinical child abuse work.



RANA MALEK

Rana Malek, MD, clinical associate professor, Department of Medicine, received the H. Jack Baskin, MD, Endocrine Teaching

Award, which was awarded at the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology’s Annual Meeting.



TIMOTHY O'CONNOR

Timothy O'Connor, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, and faculty member, Institute for Genome Sciences, received the Epidemiology

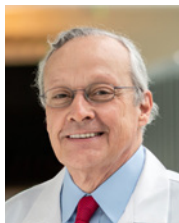
and Human Genetics Program and Gerontology Program Faculty Mentoring Award in May. He also received the Department of Medicine’s Best Publication Award in Basic Science for his research on de novo mutations in the Amish, which was published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*.



JACQUES RAVEL

Jacques Ravel, PhD, professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and associate director, Institute for Genome Sciences, received a five-year, \$8

million U19 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Structure, Immunity and Microbiome: Human 3D Biomimetics Cervicovaginal Models for Sexually Transmitted Infections (SIM-STI).”



J. MARC SIMARD

J. Marc Simard, MD, PhD, professor; **Volodymyr Gerzanich, PhD**, associate professor; and **Seong Woo, PhD**, assistant professor, all from

the Department of Neurosurgery, and **Min Kwon, PhD**, research associate, Department of Surgery, co-authored “Abcc8 (Sulfonylurea Receptor-1) Impact on Brain Atrophy after TBI Varies by Sex,” which was published in the *Journal of Neurotrauma*.



GERALD SLOBOGEAN

Gerald Slobogean, MD, MPH, associate professor and director of clinical research, Department of Orthopaedics, and **Em Drager, CRNA**, both

members of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center’s GO TEAM, were nominated for a Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems Star of Life Award for their role in an emergency response call in summer 2020 at Rocks State Park in Jarrettsville, Md.

Sarah Sommerkamp, MD, and **Zachary Dezman, MD, MS, MS**, both assistant professors, Department of Emergency Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Comparison of 4 Tests’ Utility for Predicting Need for Emergency Department Care in Patients with Alcohol-Related Complaints,” which was published in the *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*.



ZELJKO VUJASKOVIC

Zeljko Vujaskovic, MD, PhD, professor and vice chair for research, Department of Radiation Oncology, received a Lifetime Achievement

Award from *The Daily Record*

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2021

as part of its annual Health Care Heroes recognition.



ZHEKANG YING

Zhekang Ying, PhD, assistant professor, and **Liqing Yu, PhD**, professor, both from the Department of Medicine, received a five-year, \$3,124,436

grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for “Mechanism for Programming of Offspring Adiposity by Maternal PM2.5 Exposure.”

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Forty UMSON faculty and staff members presented their work or had it featured at the Maryland Action Coalition’s 2021 Virtual Leadership Summit titled “Meeting Challenges Head On: Maryland Nurses Respond.”



BIMBOLA F. AKINTADE



VANESSA P. FAHIE

Bimbola F. Akintade, PhD ’11, MS ’05, MBA, MHA, BSN ’03, ACNP-BC, NEA-BC, FAANP, associate professor and associate dean, Master of Science in Nursing Program, and **Vanessa P. Fahie, PhD ’94, BSN ’76**, assistant professor, participated in the American

Association of Colleges of Nursing’s 2021 Diversity Leadership Institute, which provided an overview of diversity and inclusion efforts and the role of diversity officers in academic nursing and nursing practice.

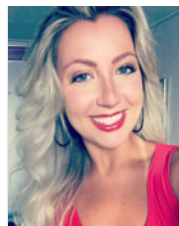


AMEERA CHAKRAVARTHY

Ameera Chakravarthy, MS, RN, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC, clinical instructor and director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse

Practitioner/Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist specialty, was elected president of the Nurse Practitioner Association of Maryland.

Doctor of Nursing Practice students **Michelle Gorey, DNP ’21, RN**; **Elizabeth “Betsy” Johnson, MSN, CPNP-PC**; **Lana Kim, DNP ’21, MSH, AGNP-C**;



MICHELLE GOREY

Ryan Swartz, BSN, RN; and **Ricki Weisbrot, DNP ’21, RN**, were recognized for their presentations at national, regional, and local conferences.

Shannon Idzik, DNP ’10, MS ’03, CRNP, FAANP, FAAN, associate professor and associate dean, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program; **Kathleen Buckley, PhD, MS ’76, BSN ’73, RN, IBCLC**, associate professor; **Susan Bindon, DNP ’11, MS ’95, RN, NPD-BC, CNE, CNE-cl**, associate professor and associate dean for faculty development; **Brenda Windemuth, DNP ’11, CRNP**, assistant



SHANNON IDZIK



KATHLEEN BUCKLEY



SUSAN BINDON



BRENDA WINDEMUTH



DEBRA BINGHAM

professor and director, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner specialty; and **Debra Bingham, DrPH, RN, FAAN**, associate professor,

were among the co-authors of “Lessons Learned Using Logic Models to Design and Guide DNP Projects,” which was published in *Nurse Educator*.



JANE M. KIRSCHLING

Jane M. Kirschling, PhD, RN, FAAN, the Bill and Joanne Conway Dean of the University of Maryland School of Nursing, was named a working group member

for the 2021-23 Interprofessional Education Collaborative Core Competencies revision update.

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2021



MARIK MOEN

Marik Moen, PhD '18, MPH, RN, assistant professor, received a one-year, \$50,000 pilot grant from the UMB Center for Addiction Research,

Education, and Service's Science to Systems Grant Program. Moen will serve as the principal investigator for the project "Partnering with People with Substance Use Disorders as Stakeholders to Improve Assessing and Addressing Health-Related Social Needs."



EUN-SHIM NAHM

Eun-Shim Nahm, PhD '03, RN, FAAN, professor and director, Nursing Informatics Program, was honored with the UMSON Colleague

Award at the University of Maryland Medical Center's Nursing Excellence Awards Ceremony on May 6.



LYNN M. OSWALD



CARLA L. STORR

Lynn M. Oswald, PhD, RN, associate professor, and **Carla L. Storr, ScD, MPH**, professor, were among the co-authors of "Early Life Stress and Risks for Opioid Misuse: Review

of Data Supporting Neurobiological Underpinnings," which was published in the *Journal of Personalized Medicine*.



ANJU PAUDEL

Anju Paudel, MGS, RN, PhD student, received a UMB Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program Award in recognition of her contributions

to the field of geriatric nursing.



NICOLE E. SMITH

Nicole E. Smith, MS '14, RN, CNE, CHSE, CNE-cl, clinical instructor and clinical simulation lab coordinator, Universities at Shady Grove, was accepted into the

National League for Nursing's (NLN) Scholarly Writing Retreat: An NLN Mentoring Program, which helps nurse educators enhance their writing skills and disseminate research findings and other work in scholarly publications.



REBECCA WISEMAN

Rebecca Wiseman, PhD '93, RN, associate professor and chair of UMSON at the Universities at Shady Grove, was elected to a two-year term as treasurer

of the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



KIMBERLY CLAEYS



HEATHER CONGDON



MEGAN EHRET



JULIA SLEJKO



DEANNA TRAN

The following UMSOP faculty received promotions: **Kimberly Claeys, PharmD**, now professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and

Science (PPS); **Heather Congdon, PharmD**, now professor, PPS; **Megan Ehret, PharmD**, now professor, PPS; **Julia Slejko, PhD**, now associate professor with tenure, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research; and **Deanna Tran, PharmD**, now associate professor, PPS.

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and executive director, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, was named chair of the Advisory Committee on

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2021

Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages under the Bureau Health Workforce within the Health Resources and Services Administration.

She also received a two-year, \$239,837 contract from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for “Engaging Older Adults and Caregivers in Medication Optimization Research.”



NICOLE BRANDT



ERICA DAVIS

Erica Davis, PharmD, advanced practice pharmacist, Mental Health Program, received an Innovative Practices Award from the College of Psychiatric

and Neurologic Pharmacists.



SANDEEP DEVABHAKTHUNI

Sandeep Devabhakthuni, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was accepted into UMB’s Faculty Leadership

Development Program.



SUSAN DOSREIS

Susan dosReis, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a one-year, \$99,998 contract from

the Social Services Administration for “Maryland State Foster Care Psychotropic Monitoring.”

Joga Gobburu, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS) and director, Center for Translational Medicine, and **Vijay Ivaturi, PhD,** assistant professor, PPS, received a U.S. patent for “Method of Administering Sotalol IV/Switch.”



MATHANGI GOPALAKRISHNAN

Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a two-year, \$15,506 contract

from Meabco, Inc. for “Consulting Services Related to Meabco, Inc.’s Proprietary Compound, BP-C2.”



MOJDEH HEAVNER

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received the Distinguished Alumni

Award from the Yale New Haven Health Pharmacy’s Residency Program.

Jace Jones, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named UMSOP’s American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Teacher of the Year.



JACE JONES

Cherokee Layson-Wolfe, PharmD,

associate dean for student affairs and associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received the Maryland Pharmacists Association’s Seidman Distinguished Achievement Award and was named the Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2021’s Teacher of the Year.



CHEROKEE LAYSON-WOLFE



KAYLEIGH MAJERCAK

Kayleigh Majercak, graduate student, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a 19-month, \$50,000

fellowship from the National Health Council for “Overcoming Evidence-Based Gaps: A Patient Survey Template to Inform Patient-Centered Value Assessment.”

Jill Morgan, PharmD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received the 2021 Sustained

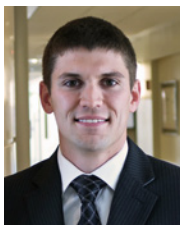
Contribution to Administrative Practice in Pharmacy Education Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Administrative Services Section.



JILL MORGAN

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2021



ZACHARY NOEL

Zachary Noel, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named UMSOP's American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's alternate delegate.



CHARMAINE ROCHESTER-EYEGUOKAN

Charmaine Rochester-Eyeguokan, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received the 2021 Bowl of Hygeia Award

from the Maryland Pharmacists Association and was named the Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2021's Faculty Preceptor of the Year.

Julia Slejko, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, was named co-chair-elect of the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes' Research Faculty Advisory Council.

Sarah Tanveer, graduate student, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received the 2021 Outstanding Graduate Student Representative Award from the UMB Graduate Student Association.

Deanna Tran, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named president-elect of the Maryland

Pharmacists Association; was elected a member-at-large of the American Pharmacists Association's Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management; and received the 2020 Outstanding Reviewer Award from the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*.

James Trovato, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named president-elect of UMSOP's Faculty Assembly.



JAMES TROVATO



LINDA WASTILA

Linda Wastila, PhD, the Parke-Davis Chair of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a

two-year, \$242,202 fellowship from Novartis for "Novartis Outcomes Research Fellowship Task Order No. 3."

Barbara Zarowitz, PharmD, geriatric pharmacotherapy and clinical research consultant, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, was named to the American Medical Directors Association Foundation Board.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Richard P. Barth, PhD, professor, was among the co-authors of "Police Violence and Associations with Public Perceptions of the Police," which was published in the *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*.



RICHARD P. BARTH

Mel Bellin, PhD, associate professor, and alumnus **Rachel Margolis, PhD, MSW**, wrote "Caregiver Depressive Symptoms and Primary Medication Nonadherence in Children with Asthma," which was published in the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*.



MEL BELLIN

John Cagle, PhD, associate professor, was among the co-authors of "Caregiver Burden and Related Factors During Active Cancer Treatment: A Latent Growth Curve Analysis," which was published in the *European Journal of Oncology Nursing*.

Christabel Cheung, PhD, assistant professor, co-authored "Centering Black Swans: Embodied Research in Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology," which was published in *Oppositional Conversations*.

LAURELS

JULY/AUGUST 2021



JAIH CRADDOCK

Jaih Craddock, PhD, assistant professor, was among the co-authors of “Associations in Preventive Sexual Health Service Utilization and Pre-Exposure

Prophylaxis (PrEP) interest Among Young Black Women in the United States, 2018,” which was published in *AIDS Care: Psychological and Socio-Medical Aspects of AIDS/HIV*.



SARAH DABABNAH

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, associate professor, was among the co-authors of an article published in the *International Journal of Developmental*

Disabilities that explored the stigma among parents raising children with disabilities.

Jodi Frey, PhD, professor, was among the co-authors of “Suicide Intervention Training with Law Enforcement Officers,” which was published in *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*.

Elizabeth J. Greeno, PhD, research associate professor;

John A. Cosgrove, PhD, lead research analyst; and **Bethany Lee, PhD**, professor, co-authored “The Evaluation of a Nurturing Parenting Program Implemented by Child Welfare Workers,” which was published in *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Bethany Lee, PhD, professor, was appointed as director of UMSSW’s Doctoral and Postdoctoral Program, effective July 1.

Howard A. Palley, PhD, Professor Emeritus, wrote “The White Working Class and the Politics of Race in the United States,” which was published in *Open Political Science*.



JOAN PITTMAN

Joan Pittman, PhD, associate professor, was among the co-authors of “Interprofessional Education Clinics and Improved Outcomes for Primary Care

Patients with Diabetes,” which was published in the *Journal of Interprofessional Education & Practice*.

Michael Reisch, PhD, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, gave the keynote presentation “Promoting Social Justice Through Social Work Research in an ‘Alternative Facts’ Environment” at the European Social Work Research Association’s Annual Conference in May.

Theda Rose, PhD, assistant professor, and student **Victoria Chan** were among the co-authors of “A Very Present Help: The Role of Religious Support for Black Adolescent Girls’ Mental Well-Being,” which was published in the *Journal of Community Psychology*.

Corey Shdaimah, PhD, the Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, co-authored “Targeted Sympathy in ‘Whore

Court’: Criminal Justice Actors’ Perceptions of Prostitution Diversion Programs,” which was published in *Law & Policy*.



COREY SHDAIMAH

Melissa Smith, PhD, associate professor, was among the co-authors of “Social Work Training to Reduce Duration of Untreated Psychosis: Methodology and Considerations of a Web-Based Training for Community Providers,” which was published in *Early Intervention in Psychiatry*.

Jay Unick, PhD, associate professor, was among the authors of “Item Response Theory Analysis: PROMIS® Anxiety Form and Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale,” which was published in the *Western Journal of Nursing Research*.



FERNANDO WAGNER

Fernando Wagner, PhD, professor, was among the co-authors of “Comparative Analysis of Lifetime Suicide Attempts Among Mexican

Adolescents Over the Past 12 Years,” which was published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

Orrin Ware, PhD candidate, was among the co-authors of “Barriers to Retention in Substance Use Treatment: Validation of a New, Theory-Based Scale,” which was published in the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

JULY/AUGUST 2021

B'MORE FOR HEALTHY BABIES DELIVERS RESULTS

Shania Kerina was pregnant — and homeless — when at least once a week she received a call from Angelise Shelby, MSW, LGSW, a social worker with B'more for Healthy Babies (BHB), the outreach program operated by the University of Maryland School of Social Work's (UMSSW) Promise Heights initiative.

"I was house to house. I was in and out the hospital from stress. I was bleeding a lot," Kerina said. "I was so stressed that I just would ignore her call."



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

SHANIA KERINA, A MOTHER WHO BENEFITED FROM B'MORE FOR HEALTHY BABIES SERVICES, SAYS OF THE INITIATIVE: "NOT ONLY ARE THEY SAVING LIVES, BUT THEY'RE BUILDING FAMILIES."

At the time, Kerina knew little about BHB, how the staff conducts aggressive outreach using door-to-door, word-of-mouth, and other methods to build family and community trust and increase community awareness of their prenatal and postnatal support services. She didn't know BHB would be credited for achieving a record-low infant mortality rate for Black infants in her neighborhood of Upton/Druid Heights.

Eventually Kerina saw a flyer for a "Spa Night" hosted by BHB for pregnant women and new moms in her neighborhood. "Why not go?" she said to herself. After all, dinner was included.

"The room was packed just with pregnant moms, new moms, and they had a room where they were watching the kids. They supplied dinner for us at the end. And I don't even think they knew that was the only meal I had that day. And I was pregnant at eight months," Kerina said.

Now the proud mother of a 1½-year-old son Kimani, Kerina shared her story at a June 17 news conference celebrating a major milestone in the work of BHB and its partners. After more than a decade of sustained investment in Upton/Druid Heights, the infant mortality rate has dropped by 75 percent to 3.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. This rate is lower than the city's overall white infant mortality rate (4.4 in 2019) and comparable to Baltimore communities that are far more wealthy and affected far less negatively by social determinants of health. The outcome is directly tied to years of local investment, outreach, and education through the work of the BHB program, officials said.

When BHB launched in 2009, Upton/Druid Heights, with a population that is among the city's least wealthy and almost entirely Black, had a higher rate of infant mortality than the city overall.

"It is no secret that there is a distinct significant racial disparity in infant mortality with Black babies typically dying between two and five times the rate of white babies," said Mayor Brandon M. Scott, who hosted the news conference. "This is an unfortunate dynamic that our city knows all too well. In 2009, 15 out of 1,000 infants in the neighborhood of Upton/Druid Height did not survive birth.

"While the deck is already stacked against Black children growing up in these neighborhoods, 15 of those precious lives won't even have an opportunity to dream or fulfill their potential."

Scott was joined by University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS; Stacey Stephens, LCSW-C, director of BHB; Letitia Dzirasa, MD, commissioner

Continued from previous page

of the Baltimore City Health Department; Demaune Millard, president and chief executive officer of the Family League of Baltimore; Traci Kodeck, MPH, chief executive officer of HealthCare Access Maryland; Destiny Simone-Ramjohn, PhD, vice president of community health and social impact at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield; and Antoine Dow, owner of Cut Styles barbershop.

“The work in Upton/Druid Heights is absolutely incredible,” Scott said. “I want to thank Director Stephens and B’more for Healthy Babies for this measurable impact in this community, and subsequently in Baltimore as a whole.”

In addition to promoting access to prenatal care and primary care services, BHB provides education to new parents through local organizations, schools, and businesses. BHB also leads Moms Clubs for prenatal education and postpartum support, breastfeeding support groups, parenting classes, and case management.

“This isn’t just an accomplishment relative to Baltimore. This is a national accomplishment, where we have done a spectacular job,” Jarrell said. “The hard part comes up now. How do we make it so that those infants now blossom, reach their potential, and become great contributors to this city? That’s the challenge. The other challenge is, of course, to keep our federal government helping us to fund this great program. And so, Mr. Mayor and all of our delegation, we’re going to need your help to make this kind of funding that goes to social determinants of health really successful.”

Stephens noted that a central part of BHB’s success has been cultivating trust and respect in the Upton/Druid Heights community.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

MAYOR BRANDON SCOTT (LEFT) LISTENS AS UMB PRESIDENT BRUCE JARRELL SPEAKS DURING THE EVENT THAT CELEBRATED B'MORE FOR HEALTHY BABIES' SUCCESS IN REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY.

“We owe a tremendous thank you to Black women who partnered with us during the vulnerable but joyous time of pregnancy and parenting young children,” Stephens said, addressing moms from the community who gathered on the sidewalk and joined program staff in donning purple BHB T-shirts outside Cut Styles on McMechen Street, where the news conference was held.

“During this period, we have deeply listened to Black women as you have transformed educational, perinatal groups into spaces that foster social connections and supports,” she said. “We admire how you have emerged as strong advocates and community organizers in your community, which has even led to new entrepreneurial and employment opportunities.”

Stephens also thanked Dow and other barbers in the community. For eight years, barbers have been instrumental in providing space in their shops to share BHB messaging on reducing the infant mortality rate.

— Mary Therese Phelan

Read more about this event.

DIVERSITY

JULY/AUGUST 2021

UMB CELEBRATES JUNETEENTH, CONTINUES DISCUSSION ON ANTI-RACISM



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

THE JUNETEENTH JUBILEE AT THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER FEATURED FOOD, GIVEAWAYS, MUSIC, AND MORE.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) affirmed its commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in June and July with events that celebrated Juneteenth, a follow-up discussion on how to be an anti-racist, and the arrival of a new chief equity, diversity, and inclusion officer (CEDIO) and vice president.

Juneteenth became a federal holiday in June, but well before that UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, announced it would be a holiday for UMB, saying in a March 29 letter to the community that Juneteenth “serves as a day to reflect on the fight for freedom and justice — then and now — and to joyfully celebrate Black history and culture, and Black resistance and resilience.”

Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas on June 19, 1865, more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Juneteenth is now the preeminent national celebration of freedom from slavery in the United States.

After Jarrell’s March announcement, a group of employees from the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW), UMB Intercultural Center, and UMB Community Engagement Center (CEC) worked to organize a week of cultural events for the University community to celebrate the contributions and resilience of African Americans.

Seantè Hatcher, LCSW-C, associate dean of continuing professional education at UMSSW, was among the organizers. “Juneteenth is a celebration of Black joy,” Hatcher said. “It’s a time when we can all come together to see how rich and vast Black culture is. We are so much more than the descendants of slaves.”

The celebration kicked off June 14 with a panel of museum leaders who discussed Black history post-enslavement and the strides that have been made to obtain full physical and financial autonomy. Moderated by Hatcher, the freewheeling discussion ranged from the impact of integration on African Americans to the importance of the arts in education.

Terri Freeman, MA, executive director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture in Baltimore, reflected on the importance of African American museums, saying they provide an understanding of the 400 years of fundamental contributions Black people have made in America.

“It’s not African American history. It’s American history through the lens of the African American experience,” she said, emphasizing that there is no way to disentangle the two.

On June 15, the virtual event “Black Diasporic Experience: Are We All Seeking Collective Liberation?” explored the Black experience in America. Moderated by Neijma Celestine-Donnor, LCSW-C, assistant dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion at UMSSW, the panel included speakers of African descent from Ghana, Belize, and the United States who discussed cultural differences within the Black community.

On June 16, the CEC hosted a Juneteenth Jubilee Community Day Block Party that featured food, giveaways, music, activities, and dancing. And June 17, a Zoom House Party was held online to emphasize Black joy through music, trivia, and social connection. At the Juneteenth Jubilee, attendees received tote bags that included information about the holiday’s history and a craft kit.

“We wanted to make sure that youths received an activity book so that at a young age they can learn about Juneteenth, what their ancestors went through, and how our history didn’t start with enslavement, that there are other aspects to African American culture,” said Danielle Harris, LCSW-C, associate director of the CEC. “We wanted to celebrate that, because the children may not be getting that messaging in school.”

Continued from previous page

Meanwhile, the June 17 edition of *Virtual Face to Face with President Bruce Jarrell* served as a follow-up to a February UMB event in which author and educator Ibram X. Kendi, PhD, MA, discussed his book “How to Be an Antiracist.” The University then sponsored discussions about the book and its topic, and four of the facilitators took turns on *Virtual Face to Face* talking about their sessions and the feedback they received.

Among the key takeaways was that UMB needs to continue its conversations around equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism, while striving to be proactive in assessing and addressing these issues in the University’s policies and practices of the past, present, and future.

“We are an action-oriented institution, and we absolutely want to be more of an action-oriented institution on the topic of diversity, equity, and inclusion,” said Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MSL, MPA, interim provost, executive vice president, and dean of the University of Maryland Graduate School, who hosted the show in place of Jarrell. “We’ve been having great conversations around this topic, and those conversations should continue after today’s program, because we are on this journey together.”

The book club discussions included about 150 UMB students, staff, and employees including 19 facilitators. Each facilitator met with their group at least two times to discuss Kendi’s book and generate ideas for UMB to combat racism.

The four facilitators on *Virtual Face to Face* were Cherita Adams, MBA, MS, assistant dean for administration and strategic initiatives, UMSSW; Rosemary Ferreira, MEd, program coordinator, Intercultural Center; Elisa Medina, MSW, LCSW-C, career development manager, Human Resource Services; and Tyrone Roper, MSW, director, CEC.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

YOUTH WHO ATTENDED THE JUNETEENTH JUBILEE RECEIVED A TOTE BAG THAT INCLUDED INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOLIDAY.

They were joined by Diane Forbes Berthoud, PhD, MA, who would become the University’s inaugural CEDIO on July 1.

While praising Kendi’s scholarship, Forbes Berthoud recommended that members of the UMB community also explore the work of Beverly Tatum, PhD, MA, an author, educator, psychologist, and expert on the topic of racism. She shared Tatum’s “moving walkway” analogy.

“Dr. Tatum says she sometimes visualizes the ongoing cycle of racism like a moving walkway at the airport,” Forbes Berthoud said. “Active racist behavior is the equivalent of walking fast on the conveyor belt. Passive racist behavior is the equivalent of standing still, so you’re standing there and not doing anything. But the conveyor belt moves the bystanders to the same destination as those who are actively walking.”

“Some of the bystanders may feel the motion of the conveyor belt, see the active racists walking ahead of them, and choose to turn around.

But unless they are walking actively, in the opposite direction, at a speed faster than the conveyor belt — unless they are actively anti-racist — they will find themselves carried along with the others.

“So it is really important to think about our collective commitment as it relates to anti-racism, but also as it relates to all other forms of oppression — at the institution, in our communities, and more broadly in society — that will require all of us actively turning around on the conveyor belt and going in the opposite direction.”

— Laura Lee and Lou Cortina

Watch a video about the Juneteenth Jubilee. [🔗](#)

Read more about the June 17 Virtual Face to Face. [🔗](#)

PROUD TO **WORK HERE.**
PROUD TO **GIVE HERE.**



CAMPAIGN IMPACT

The **PROUD TO WORK HERE. PROUD TO GIVE HERE.** campaign is a Universitywide awareness and fundraising effort that invites faculty and staff to show their pride with a gift to the UMB school, scholarship, program, fund, or cause that matters most to them.

Thank you to all who participated – you have a lot to be PROUD of.

\$884,000

received

in gifts and
pledge payments

11%

*employee
participation*

187

*funds
supported*

FISCAL YEAR 2021 (July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021)



744 DONORS

39% donors with more
than one gift

66% consecutive year
donors

291

donors with
multiple gifts

124 FIRST-TIME DONORS

49

donors through
payroll deduction



**488 CONSECUTIVE
YEAR DONORS**

\$25

most frequent
gift amount

**AREAS
SUPPORTED:**

*Student Scholarships
and Endowments*

Professorships

Research Activities

Public Service Projects

Institutional Programs

Areas of Greatest Need

COLLABORATION

JULY/AUGUST 2021

ALLIANCE PROMOTES EDUCATION-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP

Partnership was the theme June 11 at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) in Rockville, Md., where leaders from government, higher education, and business gathered to celebrate the Maryland Life Sciences Education and Innovation Partnership. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlines a strategic alliance designed to greatly enhance opportunities for students, propel further innovation, and provide a talent pipeline for the region's burgeoning life sciences industry.

"You will see the word 'partnership' repeated throughout this document," Isiah "Ike" Leggett, JD, a University System of Maryland (USM) regent and former Montgomery County executive, told the room before making a reference to the musical *Hamilton*. "This does not work without partnership. It will take time for us to fully execute this, but we have a movement, we have a plan, and we have the right people in the room where it happens."

Those "people in the room" included University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS; USM Chancellor Jay A. Perman, MD; the presidents and other representatives of five USM institutions and Montgomery College; Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, MA; and business leaders from AstraZeneca, IBM, S3, American Gene Technologies, Quality Biological, and US Pharmacopeia.

"Partnership is a key thing for success, especially in Maryland with the system for us to develop linkages across the various institutions," said Karl V. Steiner, PhD, vice president for research at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. "There's a power in working together, really showing the power of USM, which the chancellor has really challenged us to do."

The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: *MPowering the State*, which combines the research activities of UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), is a great example of the power of partnership, Jarrell said.

"Among public universities, [UMB and UMCP] are ranked eighth in research. My gosh, think about that!" Jarrell exclaimed. "Our combined research expenditures are over \$1 billion per year, which is a large amount of money. So, there is tremendous research expertise sitting on these two campuses, as well as throughout Maryland and in the biotech community."

The Maryland Life Sciences Education and Innovation Partnership goes a step further than *MPower*, bringing the educational and research aspects of Maryland's public higher education institutions into a close working relationship with industry. The goals are to provide Maryland students richer experiential learning and Maryland biotech businesses a highly qualified pool of talent.




PHOTO BY ALEX LIKOWSKI
UMB PRESIDENT BRUCE E. JARRELL ADDRESSES THE LEADERS WHO GATHERED JUNE 11 AT THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE TO CELEBRATE THE MARYLAND LIFE SCIENCES EDUCATION AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP.

Key elements of the partnership are a commitment to collaborate to enhance student career path awareness and inform the development of curricula and programmatic offerings that support industry's workforce needs, and to establish postgraduate research programming that will focus on future aspects, needs, and opportunities fueled by the life sciences industry, with the goal of ensuring that Maryland remains a premier location for biotech industry advancement.

"Year in and year out, Maryland ranks among the top three best-educated states, among the most innovative states, the most entrepreneurial states," Perman said. "And this MOU makes it better, because it brings a framework to the work to leverage our individual strengths for collective benefits."

— Alex Likowski

Read more and watch a video about this event at [this link](#). 

WORK-LIFEBALANCE

JULY/AUGUST 2021

TAKE YOUR LEAVE: TIME AWAY FROM WORK OFFERS MANY BENEFITS

Take a breather. Take a break. Take your leave ... and relax.

That's the message for University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) employees who've accrued hours upon hours of leave time during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many vacation plans were scuttled because of travel restrictions or health and safety concerns.

Now there seems to be a light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, with vaccines being distributed and restrictions on gatherings and face coverings relaxed or rescinded. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says if you are fully vaccinated — two weeks after your final vaccine shot — you can travel safely within the United States.

UMB's leaders are encouraging employees to use their accrued leave — and what better time than during the summer? Whether it's a vacation, a staycation, a long weekend getaway, or a simple day off, taking time away from work to refresh and recharge is seen as a critical way to improve your physical and mental health.

"It's not only OK to take time off, but I also expect our workforce to do so," says UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS. "UMB's leadership understands that taking your earned time off is critically important to your mental, emotional, and physical health, and it is important for the health and safety of our entire community. Please make sure that you are taking the time you need — that you have earned — and that you are being respectful of others' time off."

Michelle Pearce, PhD, a professor at the University of Maryland Graduate School and a clinical psychologist, applauds the University for advocating employees taking time away from work.

"I liken vacations to recharging our phone batteries," she says. "We all know that our phone has to be charged regularly in order to function. If we don't take time to charge it, we won't have a

phone to use. What we forget is that we need to treat ourselves the same way. Vacations allow us the time to disconnect from work and recharge our batteries."

According to UMB policy, a maximum of 400 hours of annual leave can be carried into a new calendar year by all regular, full-time employees. Because of the pandemic, that number was lifted to 480 hours under a University System of Maryland exception. Staff members have until the final pay period of the 2022 calendar year to use any leave over 400 hours, or else it will be forfeited; faculty members have until the final pay period of the 2021 calendar year.

The increase in unused leave at UMB has been dramatic. For example, between the 24th pay period of 2020 and the 24th pay period of 2021, there was a 19.1 percent increase in the amount of unused leave time, according to Susan McKechnie, CPA, assistant vice president and University controller. By comparison, the increase in unused leave time over the same time period in the previous four years was 1.34 percent, 1.7 percent, 2.97 percent, and 5.61 percent.

The large amount of unused leave, now nearly 1.8 million hours, is detrimental to the University, because it serves as a debt on UMB's ledger, McKechnie says.

"These hours represent unused vacation that will be used, paid out, or lost," she says. "Any hours that have been earned but not paid out must be treated as a debt to our employees that UMB records as an expense. So the higher the number of unused hours, the larger the debt, and the bigger the expense. This growing balance of unused leave time is a financial issue for the entire University."

— Lou Cortina

Read more about the Take Your Leave campaign. [🔗](#)





UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE



UMB STUDENT AFFAIRS

UMB

WELCOME

2021

AUG. 30 to
SEPT. 10

UMMARYLAND.EDU/WELCOME

Two weeks of fun, inclusive, and informative events, welcoming new and returning students to the University.



PUBLIC SAFETY

JULY/AUGUST 2021



UMBPD HONORED WITH TWO POLICING AWARDS

Affirming its commitment to community-oriented policing, the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department (UMBPD) won the 2021 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)/Walmart Leadership in Community Policing Award and the 2020 Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) Exceptional Police Performance by a Unit/Team/Collaboration Award.

The IACP award honors agencies for having programs that exemplify the principles of community policing and strengthen trust through active and inclusive collaboration. The MCPA honor is given to a policing team that makes outstanding contributions to community safety. Both awards recognized UMBPD's Community Outreach and Support Team (COAST).

"The UMB Police Department is an exemplary police agency and leader in the field of community safety," IACP president Cynthia Renaud said. "On behalf of IACP, I thank you for your service and congratulate [UMBPD] on this achievement."

Founded in 1893, IACP is the world's largest professional association for police leadership. According to its website, IACP has more than 31,000 members in over 165 countries and is committed to advancing safer communities through thoughtful and progressive police leadership.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

FROM LEFT, UMBPD'S CHAD ELLIS, KIERRA ALSUP, YALE PARTLOW, JR JONES, MATTHEW JOHNSON, THOMAS LEONE, WILLIAM GRIFFIN, AND TONYA BELL, PLUS COMFORT K9 LEXI.

Police agencies from around the world apply for IACP awards, and there are three winners in the Leadership in Community Policing category: small, midsize, and large. UMBPD won in the midsize agency category.

"Community policing isn't about just one thing. It's not just about 'checking the box.' We're continuously learning and evolving," UMBPD Interim Chief Thomas Leone said. "We're collaborating with social work interns this fall so we can better provide resources to vulnerable populations. We're forging partnerships at UMB so our officers have more training that's focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our comfort K9, Lexi, was one of the first in the country at a university police department. But even as we take these strides, we know it's just one step in a long journey."

COAST was developed in 2018 and tasked with building partnerships and making a positive impact in a West Baltimore community that faces challenges that are common in many urban areas such as drug activity, poverty, mental illness, homelessness, and crime.

Two of COAST's programs focus on building trust and providing educational opportunities and information to youth in the community, with UMBPD officers teaching Drug Abuse Resistance Education weekly in Baltimore City schools and mentoring students after school in the UMB Police Athletic/Activities League.

The Community Engagement Academy gives community members a behind-the-scenes look at UMBPD, including what it's like to enter the police academy and the daily decision-making process for law enforcement officers.

"These awards are well-deserved recognition for our entire team," Leone said. "We work hard to support our community and do things the right way. I'm so proud of each police and security officer, police communication operator, and administrative staff who made these awards a reality."

"Awards are great," Leone added, "but the relationships we're building with our students, employees, and neighbors are the real prize."

— Lou Cortina and Carin Morrell