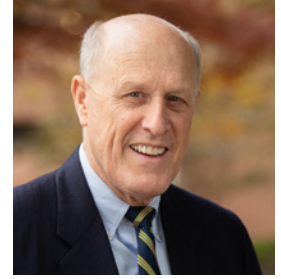


the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2021



'ILLEGITIMI NON CARBORUNDUM'

Welcome back to campus! As we embark on this new semester, it's frustrating that we're back to wearing masks, worrying about COVID-19 variants, and waiting to see what protocols will be put in place in our children's elementary, middle, and high schools.

When I was at the University of Arizona decades ago, I had a sign in the drawer of my desk that read "Illegitimi non carborundum." It's a mock-Latin phrase that roughly translates to "Don't let the bastards grind you down." Lately, I've been reflecting on that phrase.

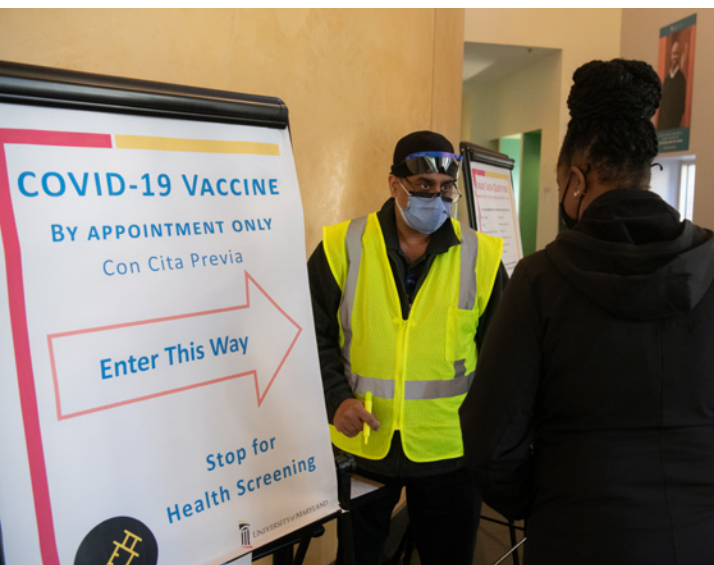


PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

SETTING UP A VACCINATION CLINIC AT THE SMC CAMPUS CENTER WAS JUST ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH THE UMB COMMUNITY STEPPED UP TO COMBAT COVID-19.

Is COVID-19 horrible? Yes. Is it taking up too much of our time and energy and taking us away from focusing on other things? Yes. Are we worried about folks we know and love? Yes.

Will it win? No.

We will not let this particular "bastard" wear us down. You might wonder why I feel confident that we can't and won't let COVID-19 consume us. This place, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), shows me why, every day.

Since January 2020, UMB has worked to understand COVID-19. We've developed, tested, and deployed vaccines for it. Medical students treated patients with COVID-19 and nursing students graduated early to join the workforce of first responders. Pharmacy students prepared doses of vaccines to combat it. Dental clinics remained open for emergencies, and the DDS Class of 2020 donated its treasury to the school's Emergency Student Assistance Fund. Social work students helped create tutorials for families to help get children connected to online school. Law students helped clients impacted by COVID-19. This all happened because UMB has long been a place where we come together to focus on and tackle the most important issues facing our community — and the world.

We were built for this.

That spirit of #UMBTogether inspires me. This place educates and trains the best professionals that Maryland has to offer. We understand that we each have a part to play, and we step up when called. Long before COVID-19, UMB's mission has been to improve the human condition and serve the public good through education, research, clinical care, and service. This pandemic has highlighted how well-positioned we are to do just that.

This has been an extraordinary time, and I don't want to lessen the intense impact that so many of us have felt and may continue to feel. But, as I welcome you back to UMB's campus (with your masks on), I hope that you can take a bit of the "don't let it grind you down" attitude. COVID-19 will not win, and it will not always be the headline of the nightly news.

My hope is that in a few years we'll look back at this era and see that during a pandemic we found opportunities to continue to learn, to grow, and to give back. That we chose each other's safety over the inconvenience of wearing a mask inside. That we found joy in learning new skills, meeting new classmates, and connecting with our co-workers. That we gave back to our community and brought our best selves even when we were worried. We truly did not let the proverbial bastard grind us down.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT



Happy Anniversary, President Jarrell!

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) congratulates Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, on the one-year anniversary of his presidency.

We thank Dr. Jarrell for continuing to guide the University through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with grace, humility, and a commitment to keeping the UMB community healthy and safe.



LAURELS

SEPTEMBER 2021

UNIVERSITYWIDE

Vickie Campbell, resource sharing supervisor, and **Na Lin, MLS**, head, resource development and sharing, both from the Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented the poster “Resource Sharing During the Time of COVID: Challenges and Solutions” at the Towson Conference for Academic Libraries on July 28.



CHRIS RAAB

Chris Raab, manager of web development, Center for Information Technology Services, was named UMB’s June Employee of the Month

for his work creating many of the forms, surveys, and IT tools that the University used for the registration and scheduling of COVID-19 vaccination appointments at the SMC Campus Center clinic and tracking student and employee vaccination status.



M.J. TOOLEY

M.J. Tooley, MLS, AHIP, FMLA, associate vice president, Academic Affairs, and executive director, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was

appointed to the Medical Library Association’s (MLA) Vision 2048 Task Force to envision the future of medical librarians and MLA.



PATRICK WILLIAMS

Patrick Williams, postal services supervisor, Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HSLS), was named UMB’s May 2021 Employee of the Month for his

efforts during the pandemic to ensure deliveries were received at HSHSL.



APRIL WRIGHT

April Wright, MLS, environmental health program specialist, Network of the National Library of Medicine, Region 1, was awarded the

Medical Library Association’s Sewell Stipend, which will allow her to participate in the American Public Health Association’s annual meeting to improve information services to public health practitioners.



MIRANDA YOUNG

Miranda Young, custodial tech I, Environmental Services, was named UMB’s July Employee of the Month for her hard work and dedication to keeping the

first floor of the Health Sciences and Human Services Library clean and disinfected during the COVID-19 pandemic.



BRIAN ZELIP

Brian Zelip, MSLS, MA, emerging technologies librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented as a panelist on “Developing

Communities of Practice From MIRA” at the annual Makerspaces for Innovation and Research in Academics Conference in July.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



ABDULRAHMAN A. BALHADDAD

Abdulrahman A. Balhaddad, BDS, MSD, Dental Biomedical Sciences PhD student, received the International Association for Dental Research’s 2021 Kulzer Travel Award-North America Region. The award encourages young investigators to undertake research in new/innovative testing methods of dental materials.

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

SEPTEMBER 2021

Robert Ernst, PhD, professor and interim chair, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis; **Ohannes Melemedjian, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences; **Alison Scott, PhD**, research associate, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis; and **Richard J. Traub, PhD**, professor and interim chair, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, were awarded a four-year, \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense for “Pain and the Immune System: A Novel Therapeutic Approach.”



ROBERT ERNST



OHANNES MELEMEDJIAN



RICHARD J. TRAUB



GARY D. HACK

Gary D. Hack, DDS, clinical associate professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, co-authored “A Specialized Myodural

Bridge Named Occipital-Dural Muscle in the Narrow-Ridged Finless Porpoise (*Neophocaena asiakororientalis*),” which was published in *Scientific Reports* on July 29.

Mary Anne Melo DDS, PhD, associate professor and interim chair, Department of General Dentistry, edited the book “Bacterial Interactions with Dental and Medical Materials,” which was published in February.



MARY ANNE MELO

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Chaz Arnett, JD, associate professor, was appointed a faculty fellow by Data & Society and will work during the fellowship year on furthering research at the intersection of race and technology.



CHAZ ARNETT

Doug Colbert, JD, professor, was interviewed by Baltimore’s WJZ-TV for “Jury Selected in Capital Gazette Shooter Trial” on June 25.



DOUG COLBERT

Peter Danchin, professor and associate dean, research and faculty development, presented “Problematizing the Backlash Against International Law and Institutions” on the Reshaping International Law in a Time of Populist Backlash panel at the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law Annual Conference on July 1.

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was quoted in “Barred from Her Own Home: How a Tool for Fighting Domestic Abuse Fails,” which was published in *The New York Times* on June 17.



LEIGH GOODMARK

Mark Graber, JD, professor, wrote “Born Populist: The Trump Administration, the Courts, and the Constitution of the United States,” which was published in “Populist Challenges to Constitutional Interpretation and Beyond.”



MARK GRABER

Diane Hoffmann, JD, professor and director, Law and Health Program, presented “Pandemic Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources: Can States Consider Sex? Should They?” at the annual Health Law Professors Conference on June 9.

Kathleen Hoke, JD, professor and director, Network for Public Health Law-Eastern Region, was quoted in “Black Smokers Top of Mind as Push for FDA Menthol Ban Grows,” which was published in *Bloomberg Law* on July 22.



KATHLEEN HOKE

LAURELS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Seema Kakade, JD, associate professor and director, Environmental Law Clinic, presented on the role of mediation in climate change at the International ADR World Mediation Congress Conference hosted by Loyola University Chicago School of Law on June 16.



PAULA MONOPOLI

Paula Monopoli, JD, professor and director, Women, Leadership, and Equality Program, presented “The Impact of Race, Gender, and Class on the

Constitutional Development of the Nineteenth Amendment” at the University of South Carolina School of Law and ABA Judicial Division’s symposium, “The Complex and Courageous Campaign for Women’s Suffrage and Parity,” on July 16.

Will Moon, JD, associate professor, wrote “Delaware’s Global Competitiveness,” which was published in *Iowa Law Review*.



WILL MOON



ROBERT PERCIVAL

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, presented “China, the United States and the Global Climate Crisis” as the keynote presentation to the International Law

Academic Conference on Peak Carbon Emissions and Carbon Neutrality at Tianjin (China) University on July 4.

Amanda Pustilnik, JD, professor, was quoted in “Capital Gazette shooter’s Insanity Case Rests on Autism Diagnosis. Why It Concerns Advocates,” which was published in *Delmarva Now* on July 15.

Natalie Ram, JD, professor, was among the co-authors of “Maryland Can Be a Model for Regulating Law Enforcement Use of Genetic Databases,” which was published in *The Washington Post* on June 18.

Matiangai Sirleaf, JD, professor, presented “Disposable Lives: COVID-19, Vaccines and the Uprising” at Australia National University College of Law’s Politics of International Law virtual seminar July 16.

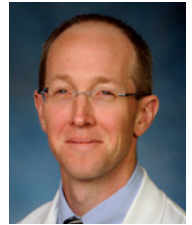
Marley Weiss, JD, professor, presented “The American Labor Movement of the Future: Comparative Thoughts About Exclusivity and the Nature and Scale of Bargaining Representation” at the 5th Biennial Conference of the Labour Law Research Network, held virtually in Poland in June.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

The **Department of Emergency Medicine** presented its annual Critical Care Symposium with the theme of Mastering ED (Emergency

Department) Mechanical Ventilation on June 16. **Mike Winters, MD**, professor, directed the symposium and lectured on “The Crashing Ventilated Patient.” **Michael Bond, MD, FACEP, FAAEM**, associate professor, directed the symposium’s virtual and multimedia education, and **Caleb Chan, MD**, critical care fellow, moderated the Q&A session.



MIKE WINTERS



ALASH'LE ABIMIKU

Alash’le Abimiku, PhD, professor of medicine, Institute of Human Virology, was selected to join the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Coalition

for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations for three years.



SALLY ADEBAMOWO

Sally Adebamowo, MBBS, MSc, ScD, associate professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, received a five-year,

\$4,667,253 National Institutes of Health cooperative agreement for “Polygenic Risk Score (PRS) Methods and Analysis for Populations of Diverse Ancestry-Study Sites.”

LAURELS

SEPTEMBER 2021



JENNIFER ALBRECHT

Jennifer Albrecht, PhD, associate professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, co-authored “CPAP Adherence Is Associated with Reduced

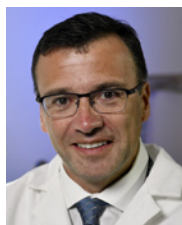
Inpatient Utilization Among Older Adult Medicare Beneficiaries with Pre-Existing Cardiovascular Disease,” which was published in the June issue of the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*.



JONATHAN BAGHDADI

Jonathan Baghdadi, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, was named one of the 10 Class of 2021 Scholars for

the National Academy of Medicine Scholars in Diagnostic Excellence.



JOSEPH CHEER

Joseph Cheer PhD, professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, received a five-year, \$2,213,950 competing continuation R01 grant from

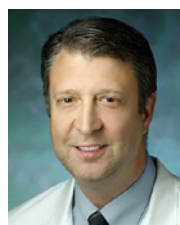
the National Institute on Drug Abuse for “Endogenous Cannabinoid Control of Reward Substrates.”

Shannon Cole, PhD, postdoctoral fellow; **Ramesh Chandra, PhD**, assistant professor; and **Mary Kay Lobo, PhD**, professor, all from the Department of Anatomy and

Neurobiology, were respective co-first and senior authors on “Cocaine-Induced Neuron Subtype Mitochondrial Dynamics Through Egr3 Transcriptional Regulation,” which was published in *Molecular Brain* on June 29.



MARY KAY LOBO



DAVID EFRON

David Efron, MD, professor of surgery, Program in Trauma, and chief of trauma and medical director, R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, was interviewed

live and provided a demonstration of Stop the Bleed training on Baltimore’s WMAR-TV. He also was featured in a story about the lifesaving techniques that can be used to treat people with traumatic injuries.



THORSTEN FLEITER

Thorsten Fleiter, MD, associate professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Autonomous

Robotic Point-of-Care Ultrasound Imaging for Monitoring of COVID-19-Induced Pulmonary Diseases,” which was published in *Frontiers in Robotics and AI* on May 25.

Peter Gaskin, MBBS, DCH, FAAP, FACC, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, was among

the co-authors of “Post-Operative Course of Pulmonary Artery Pressure After Complete Atrioventricular Canal Defect Repair,” which was published online by *Cambridge University Press* on June 11.



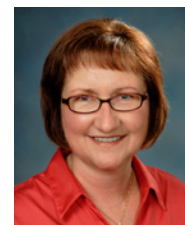
PETER GASKIN



ANTHONY HARRIS

Anthony Harris, MD, MPH, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, received a five-year, \$5,085,625 grant from the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention for “Prevention Epicenters Program: Protecting Patients from Infections, Antibiotic Resistance and Other Adverse Events.”



LINDA HORN

Linda Horn, PT, DScPT, MHS, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, was appointed to the American Council of

Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT) Advocacy Committee. She will serve a three-year term and represent the ACAPT Middle Atlantic Region, which includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

Xiaofeng Jia, BM, PhD, professor, Department of Neurosurgery, presented “Human Neural Stem Cell

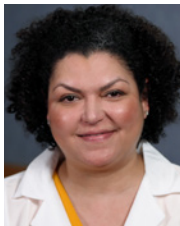
LAURELS

SEPTEMBER 2021



XIAOFENG JIA

Transplantation for Acute Ischemic Brain Injury” at the 2021 Congress of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in June.

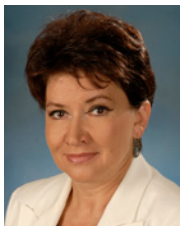


SUSAN JOSEPH

Susan Joseph, MD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Long-Term Neurocognitive Outcome in

Patients with Continuous Flow Left Ventricular Assist Device,” which was accepted in the *Journals of the American College of Cardiology-Heart Failure* in May.

Wendy Lane, MD, MPH, clinical associate professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, received a five-year, \$1,913,202 award from the Health Resource and Services Administration for “Primary Care Training and Enhancement-Community Prevention and Maternal Health.”



IRINA LUZINA

Irina Luzina, MD, PhD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, received a five-year, \$1,699,500 R01 grant from the National Institute of

Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases for “Taming IL-33 to Control Inflammation and Fibrosis.”

Melissa A. McDiarmid, MD, MPH, professor, Department of Medicine, and director, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, was elected president of Collegium Ramazzini, an international academy of clinicians and scientists from 35 countries who are experts in occupational and environmental health. Her five-year term will begin in January 2022.



PRANSHU MOHINDRA

Pranshu Mohindra, MD, associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, presented “Management of Carcinoma in Situ: A

RadOnc Perspective” at the 2021 American Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology Annual Conference in Baltimore.



KATHLEEN NEUZIL

Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA, Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH, Professor in Vaccinology and director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global

Health, was quoted in the article “Novavax’s Coronavirus Vaccine is 90 Percent Effective, Study Finds,” which was published in *The Washington Post* on June 14.

H. Neal Reynolds, MD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, received a 2021 Healthcare Hero Award from *The Daily Record*. He was recognized not only for his long-time

commitment to excellence in patient care, but also for his innovative approach in using a robot to deliver clinical care during the COVID-19 pandemic.



H. NEAL REYNOLDS



IRIS LINDBERG

Manita Shakya, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, and **Iris Lindberg, PhD**, professor, both from the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, were first and

senior authors, respectively, on “Mice Lacking PC1/3 Expression in POMC-Expressing Cells Do Not Develop Obesity,” which was published in *Endocrinology* on March 10.



J KATHLEEN TRACY

J Kathleen Tracy, PhD, professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, co-authored “Safety and Immunogenicity of Vi-Typhoid Conjugate

Vaccine Co-Administration with Routine 9-Month Vaccination in Burkina Faso: A Randomised Controlled Phase 2 Trial,” which was published in the *International Journal of Infectious Disease* on May 31.

Zeljko Vujaskovic, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, won a Healthcare Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award from

LAURELS

SEPTEMBER 2021

The Daily Record for his positive impact on the lives of thousands of cancer patients worldwide through his work in research, education, and clinical care.

Jeffrey Wolf, MD, FACS, professor, medical director, and associate chair of clinical practice, Department of Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, was awarded a U.S. patent for “System and Method for Emergency Apneic Oxygenation.” **Aldo Tullio Iacono, MD, FACS**, professor of medicine, University of Maryland Medical System, is a co-inventor of the patent.



MICHAEL ZARRO

Michael Zarro, PT, DPT, SCS, CSCS, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, hosted a webinar June 30

for the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy featuring Dr. Francesco Della Villa from the Isokinetic Medical Group in Italy, an internationally renowned researcher on the topic of anterior cruciate ligament injury mechanisms.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Ten **UMSON faculty members** received Academic Nurse Educator Certification Awards from the Maryland Higher Education Commission through the Nurse Support Program II. Each were awarded the maximum amount of \$5,000 for demonstrating excellence as an academic nurse educator by achieving the National League for

Nursing’s Certified Nurse Educator credential. The faculty are: **Susan L. Bindon, Tolvalyn Dennison, Ann G. Hoffman, Maeve Howett, Maranda Jackson-Parkin, Tabitha Legambi, Sandra Lucci, Carol A. O’Neil, Tonya Schneidereith, and Rebecca Weston.**

Bimbola Akintade, PhD ’11, MS ’05, MBA, MHA, BSN ’03, ACNP-BC, NEA-BC, FAANP, associate professor and associate dean, Master of



CHRISTYN A. GAA

Science in Nursing Program, and colleagues co-authored “COVID-19 Pneumonia: What APRNs Should Know,” which was published in the July issue of *The Nurse Practitioner*. Akintade and alumna **Christyn A. Gaa, DNP ’20, APRN, ACCNS-AG, ACNPC-AG, CCRN**, co-authored “Implementing Delirium Screening in an Intermediate Care Unit,” which was published in the May issue of the *Journal of Doctoral Nursing Practice*.



VERONICA Y. AMOS

Veronica Y. Amos, PhD, MS ’07, MS ’00, BSN ’99, CRNA, PHCNS-BC, assistant professor, was named director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice

Nurse Anesthesia specialty, with responsibility for curricular leadership, maintaining accreditation, and the academic success of the students in the specialty. In addition, Amos was named an

inaugural fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

Jeffrey Ash, EdD, assistant professor and associate dean for diversity and inclusion, served as a panelist for “Allies Across the Way: Diversity Practice in Other Professions” at the Annual Meeting of Law School Diversity Professionals on July 23.



JEFFREY ASH

Hannah Buc, MSN, RN, CNE, clinical instructor, was appointed to the Maryland Nursing Association’s Center for Ethics and Human Rights, recognizing her leadership role in UMSON’s Restorative Justice interest group.



HANNAH BUC



KRISTIN BUSSELL



SHIJUN ZHU

Kristin Bussell, PhD, CRNP-PMH, assistant professor, and **Shijun Zhu, PhD, DrE**, associate professor, were among the co-authors of “Dietary Consumption Among Youth with Antipsychotic-Induced Weight Gain and Changes Following Healthy Lifestyle Education,” which was published in the June

LAURELS

SEPTEMBER 2021

issue of the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology*.



ELIZABETH GALIK

Elizabeth Galik, PhD '07, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, professor, was appointed chair of the Department of Organizational Systems and Adult Health, with responsibility

for promoting the achievement of academic, research, scholarship, service, and practice initiatives throughout the department.

Eun-Shim Nahm, PhD '03, RN, FAAN, professor and program director, Nursing Informatics, and colleagues from the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) were awarded a \$25,000 UMMC Innovation Challenge grant for "A CAR-T Assessment and Treatment Mobile Optimized Website."



VERONICA P. NJIE-CARR

Veronica P. Njie-Carr, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, FWACN, associate professor, presented "Diversifying the Investigator Workforce," based on the

book "Disparities in the Academy: Accounting for the Elephant," at a webinar June 3 that was co-sponsored by the Women's Health and Health Equity Interest Groups of the Society of Behavioral Medicine.

Barbara Resnick, PhD '96, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, professor, Sonya Ziporkin Gershowitz Chair in Gerontology, and co-director, Biology and Behavior Across the Lifespan

Organized Research Center, received the 2021 William Dodd Founder's Award for Distinguished Service from AMDA-The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine.



BARBARA RESNICK

Nicole E. Smith, MS '14, RN, CNE, CHSE, CNE-cl, clinical instructor, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation "Measurement of Intrinsic Cognitive Load and Mental Effort in Pre-Licensure Baccalaureate Nursing Students: A Focus on Instructional Design in the Synchronous Online Classroom" for Mercer University's PhD in Nursing Education Program.



DORIS TITUS-GLOVER

Doris Titus-Glover, PhD, RN, assistant professor, wrote and compiled the white paper, "Interdisciplinary Strategies for Managing Maternal

Opioid Use Disorder," as principal investigator for a UMB Center for Interprofessional Education seed grant. The white paper was published by the Interdisciplinary Education Awareness for Maternal Opioid Use Disorder team.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

UMSOP's student chapter of ISPOR-The Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research received the society's

2020-2021 Student Chapter Award for Best Chapter Collaboration.

Bruce Anderson, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director, Maryland Poison Center, received



BRUCE ANDERSON

a one-year, \$30,000 contract from the Maryland Department of Health for "Enhanced Toxicologic Surveillance Using Poison Center Data."



MEGHNA BHATT

Meghna Bhatt, a fourth-year student, received a one-year, \$5,000 grant from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education for "Predictors of COVID-19 Outcomes as a Function of Resource Access."

Nicole Brandt, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and executive director, Peter Lamy Center on Drug Therapy and Aging, received a two-year, \$26,064 contract from the Foundation of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists for "Training Agreement for Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Fellowship."

Catherine Cooke, PharmD, research associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS), and **Raymond Love, PharmD,** professor, PPS, and director, Mental Health Program, received a six-month, \$49,937 contract from the Maryland Prescription Drug

LAURELS

SEPTEMBER 2021



CATHERINE COOKE



RAYMOND LOVE

Affordability Board for “2021 Prescription Drug Affordability Board Clinical Support Contract.”

Megan Ehret, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a four-year, \$3,390,760 contract from the Maryland Department of Health for “Antipsychotic Prescription Review Program.”



STEVEN FLETCHER

Steven Fletcher, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was appointed editor-in-chief of the journal *Drug Development*

Research. He also received U.S. patents for “Small Molecule Inhibitors of the MCL-1 Oncoprotein and Uses Thereof” and “Reversal of Fosfomycin Resistance.”



JOGA GOBBURU

Joga Gobburu, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director, Center for Translational Medicine, received a two-year, \$184,424

contract from Gilead Sciences for “Gilead Sciences, Inc.-University

of Maryland School of Pharmacy Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.”

Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, research

assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a 19-month, \$21,935 contract

from George Washington University for “Optimizing Maternal Nutrition: Adaptive Trials and Molecular Methods to Improve Maternal and Newborn Health (MM4MN).”



MATHANGI GOPALAKRISHNAN



LAUREN HYNICKA

Lauren Hynicka, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, received a two-year, \$85,247 contract from the Maryland

Department of Health for “The HCV and High-Cost Low-Volume Medication Review Program.”

Jace Jones, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and associate director, Mass Spectrometry Center, received a two-year, \$99,053 contract from Cornell University for “Mechanism of Membrane Inactivation Method to Prepare Enveloped Virus Vaccines.”



MAUREEN KANE

Maureen Kane, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and director, Mass Spectrometry Center, received a

three-month, \$38,617 contract from Columbia University for “Biomarkers: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Predict Clinical Outcome for Radiation-induced Lung Injury.”

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and associate dean for student affairs, received the national Phi Lambda Sigma Alumnus of the Year Award.

Raymond Love, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director, Mental Health Program, received a four-year, \$10,480,888 contract from the Maryland Department of Health for “Peer Review Program for Mental Health Drugs in Children and Adolescents.”



ALEXANDER MACKERELL

Alexander MacKerell, PhD, Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director, Computer-Aided Drug Design Center,

and **Steven Fletcher, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a U.S. patent for “Small Molecule Lipid II Inhibitors.”

Kayleigh Majercak and Chintal Shah, graduate students, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received ISPOR Student Chapter Leaders Distinguished Service Awards.

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, and executive director,

LAURELS

SEPTEMBER 2021

PATIENTS Program, received a 10-month, \$143,228 grant from Johns Hopkins University for “Communities and Universities Engaged to Fight



C. DANIEL MULLINS

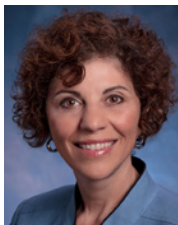
COVID-19 (CUE COVID-19)” and a one-month, \$10,000 grant from Bayer Corporation for “The PATIENTS Bridge: Connecting the Community and Research to Improve Health.”



RYAN PEARSON

Ryan Pearson, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the Shock Society Faculty Research Award for his proposal

to investigate nanoparticle-based immunotherapies to treat sepsis and a five-year, \$1,931,250 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for “Polymeric Nanoassemblies for Precise Tuning of Immune Responses.”



ELEANOR PERFETTO

Eleanor Perfetto, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, received a four-month, \$43,249 contract from the Innovation and

Value Initiative for “Evidence Quality in Economic Evaluations-Phase 1.”

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science,

associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation, and director, Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions, received a

10-month, \$87,450 contract from Calvert Internal Medicine for “Memorandum of Understanding.”

Hongbing Wang, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received a five-year, \$1,990,574 grant from the National Institutes of Health for “Novel Noncanonical Actions of CAR in Human Liver.”



MAGALY RODRIGUEZ DE BITTNER

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UMSSW’s Motivational Interviewing Certificate Program, led by **Mary Hodorowicz, PhD**, clinical assistant professor, was recognized by *verywellmind.com* as one of the best motivational interviewing training programs in the nation.



LISA BERLIN

Lisa Berlin, PhD, professor, co-edited “Attachment: The Fundamental Questions,” a series of 46 essays addressing nine fundamental questions facing the field of attachment theory and research.

Christabel Cheung, PhD, assistant professor, was among the co-authors of “Capturing the Financial Hardship of Cancer in Military Adolescent and Young Adult Patients: A Conceptual

Framework,” which was published in the *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*.

Cheung; **Thuli Katerere-Virima**, doctoral student; **Laura Helbling**,

UMSSW alumnus; and **Gail Betz**, UMSSW librarian, were among the co-authors of “A Call to Action: Antiracist Patient Engagement in Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology Research and Advocacy,” which was published in *Future Oncology*.



CHRISTABEL CHEUNG



NADINE FINIGAN-CARR

Nadine Finigan-Carr, PhD, associate professor, and **Jaih Craddock, PhD**, assistant professor, were among the co-authors of “Predictors of Condom

Use Among System-Involved Youth: The Importance of Sex Ed,” which was published in *Children and Youth Services Review*.



ELIZABETH GREENO

Elizabeth Greeno, PhD, research associate professor; **Marlene Matarese, PhD**, deputy director; and **Angela Weeks**, project director, all from

The Institute for Innovation and Implementation, co-authored “Attitudes, Beliefs, and Behaviors of Child Welfare Workers Toward LGBTQ Youth,” which was published in the *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.

LAURELS

SEPTEMBER 2021



GEOFFREY GREIF

Geoffrey Greif, PhD, professor, co-authored “Relationships Between Parents-in-Law and Children-in-Law of Differing Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds: An Initial Qualitative

Exploration,” which was published in *Advances in Social Work*.

Howard Palley, PhD, Professor Emeritus, wrote “Race and Caste: Its Impact on the American Political Process,” which was published in the *Open Journal of Political Science*.

Michael Reisch, PhD, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, presented “Public v. Private Provision in a Post-Pandemic Society,” at an international

conference in Hanover, Germany. Reisch also published the fourth edition of his book “Social Policy and Social Justice: Meeting the Challenges of a Diverse Society.”



MICHAEL REISCH



DARREN WHITFIELD

Darren Whitfield, PhD, associate professor, was among the co-authors of “A Systematic Review of the Engagement with Social Media-Delivered Interventions for Improving Health Outcomes Among


Sexual and Gender Minorities,” which was published in *Internet Interventions*.


Michelle Zabel, MSS, assistant dean and director, The Institute for Innovation and Implementation, was among the co-authors of “Defining Quality Standards for



MICHELLE ZABEL

Intensive Home Based Treatment Programs for Youth with Serious Emotional Disorders,” which was published in *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research*.



 UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND BALTIMORE

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SEPT. 9 | 2 P.M.
Back to School — COVID-19: Your Safety and Emotional Health
GUESTS: James Campbell, MD, MS, School of Medicine; Cassandra Moon, PsyD, UMB Student Counseling Center

SEPT. 23 | 2 P.M.
Medical Cannabis: Science, Policy, and Management
GUESTS: Leah Sera, PharmD, MA; Andrew Coop, PhD; both from School of Pharmacy

Register to watch and learn more at umaryland.edu/president/face-to-face.

RETURN TO CAMPUS

SEPTEMBER 2021

STUDENTS HAPPY TO RESUME IN-PERSON LEARNING

As a first-year student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), Brianna Thewsuvat was eager for Aug. 11, 2021, to arrive — the date of new student orientation at the school on the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus. *In-person* orientation.

“To finally have some in-person interaction and not be seeing people on a computer screen — honestly, I feel really, really happy,” said Thewsuvat, who was wearing graphite scrubs, the uniform of incoming dental students. “I do much better with the learning styles of in-person learning, and especially as a



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO
DENTAL STUDENTS WORE MASKS AND MAINTAINED PHYSICAL DISTANCE DURING AN ORIENTATION SESSION AUG. 11.

commuter student, I look forward to making new friends. I was so glad when I learned we wouldn't be going virtual.”

Thewsuvat, who lives in Owings Mills, was one of 130 students wearing masks and occupying every other seat of the school's auditorium to keep with physical distancing protocols. Throughout the day, students met each other, faculty, and staff, learning about the roles of the offices of academic and student affairs and other information as they embarked on their four-year program.

“We've had quite a year, haven't we?” said Judy Porter, DDS, MA, EdD, associate dean for admissions and recruitment, as she began the orientation session. “COVID has affected us all, in a lot of different ways. The isolation has affected us. But you know what we're going to do? We're going to get through this together. We're going to remember self-care. We're going to make friends. Watch for people who need help. Build community. I think this is the great challenge of our generation right now — to build community because we are so tied to technology. Help us build the best UMB.”

Students were welcomed by UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, who said he was delighted to be greeting students in person. “It's a pleasure to be here,” he said.

Jarrell encouraged students to put their college days behind them and focus on what it means to be a student at one of UMB's six professional schools.

“You're about to shed your college mantle. Whatever you did in college, that's fine. But what you do here is very different,” he told the Class of 2025. “You are no longer a college student, you are now a professional student, about to become a professional. And when you become a professional, that means things are very different. You will be a source of knowledge. People will look up to you. I know that's hard to believe today. But that will happen. They'll say, ‘What do you think?’ Your opinion will be important.”

While facing challenges due to the pandemic, UMB also rose to the occasion by performing critical services, Jarrell said, from receiving some of the first samples of COVID-19 for research to operating a statewide lab for processing test results.

“If any of you who went to a Maryland university and got tested for COVID, it is highly likely your test came here and we did the results,” he said. “We did over a million tests here.”

Continued from previous page

UMB also operated a vaccination clinic where more than 40,000 people were vaccinated, assisted in the development of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, and conducted numerous trials, including one in which Jarrell still participates.

UMB's core values of knowledge, leadership, excellence, and civility, among others, are important to each student's success, continued Jarrell, who will welcome students from all of UMB's professional schools during a series of events in September.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

UMB PRESIDENT BRUCE JARRELL TOLD THE INCOMING DENTAL STUDENTS, "I CERTAINLY LOOK FORWARD TO HOW YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME PROUD."

"I would urge you all to know that it's important also that you participate, not just as an investigator, but as a participant in some of these trials. To me, that was really important," he said.

In addition to welcoming students to UMB, Jarrell welcomed them to Baltimore and emphasized the important role the University plays in its partnerships with West Baltimore neighborhoods on the other side of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

"Those people have suffered. They're our neighbors, we're their partners," he said, urging students to get involved in activities at UMB's new Community Engagement Center at 16 S. Poppleton St. "We're there to help the community in whatever ways they need. Dental care is one of them, but you offer more than dental care."

"To finally have some in-person interaction and not be seeing people on a computer screen — honestly, I feel really, really happy. ... I was so glad when I learned we wouldn't be going virtual."

***— Brianna Thewsuvat
School of Dentistry student***

"I look forward to your graduation in four years. I certainly look forward to how you're going to make me proud. So, congratulations on being here. And have a good year this year. Maybe it's going to be different than last year," he said, glancing over to Porter, who raised her hands, fingers crossed.

Student Sydney Goertzen echoed her classmate Thewsuvat's eagerness to begin her higher education journey in a non-virtual setting.

"It is so good to see everyone," she said. "I'm glad we're in person."

Other speakers helping to get new students adjusted to their surroundings and class schedules included Patricia E. Meehan, DDS, associate dean of academic affairs, and Karen Faraone, DDS, MA, associate dean of student affairs.

"It is just a pleasure to have all of you guys here in person," Meehan said. "We'll look forward to when you get your headshots done, so we can look at the composites and actually see your beautiful smiles."

— Mary Therese Phelan

Read more and see a photo gallery at [this link](#). 

HUMAN RESOURCES

SEPTEMBER 2021

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PROGRAM PROVIDES HELP, HOPE

When Eileen Eldridge was hired for her first job at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), she thought she would stay in it for about six months. After all, the role didn't allow her to use her training as a graphic designer or apply her other interests.

But three years later, she found herself in the same job.

She knew she had to act, but she didn't know what steps she needed to take. That's when she learned about UMB's Career Development Services program offered by Human Resource Services (HRS) and run by certified career coach Elisa Medina, LCSW-C, MSW, ACC.

"Although I didn't feel confident, she created a space and environment for me to explore something that I would not have explored otherwise," Eldridge said of Medina. "She wanted to know: What is it that I can provide to help you? What is it that you are looking for? What is it that you need? How can I support you?"

Medina's coaching led Eldridge to find her dream job in February 2021 as a web content specialist for the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

Eldridge is one of hundreds of UMB employees that Medina and the free program have helped to navigate the system by offering resources — and hope — as they examine the direction of their careers and pursue their passions.

Medina said UMB doesn't want its employees to feel like they have "to go to grow."

"The role was created to make sure that there are opportunities here and the ability to have internal mobility," she said. "We have such a breadth of awesome opportunities and a range of different fields that there should be opportunity for employees and the ability for people to progress in whichever way they want."

Mark A. Emmel, MAS, director, organization and employee development, HRS, said the program was launched when few resources were available to staff and career paths were not clearly defined.

"A university is its people. An engaged university dedicated to improving the human condition and serving the public good requires engaged, dedicated employees. Engaged employees need to feel that there are opportunities for development, growth, and promotion. The career development program provides that," he said.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

"I NEVER SQUASH ANYBODY'S DREAM" WHEN IT COMES TO CAREER ASPIRATIONS, SAYS ELISA MEDINA OF HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND TRUST

Medina, who has met with employees from each of the University's seven schools as well as each department and unit during her nearly two years in the role, said sessions can range from an hour to a quick chat to touch base and can be virtual or in person. She mostly coaches staff members but will meet with faculty and student employees, too, and she emphasized that sessions remain confidential.

Eldridge said knowing you can trust your career coach goes a long way.

"It's safe, it's reliable, it's trustworthy, and she keeps your confidence," she said. "She will only share and do what you agree to. She doesn't do anything without your consent."

Continued from previous page

“Engaged employees need to feel that there are opportunities for development, growth, and promotion. The career development program provides that.”

— Mark A. Emmel, MAS
Director, organization and employee development

Medina said that while she offers classic coaching such as résumé reviews, practice interviews, and salary negotiation tips, she also does broader coaching by asking employees open-ended questions: What is your dream job? What do you think your options are? What are you comfortable with? What is getting in the way?

She said the UMB job database is a useful resource for employees. She advises those she coaches to look at their job description, decide where they want to go in their career, analyze what skills they are missing, and then take action. She said, for example, supervisory experience is one job description qualification that can lead to questions.

“The next step up may say you have to have supervisory experience to qualify for that job, but you’re not in a position to be a supervisor. But maybe there are other areas that you can start supervising. You could be supervising some tasks,” she said. “I look at it as trying to be strategic about your career, what steps you need to take to get to the next place you want to be.

“I never squash anybody’s dream.”

Eldridge appreciated that Medina was so engaged when they talked during their half-dozen sessions last year.

“She paid attention to what my reaction was; she paid attention to how my demeanor changed, whether it was more positive, more energetic, or less excited,” Eldridge said. “When I was talking about graphic design and creating things, she heard the excitement in my voice.”

She said Medina’s support boosted her confidence.

“The way that I was coached was absolutely necessary because it helped me to get out of my head and to be more confident to apply for a role that I otherwise would not have applied for,” she said. “Having unbiased support was absolutely transformational and helped me to get into this role.”

Medina, who has coached employees at every stage of their careers from new staff members to those who have worked at UMB for

decades, said the coaching program is not only for people who want to switch careers.

“Not everybody comes to me who wants a new job: It’s about career development, developing the career you are in or want to be in at some point. And so that knows no age or no level,” she said. “None of us are beyond needing an outside perspective or somebody to help strategize.”

TRANSPARENCY AND EMPOWERMENT

Medina also works to make the internal job hiring processes more transparent for employees (though she emphasizes that she has no sway when employees she coaches are applying for University jobs).

“I want to help make the processes at UMB more transparent, because they’re often hidden,” she said. “If you don’t have a manager who’s keyed into these processes or who’s looking out for your career development, it can be challenging. I try to help explain what they are.”

She said ideally supervisors would receive training to be able to help develop employees and their careers, adding that one of her goals is to “empower employees and managers to have these conversations.”

She said employees who are returning to campus this summer and fall — some for the first time in 18 months because of COVID-19-mandated telework — may find the career coaching helpful.

“People are always re-evaluating their careers, but this time in particular is allowing people to do that even more,” she said.

Ultimately, Medina said, the coaching program shows that UMB cares about supporting its employees’ careers, but employees need to be proactive.

“I constantly say UMB doesn’t own your job. They give you a job, they give you opportunities you can take advantage of, but your career is yours,” she said. “You have to be responsible for it, you have to nurture it and take care of it, and you’re working for an employer that has hired me to help you. So already, that is saying that UMB values your career development.”

— Jen Badie



The UMB PULSE
PODCAST



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE

“The UMB Pulse” is a new biweekly podcast that features stories of interest and inspiration about the University and helps listeners stay up to date on changes, guidelines, and campus events. After an initial “Return to Campus” focus, the podcast will evolve into a topic-driven show geared toward sharing interesting and engaging stories from around UMB, our local community, and alumni.

UPCOMING EPISODES

Sept. 9: Student Affairs

GUEST: Patty Alvarez, PhD, MS, assistant vice president of student affairs

Sept. 23: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

GUEST: Diane Forbes Berthoud, PhD, MA, chief equity, diversity, and inclusion officer and vice president

Learn more at umaryland.edu/pulse.

10TH & 11TH GRADE

FROM WEST
BALTIMORE



PRODUCED BY SUSAN HANNAH HADARY DIRECTED BY JACOB EVERETT GLOVIER & ZACH MYERS EDITED BY JEFF OTRADOVEC
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JENNIFER LITCHMAN, ROBIN SAUNDERS, ELSIE STINES PRODUCED BY ARTHUR ROSE
A FILM BY SUSAN HANNAH HADARY AND SYMPATICO MEDIA IN ASSOCIATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE



“10th & 11th Grade: From West Baltimore,”

the fourth documentary in a series on Maryland Public Television (MPT) that shares the stories of five Baltimore students who participate in UMB’s CURE Scholars Program, will air on the following dates:

**SUNDAY
OCT. 3**
6 p.m.
MPT

**MONDAY
OCT. 4**
8 p.m.
MPT2

**MONDAY
OCT. 25**
9 p.m.
MPT



UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE

DABABNAH TO STUDY DEVELOPMENTAL DISPARITIES IN EGYPT

From an early age, Sarah Dababnah, PhD, MPH, MSW, an associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work (UMSSW), noticed that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are often treated differently. She had no idea she would later go on to earn a prestigious Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award and travel to Egypt to study such disparities.

As a Jordanian-American young girl, Dababnah noticed this was the experience of a fellow Jordanian-American family friend's son who was born with an intellectual difference.

"We were very close," she said of her childhood friend. "I was a little bit attuned to differences in how services looked for people who really have any kind of disability, intellectual disability, autism, or whatever. I kind of always had that in the back of my mind that not that all the services in the U.S. are perfect or great or anything. I was aware from an earlier age that there was a really wide disparity in services, in access to services, in the way that people viewed disabilities, and in the ways that families receive support."

Dababnah has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to travel to Cairo, Egypt, where for nine months she will further her research on methods of supporting children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

She first applied for the scholarship in September 2019. "And then, of course, in March last year, everything was canceled, the world collapsed," she said. No Fulbright Scholarships were awarded. In September 2020, she applied again, despite not knowing whether the COVID-19 pandemic would still be wreaking havoc, just in case the program returned.

This summer, she received the email she'd been waiting for: her scholarship proposal, "Interdisciplinary, Family-Centered Approaches to Support Young Children with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities," was accepted. She will partner with faculty in the Department of Psychology at the American University in Cairo.

"I was so excited, and also a little overwhelmed" due to having to navigate traveling during a pandemic, said Dababnah, who has been teaching at UMSSW for seven years.

"I am so proud of Dr. Dababnah," said UMSSW Dean Judy L. Postmus, PhD, ACSW. "Her hard work researching and teaching around children with disabilities have had a tremendous impact on our students, the social work profession, and families. The knowledge she will bring back from this Fulbright Scholar experience will only make that impact even stronger."



PHOTO BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

SARAH DABABNAH HAS BEEN TEACHING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SINCE 2014.

Dababnah's research overall focuses on developing interventions and supports for families of young children with autism and other developmental differences, particularly those living in underserved communities in the United States or low-resourced settings globally, given the substantial racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic disparities to access evidence-based autism services, she said.

For example, Dababnah explained, Black children with autism in the U.S. are diagnosed significantly later than their white peers, which means they often cannot access early intervention services. Dababnah co-leads research with faculty from other University of Maryland, Baltimore schools to evaluate a program in Baltimore for parents of Black children awaiting an autism evaluation. The research is funded by UMB's Institute for Clinical & Translational Research.

"I've been doing a lot of work in Baltimore to close that gap, but also to develop interventions and services that are more culturally relevant and can talk to being contextually relevant," Dababnah said. "In Egypt, it was a really good opportunity to really reach many families who have almost zero access to autism services and other services for kids who have developmental disabilities."

— Mary Therese Phelan

Read more about Dababnah's Fulbright Scholar Award. [🔗](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2021

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: HAVING FUN, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



Hamburgers sizzle on the grill. Giant Jenga blocks clatter to the ground. Children giggle as they try on a new bicycle helmet.

Those were just a few of the sounds at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department's (UMBPD) National Night Out on Aug. 3. The community-building event drew hundreds of neighbors, partners, and friends to the University of Maryland BioPark lawn.

"Our National Night Out event has grown so much in the past few years," says Lt. Matthew Johnson, who runs UMBPD's Community Outreach and Support Team (COAST). "It's an opportunity for us to connect with our community in a fun, stress-free environment. We can get to know our neighbors and they can get to know us — not just as police officers, but as people."

This year, UMBPD's National Night Out featured free food, a video game truck, a bicycle helmet giveaway for kids, emergency vehicles from the Baltimore City Fire Department, resources from UMB's Community Engagement Center and other community partners, a mobile vaccine clinic, outdoor games, dancing, a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog, and much more. Two lucky attendees also won Chromebook laptops.



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

KIDS AND OTHER ATTENDEES ENJOYED AN OUTDOOR VERSION OF JENGA DURING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUG. 3 ON THE BIOPARK LAWN.

UMBPD'S COMFORT K-9, LEXI, MADE HER ROUNDS DURING THE ANNUAL EVENT.

FACE-PAINTING WAS AMONG THE ACTIVITIES THAT DREW UMB'S NEIGHBORS TO NATIONAL NIGHT OUT.

National Night Out is a nationwide effort to strengthen trust and foster positive relationships between police and the communities they serve. At UMB, COAST began under former police chief Alice Cary in 2018 and is known for its outreach year-round. Forging positive relationships is critical to COAST's success.

"We're a proactive, progressive police department," Johnson says. "We want to meet our community where they are." COAST offers numerous outreach programs, including the Police Athletic/Activities League (PAL), a comfort K-9, community engagement academy, homeless outreach, and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion.

— Carin Morrell

Watch a video about National Night Out. [🔗](#)