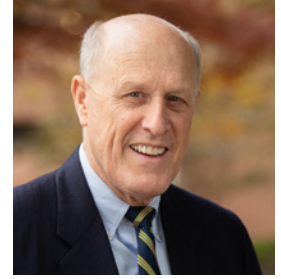


the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 2021



EVOLVING OUR CORE VALUES

Throughout our history, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) has worked to improve the human condition and serve the public good of Maryland and society at-large. We meet that mission through education, research, clinical care, and service. It takes our individual and collective actions to get there.

When we look at how to move UMB forward, one thing is very clear: Our values matter. Through our strategic planning process in 2011, UMB identified seven values core to our institution. Core values help define and shape culture at an organization — and just like UMB has evolved from our founding, our core values need to evolve as well.

Values live in the present. The 2022-2026 strategic planning process included an in-depth look at the existing core values and solicited and received feedback from the entire UMB community. The overwhelming response was that our existing values should be updated. I'd like to share with you UMB's updated core values:

- Respect and Integrity
- Well-Being and Sustainability
- Equity and Justice
- Innovation and Discovery

Core values are tools to drive behavior, strategies, and decision-making. I believe these new core value sets better indicate the behaviors that UMB considers acceptable. They set the expectations we want to see at every level of UMB. The following should guide us when making difficult decisions, when we need to determine the right steps to take.

RESPECT AND INTEGRITY

Respect and integrity encompass the previous core values of accountability and civility, but they also ask more of us. Being nice is not enough. Demonstrating respect and integrity means valuing each other and holding ourselves accountable for acting ethically and transparently using compassion and empathy. We recognize that every member of the UMB community has an important role in our collective mission. We all should expect to be treated in a dignified manner by our colleagues.

WELL-BEING AND SUSTAINABILITY

We know that so much of what we do impacts each other and our surroundings. UMB cares about the welfare of our people, planet, community, and University. Well-being and sustainability is more than having recycling containers and information about self-care

available. We aim for a work and academic life balance that takes into account that work or study is just one part of our lives. We are responsible stewards of our resources and are optimistic that our actions can and do make a positive impact in the long term.

EQUITY AND JUSTICE

We embrace and are committed to diversity, and we value inclusive and just communities. We oppose racism and oppression in all its forms. UMB celebrates diversity in the broadest sense — we celebrate difference in backgrounds, race, creed, sexual orientation, personalities, goals, and aspirations. Beyond celebrating differences, these values speak to the type of atmosphere we want at UMB — one of belonging. I want every person who works or learns here to have an understanding of and a commitment to addressing issues of inequality, racism, bias, and oppression. We cannot improve the human condition and serve the public good without embracing differences, supporting each other, and recognizing the need for change and working toward that goal.

INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY

UMB seeks to create, disseminate, and apply knowledge in pursuit of excellence. We imagine and explore new and improved ways to accomplish our mission of research, education, clinical care, and service. We value and applaud creativity, collaboration, and entrepreneurship. UMB is unafraid to take risks, and we know that we have to learn from mistakes to make discoveries. I am inspired that UMB is a community that works together to study and solve big challenges.

In the coming days and weeks, you'll see these core values rolled out across the University. I've appointed a Core Values Implementation Committee chaired by Dawn M. Rhodes, DBA, MBA, senior vice president and chief business and finance officer, and Jon Kucskar, JD, special assistant to the president. The implementation committee will focus on ways in which UMB can live these values.

I hope that you will join me in committing to living these core values in your daily activities at UMB through frequent reflection on how you can personally embody them.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT

LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2021

UNIVERSITYWIDE



OLUREMI ADEJUMO



SYDNEE CHAVIS



LINDA HORN



FADIA T. SHAYA



ESTER VILLALONGA OLIVES

The Center for Global Engagement announced its 2021 GLOBALtimore Fellows, faculty members who will integrate global concepts into new virtual or existing courses in their respective UMB schools: **Oluremi Adejumo, DNP, MS, RN**, School of Nursing, “Disaster Management: Interprofessional Collaborative Education”; **Sydnee Chavis, DMD**, School of Dentistry, “Special Care Dentistry: A Global Perspective”; **Linda Horn, PT, DScPT, MHS**, School of Medicine, “Professional Issues: Global Health in Physical Therapy”; **Fadia T. Shaya, PhD, MPH**, School of Pharmacy, “Global Pulse in DD&I Data Dissemination and Implementation Science”; **Ester Villalonga Olives, PhD, MSc**, School

of Pharmacy, “A Global Perspective on Health Outcomes Assessment.”

Gail Betz, MLIS, research and education librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented “Increasing Accessibility of the Academic Hiring Process” at the Florida Association of College and Research Libraries Conference in October.

Alexa Mayo, MLS, AHIP, associate director, services, and **Katherine Downton, MSLIS**, head of research and education services, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented the paper “Gearing Up for Discovery: Designing a Citizen Science MOOC” at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting in October.

Ashley Valis, MSW, executive director, community engagement and strategic initiatives, was named one of *The Daily Record’s* 2021 Leading Women. Winners are selected based on experience, community involvement, and a commitment to inspiring change before or by age 40.



ASHLEY VALIS

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Kuei-Ling Hsu, DDS, MS, clinical assistant professor, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry; **Mary Anne S. Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, FADM**, director, Division of Operative Dentistry,



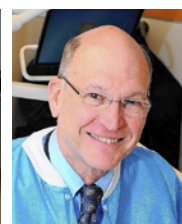
KUEI-LING HSU



MARY ANNE S. MELO



VINEET DHAR



NORMAN TINANOFF

and associate professor and interim chair, Department of General Dentistry; **Vineet Dhar, BDS, MDS, PhD**, clinical professor and chair, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry; and **Norman Tinanoff, DDS, MS**, professor, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, were among the co-authors of “Mapping Evidence on Early Childhood Caries Prevalence: Complexity of Worldwide Data Reporting,” which was published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pediatric Dentistry*.



SILVIA V. MONTANER

Silvia V. Montaner, PhD, MPH, professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, received a \$2.3 million R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Eye Institute for “Elucidation of Novel Anti-Angiogenic Therapies for the Prevention and Treatment of Neovascular Glaucoma.”

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

NOVEMBER 2021

GRADUATE SCHOOL

James Cawley, MPH, PA-C; Shani Fleming, MS, MPH, PA-C; Karen L. Gordes, PhD, PT, DSCPT; Hyun-Jin Jun, PhD, MSW; Gerald Kayingo, PhD, MBA, PA-C, DFAAPA; and Violet Kulo, EdD, MS, MA, all from the Physician Assistant Leadership and Learning Academy, co-authored “Curriculum Essentials of an Entry-Level PA Doctoral Degree,” which was published in the *Journal of the American Academy of PAs*.

Donald Donahue, DHed, MBA, MSJ, professor, moderated “Medical Intelligence, Data and Global Health: Building Back Better,” a World Humanitarian Forum roundtable conducted in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



LEIGH GOODMARK

in the *Times Union*

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, wrote “Commentary: Orders of Protection Need Reform,” which was published



MARK A. GRABER

Mark A. Graber, JD, professor, co-presented “As Justice Accused Nears Its 50th Anniversary” at the Touro Law Center’s The Life and

Work of Robert M. Cover Conference on Oct. 5.

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor and founding director, Center for Health and Homeland Security, was interviewed by Sinclair Media about COVID-19 vaccine mandates Oct. 1.



KATHLEEN HOKE

to the editor that was published in *The Baltimore Sun* on Sept. 7.



CHARLIE MARTEL

York University Review of Law & Social Change.



ROBERT PERCIVAL

Law Institute in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 4.

Markus Rauschecker, JD, director, Cybersecurity Program, was quoted

Kathleen Hoke, JD, professor and director, Network for Public Health Law, Eastern Region, wrote “Criticism of Vaccine Mandates Rings Hollow,” a letter

Charlie Martel, JD, visiting assistant professor, wrote “Racism and Bigotry as Grounds for Impeachment,” which was published in the *New*

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, co-presented “Annual Supreme Court Review and Preview” at the Environmental

in “Companies That Handle Data Explore Cyber Insurance as Part of Protection Strategy,” which was published in *The Daily Record* on Sept. 20.



MARKUS RAUSCHER

Matiangai Sirleaf, JD, professor, was a panelist for the *Howard Law Journal’s* Health Equity: Developments and Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic Symposium on Oct. 7.



MARLEY WEISS

Order, and the Construction of a More Labor-Friendly System of Multi-Level Regulation” at the virtual XXIII World Congress of the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law on Sept. 8.

Marley Weiss, JD, professor, presented “Disruption and Re-Configuration of the Global Trading Order, Transnational Value Chains Within That

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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



BIZHAN AARABI

Bizhan Aarabi, MD, professor, Department of Neurosurgery, presented a virtual lecture “Management

LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2021

of Brain Contusions Following Blunt TBI” to the Brazilian Society of Neurosurgery on Aug. 10.



ANDREA BERRY

Andrea Berry, MD, assistant professor, Department of Pediatrics, was interviewed by WTOP Radio on the topic of why COVID-19 is often

less severe in children.

Robert Bloch, PhD, professor, Department of Physiology, was named an editor of the Striated Muscle Physiology section of *Frontiers in Physiology*.



JESSICA BROWN

Jessica Brown, PhD, associate professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, was selected as a Lumen Circles Fellow for fall 2021.

The fellowship is sponsored by the University System of Maryland’s Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation; the theme is “Belonging & Inclusive Teaching.”



JAMES CAMPBELL

James Campbell, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, was interviewed by WYPR Radio on the topic of pediatric COVID-19 vaccines Aug. 25.

Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, professor, Department of Medicine, was interviewed by *National Geographic* on the topic of booster doses Aug. 12.



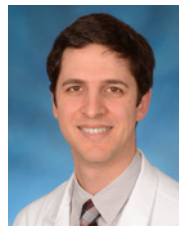
WILBUR CHEN



ROY FILM

Roy Film, PT, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, assistant professor, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, was elected to

serve a three-year term as secretary of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists.



DANIEL GINGOLD

Daniel Gingold, MD, MPH, assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, presented “Enhanced Telemedicine Capabilities in a

Mobile Integrated Health Program to Improve Primary Care Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic” at the virtual Summer Institute in Nursing Informatics Conference on July 16.



XIAOFENG JIA

Xiaofeng Jia, MD, PhD, professor, and **Xijie Zhou, MD, MS**, postdoctoral fellow, both from the Department of Neurosurgery,

and **Thomas Mee**, UMSOM student, were among the co-authors of “Augmenting Peripheral Nerve Regeneration with Adipose Derived Stem Cells,” which was published in *Stem Cell Reviews and Reports*.



JAY MAGAZINER

Jay Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg, professor and chair, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health; and **Leslie Katzel, MD, PhD**, associate

professor, and **Alice Ryan, PhD**, professor, both from the Department of Medicine, received \$5,788,457 of continuing support from the National Institute on Aging for the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center.



GRAEME WOODWORTH

Graeme Woodworth, MD, FAANS, chair and professor; **Pavlos Anastasiadis, PhD**, research associate; and **Abdul-Kareem Ahmed, MD**, resident, all from

the Department of Neurosurgery, were among the co-authors of “Localized Blood-Brain Barrier Opening in Infiltrating Gliomas with MRI-Guided Acoustic Emissions Controlled Focused Ultrasound,” which was published in *PNAS*.

LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2021

SCHOOL OF NURSING

UMSON's **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program** was ranked No. 10 in the nation out of 694 accredited nursing schools surveyed by *U.S. News & World Report*. Among public schools of nursing, UMSON ranked No. 4 in the nation. UMSON's BSN Program is the top-ranked such program in Maryland.

UMSON's **Pi at-Large Chapter** received a Sigma Chapter Key Award, which honors excellence in chapter-related activities such as membership recruitment and retention; publicity and programming; professional and leadership development; and local, national, and international collaboration.



ANDREA BRASSARD



KAILA WARD

Andrea Brassard, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, associate professor, and **Kaila Ward, BSN, RN**, UMSON student, were selected to present their poster "Let's Prioritize Sleep & Stop Waking Stable Patients" at the American Academy of Nursing's 2021 Health Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

Sarah Holmes, PhD '19, MSW, assistant professor, received the Douglas Holmes Emerging Scholar Paper Award from the Gerontological Society of America and the Douglas Holmes Award Review Panel for "Care Transitions Among Medicare Nursing

Home Residents with and without Antipsychotic Medication Use."



MEI CHING LEE

Mei Ching Lee, PhD '11, MSHS, RN, associate professor, was awarded a one-year, \$50,000 Community Partnership and Collaboration Core Pilot

Grant from the Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translation Research for "Discover by Engaging Community in Decision-Making for Empowerment: The DECIDE Study."



JACQUELINE C. MITCHELL

Col. Jacqueline C. Mitchell, MS '07, CRNA, director of clinical education, retired from the U.S. Army Nurse Corps on Oct. 1. Mitchell served for 30

years in a variety of clinical and command leadership assignments and deployments, including four years of active duty and 26 years of reserve time.



ALISON M. TRINKOFF



NANCY B. LERNER

Alison M. Trinkoff, ScD, MPH, RN, FAAN, professor; **Nancy B. Lerner, DNP '10, MSN '74, BSN '66, RN, CDONA**, associate professor; **Carla Storr, ScD, MPH**, retired faculty; and three UMSOM alumni were selected

for a Best Paper Award in the policy category by *Nursing Outlook* for their paper "Comparing Residential Long-Term Care Regulations Between Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities."



CARLA STORR

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Asmita Adhikari and Anh Tran, graduate students, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC), received 2021-2022 PSC Fellowship Awards.

Ebehiremen Ayewoh, Payal Chatterjee, Ritika Kurian, and Sydney Stern, graduate students, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC), received 2021-2022 PSC Merit Awards.



SYDNEY STERN



MICHELLE BESSER

Michelle Besser, business services specialist, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, was named UMB's September Employee of

the Month for her work supporting the department's graduate program, including setting up the department's first all-virtual interview day for 30 prospective students, as well as her duties in procurement and administration.

LAURELS

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Meghna Bhatt, fourth-year student pharmacist, was named an American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education Gateway to Research Scholar.



WENDY CAMELO CASTILLO

Wendy Camelo Castillo, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, was named an associate editor of the journal *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*.

Garrick Centola, Kyle Kihn, and Ritika Kurian, graduate students, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received Fall 2021 Dean's Teaching Fellowship Awards.



JOGA GOBBURU

Joga Gobburu, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and director, Center for Translational Medicine, received a two-month, \$75,000 contract from Dezima Pharma for "PKPD Analysis of Obicetrapib."



ERIC KETTERING

Eric Kettering, senior instructional technology and dissemination specialist, PATIENTS Program, Department of Pharmaceutical

Health Services Research, had his video "Tangerine Technique" accepted into the American Public Health Association's Film Festival.

Kyle Kihn, graduate student, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the UM Ventures Graduate Translational Research Award at UMB's Graduate Research Conference.



KHADY OUATTARA



AYANNA WILLIAMS

Brandon Lowe, Khady Ouattara, and Ayanna Williams, graduate students, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received 2021-2022 Meyerhoff Graduate Fellowship Awards.



ALEXANDER MACKERELL JR.

received the American Chemical Society's 2022 Award for Computers in Chemical and Pharmaceutical Research. He also received a one-year, \$394,919 contract from SilcsBio for "Computational Methods for Accelerating Biologics Formulation."

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

Sarah Michel, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, associate dean for graduate programs, and co-director, Metallotherapeutics Research Center, received a one-year, \$599,998 cooperative agreement from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for "Development of Advanced Analytical Methods for the Characterization of Iron Carbohydrate Complex-Ferric Derisomaltose."



SARAH MICHEL

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



C. DANIEL MULLINS

received a one-year, \$205,000 grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for "Integrating Patient and Consumer-Generated Discursive Data to Inform and Enhance FDA One Health Initiative Communication Strategies."



NHU TRUONG

Nhu Truong, graduate student, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received honorable mention in the 2021 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Competition.

LAURELS

NOVEMBER 2021

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UMSSW's **Institute for Innovation and Implementation** received a 21-month, \$899,177 award from the Maryland Department of Human Services to continue facilitating the state's Quality Service Reform Initiative, which is focused on revising the state's payment structures for residential interventions serving children and youth and establishing consistent care pathways, medical necessity criteria, provider qualifications, and quality measurement.



LISA BERLIN

Lisa Berlin, PhD, professor, co-edited the book "Attachment: The Fundamental Questions," which was published by Guilford Press.



CHRISTABEL CHEUNG

Christabel Cheung, PhD, assistant professor, is a co-investigator on the project "Social Genomic Mechanisms of Health Disparities Among Adolescent and

Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Survivors," which is funded by the National Cancer Institute.

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, associate professor, and **Yao Wang, MSW**,

graduate research assistant, were among the co-authors of "Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Asian American Families with Children with Developmental Disabilities," which was published in the *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities*.



SARAH DABABNAH

Kerri Evans, PhD, assistant professor, was among the co-authors of "Paths to Self-Sufficiency for Youth Served Through the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Foster Care Program in the United States," which was published in the *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.

Laurie Graham, PhD, assistant professor, did a presentation at the virtual 2021 European Conference on Domestic Violence about a collaboration with colleagues in Scotland, Australia, and the United States to complete a scoping review of literature on intimate partner violence-related child deaths.

Brenda Jones Harden, PhD, Alison Richman Professor for Children and Families, is among the principal investigators of a University of Maryland team that will implement the HEALTHy Brain and Child Development study, a multiyear National Institutes of Health project to recruit a diverse cohort of pregnant women and follow them and their children into early childhood.

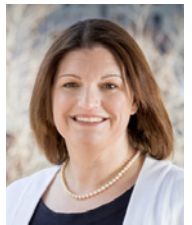
Martin Hochheimer, MSW, PhD student, and **George Jay Unick, PhD**, associate professor, co-authored "Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Retention in Treatment Using Medications for Opioid Use Disorder by Medication, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender in the United States," which was published in *Addictive Behaviors*.



GEORGE JAY UNICK



RACHEL IMBODEN



JODI FREY



AMANDA MOSBY

Rachel Imboden, PhD candidate; **Jodi Frey, PhD**, professor; and **Amanda Mosby, MA**, program manager, were among the co-authors of

"Workplace Support for Employees in Recovery from Opioid Use: Stakeholder Perspectives," which was published in *New Solutions*.

Nancy Kusmaul, PhD, associate professor, is a co-investigator of "Advancing Person-Centered

LAURELS

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Dementia Care in Low-Resource Contexts,” which is funded by the Alzheimer’s Association’s Advancing Research on Care and Outcome Measures Program.



NANCY KUSMAUL

Megan Meyer, PhD, associate professor; **Karen Hopkins, PhD**, associate professor; and **Nicole Mattocks, PhD**, research assistant professor, were among the co-authors of “Walking the Talk in Participatory Philanthropy,” which was published in *The Foundation Review*.



HELEN NICHOLS

Helen Nichols, PhD student, and **Sarah Dababnah, PhD**; **Caroline Long, PhD**; and **Paul Sacco, PhD**, all associate professors, were among the co-authors of

“Can You Hear Me Now? Effects of Patient-Centered Communication with Young Adults Aged 26 to 39,” which was published in the *Journal of Patient Experience*.



EDWARD PECUKONIS

Edward Pecukonis, PhD, professor, wrote “Guidelines for Integrating Live Supervision in Simulation-Based Clinical Education: An

Example for Teaching Motivational Interviewing,” which was published in *Clinical Social Work Journal*.

Michael Reisch, PhD, professor emeritus, presented “Public vs. Private Social Welfare Provision in a Post-Pandemic Society” at the National Association



MICHAEL REISCH

of Social Workers-Maryland Fall Clinical/Macro Conference. He also presented “Using a Critical Lens to Discover the ‘Lost History’ of Social Work” to the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice.



CLARK SHAH-NELSON

Clark Shah-Nelson, DBA, assistant dean of instructional design and technology, was selected as co-chair of the Online Learning Consortium’s

Accelerate 2021 Conference: Accelerating Online Learning Worldwide.

Corey Shdaimah, PhD, Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, and two colleagues were named Washington Center for Equitable Growth 2021 Grantees for a two-year, \$80,000 study to explore perspectives of home-based child care providers.

Fernando Wagner, PhD, professor, wrote “Children as Innovators: Harnessing the Creative Expertise of Children to Address Practical and Psychosocial Challenges of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic — COVISION Study Protocol,” which was published in *HRB Open Research*.



FERNANDO WAGNER

Lee Westgate, MBA, MSW, clinical instructor, presented “Mental Health Impact of COVID-19” and “Leading During a Pandemic”



LEE WESTGATE

at the National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Fall Clinical/Macro Conference.

Chris Wirt, LCSW-C, director, IV-E Education for Child Welfare program, and **Caroline Long, PhD**, associate professor, co-authored the chapter “Motivational Interviewing in Child and Family-Serving Systems” for the forthcoming book “Child and Family-Serving Systems: A Compendium of Policy and Practice.”



Virtual

FACE to FACE

with **PRESIDENT BRUCE JARRELL**



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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

NOV. 18 | 2 P.M.

The Evolving Opioid Epidemic: The Impacts of Stigma, the Pandemic, and Modern Telemedicine

GUEST: Eric Weintraub, MD, professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM)

DEC. 2 | 2 P.M.

Integrative Medicine: New Year, New You

GUEST: Christopher R. D'Adamo, PhD, assistant professor, Family and Community Medicine, and associate director, Center for Integrative Medicine, UMSOM

The **UMB**  **PULSE**

PODCAST



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE

“The UMB Pulse” podcast is a topic-driven show that shares interesting and engaging stories from around the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and helps listeners stay up to date on changes, guidelines, and University events.

UPCOMING EPISODES

Nov. 18: UMB's New Police Chief

GUEST: Thomas Leone, MSL, chief, UMB Police Department

Dec. 2: Southwest Partnership and UMB

GUESTS: Tony Scott, MPA, executive director, Southwest Partnership; Ashley Valis, MSW, executive director of community engagement and strategic initiatives, UMB

Learn more at umaryland.edu/pulse.

INAUGURATION

NOVEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT JARRELL MAKES ‘COMMITMENT TO MARYLAND’

After detailing the ways in which the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) improves the human condition and serves the public good, Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, spoke during his inauguration Nov. 5 about how UMB would meet the challenges of the future. With his six grandchildren sitting beside him as he concluded his speech, the forward-looking message hit home.

“These are my grandchildren, but I don’t just see my grandchildren,” Jarrell said. “I see your grandchildren. I see grandchildren in West Baltimore. I see grandchildren on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. And I wonder, ‘What will their future be 50 years from now?’ I can’t answer that question, but I can ask this: ‘What can we do today to make their futures bright?’”

“Programs at UMB have made a big impact on our world today, and that will continue in the future. We’ve done a lot, but there’s always more that we can do.”

With that, Jarrell announced that his lifelong friend, Lawrence Hayman, chairman of H&M Bay, Inc., a logistics and storage company based on the Eastern Shore, where they both grew up, had stepped up with a pledge of nearly \$18 million to create two endowments at UMB. The first will provide scholarships to Eastern Shore students who want to study at UMB while supporting incentives to attract health care providers to practice in the region. The second will allow the UMB president to allocate funds to support cancer research.

“Eighteen million dollars. That is a wonderful gift,” Jarrell said as the crowd of about 400 invited guests applauded. “That’s a commitment to UMB. That’s a commitment to Maryland.”

“Commitment to Maryland,” in fact, was the theme of Jarrell’s inauguration, which came 14 months after the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents selected him as UMB’s seventh president, succeeding Jay A. Perman, MD. Before that, Jarrell served eight



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

PRESIDENT JARRELL'S GRANDCHILDREN JOINED HIM ON THE STAGE NEAR THE END OF HIS INAUGURATION CEREMONY ON NOV. 5.



(LEFT) RUSSELL MCCLAIN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE FRANCIS KING CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW, SINGS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM. (ABOVE) USM CHANCELLOR JAY PERMAN OFFERS HIS CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT JARRELL.

Continued from previous page

months as interim president, beginning the role two months before the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded.

The inauguration was held in a covered outdoor setting in front of UMB's Saratoga Building and featured representatives from other Maryland colleges, local government, and private industry. Yumi Hogan, first lady of Maryland, attended along with James D. Fielder Jr., PhD, Maryland Secretary of Higher Education, with Fielder reading a proclamation from Gov. Larry Hogan commemorating the occasion.

Joann Boughman, PhD, senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, USM, served as emcee, saying she was grateful that the crowd could gather safely during "this unprecedented time of COVID-19." The pandemic, as well as Jarrell's leadership and UMB's response to it, also were themes that weaved their way through the two-hour, 10-minute ceremony.

Jarrell spoke glowingly of the School of Medicine's (UMSOM) Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health (CVD), its research on COVID-19 vaccines, and its leaders' contributions to the fight against the pandemic. Linda R. Gooden, MBA, chair of the USM Board of Regents, praised Jarrell for bringing out the best in his colleagues during the crisis and facing the challenge head-on. And Perman, now the USM chancellor, added that perhaps it was serendipity that Jarrell was elevated to the presidency during such a perilous time.

"His leadership has pulled us through one of the most difficult times in our history," Perman said. "The research emerging from UMB and the clinical care you've provided have changed the arc of this disease. And I promise that your collective leadership — your hard, hard work — will not be forgotten."

'THE MAGIC OF UMB'

After the investiture, Jarrell took a seat and talked about the impact of UMB's professional schools and programs. He praised the work of UMSOM's CVD as well as the school's Institute for Genome Sciences, Institute of Human Virology, and R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. He discussed the School of Nursing's Conway Scholarships, which provide financial aid to nursing students. He talked about the Francis King Carey School of Law's Environmental Law Program and how its initiatives have had an effect on curbing air and water pollution.

At the School of Pharmacy, Jarrell noted, the PATIENTS Program gives members of the community a voice in how research is conducted and helps build trust between UMB and its neighbors. He touted the School of Social Work's partnership

with the B'more for Healthy Babies initiative, which has resulted in a dramatic decrease in infant mortality in Upton/Druid Heights. And he commended the School of Dentistry for its annual Mission of Mercy events that provide free dental services to underserved populations in Baltimore City.

"When I look at UMB today, I see an environment that encourages innovation and creativity," Jarrell said. "I'm surrounded by creative people who are committed to improving the health and well-being of the people around us, of the community around us. That is the magic of UMB."

'WE ARE UP TO THE CHALLENGE'

The event also featured an 11-minute biographical video about Jarrell. From the stage, there was praise from speakers representing the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and University Student Government Association. Harry C. Knipp, MD, FACR, chair of the UMB Foundation (UMBF) Board of Trustees, announced that UMBF has established the Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, UMB Presidential Inauguration Fund to benefit University projects or causes at Jarrell's discretion.

And, in another nod to UMB's pandemic response, the University mace was carried by Ida Powell, custodial lead, Environmental Services, who is among the many front-line employees whose job has required them to stay on campus during the pandemic.

"Ida exemplifies our core values," Jarrell said. "She and her colleagues have been here every day since COVID hit, and that is true for many UMB staff — Facilities, Environmental Services, UMB police, as well as doctors and nurses. We could not have met our mission without Ida and all of her colleagues."

Jarrell wrapped up his speech by detailing his commitments as president, pledging to work for equity and justice, promote innovation and discovery, collaborate with partners around the state, and attract the best students, faculty, and staff. He closed by saying that when new hurdles are placed in UMB's way, the University will be well-prepared to clear them.

"When the next challenge comes along, UMB and all within it will step up to serve our fellow Marylanders," Jarrell said. "The impact will be far-reaching. And we are up to the challenge. Bring it on! That is my vision for UMB, and it will make Maryland a much better place to live."

— Lou Cortina

(Watch the inauguration at [this link](#). 📺 Watch a video recap at [this link](#). 📺)

INAUGURATION

NOVEMBER 2021

PRAISING THE PRESIDENT

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, was inaugurated as the seventh president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) on Nov. 5. Here is what several speakers at the inauguration had to say about President Jarrell:



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

LAWRENCE HAYMAN

“We participated in sports events, Student Council, and many classes together, and one thing I understood and realized really quick is that Bruce always gave maximum effort at whatever he was trying to accomplish. It didn’t matter if he was on a basketball court trying to penetrate a tough zone defense or trying to figure out a ratio quantity in algebra, he always gave it his best.”

— **Lawrence Hayman**, chairman, H&M Bay, Inc., and lifelong friend of President Jarrell



AISHWARYA IYER

“As students, we often wonder if our voices will be heard. However, President Jarrell indeed cares about student voices and concerns. This was seen in his actions in navigating UMB through these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is also to be commended for his efforts that directly address the issues concerning marginalized populations, including systemic racism, in our society. His role in the creation of a chief equity, diversity, and inclusion officer speaks to his commitment to several UMB core values.”

— **Aishwarya Iyer**, MD/PhD student, School of Medicine, and president, University Student Government Association

“When he was UMB provost, Dr. Jarrell was always engaged and happy to interact with the Faculty Senate. He provided necessary updates from the administration and heard feedback and concerns from the faculty. This continues to be the case in his role as president. Dr. Jarrell also has shown his commitment to faculty development, which is demonstrated by supporting our newly founded Faculty Leadership Program. I believe, as do my colleagues, that our University will continue to grow and be an outstanding place to work under his leadership.”

— **Joshua M. Abzug, MD**, associate professor, School of Medicine, and president, UMB Faculty Senate

Continued from previous page

“With his work ethic, personality, and brilliant mind, Dr. Jarrell was a natural fit to lead UMB. The Staff Senate thanks him for his dedication and endless support of shared governance. His open mind and genuine heart continue to show us how much he cares about the well-being and success of UMB’s staff.”

— **Christina Fenwick**, Dean’s Office administration manager, School of Social Work, and president, UMB Staff Senate

“He inspires those around him, bringing out the best in his colleagues. He believes in collaboration, fostering working relationships with the public and private sector alike. He is devoted to service, fully understanding UMB’s vital role in the community. And, as his leadership during the COVID-19 health pandemic demonstrated, he will face any challenge head-on.”

— **Linda R. Gooden, MBA**, chair, University System of Maryland Board of Regents



(FROM LEFT) YUMI HOGAN, PRESIDENT JARRELL, AND JAMES D. FIELDER JR.

“President Jarrell really exemplifies what you think of when you reflect on leadership. He’s an optimistic person by nature, and he starts every day with a brightness to him. Then he delivers with inspiration — inspiration for his team and for this institution in how it moves forward. He knows that you have to lead change, and not just try to manage change.”

— **James D. Fielder Jr., PhD**, Maryland Secretary of Higher Education



MOHAN SUNTHA

“I’ve known Dr. Jarrell since the 1990s, back when I was vice president for academic affairs at UMB. He has been a champion for faculty, staff, and students since he arrived in Baltimore in 1997 as chair of the School of Medicine’s Department of Surgery. I’m so grateful for his leadership and vision for this very special university.”

— **Joann Boughman, PhD**, senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, University System of Maryland

“If I were to describe President Jarrell in one or two words, ‘grace’ and ‘humility’ are the ones that come to mind. As he and I talk about the evolution of our collective organizations, we do so while understanding the unbelievable responsibility we have to our communities in being anchor institutions. It is his passion around these types of commitments — not just here in the city of Baltimore, but across the state of Maryland — that I believe will define our futures together.”

— **Mohan Suntha, MD, MBA**, president and CEO, University of Maryland Medical System

Revitalizing UMB's Core Values

UMB is proud to unveil a new set of core values that will guide the University as we strive to improve the human condition and serve the public good of Maryland and society at-large.

RESPECT and INTEGRITY

We value each other and hold ourselves accountable for acting ethically and transparently using compassion and empathy.

WELL-BEING and SUSTAINABILITY

We care about the welfare of our people, planet, communities, and University.

EQUITY and JUSTICE

We embrace and are committed to diversity, and we value inclusive and just communities. We oppose racism and oppression in all its forms.

INNOVATION and DISCOVERY

We imagine and explore new and improved ways to accomplish our mission of education, research, clinical care, and service.



Learn more at umaryland.edu/core-values

FOUNDERSWEEK

NOVEMBER 2021

UMB CELEBRATES FOUNDING WITH HYBRID EVENTS



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO
TONEISHA HARRIS PERFORMS DURING THE FOUNDERS WEEK GALA AT THE HIPPODROME THEATRE.

For the second year in a row, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) celebrated Founders Week amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, holding a series of events adjusted to fit a new hybrid normal of virtual celebrations and small, in-person gatherings adjusted to comply with health and safety protocols.

The week kicked off Oct. 23 with the Founders Week Gala, “Dreams in the Making,” which featured UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, and Denise Koch of WJZ-TV co-hosting at the Hippodrome Theatre with a small audience of guests and award winners while attendees watched the festivities via livestream from their homes.

“While this past year has necessitated shifts in *how* UMB operates to fulfill its mission, it hasn’t changed the *why* — it’s only strengthened it,” Jarrell said in his opening remarks. “Across our seven schools, many people work our mission. I can’t begin to thank you for the work you put in every day to solve our grandest challenges; to care for our neediest people; to teach, train, and mentor our incredible students; and to support all of our efforts to improve the human condition with a generosity of heart and spirit.”

Fitting for an event at the historic theater, Maryland native Toneisha Harris thrilled the audience with three stirring performances: “You’ve Got a Friend,” “I Know Where I’ve Been,” and an original, “My Superhero,” which was written for her youngest son during his successful battle against leukemia.

Another Gala segment featured videos and presentations about the Founders Week award winners: David J. Ramsay Entrepreneur of the Year Vincent Njar, PhD; Researcher of the Year Ronna P. Hertzano, MD, PhD; Public Servant of the Year Joshua M. Abzug, MD; and the Educators of the Year, the 10-member Renaissance Curriculum Team, all from the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). UMB inaugurated a Student of the Year Award this year, honoring Jazmin Jones of the School of Dentistry (UMSOD) and Emily M. Smith of the Graduate School for their academics, leadership, and commitment to diversity.

UMB also bestowed a special award upon three UMSOM faculty members for exemplary service during the pandemic: Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA; Wilbur Chen, MD, MS; and David Marcozzi, MD, MHS-CL, MHS-CL, FACEP.

(Read more about the Gala at [this link](#). 📧)

Two popular Founders Week events, the Staff Lunch on Oct. 25 and the Student Lunch on Oct. 27, made their returns after a one-year hiatus, but with a twist for COVID-19 safety reasons. UMB deans, vice presidents, and other helpers served the food as usual but handed out prepackaged grab-and-go boxes outside Health Sciences Research Facility (HSRF) III.

The other two Founders Week staples, presentations by the David J. Ramsay Entrepreneur of the Year and the Researcher of the Year, went hybrid as well, with Njar and Hertzano delivering



MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S RENAISSANCE CURRICULUM TEAM RECEIVE THEIR EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Continued from previous page

their lectures in front of small, physically distanced audiences at HSRF III while the events were livestreamed Oct. 26 and Oct. 27, respectively.

Njar divided his presentation, “Drug Discovery and Development from Academia: The Quest for Novel and Efficacious Small-Molecule Anti-Cancer Drugs,” into two parts: a discussion about Galeterone, his invention that is being researched as a treatment for prostate cancer, and retinoic acid metabolism blocking agents, or novel retinamides, which inhibit the growth of breast cancer cells and tumors.

But first he pointed out the differences between “academic” and “entrepreneur,” discussing what those words mean to him.

“In drug development, I could be called academic, but some drug discovery efforts are anything but academic,” Njar said. “Academic’s synonym is pedantic. Academic means it doesn’t matter. I want to do things that matter. I certainly don’t want to be associated with the term pedantic.”



VINCENT NJAR (LEFT) AND RONNA HERTZANO DELIVERED THE DAVID J. RAMSAY ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AND RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR PRESENTATIONS, RESPECTIVELY, AT HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH FACILITY III.



“In Dean E. Albert Reece’s letter congratulating me for this award, he said, ‘We need more research-educator-entrepreneurs like you,’” Njar added. “Entrepreneur’s synonyms are creative, creativity, and all the good things. So, if I ask you a question — ‘Can a person be an academic and an entrepreneur?’ — I would say my answer for all of us is yes, yes, and yes indeed. When somebody is called an academic, it should mean that it does matter.”



UMB STUDENTS ENJOY THEIR GRAB-AND-GO BOXED LUNCHES OCT. 27.

(Read more about Njar’s presentation at [this link](#). 📧)

In her presentation, “From Ear to gEAR: A Multi-Omic Path Toward Therapeutics,” Hertzano detailed her lab’s work in developing therapeutics to prevent and treat genetic and acquired hearing loss. She also discussed the lab’s collaborations and involvement in initiatives such as the Hearing Restoration Project, as well as the development of gEAR (gene Expression Analysis Resource), an online tool that provides easy access to genetic and other molecular data from hundreds of technical research studies involving hearing function and the ear, allows researchers to rapidly access data, and provides easily interpreted visualizations of datasets.

“Hearing loss results from a variety of conditions, with noise and genetics playing major roles,” Hertzano said. “But our treatments for hearing loss today are solely based on one thing: how much hearing loss we have. If we have a little hearing loss, we’re going to use a hearing aid. And if hearing aids are not enough to restore our capacity to communicate with each other, then we’re going to use a cochlear implant.”

“So, there are two things we’d like to accomplish in our research. We would like to figure out ways to regenerate the hair cells — the sensory cells of the auditory system — in the ear to reverse damage. And we would like to find ways to protect the ears. How wonderful would it be if the hearing that we have when we are 70 years old could be the same as it was when we were 20?”

(Read more about Hertzano’s presentation at [this link](#). 📧)

— Lou Cortina and Jen Badie



UMB IS STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH MCC

THE 2021 MARYLAND CHARITY CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY.

Visit umaryland.edu/Maryland-charity-campaign

HUMAN RESOURCES



UMB has been recognized as a **Mental Health Hero** as part of ComPsych's 2021 Health @Work Awards for the University's efforts to support employee mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Read about the award at [*this link*](#).

ATTRACT. ENGAGE. DEVELOP.



EQUITY AND JUSTICE

NOVEMBER 2021

DATA IS KEY FOR UMB'S CHIEF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION OFFICER

How does the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) become more equitable, diverse, and inclusive?

It starts with data and a strategic plan to learn about people.

For the time being, it starts with UMB's first chief equity, diversity, and inclusion officer (CEDIO) and vice president, Diane Forbes Berthoud, PhD, MA, and then the 2021-2022 President's Fellows. Forbes Berthoud took the helm of her newly created post in July.

To build toward her plan, she broke down the process into several steps for the next several months: scan, assess, synthesize, create, execute, and assess.

In that scanning step, Forbes Berthoud is getting a handle on what data UMB has, what data UMB needs, and how it can be interpreted, and those are just a few components. Data can reveal a wide swath of touchpoints on the human experience — representation by level/rank, recruitment, retention, progress over time, graduation ranks, morale, satisfaction, engagement, exposure to diverse faculty and courses, and more.

"Evidence-based strategies and decision-making are core to this role and the effectiveness of the role — data-driven decision-making," Forbes Berthoud said. "That will be one of the ways that we move forward."

"Advancing Institutional Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as a Strategic Priority" is the theme of the 2021-2022 President's Symposium and White Paper Project, and Forbes Berthoud provided the keynote speech for this year's kickoff on the topic during a Sept. 29 virtual presentation. It also marked her first remarks to the entire campus population, serving as an introduction on her approach to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).

Forbes Berthoud reports directly to the UMB president in her role. This fall, she is hiring a director and assistant to help

with EDI initiatives. It certainly will take a team and an entire University community to help make UMB a better place for all.

"She's here to help us to change our culture to be an environment where people feel that they belong, that they feel we care about their safety, about their progress in careers, about the development as individuals and many activities like that," President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, said in his opening remarks.



DIANE FORBES BERTHOUD SAYS "EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES AND DECISION-MAKING" ARE CENTRAL TO HER ROLE AS UMB'S FIRST CHIEF EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION OFFICER.

This year's President's Fellows will help research this topic and write a white paper that will be presented along with instructional recommendations to the campus leadership and community during the spring semester.

It will be a unique opportunity given that Forbes Berthoud is in the same "scanning" phase to assess where UMB stands, combing through data as the students will as well.

Forbes Berthoud outlined that a CEDIO approach, as well as hers, is to lead, collaborate, and partner to create an EDI strategic plan and decide where and with whom to implement the plan, creating accountability and using systems and an integrative approach.

"I'm well aware that any initiative, any program, any set of goals cannot be accomplished in a silo," she said.

That work reaches beyond working with faculty, staff, and students and toward funders, community leaders, researchers — everyone who can contribute.

To that end, institutions can get stuck in a cycle where EDI is viewed as an "add-on" as opposed to integrating EDI practices and decisions into every function at a university — admissions, hiring, curriculum, facilities, community engagement, and so on.

"All of those things have elements of equity, diversity, and inclusion," Forbes Berthoud said. "With leadership, partnership, knowledge sharing, and acquisition, we come to learn that where and how we build buildings, where we put art, what kind of art

Continued from previous page

we put up, the kinds of terms and phrases that we use in our speeches, the statements we make, the courses that we teach — that there are all elements of equity, diversity, and inclusion contained therein with exploration and curiosity.”

Here are some potential areas of focus for UMB that Forbes Berthoud identified:

- Faculty diversity and development
- Student engagement and development
- Search committee training for key roles
- Capacity-building and partnership with EDI officers; overall capacity-building
- Data governance and structure

Once the work begins, that in and of itself has to be inclusive and expansive.

Laundette Jones, PhD, MPH, assistant professor of epidemiology and public health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, requested advice for underrepresented minority faculty

and staff who struggle to keep up with research programs while being invested in EDI efforts.

Scenarios like the one Jones described are sometimes referred to as “the minority tax” or “racial battle fatigue,” Forbes Berthoud explained, where the same people who are underrepresented are overburdened with doing the bulk of committee and service work to advance these efforts while doing their core academic and research work.

“We need more senior faculty members or allies who are academically and positionally placed to do some work of mentorship, allyship, outreach, financial support, inviting people on grants, inviting to participate in things that we need,” Forbes Berthoud said.

As part of her introduction to the UMB community, Forbes Berthoud also was a guest on two episodes of “The UMB Pulse” podcast (listen at [this link](#)) and an episode of “Virtual Face to Face with President Bruce Jarrell” (watch at [this link](#)).

— Charles Schelle



“Dying to Belong: Racism, Public Health, and the Law”
Montrece McNeill Ransom, JD, MPH, ACC
Leadership coach, public speaker, author, and educator

McNeill Ransom will discuss the phenomenon of belonging. Through the lens of public health and the law, she will define and characterize belonging; highlight its impact on health disparities, human potential, and the public health workforce; and offer tips on steps we can take to cultivate cultures of belonging in all of our shared spaces.

NOV. 16, 2021
8:30 TO 10 A.M.



Register at umaryland.edu/diversity

INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY

NOVEMBER 2021

UMB EDUCATORS RECEIVE USM WILSON H. ELKINS ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

Two professors from University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) schools — Heather B. Congdon, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, FNAP, School of Pharmacy, and Radi Masri, DDS, MS, PhD, School of Dentistry and School of Medicine — earned University System of Maryland (USM) Fiscal Year 2022 Wilson H. Elkins Endowed Professorships, which support compelling research, scholarship, or community engagement projects aimed at improving quality of life.

Congdon, who is co-director of UMB's Center for Interprofessional Education, received a \$40,000 award to scale up targeted interprofessional education (IPE) recommendations from the 2018 USM report "Strengthening Maryland's Health Care Workforce" through a digital badging initiative.

Masri will use his \$58,000 award to launch a study aimed at understanding why patients, particularly members of underrepresented populations, frequently reject treatment with dental implants. Below are brief Q&As with each professor.

HEATHER CONGDON

What particular IPE recommendations from the report will you be targeting?

The report recommended scaling up specified IPE activities systemwide and engineering a curriculum development process and framework that would mitigate the traditional institutional barriers to IPE curriculum design. The proposed IPE digital badging initiative would help to provide such an IPE framework for all the institutions within the system.

How will the badging initiative work?

The current plan is to develop a framework for a tiered system with three interprofessional badges, based on the three categories of the interprofessional learning continuum developed by the Centre for Interprofessional Education at the University of Toronto. This model places IPE experiences and activities into three areas: introductory exposure experiences, immersion and development activities, and entry-to-practice competence activities. Each badge tier would be mapped to specific Interprofessional Education Collaborative competencies and require completion of certain activities to earn the badge. The badges would be earned in sequential order, along the continuum of learning.

Who are your key collaborators?

The USM Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation has assembled a working group with representation from many USM institutions to begin the discussion. More collaborators from additional institutions are being added. In addition to USM institutions, we have representation from several Maryland community colleges on the working group.



RADI MASRI

Typically, your research is done in the lab. What inspired you to launch this epidemiological investigation?

In the clinic, I see a lot of patients. And I often find most patients don't know what dental implants are, and they are very quick to say "no" to the treatment even though it would offer a major benefit to their oral health. Implants are a wonderfully effective treatment, and we'd like to understand the barriers that prevent patients, particularly from underserved populations, from seeking dental implants as a treatment to replace missing teeth.

Can you describe what your investigation will be?

We want to learn what the barriers are to getting advanced oral health treatments, particularly implants, and try to remove them through education. Obviously, there could be many reasons for refusing treatment such as cost or concern about pain. Once we identify these barriers, we think education will show patients that implants greatly enhance lifespan and overall health, and, in the long run, offer great cost benefits.

How will you connect with underrepresented patients?

The project has an outreach arm. We will go out into the community where underrepresented populations may be, such as nursing homes, and try to educate people about implants, the dental school, and the process and benefits of receiving implants.

