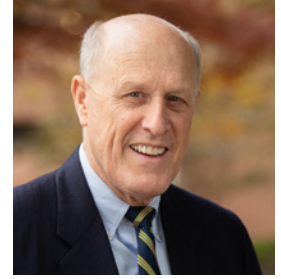


the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2021



LOOKING BACK ON 2021 WITH GRATITUDE

As we come to the end of the fall semester, I am taking some time to reflect on this past year at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). The overwhelming feeling I have is gratitude.

Last month at my inauguration as your president, I shared a few examples from across schools of the magic of UMB — an environment that encourages innovation, creativity, and passion and creates leaders who go the extra mile. I talked about some of the ways that UMB works to address inequities, create opportunities, and step up and serve our fellow Marylanders and beyond. If I had to name all the ways that UMB does this on a daily basis, I would still be up on that stage talking. The reality of this amazing University is that you can't go a day without hearing an inspiring story of how someone is using their passion and working toward our mission of improving the human condition. For that, I am incredibly thankful.

Many parents (and grandparents, like me) of children ages 5 to 11 join me in thanking those at UMB who have worked to make pediatric COVID-19 vaccines available (you can find a location to receive one [at this link](#)). Because of our continued research, younger children hopefully will get their chance for vaccination early next year. I know that so much of our time has been consumed with the COVID-19 pandemic, and I cannot overstate how wonderful UMB has been at working together despite challenges. This is a place where people go above and beyond to help others.

We have much to celebrate this year.

Our Community Engagement Center (CEC) celebrated its official grand opening. Two years after we broke ground, we gathered outside during Founders Week along with Mayor Brandon Scott, University System of Maryland Chancellor Jay Perman, CEC staff, and community members to celebrate. The historic building provides 20,000 square feet of space complete with a large event area, a dance and movement studio, private consultation rooms, and a robust computer lab for use by our West Baltimore neighbors. The CEC finds and creates opportunities for community connection and serves as the cornerstone of the UMB Community Campus. (*See story, page 15*)

I also am especially grateful for the many people who believe in our mission and support UMB. That includes my childhood

friend, Lawrence Hayman, who has pledged \$18 million to help UMB promote health care across the Eastern Shore, including scholarships for public school students entering the field and incentives to attract health care providers to the Mid-Shore counties. I also am grateful for the many other supporters who allow UMB to attract and educate the next generations of health and human service leaders.

UMB has *the best* faculty, staff, and students. People here are unafraid to step up and meet challenges head on, and they care about each other and this community. I am surrounded by creative people who are committed to improving the health and well-being of the people around us, all in our community. I am proud and grateful for your perseverance, tenacity, and relentless commitment to our mission to improve the human condition and serve the public good.

The reality of this amazing University is that you can't go a day without hearing an inspiring story of how someone is using their passion and working toward our mission of improving the human condition.

As we approach the end of the year, I hope that you are able to take some time and reflect. Please make sure you take time to rest, spend time with loved ones, and enjoy a bit of a break. I hope that you feel energized — like I am — when you think about how UMB is set up to handle whatever challenges come our way.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president — and happy holidays!

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
PRESIDENT



Virtual

FACE to FACE

with **PRESIDENT BRUCE JARRELL**



WINTER BREAK

Virtual Face to Face with President Bruce Jarrell will return in January 2022.

Learn more and watch previous episodes at umaryland.edu/president/face-to-face.

LAURELS

DECEMBER 2021

UNIVERSITYWIDE



CARIN MORRELL



JONATHAN BRATT



CHRISTOPHER STANTON



HAYLEY MARKMAN



LAURA CATHCART

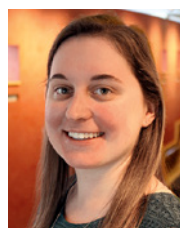
UMB's Office of Emergency Management was awarded a 2021 MarCom Gold Award from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals for

its work on the UMB Emergency Communications Annex. These awards are an international creative competition recognizing outstanding achievement by marketing and communication professionals. The office members recognized were **Carin Morrell, MA**; **Jonathan Bratt, MS**; **Christopher Stanton, MS**; **Hayley Markman, MS**; and **Laura Cathcart, PhD**.

Jim Chandler, MPA, logistics manager, Office of Emergency Management, was honored as UMB's October Employee of the Month for his COVID-19 response efforts involving the SMC Campus Center Vaccination Clinic and the distribution of personal protective equipment.



JIM CHANDLER



EMILY GORMAN

Emily Gorman, MLIS, research and education librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, wrote "Increasing Student

Engagement Using an Amazing Race-Style Competition," which was published in the *Journal of the Medical Library Association*.



EMILIE LUDEMAN



YUNTING FU

Emilie Ludeman, MSLIS, and **Yunting Fu, MLS**, research and education librarians, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented the poster "Reimagining Librarian Consultation Workload" at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association's meeting in October.

Alexa Mayo, MLIS, AHIP, associate director for services, and **Katherine Downton, MSLIS**, head of research and education services, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented "Gearing Up for Discovery: Designing a Citizen Science MOOC" at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association's meeting in October.

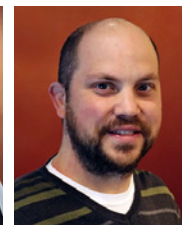


ANDREA SHIPPER

Andrea Shipper, MSLIS, research and education librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was elected treasurer of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association.



BRIAN ZELIP



JEAN-PAUL COURNEYA

Brian Zelip, MSLIS, MA, emerging technologies librarian; **Jean-Paul Courneya, MS**, library research information specialist; and **Amy Yarnell, MLS**, data services librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, were among the co-presenters of "Building Capacity to Provide In-Demand Data Analysis Skills," a lightning talk at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association's meeting in October.

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

DECEMBER 2021

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



JOYCE T. DA SILVA



MICHAEL L. KEASER



DAVID SEMINOWICZ

Joyce T. Da Silva, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences (NPS); **Michael L. Keaser**, senior research analyst, NPS;

Timothy F. Meiller, DDS, PhD, professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences; and **David Seminowicz, PhD**, associate professor, NPS, were among the co-authors of “Time of Day Influences Psychophysical Measures in Women with Burning Mouth Syndrome,” which was published in *Frontiers in Neuroscience* on Oct. 1. Also, Da Silva was selected as the first UMB PROMISE Academy Fellow, part of a National Science Foundation-funded program created to increase the number of historically underrepresented minority tenure-track faculty within the University System of Maryland.



RADI MASRI

Radi Masri, DDS, PhD, MS, professor and director, Division of Prosthodontics and Graduate Prosthodontics, Department of Advanced

Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, was elevated to president of the American Board of Prosthodontics, effective Nov. 1.

Eung-Kwon Pae, DDS, MSc, PhD, associate professor, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, wrote “A Probable Link Between Hypoxia and COVID-19 Induced Diabetes,” which was published in *Research Features*.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



CHAZ ARNETT

Chaz Arnett, JD, associate professor, was a guest on the “Axios Today” podcast Oct. 16 to discuss the racial impact of the use of facial recognition technologies in immigration.



PETER DANCHIN

Peter Danchin, JD, professor and associate dean, research and faculty development, and **Mark Graber, JD**, professor, participated in a panel about Linda

Colley’s book “The Gun, the Ship, and the Pen: Warfare, Constitutions, and the Making of the Modern World” at the American Society of Comparative Law’s Annual Meeting on Oct. 22.

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, was quoted in “After Lives Fraught with Pain, Housing That Says ‘You’re Worthy,’” which was published in *The New York Times* on Oct. 8.

Mark Graber, JD, professor, presented “Protecting the Loyal” at the University of Wisconsin “Schmooze” on Oct. 15.



MICHAEL GREENBERGER

Michael Greenberger, JD, professor, was quoted in “Joe Manchin Is Blocking Build Back Better — and That’s Making Him Richer,” which was published in *Salon* on Nov. 1.



SEEMA KAKADE

Seema Kakade, JD, associate professor and director, Environmental Law Clinic, was a speaker on the “Defending Our Water Rights: How

Environmental Lawyers Are Saving the Planet” panel at the 2021 Equal Justice Works Conference on Oct. 22.

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, co-authored “Environmental Regulation: Law, Science, and Policy-Teachers Manual for 9th Edition,” which was published by Wolters Kluwer.



MICHAEL PINARD

Michael Pinard, JD, professor and co-director, Clinical Law Program, co-authored the report “National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Task Force on Predictive Policing, Garbage

LAURELS

DECEMBER 2021

In, Gospel Out: How Data-Driven Policing Technologies Entrench Historic Racism and ‘Tech-Wash’ Bias in the Criminal Legal System,” which was published in September.



MANEKA SINHA

Maneka Sinha, JD, assistant professor and director, Criminal Defense Clinic, was named the 2021 Public Sector Trailblazer of the Year by the South Asian Bar Association of Washington, D.C.



MATIANGAI SIRLEAF

Matiangai Sirleaf, JD, professor, presented “COVID-19 & the Racial Valuation of Diseases” for the University of Leeds’

Centre for Ethnicity and Racism Studies on Oct. 21.



DONALD TOBIN

Donald Tobin, JD, dean and professor, was interviewed by WBAL-TV on Oct. 26 for its segment “\$50M from American Rescue Plan to Help Baltimore Violence Intervention Programs.”

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Researchers from the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology received 2021 awards from the Graduate Program in Life Sciences and the Office of Postdoctoral Scholars: **Jason Alipio, PhD** Thesis Award; **Cali Calarco, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence in Service Award; **Mary Kay Lobo, PhD**, professor, Dr. Mark E. Shirtliff PhD Student Mentor Award and Teacher of the Year Award.



MAUREEN BLACK

Maureen Black, PhD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, was invited to serve a two-year term on the editorial board of *The Journal of Nutrition*.



DILJON CHAHAL



LIBIN WANG

Diljon Chahal, MD, and **Libin Wang, BM, MM, PhD**, both assistant professors, Department of Emergency Medicine, were among the co-authors of “A Women with a Right Atrial Mass,” which was published in *JAMA Cardiology* on Sept. 13.

Elizabeth Clayborne, MD, MA, adjunct assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine,

was among the co-authors of “Addressing End-of-Life Care in the Chronically Ill: Conversations in the Emergency Department,” which was published in the *Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians* Open on Oct. 1.



GARY FISKUM

Gary Fiskum, PhD, Matjasko Professor in Anesthesiology Research, was awarded a three-year, \$2.7 million contract and a one-year, \$600,000 contract

from the U.S. Air Force for “Effects of Multiple Flights Following Impact- and Blast-Induced Traumatic Brain Injury on Long-Term Outcomes.”



KATHRYN HUGHES BARRY

Kathryn Hughes Barry, PhD, MPH, assistant professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, received a one-year, \$4,946 award from

the UMB Institute for Clinical and Translational Research for “Epigenomic and Transcriptomic Markers of Aggressive Prostate Cancer Among African American Men.”

Peiyong Liu, PhD, associate professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was awarded a four-year, \$2,598,241 R01 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) for “Gas-Free Cerebrovascular Reactivity (CVR) MRI in Vascular Cognitive Impairment,” and a three-year, \$1,307,042 R01 grant from

LAURELS

DECEMBER 2021

NINDS for “Extramural Research Programs in the Neurosciences and Neurological Disorders.”



DAVID MARCOZZI

David Marcozzi, MD, MHS-CL, MHS-CL, FACEP, professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, was featured Oct. 1 on the Fox News segment

“Doctor Explains the Importance of Mask Wearing Even for Non-COVID Related Viruses.”



REBECCA NOWAK

Rebecca Nowak, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, received a two-year, \$444,573 R21 grant from the

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research for “Evaluating Immunity to Oral Human Papillomavirus to Understand the Lower Oropharyngeal Cancer Risk among MSM.”

Saumil Sethna, PhD, instructor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, received a two-year, \$424,875 R21 grant from the National Eye Institute for “AMD-Patient Derived hiPSC-RPE: Gateway for Assessing Novel and Emerging Modulators of Autophagy.”

SCHOOL OF NURSING



BIMBOLA AKINTADE



SHANNON K. IDZIK



BRIDGITTE GOURLEY



LYNN MARIE BULLOCK



STELLA MOSHONISIOTIS

UMSON faculty and a student were co-authors of “Development and Implementation of an Academic-Practice Partnership for Nurse

Practitioners in Rural Maryland,” which was published in *The Maryland Nurse Journal*. Authors included **Bimbola Akintade, PhD '11, MS '05, MBA, MHA, BSN '03, RN, ACNP-BC, NEA-BC, FAANP**; **Shannon K. Idzik, DNP '10, RN, CRNP, FAANP, FAAN**; **Bridgitte Gourley, DNP '08, RN, FNPBC**; **Keisha Indenbaum-Bates, MS '17, RN**; **Lynn Marie Bullock, DNP, RN, NEA-BC**; and **Stella Moshonisiotis, MS**.

Bimbola Akintade, PhD '11, MS '05, MBA, MHA, BSN '03, RN, ACNP-BC, NEA-BC, FAANP, associate professor and associate dean, Master of Science in Nursing

Program, was named to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s Essentials Implementation Steering Committee, which will help guide the transition to new competency standards and curriculum content for nursing education.



RACHEL BLANKSTEIN BREMAN

Rachel Blankstein Breman, PhD '18, MPH, RN, assistant professor, received a one-year, \$5,000 grant from the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, sponsored by the March of Dimes, for “Exploring the Validity of CHOICES, a Shared Decision-Making Tool for Perinatal Care.”



SOPHIA DADA

Sophia Dada, BSN student, won Best Poster of the Year at the American Association of Birth Centers Conference in October. She was mentored by

Rachel Blankstein Breman, PhD '18, MPH, RN, assistant professor, and alumna Diana Jolles, BSN '96, both co-authors of the poster.



SUSAN G. DORSEY

Susan G. Dorsey, PhD '01, RN, FAAN, professor and chair, Department of Pain and Translational Symptom Science, was appointed to the editorial

board of *The Journal of Pain*.

LAURELS

DECEMBER 2021

Shannon K. Idzik, DNP '10, MS '03, CRNP, FAANP, FAAN, associate professor and associate dean, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, was among the co-authors of "Strategies to Move Entry-Level Nurse Practitioner Education to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree by 2025," which was published in *Nurse Educator*.



YOLANDA OGBOLU

Yolanda Ogbolu, PhD '11, MS '05, BSN '04, CRNP-Neonatal, FNAP, FAAN, associate professor; chair, Department of Partnerships, Professional Education, and

Practice; and director, Center for Health Equity and Outcomes Research, presented virtually Oct. 21 during the "The Global Movement Towards Health Equity" plenary session of the 2021 Global Philanthropy Forum.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



HILLARY EDWARDS

Hillary Edwards, MPH, director of methodological research and evaluation, PATIENTS Program, Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services

Research, received a one-year, \$100,000 grant from the Bayer Corporation for "PATIENTS Professors Academy."



LISA JONES

Lisa Jones, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named in the top 20 of *The Analytical Scientist's* Top 100 Power List.



CHEROKEE LAYSON-WOLF

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and associate dean for student affairs, was

appointed to the United States Pharmacopeia Health Equity Advisory Group.



MAGALY RODRIGUEZ DE BITTNER

Magaly Rodriguez de Bittner, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, and associate dean of clinical services and

practice transformation, was named UMSOP's inaugural Gyi Endowed Professor in Pharmapreneurship.



BREANNA SCOTLAND

Breanna Scotland, graduate student, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was selected as a Genentech-Meyerhoff Graduate

Fellow Program Scholar.



DEANNA TRAN

Deanna Tran, PharmD, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was named to the *Baltimore Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list,

which honors young professionals with impressive accomplishments, examples of community leadership, awards, and other milestones.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



HAKSOON AHN

Haksoon Ahn, PhD, associate professor, was among the co-authors of "Optimizing Immunization Schedules in Endemic Cholera Regions:

Cost-Effectiveness Assessment of Vaccination Strategies for Cholera Control in Bangladesh," which was published in *Vaccine*.



SOL BAIK

PhD candidate **Sol Baik, MA**, received an Outstanding Dissertation Proposal Award from the Korean American Social Work Educators Association.

LAURELS

DECEMBER 2021



RICHARD BARTH

Richard Barth, PhD, professor, was among the co-authors of “Partnering for Success Symptom Monitoring Outcomes: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Plus for Children and Youth in Child Welfare,” which was published in the *Journal of Child and Family Studies*.



JOHN CAGLE

John Cagle, PhD, associate professor, was among the co-authors of “A National Survey of Window-Opening Behavior in United States Homes Abstract,” which

was published in *Indoor Air*.

Christabel Cheung, PhD, assistant professor, was 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*.



NANCY FRANKE

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, associate professor, received the New Investigator Award at the American Public Health Association’s 2021 Annual Meeting.

PhD student **Nancy Franke, MSW**, was awarded UMSSW’s Grand Challenges Dissertation Award for her proposed study of individuals who were formerly incarcerated.



NALINI NEGI

Nalini Negi, PhD, associate professor, was reappointed to the Council on Social Work Education’s Council on Publications

and appointed to a three-year term on the editorial board of the *Journal of Social Work Education*.



HOWARD A. PALLEY

Howard A. Palley, PhD, professor emeritus, wrote “Review of Health Care in Switzerland: A Closer Look at a System Offered as a Model for the United States,”

which was published in the *Journal of Medicine and Surgical Sciences*.

Jamie Rosen, MSW student, and **Geoff Greif, PhD**, professor, co-authored “The Voices of Interracial and Interethnic Couples Raising Biracial, Multiracial, and Bi-Ethnic Children Under 10 Years Old,” which will be published in *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*.

UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

CATALYST

BIG IDEAS CHANGE THE WORLD



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE LATEST ISSUE OF

UMB's CATALYST magazine!

This dynamic digital issue of *CATALYST* includes stories about the inauguration of Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, as UMB's seventh president, our students' return to in-person learning, a Q&A with the University's inaugural chief equity, diversity, and inclusion officer, and much more. Read these inspiring stories online at catalystmag.umaryland.edu.

Find out how UMB's big ideas are changing the world!



Visit catalystmag.umaryland.edu.

DECEMBER 2021

MCNEILL RANSOM DISCUSSES INEQUITIES, RACISM AS HEALTH CRISIS

As an expert on the intersection of public health and the law, Montrece McNeill Ransom, JD, MPH, ACC, has seen and studied the effects of racism on public health, and there's no doubt in her mind: It's a national crisis.

"The racism and discrimination that people of color experience in our daily lives create stress that affects our internal organs and overall physical health," McNeill Ransom told a University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) virtual audience Nov. 16. "This results in a higher prevalence of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, asthma, and diabetes, as well as shorter lifespans.

"Simply being a Black American in this country is a significant social determinant of our health. It has been said that being Black is bad for your health, but it's not because of our race. Pervasive racism is the cause."

In her UMB Diversity Advisory Council Speaker Series presentation, "Dying to Belong: Racism, Public Health, and the Law," McNeill Ransom continued by citing statistics to prove her point, pointing out racial disparities in the United States related to pregnancy, police-involved shootings, life expectancy, infant mortality, and health insurance.

"These disparities are not the result of poor hygiene or lack of adherence to medical or health care guidance," she said. "They are the result of deep-seated, systemic racism that exists across all segments of our society, from our courthouses to our hospitals, to our schools, to our workplaces.

"There's a growing recognition that racism is a public health crisis, and this has led hundreds of jurisdictions, cities, counties, and states to make a declaration that racism is a public health crisis. These declarations are meant to catalyze change across all sectors of government and really to bring an impact across all of what we call the social determinants of health."

McNeill Ransom wears many hats as a lawyer, author, educator, and leadership coach. She serves as director of the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training within the National Network of Public Health Institutes; is president-elect



"SIMPLY BEING A BLACK AMERICAN IN THIS COUNTRY IS A SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF OUR HEALTH," SAID MONTRUCE MCNEILL RANSOM.

of the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics; and is a faculty member with California State University East Bay's Department of Public Health and Walden University's School of Health Sciences.

In another role, she works as a belonging strategist, which UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, referenced during his introduction, reiterating that he wants the University to be a place where "everyone feels that they belong, feels that they are important, and that their voice and their career matter."

"I'm pleased to welcome Miss McNeill Ransom to help deepen our knowledge in the area of belonging and the interrelationships between racism, public health, and the law," Jarrell said. "If we can develop a stronger sense of belonging in our community, UMB will become a more whole place, a better place to live and work."

McNeill Ransom discussed how the issue of racial disparities in health outcomes has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; the importance of increasing the number of minorities

Continued from previous page

in the health and human services professions; and her experiences working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the early 2000s after graduating from the University of Alabama School of Law.

She said she started working as an analyst in the CDC's Emergency Operations Center, and that's where she began to feel the "irresistible pull of public health," particularly while fielding calls from states dealing with anthrax attacks post-Sept. 11. She said her two-year fellowship turned into a 20-year career with the CDC's Public Health Law Program, where the last 10 years of her tenure were spent as the team lead for public health law training and workforce development.

"Through those early experiences, I learned a lesson that would shape the rest of my career: There is no public health in this country without the law," McNeill Ransom said. "It is scientific insight, coupled with legal might, that creates the framework for healthy choices to be the norm."

"Honestly, I feel like I'm just reaching my full potential," she added. "I'm often the only person of color in the room — sometimes the only woman and often the only lawyer in a room full of scientists — but I know that I belong. That's because I fought for a sense of belonging."

McNeill Ransom fielded a number of questions from the audience, including one that tied in to what she hinted would be covered in


her closing remarks: What steps can UMB take to build a culture of belonging? She referred to a five-step model that included making space for authenticity; focusing on being professionally competent, people-centered, and personally compassionate; developing an acceptance mindset; assuring diversity across race, gender, age, and experience; and knowing your own biases.

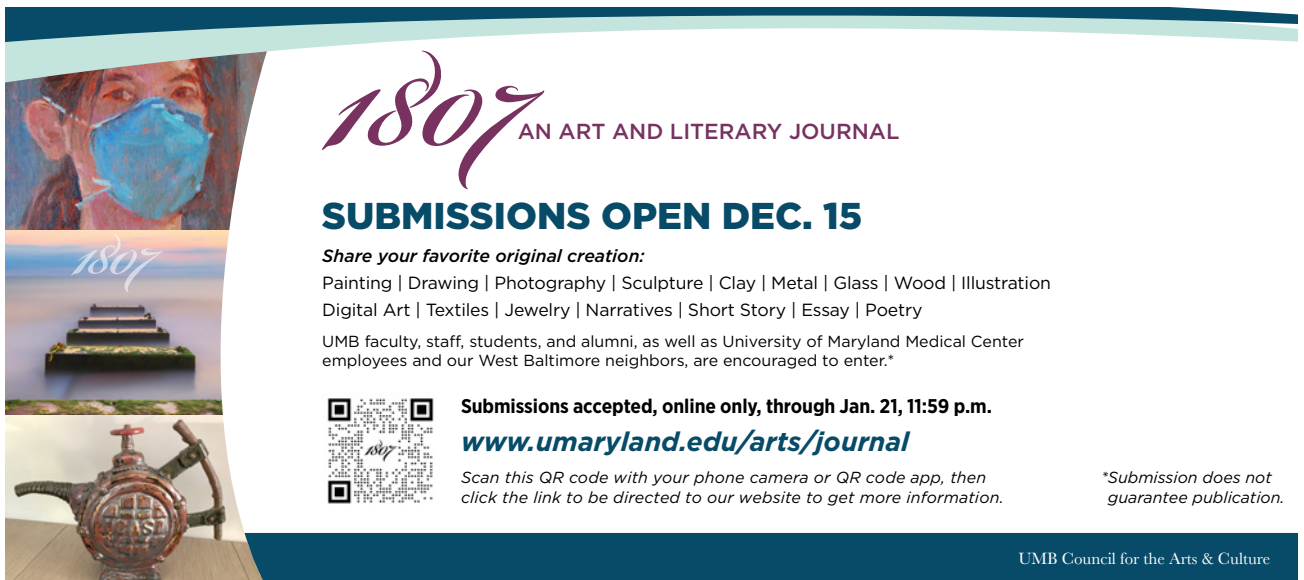
"This model is meant to spark your thinking about actions that you can take, individually and collectively, to foster a sense of belonging in all of your shared spaces," McNeill Ransom said. "It's a framework for action, and at the heart of the model is valuing, affirming, and listening to each other as well as finding value in our authentic identity and our uniqueness."

Expanding on the fourth step, she reiterated that representation matters.

"You have to purposely include more diversity at the table and in positions of power and in decision-making positions," McNeill Ransom said. "If you don't do this already, I want you to start looking around the room and asking yourself, 'Who is missing?' This is one of the best ways to foster a sense of belonging and retain a diverse talent pool, because diversity, equity, and inclusion is about getting them, while belonging is about keeping them."

— Lou Cortina

Watch a video of the presentation at [this link](#). 



1807 AN ART AND LITERARY JOURNAL

SUBMISSIONS OPEN DEC. 15

Share your favorite original creation:
Painting | Drawing | Photography | Sculpture | Clay | Metal | Glass | Wood | Illustration
Digital Art | Textiles | Jewelry | Narratives | Short Story | Essay | Poetry

UMB faculty, staff, students, and alumni, as well as University of Maryland Medical Center employees and our West Baltimore neighbors, are encouraged to enter.*

Submissions accepted, online only, through Jan. 21, 11:59 p.m.
www.umaryland.edu/arts/journal

Scan this QR code with your phone camera or QR code app, then click the link to be directed to our website to get more information.

**Submission does not guarantee publication.*

UMB Council for the Arts & Culture

EQUITY AND JUSTICE

DECEMBER 2021

UM MEDICINE TO DROP RACE FROM KIDNEY FUNCTION ESTIMATES

University of Maryland Medicine, which is composed of the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) and the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM), will end the use of a longstanding clinical standard that factors a patient's race into the diagnosis of chronic kidney disease. The change could increase access to specialty care, including eligibility for kidney transplantation for thousands of Black people living with advanced kidney disease.

By late January, the system, including its flagship academic hospital, the University of Maryland Medical Center, will transition to a new standard of evaluating kidney function, eliminating whether a patient is "African American or non-African American" as a factor. The move follows a review by UMSOM clinicians and scientists of recently released recommendations from professional societies.

"We assembled an interdisciplinary ad hoc group of faculty at the University of Maryland School of Medicine many months ago to begin discussing a plan to replace race-based eGFR [estimate glomerular filtration rate] to assess kidney function," said Sandra Quezada, MD, MS, AGAF, associate dean for admissions, assistant dean for faculty diversity and inclusion, and associate professor of medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, UMSOM. "National guidelines were published in late September with recommendations on alternative equations to use, and we were able to present this to UMMS leadership, which has responded positively and swiftly. We are so proud that the system is implementing this important change for the benefit of our patients."

By one estimate, about 720,000 African Americans might be treated earlier for kidney disease if race were removed from the calculations of kidney function. In Maryland, and the Mid-Atlantic region more broadly, thousands of people could be impacted by this transition to race-free eGFR.

"This is a significant development for University of Maryland Medicine and for academic medicine in general," said Mohan

Suntha, MD, MBA, president and CEO of UMMS. "We are in a period of evolution toward truly understanding the scope and impact of race-based disparities in health care and taking steps to address inequities. I commend our physician leadership and University of Maryland School of Medicine partners who have taken swift and decisive action to operationalize this change across our system hospitals, programs, and clinical partners. We are proud to be among the nation's first academic medical systems leading this imperative."

Since 1999, nephrologists across the country have used an equation for eGFR, which reflects how well a person's kidneys filter waste. This equation relies on levels of creatinine — a byproduct of muscle and protein metabolism — from the blood. In addition to age and gender, the calculation takes into account whether a patient is "African American or non-African American" and assigns a multiplier based in part on a discredited notion that Black people tend to have more muscle mass than people of other races. This higher value often overestimates the health of Black patients' kidneys, pushing them above the threshold for diagnosis of advanced kidney disease, therefore leading to delayed referral for specialty care or even disqualification for kidney transplant.


After a report last year in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, the National Kidney Foundation and the American Society of Nephrology formed a joint task force to review the use of race in eGFR calculations.

In September, the group endorsed a new calculation without the race coefficient. A committee of UM Medicine researchers, kidney specialists, clinical quality leaders, and health equity champions — including Quezada and others — quickly convened to closely review the new guidance and drive forth a strong recommendation for change. This change also was enthusiastically endorsed by the Quality and Safety Committee of the UMMS Board.

— January Payne



SANDRA QUEZADA WAS AMONG THE UMSOM CLINICIANS WHO REVIEWED AND CHAMPIONED THE PLAN TO ELIMINATE A RACE-BASED FACTOR IN THE ASSESSMENT OF KIDNEY FUNCTION.

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

MPOWERING THE STATE

DECEMBER 2021

MPOWER PROFESSORS SET TO ADVANCE UMB-UMCP COLLABORATION

Four University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) faculty members were named to the inaugural cohort of MPower Professors by the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: *MPowering the State (MPower)*, the research collaboration between UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). They joined four professors from UMCP, each of whom will receive \$150,000 awards, allocated over three years, to apply to their salary or support supplemental research activities.

The MPower Professorship is designed to recognize, incentivize, and foster collaborations between faculty members at both schools who are working together on the most pressing issues of our time, UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, and UMCP President Darryll J. Pines, PhD, MS, said in their joint announcement.

“With this investment, we are accelerating the pace of our research and the pace of our impact on the lives of Marylanders,” Jarrell said.

“By supporting these MPower Professors, we are recognizing the commitment and drive they’ve already shown, and we are opening up new possibilities for their work, giving them the freedom to think big, tackle new problems, and achieve results much quicker than ever before.”

The UMB professors in the cohort are:

- **Luana Colloca, MD, PhD, MS**, is a professor in the department of Pain and Translational Symptom Science at the University of Maryland School of Nursing and director of the Clinical and Translational Science Award TL1 Pre- and Postdoctoral Training Program. She is an expert in the fields of placebo effects and mechanisms of pain modulation, including virtual reality applied to pain management.
- **Rao P. Gullapalli, PhD, MBA, MS**, is a professor and vice chair for research in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) as well as administrative director of the Center for Advanced Imaging Research. Gullapalli has expertise in developing novel magnetic resonance imaging techniques for clinical research, and he conducts research on developing new imaging biomarkers associated with traumatic brain injury.



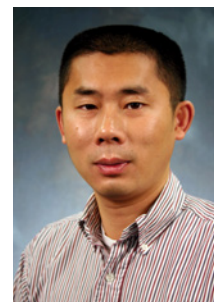
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- **Deanna L. Kelly, PharmD, BCPP**, is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UMSOM and an affiliate professor at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy (UMSOP). She also is director and chief of the Treatment Research Program at the Maryland Psychiatric Research Center. Kelly has led or been involved in numerous clinical trials involving schizophrenia and severe mental illness and has been active in psychopharmacology research for the past 24 years.

- **Yihua Bruce Yu, PhD**, is a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of the Bio- and Nano-Technology Center at UMSOP. Yu’s expertise is in biophysics and bioengineering. In 2019, he joined the joint Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research in Rockville, Md. His lab advances the development of analytical technologies for characterizing complex drugs and vaccines, and he holds multiple patents, including noninvasive analytical technologies for biologics production and inspection.

The four MPower Professors from UMCP are:

- **Christopher M. Jewell, PhD**, Minta Martin Professor of Engineering, Fischell Department of Bioengineering, A. James Clark School of Engineering
- **Cheryl L. Knott, PhD, MA, FAAHB**, professor, Department of Behavioral and Community Health, School of Public Health
- **Donald K. Milton, MD, DrPH**, professor of environmental health, School of Public Health
- **Joseph Richardson, PhD, MA**, Joel and Kim Feller Professor of African American Studies and Anthropology, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

— UMB Staff

Learn more about MPower at [this link](#).



“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 EPISODE

Dec. 16: UMB Council for the Arts & Culture

GUESTS: Jennifer Litchman, MA, senior vice president for external relations and chair, UMB Council for the Arts & Culture; Nancy Gordon, executive director of protocol and special events

COMING SOON

In early 2022, “The UMB Pulse” will feature stories about how UMB and its local partners are taking creative action to overcome barriers and solve social problems in our community.

Learn more at umaryland.edu/pulse.



UMB STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026

UMB's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan Is Complete

After months of hard work by the co-chairs and logistics and steering committees, UMB's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan has been finalized. The strategic plan, which was augmented by valuable feedback from our diverse University community, will guide UMB's collective priorities over the next five years.

Learn more and download a copy at umaryland.edu/strategicplan.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DECEMBER 2021

RENOVATED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

Two years ago, neighbors from all over West Baltimore gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of a new University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Community Engagement Center (CEC) at 16 S. Poppleton St. After a lengthy relocation, a full renovation, and a global pandemic, neighbors reconvened for the CEC's grand opening.

West Baltimore community members; UMB faculty, staff, and students; and leaders from across Maryland came together Oct. 28 to celebrate this highly anticipated event. The new CEC is the cornerstone of UMB's Community Campus, a location and concept that demonstrate a deep commitment to strengthening West Baltimore in collaboration with the neighbors who live there.

Working hand-in-hand with community leaders and neighbors, UMB has reimagined the historic building into an architecturally stunning, 20,000-square-foot space complete with a large event space, a dance and movement studio, private consultation rooms, and a robust computer lab. The expansion and relocation of UMB's CEC came in response to more than 45,000 recorded visits

from men, women, teens, and children who have engaged with its services and programming since the original CEC opened in 2015.

"This new center is a place that our community deserves," said Ashley Valis, MSW, UMB's executive director of strategic initiatives and community engagement. "Together, we have imagined, planned, brainstormed, and convened many residents to deliver a new center that will be a fun, educational, relaxing, respectful, and transformational space for our neighbors."

In a lot across the street from the renovated building, UMB leadership hosted an outdoor ceremony to commemorate the opening and allow attendees to experience "A Day in the Life" at the new CEC. The event began with a warm welcome from UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS. He opened with a quote from late U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, who attended the opening of the original CEC in 2015.

"I remember when [Cummings] was here to cut the first ribbon, on our first Community Engagement Center across the street there," Jarrell said. "Some of you may remember what he said

during the opening. He said, 'We may not see the full benefit of things that we're doing today. We never may be thanked for all we've done, or for what you have all done. But there will be children whose trajectory and destinies have already been changed by what you're doing here today, and I want for this to be a model for the nation.'

Attendees also heard from University System of Maryland Chancellor Jay A. Perman, MD, the former president of UMB. It was under Perman's leadership that UMB began to work in tandem with West Baltimore neighbors to visualize and build an engagement center for the community. He thanked the neighbors for trusting UMB and for their help in making the center a reality.



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW D'AGOSTINO

PRESIDENT JARRELL DELIVERS HIS REMARKS WITH THE NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER IN THE BACKGROUND.

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FRANKLIN SQUARE RESIDENT CHARLOTTE MCGOINES (RIGHT) SAYS THE CEC "IS EVERYTHING TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD."

A WEST BALTIMORE YOUTH ENJOYS A GAME OF CORNHOLE DURING THE GRAND OPENING EVENT.

"When I talk about the power of a university engaging with its community, I talk about the center," he said. "It's a moral obligation of our public institutions and universities to be anchor institutions in the communities they call home. When I talk about living a mission of service and partnership and equity and opportunity, I talk about this corner of West Baltimore, and everything that we have done here together."

After Perman's remarks, Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott presented Jarrell, Valis, and CEC director Tyrone Roper, MSW, with an official certificate of recognition from the city.

"It's only right that we acknowledge the progress of this center, which was done side-by-side with our community leaders," Scott said. "That's a true demonstration of community engagement. We can see we have so many members of our community represented here today. This just proves that this project is not just in the community, but of the community."

Attendees were invited after the ceremony to learn about the many resources, programs, and activities the CEC has to offer, including health services, the Police Athletic/Activities League, tax prep consultations, workforce development, the CURE Scholars Program, and more. There also was a table where attendees could pick up informational flyers and CEC swag.

Ten-year-old A'rya Myers was excited to check out the Maker's Studio table, which had a 3D printer and 3D pens that community members could use to make their own T-shirts and tote bags.

"I love coming here and doing fun things with my friends," A'rya said as she added the finishing touches to her homemade T-shirt. "I asked my mom if I could be part of the Youth Maker's Program so I can come here after school all the time and learn how to make things."

A'rya was one of many neighbors of all ages who enjoyed the activities and games at the grand opening. The feeling of community and camaraderie was electric, and many community members expressed excitement that the new center was officially open and operating.

"This center is everything to the neighborhood," said Charlotte McGoines, a resident of Franklin Square. "We meet friends here, we develop relationships here, and it's just so nice. I've met so many friendly and nice people, and I wouldn't do anything else but come here if I could, because it's just that much fun and there is so much to do and experience."

— Jena Frick

Watch a video about the event at [this link](#). 