



June 2021

THE STUDENT PHARMACIST



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Kappa Psi

KΨ



From left to right: (1st row) Jad Kawas and Jacob Dudash. (2nd row) Hussein Safaoui, Pierce Shaw, David Bermudez, Joseph Paul Javier, and Daniel Frederick. (3rd row) Steven Conway, Fadi Manuel, and Noah Trotter. (4th row) Evan Johnson, Lucas Crum, and Johnie L. Bailey.

The past year has been filled with many achievements for the brothers of the Mu Omicron Chapter of Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. From successfully instituting multiple philanthropy initiatives and professional development programs during the height of the coronavirus pandemic to being recognized with the 'Best Chapter Presentation' Award at the recently concluded Kappa Psi Great Lakes Province Spring Assembly, Wayne State's chapter of Kappa Psi now has another set of accolades to tuck under its belt.

The fraternity's thirteen brothers joined the national Up to Us competition for the second year in a row where they competed against over 50 teams representing colleges and universities across the United States. The goal of the competition is to raise awareness about the growing national debt and advocate for a sustainable economic future. For their campaign, the Kappa Psi team focused on civic engagement and how healthcare is a major driver of the national debt.

Their team placed 6th in the nation while winning the special award of "Most Creative Campaign." Part of the semester-long campaign concentrated on the economic impact of COVID-19, the CARES Act, spending habits of Americans during quarantine, unemployment, and the pandemic's burden on the American healthcare system.

Through their achievements, Kappa Psi brothers were also awarded full-tuition scholarships to earn graduate certificates through Harvard Business School. Through this

summer online program, Joseph Paul Javier, who led the WSU team as executive director, Noah Trotter, Hussein Safaoui, and Fadi Manuel will study to receive certificates in Global Business while brother Johnie L. Bailey will study to earn a certificate in Business Analytics.

"Industry is a cornerstone of our fraternity and we always strive for academic excellence. The chance to study business courses through Harvard Business School is an amazing opportunity for my brothers and I," says Noah Trotter, Kappa Psi President. "Our fraternity is grateful for the 'Up to Us' Competition and we are already thinking of what our campaign will be for next year."

**-Joseph Paul Javier, P2
Corresponding Secretary**



Johnie L. Bailey, P2
House Manager, Kappa Psi

What has been your favorite event held by Kappa Psi?

My favorite activity I have participated in through Kappa Psi has to be our various philanthropy events, especially those that benefit communities or neighborhoods in the city. At our most recent community service events for Auntie Na's Village in the heart of Detroit,

I got to see firsthand the struggles that inner-city youth and their families face. It really touched my heart and confirmed my calling to leverage my future career to make a difference. I want to make an impact. There is so much that needs to be done to improve the lives of those living in cities like Detroit or where I grew up in Flint.

What networking connections have you made through Kappa Psi?

I have made so many connections since joining Kappa Psi. Our graduate brothers are the lifeblood of our fraternity. They are always there if you need advice about school or your future career or if you just need someone to talk to. Our chapter is lucky to have such involved alumni that readily support us in so many

ways. Additionally, the active brothers here at Kappa Psi are just as helpful. Pharmacy school is not easy, and you need all the help you can get. From studying together, supporting one another, volunteering together, and just hanging out, joining Kappa Psi has helped me become more social and a better student.

Describe your favorite memory of pharmacy school so far.

My favorite memory has to be our White Coat Ceremony. That was the moment I realized that this was real. Putting on that white coat with the Wayne State logo and pharmacy patch it validated all the hard work I had put in to get into pharmacy school. It was the turning of a new chapter in my life and signified my commitment to this profession.

Rho Chi

The Alpha Chi Chapter celebrated its 68th year as a member of the Rho Chi Society following its 1953 inauguration at Wayne State. Our chapter's rich history of tradition - recognizing academic excellence, serving local communities, and supporting pharmacy students - endured during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Our members continued tutoring first-year courses in the pharmacy program. We plan to extend these services to second-year courses in the future. Additionally, our chapter preserved the P1/P3 Mentorship Program, matching P1 students with a P3 mentor. This program allows senior students to foster the growth and education of P1 students while simultaneously providing them with shadowing opportunities during APPE rotations. Finally, in an attempt to innovate during a time of restriction, our chapter provided its first-ever educational seminar that focused on disease state and drug therapy research and its application in the creation of an evidence-based patient care plan. Our goal is to expand upon this idea and create an educational seminar series.

On March 22, 2021, our chapter welcomed nineteen new members through a virtual initiation ceremony. For the first time since our chapter's inception, initiates were given an interactive seminar on improvisation comedy and its relationship to patient interaction and communication. This seminar was provided by a Rho Chi alumni, Dr. Cory Jenks, who practices as an Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist.

This past academic year has been one of many firsts, both for our chapter and for the world. Despite the limitations brought about by COVID-19, the foundations of our organization remain strong. We will continue to promote academic excellence through the provision of tutoring, mentorship, and healthcare education, and we will strive to seek novel ways to expand upon our roles as academic leaders in the College of Pharmacy, in the Detroit Community, and in the pharmacy profession.

**-Matthew Gemin, P4
Rho Chi President**

**Paul Dobry, P4
Rho Chi Vice President**



Why did you choose to be a part of Rho Chi?

One unique aspect of the Rho Chi organization is that you don't necessarily choose to be in this organization.

Students are invited based on their academic success and it was a great honor for me to accept.

Describe your favorite memory of pharmacy school so far.

After spending so much time away from my fellow colleagues I would say that my favorite part of pharmacy school was just being at the Eugene Applebaum building with all my classmates and professors. I miss seeing everyone's smiling faces and all of the interactions that we shared together.

What are your plans after you graduate?

I would like to pursue a fellowship with a pharmaceutical company and someday practice as a medical science liaison.

What makes a student a good fit for Rho Chi?

Being a part of the Rho Chi organization goes further than just getting good grades. It takes somebody willing to foster the advancement of each student within the pharmacy profession; somebody that has discipline and is willing to go out of their way to help others.



2021-2022 Rho Chi initiate members (left to right, top to bottom): Brooke Penny, Ryan Verstraete, Vasil Rrush, Zinah Alani, Miranda Barkho, Halah Yaldo, Brooke Putrus, Karli Pelaccio, Manhal Bakka, Klea Noskey, Kelly Kepley, Manhal Beba, Ali Awada, Jessica Murad, Fatimah Cheaito, Marielle Stepho, Cailyn Evans, Kejsi Bendo. Missing from the photo is Zinah Al Ani.



“What is managed care pharmacy?” This is a question not uncommon among newly-admitted pharmacy students and this was a key issue that the Wayne State chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy knew it needed to address. When incoming PIs start their program, community pharmacy or working in a hospital are the top-of-mind jobs one can get into with a PharmD degree. However, there are other lesser-known, but just as vital career pathways that pharmacists can embark on.

Although one of the college's newest student organizations at just under two-years old, AMCP has spent the past semester working hard to let Eugene Applebaum's student pharmacists know exactly what managed care pharmacy is and if it is the right career choice for them to explore.

Led by President Fadi Manuel (current P4), AMCP held a series of webinars specifically geared towards educating students about what managed care is and how managed care pharmacists play an integral role in the healthcare system. Practicing managed care pharmacists from firms including Blue Cross Blue Shield, Takeda, CVS Specialty, Express Scripts, and Bayer HealthCare joined four online presentations for AMCP this past year. These panelists spoke of what they do in their jobs and how students can prepare for a rewarding career in this specialized field of pharmacy.

“Managed care pharmacy is the practice of developing and applying evidence-based medication use strategies that enhance member and population health outcomes while optimizing health care resources,” says Joseph Paul Javier, who will take over as president of AMCP in the fall.

**-Joseph Paul Javier, P2
AMCP President-Elect**

21st Annual AMCP
National Pharmacy &
Therapeutics (P&T)
Competition 2nd place
winners: Fadi Manuel,
Rachel Christensen,
Hussein Safaoui, and
Shivan Patel.



Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy



Rachel Christensen, P4
Treasurer, AMCP

What has been your favorite event held by this organization?

Participating in the national P&T Competition was my favorite memory from being an AMCP member. This competition consists of making a formulary recommendation for a given drug for a given health plan. It was an excellent opportunity to learn about

how a health plan and P&T committee function which is a valuable skill to have when entering many areas of pharmacy practice. This was our first year competing and we were very proud to make it to the finals and win 2nd place nationally.

What networking connections have you made through AMCP?

Our chapter holds many seminars to learn about managed care roles and to network with a wide variety of managed care pharmacists. I have made many networking connections with local AMCP members in the Midwest and across the country by attending national conventions. I also developed strong mentor relationships with the advisors of the P&T competition all of whom work in a variety of managed care roles.

What are your plans after you graduate?

I am planning on applying to PGY1 residency programs and pursuing a career in clinical pharmacy with interests in ambulatory care and critical care. I am also interested in pursuing career opportunities in managed care.

What makes someone a good fit for AMCP?

Someone is a good fit for this organization if they are curious about non-traditional pharmacy practice. AMCP is a very engaging organization for students to participate and network to learn more about the vast opportunities that exist for students interested in managed care. I recommend all pharmacy students inquire about non-traditional pharmacy.

DEW Clinic

The Diabetes Education Wellness (DEW) Clinic is a student-run, non-profit organization that provides the greater Detroit area with no-cost, individualized diabetes and wellness education through an interprofessional team approach. The interdisciplinary clinic team includes volunteer students and faculties from pharmacy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, social work, medicine, dietetics, and law.

Pre-pandemic, the role of the pharmacy team was to educate patients about their medications and diabetes self-monitoring when at the clinic. Post-pandemic, student pharmacist leaders followed-up with patients to provide the same services through follow-up phone calls. In addition, student pharmacists were given opportunities

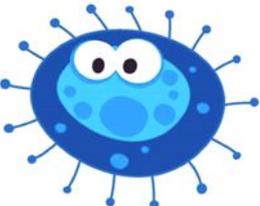
to educate students from other disciplines regarding the role of pharmacists and services we offer to our patients through case discussions at virtual meetings every first Monday of the month.

One of the most exciting accomplishments that we had in the past academic year was the first attempt at holding virtual DEW telehealth services. Thanks to all of the student leaders and faculty advisors involved in organizing the event, we were able to provide the clinic services to the patients and provide an opportunity for student volunteers to practice their learned skills during interviewing the patients in their respective discipline breakout rooms. The DEW Clinic plans to continue the virtual telehealth services as a routine during the pandemic and possibly in the future. We also hope to be able to open up the clinic to see our patients in person as well in the near future.

Announcement for one of the monthly meetings hosted by student pharmacist leaders and faculties providing information to other disciplines regarding diabetes and flu.



Monday, October 5th
4:45-5:45 pm
Via Zoom
Sign up by Friday!

Diabetes & the Flu 

Farzaneh Azizi, P4

*DEW Student Pharmacist Coordinator;
 SPDC/SPIN, SCCP, APhA*



Faezeh Azizi, P4

*DEW Student Pharmacist Coordinator;
 SPIN Director (SPDC), SCCP, PLS, APhA*

What has been your favorite event held by DEW Clinic?

Farzaneh: The "DEW What You Say 5K Run" that is always held in October!

Faezeh: Monthly clinics have provided me with the opportunity to practice and enhance

my patient care skills. It is an amazing way to stay updated with diabetes medications, as it is important to deliver accurate information to the patients.

What is your current leadership position in DEW Clinic? Describe your favorite part about your role.

We are currently student pharmacist co-coordinators. Our responsibilities are to recruit volunteers for the clinic, keep track of the pharmacy supplies, attend clinic meetings, and stay connected with our faculty advisors. Behind the scene, we are student leaders, but during the clinic we are volunteers helping our patients, which is what we enjoy about this position.

What connections have you made through DEW Clinic?

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of

the DEW clinic, we were lucky to be able to work with and learn from many wonderful professors and students here at EACPHS and Wayne State School of Medicine.

What makes someone a good fit for this organization?

Farzaneh: Any student who is passionate to learn and practice patient care, and also interested to learn about the role of other disciplines in providing care for our patients.

Faezeh: Someone who is passionate about helping diabetes patients and constantly learns to stay up to date with the field. In addition, time management, teamwork, creative problem solving, and conflict resolution skills are essential for any leadership role.

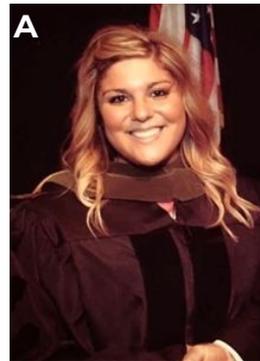
Student Pharmacists Diversity Council



The Student Pharmacists Diversity Council (SPDC) is an organization that promotes the value of diversity in the healthcare field - be it within interprofessional relationships, or through interactions with patients. It is our goal to help develop student pharmacists into culturally competent professionals. This past year, we worked towards this goal from two directions – the Student Pharmacists Inclusion Network (SPIN) and educational seminars for pharmacy students.

Student Pharmacist Inclusion Network (SPIN) Program - Even with the pandemic, SPDC was still able to operate the SPIN program with eight pre-pharmacy students from a range of universities. This program included pairing each pre-pharmacy mentee with a pharmacy student mentor who met virtually over the course of the year to help the mentees achieve their personal and professional goals. In addition to those one-on-one meetings, mentors and mentees attended personal and professional development workshops that are designed to prepare mentees for the challenges of the PharmD program. At the end of the year, all their hard work was celebrated with a virtual graduation ceremony.

Seminars - In October, SPDC held our first seminar with Dr. Stephanie Hawkes who facilitated a



A, B: Guest speakers from a panel discussion on systemic racism and health disparities: Dr. Amber Duncan from CVS Health (A) and Karine Pawlicki from Health Alliance Plan (B).
C. Guest Speaker Dr. Stephanie Hawkes who facilitated a discussion on microaggressions.

discussion on microaggressions. This also served as a space where student pharmacists could describe their experiences, ideas, and reactions to the concept. This was followed up in February where the P1 Committee hosted a panel discussion on systemic racism and health disparities. The panel included Dr. Amber Duncan and Karine Pawlicki who gave their experiences and perspectives on these issues while answering student questions.

**-Brooke Penny, P3
SPDC President-Elect**



Emily Reich, P4
SPDC Vice President; APhA
Operation OTC Medication Safety
Member

Why did you choose to be a part of SPDC?

I wanted to learn more about diversity and how being culturally competent could improve my skills as a pharmacist. I felt comfortable joining SPDC because I was not expected to have a lot of background knowledge in the area; I was only expected to be willing to learn.

What has been your favorite event held by SPDC?

My favorite event held by SPDC so far was our event "Culturally Competent Care: LGBTQ+." We had a pharmacist speak about culturally competent care and give

more information about transgender care. It was great because it was focused on how pharmacists can have an impact in that area.

What makes someone a good fit for SPDC?

Someone open to learning about different cultures and passionate about spreading awareness about diversity and cultural competence would be a great fit for SPDC!

What are your plans after you graduate?

I plan to pursue a PGY1 residency to further my training. My goal is to become a clinical pharmacist in a hospital setting.



A: WHSO member volunteering during the Jamaica Dental Mission in 2019. **B:** WHSO students volunteering at the World Medical Relief to sort medical supplies.



World Health Student Organization

Despite the unforeseen circumstances of the year, the World Health Student Organization (WHSO) members managed to come together to add another successful year in the books.

Members of the organization prepared a presentation regarding Over-the-Counter (OTC) Products to present at Vista Maria. This was done in the form of a jeopardy game, which kept the residents of Vista Maria engaged in the discussion while having a great time. Students also created take-home sheets for the residents summarizing the information presented. Our members also volunteered at World Medical Relief and helped sort through medical supplies that were sent to Lebanon after the Beirut Port tragedy.

WHSO collaborated with Kappa Psi to introduce a new event this year to address the growing concerns of our community regarding the pandemic: COVID-19 Seminars with Dr. Kilgore. The students created and circulated a questionnaire so that students and staff could voice their concerns. This questionnaire was then given to Dr. Kilgore, who then addressed the question in his seminar. This event had a turn-out of over 100 students, and was so successful that we decided to host a second seminar with new information released after the first one. WHSO has plans to host more seminars as we continue to gain knowledge on all things related to COVID and the vaccine.

WHSO has many events planned for the upcoming fall semester including seminars, fundraisers and community service events. We are also hoping to bring our annual medical mission trips to other parts of the world.

**-Ayah Habhab, P3
WHSO President-Elect**

**Redjon Hasmillari, P4
Social Media Chair,
WHSO**

What is your current leadership position in this organization?

I am the social media chair and that involves posting our events and meetings to different social media platforms as well as taking photos and uploading them to our social media accounts. My favorite part is getting to be creative and making fun posters!



What kind of networking/connections have you made through this organization?

I have had the pleasure of being involved with more of our classmates, professors, as well as the organizers of several volunteering events.

What makes a student a good fit for WHSO?

If you are passionate about helping people and growing the organization along the way, WHSO is a good fit for you!

What has been your favorite event held by this organization?

We had a great time at the annual Grilled Cheese Festival last year and I got to make a really cool poster for it, so it's a great memory.

Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society



The 2020-2021 newly initiated members include: Nadeen Abdallah, Lara Al-amin, Alisar Aljundi, Farzaneh Azizi, Laura Cheaney, Michelle Dierker, Ayah Habhab, Reem Hammoud, Roukia Hamoud, Paige Hanke, Joseph Paul Javier, Dalia Kassabieh, Kelly Kepley, Jewel Konja, Fadi Manuel, Rana Noori, Obioma Opara, Linh Pham, Sarah Sanna, and Vivian Yalda.

Phi Lambda Sigma held its annual initiation of new members in April 2021. Although we have not had any events or fundraisers due to COVID, we are extremely excited for this upcoming year and plan to have our annual retreat and hopefully our fundraising events on campus as well.

-Emily Meredith, P3
Phi Lambda Sigma President-Elect

The new E-Board for the 2021-2022 school year is as follows:

President: Emily Meredith
 President-Elect: Nadeen Abdallah
 Secretary: Rana Noori
 Treasure: Linh Pham
 Historian: Paige Hanke
 Chairman: Melanda Nazee



Gabriel Prieur, P4
Phi Lambda Sigma Treasurer,
APhA; SMPA

Why did you choose to be a part of Phi Lambda Sigma?

My long-term career goal is to work in health system administration. Joining PLS has been a great opportunity for me to continuously develop my leadership skills to prepare for a career in management..

What is your current leadership position in PLS? Describe your favorite part of your role.

I was the PLS Treasurer. I kept track of all transactions made and ensured that everyone's dues have been paid. My favorite part about my role was having a voice on our E-Board as well as applying some of the principles I have learned in my elective business classes to keep financial records.

Describe your favorite memory of pharmacy school so far.

After our class' first exam P1 year (which did not go well for a lot of us), a group of us walked to HopCat on Woodward for lunch. It was the first time I had to spend quality time with my classmates and it was the start of many of the friendships I've made in pharmacy school!

What kind of networking connections have you made through PLS?

Every year at our initiation ceremony, PLS designates distinguished local leaders in pharmacy to be initiated as honorary members. They are a great resource for PLS members and are always willing to share their advice and insights with us.

SNPhA

In an era where social justice and fighting for the equity of minorities are at the forefront of the public schema, now more than ever is the time to champion for increased diversity in the workplace and better health outcomes for those populations which have been disregarded in the past. The Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) has risen to this challenge in developing the role of minority health professionals as vital members of healthcare teams while improving the health, educational, and social environment of minority communities.

Healthcare disparities have long existed for racial and ethnic minority populations, and these shocking differences continue to result in individuals from these groups suffering disproportionately, and often unnecessarily, from treatable, curable, or preventable diseases.

Health Professionals for Diversity report that such health care disparities translate into devastating health outcomes. For example, African American women with breast cancer are 67% more likely to die from the disease than white women. In some Asian populations (Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino), poorer survival rates are observed as compared to non-Hispanic whites for certain cancers at certain stages.

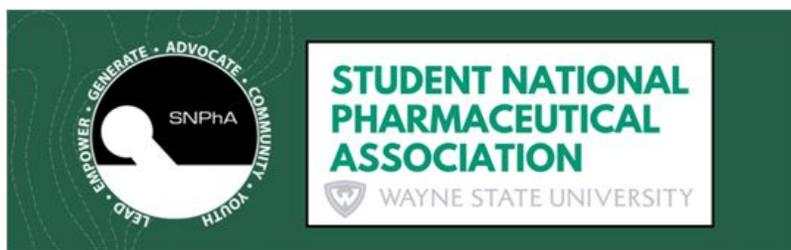
According to the CDC, the risk of having a diabetes diagnosis is 77% higher among African Americans, 66% higher among Latinos/Hispanics, and 18% higher among Asian Americans when compared to white adults.

Wayne State's SNPhA chapter is set to address issues such as these via their various national initiatives, educational

programs, and community service opportunities geared towards underserved populations in Detroit and its surrounding cities.

This fall, the SNPhA executive board has agreed to expand its leadership team to include incoming PIs interested in initiatives that will specifically address diabetes, cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, chronic kidney disease, mental health, and other preventable diseases. These leadership roles will also prepare SNPhA members to be leaders in the profession of pharmacy by advocating for legislation benefiting underserved populations as well as instituting professional development programs focused on uplifting the image of minority health professionals.

**-Joseph Paul Javier, P2
SNPhA President-Elect**



From left to right: Hussein Safaoui, Dr. Dennis Parker, Marissa Kassa, and Josh Joy present about mental health and well-being at Vista Maria, a community-based organization that provides treatment and therapy for vulnerable children, young women, and their families.

From left to right: Niharika Thota, Sruthi Thomas, Johnie L. Bailey, Shahad Zaytouna, and Hoda Fotovat with Ewa Matuszewski, co-founder of MedNetOne Health Solutions, work to vaccinate local high-schoolers against COVID-19 as part of SNPhA's Operation Immunization Initiative.



Dr. Andrew Lipchik is a new faculty member joining the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences as of June 2021.

Assistant Professor
Pharmaceutical Sciences



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Andrew Lipchik

Welcome to Wayne State, Dr. Lipchik! What brought you to Wayne State University?

I am thrilled to be joining the faculty of Wayne State University as an assistant professor this summer. What drew me to the university was the innovation and productivity of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the strength of their diabetes research program. In my post-doctoral fellowship at Stanford, I have focused on how the immune system regulates glucose metabolism and knew I would be able to advance my work with the support, collegiality, and cross-disciplinary collaborative environment of WSU. I look forward to starting my independent research career, training the next generation of both pharmacists and pharmaceutical researchers, and many productive collaborations and other faculty and students. Finally, my wife and I are both from the Midwest and look forward to this homecoming.

Describe your educational and professional background.

As an undergraduate, I majored in chemistry at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, where I performed inorganic chemistry research. I enjoyed the process so much I chose to pursue a career in research focused on improving human health. I then obtained my PhD from Purdue University's College of Pharmacy in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology under the mentorship of Dr. Laurie Parker. My thesis work focused on the development of kinase biosensors for drug discovery as well as monitoring therapeutic responses in patients. Following my time at Purdue, I was interested in translational research and precision medicine. I joined the laboratory of Dr. Michael Snyder in the Department of Genetics and the Personalized Medicine Institute at Stanford University as a NIH postdoctoral fellow. While at Stanford, my research focused on how the immune system regulates glucose metabolism and contributes to the pathogenesis of Type 2 Diabetes (T2D). Utilizing this understanding, I have focused on developing novel immune modulating therapies for treating T2D, which is the work I will continue at WSU.

What sparked your interest in research?

From an early age, I was fascinated with the function of the human body - probably due to a history

of chronic ear infections as a child and the number of trips my mother and I took to the pediatrician's office. Specifically, I was fascinated by how drugs are used to treat infections and the chemistry used to construct them. This led me to major in chemistry as an undergrad where I fell in love with research and the process of constructing molecules that execute a specific task. This has been a thread throughout my research career which directed the building of biological sensors to monitor kinase activity in graduate school and engineering proteins to modulate immune function as a post-doc.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of your career so far?

With mentors and collaborators, I have had the privilege to participate in the development of multiple new technologies. Many of these have led to patents or companies - the gateway to translating ideas into practical applications in human health - which is always the driving force and hopeful goal of every project I start. In addition, I find mentorship incredibly rewarding. I take immense pride in seeing mentees of mine go on to careers in science and find success pursuing their own passions.

What advice do you have for prospective students interested in research and teaching?

To quote Frederick Buechner, "your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world's greatest need." Think about what lights a fire for you, what makes you want to leap out of bed unable to wait another minute to get started. That question you just have to know the answer to. From there, find someone working in this space and reach out. Never be afraid to ask, never assume we are too busy to field your requests. We are here to train you and help drive you to reach your goals. It sounds simple but this is the most important thing - just ask.