A rising (nucleo)tide lifts all boats:
A new dean in a new era

John F. Kennedy once said that “a rising tide lifts all boats” to portray how economic improvements will benefit all involved in that economy. Similarly, the goals set forth by new leadership at the College of Pharmacy at the University of Florida (UF) to raise the quality of educational programs, enhance research productivity and improve the clinical practice opportunities for clinical faculty will benefit all involved, as well as the surrounding community.

The College of Pharmacy at UF entered a new era this fall with the induction of Dr. Julie A. Johnson as the seventh dean and first woman to hold the appointment at the college. Equipped with an innovative vision to improve patient care and pharmacy education, Dr. Johnson has seamlessly transitioned into her new role as dean along with juggling duties as Director of the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program.

Dr. Johnson grew up in Delaware, Ohio and developed a strong interest in chemistry and the health professions while in high school. This foundation paved the path for her career in pharmacy. She received her Bachelor of Science in pharmacy at The Ohio State University and her Doctor of Pharmacy at The University of Texas at Austin and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She continued her training at The Ohio State University as a post-doctoral fellow in pharmacokinetics/clinical pharmacology. Dr. Johnson’s early experiences in the pharmacy profession included positions as a community pharmacist, a clinical pharmacist in the cardiac intensive care unit, and faculty member at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy.

Barcode Medication Administration

UF Health Shands Hospital will implement Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA) in the very near future, with the first go-live set to occur on January 21, 2014 in the Emergency Departments (ED). This includes both the adult and pediatric ED, as well as the freestanding Springhill ED. Thereafter, the inpatient adult medicine floors will follow suit with larger plans to expand BCMA house-wide to the intensive care units, oncology, BMT, and pediatric services.

The Veterans Health Affairs (VA) system was the first to implement bar code technology in the inpatient setting in the 1990s. By 2001, BCMA was used in 161 facilities across the country. BCMA improves patient safety by eliminating manual documentation and employing electronic scanning of unique identifier codes that are then transmitted into the electronic medical record. It is reported that BCMA decreases the number of medication errors by approximately 50 percent. The technology assists in reducing medication errors by confirming “the five rights”: patient, drug, dose, route, and time.

In addition to patient safety, there are also financial benefits for BCMA implementation. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) developed Stage Two Meaningful Use Criteria to further incentivize hospitals and physicians to continue advancing patient care through the use of electronic medication administration records (eMARG).

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New Practitioner Welcome!

Christopher Arp: Chris received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Iowa. He completed his PGY1 at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and his PGY2 training in Oncology at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Chris joined the oncology pharmacy team, working with the blood and marrow transplant and hematologic malignancies services.

Aimee Gowler: After earning her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Arizona, Aimee completed her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Arizona and her PGY2 in Critical Care at the University of Michigan Health System. She will be providing clinical pharmacy services to patients in both the North and South Tower intensive care units.

Martina Holder: Martina received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Purdue University. She completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency and PGY2 Emergency Medicine Residency at the University of Kentucky. We’re excited to have her as an Emergency Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist as we’re now able to expand clinical pharmacy services in the emergency department to seven days a week!

Meredith Jernigan: Meredith received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of North Carolina, Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She completed her PGY1 and PGY2 in Infectious Diseases at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Meredith held the position of Clinical Assistant Professor at Auburn University prior to her arrival here. Meredith will work with the Working Professional Doctor of Pharmacy program and precept students here at UF Health on various internal medicine teams.

Amir Kamel: Amir received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Arnold and Marie College of Pharmacy Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. He completed his PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at The Mount Sinai Medical Center and PGY2 in Critical Care/Nutrition Support at Emory University Hospital. Between residencies, Amir worked for several years in home health pharmacy. His clinical areas of interest include nutrition in critical illness, micronutrient deficiencies and urea cycle disorders. Amir is joining the critical care team as a clinical specialist in nutrition support.

Joelle Nelson: Joelle received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona. She completed her PGY1 and PGY2 in solid organ transplant at University Health System in San Antonio, Texas. Joelle spearheaded pharmacy services in Solid Organ Transplant with the abdominal transplant inpatient team in early September.

Keliana O’Mara: Keliana received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of North Carolina, Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She completed her PGY1 at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina and a Neonatal Pharmacotherapy Fellowship at Women’s Hospital of Greensboro.

Keliana served as the NICU clinical specialist at St. Mary’s in Richmond, Virginia and most recently at Duke University Hospital in Durham, North Carolina. She joined our pediatrics team as our NICU clinical specialist.

Stacy Voils: Stacy received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Kentucky. He then completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky, and a PGY2 Critical Care Residency at Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia (VCU/MCV). Stacy worked as a clinical specialist in Cardiothoracic Surgery at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington and more recently in Neurosurgery and Cardiothoracic Surgery at VCU/MCV. He also held an appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy. Stacy is joining us as a Clinical Assistant Professor with the College of Pharmacy and a surgery/critical care specialist at UF Health. His research interests include neuroscience, homeostasis, and epidemiology.
Congratulations to…

Kathryn DeSear, who passed the credentialing exam from the Academy of HIV Medicine for the HIV Expert Pharmacist Certification (AAHIVP).

Brianna (Franklin) Alexander, who tied the knot in October 2013 and started a new position as an internal medicine clinical pharmacist at Duke Hospital in Durham, North Carolina.

Brian McCullough, who is establishing a virtual presence on the internet with his antimicrobial stewardship blog at www.igotafever.com.

Jamie Shapiro, who is expecting a baby in March 2014.

Aimée LeClaire, former Chief of Critical Care Clinical Pharmacy Services and Assistant Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services at UF Health, who has accepted a position as a Managing Editor at Elsevier Gold Standard. Also, she was appointed to the Board of Pharmacy Specialties (BPS) Specialty Council on Pharmacotherapy and will be inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Critical Care Medicine at the upcoming Society of Critical Care Medicine Congress. Fortunately, she will continue to work with us in a PRN pharmacist role.

Lisa Thames, who welcomed a baby boy, Preston Drevyn on July 8, 2013, and was promoted to Interim Assistant Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services at UF Health Shands Hospital.

Matthew Jenkins, who was recently promoted to Interim Assistant Director of Inpatient Pharmacy Operations and is also proudly representing UF Health Shands Hospital as an active member of multiple ASHP Section Advisory Groups including: Pharmacy Informatics and Technology for Pharmacy Operations Automation, Pharmacy Practice Managers for Quality and Compliance, Pharmacy Inpatient Care Practitioners for Pharmacy Technicians and Support Services.

Meredith Jernigan, for her leadership role on a national level as a member of the ASHP’s Section of Pharmacy Inpatient Care Practitioners Advisory Group for Pharmacy Practice Experiences.

Hedva Barenholtz Levy, who was granted the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) Armon Neel Senior Care Pharmacist Award.

Bob Oakley, the former Director of Pharmacy at Baptist Health Louisville, who has accepted a position as Corporate Director of Pharmacy at Baptist Health Corporate in Kentucky.

Another EPIC Transition

The pharmacists and physicians at University of Florida (UF) Health have become very familiar with EPIC, the Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) system, which was implemented in May of 2011. With the implementation of EPIC, old ways — handwritten orders with pharmacist order entry — were replaced with a more sophisticated system: CPOE with pharmacist order verification. While the majority of medications were built in EPIC, some agents were not included during the initial rollout, namely chemotherapy. Enter Beacon, the oncology tailored version of EPIC. In July 2013, UF Health moved from paper chemotherapy orders with pharmacist order entry to CPOE with pharmacist orde...

Beacon has been well-received, lauded for its capability to easily implement a treatment plan with all associated chemotherapy orders, pre-medications, and important monitoring parameters. Beacon allows clinicians to view current and past chemotherapy regimens in their entirety with ease and facilitate communication between clinicians in the inpatient and outpatient world. In Beacon, clinicians have the ability to leave communication notes that remain in the patient record across multiple encounters, allowing tracking of toxicity-associated dose adjustments.

While CPOE has been associated with decreased error rates, new types of errors not observed with the handwritten order process have been noted with the introduction of this new technology. Hence, vigilant monitoring of processes in EPIC and Beacon is still required to avoid patient harm. Beacon order sets are being tweaked continually to optimize their use.

Moving forward, CPOE in the chemotherapy arena will allow time for chemotherapy pharmacists to provide additional clinical services to the oncology population, to further progress our pharmacy services.

Joseph Pardo
Recent Posters and Publications

**Presentations**

**Antigua A, Bushwitz J, Cope J.** Clinical experience with fondaparinux in critically ill patients with moderate to severe renal impairment and renal failure requiring renal replacement therapy. To be presented at SCCM Annual Congress. January 2014.


**Pardo J.** Molecular detection of Neisseria meningitidis from negative blood cultures and cerebrospinal fluid. To be presented at UHC Pharmacy Council Meeting. December 2013.


**Roth J, Micek S, Arnold H, Hampton N.** Predicting the progression to septic shock in patients with a Candida bloodstream infection. To be presented at UHC Pharmacy Council Meeting. December 2013.

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**Publications**


**Pardo J.** Molecular detection of Neiserria meningitidis from negative blood cultures and cerebrospinal fluid. To be presented at UHC Pharmacy Council Meeting. December 2013.

**Please send any recent publications or presentations you have completed to shandspharm@shands.ufl.edu Share your successes with others!**
Meet the PGY1s!

**Ginger Gamble:** Ginger was born and raised in the nearby state of North Carolina, graduated from the University of North Carolina, and received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Campbell University. Besides being a great baker, Ginger is well-traveled and has stepped foot in over 33 states and many countries outside the U.S. Whilst at Shands, her training plan this year will be intensive and geared towards the preparation as a critical care specialist. As such, her research project, “Development of a clopidogrel loading dose algorithm for patients undergoing carotid artery stent placement” will also provide valuable knowledge and skillset to her goal. If she were to hop onto a plane now, the places she would love to go include South Africa, Paris, and Greece.

What is the most interesting place you traveled? “I have stayed a night in the Sahara desert.”

**Jimin Lee:** Departing South Korea at age 16 and attending high-school in the U.S., Jimin soon made her way to Gainesville after receiving her Doctorate in Pharmacy from the joint program at Oregon State University and Oregon Health and Science University. Since coming to UF Health, she has been impressed by the friendliness and approachability of the preceptors and their interest in each individual resident. As she ponders her future career and meets the fork in the road, it will potentially lead her to additional post-graduate training in infectious diseases or pharmacy administration.

What is your quote? “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” – Mahatma Ghandi

**Jack Tran:** Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Jack completed his undergraduate studies at Temple University and pharmacy school at the University of Maryland. During his time as a pharmacy intern, he acquired a strong foundation through his work experience at Johns Hopkins Hospital Children’s Center.
PGY1s Continued

When he is not busy at work in the office, Jack likes to spend his time exercising, playing basketball, and hanging out with friends. In this year, not only did his rotations include pediatric ICU, emergency medicine, and trauma ICU, but his major project explores the challenges of administering pancrelipase via an enteral access device and the viable alternatives to mitigate these problems. If it hasn’t been obvious thus far, Jack is motivated to providing the best care to the next generation and hopes to achieve that through a PGY2 pharmacy residency in pediatrics.

What is your quote? “Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” – Robert Frost

Trang Trinh: Trang hails from the “sunshine city” of St. Petersburg, Florida, which is coincidentally fitting for her bright personality. After graduating as a proud Gator from the University of Florida, she ventured to the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy for an adventurous and memorable four years. She purposefully found her way back to the Gator Nation to pursue additional post-graduate training. In her free time, she enjoys running and skim-boarding at the beach. Her three loves are: family, food, and the Florida Gators.

What is your quote? “…If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours…” – Henry D. Thoreau

Stephanie Worrall: Stephanie received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Georgia and made her way down south to Gator Nation. While in Gainesville she hopes to experience all the town has to offer and maybe see a real life gator. Her main interests include rooting on her Dawgs (sorry Gator fans), walking her real dog Coco around campus, and getting to know her fellow residents. Her dream vacation would be to take a cruise in the Mediterranean and experience the Greek isles. After increasing her knowledge and experience here at UF Health in Gainesville, she plans on working as a clinical pharmacist specializing in critical care.

What is your quote? “Nothing is impossible, the word itself says ‘I’m possible!’” – Audrey Hepburn

Ralphie’s Take…

Oh Boy! Where do I even begin? As the PGY6 Pediatric Critical Infectious Oncology resident, I have seen a slew of residents come and go. I have to say, this is quite a lively bunch. It is like a techno club in the resident office when Capital Cities’ “Safe and Sound” comes echoing from my iPhone!

I have grown to love this new class, especially Ginger because she bought me this new gator shirt from Victoria’s Secret. I was shocked to find out they had my size. Now everyone can see how proud I am to be a gator! Personally, I think I look way better than Tim Tebow in this uniform.

Before I say goodbye, I’d like to take this time to introduce my new buddy, Dave. We go way back….I remember when we shared our first banana together in Gru’s lab. You may have seen him featured in “Despicable Me” and “Despicable Me 2.” Despite his fame, he is extremely humble and kind. I love going to his place for Tika Masala and potatoes. Anyways, if you have some time to kill, come see my new fan gear and meet Dave!

Ralphie G. Rilla
Jack Tran
Meet the PGY2s!

JANET ARAZCAETA: Janet stayed on at UF Health for the PGY2 Oncology Residency after completing her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency. While a Florida native, she ventured to Chapel Hill, North Carolina to earn her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the esteemed University of North Carolina, Eshelman School of Pharmacy. Her residency research project is unique in that she will not recruit or enroll any patients. She will conduct a literature review evaluating outcomes in trials involving chemotherapeutics in breast cancer. Outside of work, she enjoys trying new restaurants and traveling. After residency, she hopes to vacation and explore the lively culture in Argentina.

BEN KONG: Ben, one of the two PGY2 Pharmacogenomics Residents, came to us after completing his PGY1 at Providence Health and Services in Oregon. He obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Oregon State University / Oregon Health and Science University. For his research project, he will develop a syllabus to help standardize pharmacogenomics in academia. On his time off, he enjoys watching movies, reading, playing Sudoku, and eating brunch.

JI: Ji also stayed on at UF Health for the PGY2 Pediatrics Residency after completing her PGY1 Pharmacy Practice Residency. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of North Carolina, Eshelman School of Pharmacy. Her research project will evaluate various antibiotic regimens used in children with perforated appendicitis. She recently rekindled her love for running. She fuels her running with music from Lupe Fiasco and Justin Timberlake, whom she is thrilled to see perform in Orlando with her co-residents this December.

JOE PARDO: Joe, the PGY2 in Infectious Diseases, grew up not far from UF Health in Newberry, Florida. He earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Florida and completed his clerkships at UF Health as part of the inaugural Shands Block class. He ventured to Fort Myers, Florida to complete his PGY1 at Lee Memorial Health System. His research project titled, “Impact of the FilmArray Blood Culture Identification System on management of patients with gram positive bacteremia and candidemia,” will investigate outcomes related to the institution of a new technology in the microbiology lab. He describes himself as practical and an avid fan of Monday Night Football and Justin Timberlake. He is looking forward to his honeymoon with his fiancé slated for later this year.

JUSTIN ROTH: Justin, the PGY2 Critical Care Resident, came to us after completing his PGY1 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Florida and also completed his clerkships at UF Health as part of the inaugural Shands Block class. His research project will investigate the utility of sildenafil for acute pulmonary hypertension after cardiac surgery. He describes himself as “your average bro,” who indulges in surfing, fishing, playing golf, and basketball during his free time. He appreciates a wide array of music, citing My Chemical Romance, Lil’ Wayne, and Taylor Swift as a few of his favorites.

TERESA VO: Teresa, a PGY2 Pharmacogenomics Resident, returned to Gainesville, Florida after completing her PGY1 at Memorial Health University Medical Center. She is the ultimate gator, born and bred in Gainesville and educated at the University of Florida. For her research project, she will develop a guide for clinical pharmacist to implement pharmacogenetics in clinical practice. She enjoys tennis, water-skiing, and spending time with family and friends.

Hey, meet Robin Southwood, PharmD, BCPS former Critical Care Pharmacy Resident at UF Health in 1992 (pictured top row, far left in group photo). He is currently serving as a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy in Athens, Georgia. Thank you Dr. Southwood for sharing your childhood photos and taking us down memory lane!

With love,

Ji Yeon Lee

Spotlight: Resident through the years

Meet Robin Southwood, PharmD, BCPS former Critical Care Pharmacy Resident at UF Health in 1992 (pictured top row, far left in group photo). He is currently serving as a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy in Athens, Georgia. Thank you Dr. Southwood for sharing your childhood photos and taking us down memory lane!

Stephanie Worrall
**Dean continued**

Dr. Johnson joined the UF College of Pharmacy faculty in 1998 and has taken on several roles ranging from clinical pharmacist at the heart failure/heart transplant clinic and Chair of the Department of Pharmacotherapy and Translational Research.

Dr. Johnson is internationally recognized for pioneering research in cardiovascular pharmacogenomics supported by $35 million in extramural research funding, mostly from the National Institute of Health (NIH). Dr. Johnson helped established the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program in June 2011 and has led the inaugural implementation of CYP2C19 and clopidogrel into clinical practice with a multidisciplinary team. The CYP2C19 pharmacogenetic test is now ordered as part of standard care for patients who undergo percutaneous coronary intervention at the UF Health cardiac catheterization lab. She and her colleagues in the Personalized Medicine Program recently received a $3.7 million grant to bolster the growth of the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program. Plans are underway to expand genomic medicine to medical communities throughout Florida and to develop educational programs on genomic medicine for healthcare providers, health science center students, and patients. In 2012, Dr. Johnson established a second year pharmacy residency in pharmacogenomics, making it the second program of its kind in the United States.

Dr. Johnson is also heavily involved in many other leadership activities. She heads the International Warfarin Pharmacogenetics Consortium consisting of researchers from institutions worldwide and serves as chair for the NIH’s National Human Genome Research Institute Implementing Pharmacogenomics into Clinical Practice Network. She serves on the editorial boards for several scientific and medical publications and is a scientific editor for the journal Pharmacotherapy. Dr. Johnson has also served leadership roles in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, the Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee for the FDA, and NIH.

Dr. Johnson has earned a line of awards reflecting her numerous contributions to advance pharmacogenomics and the pharmacy profession. Among the awards, includes the V. Ravi Chandran Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2004 and Fellow of the American Heart Association and American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

Dr. Johnson’s extraordinary work to date may have many wondering if she has time for much else. Outside the arena of pharmacy and pharmacogenomics research, Dr. Johnson enjoys playing tennis, running, scuba diving, and reading. Aside from her professional accomplishments, Dr. Johnson cites the wonderful young women her two daughters have become as her proudest personal achievement.

**Publications continued**


Trang Trinh

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**BCMA continued**

“Assistive technology” must be used for 10 percent of orders to be automatically tracked via eMAR. Consequently, the ED was chosen as the pilot location since most patients typically receive one to two doses of medications in the ED, thereby making barcode tracking of medication administrations more manageable for go-live.

This initiative toward systems improvement stemmed from months of hard work and diligence put forth by members of the Pharmacy Operations Department. “This is a step forward in patient safety,” said Matt Jenkins, Interim Assistant Director for Pharmacy Operations. “We have taken on many initiatives here at UF Health Shands Hospital to improve patient safety. This is a long-standing wish that is finally coming true.”

With input from the Nursing Department, an iOS system compatible with iPod Touch and iPhone devices will serve as the scanner. EPIC’s mobile counterpart, Rover, will connect the two systems. Rover will allow nurses to review medication orders, print specimen labels, input patient data, and capture collection details, along with the documentation of medication administration. The devices will not be available in large enough scale to roll out BCMA to the entire institution until late spring. Currently, small-scale construction is underway in the central pharmacy to provide physical space for BCMA-compatible packaging. Unit-based stock will have to be repackaged to include bar codes on the labels.

“This is another tool in our arsenal for patient safety,” stated Jenkins.

Ginger Gamble
Sushi night: Rollin' with the new residents!

Residents and preceptors had the opportunity to experience freshly rolled sushi while learning fun facts about the preceptors at the annual sushi night.
Carving out some fun during residency!

This year, we each had a chance to show off our knife skills at our pumpkin carving social event.

Photos by Stephanie Worrall