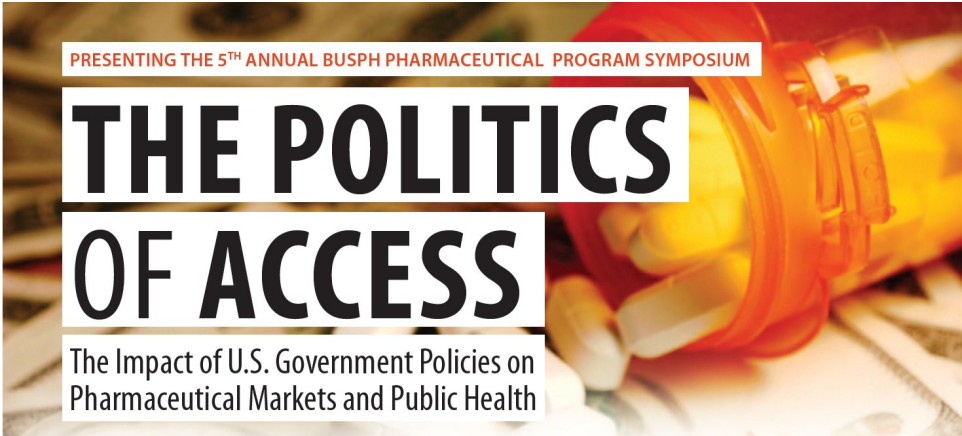


# SEMESTER Rx - SPRING 2016

BUSPH Pharmaceuticals Program Newsletter

May 2016



## Save the Date!

**BUSPH SIGNATURE 40th  
ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM:**  
The Role of Pharmaceuticals in  
Public Health

**Thursday, Sept. 15th, 2016**

**9am-5:30pm**

BUSM Hiebert Lounge,  
72 E. Concord St. Boston, MA

### Session topics include:

- Universal Access and Price & Availability: Ensuring global access to life-saving medicines
- Health Reform, Universal Health Coverage, and Access to Medicines
- Pharmaceutical Public Health: The BU SPH Vision

### Highlighted keynotes:

- [Stefan Oschmann](#), President, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations and Deputy CEO of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany
- [Olusoji O. Adeyi](#), Director, Global Practice, Health, Nutrition & Population, The World Bank

Please mark your calendars! For more information, please email [SPHpharm@bu.edu](mailto:SPHpharm@bu.edu) or visit us [online](#).

## Pharm Program hosts its 5th Annual Symposium!

The Pharm Program prides itself on convening different opinions and hosting dialogue that advances public health. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Pharm Program hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> annual symposium, "The Politics of Access", which explored the impact of U.S. government policies on pharmaceutical markets and public health. BUSPH's Dean Galea provided opening remarks and introduced keynote speaker Dr. Howard Koh, who recounted his tenure as Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services during the inception of the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Koh also offered his perspective on the future of healthcare access.



BUSPH and Pharm Program alumna Lindsey Rorden shared her perspective on the politics of access through her role as Manager of Government Affairs and Public Policy at Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Pharm students in the audience enjoyed learning about the professional experience of a BUSPH/Pharm Certificate graduate. *Continued on page 2*

**NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:** *Greetings from the public health heart of Boston! What a spring we have had! From a stellar line-up of Seminar Speakers (see page 3) to a well-attended, student-run Pharm Program Symposium where MA state leaders debated key issues related to the politics and price of access, this semester was not dull! On May 14, 22 new BUSPH MPHers armed with Pharmaceutical Certificates graduated. See what some of them are up to on pages 3 and 4. We hope you enjoy our second edition of the Semester Rx!*  
~ Erin Hasselberg



# New Pharm Program Leadership Council Members!

We are pleased to introduce the incoming PPLC members (*right*) who bring a wealth of leadership and organizing experience from across the country and around the world. In the upcoming year, PPLC strives to continue fostering a welcoming and engaging Pharm Program community both with our on-campus members and alumni. Please feel free to contact PPLC throughout the summer with comments or suggestions for improvement at [SPHpharm@bu.edu](mailto:SPHpharm@bu.edu). We look forward to your feedback!



Incoming 2016-2017 PPLC Members (LtoR): Nikolina Boskovic, Samantha Straitz, Kristen Turpin, Sarah Bleicher, Serafina Lalany (not pictured: Naureen Syed)

## ...(cont'd) Pharm Program hosts its 5th Annual Symposium!

Key leaders in the MA public health space rounded out the Symposium. Panelists included: Robert Coughlin, President, MassBio; Pamela Gavin, COO, National Organization of Rare Disorders; Dr. David Jones, Assistant Professor, BU School of Public Health; Lora Pellegrini, President and CEO, Massachusetts Association of Health Plans; David Seltz, Executive Director, Massachusetts Health Policy Commission; and moderator Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister, Former President and CEO of Mass Life Sciences Center. A lively Q&A session stirred discussion on the lingering challenge of patient access to treatment even in light of ACA rollout, the increasing pressure on industry representatives to provide R&D cost transparency, and the pioneering role of MA policies related to innovation, quality, cost and access. The event concluded with a social networking reception where speakers and audience members continued discussing the politics of access!



**Keynote: BUSPH Alumnus, Dr. Howard Koh,**  
Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services; Harvey T. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership, Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health & Harvard Kennedy School



**Panelists (L to R):** Dr. Koh, Dr. David Jones (BUSPH); Moderator Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister (former CEO Mass Life Sciences Center); Pam Gavin (NORD); Bob Coughlin (MassBio), David Seltz (MA Health Policy Commission); and Lora Pellegrini (MAHP).

## Seminar Series

*Our Seminar Series invites experts from the field to discuss relevant topics with Pharm students.*

- ⇒ **January 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Andy Gray, University of KwaZulu-Natal and Hans Hogerzeil, University of Groningen
  
- ⇒ **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Kevin Outterson, JD, Professor, Boston University School of Law
  
- ⇒ **February 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Deidre McCarthy, Senior Director, Global Head, Benefit-Risk Management, Quintiles
  
- ⇒ **March 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Dr. Vishal Patel, Senior Director, Global Institutional Affairs at EMD Serona, Merck KGaA
  
- ⇒ **March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Maura Soucy, Technical Advisor, Pharmaceutical Management and Health Technologies Group, Management Sciences for Health
  
- ⇒ **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Laurie Halloran, CEO, Halloran Consulting
  
- ⇒ **March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Dr. Sue Jick, Director, Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Program (BCDSP)



SPH Commencement 2016

## Into the Real World...

The end of the Spring Semester demands that students complete class projects, papers, and CEs, while also challenging graduating students to land full-time jobs post-Commencement and continuing students to find the perfect practicum opportunity that meets both the SPH and Pharm Certificate requirements. We are so proud of our 2016 graduates and current students for all the fabulous opportunities they have secured!

Our graduates comment extensively on how the Pharm Certificate enhanced their experience at BUSPH. One alum notes that “the seminars opened my eyes to many career options within the pharmaceutical industry.” Another writes that the Pharm Program provided “a broad picture of how a public health background could be useful in the pharmaceutical industry.” Equipping students with the knowledge and skills to work at the intersection of pharmaceuticals and public health is a central aim of the certificate program.

See the below table for a sample of placements and check out our updated Alumni webpage to see where graduates are currently employed:

<http://www.bu.edu/pharm/our-students/alumni-where-are-they-now-3/>

2016 Pharm Certificate Grads Job Titles & Companies	2016 Pharm Certificate Summer Practicum Placements
Clinical Trial Coordinator, Biogen	Management Sciences for Health
Regulatory CMC, Shire Pharmaceuticals	World Health Organization
NCD Synergies Program Coordinator, Partners in Health	Biogen
Epidemiologist, Shire Pharmaceuticals	Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Research Associate, Pfizer	Pathfinder International
Associate Health Economist, Precision for Medicine	Merck
Clinical Trial Assistant, Quintiles	VA Boston Healthcare System

# Alumni Spotlight

## Meggie Hotard PA Consulting Group

**Name:** Meggie Hotard

**Job Title:** Healthcare Consulting Analyst, PA Consulting Group

**BUSPH Concentration, Graduation Year:** Health Policy and Management & Pharm Program, 2016



**Where you are now?** I am excited to be graduating the BUSPH program this spring and look forward to starting my new position with PA Consulting Group in New York City this summer. My position is within the Healthcare division, and I will be specifically working with the Health Information Technology team. The work consists of engaging with clients across the healthcare industry. For example, projects may include helping hospitals maximize telehealth solutions to support long term conditions management. I am also excited to work with PA Consulting Group's innovation and technology products, such as their healthcare patch—a low-cost, body-worn sensor to remotely monitor a patient's health.

**How did the BU Pharm Program help you get to where you are?** The BU Pharm program offered many networking opportunities during the school year, which helped me learn early on the importance of engaging with alumni and other people within the healthcare industry. Seminars and other networking events helped me hone my presentation skills. Additionally, the BU Pharm program helped me land a great practicum during my summer within the program. I was able to work for a big pharma company within their policy division. This experience helped me with my project management and research skills within a big business environment. My practicum experience helped give me confidence when interviewing for consulting firms the following fall semester.

## Hot Off the Press

Faculty, alumni, and current students contribute extensively to the ongoing conversation of pharmaceuticals and public health, whether through academic articles, blog posts, or other news outlets. Here are some highlights from the spring 2016 semester:

[Evaluating availability and price of essential medicines in Boston Area \(Massachusetts, USA\) using WHO/HAI methodology](#) by Pharm Program alums Abhishek Sharma and Lindsey Rorden and BUSPH's Dr. Richard Laing

[Challenges of medicines management in the public and private sector under Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme – A qualitative study](#) by Pharm Program alum Paul Ashigbie and Dr. Veronika Wirtz

[Role of the private sector in vaccination service delivery in India: evidence from private-sector vaccine sales data, 2009-12](#) by Abhishek Sharma and BUSPH's Dr. Warren Kaplan

[See a complete list of Spring 2016 publications here.](#)

## Get Engaged:

Please contact us if you are interested in speaking with current students at either a Tuesday evening seminar or a lunch time talk about your work! Email [SPHpharm@bu.edu](mailto:SPHpharm@bu.edu) for more info!

[Hire a Pharm Program](#) student for a practicum or job!

Have noteworthy news to share with the BU Pharm Program community? Please email [SPHpharm@bu.edu](mailto:SPHpharm@bu.edu) to include your news in the Fall 2016 newsletter.

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Visit our program blog, the Weekly Dose, and subscribe for on-campus happenings, news, and outside events.