

SEMESTER R_x- FALL 2016

BUSPH Pharmaceuticals Program Newsletter

December 2016

Director's Note:

Greetings from the public health heart of Boston! This fall BUSPH launched its new [MPH curriculum](#) and the Pharmaceutical Certificate is now one of eight 12-credit context area certificates that MPH students can select. Given the additional "competition" of other certificates (a change from years prior), we welcomed a smaller but might cohort of 20 new students into our program this fall *(meeting our goal!). And what a busy fall semester we have had from seminars to symposiums and classes to exams, BUSPH students and faculty in the nation's only public health pharmaceutical certificate program have been hard at work. **Please take a closer read and be in touch- we would love to hear from you!**

- Erin Hasselberg, Director, BUSPH Pharmaceuticals Program

Save the Date!

Innovative Access: Using Technology to Improve Quality, Delivery & Use of Medicines

The 6th Annual Pharmaceuticals Program Symposium

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

4:30-7:00pm

Hiebert Lounge, 72 E. Concord St., Boston

Invitations to follow; for more information, email SPHpharm@bu.edu



Dean's Symposium: The Role of Pharmaceuticals in Public Health

The intersection of pharmaceuticals and public health has been in the spotlight this year at BUSPH! The Dean's Symposium, "The Role of Pharmaceuticals in Public Health", took place on September 15, 2016 with an extraordinary set of 10 knowledgeable speakers from the public and private sectors. Inspired by the central question of "what is the role of pharmaceuticals in a prevention and public health agenda?" a provocative debate on access to essential medicines as a key determinant to universal health coverage kept an attentive numerous audience fully engaged.

If you were unable to attend, be sure to watch the Symposium [here!](#)

BUSPH Professor Co-Chairs the Lancet Commission Report on Essential Medicines for Universal Health Coverage

A group of 21 international experts from many specialties collaborated to make recommendations for the future of essential medicines as a critical piece of universal health coverage. Dean Sandro Galea and Global Health Department Chair Pat Hibberd discussed the highlights with students, faculty, and staff on Nov. 30th. The event was led by BUSPH associate professor Dr. Veronika Wirtz, PhD, who serves as a co-chair for the Commission. Several other Commission Members presented on sections of the report at the seminar.

Dr. Wirtz stated that she believed the recommendations made in the report could "substantially improve access to essential medicines in high and low-income areas alike".

For more information, read the [report](#), watch the [video launch](#) from London, and read the [press release!](#)



Fall Semester Happenings

Pharm Program Leadership Council 2017

A huge thank-you to outgoing PPLC members Samantha Straitz, Nikolina Boskovic, Kristen Turpin, Sarah Bleicher, Naureen Syed and Serafina Lalany for their hard work this semester. We look forward to welcoming Maria Bustos Marquez, Phani Kamineni, Courtney Carrington and Sumedha Javalikar to PPLC in the Spring 2017 semester. Please send comments and suggestions to PPLC at sphpharm@bu.edu.



PPLC 2016-2017 (l to r)
Courtney Carrington, Sumedha Javalikar, Maria Bustos Marquez, Director Erin Hasselberg, and Phani Kamineni

BUSPH contracted to evaluate Novartis' Access Program

Boston University is evaluating *Novartis Access*, a social business program to increase access to medicines for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through the direct sale of NCD medicines to governments and other public-sector customers in low and lower middle income countries. The unique survey utilizes a cluster-randomized controlled trial, serial qualitative interviews and telephonic monitoring as an input to the evaluation. Explore the evaluation and related features [here](#).

BUSPH re-designated as WHO Collaborating Center in Pharmaceutical Policy

The BUSPH Center for Global Health & Development has served as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre (WHO CC) in Pharmaceutical Policy since 2000 and has received official re-designation as a Collaborating Centre through 2018. The proposed key areas of work through 2018 include good governance for medicines at the global and country level, new methods for monitoring and evaluating pharmaceutical policies and programs with a focus on low and middle income countries and advocacy of the WHO Essential Medicines List concept and support for the rationale and process for updating the Essential Medicines List. Please contact Dr. Veronika Wirtz (vwirtz@bu.edu), Director of the Collaborating Centre, if you are interested in participating in the Centre's work.

BU Law Professor Guides Global Effort to Create New Antibiotics

Kevin Outterson, co-Director of the Health Law Program at Boston University, was named executive director of a \$350 million trans-Atlantic public-private partnership, Combatting Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator (CARB-X). The global partnership, hosted at BU Law, is focused on supporting developers of promising new antibiotics, diagnostics, and vaccines that tackle the threat of untreatable bacterial infections. To learn more about the initiative, please view the original *BU Research* story [here](#).



Student Socials

The Pharm Program got off to a great start this fall with new and continuing students, faculty and staff gathering to enjoy ice cream on the Talbot Green! The Pharm Program Leadership Council also hosted a mid-semester pumpkin painting social to relieve stress around midterms.

Seminar Series

Our Seminar Series brought in experts from the field to discuss relevant topics with Pharm students.

⇒ Tues, Sept 12th

Margaret Ewen, Global Projects Coordinator, Health Action International (HAI)

⇒ Wed, Sept 14th

Yu Lu, PhD, Professor of Health Economics, Fudan University (China)

⇒ Tues, Oct 11th

Claudia Kelly, DrPH, Senior Director, Value Access and Policy, Seqirus

⇒ Wed, Oct 19th

Doris Peter, PhD, Director, Health Ratings Center, Consumer Reports

⇒ Tues, Nov 9th

Dr. David Kaufman, Director, BU Slone Epidemiology Center

⇒ Tues, Nov 29th

Dr. Joe Massaro, Associate Professor, BU, Biostatistics, Mathematics and Statistics

⇒ Tues, Dec 6th

Lauren Celano, CEO, Propel Careers

Pharmaceutical Practicum Highlights! Summer/Fall 2016

It has been an exciting and busy time for students who completed their practicums over the last several months. Between the summer and fall semester at BU, there were over **95 practicums** completed in several countries including India, Rwanda, Vietnam, the Philippines, Namibia, Nicaragua, and Switzerland and in the US from Washington State to Virginia. More than 30 Pharmaceutical Certificate students were a part of this diverse group. BUSPH Pharm Certificate students held positions such as data analysts, research assistants, program support, clinical researchers, and supply chain interns at private companies, NGOs, and academic institutions. Please see the [Pharm Program website](#) for more detailed information on practicum placements!

We would like to congratulate all outgoing BUSPH Pharm Students (three of whom are pictured here) on completing the program and we wish you well on your future endeavors!



Kristen Turpin completed her practicum with the Management Sciences for Health to evaluate the effectiveness of the MSH price-guide designed to give pharmaceutical suppliers, international development agencies, and government actors reference prices for procurement.

"The practicum was a great opportunity to learn from both instructors and participants of the winter school 2016 at the University of the Western Cape, School of Public Health in Cape Town, South Africa. As a teaching assistant for the rational medicines use and medicines supply management courses, I learned about the current issues facing the rational use of medicines and supply chain management and the different methods and strategies to improve those issues."
- **Selam Hailu**



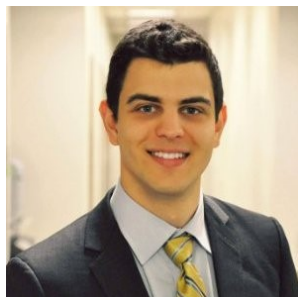
Naureen Syed conducted her practicum as a data analysis at Health and Nutritional Development Society (HANDS) -one of the largest NGOs in Pakistan. She specifically worked data to run analysis of measles vaccination rates and to evaluate trends.



Alumni Spotlight

Nathaniel Posner

Research Associate, Pfizer
Health Policy & Management, Pharmaceuticals
Certificate, January 2017



Where are you now?

After graduating from BUSPH, I moved to New York and accepted a position at Pfizer within their cardiovascular outcomes research group. My day typically involves working with consultants to design and execute research studies using real-world data from EMRs and insurance companies. Outside of work, I love playing guitar and piano, and exploring the food and art scene around New York.

How did the pharmaceuticals certificate help you?

The BU Pharm Program gave me a base of knowledge about the industry that I wouldn't have gotten anywhere else. In combination with the speakers and networking events organized by the school, I had all the tools I needed to meet potential employers and sound confident and informed when speaking to them. The interpersonal skills and industry knowledge I honed in the Pharm Program gave me a broad range of career options when I graduated, and continue to inform the decisions I make in the workplace today.

Any advice for new Pharm students?

Use every connection you have, including your teachers. Ask them to introduce you to people who do what you want to do. Do informational interviews to learn about different fields within pharma. Learn how to read and critique studies – well! Do pharma-related work/research during your degree so you're prepared for life after it. Have as much fun as you reasonably can – you have to work after this!"



Survey!

Want to win a \$25 Amazon gift card?

All it takes is 10 minutes of your time and a bit of reflection! Everyone who completes our annual "[End of Semester Survey](#)" by Friday, December 30thst will have their name entered in a drawing to win a \$25 Amazon Gift Card.

We'll announce the winner on January 3rd!

We really appreciate your honest feedback and use it each year to make improvements to the program.

Get Engaged:

Come in to speak at one of our Tuesday evening seminars or a lunch time talk about your work! Email 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 to have your news included in next semester's newsletter.

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