

# Semester Rx - Spring 2017

## Pharm Program's 6th Annual Symposium talks Innovation!!

Ensuring that the right medicines get to the people who need them at the right time remains a major challenge, fortunately innovative access technologies are underway today!! At the 6th Annual Pharmaceutical Program Symposium, **"Innovative access: technologies to improve delivery, quality and use of medicines"** held on March 22,

*"Think out of the ordinary, innovate, but keep it simple"*

*- Dr.Selim Ünlü*

2017, leading researchers of diverse technologies to improve access to medicines were invited to share their experience and advances involving from microchips, to instant virus detection and quality-check devices. James Coughlan, as keynote speaker, exposed the remarkable work achieved by UPS and Zipline in Rwanda using drones to deliver life-saving medicines. The

discussion moved on with a rich boost of knowledge from Selim Ünlü who used photonics to develop a new diagnostic device, Liz Proos who is a director at Microchips biotech which is at a verge of developing a new implantable chip which can deliver over a hundred doses of medicines and Muhammad Zaman whose work included a device which can be used to measure the quality of medicines at a fraction of cost than what is being used today. The audience engaged with meaningful questions and inspired an insightful discussion about main challenges, facilitators, and views towards the future of access to medicines for all! The BUSPH Pharmaceutical Program is proud to nurture the academic exchange of the pharmaceutical sector at the intersection of public health, ever more relevant today!



◀ **James Coughlan**

UPS Loaned Executive - Global Fund  
Speaking about their successful mission to deliver vaccines via drones in Rwanda.  
(More pics in page2)

### Notes from the Director:

*" The Pharmaceutical Certificate Program had a jam-packed semester with six seminars with distinguished experts in the pharmaceutical field from payers to industry and academia to practice. Our Pharm Program Leadership Council pulled off a well-attended 6th Annual Pharmaceutical Symposium that featured cutting edge companies with innovative technologies to improve access to medicines! We spoke to dozens of students at our three Admitted Students' Day receptions, and were proud to boast about the U.S.'s only Pharmaceutical Certificate at a School of Public Health. And on May 20th, 35 students will join the ranks of our over 100 alumni with a Pharmaceutical certificate from BU. We hope you enjoy reading about our exciting semester!"*

~Erin Hasselberg



## Symposium in Pictures



◀ **Dr. Selim Ünlü**  
 Professor -  
 Electrical &  
 Computer  
 Engineering, BU  
 Talking about his  
 photonics based  
 diagnostic device.



▲ **Dr. Muhammad Zaman**  
 Professor -  
 Biomedical  
 Engineering, BU.  
 Explains his  
 technology  
 which is used to  
 detect fake  
 drugs.



◀ **Sandra Butler**  
 Senior Director -  
 CAMTech  
 Presiding over as  
 the Moderator of  
 the symposium.



▶ **Liz Proos**  
 Director - Microchips  
 Biotech  
 Speaking about an  
 ingeniously  
 developed chip  
 which can deliver  
 hundreds of doses  
 without replacement.



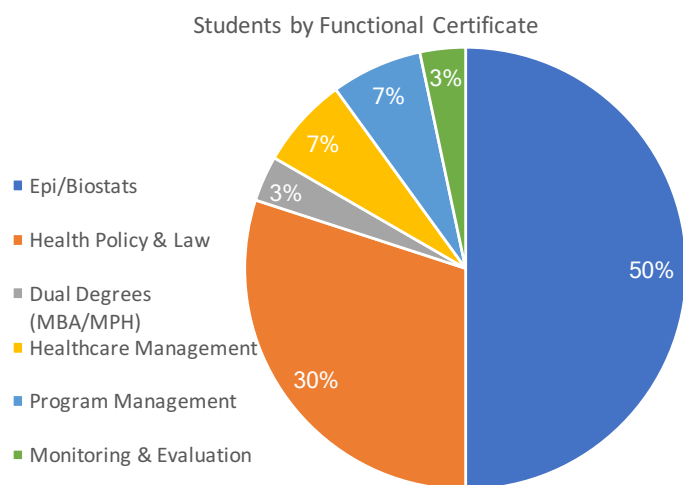
## END OF SEMESTER STUDENT SOCIAL

With the semester almost approaching its closure and the spring showers pouring in their bit of surprises, the Pharmaceutical certificate organised a fun filled ice-cream social to add-in some calories into the students before the stressful finals week kicks in. The social is attended by the members of the current Pharm certificate, the concentrators from the traditional curriculum and the students who are walking the graduation at the end of this semester. The evening progressed with sharing their practicum experiences, the organisations/jobs that the graduating students are going and a lot of fun.





## Pharmaceutical Certificate by Numbers:



### Where Pharm program grads are:

- ▶ Project Analyst - Sequiris
- ▶ Clinical Research
- ▶ Global Market Access Consultant
- ▶ Associate Case Manager - Vertex Pharmaceuticals
- ▶ Expenditure Analyst - USAID Global Health Fellows Program

For more information about Practicums/jobs visit <http://www.bu.edu/pharm/jobspracticums/>

### PPLC gets a new addition:

We are pleased to introduce to you Jessica Rojas who will be joining our PPLC members Maria Bustos Marquez, Phani Kamineni, Courtney Carrington and Sumedha Javalikar, who bring their leadership skills from around the world. The mission of the council is to provide feedback and guidance to the program as well as improve the Pharm Program's connections among Pharm Program students, the BU community, & the greater Boston Pharma community and beyond. 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!

## Seminar Series

As we take a look back over the Spring 2017 semester, we'd like to highlight our many seminars that provided unique glimpses into the multifaceted public health and pharmaceutical industries.

▶ January 24th

### Christina Allain

Global Senior Associate  
Family Planning at Clinton Health Access Initiative  
*"Contraceptive Product Introductions & Replacement"*

▶ February 7th

### Aaron Kesselheim MD, JD, MPH

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School  
*"Myths and Realities of Drug Regulation"*

▶ February 23rd

### Tom Kowalski

Clinical Pharmacy Director  
Health and Medical Management at Blue Cross  
*"Managing Pharmaceutical Prices: From the Perspective of a Health Insurer"*

▶ February 28th

### Dan Ollendorf

Chief Scientific Officer  
Institute for Clinical and Economic Review  
*"Frameworks for Assessing the Value of Prescription Drugs: What is Included, How is it Measured, and Who is it Measured For?"*

▶ March 28th

### Alan Sager, PhD

Professor of Health law, Policy and Management  
BUSPH  
*"Affordable Meds for All - The Easiest Problem to Solve in Health Care"*

▶ April 13th

### Jamie Ring

Head of Patient Advocacy, Spark Therapeutics  
*"Patient Advocacy in Industry - An Emerging Field"*

▶ April 20th

### Brook Baker, JD

Senior Policy Analyst - Health GAP  
Professor of Law, Northeastern School of Law  
*"Pharma Wars: Intellectual Property, Trade, and Access to Medicines"*

## 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 2017 newsletter.

## Connect with Us:

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



## Alumni Spotlight

### Erin Ellwanger

**Job Title:** Materials Copy Clearance Coordinator (MCC) at Seqirus

**BUSPH Concentration:** Health Policy and Management & Pharmaceutical Program

**Graduation Year:** 2017

**Where you are now?** I am excited to be graduating from the BUSPH program this spring and will continue working at Seqirus, where I started in January 2017 as a contract employee. Seqirus is an influenza vaccine company and my role as the MCC coordinator is to support scientific review of Medical and Promotional Materials for the company's products. My responsibilities include coordinating and leading meetings with reviewers, fact checking materials, and evaluating adequacy of references/annotations. After graduation I will become a full-time employee of Seqirus as a Project Analyst in the Medical Affairs department. While continuing my position as MCC coordinator, I will take on a management role to support assigned work streams to successfully execute Medical Affairs programs and projects. These include medical education programs, phase IV studies and scientific advisory boards.

#### **How did the BU Pharm Program help you get to where you are?**

The BU Pharm Certificate program offered many networking opportunities during the school year via seminars and symposiums. In fact, I was connected to my current position at Seqirus after attending a seminar on market access. The presenter worked at Seqirus and was looking to fill the MCC role with a Master's-level student.

The resources offered to me through the BU Pharm program were invaluable. I was encouraged to find a pharmaceutical-focused practicum and was able to land one at a clinical trial site network startup company, which furthered my interest in the industry setting. In addition to the practicum, while interviewing I was able to leverage the knowledge and skills acquired through the Pharm-focused classes, for example, Chris Gill's Clinical Development of a New Vaccine course. The pharmaceutical certificate program was a big draw when deciding which MPH program to attend. I am so grateful that I was able to be a part of this program.