By Michelle Drzewiecka, PharmD, Class of 2013

As I conclude my final year in pharmacy school, I have had a variety of great experiences throughout rotations that have contributed to my growth as a student pharmacist. I have always enjoyed patient interaction and am grateful that our profession is able to make such a significant impact in the community. During my internal medicine rotation with Dr. Millie Rajyaguru at Monmouth Medical Center, I had the unique opportunity to help coordinate a community outreach visit at Kensington Court Assisted Living and Senior Day Club.

The outreach included a presentation on medication use targeted toward older adults, a bingo game to summarize key learning points, and concluded with a brown bag one-on-one counseling session with the attendees. My presentation included a summary of common medications and side effects, identifying medication related problems, understanding the risk of adverse drug reactions, and the importance of medication adherence. Each topic served to facilitate an interactive discussion with the audience about their medication-related concerns. Questions from the audience included concerns about their own medication regimen, common myths they have heard about medication side effects and even interest in new medications they had seen in advertisements. A bingo game followed in order to reinforce key points from the presentation. At the end of the day, each attendee was able to sit with a pharmacist or P4 pharmacy student to discuss their medications and any concerns they may have had. Each counseling session proved valuable to the patients in a unique way. The counseling sessions not only covered standard medication counseling and drug interaction checks but included over-the-counter and herbal medication questions as well as medication storage concerns during travel. The one-on-one counseling was very successful and those in attendance were extremely thankful to have their concerns addressed.

Each of the patients received a pill organizer in order to help them in adhering to their medications.

Feedback from the event was very positive and it proved just how valuable of a role pharmacists play in the local community. Not only was I able to help out patients in need, but the event itself helped me grow professionally as well. Working with Dr. Rajyaguru, I was able to improve my presentation style and patient communication skills as well. The community outreach at Kensington was certainly one of my most memorable rotation experiences. I am grateful to have had such great preceptors throughout my years at Rutgers and I look forward to applying my education in my transition from student to pharmacist in the coming months.
Practice Site Spotlight: Food and Drug Administration

By LT Jessica Fox, PharmD.
Class of 2010

As a student and now as a preceptor, I am lucky to have experienced both sides of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Pharmacy Student Experiential Program. This program offers the unique opportunity for students in their final year of pharmacy school to learn about FDA’s multidisciplinary processes for addressing public health issues involving drugs, biologics, and medical devices.

Students from pharmacy schools all over the country participate in rotations in over 25 sites within FDA, located in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. While each rotation site has its own objectives, an FDA rotation allows pharmacy students to become familiar with the mission and structure of the Department of Health and Human Services, FDA, and the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS); the laws, regulations, and guidelines governing drugs, biologics, and devices for human use; and the drug review process within the United States.

Students can attend over 25 meetings with pharmacists throughout FDA, Indian Health Service, Bureau of Prisons, National Institutes of Health, and TRICARE Management Activity. Students can also visit the American Pharmacists Association, American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, United States Pharmacopeia, and one of the most memorable experiences, a guided tour of the Pentagon.

Many of the pharmacists are USPHS Commissioned Corps officers. In these meetings, students learn first-hand about the myriad of pharmacist career opportunities available for pharmacists in the federal government and pharmacy organizations.

I was a student and now am a preceptor in FDA’s Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP) (formerly the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications). During an OPDP rotation, students learn how to review and evaluate promotional materials for prescription drugs (e.g., sales aids, journal ads, TV commercials, patient brochures) for false or misleading claims and presentations. Students may research a topic and make a presentation to OPDP reviewers, supervisors, and directors.

I graduated from EMSOP in 2010 and I began my career in OPDP in March 2011. A few months later, I became a lieutenant in the Commissioned Corps, while maintaining my same job responsibilities. I had the privilege of precepting two students in 2012 and am excited to precept my next student in early 2014.

Unlike most rotations, students must apply for the FDA rotation via the school’s experiential program coordinator. Please visit the FDA Pharmacy Student Experiential Program website for more information: http://www.fda.gov/pharmstudentprogram.

Have an idea for a future newsletter item or have a question you would like addressed in a future issue?
Email Tim Reilly at tjr@pharmacy.rutgers.edu. We are always looking for new ideas!

P R E C E P T O R  N E W S L E T T E R
Integration Update

By Jennifer Poon, PharmD, Ashley Phillips, PharmD, and Xiao Zhang, PharmD Class of 2013

On August 22, 2012, Governor Chris Christie signed the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act into law. This law provided for the integration of Rutgers University with many units of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). With the integration, which took place July 1, 2013, EMSOP is experiencing exciting changes.

The most readily-identifiable change is the name: the new university is called Rutgers University, and the UMDNJ name has been retired. Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) is the umbrella organization encompassing all of the legacy UMDNJ schools, the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, the Institute of Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, and other schools to be added at the President’s discretion. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is also integrated into Rutgers, but is a separate institute.

Because of the large scope of this integration, the Integrations Management Office (IMO) was created to coordinating integration activities. The IMO was led by Christopher J. Molloy, PhD, Interim Provost for Biomedical and Health Sciences; at press time, Dr. Molloy was also serving as the Interim Chancellor for RBHS while the search for a permanent Chancellor enters the final stages. Prior to leading the integration, Dr. Molloy was the dean of EMSOP, and he is also an alumnus of the School. His leadership is critical for creating a strong union between the schools.

Rutgers and UMDNJ have a reputation for being very successful public research institutions, and this integration is expected to elevate this reputation and result in many successful future ventures spanning from joint academic programs to research and health education activities administered by both universities.

Exciting changes that are expected with the merger include:

- Stronger relationship with healthcare facilities in New Jersey: Moving forward, facilities will be able to interact with one entity to continue to provide high-quality education in a large range of health disciplines.
- Merger of libraries: the united library system will offer expanded access to literature and information.
- Increased research opportunities: it will be even easier for researchers from different disciplines and different units to collaborate.
- Increased educational opportunities: the integration will provide expanded access to courses.
- Increased funding opportunities for research
- Improved student and faculty recruitment
- Catalyst for new business and jobs in New Jersey: Rutgers is better positioned to operate as a “think tank” to develop new research methodologies and inventions to spur the economic engine of New Jersey.

As more changes are being finalized, public updates will be available at the Joint Rutgers-UMDNJ Integration website http://ru-umdnjtogether.rutgers.edu.

Meet New Staff in the Experiential Program

Joyce Da Silva is the new Coordinator of the Experiential Program for the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP). Her role is to facilitate all aspects of the experiential rotations for our students during their "professional years" of the pharmacy program. Joyce brings a wealth of knowledge to the program from her previous work experience at Merck & Co., Inc. Joyce joined the College of Pharmacy Professional Experience Program in September 2012, and what she likes most about her position so far, is working with the students and helping them get their preferred rotations to prepare them for their future goals. She enjoyed attending her first EMSOP graduation ceremony.

Joyce is always available to answer questions from preceptors—do not hesitate to call her with any questions regarding E*VALUE access, evaluation forms, changes in availability, availability forms. In addition, anyone interested in becoming a new preceptor can contact Joyce.

On a personal note, Joyce loves to bake, and enjoys beach vacations and spending time with her family. Joyce can be reached by phone at (848) 445-6809 or via email at jdasilva@pharmacy.rutgers.edu.
Important Dates for the 2013-2014 Academic Year

2013-2014 APPE Rotation Schedule (includes holidays and breaks)

Cycle 1: May 20, 2013 to June 21, 2013 (Memorial Day May 27th)
Cycle 2: June 24, 2013 to July 26, 2013 (Independence Day July 4th)
Cycle 3: July 29, 2013 to August 30, 2013
Cycle 4: September 2, 2013 to October 4, 2013 (Labor Day Sept 2nd)
Cycle 5: October 7, 2013 to November 8, 2013
Cycle 6: November 11, 2013 to December 13, 2013 (Thanksgiving holiday: November 28-29 -Students Off)
  NOTE– Cycle 6 ends December 18 if student takes 3 days off to attend ASHP Midyear

ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting December 8, 2013 to December 12, 2013
Winter Break December 19, 2013 to January 6, 2014 (if student attended ASHP Midyear)
Winter Break December 16, 2013 to January 6, 2014

Cycle 7: January 6, 2014 to February 7, 2014 (New Year’s Day Jan 1st)
Cycle 8: February 10, 2014 to March 14, 2014
Cycle 9: March 31, 2014 to May 2, 2014

**Holidays (Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, etc.) students may or may not report to the rotation site at the discretion of the preceptors. Hours missed must be made up to acquire 200 hours needed for each rotation.**

2013-2014 IPPE Community/Hospital Rotation Schedule

Cycle 1: May 20, 2013 to June 14, 2013
Cycle 2: June 24, 2013 to July 19, 2013
Cycle 3: July 29, 2013 to August 23, 2013