

ERNEST MARIO SCHOOL OF PHARMACY PRECEPTOR NEWSLETTER

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Message and Updates From Dean Donna M. Feudo

Dear Preceptors,

Happy New Year, and welcome to the Winter 2025 Preceptor Newsletter! We hope you are all staying healthy and had some relaxation time with your families and loved ones during the holiday season. With the current “quad-demic” of COVID, flu, RSV, and norovirus circulating in the United States, we want to acknowledge the challenges faced and express our gratitude for your ongoing dedication and commitment to patient care and to training our students.

As for rotation updates, we are in the final stretch of the academic rotation year, with Cycle 8 ending on March 14th. Graduation is just around the corner, and we would like to remind you of some important upcoming dates.

- Cycle 8 (2/10/2025 – 3/14/2025)
- Spring Break: 3/15/2025 - 3/23/2025 (PER ACADEMIC CALENDAR)
- Cycle 9 (3/24/2025 – 4/25/2025)
- EMSOP P4 PHARMACY REVIEW, EVALUATION, AND PREPARATION (PREP)
SEMINAR 31:725:617 2-Credit Course
 - DATES: May 5th, 6th & 7th, 2025
 - TIMES: 8 am – 5 pm
 - Location: EMSOP;
 - The Law Review information is TBD. As soon as more information becomes available, students will be notified.

We are grateful to our sites and preceptors for their continuous support. Many of our students have been busy applying for post-graduate training experiences and may have requested time off to attend interviews. For some students, career interviews may still be ongoing. We have advised our students to communicate with their preceptors regarding requests for time away from their site, ensuring that patient care and service commitments are minimally impacted. It is not our intention to create hardships for the site. Students are also aware that they must include make-up time in their plans, as they are responsible for reporting any absences.

Thank you in advance for supporting their career development opportunities. As we approach the end of the academic rotation year, students are excited to embark on the next phase of their professional careers. We continually remind them to stay focused and finish the year strong, especially as site visits and individual discussions occur on campus or during Zoom meetings. We expect that students have significantly improved in their confidence, knowledge, and experience at this point.

Providing constructive feedback to students is critical for their progress and the success of our program. We appreciate the time you take to complete both midpoint and final evaluations. Please feel free to reach out to our office if you have any questions or concerns regarding student performance. Our team is always available and happy to assist you.

Take Care.

DMF



Preceptors Supporting P3's During LEAP-AHEAD Workshop

On Wednesday, October 23th, 2024, the student advising committee invited several preceptors across many specialties to host a workshop for LEAP-AHEAD, a longitudinal program at EMSOP to help students develop and grow in professionalism. LEAP-AHEAD is an acronym for leadership – entrepreneurship/innovation – assessment of self – professionalism: assessment of health education awareness development. During this particular workshop, the P3 class learned how to write a cover letter and then they had break-out sessions where they were able to choose 2 areas of interest and hear from specialists in that area. Speakers were from a variety of backgrounds and specialties that ranged from the FDA, bioinformatics, pharma companies, managers of specialty pharmacies, poison control center, and more! Students and faculty coordinators alike were immensely appreciative of the all the speakers who came to support our students:

“Having access to such a well-rounded panel of speakers is truly the essence of being a student at Rutgers. So many diverse professionals stepped up and volunteered their time to provide invaluable insight to students about life as a pharmacist—it was easy to plan this seminar only because our preceptor network is so strong. Rutgers builds a lasting network for pharmacy students to best prepare them for a future filled with a plethora of opportunities and experiences in the pharmacy field.”

Jaime Sarcona, P3 student with the Student Advising Committee

“It was so encouraging to learn the paths our faculty and preceptors took to become successful and well-respected in their careers. As a P3, it was reassuring to hear that no matter what direction our speakers went in after pharmacy school, they became successful in their fields. Thank you to all the pharmacists that took the time to speak to my peers and I. We truly appreciate the network that we gain from being students here at Rutgers, and the career advice the professionals were able to provide for us.”

Alexandra Bell, P3 student

“I really appreciate the mentorship and guidance that the fellows gave us during the LEAP seminar. It was very interesting to hear how multiple paths can be taken throughout one's career to lead to success. In pharmacy school, sometimes it is easy to get discouraged if you don't know what you want to do yet. However, hearing the stories of fellows having certain events that changed their career paths unexpectedly for the better was encouraging. I'd like to thank all of the fellows that attended for their time and wisdom.”

Lily Ramos, P3 student

“This LEAP seminar was incredibly useful and relevant to my career development as a P3 student. I greatly valued the dedicated time to learn about career paths in areas I'm interested in, presented by a variety of esteemed and knowledgeable professionals. I appreciated being able to use the platform to ask specific follow-up questions, which provided valuable insight into how to approach selecting APPE rotations and apply for residency or fellowships.”

Isabella Youngberg, P3 student

“Last week's LEAP opportunity was ingenuitive, encouraging, and unlike any career planning workshop we have previously experienced. It was encouraging to hear from so many different people and about the journey that they took in order to get to where they are today. I'm so appreciative of everyone who came to speak to us as they relieved many fears regarding APPE year and post-grad.”

Alyssa Rainear, P3 student





Lessons Learned: Insights from an Adult Internal Medicine Rotation Experience

By Adam Holgado, Mariama Karama, Ahmed Ali, PharmD Candidates 2025

The start of any new experiential learning opportunity can be a little daunting. We began our Internal Medicine rotation without really knowing what to expect, but excited to learn what many consider to be the foundation of medicine. This five-week experience would prove to be varied and insightful, providing us all with a chance to practice direct patient care but also gain experience teaching and working with other students in an academic setting as well.

During our rotation at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, a large academic medical center and primary teaching hospital of Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, we had the opportunity to participate in interprofessional medical teaching rounds with the Medical Teaching Services teams, including physician faculty, residents, and medical students from Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. This rotation is set up such that each student is assigned to a specific service team, with our preceptor rotating between teams and following all patients in the background. Pharmacy questions are often directed to student learners, and we work with our preceptor to find the answers and reply to our medical colleagues. We were very excited about this opportunity, and as the weeks flew by, we became more knowledgeable and more confident when making interventions. This rotation has been an eye-opening experience. Over the five-week experience, we have become keen observers, looking to optimize medication use by addressing issues related to adherence, medication reconciliation, IV-to-PO conversion, medication discontinuation or attempts to get a patient on a better regimen. The voice of the pharmacist and student pharmacist was always valued.

As a pharmacy representative on medical teaching rounds, we faced an exciting challenge to help build our independence and confidence. The medical teams really valued our input and asked us to educate them about different topics. During the second week of our Internal Medicine rotation, one of us had the opportunity to educate their team about the dialyzability of insulin and risks of using phenazopyridine beyond the short-term. Researching topics or medication-related questions and presenting our findings to our respective medical team members has allowed us to improve our clinical knowledge and to develop interprofessional collaboration skills. Working alongside different healthcare professionals and students has fostered a better understanding of the different roles our respective professions play in patient care. An improved comprehension of these roles allows us to broaden our perspective and recognize the value of every team member. Being able to advocate for patients and directly impact patient care has been a challenging but rewarding experience.

Journal club presentations instill a culture of lifelong learning and evidence-based practice which is crucial in the ever-developing world of medicine and pharmacy practice. During our rotation, we all had the opportunity to practice fundamental skills necessary for pharmacy practice, including medical literature evaluation through completion of a journal club presentation. During these presentations, formatted using a population, intervention, comparator, outcome- (PICO-) and discussion-based structure, we were all able to critically evaluate our selected trials, including discussing key inclusion and exclusion criteria as well as the reasoning behind them. We were able to evaluate strengths, limitations, internal validity, external validity and most importantly, how the study findings apply in the real world; what would we tell our patients! Through this, we were able to further develop our presentation, communication, and critical thinking skills.

Beyond our patient care experiences, we additionally had the opportunity to participate in simulation (SIM) teaching at the School of Pharmacy as part of our learning experience. “So who can tell us about the heart?”, as we said with ours in our throat. Little did we know that for rotations we would be standing at the other side of the classroom teaching students, where not too long ago we were standing in the exact same place as second-year pharmacy students. We had the pleasure of helping run the simulation lab to provide the most optimal learning experience. “It’s one thing to learn how to ride a bike, but it’s another to actually get a chance to do it,” Dr. Andrews said to us before the students came rolling in, explaining the importance of simulation to teach healthcare professionals the practical skills they need to aid them in providing the best quality patient care. She explained the amount of work goes in the back end from looking through the curriculum to fill in the gaps of learning, to filling the fake vials with saline, all the way to acting as patients, doctors, nurses, and technicians to give the realistic effect. It made us appreciate the lengths they go through to give us this experience. Some of the things we taught to the students were the different heart sounds caused by the closing of the valves, how to read an EKG to interpret for abnormalities, and how to palpate a patient looking for signs of heart failure and hypertension on our good old friend Hal, the mannequin and beloved member of the pharmacy school faculty.

From this rotation we realized how important not only pharmacy, but also being able to work in an interprofessional team to give the best care for patients. In this rotation we grew so much in our clinical knowledge and broke the barriers in our minds of what pharmacy is supposed to be and how valuable the perspective of a pharmacist is. Not only did we demonstrate our clinical knowledge to the teams we were a part of, but we passed it onto the next generation of pharmacists. This experience truly shaped our trajectory and inspired us to take on the mission of bettering patient care, one patient and one student at a time.



ASHP Midyear 2024: Milestones, Interviews, & Lessons That Shaped Our Path

By Victoria Arthus & Charbel Eid, PharmD Candidates of 2025

New Orleans – home to the first licensed pharmacist's apothecary in the United States – is a vibrant city. Given its historical significance to the field of pharmacy and its lively atmosphere, it is clear why this setting was chosen for the 2024 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition.

Having been to Midyear together in 2023 to present our joint research, we were now excited to present our individual clinical research we conducted as Knight Scholars at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset. Having dedicated five months to institutional review board submission, methodology design, data collection, and interpretation of analysis, we looked forward to delivering our findings. During the poster session, we were visited by numerous professionals and students, each raising unique questions painted by their perspectives from a diverse array of practice settings. This encouraged us to consider how our clinical research could impact not only the hospital but also industry. As always, the one-hour poster session was not long enough to satiate our desire to discuss the implications of our findings.

While this was our second Midyear, this meeting was unique in that it occurred during a critical time in our career development: job application/interview season. Midyear provided the most ideal opportunity to network and not only showcase our skills but also learn about the opportunities for growth that sites and companies could offer us.

Therefore, for myself, Victoria, visiting the residency showcases proved to be a critical factor in my decision to apply to specific programs. I came prepared with questions which allowed me to gain a sense of the pharmacy culture, resident involvement, feedback structure, and community service and teaching opportunities. Beyond an exchange of information, the showcases also provided a chance to observe preceptor and resident interactions, and I was thrilled to notice how comfortably the residents discussed their experiences. I was also overjoyed to be greeted with a warm welcome from hospital staff and Rutgers faculty with whom I had interacted in past rotations and didactic lectures, illustrating their interest in their students and foretelling the care with which I suspect they shape their residents.

Meanwhile, for myself, Charbel, Midyear 2024 will be an unforgettable experience. Seeing former preceptors and Rutgers faculty supporting students throughout the event reaffirmed the faith that they have placed in me during fellowship interviews. Attending receptions and meeting with fellows outside of the interview process was a great way to learn more about the culture and their experiences within the field. As the saying goes, "pharmacy is a small world," and having the chance to meet both current and past students representing the field was an excellent way to expand my professional network and gain insights into our ever-evolving profession.

Beyond the opportunities to interact with residents and fellows, it was also important to enjoy other sessions offered by Midyear. We attended the Exhibit Program where we encountered new pharmacy technologies and companies, gaining an appreciation of the methods available to optimize patient care. Visiting the Sanford Guide booth, we earned a free trial of its innovative app, a service providing quick access to information on treating bacterial and viral infections. The sheer contrast between what we encountered in the Exhibit Hall and the preliminary devices and methods showcased at the historic New Orleans Pharmacy Museum highlighted how pharmacy has advanced and the importance of keeping the patient at the center of care.

All in all, we want to extend a thank you to Dr. Jessica Hu and Dr. Luigi Brunetti for overseeing our clinical research and allowing us the opportunity to represent Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset at the student poster session. Midyear was a wonderful experience where we expanded our understanding of research and developed meaningful relationships in the professional world of pharmacy.



Rotation Highlight: Global Medical Information APPE at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals

By Sunny Patel, PharmD Candidate 2025

I spent my first APPE rotation at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals in Bridgewater, NJ. My time at Mallinckrodt was exceptionally valuable, as they allowed me to work directly within the team on medical reviews, answer unsolicited medical inquiries, and network with many different individuals within the different fields of the pharmaceutical industry. This rotation offered me the unique opportunity to both gain the necessary experience I felt was needed for applying to fellowships, and create relationships that will last a lifetime. Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals functions as an international company with both a strong generic and brand component to their business model. They have medications in the field of nephrology, oncology, amongst others.

During a student's time at Mallinckrodt, it starts off with undergoing various training and modules to become comfortable with the different systems necessary to do reviews and answer inquiries. Once understanding the baseline model on how to do a review, students were assigned tasks on VeevaVault and given access to the Global Medical Information (GMI) Inbox where we were able to answer inquiries. To explain how this works please see below:

GMI Information Request comes in from a Healthcare Provider → GMI team can respond with Standard Response Documents (SRD), for frequently asked questions, or a Custom Response Document (CRD) in order to give HCPs the information requested or triage the case to the relevant team → If information is unable to be answered by an SRD, a CRD is created and approved by the GMI team and ultimately sent to the HCP after assuring it fully answers the asked questions.

- **To Note:**
- **In situations where additional clarity is required for a question, the GMI team will attempt to reach out to the HCP in order to obtain that clarification as all requests must be unsolicited**

In addition to the GMI Inbox, students are also responsible for working on medical reviews under the supervision of the preceptor. During medical review, students are responsible for ensuring fair balance, medical accuracy, and providing relevant feedback through comments and attending committee meetings. Students also get the unique ability to work on both promotional and medical material which is invaluable from a learning experience. While students will work with their preceptors, they are also delineated tasks which involve working with other colleagues within the GMI space. In this, students will learn the importance of teamwork, gain advice and knowledge from various sources, and collaborate on different projects and products. Lastly, there was the opportunity to do a final project presentation to help build public speaking and professionalism needed to succeed in this field.

My most memorable experience while rotating at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals came from doing a full-site update for one of the products where we would look through hundreds of medical claims and make sure everything was ready-to-go for the site launch. Seeing so many people come together and collaborate on one initiative opened my eyes to what industry truly is, a cross-collaborative practice where everyone works together to create a finished product. This experience led me to want to pursue a fellowship in Medical Information after obtaining my degree.

To end, I believe an industry rotation is something that each student should attempt to pursue in their final year of pharmacy school. Initially I did not know if I wanted to do a fellowship or a residency, and this was the final push I needed to really come down to a decision. Mallinckrodt's hands-on and robust approach to learning really made way to a fantastic experience.



Save the Date! Upcoming In-person Preceptor CE!

The Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy will be hosting the next in-person preceptor continuing education program on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 8:30AM-12PM. We will be offering 2 contact hours for preceptors titled “Next-Generation Precepting: Neurodiversity Support and Incorporating Artificial Intelligence in Pharmacy Experiential Education.”

More information on registration can be found in the link using this QR code below. We hope you can join us!

