

## PharmD/MD Dual Degree Program

The Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP) is proud to inform students about our innovative PharmD/MD dual degree option, developed jointly with the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS). **Only currently enrolled PharmD students at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University are eligible to apply for admission.**

**This unique and highly selective program at Rutgers University is designed to create an elite cadre of interdisciplinary practitioners, highly skilled in the disciplines of both pharmacy and medicine, and poised to provide leadership in collaborative clinical practice, academic research, public policy, and the pharmaceutical industry.** This program is directed by dual degree program committees in the School of Pharmacy and the Medical School. Successful applicants will matriculate into RWJMS upon their completion of the PharmD program and will not be required to take the MCAT exam.

### Who may apply and when

To be eligible to apply for the program, you must be a current PharmD student at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. Students will normally apply during the fall semester of the third professional (P-3) year; those who wish to be considered in the second professional (P-2) year may contact Senior Associate Dean Goldin for additional information.

### How to apply

Students interested in the program are urged to make an appointment with any of the members of the School of Pharmacy PharmD/MD dual degree committee. Application materials are available online.

### Qualifications and selection criteria

To be considered, the applicant must have an excellent academic record, typically with a cumulative professional program GPA of 3.5 or better when applying and must maintain academic excellence for the remainder of the PharmD program. Excellence in academic achievement is important, but clinical and/or research experience, service, and leadership are also essential. Prospective students should pursue opportunities to engage in clinical settings, participate in interprofessional programs, and work with student organizations to provide community service in health-related fields.

As part of the process, applicants will be required to submit a letter to the School of Pharmacy dual degree committee. The letter should convey the following information:

- Reasons for applying – how this program will meet your long-term career goals and aspirations.
- Clinical experience, especially employment or volunteer experience in pharmacies, either community-based or institutional.
- Research experience and accomplishments, *e.g.*, engagement in the research honors program, lab experience, publications, *etc.*
- Special educational achievements and honors, *e.g.*, competitive scholarships, B.S. or B.A. degree, *etc.*
- Relevant extracurricular activities, particularly those demonstrating leadership skills.

- Service to society, *e.g.*, work in soup kitchens, tutoring underprivileged children, service in developing countries, etc.
- Competitive internships.

If the applicant's GPA is less than 3.5, he/she should submit evidence of extraordinary achievement in clinical experience, service to society, research, extracurricular activities, and other mitigating factors that indicate strong potential for the program.

The Pharmacy committee will invite selected applicants for interviews.

### **Final decision on admission to the program**

After the Pharmacy interviews, The School's dual degree committee will select those applicants who will be advanced to the RWJMS Committee for a final decision on admission. The RWJMS decision will be based on all application materials, including the recommendations of the EMSOP committee and a series of "mini-interviews" with RWJMS faculty. The decision of the RWJMS committee will be final.

### **Admitted students**

Applicants will be notified about admission in the spring semester. Dual degree students are strongly encouraged to take a leadership role in interprofessional education programs. During the Advanced Pharmacy Practice rotations in the fourth professional (P-4) year, students will be assigned to specialized clinical clerkships emphasizing collaborative practice with medical students and physicians.

Once students begin the RWJMS curriculum, specialized enrichment options may be available that will provide opportunities to take advantage of the students' extensive knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacotherapy and pharmacy practice.

### **Questions?**

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity and have any questions, please arrange to meet with Senior Associate Dean Goldin or any of the other members of the EMSOP committee.

### **EMSOP PharmD/MD Dual Degree Committee Members**

Professor and Dean Emeritus John Colaizzi (Chair)  
 Senior Associate Dean Carol Goldin (Co-Chair)  
 Dean Joseph Barone  
 Assistant Professor Luigi Brunetti  
 Associate Professor Suzie Chen  
 Associate Professor Deepali Dixit  
 Asst. Dean & Dir., Experiential Education Donna Feudo  
 Associate Professor Grace Guo  
 Associate Professor Arash Hatefi  
 Professor Evelyn Hermes DeSantis  
 Professor Debra Laskin  
 Associate Professor Megan Maroney  
 Associate Professor Yekaterina Opsha  
 Associate Professor Mary Wagner