Fall 2021
A Message from the Senior Associate Dean:

WELCOME BACK!

One of the best things about the start of the fall 2021 semester was welcoming students back to campus. After more than a year of taking classes via Zoom, campus has never seemed so alive! Faculty and staff in the College of Health Professions were especially excited to welcome students back to campus because it was the first opportunity to use the classrooms and laboratories in Aldevron Hall. As I wander through Aldevron Tower, the student huddle rooms, community spaces, student lounge and computer clusters are in constant use, which leads me to conclude that students are also excited to use the new space.

COVID-19 has not stopped our students from thriving in their academic studies, nor has it prevented our students, faculty and staff from accomplishing great things! Many of our student accomplishments will be highlighted in the next few pages of The Script. I would also be remiss if I did not mention a few of the accomplishments of our faculty and staff.

School of Pharmacy
Within the School of Pharmacy, our Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences continues to lead NDSU and the nation in its research productivity. The Department now boasts 7 active R01 grants – the most prestigious grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This includes 2 new R01 grants, one awarded to Dr. Jagdish Singh and another awarded to Dr. Kristine Steffen. In addition, Professor Elisabetta Liverani was awarded a prestigious R21 grant from the NIH, which is awarded to a select group of researchers to pursue exploratory research, or research in its early stages of development.

The Department of Pharmacy Practice received funding from the North Dakota Department of Health to found the Center for the Advancement of Pharmacy (or CAP). The goal of the Center is to promote inter-professional collaboration, and assisting teams of clinicians to develop high-impact, financially sustainable programs that directly improve health outcomes for residents of North Dakota.
**School of Nursing**

Undergraduate and graduate faculty have been working diligently to update curricula in all programs to meet the new AACN Standards (Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education 2021), also assuring the curricula align with the recent National Academy of Medicine’s Future of Nursing Report 2020-2030. Both of these initiatives challenge us to elevate nursing education to the next level.

A DNP faculty team has been partnering with Essentia Health to implement a HRSA grant to educate rural nurse practitioners (NPs), providing them with advance skills required to manage health care in rural communities. The grant team has created a NP residency program for new graduates working in rural clinics. Now in the grants third year, the program has educated eight NPs who have been retained in rural, underserved Essentia clinics in ND, MN, and WI where they were hired and completed the residency program; eight more NP residents will be educated in the next two years.

**Department of Public Health**

The Department of Public Health has been actively engaged in outreach and policy-oriented research this fall. On November 19th, the Department sponsored a Public Health Seminar Series to share information to foster population health. The Department’s American Indian Public Health Resource Center (AIPHRC) also hosted the 4th annual Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Child Health Symposium on November 20 and 21 in Fort Yates, North Dakota. Lastly, the Department’s Center for Immunization Research and Education (CIRE) continues to be a leading source of expertise and evidence-based information related to vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines.

**Department of Allied Sciences**

The Department of Allied Sciences has been actively working to expand the number of internship sites available to its students. The Sanford Fargo MLS program recently added internship experiences at Sanford’s Infectious Disease Laboratory. This space adds more lecture rooms, as well as a bench for specific student learning activities. Due to the program’s location in Fargo, this site also facilitates additional student interactions with pathologists, cytotechnologists, and histologists. As a result of these expanded clinical opportunities, the MLS program will be able to add approximately two more internships to its program.

Another exiting opportunity for MLS students is the opening of the stem cell therapy lab at Sanford. Students will be able to learn about this subject first hand, and within the next few years we hope to have students shadow this process.
Health Services Program

The Bachelor of Sciences in Health Services (BHS) program established both an internal and external advisory board, who will now provide oversight for the program. The program will continue to be operated out of the Deans Office, but the two advisory boards provide curricular and assessment related oversight for the program.

Regardless of which program in the College of Health Professions you are pursuing, great things are happeing in your program! I encourage you to keep up the great work, and make the most of the opportunities available to you on campus and in our programs. As always, if you have feedback that would allow the College to improve its programs, I welcome that feedback.

Lastly, as we learn to adjust to the “new normal” of being back on campus during a pandemic, I encourage all College of Health Professions students to lead by example. We are not quite out of the woods yet. COVID-19 will continue to create hurdles, and I have every confidence that the College of Health Professions and its students will continue to overcome them. In the meantime, I encourage all students in the College to adhere to any and all recommendations made by the University's leadership, the North Dakota Department of Health, and Cass County Public Health. Equally important, I encourage students to not only study diligently, but also make some time for yourself. Please practice mindfulness and find time for positive outlets to reduce stress. If you are struggling with your mental health and well-being, the NDSU Counselling Center is available to assist you, and I encourage you to contact them.

Sincerely,

Dan Friesner, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean and Professor, NDSU College of Health Professions
The College of Health Professions Ambassadors (CHP)

By: Celia Mix, Historian

The CHP Ambassadors are proud to represent each department of the College of Health Professions. We promote a welcoming environment to prospective students, interprofessional development for current students, and mentorship opportunities with former students. Our selective organization, at 30 members strong, aims to further the mission of NDSU’s College of Health Professions.

The CHP Ambassadors have a busy semester in session. We congratulated the newly admitted health professionals at New Student Welcome the day before classes started. At the pharmacy and nursing White Coat ceremonies, Ambassadors had the distinct pleasure of recognizing our peers’ entrance into their profession. We dressed up for a Saturday Visit with prospective students and kicked back with the residents of Health Professions House for a scavenger hunt and Dippin’ Dots social. At the Sudro Symposium, we visited with current students and encouraged them to get involved during their time at NDSU. Continuing an Ambassador’s tradition, we sold cookies to raise $673.06 for pediatric cancer research through Cookies for Kids’ Cancer.

Later this semester, Ambassadors will be offering homecoming tours of Aldevron Tower to alumni. Ambassadors host Discover NDSU, an opportunity for prospective students and their parents or guardians to visit campus, in late October. The CHP Ambassadors are honored to serve the College and reflect the multi-disciplinary work being done. Once an Ambassador, always an Ambassador.
Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International (CPFI)

By: Celia Mix, President

Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International is an organization that desires to see God glorified in the practice of pharmacy. CPFI members incorporate practice and faith to holistically care for a patient and to serve our community. Our organization is dedicated to building relationships, promoting spiritual growth, and integrating faith into our academic studies and professional practice.

This year, we have enjoyed the opportunity to volunteer locally and globally. We host a yearly appreciation breakfast for faculty and staff of the School of Pharmacy. During spring semester, as in previous years, CPFI will be partnering with Sole Hope for our MAP project. We host a shoe party and cut out fabric from jeans. These repurposed denim cut-outs are sent to Uganda to be sewn and worn by children to prevent jiggers from burrowing into the skin on their feet.

At our on-campus meetings, we share in fellowship and hear from pharmacy professionals about how they integrate faith and practice. CPFI serves Christ through pharmacy. If you would like more information about CPFI or to join our organization, contact us via https://myndsu.ndsu.edu/organization/cpfi
Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity is a professional pharmacy organization that consists of both pre-professional students and professional students. Kappa Psi is dedicated to the advancement of pharmacy, philanthropy, and brotherhood. One thing that makes Kappa Psi unique is that we are affiliated with Greek Life, and our members enjoy the additional networking opportunities that this provides.

Leadership skills are promoted through our many offices and committee positions. This year has been uniquely challenging for our officer team, but each officer has adapted well to the new conditions. During the fall semester, we traditionally hold an event called Fries with Kappa Psi. This is our largest charity event of the year where we help raise money for our national philanthropy, Reach Out and Read. Unfortunately, we had to cancel Fries with Kappa Psi this year, but we are still hoping to collect books from our members to donate to Reach Out and Read. In addition, we had to cancel many of our volunteer events last semester, but we are excited to continue our volunteer events this spring. Our primary goal is to continue to keep our members safe and healthy.

In the future, members from our chapter will be attending a remote province assembly. Province assembly is a meeting where all the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternities in the area discuss new ways to advance the organization and profession of pharmacy. This semester will be the second time that members can attend this meeting virtually. Province assembly provides our members with networking opportunities and allows them to make lasting connections with other pharmacy students and pharmacists in the area. Kappa Psi helps students to form close bonds with other students here at NDSU, as well as across the country. If you are interested in joining and want to learn more information, please email xavier.pahl@ndsu.edu.
The NDSU National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) consists of both pre-professional and professional students. Our club focuses on independent community pharmacy, pharmacy ownership, and serving our community. If you’re interested in any of these things, NCPA may be a great fit for you!

This fall we are sending three club members to the NCPA National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. This convention provides an excellent opportunity for students to network with other students and pharmacists, and learn further about independent community pharmacy practice through different presentations and student activities. We are looking forward to this opportunity for our members to expand their leadership and knowledge!

Last spring we had great success in hosting a virtual book drive for the Sanford NICU. This semester our members have plans of participating in the Dorothy Day food pantry in Moorhead as well as assisting Valley Senior Services with reviewing Medicare PartD plans with senior citizens. We are excited for these upcoming opportunities to assist our communities!

NCPA is a great organization to be a part of within the College of Health Professions. If you’re interested, please don’t hesitate to join us at our monthly meetings! We look forward to a great fall semester!
NDSHP is a professional pharmacy organization tailored to students interested in a career within the health-system discipline following graduation. This includes a wide range of settings including hospitals, clinics, long-term care, and more. Our focus for this organization is to educate and provide opportunities for pre- and professional pharmacy students concerning residency, outreach and service, and pharmacy practice.

This semester, we hosted our annual Residency Showcase. The event was held virtually, and students had the opportunity to hear from many different residency program directors and preceptors. P3 and P4 students competed in a clinical skills competition. Students were also given the opportunity to network with different program representatives and ask any questions about residency in general or their program’s unique opportunities. In collaboration with the Ohio State University and NEOMED colleges of pharmacy, we participated in a federal provider status campaign by addressing letters to our state representatives to advocate for pharmacists’ provider status. On October 23rd, we partnered with Chipotle to fundraise for our organization. By mentioning NDSHP or bringing in our flyer, 33% of sales went to NDSHP.

We have been able to hear from pharmacists in different disciplines in health-system pharmacy, such as Dr. Sara Thompson, an associate professor at NDSU who specializes in ambulatory oncology, pharmacotherapy, and cultural competency. We look forward to hearing from other health-system pharmacy speakers at our future meetings. Please join us at one of our upcoming meetings if you have any interest in a career within the health systems or completing a residency after graduation.
Phi Lambda Sigma – Pharmacy Leadership Society (PLS)

By: Rose Yang, Historian

Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) or Pharmacy Leadership Society is a professional pharmacy organization with the goal of encouraging, promoting, and recognizing the development of leadership skills among our members. Students are invited into the organization each fall based on involvement, leadership experiences, and scholarship.

Our organization promotes several activities in order to foster leadership skills. Each fall we participate in the Charles Thomas Leadership Challenge. The purpose of this challenge is to develop a series of events that will further leadership in the profession of pharmacy. Last year, we proposed a series of events to promote advocacy of pharmacy from students, faculty, and alumni. The residency workshop is an opportunity we offer to students who are interested in a residency, where we go over program requirements and CV preparation, and give students an opportunity to speak to pharmacy residents. We will be having this event on November 4th. We typically host the Etiquette Dinner each spring, which gives students the opportunity to learn proper dining etiquette and the opportunity to meet other students, faculty, and pharmacists. Due to COVID, we were not able to do this last year, but we hope to do it this spring of 2022! PLS also encourages members to attend national meetings and for these members to bring back and present information that was learned to the rest of our organization. We will be sending delegates to APhA Annual in March.

If you are interested in joining PLS, applications will open in the Fall for P1s-P3s. Please contact rachel.markham@ndsu.edu or baylee.j.berg@ndsu.edu if you have any questions!
Pediatric Pharmacy Association (PPA)

By: Eva Byerley

The Pediatric Pharmacy Association (PPA) at NDSU is thrilled to be NDSU’s newest and only pharmacy organization focused around pediatric pharmacy. PPA at NDSU is committed to educate student pharmacists and the community on the safe and effective medication use in children. We help serve the community through volunteer work with HopeBlooms and the Ronald McDonald House. Exposing our members to the unique needs of pediatric pharmacy is our mission. This semester, PPA at NDSU will host large-group meetings, volunteer, and fundraising events. Our meeting topics include a Sanford NICU pharmacist as well as a Pediatric Oncologist Pharmacist. We are excited to provide the community with the unique perspective of pediatric pharmacy.
Rho Chi

By: Katelyn Ogburn, Historian

Rho Chi is a pharmaceutical academic honor society that seeks to advance pharmacy through sustained intellectual leadership. We encourage and recognize intellectual achievement, stimulate critical inquiry to advance pharmacy, contribute to the development of intellectual leaders, promote the highest of ethical standards, and foster collaboration. An opportunity to join is presented to the academically and professionally distinguished top 20% of a pharmacy class in the spring of their P2 year.

A large part of our mission is to contribute to the development of intellectual leaders, which we accomplish through mentoring incoming P1 students. We had our first meeting in September, where we featured a panel of P3s to share their experiences in pharmacy school, what they would change or recommend doing, and answers to frequently asked questions. Our next mentorship meeting is slated to be October 27th, where we will discuss electives mentors have taken, as well as when might be a good time to take them.

Two additional aspects of our mission are to foster collaboration and demonstrate volunteerism. We are currently planning a MAPP volunteering event with SCCP. To accommodate covid-19 restrictions, the optimal time will be in the spring 2022 semester. All CHP students are invited to attend. Keep an eye out for any updates on this exciting event!

We love to welcome new students to NDSU School of Pharmacy, and hopefully into our organization. We are looking forward to what the rest of this year brings! For any questions, email katelyn.s.ogburn@ndsu.edu.
SCCP’s mission is to familiarize students with clinical pharmacy by providing information about careers and opportunities in the pharmacy world. We had our first meeting on September 27th with guest speaker Dr. Sara Thompson who is a Board-Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist. She has completed both a PGY1 and PGY2 residency. She talked about her experience as a non-traditional pharmacy student, as she was previously a K-12 teacher before pharmacy school. She loves Hispanic culture and completed a PGY1 residency in Puerto Rico. She speaks Spanish and recently created her own Spanish pharmacy elective. Dr. Thompson emphasized that you can make your pharmacy experience your own. Don’t do anything just to put it on a residency/job application. Looking forward, we have guests Dr. Alexis Kokett and Dr. Matthew Confeld who will be speaking later this semester. We are excited to hear more about their clinical pharmacy skills in action!

SCCP is also working on the Federal Provider Status Campaign. Members will be writing letters to North Dakota congressman in support of pharmacists gaining provider status. The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) will be having its annual meeting October 16-19th virtually. Finally, SCCP will also be partnering with Rho Chi for a volunteer event for nursing home residents. More details will be provided on this at our next meetings, October 18th and November 22nd. SCCP provides FREE pizza at every meeting, and there is no membership fee to join. We hope to see you at a meeting soon!