

# SAPh Newsletter

## Social & Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program

College of Pharmacy — University of Minnesota

### Congratulations to 2023 SAPh Fellowship Recipients



Omolayo Umaru

#### **Omolayo Umaru, PharmD, MS**

**Grace Fellowship:** Created in 2022 to encourage and recognize excellence in teaching and pharmacy education among PhD students in the SAPh Program.

**SAPh Alumni:** Awarded to a student who exemplifies the qualities and aspirations of a representative of one of the SAPh content areas and to encourage their continued growth toward a career of excellence in their chosen content area.



Joel Farley, Shaquib Al Hasan,  
Anu Bompelli

#### **St. Peter & Leiner Family Outcomes Research: Anu Bompelli, PharmD, MS & Shaquib Al Hasan, MPharm, MBA, MS**

Awarded to encourage and recognize outcomes research among SAPh PhD students. Created in 2013.



Joel Farley &  
Gavin Wilson

#### **Wertheimer Leadership:**

##### **Gavin Wilson, PharmD, MBA**

Awarded to encourage and recognize leadership qualities and aspirations among SAPh PhD students.

#### **Manasse Research**

##### **Award: Akua Appiah-Num Safo PharmD, MS**

Created in 2022 to provide research support to SAPh PhD students. Emphasis given to students conducting research in areas of pharmacy and health policy and social and behavioral applications designed to better our understanding of the profession of pharmacy.



Akua Appiah-  
Num Safo

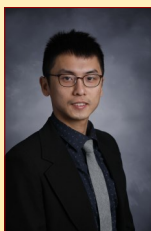
#### **2023-2024 DDF Fellowship Recipient**

##### **Sam Hsu, PharmD**

Advisor: Wendy St. Peter

*"Target Trial Framework to Evaluate Post-surgical Discharge Opioid Dosing Strategies on Opioid Use Disorder and Changes in Kidney Function"*

The [Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship](#) (DDF) gives the University's most accomplished PhD candidates an opportunity to devote full-time effort to an outstanding research project by providing time to finalize and write a dissertation during the fellowship year.



(Sam) Hsu

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## Director of Graduate Studies Message

### Greetings SAPH Colleagues:

As we enter 2024, we wrap up another amazing year for the Social and Administrative Pharmacy (SAPH) graduate program. In 2023, we welcomed two new PhD and four new MS students into the program. We said best wishes to two faculty (Raquel Rodriguez and Randy Seifert) as they started their well-earned retirements. We also wished our longstanding graduate program coordinator (Val Cremin) best wishes in her retirement after having helped an impressive 26 MS and 48 PhD students complete their SAPH degrees program during her tenure. If you have not already done so, please feel welcome to reach out to our newest graduate program coordinator, Katherine Goffin, as she begins her new role.

2023 was an exciting year for many new graduates from the SAPH program. Two MS students completed their degrees this past year and are beginning careers in health system pharmacy with local positions at Fairview. An additional three students completed their PhD degrees and have set out on their career journeys in leadership and scholarship. It will be exciting to see all the advancements that these graduates make throughout their future careers.

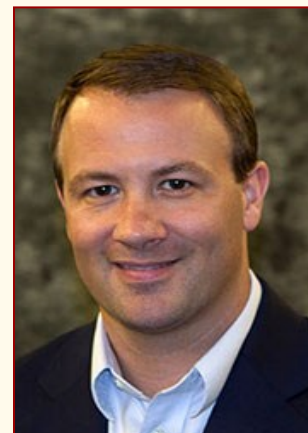
The generosity of our alumni continues to be a point of pride for our program. Alumni support has helped our students through a number of internal fellowships which advances student training and provides support for student-led research. In addition, our program has continued its success securing industry-sponsored fellowships which provide real world experience and training to students seeking careers in the pharmaceutical industry environment.

The quality of our program has not gone unrecognized. This past year, many students have been acknowledged both nationally and internationally with competitive external fellowships and other awards in recognition of their leadership, scholarship, and research.

Please join me in celebrating our achievements this past year and in looking forward to another outstanding year.



Joel F. Farley, PhD  
Professor and Vice Chair – Pharmaceutical Care and Health Systems  
Director of Graduate Studies – Social and Administrative Pharmacy



Joel Farley, PhD

## SAPh Fellowships

### Social and Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program Fellowships

Created to encourage and recognize leadership qualities and aspirations among PhD students in the SAPh graduate program.

- ◆ **SAPh Alumni Fellowship**
- ◆ **St Peter & Leiner Family Fellowship**
- ◆ **Wertheimer Leadership Fellowship**
- ◆ **Marcellus and Laura Grace Fellowship**
- ◆ **Henri and Arlynn Manasse SAPh Research Award**



Donations to these Fellowship Funds are welcome.

Please visit the [SAPh website](#); click on [MAKE A GIFT](#).

You can also send a check payable to the University of Minnesota and mail to:

Joel Farley

SAPh Graduate Program

College of Pharmacy

7-155 Weaver-Densford Hall, 308 Harvard Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

If you are interested in learning more about giving opportunities or endowing a fund for the SAPh program, please contact Amy Polski Larson, Chief Development Officer, at [polisk042@umn.edu](mailto:polisk042@umn.edu).





## 2023-2024 Graduates

### *Minnesota, Hats off to Thee!*

The College of Pharmacy 2024 Commencement will take place Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Northrop Auditorium for PharmD, MS and PhD Graduates

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### 2023 Graduates' Final Defense Presentations



**Lisa Hillman**, PharmD, BCACP; **Degree: PhD**

*"The medication experience of African-American women living with kidney-related diseases: A phenomenological inquiry"*

**Advisors:** Jon Schommer, MS, PhD, RPh and Djenane Ramalho de Oliveira, PhD  
Current Position: Health Services Pharmacist

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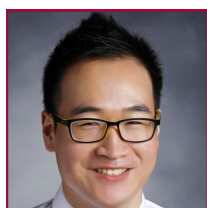


**Dan Dauner**, PharmD, MSPH, **Degree: PhD**

*"Optimization of Signal-Detection Methods in Novel Databases: a Focus on Direct-Acting Antivirals"*

**Advisor:** Joel Farley, PhD  
Current Position: Drug Safety Pharmacoepidemiologist, SafetyCall International, LLC

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**SuHak Lee**, PharmD, **Degree: PhD**

*"Conceptual and Discursive Reality of Medication Accumulation at Home"*

**Advisor:** Jon Schommer, MS, PhD, RPh  
Current Position: Community/Clinical Pharmacist

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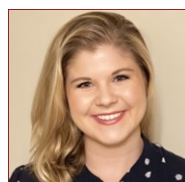


**Apiew Ojulu**, PharmD, **Degree: MS**

*"The controversy surrounding mifepristone: what is a saving grace for patients and healthcare providers has become a topic that could cause major disruption." and "The relationship between socio-demographic factors, adherence, and clinical outcomes in patients with inflammatory bowel disease treated with specialty pharmacy medications."*

**Advisor:** Pamela K. Phelps, PharmD  
Current Position: Manager Pharmacy Operations, Fairview Health Services

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**Emily Jaeger**, PharmD, **Degree: MS**

*"Implementation of an investigational drug software at an academic medical center" and "Outdated medication lists lead to errors. So do outdated pharmacy laws."*

**Advisor:** Pamela K. Phelps, PharmD

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## Student News

### 2023 SAPH Commencement

Commencement 2023 took place at Northrop Auditorium for MS, PhD, and PharmD Graduates



(L-R) Arun Kumar, PhD; Randall Seifert, PharmD; Apiew Ojulu, MS; Meena Murugappan, PhD; Angie Carlson, PhD; Joel Farley, PhD; Amy Pittenger, PharmD, MS, PhD; Jon Schommer, MS, PhD, RPh; Lisa Hillman, PhD

### 2023-2024 Student Organization Leadership

**Taiwo Aremu**, PhD student — Executive Editor, Public Health Review (PHR) journal, Content Editor, INNOVATIONS in Pharmacy, COGS Representative to the Board of Regents, Vice Chair, UMN Student Senate & Student Senate

**Anu Bompelli**, PhD student — Co-Chair, Publications Committee, and ISPOR Community Ambassador Member of the APhA-APRS Postgraduate Advisory Committee Mentor for ISPOR Student Network Adopt-A-Chapter initiative

**Felix Ting**, PhD student — COGS Director of Internal Relations; CIGS Director of Finance; University Recreation and Wellness Advisory Board graduate student representative

**Tsung-Hua Shen**, PhD student — COGS SAPH representative

**Omolayo Umaru**, PhD student — CIGS External Organization representative

#### International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) UMN Student Chapter

—Yiyu (Gloria) Chen, President —Tsung-Hua Shen, Vice President —Cindy (Jungeun) Lee, Secretary

—Shaquib Al Hasan, Treasurer —Chi-Han Cheng, Social Media Coordinator —Pegah Farrokhi, Event Coordinator



## Student News



**Yiyu (Gloria) Chen's** abstract "Real-world biomarker testing rates and trends among patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer in the US" has been accepted by the **AACR (American Association for Cancer Research) Annual Meeting 2024**.

**Sam Hsu** was awarded the Stanley A Edlavitch Award for his research project entitled "Using a target trial framework to compare the effect of high/low opioid dosing strategies at post-surgical discharge on newly developed opioid use disorder." This award recognizes the highest-rated student abstract being presented at the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology Conference. Sam was recognized at the ISPE Awards Ceremony at the **ICPE conference in Halifax Canada** on August 26th.



**Shaquib Al Hasan** and his teammates won first place for their research "Disparities in Optimal Diabetes Care Ratings in Clinics in the Upper Midwest Region: Patterns, Trends, and Predictors" in the **2023 Interdisciplinary Health Data Competition**.

**Federico Facciolo** completed an internship with the **Vir Biotechnology, Inc.** medical affairs team where he contributed to infectious disease drug development by developing and delivering key medical and scientific communications to diverse stakeholders including physicians, pharmacists and clinical research scientists.



## Traineeships 2023

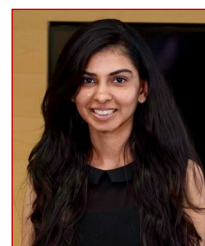
**Yiyu (Gloria) Chen** was awarded a traineeship with **AbbVie**: a biopharmaceutical company with the stability, global scale, resources and commercial capabilities of a pharmaceutical company and the focus and culture of a biotech.



**Trang Dang** was awarded a traineeship with **Hill-Rom (Baxter)**: a medical technology company which focuses on patient care solutions that improve clinical and economic outcomes.



**Anu Bompelli** was awarded a traineeship with **Amplifon**: a provider of hearing benefit solutions in the US and leading independent hearing benefits administrator, partnering with



# SAPh Students and Alumni—Out and About



UMN College of Pharmacy graduate students' social hour organized by UMN ISPOR & AAPS & MCS Student Chapters



Front (L-R): Anita Jelodari, Felix Ting, Pegah Farrokhi, Christine Taing, Anu Bompelli  
Back (L-R): Haopeng Liu, Jeffrey Brown, Dr. Joel Farley, Tsung-Hua Shen, Dr. Raquel Rodriquez, Cindy Lee



(L-R): Mrs. Kumar, Joel Farley, SAPh '06, Mrs. Farley, Sirikan Rohanasarot, SAPh '18, Arun Kumar, SAPh '21, Mr. Kumar



(L) Zijan Wang, Pharmaceutics PhD student, SAPh PhD students Tsung-Hua Shen, Felix Cheuk Wun Ting  
(R) SAPh PhD students Taiwo Aremu, Trang Dang, Omolayo Umaru



SAPh Alumnus **Tommy Westerlund**, MS, PhD, gave a talk entitled *“A Journey in the Service of Pharmacy in Sweden and Internationally”* at a SAPH 8100 seminar session. Since attending the University of Minnesota as a Fulbright Scholar from 1979 to 1981, Tommy has become a recognized leader in pharmacy education, medication use, and healthcare in Sweden and throughout Europe.

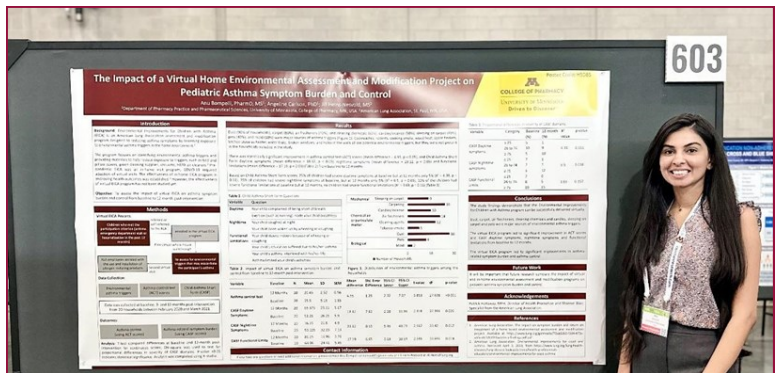
Dr. Westerlund was honored at the University of Minnesota Alumni Association ceremony on September 28, 2023 as the recipient of the [2023 Distinguished Leadership Award for Internationals](#)

# News



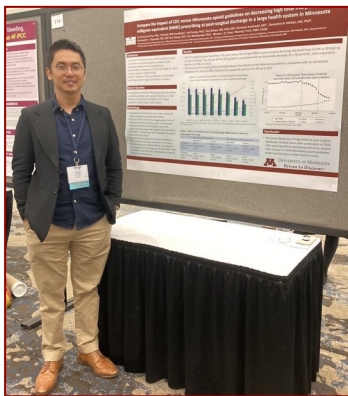
**APHA 2023 Annual Conference**  
 SPh PhD students Omolayo Umaru and Anu Bompelli with (L) Assoc. Professor Olihe Okoro, PhD, MPH, MPharm, SPh Faculty, (R) Chamika Hawkins-Taylor, PhD SAPH '10

**ISPOR 2023 Annual Conference, Boston**  
 SAPH students and Alumni: Tsung-Hua Shen, Yiyu Chen, Anu Bompelli, Mahsa Salsabili, PhD, SAPH '21 Shaquib Al Hasan, Taehwan Park, PhD, SAPH '13

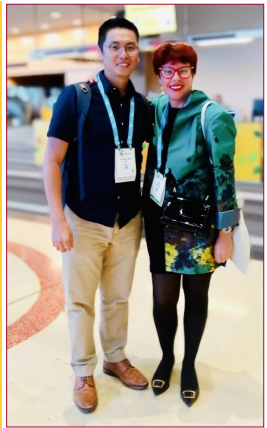


**ICPE Conference**  
 (L-R) Sam Hsu, PhD student, Christy Choi, PhD student, Dongmu Zhang, PhD, SAPH '06

**Anu Bompelli** presented 2 posters at the **(APHA) 2023 Annual Conference**: “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in US Postpartum Depression Clinical Trials” and “Comparing the Impact of Virtual and In-Home Environmental Assessment and Modification Programs on Pediatric Asthma Symptom and Burden Control.” She presented a third poster at the 2023 **ISPOR Conference** “The Impact of a Virtual Home Environmental Assessment and Modification Project on Pediatric Asthma Symptom Burden and Control.”



Sam Hsu, PhD student,  
 Alina Cernasev, PharmD, MSc, PhD, SAPH '19  
**2023 FIP World Congress, Australia.**



**2023 ACCP Annual Meeting Texas**  
 Sam Hsu, PhD student, presented his poster “Comparison of the impact of CDC versus Minnesota opioid guidelines on decreasing high total morphine milligram equivalent (MME) prescribing at post-surgical discharge in a large health system in Minnesota.”



## Graduate Faculty Research and Awards



### Wiederholt Prize

Congratulations **Dr. Gaither** PhD, FAPhA and **Dr. Schommer** MS, PhD, RPh on winning the Wiederholt prize, one of the [2023 APhA-APRS Awards](#). This award is to recognize the best published paper in the Journal of American Pharmacists Association (JAPhA) that describes original investigation in economic, social or administrative sciences related to pharmacy.

"An intersectional review of discrimination and harassment experiences in pharmacy: Findings from the 2019 National Pharmacist Workforce Survey."

Authors: Brianne K Bakken, **Caroline A Gaither**, William R Doucette, Matthew J Witry, David H Kreling, **Jon C Schommer**, Vibhuti Arya, David A Mott

J Am Pharm Assoc (2003). 2021;61(5):522-532. doi:10.1016/j.japh.2021.04.002;

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33903059/>



**Brian J. Isetts**, RPh, PhD, BCPS is the CoP's Interprofessional Geriatric Coordinating Council representative on the Minnesota **Northstar-Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** 5-year **Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP)** grant initiative (<https://mngwep.umn.edu/>) to educate and train the health care and supportive care workforces to care for older adults by collaborating with community partners. Dr. Isetts' contributions to this program include development of a Medication Self-Management Toolkit based on the same 4-step pharmacotherapy assessment process supporting the practice of pharmaceutical care.

<https://mngwep.nexusipe.org/toolkits/effective-medication>



### Wendy St. Peter, PharmD, FCCP, FASN, FNKF

Advancing Kidney Health through Optimal Medication Management colleagues Drs St. Peter, Rebecca Maxson, Calvin Meaney, Katie Cardone and Marisa Battistella presented along with Drs Chia-Chao We and Chien-Huei Huang from Taiwan at the first Taiwan **Kidney Health Symposium** virtual event in September. Sam Hsu (SAPh graduate student) organized the meeting along with a number of Taiwanese colleagues. We are looking forward to future practice and research collaborations to transform medication management in patients with CKD in the US and Taiwan!

Dr. St. Peter was also asked to serve as an expert at an upcoming **American Heart Association Consensus** Meeting as part of an initiative to build a person-centered approach for people at risk for or living with cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic (CKM).

In addition, Dr. St. Peter served as an expert at the **Kidney Disease Improving Global Guideline (KDIGO)** Chronic Kidney Disease controversies conference in Rome.

## Graduate Faculty Research and Awards



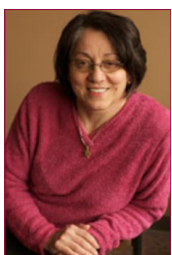
**Kristin Janke, PhD** and **Bob Bechtol, MS, PhD** (SAPh 2022 graduate) received a best paper recognition from **AACPs SAS**, along with colleagues from Drake (including another MN grad).

“Capturing employer's perceptions of key variables in exceptional new practitioners' success by using a modified Delphi process”



### Kristin Janke has a Podcast!

**Pharmacy Fika** - A positive, compassionate, and fun “place” where pharmacy educators gather to discuss teaching and learning, SoTL, and academic life.



### Raquel Rodriguez — **Pharmacy Alumni Society's Mentoring Award**

We are delighted to share that a PharmD scholarship has been created in honor of Dr. Raquel Rodriguez's amazing mentorship of students. The College of Pharmacy is so thankful for all of the donations that have been made. To consider donating, go to:

Raquel Rodriguez Rodriguez Scholarship at <https://z.umn.edu/copRRRscholarship>



### Steve Schondelmeyer — **Spirit of the Century Mortar Club Founders Award**

The **Spirit of the Century Mortar Club Founders'** Award is given in recognition of an individual or group demonstrating the spirit of the CMC Founders in supporting the experiences and opportunities of student pharmacists. “Ever since he came to the College as the CMC's Endowed Chair holder approximately thirty years ago, Dr. Schondelmeyer has shown the spirit of the CMC founders time and time again.

He has never forgotten that the CMC is responsible for his being in Minnesota.”

In addition to his award, Dr. Schondelmeyer was invited to testify to the Senate Hearing of the Homeland Security & Govt Affairs Committee.

### Jon Schommer Research Spotlight



- [College of Pharmacy research spotlight](#) February 2023
- [Year of Open Science: A dose of innovation](#) published in the University of Minnesota Library News, August 2023 (by Adria Carpenter)

The White House declared 2023 the Year of Open Science, a movement that makes scientific research accessible to all levels of society. To celebrate, UMN Libraries is highlighting on-campus researchers dedicated to transparency, collaboration, and open access.

## Retirements



**Raquel Rodriguez**, PhD has played so many roles at the College of Pharmacy, including as SAPH graduate faculty and as an alumna of the SAPH program. Raquel graduated from the SAPH MS program in 1984 and graduated with a SAPH PhD in 1989. The Director of the CoP Experiential Education Program since 2001 and co-Course Director for SAPH 8420: Social and Behavioral Aspects of Pharmacy Practice from 2013—present, Dr. Rodriguez began teaching in the SAPH program in 2013. In that time she has advised and mentored many students. Although Dr. Rodriguez retired in January 2024, she will continue to be an active graduate faculty member, for which we are very grateful. We wish Dr. Rodriguez much deserved rest and fun, as well as an opportunity to pursue some personal goals in retirement.



In the last 48 years **Randall Seifert**, PharmD has had a significant impact on many individuals and organizations, including the University of Minnesota. He joined the College of Pharmacy faculty on the Duluth campus in 2005 as the senior associate dean; there he led the Duluth campus through growth and change and initiated medication therapy management programs in Duluth and within the University of Minnesota. Named the Peter’s Endowed Chair in 2017, he continued his vocation of health care improvement and education until his retirement this year.



During her tenure as the SAPH graduate program coordinator, (2008—2023) **Val Cremin** supported the SAPH program, the PCHS department, CoP colleagues and dozens of students. Val’s efforts and good will made a positive impact for all of us who were lucky enough to work with her. Read on for more from Val.

*1) During the time you spent as our GPC, what memories are particularly special to you?*

I looked forward to meeting the incoming students each Fall and congratulating the graduating MS/PhD students on reaching their goals in the Spring. The mid-year gatherings and the year-end CoP hooding ceremony were particularly memorable.

*2) What are your plans for retirement?*

I will be spending time with my family and traveling as much as possible. I enjoy hiking/walking/exploring the National Parks and the many trails in Minnesota. I'm just getting started.

*3) What will you miss most from your time working with SAPH students and faculty?*

I will miss the higher educational environment and learning about the interesting research SAPH students and faculty are conducting.

*4) If you had any advice for students entering the program, what would it be?*

Each student I've had the opportunity to know are unique, talented, kind and make a positive impact in healthcare. Keep your goals on target, stay resilient, and take time to enjoy your favorite activities along the way. In fact, you've come a long way already!



# Social & Administrative Pharmacy



College of Pharmacy  
University of Minnesota  
7-155 Weaver-Densford Hall  
308 Harvard Street SE Minneapolis, MN 55455-0343

**Dr. Joel Farley, Director of Graduate Studies**

e-mail: [farl0032@umn.edu](mailto:farl0032@umn.edu)

## SAPh MISSION

The mission of the **Social & Administrative Pharmacy** graduate program is to educate and mentor graduate students in the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge to foster appropriate use of drugs in order to improve patient outcomes at the individual and societal level.

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