UMB LAURELS

DECEMBER 2025



UNIVERSITYWIDE



EMILY HURST

Emily Hurst, MSLS, dean and associate vice provost, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented the lightning talk "Yes Chef! Leading Change and Adapting Recipes for a Modern

Health Sciences Library" at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association's Annual Meeting in Baltimore in October. Also, Hurst served as an invited panelist for the session "Journey of Budgeting Knowledge" at the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries' annual meeting in October in San Antonio, Texas.



BRUCE E

Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, president, was named to *The Daily Record's* Power List for Higher Education for the fifth year in a row. The honor recognizes the most significant, influential, and respected people

in higher education in Maryland.



EMILIE LUDEMAN AMY YARNELL

Emilie Ludeman, MSLIS, head of research and education services; Amy Yarnell, MLS, head of data and



NICOLE SHELAWALA



SHANELL STEPHENS

bioinformation services; Nicole Shelawala, MEng, MLIS, research and education librarian; Everly Brown, MLIS, head of information services; and Shanell Stephens, MLIS, research and education librarian, all with the Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented the paper "The GenAI Test Kitchen: Experimenting with Emerging Research Tools" at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association's annual meeting in October in Baltimore.



ALEXA MAYO



EVERLY BROWN

Alexa Mayo, MLIS, AHIP, assistant dean for services; Everly Brown, MLIS, head of information services; and Emily Hurst, MSLS, dean and associate vice provost, all with the Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented the poster "The Secret Ingredient: Student Advisory Boards to Enhance Student Engagement" at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association's annual meeting in October in Baltimore.



MELISSA MORLAND

Melissa Morland, MBA, MS, executive director, Operations and Maintenance, received the Arnold G. Wedum Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Biological

Safety Association (ABSA) at the ABSA Conference in Raleigh, N.C., on Oct. 29. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to biological safety accomplished through teaching, research, service, or leadership.

Amy Ramirez, MA, executive director of global learning and international services, Center for Global Engagement, presented "Global Collaboration in Health Training: A Two-Way Street" at the American College of Surgeons' Clinical Congress in Chicago on Oct. 7.



EMILY GORMAN

Amy Yarnell, MLS, head of data and bioinformation services; Emily Gorman, MLIS, research and education librarian; and Nicole Shelawala, MEng, MLIS, research

and education librarian, all with the Health Sciences and Human Services Library, presented the poster "From Data to Decisions: Visualizing Open Access Publishing Trends to Inform Institutional Strategy" at the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Medical Library Association's annual meeting in October in Baltimore.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



YVETTE ALANIA

Yvette Alania, DDS, PhD, MS, clinical assistant professor, Division of Cariology and Operative Dentistry, was among the co-authors of "Structure-Activity Relationships of A-and B-Type

Proanthocyanidins in Long-Term Dentin Biomodification and Biocompatibility," which was published in the *Journal of Dental Education* in October, and "Advanced Biomechanics and Stability of the Resin-Dentin Complex Via Modular A- and B-Type Proanthocyanidins," which was published in *Biomaterials* in September.



LISA D'AFFRONTE

Lisa D'Affronte, DDS, clinical assistant professor and director, Division of General Practice, and Lisa Bress, RDH, MS, division chief and clinical associate professor, Dental Hygiene Program,

received a \$25,000 seed grant from the UMB Center for Interprofessional Education for "Accessing Dental Care Services for UMB's Neighbors Through an Interprofessional Team-Based Approach."

Joyce DaSilva, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, was invited to speak at the 57th Congress of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, which was held in Brazil in October. She also participated in the "Meet the Expert" session, engaging with trainees and early career scientists.



STEPHANIE DENNISON

Stephanie Dennison, DDS, clinical assistant professor, Division of General Practice, was featured in the article "Sleep Apnea Knowledge Gaps," which was published by *MedPage Today* in November.

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Eric Belt, EdD, adjunct assistant professor, presented "Beyond Immediacy: How Students Recognize Instructor Predictability and Dependability as Presence in Asynchronous Online Learning" at the Association for Educational Communications and Technology's Convention in Las Vegas on Oct. 23.



DAVID J. BUNNELL

David J. Bunnell, PhD, PA-C, assistant professor, Doctor of Medical Science Program, co-authored "The National Physician Associate Research Agenda: Research Priorities Identified by Leaders

of the American Academy of Physician Associates," which was published in the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Associates* in September.

Karen L. Gordes, PhD, PT, DScPT, professor and program director, MS and Teaching Certificate in Health Professions Education, presented "Evidence-Based Education for PAs: An Introduction" to the University of Toronto Temerty Faculty of Medicine on Oct. 8.

Violet Kulo, EdD, PhD, associate professor and program director, PhD and Leadership Certificate in Health Professions Education, presented "Transformational Leadership in PA Programs: What Are Its Predictors?" at the Physician Assistant Education Association's Education Forum in October.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



Rabiat Akande, JD, professor, coauthored "Bandung and the Future of Africa's Pasts," which was published in *AJIL* Unbound on Oct. 20.

RABIAT AKANDE



CORI ALONSO-YODER

Cori Alonso-Yoder, JD, assistant professor and director, Immigration Clinic, was quoted in "Maryland AG's ICE Guidance Won't Impact Police Partnerships, Sheriffs Say, Calling

It a Stunt," which was published in *The Baltimore Sun* on Oct. 16.



PATRICIA CAMPBELL

Patricia Campbell, JD, professor and director, Intellectual Property Program, received the Exceptional Service Award on Sept. 11 at the Bi-Annual Bench-Bar Conference at the Greenbelt U.S.

District Courthouse for her work on a committee revising the patent local rules for the District of Maryland.

Deborah Eisenberg, JD, vice dean and professor, presented "Classes, Conflicts and Colleagues: A Guide for Law Professors" at the Association of American Law Schools' Alternative Dispute Works-in-Progress Conference in San Francisco in October.



LEIGH GOODMARK

Leigh Goodmark, JD, associate dean and professor, presented "Incarceration as Sexual Violence" at the Assessing the Last Decade(s) of Anti-Sexual Violence Legal Movements' Symposium at Wayne

State University Law School on Sept. 26.

Mark Graber, JD, Distinguished University Professor, wrote "Justice Barrett's Campaign Biography," which was published in *Washington Monthly* on Nov. 2.



BLAIR INNISS

Blair Inniss, JD, deputy director, Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy, was quoted in "New Study Finds Uptick in Problematic Gambling Since Legalization of Online Sports Betting," which was published in *Maryland Matters* on Oct. 23.



RENÉE HUTCHINS LAURENT

Renée Hutchins Laurent, JD, dean and professor, was quoted in "MD Supreme Court Limits February Bar Exam to 400 People as Shutdown Complicates DC Bar," which was published

in The Daily Record on Oct. 28.



SARAH LORR

Sarah Lorr, JD, assistant professor, presented "Capacity to Marry" at the Care and Carcerality Symposium at the University of Wisconsin School of Law on Sept. 27.

Jon Mueller, JD, visiting associate professor, was quoted in "Federal Shutdown Hampers Chesapeake Bay Agreement Talks," which was published in *Inside Climate News* on Oct. 10.



ROBERT PERCIVAL

Robert Percival, JD, Distinguished University Professor and director, Environmental Law Program, was quoted in "An EPA Plan to Kill Climate Rule Worries Businesses,"

which was published

in The New York Times on Oct. 25.



NATALIE RAM

Natalie Ram, JD, professor, was quoted in "Arrests in Louvre Heist Show Power of DNA Databases in Solving Crimes," which was published in *The New York Times* on Nov. 3.



MARKUS RAUSCHECKER

Markus Rauschecker, JD, lecturer and executive director, Center for Cyber, Health, and Hazard Strategies, was interviewed on "Midday with Tom Hall" on WYPR Radio on Oct. 27.



MATIANGAI SIRLEAF

Matiangai Sirleaf, JD, professor, wrote the chapter "White Health and International Law" for the book "Race, Racism and International Law," which was published in August.



RENA STEINZOR

Rena Steinzor, JD, Professor Emeritus, was quoted in "New EPA Rule Could Allow More Use of Toxic Chemicals," which was published in *Newsweek* on Oct. 29.

Erica Suter, JD, professor and director, Maryland Office of the Public Defender Innocence Project Clinic, was featured in "Innocence Project Director on Finding New Clues: From Representing Adnan Syed to Leading UMD's Innocence Project Clinic," which was published in *The Baltimore Sun* on Oct. 2.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



DANIEL BERGMAN

Daniel Bergman, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, was the first author of "Human Interpretable Grammar Encodes Multicellular Systems Biology Models to

Democratize Virtual Cell Laboratories," which was published in *Cell* on Aug. 21.



OMER AWAN

Youngjae Cha, student, and Omer Awan, MD, MPH, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, co-authored "AI as an Education Tool for Radiology Residents," which was published online ahead of print in *Academic Radiology* on Aug. 29.



LINDA CHANG

Linda Chang, MD, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, received a five-year, \$328,000 subcontract from the University of Nebraska for the R01 grant

"Targeted Lipid Nanoparticles for Gene Therapeutics Delivery Approach to Eradicating HIV Reservoirs."

Muhammad Nadeem Cheema, PhD, postdoctoral fellow; Lei Zhang, PhD, research associate; Anam Nazir, PhD, postdoctoral fellow; Yiran Li, PhD, assistant professor; and Ze Wang, PhD, professor, all in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of "Transformer-Based Arterial Spin Labeling Perfusion MRI Denoising," which was published online ahead of print in *The Visual Computer* on July 3.



CURT CIVIN

Curt Civin, MD, professor, Department of Pediatrics, is the lead inventor of "Methods and Devices for Multi-Step Cell Purification and Concentration," which was issued a U.S. divisional patent on Oct. 7.



THOMAS ERNST

Thomas Ernst, PhD, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, received a four-year, \$139,000 subcontract from Johns Hopkins University for the R01 grant "Edited Magnetic Resonance

Spectroscopy of the Pediatric Brain."



JAMES E. GALEN

James E. Galen, PhD, adjunct professor, Department of Medicine, is the lead inventor of "Live Salmonella Typhi Vectors Engineered to Express Heterologous Outer Membrane Protein Antigens and Methods of Use Thereof," which was issued a U.S. continuation patent on Oct. 14.

Barbara Juarez, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology, was among the co-authors of "Adolescent Isolation Disrupts Medial Amygdala and Ventral Tegmental Area Maturation and Sex-Specifically Dysregulates Transcriptional Responses to Cocaine and Stress," which was published online ahead of print in Neuropharmacology on Aug. 12.







CHRISTOPHER W. WARD

Joseph P. Kao, PhD, professor,
Department of Pharmacology and
Physiology, is the lead inventor, and
Christopher W. Ward, PhD, professor,
Department of Orthopaedics, is a coinventor of "Microtubule Polymerization
Inhibitor Prodrugs and Methods of
Using the Same," which was issued a
U.S. continuation patent on Oct. 7.



HYUN KIM

Hyun Kim, MD, MHS, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the last author of "Retrospective Clinical Studies in Interventional Oncology: Relevance

and Challenges," which was published online ahead of print in *Cardiovascular* and *Interventional Radiology* on Aug. 6.



YOUNG KWOK

Young Kwok, MD, professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the coauthors of "Impact of Substructure Radiation Dose on Health-Related Quality of Life

in Children with Brain Tumors: A

Pediatric Proton/Photon Consortium Registry (PPCR) Study," which was published online ahead of print in the *Journal of Neuro-Oncology* on Sept. 9.



THOMAS BLANPIED

Aaron Levy, PhD, research associate, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, presented "Synaptic Nanoarchitecture Regulates NMDA Receptor Activation" at the Excitatory

Synapses and Brain Function Gordon Research Conference, which was held in Manchester, N.H., in June. Also, Levy and **Thomas Blanpied, PhD**, professor and vice chair, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, were co-corresponding authors of "Trans-Synaptic Context of NMDA Receptor Nanodomains," which was published in *Nature Communications* on Aug. 12.



AREZOO MODIRI

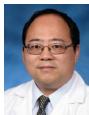


RI AMIT SAWANT

Arezoo Modiri, PhD, assistant professor, and Amit Sawant, PhD, professor, both in the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the co-authors of "CT-Based Pericardial Composition Change as an Imaging Biomarker for Radiation-Induced Cardiotoxicity," which was published in *Cancers* on Aug. 13.



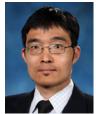
DARIO RODRIGUES



LEI REN

Dario Rodrigues, PhD, associate professor, and **Lei Ren, PhD**, professor, both in the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the co-authors

of "Automatic Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) Prediction for Hyperthermia Treatment Planning Using Deep Learning Method," which was published online ahead of print in the *International Journal of Hyperthermia* on Sept. 9.



YAJIE LIANG



PIOTR WALCZAK



MIROSLAW JANOWSKI

Abdallah
Salemdawod, MD,
postdoctoral fellow;
Yajie Liang, PhD,
assistant professor;
Piotr Walczak, MD,
PhD, professor; and
Miroslaw Janowski,
MD, PhD, professor,

all in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of "CRISPR-Cas9 Single Nucleotide Editing of Tuberous Sclerosis Complex 2 Gene in Mesenchymal Stem Cells," which was published online ahead of print in *The CRISPR Journal* on Aug. 14.



PHUOC TRAN

Amit Sawant, PhD; Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD; and Lei Ren, PhD, all professors in the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the coauthors of "Prediction of Metastasis-Free Survival in Patients

with Localized Prostate Adenocarcinoma Using Primary Tumor and Lymph Node Radiomics from Pre-Treatment PSMA-PET/CT Scans," which was published online ahead of print in Radiotherapy and Oncology on Sept. 6.

Sui-Seng Tee, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, received a two-year, \$345,000 grant from the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund for "Peripheral Lipid Metabolism as a Modulator of Synucleinopathies."





GUILING ZHAO



JONATHAN LEDERER

Guiling Zhao, PhD, assistant professor, and William Jonathan Lederer, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, and Distinguished University Professor, co-authored "Microtubule-Dependent Ca2+ Spark Recruitment in the Heart (Editorial)," which was published in the Journal of the American Heart Association on Aug. 29, and "Pericytes in Mouse Heart," which was published in Frontiers in Physiology on July 29.

SCHOOL OF NURSING



SARAH BENNETT

Sarah Bennett, DNP '23, CRNP, CPNP-PC, FNE-AP, assistant professor, earned national certification as both

an Adult/Adolescent and Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner

through the International Association of Forensic Nurses.



SUSAN L. BINDON

Susan L. Bindon, DNP '11, MS '96, RN, NPD-BC, CNE, FAAN, ANEF, associate professor, associate dean for faculty development, and director, Institute for Educators, received the 2025

Outstanding Mentoring Award from the Maryland Nurses Association at its annual convention on Oct. 16.





BRITTANY BURCH N. JENNIFER KLINEDINST

Brittany Burch, PhD, RN, assistant professor; Joan Carpenter, PhD, CRNP, ACHPN, FGSA, FPCN, FAAN, associate professor; and N. Jennifer Klinedinst, PhD, MPH, MSN, RN, FAHA, associate professor, were awarded a collective \$5.3 million in grants from the National Institute on Aging to advance research aimed at improving the care and quality of life of older adults in hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted-living facilities.

Joan Carpenter, PhD, CRNP, ACHPN, FGSA, FPCN, FAAN, associate professor, was named a 2025 Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, the nation's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization dedicated to the field of aging.

Yvette Conyers, DNP, FNP-C, CTN-B, CFCN, CWCN-AP, CNE, FADLN, associate dean for strategic engagement and impact and assistant professor, was named a 2025-26 Faculty Scholar by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.



MEGAN DOEDE

Megan Doede, PhD, RN, assistant professor, was featured in "Reducing Homelessness in the US: A Solutions-Focused. Research-Based Explainer," which was published in

The Journalist's Resource on Oct. 8.



ONYI ESOCHAGHI

Onyi Esochaghi, MHA, program manager, Office of Strategic Engagement and Impact, presented "Supporting Multilingual Learners: A Call for Systemic Reform"

at the first Mid-Atlantic Regional Institute Conference, which was held Oct. 9-10 at American University in Washington, D.C.



ROBYN GILDEN

Robyn Gilden, PhD '10, MS '01, RN, associate professor, was appointed to the American Public Health Association's Action Board, which helps coordinate the association's grassroots and

influential advocacy activities and encourages participation in advocacy initiatives among the association's sections, special primary interest groups, caucuses, state and regional affiliates, and other member units.





LINDA HICKMAN MARY ETTA MILLS

Linda Hickman, PhD '98, MBA, RN, FACHE, assistant professor, and Mary Etta Mills, ScD, MS '73, BSN '71, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Professor Emerita, coauthored "Guiding Steps for a Student-Focused Academic-Practice Partnership: Building Clinical Nursing Capacity," which was accepted for publication in the January-February 2026 issue of the Journal of Professional Nursing.



MELISSA MCCLEAN

Melissa McClean, MSN, ANP-BC, NP-C, ACHPN, CNE, clinical instructor, was recognized by the Certification Board for Professionals in Patient Safety for helping to develop the Certified Professional

in Age-Friendly Health Care (CPAFH) credential. In recognition of her efforts, she was grandfathered into the CPAFH credential, which sets the standard for excellence in the care of older adults.

Rachel McPherson, PhD, MA, assistant professor, was featured in "Pilot Study Aims to Improve Staff Interactions with Assisted Living Residents Living With Dementia," which was published in McKnight's Senior Living on Oct. 31.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



ANGEL BIVENS

Angel Bivens, BS Pharm, MBA, managing director, Maryland Poison Center, received a three-year, \$2,129,011 contract from the Maryland Department of Health for

"Memorandum of Agreement."



DANIEL BUTZ

ZACHARY GEESAMAN

Daniel Butz and Zachary Geesaman, fourth-year PharmD students, won the 2025 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Local Clinical Skills Competition and will participate in the national competition in December.



Mathangi Gopalakrishnan, PhD, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and MATHANGI director, 1915 III
GOPALAKRISHNAN Pharmacometrics

Program, was a co-recipient of the 2025 McKeen Cattell Memorial Award from the American College of Clinical Pharmacology.



MOJDEH HEAVNER

Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD, was named Mentor of the Year by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Critical Care Practice and Research Network.



TUAN HUYNH

Tuan Huynh, PharmD, assistant director, Experiential Learning Program, received UMSOP's LEADer in Inclusive Excellence Award for Programmatic Impact for his work in advancing institutional

excellence and student success through initiatives such as career mentoring programs and curriculum innovation.



HYUNG-SEOK (JOHN) KIM

Hyung-Seok (John) Kim, student, PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Program, was selected for the UMB/ AstraZeneca Health Economics and Payer Evidence Fellowship in Oncology Market Access and Pricing for 2025-2027.



BROOKE LANGEVIN

Brooke Langevin, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received the 2025 Clinical Pharmacometrics Special Interest Group Award at the American

Conference on Pharmacometrics.

Brandon Lowe, student, PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences Program, received a one-year, \$10,000 contract from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education for "Design, Synthesis, and Biological Evaluation of Non-Hydroxamate-Based, Selective Histone Deacetylase 8 (HDAC8) Inhibitors."



MICHELLE MEDEIROS

Michelle Medeiros, MS, MA, administrator, PATIENTS Program, received a two-year, \$299,999 contract from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute for "Disseminating

PCORI-Funded Evidence Updates on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder to Older Adults in Baltimore and Nationwide Through PODcasts (CO-POD)."



JILL MORGAN

Jill Morgan, PharmD, professor and chair, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received UMSOP's LEADer in Inclusive Excellence Award for School-Wide Impact for her

sustained, transformational leadership.



EMMA NELSON

Emma Nelson, PharmD, patient centered care and pharmacy benefits management fellow, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, was awarded the 2026

Elgene Jacobs Memorial Scholarship by the American Drug Utilization Review Society's Board of Directors.



KRISTINA SAN JUAN

Kristina San Juan, MBA, director of student services, received UMSOP's LEADer in Inclusive Excellence Award for Individual Impact, honoring her dedication to enhancing

holistic student success and fostering a thriving culture.



FENGTIAN XUE

Fengtian Xue, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSC), and associate dean for research, and Yong Ai, PhD, research associate,

research associate, PSC, received a U.S. patent for "ALDH2

Inhibitors and Methods of Use Thereof."

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



RICHARD BARTH

Richard Barth, PhD, Distinguished University Professor, was recognized as the most cited scholar in social work in a comprehensive review of 20 years of publications in the *Research on*

Social Work Practice journal. Barth's scholarship amassed 590 citations across 12 papers, an average of 49.17 citations per publication.

Khalil Bishop, events specialist, was interviewed by WBAL-TV about the "Surviving Homelessness: Supplies



KHALIL BISHOP

for a Vulnerable
Population"
community initiative,
which encourages
Marylanders to
support neighbors
experiencing
homelessness
by assembling
survival kits.



YOONZIE CHUNG

Yoonzie Chung, MSW, PhD student, and Roderick Rose, PhD, associate professor, were among the co-authors of "Neighborhood Economic Characteristics and Child

Maltreatment: A Systematic Review," which was published in the *Journal* of *Family Violence* on Oct. 24.



SARAH DABABNAH

Sarah Dababnah, PhD, MPH, MSW, associate professor, presented the webinar "Whose Voice Counts? Inclusive Approaches to Qualitative Autism Research" for the International Society for Autism Research on Oct. 24.



MALAYSIA HARRELL

Malaysia Harrell, LICSW, LCSW-C, adjunct professor, received the 2025 Social Worker Innovator of the Year Award from the National Association of Social Workers-Maryland

Chapter. The honor recognizes her resilience, creativity, and dedication to advancing holistic approaches to healing and transformation across diverse communities.



JENNIFER KELMAN

Jennifer Kelman, PhD, clinical assistant professor and director, Child Welfare Academy, and Carey Tompkins, LCSW-C, kinship training specialist, presented "Advancing Child Welfare

Training Through Immersive Avatar-Based Learning Environments" at the National Staff Development and Training Association's Education Conference in Norfolk, Va., on Oct. 5.

LAURELS ARE SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SCHOOLS AS WELL AS BY REPRESENTATIVES IN UNIVERSITYWIDE OFFICES. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN THESE SELF-SUBMITTED LAURELS.