

# UMB LAURELS

FEBRUARY 2026



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
BALTIMORE

## UNIVERSITYWIDE



CARIN CARDELLA

**Carin Cardella, MA, MS**, public information officer, Department of Police and Public Safety, received a MarCom Gold Award for strategic communications, storytelling, event

planning, and design during the department's 50-Year Celebration.

## SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

**Yvette Alania, DDS, PhD, MS**, clinical assistant professor; **Fotini Anagnostopoulos-King, DMD**, clinical assistant professor; and **Joyce Huey, DDS, PhD**, assistant professor, all in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, co-authored "Enhancing Incremental Composite Placement Training with 3D-Printed Enlarged Tooth Models," which was published in the *Journal of Dental Education* in October.

**Fotini Anagnostopoulos-King, DMD**, clinical assistant professor, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, Division of Operative Dentistry and Cariology, wrote "Embracing Frameworks, Moral Courage, and Reflection in the Ethical Decision-Making Process," which was published in the *Journal of the American Dental Association* in August.



WILLIAM JACOBSON

**William Jacobson, DDS**, clinical assistant professor, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, Division of General Practice, wrote "Is Academic Dentistry Right for You?" which was published in *Dentaltown Journal* in October.



KAMILA KANTOVITZ

**Kamila Kantovitz, DDS, PhD**, clinical assistant professor, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, Division of General Practice, was among the co-authors of "Increasing Breastfeeding Literacy: A Preliminary Study to Develop an AI-Based Chatbox," which was published in the *International Journal of Nursing Sciences* in November.



DARIANNA MASIH



MARY ANNE MELO



QOOT ALKHUBAIZI



GUILHERME AROSSI

**Darianna Masih, DDS**, clinical instructor; **Mary Anne Melo, DDS, PhD**, professor and chair; **Qoot Alkhubaizi, BSc, BChD, MFD**

**RCS (Irel), MS, ABGD**, clinical associate professor; and **Guilherme Arossi, DDS, PhD**, clinical assistant professor, all in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, were among the co-authors of "Comparative Biofilm Profiling of Health and Cavitated Root Surfaces Across Age Groups Using 16S rRNA Sequencing," which was published in *Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute* in January.



FRANCISCO NOCITI

**Francisco Nociti, DDS, PhD**, clinical associate professor, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, was among the co-authors of "Partial Cementocyte Ablation Does Not Reduce Cellular

Cementum Apposition in a Mouse Model of Molar Supereruption," which was published in *Bone Reports* in August.



SARAH ROLLOR



NISHA GANESH

**Sarah Rollor, DDS**, clinical assistant professor; **Nisha Ganesh, DDS**, clinical associate professor and vice chair; and **Mary Anne Melo, DDS, PhD**, professor and chair, all in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry, co-authored "Student Perceptions of Academic Dentistry During an Introductory Training Pathway: Future Academy Clinical Educator (FACE)," which was published in the *Journal of Dental Education* in October.

## SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES



DAVID J. BUNNELL

**David J. Bunnell, PhD, PA-C**, assistant professor, Doctor of Medical Science Program, was among the co-authors of “Physician Associate Student Use of Large Language Models to Support

Learning: A Phenomenological Study,” which was published in the *Journal of PA Education* in December.



CHRISTINA CESTONE



VIOLET KULO

**Christina Cestone, PhD**, associate professor and assistant vice provost of faculty affairs, and **Violet Kulo, EdD, PhD**, associate professor and director, PhD and Leadership Certificate in Health Professions Education Program, were among the co-authors of “Team-Based Learning in Health Professions Education: A Bibliometric Analysis,” which was published in *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*.



GERALD KAYINGO

**Gerald Kayingo, PhD, MBA, PA-C**, the Leslie S. Robinson, MD Endowed Professor and chair, Health Professions Education, received the Leadership Excellence Award from Makerere

University Lung Institute in November. Also, Kayingo and a team from the Oklahoma Baptist University Physician Assistant (PA) Program were awarded the Don Pedersen Research Grant from the PA Education Association to study “Hybrid Health Professions Programs: A Five-Year Analysis of Physician Associate Applicants and Matriculants.”



JAMIE KING

**Jamie King, DrPH, MS, PA-C**, director of strategic partnerships and advocacy, PA Leadership and Learning Academy, was nominated to the Maryland Public Health Association’s Board of Directors as the at-large director for its Advocacy Committee.

## CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW



CORI ALONSO-YODER

**Cori Alonso-Yoder, JD**, assistant professor and director, Immigration Clinic, was quoted in “Salisbury Woman Held by ICE Faces Uncertain Transfer,” which was published in *The Baltimore Sun* on Dec. 18.

**Jenny Gibbins, JD**, research and faculty services librarian, wrote “Connecticut’s Great Leap Forward: State Laws on Digital Licensing in Libraries and How Librarians Can Help,” which was published in *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* on Dec. 5.



LEIGH GOODMARK

**Leigh Goodmark, JD**, professor and associate dean for research and faculty development, wrote “New Pennsylvania Law Seeks to Aid Abuse Survivors Who Resist — But Is It Enough?”

which was published on the Truthout website on Dec. 4.

**Mark Graber, JD, PhD, MA**, Distinguished University Professor, wrote “Section Three of the Fourteenth Amendment from the Perspective of Section Two of the Fourteenth Amendment,” which was published in the *Wisconsin Law Review*.

**David Gray, JD**, professor, wrote “Fourth Amendment Hydraulics and Programmatic Surveillance,” which was published in the *American University Law Review*.



GUHA KRISHNAMURTHI

**Guha Krishnamurthi, JD**, professor, wrote “Criminal Justice in the Data State,” which was published in the *Houston Law Review*.



ROBERT PERCIVAL

**Robert Percival, JD**, Distinguished University Professor and director, Environmental Law Program, was quoted in “Exxon’s Next Supreme Court Play,” which was published on the ExxonKnews website on Dec. 8.



NATALIE RAM

**Natalie Ram, JD**, professor, was quoted in “Cold Case Inquiries Stall After Ancestry.com Revisits Policy for Users,” which was published in *The New York Times* on Dec. 7.

**Jeff Sovern, JD**, professor, was quoted in “CFPB Under Pressure as Consumer Complaints Pile Up,” which was published on The Banker website on Jan. 8.

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



THOMAS BLANPIED

**Thomas Blanpied, PhD**, professor and vice chair, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, presented “Nanoarchitectural Regulation of NMDAR-Mediated Synaptic Transmission” at

the Neurotechnology Conference at the University of Colorado Anschutz in October.





ROBERT BLOCH

**Robert Bloch, PhD**, professor, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, presented “Dysferlin and the Regulation of Calcium Signaling in Skeletal Muscle” at the University of Manchester

in England on Dec. 2.

**Bonghwan Chon, PhD**, research scientist; **Mukesh Pratap Yadav, PhD**, research specialist; and **Vikas Kundra, MD, PhD**, professor, all in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Near-Infrared Imaging of Intraperitoneal Ovarian Cancer Enhanced by BrCy112 in a Dual Mode (MR and NIR), Dual-Gd Nanoparticle,” which was published online ahead of print by *Nanoscale* on Nov. 25.



MEAGAN DEMING



JUSTIN ORTIZ

**Meagan Deming, MD, PhD**, assistant professor, and **Justin Ortiz, MD, MS**, professor, both in the Department of Medicine, were among co-authors of “An Intranasal Adjuvanted, Recombinant Influenza A/H5 Vaccine Primes Against Diverse H5n1 Clades: A Phase I Trial,” which was published in *Nature Communications*.

**Barbara Juarez, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology, received a 2026 Laure Aurélian Biomedical Research Award, which recognizes early career female faculty members at UMSOM and Stanford who are conducting innovative basic or translational biomedical research or an investigator conducting innovative basic or translational studies in women’s health.



KIRSTEN LYKE

**Kirsten Lyke, MD**, professor, Department of Medicine, received a two-year, \$1,322,001 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for “Evaluation of Earphone EXG

Sensing for Early Detection of Malaria.”



MARK MISHRA

**Mark Mishra, MD**, professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was the senior author of “Redefining Neurocognitive Outcomes After Radiation for Brain Metastases:

A Patient-Level Meta-Analysis of Recovery Following Initial Decline,” which was published online ahead of print by the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* on Oct. 22.



JASON MOLITORIS



MATTHEW FERRIS

**Jason Molitoris, MD, PhD**, and **Matthew Ferris, MD**, both associate professors, Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the co-authors of “Persistent Opioid Use Following Resection of Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma: Incidence and Risk Factors,” which was published online ahead of print by *Head & Neck* on Oct. 25.



SINA MOSSAHEBI

**Sina Mossahebi, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was the senior author of “First Multi-Institutional Systematic Comparison of the Neutron Ambient

Dose Equivalent Produced by Proton Therapy Systems,” which was published online ahead of print by *Physics in Medicine & Biology* on Nov. 26.

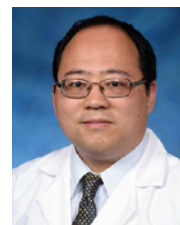
**Prashant Raghavan, MD**, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the last author of “18-FDG-PET Imaging in Head and Neck Cancer: Current Application,” which was published in *Radiologic Clinics of North America* in January.



ROBABEH RAHIMI

**Robabeh Rahimi, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors of “Radiation Incident Learning in Multi-Site Centers,” which was published

in the *Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics* in December.



LEI REN

**Lei Ren, PhD**, professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors of “Seeing the Invisible: In Vivo Dosimetry in Radiotherapy with Radiacoustic IMAGING,”

which was published in *Medical Physics* in December.



DARIO RODRIGUES

**Dario Rodrigues, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors of “Roadmap Towards Personalized Approaches and Safety Considerations

in Non-Ionizing Radiation: From Dosimetry to Therapeutic and Diagnostic Applications,” which was published online ahead of print by *Physics in Medicine and Biology* on Nov. 21.



BAOSHE ZHANG

**Baoshe Zhang, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors of “ESTRO Framework for Radiation Oncology Departments to

Mitigate Against Cyberattacks,” which was published online ahead of print by *Radiotherapy and Oncology* on Nov. 24.

## SCHOOL OF NURSING



JOAN CARPENTER

**Joan Carpenter, PhD, CRNP, ACHPN, FGSA, FPCN, FAAN**, associate professor, was selected by the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care to serve on the Guideline Expert Panel for

the fifth edition of the National Consensus Project’s “Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care.”

**Luana Colloca, MD, PhD**, professor and director, Placebo Beyond Opinions Center, was included as an expert source for “A Patient’s Guide to Pain Management,” which was published in *U.S. News & World Report* on Dec. 11.



YVETTE CONYERS

**Yvette Conyers, DNP, RN, FNP-C, CTN-B, CFCN, CFCS, CNE, FADLN, CWCN-AP**, assistant professor and associate dean for strategic engagement and impact, was named one of two nationwide recipients

of a 2025-26 Faculty Scholars Grant from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s Foundation of Nursing.

**Danielle McCamey, DNP, CRNP, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FCCP, FADLN**, assistant professor and associate dean for clinical partnerships and innovation, was appointed to the American Academy of Nursing’s

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Committee. McCamey also co-authored “Understanding the Consequences of Deprofessionalizing Nursing,” which was published by the AcademyHealth Blog on Dec. 15.



DANIELLE MCCAMEY



CORY STEPHENS

**Cory Stephens, DNP, MSN, RN, CNE, NI-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS**, assistant professor, was appointed to the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society

Nursing Informatics Committee, a global coalition of thought leaders who provide domain expertise, leadership, and guidance to the international health ecosystem.

## SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



XUJUN GU



LYNN (PEI-LIN) HUANG



SEYEDEH TARANEH MOUSAVI



JOHN RIZK



TIEN HOANG TRAN

The following students in the PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Program received the program’s Donald O. Fedder Memorial

Scholarship: **Xujun Gu, MSPH; Lynn (Pei-Lin) Huang, MHS; Seyedeh Taraneh Mousavi, PharmD; John Rizk, BSPHarm, MSc; and Tien Hoang Tran.**



YU-HUA FU



DOMINIQUE SEO

The following students in the PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Program received Student Travel Scholarships: **Yueh-Yi Chiang, BSPHarm; Yu-Hua Fu, PharmD, MS; and Dominique Seo, MPH.**



JENNIFER CONTRERAS



UZMA PATHAN

**Jennifer Contreras, MPH**, and **Uzma Pathan, BPharm, MPharm, MS**, both students, PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Program, received the Arthur Schwartz Memorial Scholarship.



HILLARY EDWARDS

**Hillary Edwards, PhD, MPH**, director of methodological research and evaluation, PATIENTS Program, received a one-year, \$100,000 grant from Bayer Corp. for “PATIENTS

Professors Academy 2026.”



TIFFANY FRIMPONG

**Tiffany Frimpong**, first-year student, received an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Walmart Community Pharmacy Scholarship.





**MOJDEH  
HEAVNER**

**Mojdeh Heavner, PharmD**, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and assistant dean for experiential learning, received an 18-month, \$102,125 contract from Johns

Hopkins Hospital for “Joint Clinical and Educational Collaboration Between Johns Hopkins Hospital and University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.”



**YUJIA LI**

**Yujia Li, MS**, student, PhD in Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Program, received the program’s Harris Zuckerman Scholarship Award.

**Alexander MacKerell Jr., PhD**, the Grollman-Glick Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director, Computer-Aided Drug Design Center, was named a fellow of the Biophysical Society.



**KATHRYN  
WALKER**

**Mary Lynn McPherson, PharmD, PhD**, professor, and **Kathryn Walker, PharmD**, associate professor, both in the Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, were

appointed to the Guideline Expert Panel for the fifth edition of the National Consensus Project’s “Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care.”



**LIZ MYERS**

**Liz Myers, MBA**, lead marketing specialist, was honored as the UMB Employee of the Month of November for her creative social media campaigns, which promote the school’s reputation for excellence

and build community.



**ERIK NORDQUIST**

**Erik Nordquist, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence in Service Award at the Postdoctoral Scholars Awards event

hosted by the School of Medicine’s Graduate Program in Life Sciences and Office of Postdoctoral Scholars.



**CHRISTOPHER  
RHODOVI**

**Christopher Rhodovi, MPA**, administrative specialist, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success and Phi Sigma Pi.

**Julia Slejko, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and director, Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Graduate Program, was appointed to the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



**NIKITA  
AGGARWAL**

**Nikita Aggarwal, MSW, PhD** candidate, was selected to present “From Access to Credibility: Navigating Trust and Visibility in Ethnographic Fieldwork with Immigrant Food-

Service Workers in the U.S.” at the 2026 Qualitative Research Symposium, which was hosted by the University of Bath’s School of Management.



**CHRISTABEL  
CHEUNG**

**Christabel Cheung, PhD, MSW**, assistant professor, was named a Salzburg Global Fellow in Health Equity Innovation and joined 50 international leaders for the

Salzburg Global Health and Health Care Innovation Session in Salzburg, Austria.



**YOONZIE CHUNG**

**Yoonzie Chung, MSW, PhD** student, co-authored “Persistent Poverty, Poverty Mobility, and Young Adults’ Material Hardship,” which was published in *Children and Youth Services Review*.



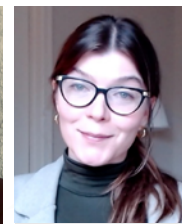
**SARAH  
DABABNAH**

**Sarah Dababnah, PhD, MPH, MSW**, associate professor, was among the co-authors of “Scoping Review: Facilitators, Barriers, and Cultural Adaptations in the Caregiver Skills Training Program

for Children with Developmental Concerns,” which was published online ahead of print by *Autism* in December.



**LINDA-JEANNE  
MACK**



**MORGAN  
PARDUE-KIM**

**Linda-Jeanne Mack, MSW**, and **Morgan Pardue-Kim, MSW**, both PhD candidates, and **Kerri Evans, PhD, LCSW**, associate professor, were among the co-authors of “Enhancing Social Workers’ Understanding of the Needs of Youth Who Are Unaccompanied Immigrants in the U.S. Child Welfare System,” which was published in *Children’s Voice*.



**KERRI EVANS**

**Morgan Pardue-Kim, MSW, PhD** candidate; **Yoonzie Chung, MSW, PhD** student; and **Kerri Evans, PhD, LCSW**, associate professor, were selected to serve on the Student Editorial

Board of *Child Maltreatment* for the 2026-27 term.