

UMB LAURELS

MAY 2025



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
BALTIMORE

LEAPS

*Leaders in Education:
Academy of Presidential Scholars*

The following UMB faculty and staff members were announced as the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Leaders in Education: Academy of Presidential Scholars (LEAPS) seed grant recipients or best poster awardees at the 2025 LEAPS Symposium on April 2 at the SMC Campus Center. The symposium's theme was "Navigating Your Professional Path: Scholarship Development Strategies for Tenure and Promotion in Professional and Graduate Education."

SEED GRANTS



ISADORA GARCIA

Isadora Garcia, DDS, MSc, PhD, clinical assistant professor, School of Dentistry, \$7,500 for "SimuCaries: A Multi-Stage Caries Simulation for Pre-Clinical Training."



VANDANA RACHERLA

Vandana Racherla, MD, assistant professor, School of Medicine (UMSOM), \$5,000 for "Utilization of Flipped Classroom Model for 'Transition to Pediatric Residency' Course."



TERESA SCHMIEDELER

Teresa Schmiedeler, JD, senior managing director of public service and externship, Francis King Carey School of Law, \$2,500 for "Yes ... Improv Workshop for Building Active Listening Skills, Trust Factors & Resilience."



MICHAEL SOH

Michael Soh, PhD, associate professor, School of Graduate Studies (UMSGS), \$2,500, for "Enhancing Health Professions Education Through AI-Powered Transparent Learning."



DOUGLAS TRAN

Douglas Tran, MD, postdoctoral scholar, UMSOM, \$2,500 for "Enhancing Resident Education Through Intraoperative, Real-Time Video Database."

POSTER AWARDS

BEST POSTER: "Non-Facilitated Peer Mentoring Group to Support Increased Productivity and Academic Support for Research Faculty."



MAREY SHRIVER

Lead presenter:
Marey Shriver, PhD, assistant professor, UMSOM

RUNNER-UP: "Exploring the Impact of the Ed Crafters Community Connection (eC3) Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC) on SoTL Research Engagement."



LUCY FROMTLING

Lead presenter:
Lucy Fromtling, MS, MPH, graduate research assistant, UMB

RUNNER-UP: "Short on Time? Two Hours Can Improve Students' Readiness to Address Sexual Health in Clinical Practice."



CARA FELTER

Lead presenter:
Cara Felter DPT, PhD, MPH, associate professor, UMSG

UNIVERSITYWIDE



ALEJANDRA BALCÁZAR

Alejandra Balcázar, MA, assistant director, Intercultural Center, was recognized by *The Baltimore Banner* as one of 15 community leaders in its 2025 Emerging Leaders cohort.



GAIL BETZ

Gail Betz, MSLIS, research, education and outreach librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, received a JEDI Award from the School of Social Work in recognition of her advocacy

and commitment to accessibility and disability justice.



EMILY GORMAN

Emily Gorman, MLIS, research, education and outreach librarian, Health Sciences and Human Services Library, was a panelist for "Drug

Information Tools Demystified: A Panel Discussion with Pharmacy Librarians and Pharmacists” at the Medical Library Association’s Pharmacy and Drug Information Caucus on March 18.



CLIFFORD GRANT

Clifford Grant, multi-trades chief 2, Multi-Trades Shop, Operations and Maintenance, was named UMB’s March Employee of the Month for his work and leadership on the University’s LED Initiative Project, which supports UMB’s sustainability efforts.



EMILY HURST

Emily Hurst, MSLS, dean, Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HSHSL), and associate vice provost, UMB, and **Everly Brown**, MLIS, head of information services, HSHSL,

presented “Marketing Approaches: Health Sciences Libraries” at the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries’ New and Interim Directors Symposium, which was held virtually Jan. 23.



IDA POWELL

Ida Powell, custodial lead, Environmental Services, received the JEDI Unsung Hero Award from the School of Social Work in recognition of her contributions to creating an empowered and

inclusive community within the school and the surrounding community, often working behind the scenes.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



JOHN K. BROOKS



JEFFERY B. PRICE

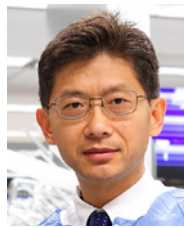


SYLVAN FELDMAN



REWA O. HAZIM

John K. Brooks, DDS; Azin Parsa, DDS, MSc, MS, PhD; Sharon L. Varlotta, RDH, MS; Jeffery B. Price, DDS, MS; and Sylvan Feldman, DDS, MLA, all faculty members, and **Rewa O. Hazim**, student, co-authored “Diffuse Idiopathic Skeletal Hyperostosis (Dish): Incidental Radiologic Finding in an Older Adult,” which was published and featured on the cover of *Quintessence International* in March.



HANPING FENG



YONGRONG ZHANG

Hanping Feng, PhD, professor and vice chair, and **Yongrong Zhang, PhD**, research assistant professor, both in the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, received a five-year, \$3.48 million National Institutes of Health grant to support the development of a novel probiotic yeast- and single-domain antibody (VHH)-based immunotherapy to prevent the transmission of *Clostridioides difficile*.



KATHRYN PAWLAK

Kathryn Pawlak, DDS, member, Dean’s Faculty, and 2019 UMSOD graduate, received the American Dental Association’s 10 Under 10 Award, which recognizes 10 outstanding dentists who graduated fewer than 10 years ago from a dental school that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES



JENNIFER BARNETT

Jennifer Barnett, DMSc, PA-C, adjunct associate professor, Doctor of Medical Science Program, wrote “Management of Acute Coronary Chest Pain,” which was published in *Physician Assistant*

Clinics in April, and won the Maryland Patient Safety Center’s Minogue Circle of Honor Award for her work on “Quality Improvement Project: Breaking Down Silos to Decrease Advanced Hospital Acquired Pressure Injuries.”



ERIC BELT

Eric Belt, EdD, adjunct assistant professor, was elected president-elect of the Division of Distance Learning of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology.



KAREN L. GORDES



VIOLET KULO

Karen L. Gordes, PhD, PT, DSCT, professor and director, MS

and Teaching Certificate in Health Professions Education (HPE), and **Violet Kulo, EdD, PhD**, associate professor and program director, PhD and Leadership Certificate in HPE, presented “Trauma Informed Pedagogy in the Health Professions” virtually for the Health Professions Educators Conference in April.



GERALD KAYINGO

Gerald Kayingo, PhD, MBA, PA-C, was named the inaugural Leslie S. Robinson, MD Endowed Professor and Chair of Health Professions Education. The professorship was established

to support UMB’s commitment to excellence in health professions education and research.

CAREY SCHOOL OF LAW

Asees Bhasin, JD, visiting assistant professor, wrote “Business Responses to Dobbs,” which was published in *Health Law as Private Law: Pathology or Pathway*.



PETER DANCHIN

Peter Danchin, JD, professor, was among the co-authors of “International Law and the Rise of Populism,” which was published in the *Virginia Journal of International Law*.

Leigh Goodmark, JD, professor and associate dean for research and faculty development, was the subject of the article, “The Feminist Law Professor Who Wants to Stop Arresting People for Domestic Violence,” which was published in *The New Yorker* on March 9.



MARK GRABER

Mark Graber, JD, professor, wrote “Strolling Down Memory Lane, Touring an Historical Restoration, and the Constitution of December 11, 1865,” which

was published in the *William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal*.

Kathleen Hoke, JD, professor and director, Network for Public Health Law-Eastern Region, was quoted in the article “Lawmakers Consider Proposal to Reduce Potential of Billions in Sex Abuse Payouts,” which was published in *Maryland Matters* on March 25.

Lili Louzhi Nizankiewicz, MFA, academic support specialist, wrote “China Relics,” which was published in the *Portland Review* on March 16.



ROBERT PERCIVAL

Robert Percival, JD, professor and director, Environmental Law Program, presented “The Environmental Jurisprudence of Justice Samuel Alito” at the American Bar Association’s Section of

Environment, Energy and Resources Law Spring Conference, which was held March 26-28 in Philadelphia.



NATALIE RAM

Natalie Ram, JD, professor, wrote “Polygenic Scoring and the Criminal Legal System,” which was published in the *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*.



MANEKA SINHA

Maneka Sinha, JD, professor and director, Criminal Defense Clinic, presented “Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Fourth Amendment” at the National Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers’

2025 Virtual AI Conference.



MATIANGAI SIRLEAF

Matiangai Sirleaf, JD, professor, wrote “Reflections on Decolonial Imperatives in Global Health Law,” which was published in the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* on March 27.



JEFF SOVERN

Jeff Sovern, JD, professor, was among the co-authors of “What Trump Did to Columbia and Paul Weiss Is a Warning to All of Us,” which was published in *The Washington Post* on March 30.



LIZA VERTINSKY

Liza Vertinsky, JD, professor, co-authored “Theory of Genetic Dimensions in the Law, Polygenic Risk Scores, and Reproductive Decision-Making,” which was published in the *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



OMER AWAN

Omer Awan, MD, MPH, professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Diagnostic Radiology Residency: A Closer Look at Its Rising Popularity,”

which was published online ahead of print in *Academic Radiology* on Feb. 15.



REHA ERZURUMLU

Reha Erzurumlu, PhD, professor, and **Celine Plachez, PhD**, lead research scientist, both in the Department of Neurobiology, were among the co-authors of “Gene Knockout in the

Developing Brain of Wild-Type Rodents by CRISPR In Utero Electroporation,” which was published in *Methods in Molecular Biology*.

Stephanie Jo, MD, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “DEXA Result Automation into Radiology Reports:

An Implementation Guide for Radiologists, PACS Administrators, and Technicians,” which was published online ahead of print in the *Journal of Imaging Informatics in Medicine* on Feb. 26.



STEPHANIE JO

Zachary Keepers, student, presented “Synergy with Decitabine Expands the Utility of Talazoparib: A Novel Therapeutic Strategy for BRCA-Proficient Pancreatic Cancer” at the American Association for Cancer Research’s Annual Meeting in Chicago on April 27.



MADHURIMA KOKA



LAURA WAKE

Madhurima Koka, MD, PhD, associate professor, and **Laura Wake, MD**, associate professor, both in the Department of Pathology, presented “How to Train Your Pathologist: Updating Pathology Education to Be Engaging and Relevant,” at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology’s Annual Meeting in March.



LARA LEPORE



CAITLIN EGGLESTON



MELISSA VYFHUIS

Lara LePore, student; **Caitlin Eggleston, MPH**, director of clinical research operations; and **Melissa Vyfhuis, MD, PhD**, associate professor, all in the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among

the co-authors of “Identifying Nutritional Inequities of Patients with Cancer Residing in Food Deserts,” which was published in *Advances in Radiation Oncology* in January.



ZHONGJUN JON WU

Joseph Rabin, MD, MS, MIA, and **Zhongjun Jon Wu, PhD**, both professors in the Department of Surgery, were the lead inventor and co-inventor, respectively, of “Trans-Esophageal Aortic Flow Rate

Control,” which was issued European patents in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom on March 5.



HOWARD RICHARD

Howard Richard, MD, associate professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “The LAVA Study: A Prospective, Multicenter, Single-

Arm Study of a Liquid Embolic System for Treatment of Peripheral Arterial Hemorrhage,” which was published in the *Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology* in March.



ANINDO ROY

Anindo Roy, PhD, adjunct associate professor, Department of Neurology, was the lead inventor of “Method and Apparatus for Providing Economical, Portable Deficit-Adjusted Adaptive

Assistance During Movement Phases of an Impaired Ankle,” which was issued European patents in France, Germany, and the United Kingdom on March 26.



SAMANTHA SCOTT

Samantha Scott, PhD, MS, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Neurobiology, was appointed a fellow of the RISE UPP PROMISE Academy Alliance, a National Science

Foundation program that prepares University System of Maryland (USM) postdoctoral scholars to become tenure-track faculty members and retain them as faculty within USM or at participating RISE UPP university systems in North Carolina and Texas.



PHUOC TRAN

Phuoc Tran, MD, PhD, professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the co-authors of “Predicting Dose Response to Prostate Cancer Radiotherapy: Validation of a

Radiation Signature in the Randomized Phase III NRG/RTOG 0126 and SAKK 09/10 Trials,” which was published online ahead of print in *Annals of Oncology* on Feb. 13.



MARCO VENNIRO

Marco Venniro, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Neurobiology, was among the co-authors of “Spanning the Spectrum of Social Behavior: Towards More Translationally Relevant Animal

Models,” which was published in *Psychopharmacology* on Feb. 19.

Emerson Wickwire, PhD, professor, Department of Psychiatry, was among the co-authors of “Sleep, Daytime Symptoms, and Healthcare Resource Utilization in Military Personnel with Co-Morbid Insomnia and Obstructive Sleep Apnea (COMISA),” which was accepted for publication by *Military Medicine* on Feb. 27.



ISAIAH WILLIAMSON

Isaiah Williamson, graduate student, Department of Neurobiology, received the Carl Storm Award to attend the 2025 Gordon Research Conference on Amygdala Function in Emotion,

Cognition and Disease in Barcelona, Spain, on July 13-18.

Susan Wolfsthal, MD, professor, Department of Medicine, and associate chair for education, received the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine's Demas C. Daley Founders Award, which honors a member of the internal medicine community for their work as an educator, innovator, and leader.

Noushin Yahyavi-Firouz-Abadi, MD, MBA, associate professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology Nuclear

Medicine, was among the co-authors of "State of Practice: ASNR Statement on Gadolinium-Based Contrast Agent Use in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease," which was published in the *American Journal of Neuroradiology* on Feb. 3.



**NOUSHIN
YAHYAVI-
FIROUZ-ABADI**

co-authored "Navigating the Evolution of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Nursing Practice Leader," which was published in the April/June 2025 issue of *Nursing Administration Quarterly*.



THERESA DI SETA

Theresa Di Seta, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, NPD-BC, assistant director of student placements for partnership development and community health, gave the lecture "Nurses

Leading Change: Advocacy, Legislative Testimony, and Building Stakeholder Support" at the National Association of Hispanic Nurses' D.C. Metro Chapter meeting March 19.



**BRIDGITTE
GOURLEY**

Bridgitte Gourley, DNP '08, FNP-BC, FACU, FNAP, associate professor and director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Family Nurse Practitioner specialty, was inducted as a fellow of the National Academies of Practice.



SARAH HOLMES

Sarah Holmes, PhD, MSW, assistant professor, received the Howard Guterman Best Poster Award and Best Research Poster Award for "Meaningful Activity Engagement for Assisted Living

Residents with Dementia" at the Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical Association's Annual Conference, which was held March 13-15.



**AMBER
KLECKNER**

Amber Kleckner, PhD, received a four-year, \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute to examine the role that time-restricted eating plays in reducing cancer-related fatigue and other side effects of treatments.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Nine UMSON faculty members were named Maryland state New Nurse Faculty Fellows:



KELLY BATES



OZIOMA ERONDUR



**MOLLY
MCCOMISKEY**



SUN YOUNG PARK



**SARAH
RANGELOV**



SARA ROBINSON



**JESSICA
SULLIVAN**



VICTORIA VYKOL



NYREE WILLIAMS

- **Kelly Bates, DNP, FNP-BC**, assistant professor
- **Ozioma Erondur, DNP '20, BSN '14, CRNP, AGNP-C**, assistant professor
- **Molly McComiskey, DNP '21, CNP-AC**, assistant professor
- **Sun Young Park, DNP '22, MS '17, CNE, FNP-C**, assistant professor
- **Sarah Rangelov, DNP '23, MS '14, BSN '09, CRNP, CPNP-PC, FNE-AP**, assistant professor
- **Sara Robinson, DNP, RN, PMHNP-BC**, assistant professor and director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner-Family specialty
- **Jessica Sullivan, MS '14, PMHNP-BC**, clinical instructor
- **Victoria Vykol, DNP '21, MS '15, BSN '12, CRNP, NNP-BC**, assistant professor
- **Nyree Williams, DNP '21, MS '16, PMHNP-BC**, assistant professor



**DONALD
AMENAH**

Donald Amenah, PhD student, was named a 2025 UMB Provost's Global Scholar.



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,



MARIK MOEN

Marik Moen, PhD '18, MPH, RN, associate professor, was quoted in the article "Baltimore Seniors Have Died at Shocking Rates from Drug Overdoses. Help Is on the Way," which was published in *The Baltimore Banner* on March 21.

Yolanda Ogbolu, PhD '11, MS '05, BSN '04, NNP, FNAP, FAAN, the Bill and Joanne Conway Dean, was quoted in the article "Healthy Collaboration: How Baltimore's Faith-Based Groups, Health Systems and More Are Banding Together to Improve Access to Health Care," which was published in the *Baltimore Business Journal* on March 27.

Veronica Quattrini, DNP, MS '99, BSN '85, FNP-BC, associate professor and senior director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, was selected to participate in the National League for Nursing's (NLN) 2025 LEAD Program, a yearlong initiative of the NLN Leadership Institute.



BARBARA RESNICK

Barbara Resnick, PhD '96, RN, CRNP, FAAN, FAANP, professor and associate dean for research, co-authored "How to Find the Joy in Caregiving" and "Assisted Living Industry Must Be Proactive About Quality Measures," which both were published in *McKnight's Long-Term Care News* on March 24.



AMANDA ROESCH



VERONICA QUATTRINI

Amanda Roesch, DNP, MPH, FNP-C, assistant professor, and **Veronica Quattrini, DNP, MS '99, BSN '85, FNP-BC**, associate

professor and senior director, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program, had the peer-reviewed manuscript "Achieving Consistency in DNP Education: Strategies for Standardized Teaching and Evaluation" accepted for publication by *Nurse Educator*.



MICHELLE R. SPENCER

Michelle R. Spencer, DNP '19, MS '06, BSN '84, RN, assistant professor and director, Master of Science in Nursing Community/Public Health Nursing specialty, received the Maryland state

Dr. Peg E. Daw Nurse Faculty Annual Recognition Award to honor her contributions to nursing education.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY



PARIS BARNES

Paris Barnes, MS, senior training specialist, PATIENTS Program, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received UMB's 2025 Community Service Award.

Peter Doshi, PhD, associate professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a 17-month, \$126,243 grant from Arnold Ventures for "Evaluating and Improving Consent for Clinical Trials."



ALLISON DUNN

Allison Dunn, PharmD, MS, research assistant professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a 14-month, \$550,000 contract from New Amsterdam Pharma for "PK Analysis of Obicetrapib."



NATALIE EDDINGTON

Natalie Eddington, PhD, FAAPS, FCP, was named Dean Emerita by UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS.



CHEROKEE LAYSON-WOLF

Cherokee Layson-Wolf, PharmD, BCACP, FAPhA, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, received a 2025 University System of Maryland Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring.



LISA LEBOVITZ

Lisa Lebovitz, JD, MS, assistant dean for academic affairs and assessment, was a co-recipient of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's (AACP) Rufus A. Lyman Award for the best paper published in 2024 in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*. She also was a co-recipient of the Collaborative Research Publication Award from AACP's Assessment Special Interest Group.



SARAH L.J. MICHEL

Sarah L.J. Michel, PhD, dean and professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the 2024 Maryland Chemist of the Year Award from the Maryland chapter of the American Chemical Society.



C. DANIEL MULLINS

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, professor, Department of Practice, Sciences, and Health Outcomes Research, and executive director, PATIENTS Program, will

receive the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's (AACP) Paul R. Dawson Award for Excellence in Patient Care Research at the AACP's Annual Meeting in July.

Fengtian Xue, PhD, associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was appointed as UMSOP's associate dean for research.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK



LISA BERLIN

Lisa Berlin, PhD, MS, the Alison L. Richman Professor of Children and Families, received the 2025-2026 James McKeen Cattell Sabbatical Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to her area of expertise and provides her with an extended sabbatical period to further enhance her research.



APRIL
CAVALETTO

April Cavaletto, MSW, PhD candidate, was among the co-authors of " 'Healthy Relationships': A Scoping Review of Definitions, Components, and Measures of Healthy Dating Relationships Among Teens and Young Adults," which was published in *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse* on March 20.

Kerri Evans, PhD, LCSW, associate professor, was among the co-authors of "Reframing Higher Education for Refugees: Pathways, Policies, and Community Cultural Wealth," which was published in the *Journal of Higher Education* on March 17.

Jaela Morris, MSW student and school-based mental health fellow, Center for Restorative Change, received

the Dorothy I. Height Student Award from Coppin State University, recognizing her innovative initiatives and commitment to social justice.



JAELA MORRIS

Morgan Pardue-Kim, MSW, PhD candidate, and **Kerri Evans, PhD, LCSW**, associate professor, were among the co-authors of "Refugee Program on Chopping Block Has Impacted Countless Lives," a guest commentary that was published in *The Baltimore Sun* on March 24.

Corey Shdaimah, PhD, LLM, the Daniel Thursz Distinguished Professor of Social Justice, and **Linda-Jeanne Mack, MSW, PhD** candidate, led "R.A.D. Townhall" and "Technical Hour" sessions at the Maryland Judiciary's Foster Care Court Improvement Program, Child Welfare Reporting, Analysis, and Data (R.A.D.) Symposium on March 11.

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