

School of

PHARMACY

Dean's Report 2022

siue.edu/pharmacy



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE**

Message from the Dean



Each year, we aim to inform you, our stakeholders, of highlights from the past academic year. The SIUE School of Pharmacy continues to move forward, and I am proud to share some of these accomplishments with you in this report.

The class of 2021 first attempt NAPLEX pass rates rank in the top 25 of all U.S. programs once again and outpace national and state averages by a significant margin. Our new curriculum continues to evolve as the faculty work to incorporate digital health into the program. This past year, we developed new concurrent degree programs that integrate the PharmD with master's in public health and pharmaceutical science. Each option — including those already in place in business administration and healthcare informatics — expands upon the variety of pharmacy specializations available in education, pediatrics and acute care. As a School, we stay in tune with the profession and provide choices for those who want to diversify their skill sets and marketability in the increasingly diversified job market for pharmacists. Importantly, these opportunities complement and do not supplant our goal of preparing pharmacists capable and ready to contribute to community health and workforce needs.

The School adopted a new strategic plan for 2022-2027, which focuses on four major areas: community outreach; innovation; personal and professional development; and recruitment and retention. As our program has matured, so has the scope of the strategic plan. Whether it be through the promotion of the health and well-being of the community, cultivating alumni engagement, fostering a culture of research and scholarship, or advancing innovative education, the School continues to reflect, plan and evolve.

These adjustments frequently are in response to advances in science or changes in higher education, healthcare and the profession. The incorporation of well-being and resilience in both the promotion of student success, as well as in personal and professional development, typifies this response. Through this evolution, we strive to ensure that the School, our students and our alumni aren't just relevant today but remain so going forward.

Enjoy reading this edition of the Dean's Report.

Mark S. Luer, PharmD, FCCP
Professor and Dean

Message from the Chancellor



Greetings, School of Pharmacy alumni and friends!

It is my honor to serve as the 10th Chancellor at SIUE. Since my arrival, I have made it a priority to engage with alumni, students, faculty, and staff to learn about challenges and discover big opportunities. This is a special season for SIUE. It is clear to me that there is a high degree of readiness to take a significant step forward as an institution. My bold ambition is that SIUE be first and best at providing high-quality, affordable degree opportunities for students from all backgrounds.

We are celebrating incredible academic achievements, such as the School of Pharmacy's impressive #1 ranking in Missouri and Illinois for first attempt NAPLEX pass rates. We are also setting new standards for alumni engagement and community partnerships. Our inaugural One Day, One SIUE event, held in April, exceeded the fundraising goal by 91%.

SIUE has the power to transform the lives of all individuals who seek something greater. We are creating social mobility for entire families, driving economic development and partnering to improve communities. I invite you to join us as we define SIUE's future. Learn more at siue.edu/strategic-plan.

James T. Minor, PhD
Chancellor

About SIUE

SIUE awards degrees in undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs encompassing the arts, sciences, nursing, education, health, human behavior, business and engineering. The Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmacy award doctor's first professional degrees in dental medicine (DMD) and pharmacy (PharmD). Doctoral programs are available in nursing practice and educational leadership. A cooperative PhD program in pharmacology and neuroscience is offered with the SIU School of Medicine and cooperative PhD programs in history, engineering science, environmental resources and policy, and computer engineering are offered with SIU Carbondale.

About the School of Pharmacy

The SIUE School of Pharmacy offers students an interprofessional, integrated and team-based learning approach to pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical science education. Students gain invaluable experience in real-world settings through the School's experiential approach to education. They work side-by-side with faculty members and preceptors who have gained national recognition for industry experience, research innovations and educational leadership.

School of Pharmacy Goals

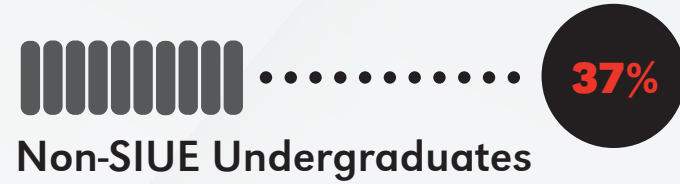
- Advance innovative education, service and scholarship programs
- Promote faculty and staff development and support
- Foster prospective pharmacy students
- Expand and support professional growth of students and alumni
- Cultivate diversity and inclusiveness
- Identify, develop and sustain external relations and financial support

School of Pharmacy Mission

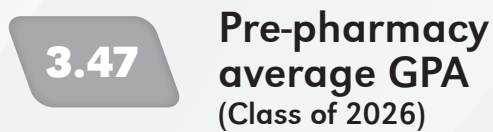
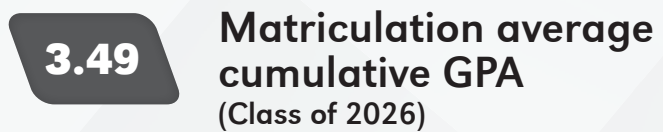
The SIUE School of Pharmacy is an interdisciplinary educational community dedicated to the preparation of pharmacy professionals, scholars and leaders to improve the health and well-being of the region and beyond.



Total Alumni: 1,096



Graduation Rate (2009-2022)



Residence (Class of 2026)



Illinois Residence breakdown:



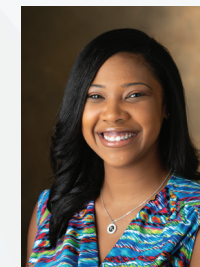
Planning Continues on New Health Sciences Building

The Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) has selected HOK-St. Louis as the preferred architectural design firm for preliminary design of the Health Science Building (HSB) on the SIUE campus. The HSB will house pharmacy, nursing and related health science areas with plans that include modern classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, faculty offices, administrative spaces, and student resource and study spaces.

The new HSB will foster a collaborative and creative educational environment with open and flexible classrooms containing the latest technology, spaces for small group collaboration, and spaces designed specifically for interprofessional activities. Together this will enhance student confidence and better prepare them for hands-on patient care. Another important element to the HSB will be new state-of-the-art research facilities that will further promote drug discovery and enhance delivery of healthcare services in the region.

The CDB released \$10,537,000 in planning funds in January 2020 to create preliminary designs for the HSB. The complex will include approximately 221,000 square feet. The project's total cost is roughly \$105 million. It will be the largest building on the SIUE campus.

New Faces



Deja Finley, PharmD '20
Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice



Bhargav Patel, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Jennifer Andrews
Office Support Staff
Department of Academic Affairs



Dawn Aldrich
Academic Affairs Coordinator
Department of Academic Affairs

Faculty Promotions



Jingyang Fan, PharmD, BCPS
Clinical Professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice



William Kolling, PhD
Professor
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Jennifer Rosselli, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, CDCES
Clinical Professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice



DEI Initiatives through Financial Literacy and Career Retreat

The School of Pharmacy was awarded an SIUE Innovation and Excellence in Graduate Education grant focused on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) for the creation of a two-month, financial literacy program comprising 15 first-generation and underrepresented student pharmacists.

In addition to the financial literacy program, the grant also resulted in the School hosting a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Pharmacy Careers Retreat. The one-day retreat focused on the School's dedication to providing care for the needs of a diverse world by inviting students from HBCUs to consider a career in pharmacy.

Participants engaged with experts in the field of pharmacy, attended sessions on networking and implemented career-readiness by improving interview skills.



“Financial literacy and health are critical life skills that many students have not been exposed to. Through this grant funding and assistance from the SIUE Graduate School, we were able to develop a program that many students valued.”

Jessica Kerr, PharmD, Professor and Associate Dean of Professional and Student Affairs

Butler Serves on National Task Force to Revise Oath of the Pharmacist

Lakesha Butler, PharmD, lent her expertise to a national committee charged with incorporating equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism (DEIA) into the Oath of the Pharmacist.

The updated oath states, “I will promote inclusion, embrace diversity, and advocate for justice to advance health equity.” Additional changes included incorporating more contemporary language.

Butler, former clinical professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and director of diversity, equity and inclusion, was called upon by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) in April 2021.

“The joint committee led a critical charge of boldly expanding our professional oath to include the necessary elements of DEIA,” Butler said. “It was an honor to be invited to contribute to this important endeavor that will have a lasting impact on the pharmacy profession.”

She was asked to represent the AACP in her role as council of sections chair-elect and due to her expertise in DEIA. Butler and 10 other representatives from the AACP and APhA were charged with proposing revisions incorporating DEIA while ensuring the oath remained broad in scope.

“Pharmacists are particularly well positioned to improve the health of their communities, and by embracing the tenets of DEIA, the profession is committing itself to reducing the equity gaps that currently exist in the U.S. healthcare system,” said Dean Mark Luer, PharmD, FCCP.

After suggesting tentative changes, the joint committee sought feedback from pharmacists across the nation through town hall meetings and written suggestions. Revisions were finalized by the committee and voted on and approved by the AACP and APhA boards of directors in November 2021. The last revision of the oath was approved in 2008.

AACP and APhA hosted a profession-wide virtual event in January for pharmacists, faculty members, administrators and student pharmacists to reaffirm their commitment to the newly revised Oath of a Pharmacist.

Pharmacy Students Bring Rxcellence to High School Classrooms

To expose junior and senior high school students to opportunities in healthcare fields, the School of Pharmacy offers the Rxcellence in Sciences STEM program. The learning programs are presented by trained pharmacy students to local high school classes in the areas of chemistry, biology, toxicology, immunology, anatomy and physiology, and public health.

Rxcellence programs are designed to complement high school teachers' current classroom lessons and are structured as 50-minute application sessions in small classrooms or lab settings.

“As future pharmacists, it is our duty to educate the public on as many health and drug-related topics as possible. It is also our mission to plant the seed of interest in STEM and pharmacy in high school students and introduce them to opportunities in the field.”

Avery Risinger, P3 Student, Mattoon, Ill.



Experts Contribute to Research and Development via NIH Program



As scientists and researchers worldwide work to develop effective and affordable vaccines to combat COVID-19, Joe Schober, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, realized that some of the drugs showing activity against COVID-19 were closely related to the compounds made in the School of Pharmacy.

“The National Institute of Health’s (NIH) InVitro Assessment for Antimicrobial Activity Program is an excellent resource for researchers wishing to contribute to the anti-virus discovery field, but who may not have the proper biosafety level required for testing,” Schober said.

The compounds being studied by the School target Sigma receptors found throughout the body, meaning this research has the potential to have a broad therapeutic effect in many areas of medicine.

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty Michael Crider, PhD, chair and associate dean, and William Neumann, PhD, retired professor, have previously synthesized compounds with high affinity for Sigma receptors. Currently, these compounds are being tested for anti-cancer activity in collaboration with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the SIU School of Medicine.

Schober’s finding prompted the School to examine and select eight of the previously developed compounds to test for anti-COVID activity through the NIH program, which provides testing free of charge for researchers.

State Recognizes Students for COVID-19 Infographic

As the SIUE representative on a statewide COVID-19 task force, Miranda Wilhelm, PharmD, clinical professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, was asked to develop a patient handout on new oral COVID-19 drugs.

Wilhelm involved two of her students in creating the handout, which was picked up and distributed statewide by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). IDPH Chief Medical Officer Arti Barnes, MD, MPH, honored the students with a certificate of recognition.


This certificate reads:

“This certificate recognizes Akosua Adu and Molly Smith for professional contributions to the Illinois Department of Public Health via development of a COVID Oral Therapeutics Infographic for distribution to pharmacies, providers, collaborators and partners engaged in COVID therapeutics delivery across the state. Your appreciated efforts helped to protect and promote the health of all Illinoisans.”

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MEDICATIONS THAT TREAT COVID?

Paxlovid and Molnupiravir are prescription oral medications that are authorized for the treatment of COVID-19.

How do they work?
They are considered oral antiviral medications. They work by keeping viruses from making more of themselves. These medications can decrease the risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19.




Paxlovid
(Nirmatrelvir + Ritonavir)

Who can take it?
May be used in patients 12 years old and older within 5 days of the start of symptoms

How do you take it?
Take 3 tablets by mouth every morning and evening*

3 ☀️ **+** **3** 🌙

What are the side effects?
This medication can cause an altered sense of taste, diarrhea, high blood pressure, and body aches




Molnupiravir

Who can take it?
May be used in patients 18 years old and older within 5 days of the start of symptoms

How do you take it?
Take 4 tablets by mouth every morning and evening*

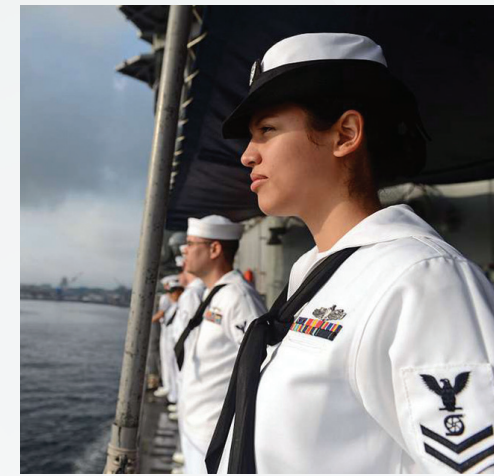
4 ☀️ **+** **4** 🌙

What are the side effects?
This medication can cause diarrhea, nausea, and dizziness



Ask your doctor or pharmacist today for more information on these medications.

Students Address Problems to ImPaCT Patient Care



The School of Pharmacy’s ImPaCT Program (Improving Patient Care for Tomorrow) is a scholarly project where students utilize their didactic knowledge in working through a real-world problem to enhance patient care.

“Students identify a problem in pharmacy and then develop potential solutions in an academic and objective manner,” said Tessa Keyes, ImPaCT coordinator. “While some projects are research based, others focus on problem solving or innovation.”

U.S. Navy veteran and recent School of Pharmacy graduate Daniella Mazzaro, PharmD '22, addressed the issue of healthcare coverage for veterans in her ImPaCT project. Mazzaro receives healthcare coverage through the Veterans Administration (VA) and assumed all veterans received the same until learning that less than half have VA healthcare.

Lack of healthcare coverage is something Mazzaro, a native of Venezuela, understands all too well. She witnessed Venezuela’s transformation from the richest country in South America to a dangerous and unstable socialist country. Her mother, an Illinois resident, eventually attained a green card for her at age 16.

After high school, Mazzaro received scholarships and earned an associate degree at a community college, but she was on her own, homeless and without health insurance.

“The ImPaCT Program prepares professional pharmacists to thrive in changing healthcare environments, cultivate development of innovation, and collaborate with the broader community.”

Tessa Keyes, ImPaCT Coordinator

During college, Mazzaro saw a U.S. soldier for the first time and went directly to a Navy recruiter’s office upon graduating. While other recruits had doubts in boot camp, Mazzaro never wavered.

“I was relieved to have food and a place to sleep while having a purpose,” she said. Mazzaro found pharmacy to be an ideal match for her interests in healthcare and science after her five-year contract with the Navy and pursued her education at the School of Pharmacy.

“Even though I still couldn’t afford to have insurance as a college student, I had the opportunity to apply to VA healthcare,” Mazzaro said. “I assumed that anyone who served would get it, but I’ve since learned that is not the case.

“Many veterans end their service with chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease and post-traumatic stress disorder,” Mazzaro continued. “A lot of them left everything behind to serve, and it’s worrisome that there are veterans who are not receiving needed care.”

Chris Lynch, PharmD, professor and director of clinical programs, suggested Mazzaro pursue the issue as an ImPaCT project, to which she readily agreed. Their research seeks to assess needs and access to health services by encouraging Illinois veterans to complete a brief online survey, the results of which will be shared with policy makers in hopes of impacting veterans’ lives.

Illinois veterans can take the survey at bit.ly/3wizdVD or by using the QR code to the right.



Thank You for Giving



Thank you for giving to the SIUE School of Pharmacy. Your generosity impacts the greatest needs of our School.

Because of you, students are achieving their potential with scholarship support. Your investment is making it possible for our School to provide wellbeing and resilience activities, faculty innovation, technology upgrades, research discoveries, and so much more.

Thank you again for your support. Please visit or call me if you have ideas or questions. You can contact me at staylaa@siue.edu or 618-650-5154. For your convenience, gifts can be designated to the School of Pharmacy at siue.edu/give-now/pharmacy.

Shane Taylor
Director of Development

New Scholarships Aim to Recruit Top Students

The call from a prospective student sounded like this: “I’m excited to receive an acceptance letter from your School, but I want to ask about your scholarships.”

As you might understand, the SIUE School of Pharmacy competes with other schools to attract the best pharmacy students. In this competitive market, we are thankful to our alumni, friends, foundations and partnering corporations that generously support student scholarships.

With over 300 students enrolled in the School, in FY2022 we received 268 qualified applications for 32 scholarships that awarded a total of \$29,800. We are grateful to assist these students with the help of our generous donors. In the future, we hope to provide financial support to more students.

This past year, we are thankful to add the following new scholarship opportunities to our students:

Chris and Debbie Smith Endowed Scholarship

\$4,250 annually to a first-year student

Donna Prather Crider School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Endowed Scholarship

\$1,000 annually to a student who excels in pharmaceutical science classes

Diabetes Advocacy Annual Scholarship

\$1,000 annually to a student involved in diabetes educational outreach and having the desire to impact the world of diabetes as a pharmacist



Largest One-Time Individual Gift Establishes the Chris and Debbie Smith Endowed Scholarship

A member of the School of Pharmacy’s advisory board for 14 years, Chris Smith, of Springfield, Ill., has been an instrumental leader and advocate of the School. Smith has held various roles, including president and committee chair. His most recent role is that of an elite donor.

In December, he and his wife announced a gift of \$104,250 to establish the Chris and Debbie Smith Pharmacy Endowed Scholarship. This gift is the largest one-time individual gift that has been given to the School. All pharmacy students with demonstrated financial need are encouraged to apply, and priority will be given to underrepresented minority students.

“Debbie and I were inspired to provide this scholarship because we wanted to create more opportunities for minority students to access the premier pharmacy school education at SIUE,” Chris Smith said.

“Educational opportunities provide incentives and strategies for aspiring to our highest possible expressions,” said Debra Nickelson Smith. “Whenever there is learning, there is always the possibility to grow and evolve.”

“Due to the long-standing existence of structural barriers inhibiting economic stability for underrepresented minority students, targeted scholarships are significantly impactful in creating equitable opportunities for the attainment of graduate education,” said Lakesha Butler, PharmD, former clinical professor and director of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). “The top goal of the School’s DEI strategic plan is to enhance the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students, and the Chris and Debbie Smith Pharmacy Endowed Scholarship will graciously assist.”

At the Smith family’s request, the SIUE Foundation placed \$100,000 into the SIUE Endowment so that the principle of the gift will grow, and interest gained will fund pharmacy student scholarships in perpetuity. The gift’s remaining \$4,250 will allow the School to award its first scholarship recipient in fall 2022.

“While serving with the pharmacy advisory board, Mr. Smith has always been a proponent of helping the School secure more scholarships that will assist students in fulfilling their dream to become a pharmacist,” said Dean Mark Luer, PharmD, FCCP. “We’re beyond grateful for this incredibly generous endowment. It not only demonstrates his level of commitment to the School and our students, but also his recognition of the importance of scholarship endowments.”

“Opportunities for higher education do not just provide avenues to secure futures for those who learn, but a brighter, more inclusive, sustainable future for us all.”

Debra Nickelson Smith





Poirier Commended by American Institute of History of Pharmacy

With 42 years in higher education and 50 years in the pharmacy profession, Professor Emerita Terri Poirier, PharmD, MPH, has consistently held a passion for the history of pharmacy leadership. That passion led the senior scholar to design an asynchronous elective course on the subject after her retirement in spring 2021.

Poirier recorded interviews with 57 pharmacy leaders. She realized early in the process that these needed to be shared beyond the course and contacted the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP) to request the interviews be added to the organization's digital archives. In response to her work, the AIHP awarded her with a certificate of commendation, which recognizes activities or historical endeavors that advance knowledge or understanding of the history of pharmacy and pharmaceuticals or utilize the history of pharmacy and pharmaceuticals to address or advance understanding of contemporary issues.

"It's extremely important, because these interviews trace the history of the transformation of pharmacy practice and education from a drug product focus to a patient-care focus."

Professor Emerita Terri Poirier, PharmD, MPH



Lynch Receives IPhA Lifetime Community Service Award

Chris Lynch, PharmD, professor and director of clinical programs, received the Bowl of Hygeia Award from the Illinois Pharmacist's Association (IPhA) in October. The Bowl of Hygeia is the most widely recognized international symbol for the pharmacy profession and considered one of the profession's most prestigious awards. The award recognizes pharmacists who possess outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities and encourages pharmacists to take active roles in their communities.

An inaugural faculty member, Lynch was one of the first to reach out to the community and establish formal relationships that focus on improving the health of our region. He co-authored a Health Resources and Services Administration grant that created a clinical pharmacist position within SIHF Healthcare and has to date made available more than \$1 million in diabetes medication subsidies for the underserved in southwestern Illinois. Additionally, Lynch has served as pharmacy team leader and co-director of the Jamaica Dental Mission since 2006. Between 1,200-2,000 patients are seen in these clinics each year. Lynch also coordinates donations of hundreds of toys for children seen in the clinics.

"Dr. Lynch has given far and above back to his community not just in Illinois but globally, and his love of patients and community deserves to be honored."

Garth K. Reynolds, BSPHarm, RPh, MBA, IPhA Executive Director

Faculty, Students Named to IPhA/MPA Boards

Congratulations to the following faculty and students for their appointments to the Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA) and the Missouri Pharmacy Association (MPA) at the joint annual conference in October 2021.

- Jennifer Rosselli, PharmD, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, IPhA President
- Miranda Wilhelm, PharmD, Clinical Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, IPhA Vice President (third term)
- Garrett Clary, P3 of Edwardsville, IPhA Student Representative
- Jimmy Havens, P3 of Glen Carbon, Ill., MPA Student Liaison

"Dr. Rosselli's experienced leadership as a practitioner, faculty member and nationally-recognized expert in diabetes management will provide the strength to pull pharmacists together and enact positive change for pharmacy in Illinois."

Garth Reynolds, BSPHarm, RPh, MBA, IPhA Executive Director

Shiau Wins Geriatric Case Competition



As a P4 student, Justin Shiau, of Naperville, Ill., was on the winning team of the Interprofessional Geriatric Virtual Case Competition hosted by the Saint Louis University (SLU) Gateway Geriatric Education Center. Participants were placed in teams of four or five health professions students to collaborate interprofessionally. Shiau's team included students studying physical therapy, dentistry and speech pathology.

Teams were given one month to develop a plan of care for a complex, older patient with multiple, chronic health challenges before presenting their case presentation via Zoom. After winning the competition at SLU, Shiau's team went on to face the winning team from the University of Minnesota Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program in November and won that match, as well.

"I've always been extremely passionate about interprofessional opportunities, so when this opportunity arose, I immediately went for it."

Justin Shiau, PharmD '22

ICHP Honors Student and Faculty

School of Pharmacy faculty members and an outstanding student were honored by the Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists (ICHP) and named to the board of directors during the fall 2021 meeting.

Shining Star Awards

Recognizing increased participation and initiative as an ICHP champion, division or committee member

- Janki Vyas, PharmD '22
- Chris Herndon, PharmD, Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

Immediate Past President

- Jennifer Arnoldi, PharmD, Assistant Director of Experiential Education, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

Metro-East Society President

- Jared Sheley, PharmD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice

Graduate Students Advancing Pharmaceutical Sciences Research

The School of Pharmacy is the only school in Illinois and the St. Louis metropolitan region to offer a master's in pharmaceutical sciences. Although still a young program, students have already had a significant impact in advancing research productivity in the School. As evidenced by the titles of the theses from recent graduates, the breadth of topics encompasses the pharmaceutical sciences and includes pharmaceutics, pharmacology and medicinal chemistry.

“I chose to pursue a PhD in medicinal chemistry because I wanted to continue working under the direction of my mentor, Dr. Maria Kontoyianni. While working to get my master's, she pushed me to think critically, work hard, and realize my potential as a scientist.”

Olivia Slater

Graduate Student	Thesis Title	Thesis Advisor
Ousman Boye	Design and Synthesis of Hexahydrobenz[e]indoles as Selective Sigma2 Receptor Ligands for Cancer Therapy	Marcelo Nieto, PhD
Prasant Khadka	Design and Synthesis of Novel Surfactants for Enhancing Drug Delivery	Timothy McPherson, PhD
Abdul-Azeez Lanihun	Evaluation of Dapagliflozin as an Add-on Therapy to Insulin for Type 1 Diabetes	Guim Kwon, PhD
Ariel Magee	Sigma Receptor Targeting for Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease	Ken Witt, PhD
Safat Shoeb	Expansion, Synthesis, and Biological Evaluation of a Focused Library of N-Substituted Indolines and -1,2,3,4-tetrahydroquinolines as Sigma Receptor Ligands	Marcelo Nieto, PhD
Kuber Bajgain	Evaluation of Neprilysin Activity of Novel Somatostatin Receptor Subtype-4 Agonist SM-I-26	Ken Witt, PhD
Olivia Slater	Investigating the Therapeutic Potential of AM Glycolipids as Adjuvants	Maria Kontoyianni, PhD
Nathan Peel	The Investigation of Template and Compound Collection Effects on Virtual Screening Results of SSTR4	Maria Kontoyianni, PhD
Rupesh Chandra Panta	The use of Dapagliflozin in the Treatment of the Type I Diabetes in Rats and Study its Effect in the Kidney Against the Use of Insulin Alone	Guim Kwon, PhD
Omoh Emmanuel Ben	Design and Synthesis of eIF4e Inhibitors	Bhargav Patel, PhD
Faria Anjum Simin	Harnessing Subcellular Localization and Quantification of Sigma-1 Receptors as a Drug Assay Tool	Joe Schober, PhD
Suraj Rauniyar	Design and Synthesis of Protein-Protein Interaction Inhibitors of mRNA Translation Initiation Complex eIF4F	Bhargav Patel, PhD

From Patient to Student: SIUE Student Finds Unique Path to Pharmacy School

In spring 2015, Lisa Lubsch, PharmD, BCPPS, clinical professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, and pediatric pharmacy specialist with SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis, was among the healthcare team treating patients at Cardinal Glennon. Fast forward to September 2020 when Lubsch received the following message.

“Dr. Lubsch,

My name is Paige Summers, and I am almost certain that I was one of your patients as a child at Cardinal Glennon Hospital. I was 16 years old and had stroke-level blood pressure. I was admitted for a whole week to decide the best plan of action.

I am sure you will have no remembrance of this event. I remember that you told me you taught at SIUE. I just wanted you to know that I have an interview Friday with the SIUE School of Pharmacy.

At 16, I knew I loved math and science. When you came into my room and talked to me about your profession, I knew I wanted to be just like you. I want you to know that I would not be here today if it were not for you. Whether I get accepted or not, I wanted to thank you for making such an impression on me at a young age.

Sincerely,
Paige Summers”

Lubsch responded to Summers, of West Frankfort, Ill., with encouragement and the offer to assist however possible. The two corresponded again after Summers received acceptance into the School and during her first year as a student. Summers is now a P2.

“When I'm asked what makes the SIUE School of Pharmacy different, it is easy to point to the exceptional board pass rates or the value in terms of tuition, but honestly, it's our people. Our faculty and staff are not only proud of what they do, but they also genuinely care about a student's success.”

Dean Mark Luer, PharmD, FCCP

“Paige thinks I was impactful in that one moment during my routine clinical day,” Lubsch said. “Little does she know how she filled me up to keep doing what we do.”

“I am not surprised by the story of Dr. Lubsch and the impact that she had on a patient as she is a remarkable pharmacist, nor am I surprised by the impact that Paige had on her through a simple message acknowledging her actions from years prior,” said Dean Mark Luer, PharmD, FCCP. “It's the fundamental value of caring about others, as displayed by Dr. Lubsch, that sets us apart and, in my opinion, above the rest.”



SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame Inducts Isaacs as Pharmacy Alum

The School of Pharmacy is pleased to recognize Diana Isaacs, PharmD, as the second inductee to SIUE's Alumni Hall of Fame.

Isaacs graduated from SIUE with a Doctor of Pharmacy in 2009 and is an endocrinology clinical pharmacy specialist and co-director of the Center for Endocrine Disorders in Pregnancy at the Cleveland Clinic.

Isaacs holds board certifications in pharmacotherapy, ambulatory care and advanced diabetes management. She advocates for choice and access to the latest technologies and therapeutics for all people with diabetes and speaks on diabetes-related topics nationally and internationally.

"My passion for diabetes education began in the SIUE School of Pharmacy," said Isaacs. "There is a tremendous amount to learn with all the different medications, technology, lifestyle factors and psychological aspects. I was fortunate to learn a great deal from amazing and passionate faculty like Dr. Jessica Kerr."

"Dr. Isaacs has always had a passion for diabetes," said Kerr, PharmD, associate dean of professional and student affairs and professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. "As a past instructor of hers, I am always impressed by the level of energy she brings when she educates other healthcare professionals on hot topics in the diabetes world. I have had the honor to work with her as a colleague, and she is at the forefront in service and impactful patient care projects."

"What continues to motivate me is that every day I use my skills and knowledge to make a positive impact in people's lives. It's the most rewarding career I could ever imagine."

Diana Isaacs, PharmD '09

Isaacs has served in numerous leadership and committee roles in pharmacy and diabetes organizations throughout her career. She is a member of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Professional Practice Committee, which updates the ADA Standards of Care. She is also a fellow and national board member of the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists and was named the organization's 2020 Diabetes Care and Education Specialist of the Year. In 2019, Isaacs earned the Ohio Pharmacists Association's UNDER 40 Recognition Award.

A member of the School of Pharmacy's first graduating class, Isaacs always found diabetes to be fascinating. "Almost 10% of the population has diabetes, and this percentage continues to rise, which means there are many opportunities to help," she said. "I'm inspired by knowing that with the right treatment, people can live long and healthy lives."



SIUE School of Pharmacy Advisory Board

Chair: Paul Abert, Market President-Madison County, Bank of Belleville, Belleville, Ill.

Vice Chair: Garth Reynolds, Executive Director, Illinois Pharmacists Association, Springfield, Ill.

Immediate Past Chair: Heather Fitzgerald, Healthcare Specialty Supervisor, Walgreens, Springfield, Ill.

Members:

Julie Bickers, Healthcare Supervisor, Walgreens, Earth City, Mo.

Ryan Birk, PharmD '13, Director of Pharmacy, BJC Healthcare-Memorial Hospitals, Belleville, Ill.

David Braasch, President and CEO, Alton Memorial Hospital, Alton, Ill.

Elizabeth Cardello, Senior Director, Business Development, CORE Higher Education Group, Geneva, Ill.

Chris Crank, Executive Vice President, Illinois Council of Health System Pharmacists, Loves Park, Ill.

Dawn Dankenbring, PharmD '11, Director of Pharmacy, HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon, Ill.

Alex Dow, Pharmacy Manager, CVS Health, Arnold, Mo.

Brian Doty, Vice President, Research and Development, Mallinckrodt, Hazelwood, Mo.

Dan Fieker, Owner, Family Care Pharmacy, Highland, Ill.

Brett Gilliland, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Visionary Wealth Partners, Edwardsville

John Gloss, Retired Administrator, Shriner's Hospitals for Children, St. Louis

Patrice Howard, Vice President of Quality and Performance, SIHF Healthcare, Sauget, Ill.

Mallory Knolhoff, Student, SIUE School of Pharmacy

Mike Lloyd, Director, Medical Outcomes Specialist, Pfizer, Inc., Maryville, Ill.

Cayden Miller, Student, SIUE School of Pharmacy

Steven Peipert, Owner, Brighton Pharmacy, Brighton, Ill.

Jenny Rosselli-Lynch, Professor, Pharmacy Practice, SIUE School of Pharmacy

Bobby Sandage Jr., PhD, President and CEO, Euclides Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Creve Coeur, Mo.

Jordan Stanley, Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital, Maryland Heights, Mo.

Chris Smith, Vice President, Smith Family Holdings, Springfield, Ill.

Mike Thomas, Lifestyle Pharmacist and Health Coach, WLS Coaching, Springfield, Ill.

Travis Willeford, PharmD '09, Staff Pharmacist, CVS Caremark Corporation, Springfield, Ill.

Harry Zollars, PharmD '13, Owner, Pharmacy, Maryville, Ill.



Faculty Research and Scholarly Activity

Publications

Slater, O.; Dhama, K.; Shrestha, G.; **Kontoyianni, M.**; Nichols, M.; Demchenko, A. The Development of a Simple and Effective Lipid-A Antagonist Based on Computational Prediction. *ACS Inf. Dis.* 2022, 8, 1171-1178.

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Grants/Contracts Funded

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Patents

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