

SEMESTER R_x- FALL 2015

BUSPH Pharmaceuticals Program Newsletter

December 2015

Greetings from the public health heart of Boston! As many of you might know, I took over leadership of the Program from Dr. Chris Gill in August 2015. Chris grew this program from 21 students in 2011 to the near 100 students we have today! I am so looking forward to working with our Program Manager, Travis DiJoseph, and with all of you to make this program even stronger!

*Our theme this year is “**Connect & Expand.**” We want to better connect our students and alumni and expand our reach into the greater Boston life sciences community and beyond. In an effort to do this, we are pleased to present our 1st newsletter to alumni, students, faculty and friends of the BUSPH Pharm Program.*

*And what a busy fall semester we have had! From seminars to conferences and classes to exams, BUSPH students and faculty in the nation’s only public health pharmaceutical certificate program have been hard at work. **Please take a closer read and be in touch- we would love to hear from you!***

- Erin Hasselberg, Director, BUSPH Pharmaceuticals Program



Save the Date!

5th Annual Pharmaceuticals Program Symposium

Friday, March 25, 1:00-5:00pm
Hiebert Lounge, 72 E. Concord St.
Boston, MA 02118

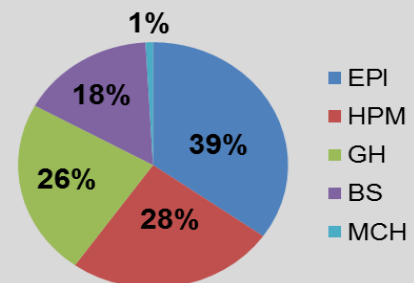
The Politics of Access: The Impact of U.S. Government Policies on Pharmaceutical Markets and Public Health. Dr. Howard Koh, former Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, will give the keynote address.

Please mark your calendars!
Formal invitations to follow. For more information, please email SPHpharm@bu.edu or visit us [online](#).

Pharm Students...By the Numbers!

- ⇒ 97 students currently enrolled
- ⇒ 44 new students in fall 2015
- ⇒ 10 countries represented: China, India, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Singapore, Pakistan, Taiwan, Belgium, Canada, and the United States
- ⇒ 106 Graduates as of September 2015 since the program’s inception in 2008

Pharm Students by Concentration



2013 Graduates: 15

2014 Graduates: 28

2015 Graduates: 34



Fall Semester Happenings

2nd Annual Networking Reception

The annual networking reception on October 22nd was a huge success as more than 70 pharma professionals, alumni, current students, faculty, and staff gathered at Estragon in Boston's South End. The event offered numerous opportunities for students to interact with members of the pharmaceutical industry in the Boston area as well as members of the Pharm Program External Advisory Board.



Lauren Celano, External Advisory Board Member with alumni Alison Anger and Ahmed Al Suwaidi at Estragon

Pharm Program Leadership Council Established

Seven Pharm Program students were selected to lead the first Pharm Program Leadership Council which focuses on increasing connectivity amongst Pharm students, across BU, and with alumni. Inaugural members include Samantha Straitz, Catherine Roman, Yojin Park, Meggie Hotard, Christopher Noble, Eduardo Valle, and Ela Fadli.

BU Hosts the Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) Conference

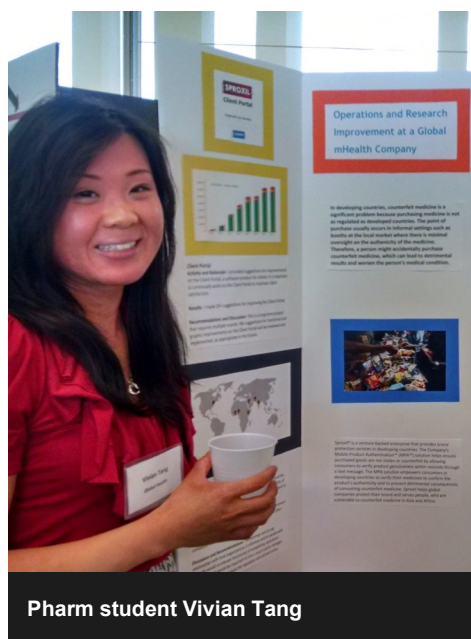
Boston University welcomed [UAEM](#) from October 16-18th for its annual conference. UAEM is a non-profit organization composed of university students who believe that institutions of higher education have the ability and duty to enhance access to public health goods on a global scale. The conference featured several panels, workshops, and sessions, bringing students and experts to address the issues of access and pricing of medicines.

Pharm Program External Advisory Board Expands

The Pharm Program's External Advisory Board met on October 22nd and includes 11 members ([read their bios here!](#)) representing various aspects of the pharmaceutical, life sciences, and public health community. Members serve three-year terms, meet quarterly, and advise the program on job market trends and skills employers seek.

BUSPH Pharm Program Faculty to Evaluate Novartis Access to Non-Communicable Disease Medicines

Boston University is collaborating with Novartis in the [launch of Novartis Access](#) in Kenya to expand affordable treatment options against chronic diseases. Novartis Access will partner with various stakeholders in Kenya, and BU will play a major role in measuring the impact on health in Kenya and guide continued development of the project.



Pharm student Vivian Tang

BUSPH Pharm Program Faculty & Alumni Leading Various Lancet Series!

- ⇒ [Dr. Veronika Wirtz](#) is one of the co-chairs coordinating the [Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines Policies](#) to be released in 2016.
- ⇒ Law Professor [Kevin Outterson, JD](#), worked with a team to publish the Lancet Series on "Antimicrobials: access and sustainable effectiveness." He contributed to the article "[International cooperation to improve access to and sustain effectiveness of antimicrobials](#)"
- ⇒ BUSPH Pharm Program alumni Abhishek Sharma is the lead for the [Lancet Youth Commission](#) on Essential Medicines Policies.

Seminar Series

Our Seminar Series brings in experts from the field to discuss relevant topics with Pharm students.

- ⇒ **September 8th**
Welcome Session for current and prospective Pharm program students
- ⇒ **September 22nd**
Marion McNabb, Senior Technical Advisor, mHealth, Pathfinder International
- ⇒ **September 29th**
Dr. Frédérique Santerre, Global Head, Access to Health (A2H) Merck Group
- ⇒ **October 6th**
Aura Mackenzie, Director, Pricing and Market Access, ICON
- ⇒ **October 13th**
Current Student Practicum Session – Pharm Students shared their practicum experiences
- ⇒ **November 3rd**
Paul Newton, Professor at Oxford University discussed quality of medicines
- ⇒ **December 1st**
Lauren Celano, CEO, Propel Careers discussed job trends in Pharma/Life Sciences industry
- ⇒ **December 8th**
Muhammad Zaman, Professor, BU Department of Biomedical Engineering presented Bitter Pills: The Stubborn Problem of Counterfeit Drugs



Pharm Program student, Chris Noble, discusses his practicum at the school-wide Practicum Poster Session.

Student Practicums

During the last academic year, students completed practicums at locations in the Boston metropolitan area, throughout the U.S., and abroad. Practicum organizations included a diverse group such as Pfizer, Biogen, Gavi (Geneva), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Institute for Pediatric Innovation, Takeda Oncology, the University of Western Cape, Regeneron, EMD Serono, Shire, Novavax, Boston Medical Center Clinical Trials Unit, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Through completion of the practicum, students gain valuable experience and produce deliverables which often improve the organizations in which they work. Kathryn Hashey (BUSPH '16) notes ***“I was able to lead consultations with the vaccine implementation and co-financing teams within the Gavi Secretariat to gain perspective on the concerns pertaining to vaccine access in country. These suggestions were documented and helped to shape the proposed policy recommendations for allowing countries to switch vaccine presentations.”*** Chris Noble (BUSPH '16), completed his practicum at the University of Western Cape in South Africa and explains ***“I completed a research project investigating the use of diagnostic diabetes information by community health centers for personalized treatment adjustments and am still working on a study investigating private health insurance expansion over the last 10 years for diabetes medicines.”***

During the Pharm Program's first Practicum Speed Networking event this fall, current students shared their practicum experience with those who have yet to complete theirs, providing tips and best practices in finding a practicum and capitalizing on the opportunity to gain real world experience. Students in the program represented a diverse pool of practicums which included work in clinical trials, NGOs, policy and regulatory affairs, and research.

[Read in depth coverage of a few of our students' practicums here!](#)

Alumni Spotlight

Lindsey Rorden

Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



Name: Lindsey Frenkel-Rorden

Job Title: Manager, Government Affairs & Public Policy

BUSPH Concentration, Graduation Year: Global Health & Pharm Program, 2015

Where you are now?

Following graduation from BUSPH, I accepted a position at Vertex Pharmaceuticals within their government affairs team. The work consists of analyzing health policy, as well as conducting research to support our team in regular meetings with

legislative officials and policy makers. When I'm not sitting at my desk answering emails, writing memos, and creating excel dashboards, I'm often attending events in the community that raise awareness for the cystic fibrosis patients we serve.

How did the BU Pharm Program help you get to where you are?

Networking, networking, networking! One thing I learned early on in the Pharm Program is that you have to be able to talk the talk and walk the walk in order to thrive in this industry. By providing opportunities to speak and engage with a whole host of interesting folks in the pharmaceuticals world, I sharpened my skills at crafting and presenting my professional and academic story, helping me land my first job in pharma. These same skills are also critical in the work place, whether it's pitching a new project, gaining cross-functional buy-in, or asking your boss for a stretch project.

Recent Faculty Publications

Faculty across BU are actively conducting research and publishing findings related to pharmaceuticals. Many are widely recognized as thought leaders in the field. The following are a sampling of those who have had research published in the last semester.

- ⇒ [Kevin Outterson, JD](#)
- ⇒ [Allen Mitchell](#)
- ⇒ [Lora Sabin & Chris Gill](#)
- ⇒ [David Kaufman](#)
- ⇒ [Richard Laing](#)
- ⇒ [Veronika Wirtz](#)
- ⇒ [Susan Jick](#)
- ⇒ [David Hamer](#)

[See a complete list of Fall 2015 publications here.](#)

Get Engaged:

Come in to speak at one of our Tuesday evening seminars or a lunch time talk about your work! Email SPHpharm@bu.edu for more info!

[Hire a Pharm Program](#) student for a practicum or job!

Have noteworthy news to share with the BU Pharm Program community? Please email SPHpharm@bu.edu to have your news included in next semester's newsletter.

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