

# PHARMACY FORECAST

## IN THIS ISSUE

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Message From the Dean ..... | 1 |
| Rebecca Gryka .....         | 2 |
| John Ballentine .....       | 2 |
| Jeff Huston .....           | 3 |
| Melody Hartzler .....       | 3 |
| Pharmacy Camp 2011 .....    | 4 |

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

## Message From the Dean



Many have inquired about our progress in accreditation, faculty hiring, facilities, and overall program development. I would like to provide a brief update on each of these areas:

- **Accreditation:** Cedarville University has now been authorized by the Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) to offer a Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree. This completes the first step in the journey toward full program accreditation. The second step is well underway. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), our regional accreditor, has completed its site visit and is in the process of finalizing a recommendation report. We anticipate the completion of the regional accreditation process within the next three months. Site visit teams from OBR and HLC were very impressed with the program's development. The application for precandidate status was submitted to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) earlier this year. In February 2011, an initial ACPE staff site visit was conducted with very positive feedback. In June 2011, these results will be considered by the ACPE board for approval to proceed to the next step in the program accreditation process.
- **Faculty Hiring:** Our hiring process continues as planned. With the addition of our vice chair for experiential programs and chair

of pharmaceutical sciences, we have now hired the entire leadership team (executive committee). Other additions include the director of student and professional development, a professor of pharmacy practice, and a professor of pharmaceutical sciences. We continue to welcome applicants for the many current and future positions we need to fill. However, we are thankful for the excellent pool of faculty candidates and expect that we will complete our scheduled faculty hires for this year by August.

- **Facilities:** After three years of planning, the construction of the new, three-story Health Sciences Center is underway. We anticipate that the building will be one of the most attractive, innovative facilities of its kind in the Midwest. Plans call for occupancy in summer 2012.
- **Program Development:** Course descriptions, learning objectives, and syllabi for all of the professional courses have been developed. Over 100 experiential sites and preceptors have committed to work with our program. We will continue to add to this excellent base; so please contact me if you are aware of opportunities we should pursue. The plan for all students to engage in medical missions during their professional training continues to develop. Faculty members have already developed relationships in many underserved areas, both domestically and internationally. Research partnerships have been developed with colleges of medicine,

medical and pharmaceutical companies, and several partnership institutions. Additionally, we are progressively adding more equipment to support these initiatives. All students gain research experience in the program. Not only does every student engage in a two-year research project in the professional curriculum, but in addition, every freshman prepharmacy student conducts a pharmacy-focused research project.

We thank the Lord for the early success He has granted to our program. Our God continues to bring favor upon our efforts, for which we are deeply thankful. One of our students recently told me that there was no doubt in her mind that Cedarville University was God's desire for her life. She commented, "I absolutely love it here." I also appreciate the many outstanding individuals and organizations that have willingly assisted us in a multitude of ways. Please contact me as you have ideas or opportunities we should consider or if there are ways in which we can help you.

Marc A. Sweeney  
Dean of the School of Pharmacy

## Rebecca Gryka, R.Ph., Pharm.D., Ph.D. – Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Dr. Rebecca Gryka earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California San Diego before attending the University of Southern California where she received her Doctor of Pharmacy. Building upon her interest in research, she continued her studies there, completing her Ph.D. in biopharmacy.

She then served as a post-doctoral research toxicologist at the University of California Riverside, receiving the Public Health Service National Research Award for her work.

Dr. Gryka's pharmacy career reflects two themes: hospital pharmacy and pharmacy education. Her research interests include the pharmacogenomics of warfarin as well as the assessment of teaching and learning. She has extensive hospital pharmacy experience, including six years with Parkview Community Hospital of Riverside, California, four years with Total Pharmaceutical Care Home Health Care Pharmacy, and 24 years with Riverside Community Hospital of Riverside, California.

Teaching became a part of her life through an invitation to teach cardiovascular pharmacology at the University of Southern California, an opportunity that extended for more than 15 years. When Loma Linda University started its school of pharmacy, she was asked to join the

faculty. During her seven years there, she taught a variety of courses in pharmacology and therapeutics to pharmacy students and taught pharmacology to graduate nursing students as well. Dr. Gryka was also active with committee responsibilities at Loma Linda, serving on the executive council of the school of pharmacy as well as the admissions, assessment, curriculum, accreditation, residency, and tenure committees at various times. Her students have recognized her passion for teaching, honoring her with three different "Teacher of the Year" awards over the years.

Dr. Gryka joined the faculty at the Cedarville University School of Pharmacy in September 2010 to serve as chair of the department of pharmaceutical sciences. With lengthy hospital experience, excellent educational credentials, research expertise, and firsthand knowledge of building a school of pharmacy, Dr. Gryka will develop and lead the department of pharmaceutical sciences.

## John Ballentine, R.Ph., Pharm.D. – Vice Chair of Experiential Programs



Dr. John "Jeb" Ballentine started his pharmacy education at the University of Houston, where he earned a bachelor's

degree in pharmacy. He continued his education at the University of Kentucky, earning his Doctor of Pharmacy in 1991. Building upon the hospital pharmacy experience he gained at the MD Anderson Hospital and Cancer Center in Houston and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Lexington, Dr. Ballentine accepted a position with Ohio Northern University School of Pharmacy as a clinical faculty member and Southwest Ohio Regional Director of Experiential Education. In this role, he acquired, coordinated, and provided oversight for all experiential rotations in the region while serving as a preceptor and lecturing on clinical pharmacy and therapeutics. He later transitioned to serve as a clinical pharmacist at the Kettering Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio, continuing to serve as preceptor for students from a variety of pharmacy schools.

An active member of the local, state, and national-level professional organizations serving health-system pharmacists, Dr. Ballentine has developed and shared numerous clinical and professional presentations for more than 20 years. His formal teaching experience includes serving the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, Ohio Northern University School of Pharmacy, Kettering College of Medical Arts, and The University of Findlay School of Pharmacy.

With rich, relevant experience in the area of pharmacy practice, Vice Chair Ballentine will develop and oversee the diverse experiential components of the pharmacy curriculum for the school of pharmacy.

## Jeff Huston, R.Ph. – Director of Student and Professional Development and Instructor of Pharmacy Practice



Professor Jeff Huston received his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Ohio Northern University. After practicing community pharmacy for 11 years, he accepted a position as clinical assistant professor with The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy, teaching in the professional practice laboratory series of courses. In December 2002, he also started working with The Ohio State University College of Medicine Division of Pharmacology, ultimately serving as lead pharmacist for the clinical trials unit. His duties included preparing investigational products as part of various randomized, single and double blind and placebo controlled studies from major medical research and development firms to dose subjects participating in various phases of drug development.

Serving the underserved with medical care has been a major theme in Huston's career. In March 2005, as part of his appointment with The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy, he became the director of Columbus Neighborhood Health Center Dispensing Pharmacy. During his time there, he expanded the Pfizer Share the Care program, transitioning it to electronic processing. In 2006, he developed an annual Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience rotation focused on "serving the underserved." During this fourth-year

rotation, students learned to serve the needs of those with limited access to health care. The rotation included a medical missions trip to Honduras in coordination with World Gospel Mission, where student pharmacists provided quality health care to the poorest residents of Choluteca, Honduras, in collaboration with an inter-professional health care team. Huston was also one of the pharmacists who helped establish the Grace Free Clinic in Delaware, Ohio, in 2006. This clinic consisted of a volunteer team of inter-professional health care providers that collaboratively served the uninsured population of Delaware and Marion counties by addressing their health care and spiritual needs. In 2008, he worked with AstraZeneca Corporation to start the highly successful AZ&Me indigent medication assistance program at the Columbus Neighborhood Health Center. In 2010, he helped transition the centers from patient charts to electronic medical records, integrating them with the current indigent medication assistance programs.

Through his decade of service, the OSU College of Pharmacy Professor Huston served and advised students in a variety of ways. He also functioned as co-advisor for the OSU chapter of Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International.

Huston joined the Cedarville University School of Pharmacy in August 2010 as director of student and professional development and instructor of pharmacy practice. His more than 20 years of pharmacy practice and research experience coupled with his passion for international ministry promises to enrich the lives of Cedarville pharmacy students. Huston's vision is to have every Cedarville University School of Pharmacy student participate in at least one medical missions trip before graduating.

## Melody Hartzler, R.Ph., Pharm.D. – Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice



Dr. Hartzler earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Ohio Northern University. After finishing her degree, she completed her pharmacy practice residency at the Chalmers P. Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, Ohio. During her residency, she also obtained a teaching certificate from The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. Her clinical specialization involves medication therapy management services, including anticoagulation, diabetes, hypertension, and lipid management.

Dr. Hartzler joined the Cedarville University School of Pharmacy in August 2010 to establish a collaborative practice at the Victor J. Cassano Health Center in Dayton, a facility focused on serving individuals with limited access to health care. In this role, she will establish clinical pharmacy services in a physician teaching facility, which will open opportunities for research and the establishment of a collaborative practice training site for our students in the professional curriculum.

## Contact Us

We would love to hear from you! You can reach the school of pharmacy at [cedarville.edu/pharmacy](http://cedarville.edu/pharmacy) or at 937-766-7480. Prospective students should contact admissions at 1-800-CEDARVILLE (233-2784) or pharmacy admissions at 937-766-3290. We welcome your ideas, recommendations, partnerships, and support.

## Pharmacy Camp 2011

If you know high school students thinking about pharmacy, encourage them to attend Pharmacy Camp at Cedarville, June 27–July 1, 2011! They will enjoy five days packed with presentations about the profession, hands-on experiences, field trips, fun activities, and great times making new friends with other students from around the nation. Go to [cedarville.edu/pharmacycamp](http://cedarville.edu/pharmacycamp) for details.



*The school of pharmacy plans to provide every pharmacy student with the opportunity to gain pharmacy practice experience in a cross-cultural setting. In March 2011, faculty member Jeff Huston served in Honduras with a medical team sponsored by World Gospel Mission.*

Cedarville University is a Christ-centered learning community equipping students for lifelong leadership and service through an education marked by excellence and grounded in biblical truth. More than just a mission statement, this focus attracts more than 3,000 Christian students from around the nation to study in our 100 academic programs on a beautiful 400-acre campus in southwest Ohio.

Outstanding students, world-class facilities, talented professors, and award-winning technology contribute to an education that *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Princeton Review*, and *Peterson's Competitive Colleges* all recognize as one of the best in the Midwest.

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