

GATORX

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY | 2023

100

Years of Pharmacy Greatness

FROM THE DEAN

Dear colleagues, alumni and friends,

The popular English novelist Graham Greene once wrote, “A story has no beginning or end: arbitrarily one chooses that moment of experience from which to look back or from which to look ahead.”

Greene’s quote in many ways reflects the never-ending story of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. As we celebrate our centennial year and look back on 100 years of history, it becomes evident that our story didn’t begin in our founding year of 1923. Instead, many influential leaders in pharmacy and higher education worked for several decades to establish a pharmacy college in Florida. Author and former UF College of Pharmacy faculty member L.G. Gramling writes in his book, “A History of Pharmacy in Florida,” that Florida Pharmacy Association President W.I. Woodman first discussed a pharmacy college in the state in 1895. The Florida Pharmacy Association’s membership worked with university leaders and state legislators to secure funding for the school — recognizing the important need to train pharmacists in Florida. Their efforts ultimately led to the establishment of our college in Gainesville.

Each of us likely has our own “moments of experience” with the UF College of Pharmacy from which to look back in time or ahead into the future. For you, the moments that stand out may be the transformative years you spent as a pharmacy student in our college. For me, it was the opportunity to accept the deanship last year and guide this college into its second century. Much of my time is now spent looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities before us — how we continue to prepare graduates to practice at the top of their profession while embracing new technology and trends in pharmacy practice and the pharmaceutical sciences.

This centennial edition of GATORx magazine captures the “moments of experience” that defined our college over the past century and beyond. From the early years in Leigh Hall to the addition of multiple campuses in Jacksonville, Orlando and St. Petersburg, our story is ever evolving and best told by the people who have helped us pursue 100 years of pharmacy greatness.



Peter W. Swaan, Pharm.D., M.Pharm.
Dean and Professor, UF College of Pharmacy



GATORx

The University of Florida College of Pharmacy publishes the GATORx magazine annually to share its news and achievements in research, education and service.

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GATORx

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EDITION

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of the UF College
of Pharmacy



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gives a glimpse into
early pharmacy practice



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GATORx will
publish in
August 2024.



est. 1923

On Dec. 15, 1926,
the cornerstone is
laid for UF's new
Chemistry-Pharmacy
Building, now known
as Leigh Hall

The Early Years

In 1922, Townes R. Leigh, Ph.D., the head of the chemistry department at the University of Florida, stood before the Florida Pharmacy Association's membership in St. Petersburg. As a well-respected figure in academia, Leigh sought to build a pharmacy school with a national reputation for excellence in the South.

"I see a majestic building rising on the campus of the University of Florida, dedicated to the enlightenment of pharmacy, with portals swung wide in generous invitation to the aspiring youths, who converging, surge towards it from every part of the state," Leigh told the audience that day.

Leigh's vision resonated in the room. For more than a decade, FPA's membership had been pushing for a new pharmacy school, but World War I had derailed those efforts. With

the war behind them, many of the state's most influential pharmacy leaders were now seeking a way to educate and train new pharmacists.

"FPA felt very strongly that we should have a pharmacy college in Florida," said Carol Motycka, Pharm.D., '98, past president of the Florida Pharmacy Association and a clinical professor in the UF College of Pharmacy. "Their membership lobbied to Tallahassee that we need to start something with the state university."

The Florida Legislature appropriated \$10,000 to establish a pharmacy school at UF, but this was not enough funds to finance it at the level desired by the FPA and the university. Palatka native and Jacksonville pharmacist David Ramsaur, Pharm.D., was determined to secure the funding. He owned

THE STORY OF THE PEOPLE, PLACES AND MOMENTS IN TIME
THAT DEFINED THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.



a wholesale pharmacy business and had served on the Florida Board of Pharmacy for nearly a decade. With his connections around the state, he rallied FPA's membership to donate another \$5,000 to help pay the start-up costs.

Classes began at the UF School of Pharmacy on Sept. 10, 1923. The inaugural class featured 43 students from four states. Leigh had been appointed the school's first director, and he recruited distinguished pharmaceutical scientists to serve as the first faculty. His initial hires included Perry Foote, Ph.D., who would later serve as the college's second director and dean; B.V. Christensen, Ph.D., M.A., who would later serve as dean at the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy; and William Husa, who was one of the great leaders of American pharmacy from the 1920s until the 1950s and the author of a textbook on

"I SEE A MAJESTIC BUILDING RISING
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ENLIGHTENMENT OF PHARMACY, WITH
PORTALS SWUNG WIDE IN GENEROUS
INVITATION TO THE ASPIRING YOUTHS,
WHO CONVERGING, SURGE TOWARDS
IT FROM EVERY PART OF THE STATE."

— Dr. Townes R. Leigh



The UF College of Pharmacy graduating class of 1936.

pharmaceutical dispensing used in every pharmacy school in the country.

Leigh served the pharmacy college with great distinction. When the School of Pharmacy officially became the College of Pharmacy in 1925, he assumed the role of dean. At the same time, he started lobbying for a new pharmacy building.

“Townes Leigh recognized the college was going to expand, and it needed a new building to support the growth,” said Mike McKenzie, Ph.D., M.S.P., ’72, a professor emeritus in the UF College of Pharmacy. “He, along with the president of the

university, pressured the state legislature to provide the funds to build the Chemistry-Pharmacy Building, which was later named Leigh Hall in his honor.”

The Florida Legislature appropriated \$220,000 to build the Chemistry-Pharmacy Building. A cornerstone-laying ceremony took place in December 1926, and the first section of the building was completed a year later. A majestic building had finally risen on the UF campus, dedicated to the enlightenment of pharmacy, and students from every part of the state were converging on Gainesville to learn the profession.

CENTENNIAL TIMELINE

Since its inception in 1923, the UF College of Pharmacy has emerged as a leader in areas such as curriculum development, clinical pharmacy and precision medicine. As the college celebrates 100 years of pharmacy greatness, we look back on the major milestones and accomplishments from the first century.



1895: A NOVEL IDEA

The Florida Pharmacist Association first recommended the establishment of a school of pharmacy for the state of Florida, and the organization has maintained a strong and active interest in the UF College of Pharmacy throughout the years.



COST OF A 1923 PHARMACY EDUCATION

- Tuition: \$0*
- Registration: \$10
- Breakage Fee: \$2.50
- Student Activity Fee: \$15
- Infirmary Fee: \$5
- Board and Lodging: \$175
- Books: \$17
- Laundry: \$18

TOTAL:
\$242.50

* Out-of-state students paid a \$40 tuition fee

1923: SCHOOL IS IN SESSION

The first entering class featured 43 students from four states. They began classes on Sept. 10 in Science Hall, which is now Flint and Peabody Hall on UF's campus. Dr. Townes R. Leigh was appointed director of the School of Pharmacy.



1925: A YEAR OF FIRSTS

The School of Pharmacy becomes a College of Pharmacy with Dr. Townes R. Leigh named as the first dean. The first graduates were awarded diplomas.

1926: PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

A ten-acre plot was transferred by the Agricultural Experiment Station to the College of Pharmacy for use as a medicinal plant garden. Within two years there were 150 medicinal plants growing in the garden for class instruction and commercial use.

Anita Thompson, pictured third from the left in the back row, was one of nine female pharmacy students who posed for this magazine picture in a UF dorm room in 1954.

Trailblazers in Pharmacy

Anita Thompson's arrival at the UF College of Pharmacy in the fall of 1950 coincided with a new era at the university. UF had become a coed institution only three years earlier, and women were slowly integrating into academic programs. They abided by the 10 p.m. curfew on campus and followed strict orders from the dean of women — a former Marines drill sergeant. Thompson was one of only three women in her pharmacy class and worked hard to earn the respect of the male faculty and classmates.

"It was an intimidating time," Thompson, '54, said. "Most of us who were there were not going to be intimidated. We were there to prove we belonged with our male counterparts."

Thompson was among a group of early female trailblazers in the UF College of Pharmacy. In the 1930s, none of the female colleges in Florida featured pharmacy programs, so women were welcome to study pharmacy at UF, despite it being an all male institution.

CONTINUED ON PG. 8



1927: WELCOME HOME

The UF Chemistry-Pharmacy Building (now Leigh Hall) officially opens. The four-story building would serve as the first home to the UF College of Pharmacy.

1930: BREAKING NEW GROUND

The UF College of Pharmacy becomes the first college at UF to offer a Doctor of Philosophy degree. The degree was designated Doctor of Philosophy with a Major in Pharmacy.



A COLLEGE OF FIRSTS

1923

The **FIRST HEALTH COLLEGE** at UF

1930

The **FIRST UF** college to offer a **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE**

1932

Jeanette Radin Byers becomes the **FIRST FEMALE GRADUATE WITH A MASTER'S DEGREE** from UF

1935

The **FIRST COEDUCATION PROGRAM** at UF

1936

The Spatula Club became the **FIRST WOMAN'S ORGANIZATION** at UF

1966

Ira C. Robinson was the **FIRST BLACK STUDENT TO GRADUATE FROM THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY** and the **FIRST BLACK PH.D. GRADUATE** of UF

1932: MAKING HISTORY

Jeanette Radin Byers becomes the first female graduate with a master's degree from UF. She received the Master of Science in Pharmacy degree. Byers attended UF prior to the university becoming coed, as a special exemption in Florida law allowed women over 21 who met certain scholastic standards to seek degrees not offered by the Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee.



1935: MAKING HISTORY AGAIN ...

The Florida Legislature passes legislation that allows women to enroll in the UF College of Pharmacy, creating the first coed college at UF.



Ira Robinson Sr., Ph.D., worked in the industrial and manufacturing lab at the UF College of Pharmacy in the 1960s.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 6

The state legislature passed an act recognizing the UF College of Pharmacy as the first coeducational college on campus. Jeanette Radin Byers became the first woman to earn a master's degree at UF when she received a Master of Science in Pharmacy in 1932. Women in the college organized the Spatula Club in 1936 — making it the first female student organization on campus.

“It would be naïve to say the college has been perfect all the way through, but history does show that the UF College of Pharmacy has done its part to create an inclusive environment for women, minorities and others,” said John

Allen, Pharm.D., a clinical associate professor and the associate dean for accessibility, belonging and community health in the UF College of Pharmacy. “We have pushed the envelope to be an inclusive space, relative to the university and the contemporary landscape of the time.”

The late Ira Robinson Sr., Ph.D., understood the struggles that come with being a trailblazer. He felt isolated at times as he studied industrial pharmacy at UF in the 1960s. He struggled to receive financial awards, was denied an assistantship to teach undergraduate pharmacy students and was not afforded on-campus student housing. Not to be deterred, he used these setbacks as motivation to make his mark in pharmacy.

In 1966, Robinson became UF's first Black Ph.D. graduate. He would later serve as the first Black Ph.D. senior research scientist at Pfizer and at the age of 28, he became the youngest pharmacy college dean at his undergraduate alma mater Florida A&M University. His distinguished career led UF to recognize him with a Distinguished Alumnus Award — the highest honor bestowed upon a UF graduate.

“Dr. Robinson is a story of perseverance and resiliency, and he is a trailblazer who paved the way for countless Black and other minoritized members of the college,” Allen said. “He helped lay the foundation for all of us to provide a more open and welcoming College of Pharmacy,” Allen said.

The strides made by the UF College of Pharmacy to welcome women and minorities are not lost on Thompson. She practiced pharmacy for more than 50 years and maintained close ties to UF throughout her career and retirement. She has witnessed a transformation take place in the college, where today nearly 70 percent of the Pharm.D. class is female.

“The UF College of Pharmacy has come a long way since I was there,” Thompson said. “It's hard to believe there were only three women in my graduating class, yet you look around today and women are the majority in classrooms.”

1945: IN THE SHADOW OF WAR

Only four students graduated from the UF College of Pharmacy due to World War II.



1959: A BIGGER FOOTPRINT

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the pharmacy wing of the new J. Hillis Miller Health Center.



Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Research

In the 1960s, a new type of pharmacy practice emerged that focused on patients rather than drug products. Advances in medicine, including the development of new drugs and therapies, were changing the role of pharmacists — who were now assuming greater responsibility in managing a patient's health. Under the leadership of Dean Kenneth Finger, Ph.D., the UF College of Pharmacy embraced the profession's changing landscape and introduced a clinical pharmacy elective course in 1969. A year later, Ronald Stewart, M.S., '70, was hired as the first clinical faculty member.

Stewart initiated the college's clinical pharmacy program and chaired the new department of pharmacy practice — which he would lead for 20 years. He called for doctors to become more aware of adverse events in drug therapy and wanted the public to understand how to safely and effectively use medications. Stewart secured an FDA contract early in his tenure to study the epidemiology of adverse drug reactions in patients. Pharmacists and UF College of Pharmacy students were hired to review patient charts and attend patient care rounds and conferences at Shands Hospital, exposing them to this new role in patient care.

"Suddenly, doors began to open for clinical pharmacy at UF," said Mike McKenzie, who was mentored by Stewart and later hired as one of the first clinical faculty in the college. "Students would attend rounds with medical faculty and residents and take tours of patient care services in the hospital and realize they wanted to work in the clinical environment. Interest in the Doctor of Pharmacy as a postbaccalaureate degree, and then as an entry-level degree into the profession, really took off in the years that followed."



The UF College of Pharmacy's clinical program was developed in the 1960s, as pharmacists assumed a greater role in caring for patients.

In the early 1980s, there was a need for more clinical training opportunities beyond Shands Hospital and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Gainesville. Pete Pevonka, R.Ph., M.S.P., '72, an assistant dean of clinical affairs, was tasked with developing a network of clerkship sites around the state. From Miami to Jacksonville and into the Panhandle, UF College of Pharmacy students eventually spread out across Florida and trained for weeks alongside full-time pharmacists. The college also partnered with University Hospital in Jacksonville to run its pharmacy, which provided additional clerkship opportunities for students.

As the college's clinical program expanded, so did its research endeavors. Dean Michael Schwartz, Ph.D., was recruited to UF from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1978. At the time, Buffalo had one of the top



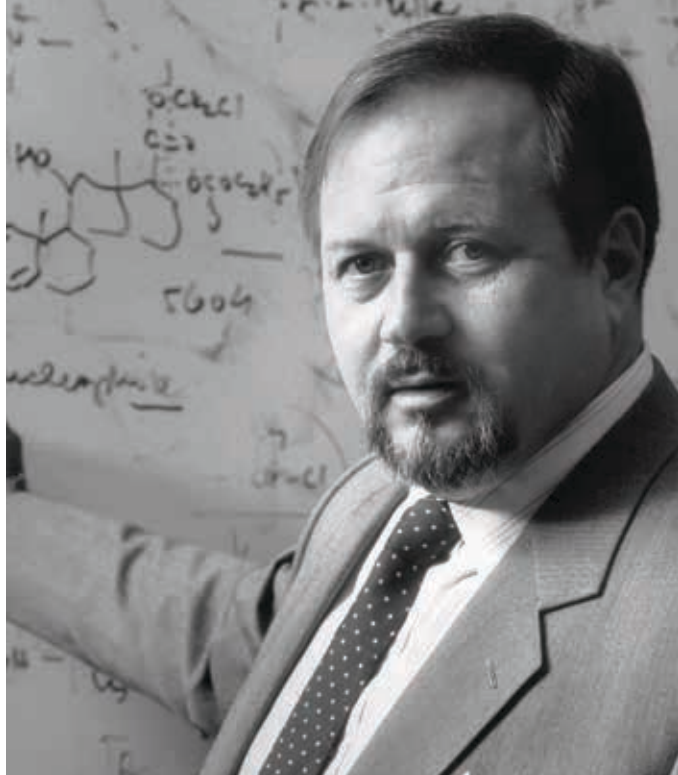
1960: MEETING A HIGHER STANDARD

The B.S. in Pharmacy curriculum was expanded to five academic years to meet the American Council of Pharmaceutical Education accreditation requirements.



1962: PHARMACY WING DEDICATED

The pharmacy wing in the J. Hillis Miller Health Center was dedicated by University of Florida President J. Wayne Reitz.



Nicholas Bodor, Ph.D., was one of more than a dozen new research faculty who joined the college in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

pharmacy research programs in the country, and UF President Bob Marston saw an opportunity to build a similar program in Gainesville. To jump-start the effort, Schwartz inherited four open faculty positions, replaced four retiring faculty and secured funding from the state legislature to hire a dozen more faculty.

“The college hired 20 new faculty within my first three years,” Schwartz said. “Many of those scientists, like Nicholas Bodor and Ray Bergeron, went on to make significant contributions to pharmaceutical research.”

During Schwartz’s 18 years at the helm, the college expanded from two departments to five and the number of faculty nearly doubled from 29 to more than 50. External research funding grew from \$250,000 in 1978 to more than \$6 million a year by the 1990s. Schwartz also helped establish the college’s Annual Research Showcase, which

“THE COLLEGE HIRED 20 NEW FACULTY WITHIN MY FIRST THREE YEARS. MANY OF THOSE SCIENTISTS, LIKE NICHOLAS BODOR AND RAY BERGERON, WENT ON TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH.”

— Dean Emeritus Michael Schwartz

highlighted graduate student research and promoted collaboration across departments.

“Dean Schwartz had a really strong research background and productivity really started to take off while he was dean,” said Maureen Keller-Wood, Ph.D., a former professor and chair of pharmacodynamics who retired this summer after 35 years on faculty. “Deans Riffie and Johnson also made some strategic faculty hires who have become top researchers in the college.”

The foundation for research excellence that was established over several decades has paved the way for many breakthroughs in the pharmaceutical sciences. UF College of Pharmacy researchers have developed a chemical delivery system to allow targeted drugs to pass through the blood-brain barrier, created drug-trial models to support drug development and regulatory evaluation, investigated how genetic associations with drug response can lead to more effective therapies, traveled the world’s oceans in search of new cancer therapy medicines and led many other scientific discoveries. As society has demanded new and improved drug therapies, the UF College of Pharmacy has responded by conducting world-class research to improve human health.



1966: UF’S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN PH.D.

Ira C. Robinson becomes the first African American graduate of the College of Pharmacy, and the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in any discipline at the University of Florida.



1969: A NEW CLINICAL FOCUS

The first clinical education course was offered in the College of Pharmacy. A year later, Ronald B. Stewart was hired as the first full-time clinical pharmacy faculty member.



Sven Normann, Pharm.D., led the Working Professional Pharm.D. program that allowed nearly 3,000 pharmacists around the country to secure their Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Innovation in Education

For 25 years, Sven Normann, Pharm.D., '81, watched the Working Professional Doctor of Pharmacy, or WPPD, program evolve. He was among the first adjunct instructors hired in 1994 and took over as director of the program four years later. During his tenure, the program grew into the nation's most successful nontraditional Pharm.D. program and opened a pathway for nearly 3,000 pharmacists around the country and internationally to secure their Doctor of Pharmacy degree. WPPD offered pharmacists with a bachelor's degree a way to earn a professional doctoral degree and continue practicing at the top of their field.

"For so many of our graduates, we changed their lives," Normann said. "This program offered flexibility and a high-quality education that resulted in a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida."

The WPPD program began with a single course taught in the Tampa area in 1994. A few semesters later, the

program was offered via a live video feed to a half dozen sites around Florida. There was no email in the early years, so Normann's team would fax handouts, exams and other materials to students around the state. The curriculum focused on training pharmacists to be clinical providers by teaching different body systems.

In 1996, William Riffie, Ph.D., took over as the college's sixth dean. His experience in distance education brought dramatic changes to the WPPD program. Faculty began recording lectures on VHS tapes and later CDs, which were mailed to every student in the program. This allowed the program to expand nationally, and the enrollment peaked at 700 students by the early 2000s.

"We were able to train pharmacists in all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii," Riffie said. "It was an incredibly successful program that changed the career trajectory for many working pharmacists."



1973: TURNING 50

The College of Pharmacy celebrated its 50th anniversary, with Dr. Stephen C. O'Connell giving a congratulatory address to the faculty.



1987: COME AND GET IT!

The first homecoming barbecue for alumni and friends of the College of Pharmacy was held in the courtyard of Leigh Hall.

IN THE EARLY 2000s, THE
UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
DEVELOPED UNIQUE
MASTER'S DEGREE AND
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
USING DISTANCE LEARNING
TECHNOLOGY. THE
PROGRAMS HAVE EVOLVED
TO BECOME AMONG THE
LARGEST AND MOST
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PHARMACY PROGRAMS IN
THE WORLD. THEY ALLOW
WORKING PROFESSIONALS
TO EXPAND THEIR
KNOWLEDGE AND ADVANCE
THEIR CAREERS IN AREAS
SUCH AS PRECISION
MEDICINE, FORENSIC
SCIENCE AND
PHARMACEUTICAL
OUTCOMES AND POLICY.



More than 6,000 graduates have earned degrees from the UF College of Pharmacy's online and distance learning programs since they began in 1994.

National interest prompted the WPPD program to set up regional sites around the country. Facilitators were hired to lead weekend sessions in cities such as Orlando, Las Vegas and New York. Streaming video eventually replaced the lectures on VHS tapes and CDs. WPPD students would complete clinical rotation hours in their hometowns, often managing their coursework around full-time jobs and family responsibilities.

WPPD students enjoyed many of the same traditions as their Pharm.D. counterparts in Gainesville. They were required to visit the University of Florida for orientation — where they learned the Gator Chomp, bought Gator clothing at the bookstore and toured the football stadium. Normann hosted a virtual commencement ceremony at the end of the program and some graduates elected to walk at the college's in-person ceremony.

Normann concluded each virtual ceremony by reminding the graduates that their diploma would arrive by mail in six to eight weeks. It would not say WPPD or part-time student, and there would be no reference to distance education or regional sites. It simply stated that the University of Florida had conferred a Doctor of Pharmacy degree — which gave them the background, knowledge and abilities to be successful pharmacists.

1992: READY FOR MY CLOSE-UP

The College of Pharmacy implemented a nontraditional Doctor of Pharmacy program for pharmacists at the Gainesville campus. Four years later, the program was renamed the Working Professional Pharm.D. program and expanded to numerous sites in Florida. Course instructors used videotape technology and the Internet for teaching.



1997: THE FIRST PHARM.D. CLASS ...

Faculty approve a new entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum and the first all-Pharm.D. entering class of students was admitted to the college.



Groundbreaking for the UF Research and Academic Center in Orlando took place on Oct. 5, 2010.



Expansion in Florida

A crisis gripped the pharmacy profession in the late 1990s. Education requirements were changing, prescription medications were growing at an incredible rate and clinical roles were expanding for pharmacists. There were simply not enough pharmacists in the workforce to meet these new demands.

“There were pharmacist shortages in the state of Florida and across the country,” Riffie said. “Our pharmacy students could get a job wherever they wanted. Pharmacies were paying significant sign-on bonuses, and the staffing issues were a real problem.”

2002: EXPANDING TO MEET A NEED

New campuses were established in Jacksonville, Orlando and St. Petersburg to address the shortage of pharmacists in the state of Florida. The college admitted the largest entering class in its history with 130 students in Gainesville and a combined 150 students at the three distance campuses.



2003: A NEW HOME

The new pharmacy building in the Health Professions, Nursing and Pharmacy Building, or HPNP, was dedicated on April 25.



The UF College of Pharmacy's Jacksonville campus hosted TailGator events every year before the Florida-Georgia football game.

The UF College of Pharmacy responded to the crisis by expanding its footprint in Florida. The college realized it could boost its enrollment by establishing distance campuses throughout the state. In 2002, new campuses opened in Jacksonville, Orlando and St. Petersburg. Almost overnight, the college's class size more than doubled with 130 students in Gainesville and another 50 students at each of the three campuses.

Three early-career pharmacists and graduates of the college were hired to lead the new sites — Carol Motycka, Pharm.D., '98, in Jacksonville; Erin St. Onge, Pharm.D., '99 in Orlando; and Jennifer Schoelles, Pharm.D., '96 in St. Petersburg. The trio worked with faculty and college leaders to implement the Pharm.D. curriculum across the campuses and hired adjunct faculty to teach courses locally.

"The guiding principles we followed at the distance campuses were consistency and quality," Schoelles said. "We had a high-quality program in Gainesville, and it was our job to make sure that we had a high-quality program at the distance campuses as well."

The early years presented challenges. The Orlando campus was located in a remote area of Apopka that lacked adequate videoconferencing. In Jacksonville, the college initially struggled to secure classroom space. The St. Petersburg campus had to share space with other colleges at the University Partnership Center.

Each campus director worked tirelessly to build a sense of community. From TailGator events before the Florida-Georgia football game in Jacksonville to student parties at Gators Café at John's Pass in the St. Petersburg and Clearwater area, the distance campuses embraced their connections to UF.

"We planned so many events in the early years to get students excited about the UF College of Pharmacy," Motycka said. "So much of what we did was about creating a culture where the students knew they were supported and felt part of the college."

While the St. Petersburg campus closed in 2018, the Jacksonville and Orlando campuses remain a vital part of pharmacy education in the UF College of Pharmacy. Motycka still serves as the assistant dean of the Jacksonville campus and St. Onge is a faculty member in Orlando. Jacksonville students enjoy a wealth of clinical training opportunities at UF Health Jacksonville, while Orlando students now train at the state-of-the-art UF Research and Academic Center, in the thriving medical community of Lake Nona.

"I hope our alumni feel like they have graduated from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, no matter where they attended classes," St. Onge said. "They should be very proud of that accomplishment."



2013: WELCOME, DEAN JOHNSON

Dr. Julie A. Johnson is named dean of the UF College of Pharmacy, becoming the seventh dean and the first woman appointed to the position.

2015: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

The inaugural Crisafi Challenge fundraising campaign for student scholarships raised more than \$30,000. Established by Bob Crisafi, Ph.D. '56, to support recruitment of the best and brightest students to the UF College of Pharmacy, the challenge ran for 10 days and included a \$10,000 match gift from Dr. Bob.



The Modern Era of Pharmacy

In 2013, the UF College of Pharmacy hired its first female dean, Julie Johnson, Pharm.D. In her 15 years as a faculty member and department chair in the college, she built an internationally recognized research program focused on cardiovascular pharmacogenomics and the implementation of precision medicine approaches into clinical practice. As dean, she accepted a new challenge in guiding one of the nation's most respected pharmacy colleges to new heights.

Under Johnson's leadership, the college made many significant strides to bolster its education, research and clinical practice areas. The introduction of a team-based learning curriculum in 2015 modernized the Doctor of Pharmacy program. Basic science and clinical faculty worked across disciplines to deliver courses together in the new curriculum, and there was an increased emphasis on training students to become health care leaders. When the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education self-study team reviewed the curriculum in 2020, they described it as "the model for 21st-century pharmacy education."

Many world-renowned clinicians and researchers joined the UF College of Pharmacy during Johnson's tenure, as the faculty nearly doubled in nine years from 72 to 135. The clinical faculty hires helped support several new innovative practice models introduced by the college. The new scientists joined a well-established team of researchers in the college to lead a rapid expansion in research productivity. The annual research funding increased from \$8.5 million in



In 2015, the college introduced a team-based learning curriculum that prepares students to be health care leaders.

2013 to \$32.4 million in 2023, and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy ranked the college No. 3 nationally in NIH and total research funding this year.

The UF College of Pharmacy also made great strides to increase the diversity of the student body, going from 19% to 35% underrepresented minorities in the Pharm.D. program in nine years. Today, nearly one in four students in the college are first generation, as they work to rewrite their family history while forging a new path forward in pharmacy.

All these accomplishments and more helped the college achieve its first-ever top 5 placement in the U.S. News & World Report's rankings of the Best Pharmacy Colleges. The UF College of Pharmacy had been consistently ranked in the top 10 throughout its history but broke into the top 5 in 2020 and has held the ranking since then. The momentum gained in the last decade has the college well-positioned to enter its second century as one of the nation's elite pharmacy colleges.

2020: RISE TO 5

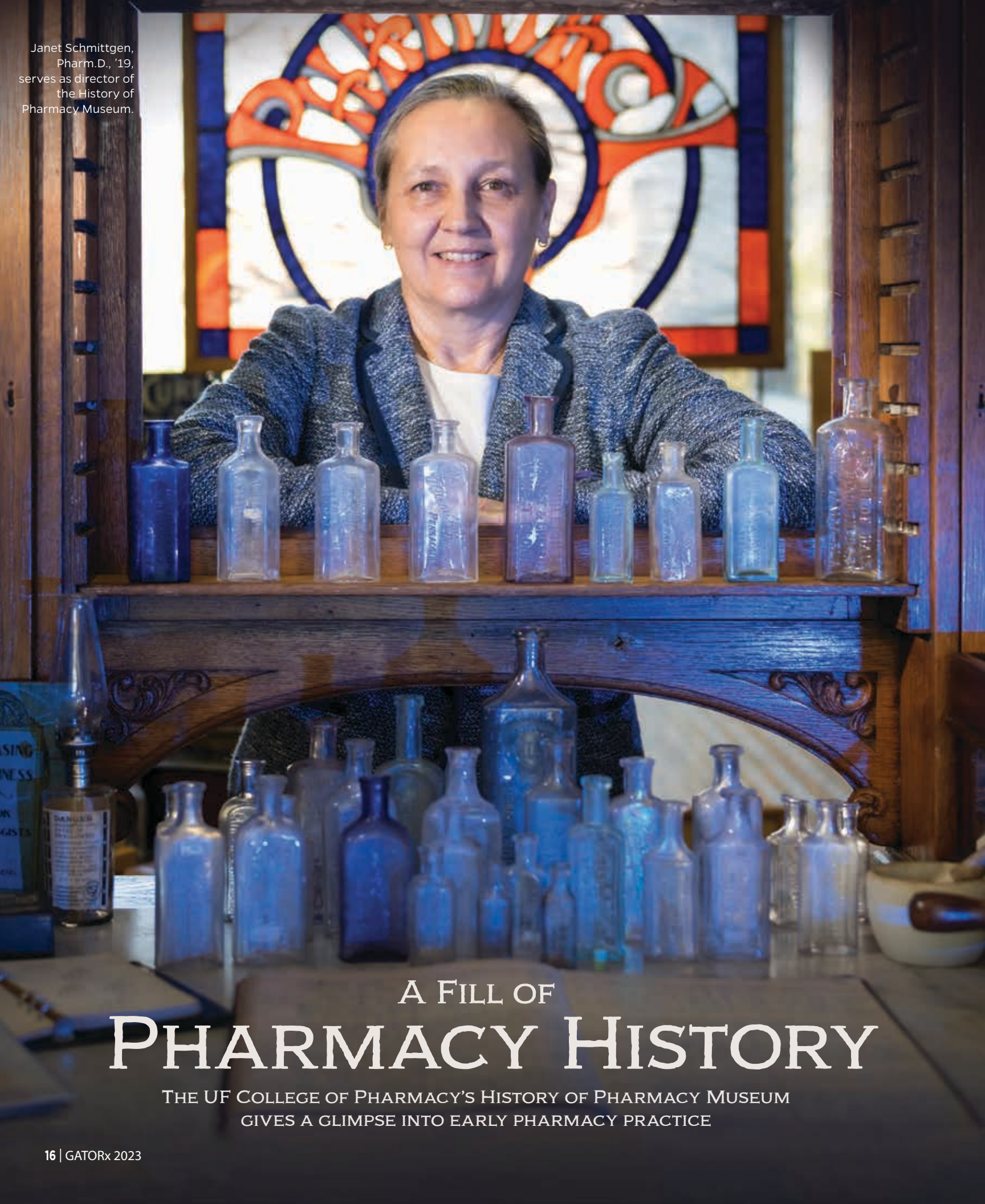
U.S. News & World Report ranked the UF College of Pharmacy as the No. 5 pharmacy college nationally. This is the highest national ranking the college has ever achieved.



2022: CONTINUING TO DRIVE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

For the first time, the UF College of Pharmacy ranked No. 3 nationally in total research funding (\$32.3 million), NIH funding (\$22.1 million) and total federal funding (\$25.9 million).

Janet Schmittgen,
Pharm.D., '19,
serves as director of
the History of
Pharmacy Museum.

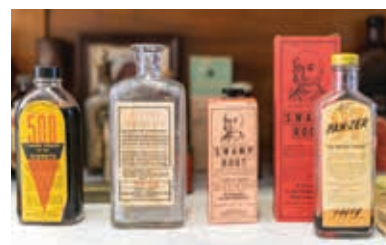


A FILL OF PHARMACY HISTORY

THE UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY'S HISTORY OF PHARMACY MUSEUM
GIVES A GLIMPSE INTO EARLY PHARMACY PRACTICE



The History of Pharmacy Museum is located on the fourth floor of the HPNP Building in Gainesville.



IF YOU NEED A FILL OF PHARMACY HISTORY IN FLORIDA, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY MUSEUM LOCATED IN THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

The quaint, rustic museum —situated on the fourth floor of the Health Professions, Nursing and Pharmacy Building on UF's Gainesville campus — features a collection of medicines, plant specimens, photos, memorabilia and books detailing the early history of pharmacy in Florida and the UF College of Pharmacy.

"The whole museum is about preserving the pharmacy history from the University of Florida and the state of Florida," said Janet Schmittgen, Pharm.D., '19, an instructional assistant professor and director of the History of Pharmacy Museum in the UF College of Pharmacy. "This is a place where history comes alive, and you come to realize the rich history of pharmacy in our state."

A journey inside the museum takes you back in time more than a century to an era when drugstores were community landmarks. An old, oak pharmacy counter from the late 19th century sits in the center of the museum, while the black and white tile floor resembles the same design found in many early drugstores. Orange and blue show globes hang from the museum's ceiling, offering a symbolic reminder of their role in early pharmacies — while also embracing the university's official colors.

Hundreds of old medicines, glass bottles, scales, compounding items and artifacts are spread across the museum's counters and displayed in the glass cases. A collection of patent medicines takes visitors back in time when drug regulation rarely existed. These over-the-counter medicines advertised cures for everyday ailments such as muscle stiffness and headaches, along with the healing of major diseases, including cancer. Some patent medicines were fortified with morphine, opium or cocaine. Without government regulation, there were no ingredients listed on the packaging.

The museum features an extensive collection of plant specimens from the college's original medicinal drug garden on campus in the 1920s and 30s. Specimens such as sesame and passion vine are preserved in cork bottles with their original labeling. A Remington typewriter made specifically for pharmacists is also on display. The keys feature Rx, ounce and pound symbols as well as fractions commonly used by pharmacists. The paint on the wooden space bar is worn thin, which Schmittgen accounts to the hard-working pharmacists of the era.

Many of the museum's items were donated by alumni of the UF College of Pharmacy. Former faculty members David Brushwood, R.Ph., J.D., and Anthony Palmieri, Ph.D., maintained the museum before Schmittgen took over in 2016.

Among the museum's most cherished items are three old ledgers containing the meeting minutes from the UF College of Pharmacy from 1926-76. These history books provide insight into the college's first half-century and highlight the early graduates, the curriculum and important issues facing the administration.

"Reading these ledgers makes you realize how much the leadership and faculty deeply cared about the college and wanted it to be an excellent place of learning," Schmittgen said. "They also highlight how dedicated the leadership was to students and how they moved forward with the trends that were happening throughout pharmacy education."

Schmittgen regularly schedules museum tours for alumni and student groups. **To schedule a tour, please email jschmittgen@ufl.edu.**

SECOND CENTURY LEADER

DEAN PETER W. SWAAN LEADS THE COLLEGE
INTO ITS SECOND CENTURY



As an amateur mountaineer Peter W. Swaan, Ph.D., M.Pharm., can appreciate the thrills and challenges that come with climbing the highest peaks in the world. He has visited Everest Base Camp twice and climbed a couple of 6,000-meter (20,000 ft.) mountain peaks in the Annapurna region of Nepal. He dreams of one day hiking to K2 Base Camp in Pakistan, which is the second-highest mountain in the world behind Mount Everest.

“It’s an extremely difficult place to travel, but once you are there, you are surrounded by all these stunning mountains,” Swaan said. “There are a couple of 8,000-meter mountain peaks that are majestic in nature.”

Swaan’s mountain climbing interests began in college. A pharmacy friend invited him to traverse a glacier and climb a peak in Switzerland, and he fell in love with the sport. In many ways, the lessons Swaan has learned on the mountain have prepared him well to lead the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, as the eighth dean in the college’s 100-year history.

“Climbing requires a lot of resiliency and perseverance,” Swaan said. “You must have faith and trust in your team and move together to accomplish your goals.”

**“CLIMBING REQUIRES
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AND PERSEVERANCE.
YOU MUST HAVE
FAITH AND TRUST
IN YOUR TEAM
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YOUR GOALS.”**



“I WANTED TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL, BUT THERE IS A LOTTERY SYSTEM IN THE NETHERLANDS, AND I WASN’T ACCEPTED MY FIRST YEAR. I ENROLLED IN PHARMACY SCHOOL AND FELL IN LOVE WITH THE PROFESSION.”

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

Swaan began his tenure as dean of the UF College of Pharmacy on Dec. 1, 2022. He joined UF after nearly two decades at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, where he held several leadership roles. Most recently, he served as the associate dean for research and advanced graduate education, as well as a professor and chair in the department of pharmaceutical sciences. In May of 2022, he was appointed to a distinguished university professorship in recognition of his extraordinary leadership and significant contributions to the pharmaceutical sciences.

In addition to the University of Maryland, Swaan’s academic and professional career includes stops at the University of Michigan; the University of California, San Francisco; and the Ohio State University — all ranked among the top 15 pharmacy colleges by U.S. News & World Report. He credits his connections across academic pharmacy as invaluable, as UF faces challenges and opportunities very similar to peer institutions.

“Declining enrollments are putting a lot of pressure on pharmacy colleges nationwide, and we have to work together to address the issue as a profession,” Swaan said. “At the UF College of Pharmacy, we must look at this challenge and ask ourselves ‘How can we turn this into an opportunity?’ We are a top-ranked pharmacy college that provides an affordable and high-quality education. With world-renown researchers and excellent job placement rates, there are many reasons why prospective students should consider UF.”

UF’s national reputation initially attracted Swaan to the deanship. He had watched from afar how the UF College of Pharmacy has transformed pharmacy education and developed innovative approaches to research and pharmacy practice. As a pharmaceutical scientist, he respected the strides the college has made over the past decade to better support faculty at a research-intensive university.

“UF is one of those pharmacy colleges that is always on your radar,” Swaan said. “When an opportunity to lead such a well-respected institution becomes available, you have to pursue it.”

A JOURNEY INTO PHARMACY

Swaan was born and raised in Rotterdam, a city of more than 600,000 people in The Netherlands. Situated on the Maas River, the city features the largest seaport in Europe. Many residents work in construction or transportation jobs, but Swaan’s career interests were in health care.

“I wanted to go to medical school, but there is a lottery system in The Netherlands, and I wasn’t accepted my first year,” Swaan said. “I enrolled in pharmacy school and fell in love with the profession.”

As the first member of his family to attend college, Swaan studied pharmacy for six years at the University of Leiden and



Dean Peter W. Swaan trekked with a college friend to the Thorong La pass in 2018. Thorong La is located in central Nepal at an elevation of more than 17,500 feet above sea level.

Utrecht University. His pharmacy training included an 18-month research project learning granulation and tableting to prepare clinical batches for a bone-loss drug involved in a cancer trial. The foray into pharmaceutical research led Swaan to pursue a Ph.D. in biopharmaceutics at Utrecht.

It was during his doctoral training that Swaan was first exposed to pharmaceutical research in the United States. He worked nine months in the drug delivery department at SmithKline Beecham in Philadelphia and later studied at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. When Swaan graduated, he was hired as a postdoctoral fellow under the joint mentorship of Svein Øie, Ph.D., and Francis C. Szoka Jr., Ph.D., at the University of California, San Francisco.

Swaan accepted his first faculty job at the Ohio State College of Pharmacy in 1996 and moved to Maryland in 2003. He built a highly successful research program focused on transporters in drug targeting and delivery. His early research examined ways to make poorly absorbed drugs more effective in the gastrointestinal tract, which led to his lab pioneering the use of computer modeling to determine the structural requirements of membrane transporters. He holds several U.S. patents on these and related technologies and has published more than 150 original research articles. In addition, he has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1998 and secured more than \$25 million in grant funding during his career.

SECOND CENTURY LEADER

Swaan's arrival in Gainesville coincided with the start of a yearlong celebration recognizing the 100th anniversary of the UF College of Pharmacy. In his first months on the job, he delivered keynote remarks at the college's Centennial Kickoff Celebration event and hosted White Coat Pinning Ceremonies for first-year students on all three campuses. The centennial-focused events offered Swaan the opportunity to meet faculty,

staff, students and alumni and come to appreciate the college's many historical achievements.

"I learn different aspects of the college and its history every day," Swaan said. "Had it not been for the centennial, some of the historical milestones would not have been front and center. I appreciate the fact that the UF College of Pharmacy featured the first coeducational class and UF's first Black Ph.D. graduate studied in our college."

The UF College of Pharmacy has benefited from steady and visionary leadership over the past century — a fact not lost on Swaan. As he follows in the footsteps of many influential deans before him, his focus is on leading the college into its second century.

"There are many exciting things on the horizon, including UF's new artificial intelligence initiative," Swaan said. "We are looking at ways to infuse AI into the curriculum and leverage it to accelerate research and improve patient care."

In the fall, data scientists from the College of Pharmacy will move into the new Malachowsky Hall for Data Science & Information Technology — a state-of-the-art facility that will be UF's new hub for artificial intelligence. The 263,000-square-foot building will be in the heart of UF's main campus and connect faculty and students from the colleges of Pharmacy, Medicine and Engineering.

Under Swaan's leadership, the college is also exploring collaborations with drug discovery researchers at the newly acquired the Herbert Wertheim UF Scripps Institute for Biomedical Innovation & Technology in Jupiter. The research institute became part of UF's academic health center last year.

Swaan appreciates the opportunity to lead one of the nation's most well-respected and high-performing pharmacy colleges. Just as a mountain climber needs to have a clear vision of the peak they want to summit and sets goals to achieve it, Swaan is determined to help the UF College of Pharmacy reach new heights in its second century.



Dean Peter W. Swaan, Ph.D., M.Pharm., cuts the ceremonial ribbon marking the start of the college's centennial year. He was joined on the stage by Michele Weizer, Pharm.D., a 1990 graduate of the college; distinguished professor and former dean Julie Johnson, Pharm.D.; and student pharmacist Julie Al-Bahou, Pharm.D., from the college's centennial class.



Dana and Christopher McCurdy with special guest, Albert.

Centennial Celebration — January 26, 2023

With confetti falling from the sky during a ceremonial ribbon cutting, the University of Florida College of Pharmacy officially kicked off its centennial year with a once-in-a-lifetime party on Jan. 26 in Gainesville. More than 400 guests attended the Centennial Kickoff Celebration on a sun-soaked afternoon to commemorate the 100th anniversary of UF's oldest health college.



Dean Peter W. Swaan delivers remarks during the Centennial Celebration.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY 100 YEARS

1923 UF 2023

The UF College of Pharmacy's centennial logo was designed by Suzy Rodriguez, a communications specialist in the college.



Attendees received centennial-themed giveaway items.



UF student pharmacists gave tours of the History of Pharmacy Museum.





The UF College of Pharmacy Celebrates Women's History Month

The UF College of Pharmacy community came together to commemorate the important role women have played in our college's history during a Women's History Month celebration in Gainesville. The March 7 event featured several faculty, alumni and student speakers and included the official portrait reveal of former dean Julie Johnson.



Centennial Pinning Ceremonies Held for First-Year Pharmacy Students

In honor of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy's centennial year, white coat pinning ceremonies were held in January for first-year pharmacy students at the Gainesville, Jacksonville and Orlando campuses. Dean Peter W. Swaan delivered introductory remarks at the ceremonies and presented a centennial pin to each student. The pin's design features a white coat with the years 1923 and 2023 on each pocket, along with the college name and UF logo.





Celebrating the Centennial Class

One of Gainesville's most recognizable landmarks paid tribute to the UF College of Pharmacy's class of 2023. Faculty and students painted the historic 34th Street wall ahead of the college's Pharm.D. graduation ceremony on May 13. The mural was designed by Pharm.D. student Kimberly Ngo and features the college's centennial year logo and theme.





In May, the University of Florida College of Pharmacy recognized its centennial class of graduates during commencement ceremonies in Gainesville. More than 370 graduates earned their Pharm.D., Ph.D. or M.S. degrees during the spring semester and received a special place in the 100-year legacy of the college.





UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY 2022-23

NATIONAL RANKINGS

#1

College of Pharmacy
*American Society
of Health-System
Pharmacists Residency
Placements*

#3

**NIH and Total
Research Funding**
*as Ranked by the
American Association of
Colleges of Pharmacy*

#5

College of Pharmacy
*as Ranked by
U.S. News &
World Report*

#5

Public University (UF)
*as Ranked by
U.S. News &
World Report*

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

\$1.04M

Awarded in
2022-23

\$261K

Awarded to newly
admitted students

192

Total scholarships
awarded

STUDENT ENROLLMENT (FALL 2022)

933

Pharm.D.

1,238

Online

135

Residential
Ph.D. and M.S.

FY2023 REVENUES (JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023)

Research	46%	\$36.2M
State funding and tuition	30%	\$23.8M
Online programs	16%	\$12.9M
Foundation	2%	\$1.9M
Other	6%	\$4.7M
COLLEGE TOTAL	100%	\$79.5M

*These are projected revenues as of June 1, 2023.

\$32.4M

Annual Research
Funding
Source: AACP

54

Grant-funded
faculty
Source: AACP

23

Faculty in
compensated
clinical
practice

90%

Tenure-track
faculty
with grant
funding

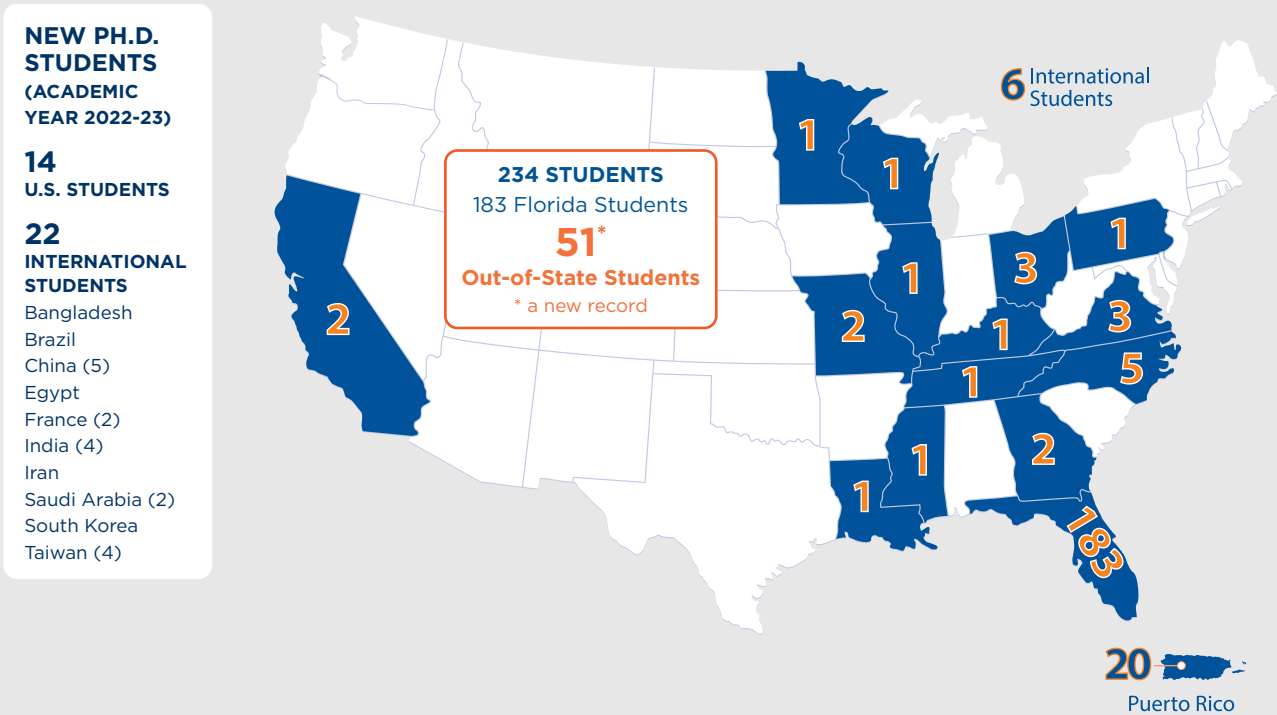
311

Faculty
publications in
PubMed*
(06/22-05/23)

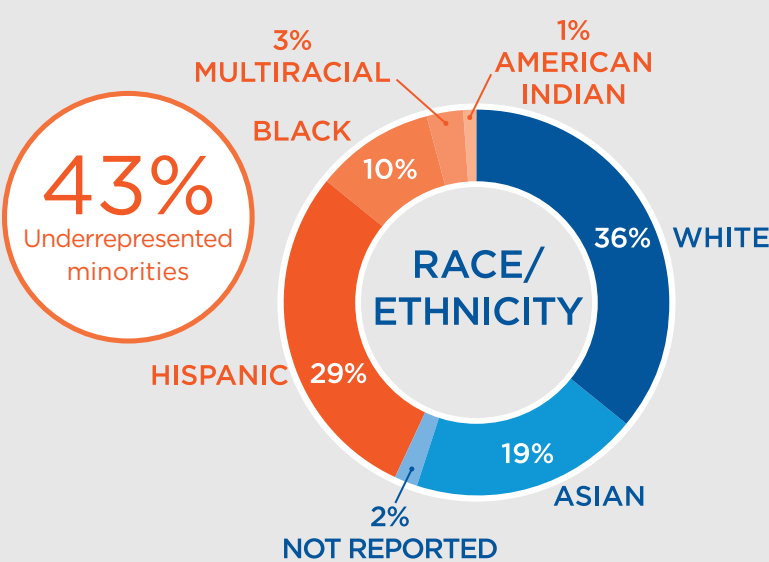
*does not include
books, chapters or
other publications

ANNUAL REPORT & STATISTICS

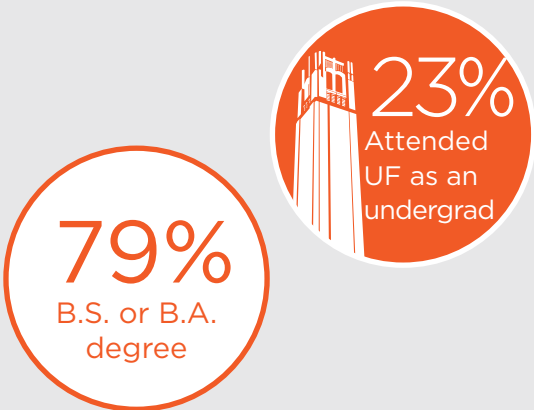
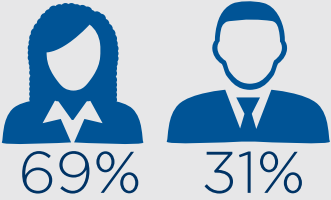
PHARM.D. CLASS OF 2026 PROFILE



PHARM.D. CLASS OF 2026 RACE/ETHNICITY



GENDER



FACULTY HONORS



LAKESHA BUTLER,
Pharm.D.

Becker's Healthcare has recognized Lakesha Butler, Pharm.D., the chief diversity officer for UF Health and a clinical professor in the UF College of Pharmacy, as one of its 40 diversity and inclusion executives to know. Becker's compiled a list of diversity and inclusion champions from hospitals and health systems across the nation who have led successful transformations and continue to drive positive change within their organizations.



OLIVER GRUNDMANN,
Ph.D.

Oliver Grundmann, Ph.D., a clinical professor of medicinal chemistry, has been appointed president-elect of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology. His two-year term as president-elect began in September 2022, and he will assume the presidential role in 2024.



SERENA JINGCHUAN GUO, M.D., Ph.D.

The Journal of Managed Care + Specialty Pharmacy presented its annual Award for Excellence to Serena Jingchuan Guo, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy. The award was established in 2002 and recognizes the best scholarly work in managed care pharmacy from the prior calendar year.



MEI HE, Ph.D.

Mei He, Ph.D., an assistant professor of pharmaceuticals, has been named a senior member by the National Academy of Inventors. The honor recognizes her for being an academic inventor who is a rising leader in her field. He's research has led to seven issued patents, as well as 10 licensed and 20 pending patents.



"THE DREAM JOB I NEVER KNEW I WANTED."

If Maureen Keller-Wood needs a glimpse of life in retirement, she should look no further than the window ledge in her office. A collection of framed photographs featuring her three children and six grandchildren are arranged neatly in a row. Their smiles reflect the joy and happiness they bring to the world, and she cherishes the time spent with each of them.

As Keller-Wood transitions into a new chapter of her life, she looks forward to the new memories she will make with her family. Her retirement from the UF College of Pharmacy in July follows a 40-year career that was defined by numerous research contributions to the field of maternal-fetal medicine and service in multiple leadership positions. She was hired by the college in 1988 to teach physiology and pathophysiology and built a research



GUENTHER HOCHHAUS,
Ph.D.

Guenther Hochhaus, Ph.D., a professor of pharmaceuticals, was presented the Charles G. Thiel Award for Outstanding Research and Discovery in Respiratory Drug Delivery at the Respiratory Drug Delivery 2022 conference in Orlando. The award recognizes scientists who have made significant developments in the science and technologies surrounding respiratory drug delivery.



JULIE JOHNSON,
Pharm.D.

Julie Johnson, Pharm.D., a distinguished professor, was presented the 2023 American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Mentor Award in March. The award recognizes an influential figure in the life of a student or trainee in the field of pharmacology and translational medicine.



CHARLES PELOQUIN,
Pharm.D.

The North American Region of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease presented its 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award to Charles Peloquin, Pharm.D., a professor of pharmacotherapy and translational research and the Jack C. Massey Professor in the UF College of Pharmacy. The award honors an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the field of tuberculosis through mentoring or research.



ALMUT WINTERSTEIN,
Ph.D., R.Ph.

Almut Winterstein, Ph.D., R.Ph., a distinguished professor in the UF College of Pharmacy, has been elected to the Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine of Florida, or ASEMFL. She was elected to ASEMFL for uncovering real-world drug safety problems and guiding clinical and regulatory decisions on the safe and effective use of medications.

program that was continuously funded for four decades by federal agencies and the American Heart Association.

In 2002, Keller-Wood was offered the opportunity to chair the department of pharmacodynamics. After some encouragement from colleagues, she accepted the role and would lead the department for the next 15 years. The leadership position provided many rewarding experiences, none more than helping people succeed.

“The great thing about being a department chair was the ability to mentor people and help them be successful,” Keller-Wood, Ph.D., said. “It was really fulfilling to see how the talents and abilities of a faculty member could lift their research and benefit the department and college at the same time.”

Another major leadership opportunity presented itself in 2015, when Keller-Wood was asked to serve as the college’s associate dean for research and graduate education. At the time, the college ranked No. 11 nationally in total research funding with about \$14 million secured annually. Keller-Wood

oversaw an era of incredible growth as an influx of new research faculty hires pushed the college into the upper echelons of the national research rankings. At the time of her retirement, the UF College of Pharmacy was ranked No. 3 nationally in total research funding with more than \$32 million earned last year.

Beyond the numbers, the associate dean position provided Keller-Wood with much satisfaction in the job. She appreciated the broad portfolio of grants the college’s faculty had earned and the impact they would have on human health. More importantly, she appreciated the collegiality among faculty and the confidence they showed in her leadership abilities.

“I have been fortunate to surround myself with people who saw me as a leader and asked me to step up when the right opportunity presented itself,” Keller-Wood said. “I told former dean Julie Johnson, ‘thanks for giving me the dream job I never knew I wanted.’”

TEACHER *of the* YEAR

DR. ROBIN MOORMAN LI



Clinical Associate Professor Robin Moorman Li's students describe her in many ways — an incredible mentor, a great coach and someone who radiates positivity. They appreciate her steadfast support of student growth, both professionally and personally, and refer to her as a role model pharmacist and professor.

The praise and admiration shared by her students make it easy to see why Moorman Li was selected as the 2022-23 University of Florida College of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year. The annual award recognizes excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching, and it is the second time Moorman Li has received the honor — having also won in 2014.

"Knowing that my students and colleagues recognize I'm giving 100%, and I'm trying to be part of the team creating the best Gator pharmacists, means the world to me," said Moorman Li, Pharm.D., who also serves as assistant director of the college's Jacksonville campus. "I am honored to win the Teacher of the Year Award and appreciate all those who nominated me this year."

Moorman Li's teaching style centers on inspiring students to always "dig deeper," with a focus on developing clinical reasoning skills and being committed to patient safety. She is best known for her teaching excellence in pain management, as she contributes to Patient Care 1, Patient Care 6, Principals of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology II, and Thinking Skills courses.

Moorman Li's passion for teaching pairs well with her avid interest in health and wellness coaching. She completed the Take Courage Coaching Program and has obtained board

certification as a National Board-Certified Health & Wellness Coach. She applies her coaching techniques with students to help them build confidence in conquering difficult subjects.

"My classes are directed at creating activities that incorporate scenarios commonly seen in the clinical setting,"

Moorman Li said. "The goal is to prepare students to effectively deal with these situations as they approach rotations and move forward into their professional career."

As a clinical pharmacist, Moorman Li practices in the field of chronic pain management. She supports patients in multiple UF Health primary care practices in Jacksonville and is a member of the Pain Assessment and Management Initiative team, which focuses on advancing innovation and safety in pain education, patient care and research. She draws upon these experiences to help her students become better pharmacists and caregivers.

"I encourage my students to show the patient you are there for them and are focused on their needs," Moorman Li said. "If we mentor students that way in pharmacy school, then those are the skills they will

carry with them throughout their careers."

As the recipient of the UF College of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year Award, Moorman Li will be recognized at UF Teacher of the Year events and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting. She will also be provided discretionary funds from the Paul Doering Excellence in Teaching endowment and an honorarium. In addition, she will use the title "Paul Doering Teaching Excellence Professor," during the upcoming academic year.

***"Knowing that my
students and
colleagues recognize
I'm giving 100%, and
I'm trying to be part
of the team creating
the best Gator
pharmacists, means
the world to me."***

— Robin Moorman Li

FAREWELL COLUMN



Dear friends,

As some of you know, I am fully transitioning out of the lead fundraising role for our college. While the timing feels right to continue growing my career at UF, the decision was not made without some very bittersweet thoughts. Mostly, I just want to say thank you. In my 15-year journey at the College of Pharmacy, so many of you have impacted my professional and personal life in ways that go far beyond this job description. I am grateful to you for your warmth and openness, as well as your generosity and genuine care. I will always appreciate the love that you have extended to me and for your support as we have collectively celebrated many milestones.

The time has not been without hard moments. We've lost wonderful friends along the way. These were the very tough parts of this role, and these friends are not forgotten by me or the college.

Pharmacy has and will always feel like home to me. Thank you for giving me the job of a lifetime, and I will forever cherish the friendships made at the UF College of Pharmacy.

My best,
Elizabeth Zipper

CHRISTIE PRIDDY & VIKTORIJA DIMAITE

JOIN THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

A new leadership team joined the University of Florida College of Pharmacy's Office of Development and Alumni Affairs in April with the arrival of Christie Priddy, M.B.A., and Viktorija Dimaite, M.S.



PRIDDY

Priddy was named senior director of development and alumni affairs. She joined UF from the University of Kentucky College of Engineering, where she served as director of philanthropy. In her three-and-a-half years at UK, she supported fundraising efforts for the university's \$2.1 billion comprehensive campaign. A native of West Palm Beach, Priddy has lived most of her life in the Sunshine State and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from UF in 2015. She is proud Gator and excited to return to her alma mater.



DIMAITE

Dimaite was appointed associate director of development and alumni affairs. The Lithuanian native moved to the United States in 2009 to pursue new opportunities in education and athletics. She is a proud double Gator graduate as well as a former student-athlete for the UF women's basketball team. Working in development for her alma mater brings her great joy, as she appreciates the opportunity to represent UF and build relationships within the campus community.



THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ANNUALLY RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI WITH ITS 40 GATORS UNDER 40 AWARDS. IN 2023, BHARGAVA KANDALA, PH.D., M.S., WAS HONORED BASED ON HIS CONTRIBUTIONS PROFESSIONALLY AND TO HIS COMMUNITY.



BHARGAVA KANDALA **M.S. '12, PH.D. '14**

Bhargava Kandala serves as a director in the quantitative pharmacology, pharmacometrics group at Merck. He leads a talented group of scientists geared toward driving model-informed decision-making in developing novel drugs and vaccines for infectious diseases. Kandala received his M.S. in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Science from UF in 2012 and 2014, respectively. Since joining Merck in 2014, he has successfully applied quantitative approaches in developing safe and efficacious drugs and vaccines for various diseases, including diabetes, HIV and COVID-19. He has contributed to the clinical pharmacology and pharmacometrics field with publications in several high-impact journals such as *Lancet eBioMedicine*, *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, and *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. Kandala is also an active member of professional societies such as the International Society of Pharmacometrics and the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics. He has been an invited speaker and has chaired sessions at multiple meetings. He also serves as the chair of the American Conference for Pharmacometrics Abstract Committee. Kandala enjoys mentoring students in data science and model-informed drug development and holds an adjunct faculty appointment within the department of pharmaceutics in the UF College of Pharmacy.



CRISAFI CHALLENGE REACHES \$1 MILLION MILESTONE WITH SUCCESSFUL 2022 CAMPAIGN

In 2015, Bob Crisafi, Ph.D., '56, had the idea of creating a scholarship challenge to recruit the best and brightest students from across the nation to the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. Eight years later, the Crisafi Challenge reached a major milestone, as the money raised during the 2022 challenge helped push the cumulative fundraising total over \$1 million.

More than \$113,000 was donated for student recruitment scholarships during the 10-day challenge that started Nov. 28, 2022. Included in the total was a \$50,000 match gift from Dr. Bob. The successful campaign marks the sixth consecutive year that the scholarship fundraiser has eclipsed the \$100,000 mark. Every penny raised will support scholarships for entering Pharm.D. students in the fall of 2023.

SAVE THE DATE • 2023 CRISAFI CHALLENGE • OCT. 27 – NOV. 5
GIVE TO THE CRISAFI CHALLENGE AT: [PHARMACY.UFL.EDU/CRISAFICHALLENGE](https://pharmacy.ufl.edu/crisafichallenge)

2022 CRISAFI CHALLENGE DONORS (Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022)

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**This report reflects gifts and pledges
April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023**

The Dean's Circle recognizes our alumni and friends who support the college with an annual gift of \$1,000 or more. Private donations provide the college with the flexibility to offer leadership opportunities for our students and educational initiatives for our faculty. Generous support also helps to ensure the college's ceremonial traditions continue despite the economy or state allocations.

Your gift fuels us to move forward and adapt to the ever-changing health care environment and keeps the UF College of Pharmacy in the top tier of colleges in the nation. Thank you!

You can give a gift online at:
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Thank you to these generous donors
who have recently included
the college in their estate plans.

Bruce Laughrey
Sven Normann

*Thank you also to the college's anonymous
donors who chose not to be publicly recognized.*

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UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY 2022-23

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Ahrano Scholarship
Alexa Luboff

Cardinal Health Pharmacy Scholarship
Alyssa Dempsey

Charlotte Liberty Scholarship
Shefa Ali, Erica Alini, Juan Cabrera Marcelo, Morgan Cashman, Melissa Cuevas, Johanna Del Castillo, Megan Duffy, David Gibson II, Monique Hook, Dustin Maupin, Jennifer Miller, Stephanie Mourino, Marie Parker, Anjali Patel, Faith Percival, Jillian Walker, Benny Zhang

Community Pharmacy Business and Entrepreneurial Endowment
Anna Dostie, James Laurin, Cheryl Wood

Crisafi Challenge Admission Scholarship
Francheska Barreto Rivea, Tyler Broady, Matthew Christen, Cristian Corazon Manzana, Jose Diaz-Gonzalez, Jealeanet Diez Rodriguea, Eleanna Faust, Eman Gabal, Callista Hall, Teresa Ilagan, Emmanuel Jallah, Makayla Kapalczynski, Andres Lopez Reya, Janeliz Mercado, So Young Moon, Knah Nguyen, Mary-Pearl Ojukwu, Kierra Weber, Faith Williams

CVS Health Foundation Scholarship (Spanish Speaking)
Kevin Hernandez Cortes, Francisco Perez Diaz, Sheila Herrera, Daniela Luzardo, Ryan Tran

CVS Health Foundation Standard Scholarship
Ashley Bantad, Talia LaSpina, Gerald Aldwin Loyola

Debbie DeSantis Endowment
Megan Backus, Sophia Galvez, Alexander Rautio, Dionna Shine

Debbie Klapp Memorial Scholarship
Amanda DeLuca, Samantha DeMaris

Eckerd Pharmacy Scholarship
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Nefertari Charles, Nicole Donato, Louiza Garayeva, Lauren Hoggarth, Abigale Lipe, Isabella Wilson

D.W. Ramsaur Distinguished Scholar Award
Megan Backus, Savannah Nelson

Lilly Medal for Scholastic and Professional Achievement, Leadership and Ethical Conduct
Jade Nanan

Lydia Foote Service Award
Cheryl Wood

Merck Award for Outstanding Research
Julia Al-Bahour, Jean Lalave, Megan Miller, Peter Ramdhan, Moya Reid, Victoria Walker

Monteen Johnson Gold Merit Award
Sierra Walton

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Corey Perkins

Dr. Allen Spiegel Graduate Endowment in Pharmaceutical Research
Nina Erwin

DuBow Family Graduate Student Education Fellowship
Hung-Kai (Henry) Chen

Hartmut Derendorf Graduate Student Fellowship Award
Bassma Eltanameli

Robert and Stephany Ruffolo Graduate Education & Research Fellowship
Lobna Elsadek

Ronald J. and Sally G. Brenner Fellowship
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RECORD-SETTING MATCH LANDS UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ATOP RESIDENCY RANKINGS



The 2023 pharmacy residency match was among the most successful in the history of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, as a record 154 fourth-year pharmacy students and recent graduates secured positions in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, or ASHP, match. It marked the seventh time in eight years that the college has led the nation in total residency placements.

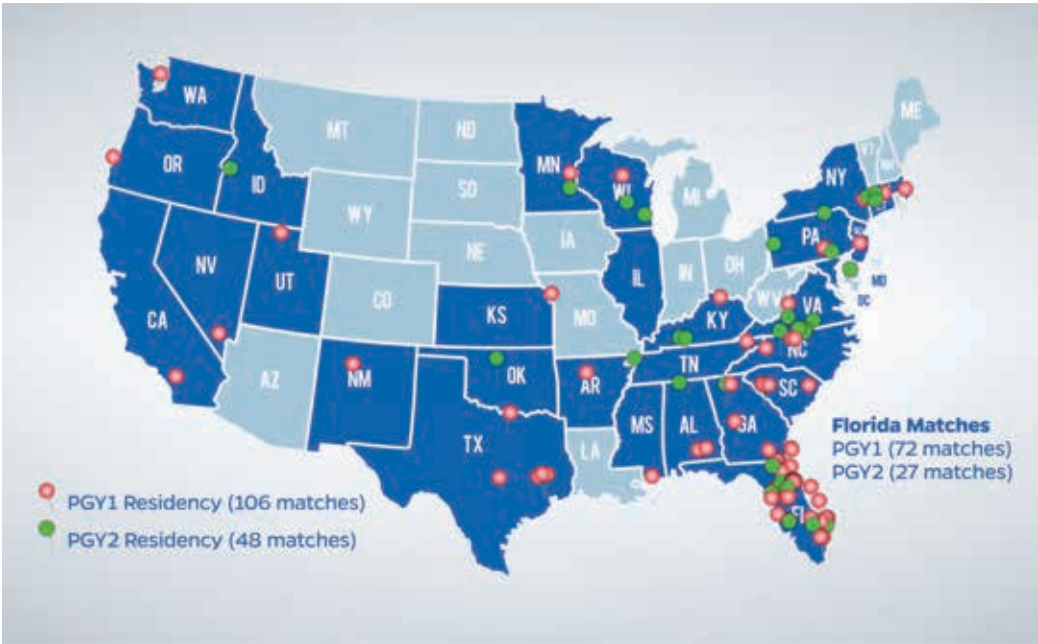
UF’s 154 residency matches eclipsed the previous record of 153 set in 2022. There was strong interest in Gator pharmacists nationally, as this year’s match featured placements in a record 29 states and Washington, D.C.

“Matching with a pharmacy residency represents a significant step in the career of a pharmacist, and we are proud of the 154 student pharmacists and graduates of the UF College of Pharmacy who will have this opportunity to learn and grow as a health care

professional,” said Peter W. Swaan, Ph.D., M.Pharm., dean and professor of the UF College of Pharmacy. “To lead the national residency rankings again reflects highly upon the curriculum, faculty and experiential learning opportunities that set our students up for future success.”

ASHP’s match program pairs thousands of student pharmacists across the country with a variety of pharmacy practice settings, including hospitals and community pharmacies. More than 5,800 postgraduate year one, or PGY1, and postgraduate year two, or PGY2, residency positions were available this year.

UF’s residency matches included 106 PGY1 and 48 PGY2 placements. The class of 2023 PGY1 match rate was 91%, while the total PGY2 match rate was 96% — both represent the highest match rates in the last five years.





UF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY NO. 3 IN NATIONAL RESEARCH RANKINGS

A record \$32.4 million in annual research funding helped solidify the University of Florida College of Pharmacy's No. 3 national ranking in the latest institutional research report released by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, or AACP, on June 21.

AACP compiles research data from more than 140 colleges of pharmacy around the country. For the second year in a row, the UF College of Pharmacy ranked No. 3 in all three major categories where research funding is reported: NIH funding (\$22.2 million), federal funding (\$26.8 million) and total funding (\$32.4 million).

The UF College of Pharmacy set new funding records in all three categories this year.

"It's through the relentless pursuit of excellence and groundbreaking research that our faculty and their research teams were able to propel the UF College of Pharmacy to record highs in research funding this year," said Peter W. Swaan, Ph.D., M.Pharm., dean and professor in the UF College of Pharmacy. "AACP's latest report reaffirms our college's standing as a national leader in pharmaceutical research and paves the way for transformative discoveries that will positively impact human health in the years to come."

UF SCIENTISTS DISCOVER WAY TO ALTER FENTANYL, MAKING THE POTENT PAIN RELIEVER SAFER

Scientists have discovered a way to alter the chemical properties of fentanyl, offering a safer alternative to the powerful pain reliever.

In a study published in the journal *Nature*, a team of scientists, including Jay McLaughlin, Ph.D., a professor of pharmacodynamics in the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, report how they modified fentanyl's chemical structure to maintain its pain-relieving properties while reducing harmful side effects.

Pain-killing drugs like fentanyl and morphine bind to the mu-opioid receptor on nerve cells. The interaction triggers a series of responses — from beneficial pain relief to serious side effects like respiratory distress, sedation, addiction and even death.

By applying new insights into the receptor structure, researchers designed a medication that binds to the established site of activity on the outside of the mu-opioid receptor, while also engaging a binding site for sodium ions that exists deep within the receptor. McLaughlin described these receptor sites as switches that turn on and off to control the drug's effect on the body. Researchers found that when the new drug interacts with both sites on the mu-opioid receptor, it maintains its pain-killing effects while reducing harmful side effects.



Jay McLaughlin, Ph.D., is part of a research team studying ways to make fentanyl safer.

SPACE MISSION INVESTIGATES DRUG TREATMENT FOR AGE-RELATED MUSCLE LOSS

A tissue-chip experiment led by University of Florida College of Pharmacy Associate Professor Siobhan Malany, Ph.D., spent more than a month on board the International Space Station this winter as scientists investigated whether a drug compound made from tomatoes can restore age-related muscle loss.

Malany worked with a team of engineers and developers to build a miniaturized laboratory, called a CubeLab, that plugs into the Space Station and allows scientists to study live human cells in space. The shoebox-sized lab featured an automated tissue chip system, which fed nutrients to 3D muscle bundles four times a day. Tiny electrodes built into the chips allowed scientists to study muscle contractions, while a microscope camera system moved on a rail above the chips collecting images and data.

The CubeLab featured 16 skeletal muscle tissue chips — each containing a single 3D muscle bundle. Half the chips were engineered from cells that were biopsied from a cohort under 40 years old, while the other half were collected from adults over 60.



All the cells received electric stimulation in space to prompt muscle contractions, and then half of each cohort was exposed to a natural product isolated from the skin of green tomatoes that shows protection from muscle wasting in aged mice.

Siobhan Malany, Ph.D., with her tissue-chip experiment days before it traveled to the International Space Station in November.



MyRx PROVIDES VIRTUAL PHARMACOGENETIC TESTING CONSULTATIONS

MyRx, a new UF Health service developed by pharmacists in the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, is providing patients with a convenient way to understand their pharmacogenetic test results and improve drug therapy. The program arrives at a time when studies show 9 out of 10 people have variations in their genes that may change how they respond to common medications.

Pharmacogenetic testing helps clinicians and patients understand why certain people do not respond to or have side effects from certain medications. The test looks at specific genes to help predict the types of medications and dosages that may be best for a patient. Drugs commonly affected by pharmacogenetic influences include depression, anxiety, pain and heart medications.

“Pharmacogenetic testing is a great opportunity to improve drug therapy; however, the biggest challenge is understanding the test results,” said Kristin Wiisanen, Pharm.D., a clinical professor and associate dean for

entrepreneurial programs in the UF College of Pharmacy and director of MyRx. “We established MyRx to provide patients a resource to get more information about drug response. If someone has trouble with medication or is confused about why a drug may not be working for them, then this could be a beneficial service.”



Patients participating in the MyRx service will first need to complete pharmacogenetic testing. The simple, non-invasive cheek swab can be ordered from MyRx or the patient can provide results from a previous test conducted at an approved lab. A clinical pharmacist with specialized training in pharmacogenetics will review the test results and the patient’s medication history before hosting a video consultation.

The service welcomes self-referrals as well as physician referrals. It also plans to partner with pharmacies interested in providing pharmacogenetic testing. For more information visit myrx.UFHealth.org.

The service welcomes self-referrals as well as physician referrals. It also plans to partner with pharmacies interested in providing pharmacogenetic testing. For more information visit myrx.UFHealth.org.

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