

# Pharmaceutical Chronicle

October 2022



## Neuroscience Joins the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

A Division of Neuroscience was created in the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences to house the undergraduate BS degree in Neuroscience (Course-intensive and Research-intensive), as well as the undergraduate minor. As of July 2022, Dr. Sheralee Terhshner, Director and Professor of Neuroscience, and Dr. Michael Jarvinen, Associate Professor of Neuroscience, joined the faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences. The Neuroscience program will transition at the end of this academic year. Neuroscience's new positioning will strengthen and diversify their undergraduate research program and academic offerings. In addition, the Neuroscience faculty are excited to contribute to the newly established master's program in Pharmaceutical Sciences, and hope to implement an accelerated dual degree program with the undergraduate Neuroscience major and the MS in Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Department is excited to have Neuroscience as part of our team!

## Dr. Ingo Koomoa-Lange Joins the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Dr. Ingo Koomoa-Lange joined the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in August of 2022 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Koomoa-Lange earned his MS degree from the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany in 2004. For his graduate studies, he joined the Laboratory of Cell and Molecular Signaling at the Queen's Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, where his research focused on deciphering the role of (then newly discovered) TRP channels in the immune system as well as pancreatic beta cells. He received his PhD in the fields of Physiology, Immunology, and Biophysics from the Department of Genetics at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany in 2008. For his first postdoctoral position, he joined the Department of Pathology at the New York University Medical Center where he studied the impact of store-operated calcium entry on the development of T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. For his second postdoctoral position, he geared his research toward understanding the contribution of calcium signaling to the malignant progression and development of drug resistance in pediatric cancers at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. Before assuming the faculty position at Western New England University, he was an Assistant Professor at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Dr. Koomoa-Lange's research interests focus on finding novel pathways of calcium signaling and understanding their contribution to pediatric-tumor malignancy. He uses new and repurposed drugs to target the molecular components of those identified pathways with the aim to attenuate tumor progression. He is currently teaching Immunology to the PY1 students and looks forward to the chance to become involved with additional courses. We are excited to have Ingo as a member of our team!

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## **Dr. Christine Anderson PharmD'15 Becomes the First College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Graduate to Join the College as a Full-time Faculty Member**

Dr. Christine Anderson, formerly known as Christine Galinski during her time studying at Western New England, marks the first WNE University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences graduate to join the College as a full-time faculty member. She joins our team to help develop and conduct the new Distance Learning Pathway for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. During this first year, she will be instructing the distance pathway sections of Pathophysiology, Calculations, Communications and Principles of Genetics & Pharmacogenomics.

Dr. Anderson was a member of the founding class of the College of Pharmacy, graduating in 2015. Since graduating, she has served the Springfield community in her role at Genoa Healthcare where she opened and managed their first location in Springfield. She has spent the last seven years focused on mental health and substance use disorder. Dr. Anderson was part of a pilot program in Connecticut that first allowed pharmacists to administer long-acting injectable antipsychotic medications. We are excited to have Dr. Anderson as a member of our team!



## **Dr. Diptiman Bose Appointed as the Director of PharmD Distance Learning Pathway**

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Diptiman Bose has been appointed as the Director of the PharmD Distance Learning Pathway. Dr. Bose will be responsible for all operations of the PharmD Distance Learning Pathway including course scheduling, coordination of delivery mechanisms with faculty, coordination of experiential education with the Office of Professional Affairs, coordination of all campus immersive sessions, and co-curricular and extracurricular engagement, as well as serve as the point-of-contact/advisor for distance students. The COPHS will offer a high-quality distance pathway to the Doctor of Pharmacy program which will be of similar quality and outcomes to the campus-based program. Dr. Bose will work closely with the Office of Academic Affairs to create semester classroom schedules, and with the faculty to determine best delivery options for course content.

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## Dr. Gladys Ekong Presents Research at the Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists (ADCES) Conference

Dr. Gladys Ekong presented her research results from her diabetes prevention program at the ADCES conference in Baltimore, MD along with two PharmD students, Connor Geddis (PY3) and Tomasz Niewinski (PY3).

The National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) is an evidence-based lifestyle change program to delay or prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes, of which Dr. Ekong is a certified trainer. Pharmacy students can be trained to offer various activities related to the National DPP. This cross-sectional study assessed three objectives: 1) the training modalities in the PharmD curriculum that prepared pharmacy students to offer the National DPP, 2) assessed student pharmacists' readiness and self-efficacy to offer services related to the National DPP; and 3) intent to offer the National DPP in their future practice sites.

Findings from the study suggests a need to address areas of perceived low self-efficacy and readiness to engage in activities related to the National DPP. Pharmacists are the most accessible member of the healthcare team and many offer preventive clinical services. The readiness and confidence of pharmacy students can impact decisionmaking to implement clinical services like the National DPP in their future practice sites.

Dr. Ekong is currently serving on the ADCES research committee and offers the CDC Diabetes Prevention Program as a worksite wellness program at WNE. This research work was supported by the COPHS Dean's starter grant.

## Dr. Natalia Shcherbakova Presents at the International Pharmacy Editors' Conference

Dr. Natalia Shcherbakova was invited to present at the International Pharmacy Editors' Conference in Granada, Spain in June 2022. Her talk was titled "Factors that Drive Citations in Key Pharmacy Journals." The meeting was attended by editors and associate editors of *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy (IJCP)*, *International Journal of Pharmacy Practice (IJPP)*, *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy (RSAP)* among others. The participants are currently working on drafting Granada Statements to be published jointly by the IJCP, IJPP, and RSAP to advance the Social, Administrative, and Clinical Sciences in Pharmacy through guidance and support of authors and peer-reviewers.