Julie A. Johnson, Pharm.D., has been named dean of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, becoming the seventh dean and the first woman to hold the appointment in the college’s 90-year history.

A faculty member of the UF College of Pharmacy since 1998, Johnson served for nine years as chairwoman of the department of pharmacotherapy and translational research, and has received nearly $35 million in National Institutes of Health funding. Before joining UF, she held a faculty position for nine years at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy.

“As a leader and researcher, Johnson is renowned in the fields of pharmacogenomics and personalized medicine. She leads the International Warfarin Pharmacogenetics Consortium comprising more than 40 researchers from institutions worldwide. Pharmacy board-certified in pharmacotherapy and cardiology, her research efforts have focused on individualizing medicine for patients based on their genetic makeup, particularly those with high blood pressure and other heart diseases.”

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“It is my great honor to be selected to serve as the next dean of the UF College of Pharmacy,” Johnson said. “I look forward to working with our faculty, staff and students to elevate our research productivity, enhance our educational programs and extend our relationships with practicing pharmacists across the state.”

A distinguished professor of pharmacy and medicine, Johnson was named the V. Ravi Chandran professor of pharmaceutical sciences in 2004. She currently directs the UF Center for Pharmacogenomics and the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program, and has published more than 200 journal articles, editorials and book chapters.

Johnson, who is serving as chair for the NIH’s National Human Genome Research Institute Genomic Medicine Pilot Demonstration network, was awarded $3.7 million this June by the institute to continue the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program at the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

“Julie has shown a unique ability to develop partnerships across the Health Science Center and help the CTSI build an innovative and nationally recognized program,” said David R. Nelson, M.D., UF assistant vice president for collaborative research in the life sciences and director of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. “She is the ideal person to help leverage the extensive strengths of the College of Pharmacy to enhance the mission of UF Health and the university.”

Serving leadership roles in many national and international organizations in pharmacy and medicine, Johnson is an elected fellow of the American Heart Association and the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Additionally she has served the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, the Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee for the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health, among other organizations. She is a scientific editor for the journal Pharmacotherapy, and serves on the editorial boards for several scientific and medical publications.

Johnson received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 1987. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in pharmacokinetics/clinical pharmacology at the Ohio State University, where she had previously earned a bachelor’s of pharmacy.

Prior to her academic career, Johnson’s professional practice experience included work in community and hospital pharmacies, and she is currently licensed to practice in Florida and Ohio. She begins her appointment as dean on Aug. 5.

To submit an article about a new program, excellent student or event, please contact the Office of Experiential Programs at mwillingham@cop.ufl.edu for length and guidelines.
On your daily to-do list, you have, roughly, 17,000 things to get accomplished in your workday. Whether you practice in a hospital or community setting, or anywhere else in between, pharmacists’ days are usually filled from start to finish with a myriad of tasks. Pharmacists who are also preceptors seem to have an innate ability to manipulate the time-space continuum so that not only do they get all of their tasks completed, but they also have time to mentor and professionally train APPE students.

When asked about whether or not preceptors complete mid-point evaluations, many say that they only do so when they have a student who is in danger of failing or is clearly in need for some remediation in a particular area. They feel that the mid-point evaluation helps everyone with their due diligence when there is particular concern over a student’s ability to succeed in the APPE rotation. The preceptor completes and makes sure to reach out to the Office of Experiential Programs when there is a fear that the student will not be able to reach the minimum requirements to pass the rotation, and perhaps be able to remediate the situation and prevent the student from failing.

If you have a great student, you may be tempted to say “Hey, you rock! Keep up the great work!” This type of feedback, although very nice to hear, does little to actually expand a student’s professional growth. You may be tempted to think that rock-star students and regular students think that mid-point evaluations are “busy work” and that they only time they want feedback is if they are going to fail.

A midpoint evaluation allows not only the student to identify areas for them to work on, but it also allows you as the preceptor to slightly alter the rotation experience to help fulfill the student’s full potential. For example, you may have a student who knows pathophysiology and pharmacology forwards, backwards, and inside out. They are amazing communicating with patients and being able to quickly and accurately identify a medication related problem. However, they have no idea how to effectively manage or lead a team. At the midpoint evaluation, you may find that the student is already at a level for “Excellent” for most of the competencies, except for the ones related to management. For the second half of the rotation, while still accomplishing the tasks and requirements, you might incorporate some managerial or team leadership elements into the experience. The student then leaves the rotation with some important tools that might otherwise never have been learned since the need was never identified.

Midpoint evaluations are important tools for both students and preceptors. It allows for some personalized tailoring of the rotation to focus on areas that are not the strongest for a student, while enabling the student to know that they are excelling in other areas. All students, regardless of their accomplishments or lack thereof, benefit greatly from midpoint evaluations. Preceptors also benefit from completing a midpoint by making sure that the student gets the most out of the short time that they spend with you to become better pharmacists.
Student Professionalism

By: Robin Moorman Li, Assistant Director-Jacksonville Campus, Clinical Assistant

Since 2000 there have been numerous articles published on student professional development which include a large list of attributes expected of a professional. The College of Pharmacy has continued to integrate various ways of promoting professional development in the curriculum by recently adopting the UF PHARMD CORES and implementing the professionalism committee.

UF PHARMD CORES was developed to highlight many of the attributes of a professional that we hope to see in our gator pharmacy students. We continue to highlight these core attributes through various avenues to help the students in their professional development.

The professionalism committee has now been operating for over a year to help mentor students in their professional development. Part of this process is recognizing students who consistently demonstrate various examples of professional behavior. If you have students who are outstanding examples of professionalism, we would like to make sure they are acknowledged.

An online report is available for you to recognize these students for extraordinary work. This report will go directly to the professional committee and the student will be recognized by the College of Pharmacy.

If you have students during their experiential education who you feel are having trouble with unprofessional behavior, there are ways to inform the College of your concerns. You can report any such issues to any member of the Office of Experiential Programs faculty or staff, including your regional coordinator. You can also report them to their home campus director or directly to Robin Moorman Li: moorman@cop.ufl.edu. Any such report will be forwarded to the committee for review and depending on the situation the committee will work with the student through a mentoring process to help them understand and correct their errors.


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In some circumstances, developing proper professional behavior requires proper mentoring. If you have students during their experiential education who you feel are having trouble with unprofessional behavior, there are ways to inform the College of your concerns. You can report any such issues to any member of the Office of Experiential Programs faculty or staff, including your regional coordinator. You can also report them to their home campus director or directly to Robin Moorman Li: moorman@cop.ufl.edu. Any such report will be forwarded to the committee for review and depending on the situation the committee will work with the student through a mentoring process to help them understand and correct their errors.
2013 AACP Poster Presentation

The 2013 annual AACP meeting was held in Chicago this summer. The featured theme for school posters was “Innovations in Education.” College of Pharmacy and Office of Experiential Programs faculty members presented a poster entitled “Implementation of a Pharmacist Regional Coordinator Model to Improve APPE Quality.” The poster described how the Associate Dean and Director of Experiential Programs work with Regional Coordinators to ensure appropriate advanced pharmacy practice experience site and preceptor selection and approval; monitor ongoing site quality; respond to and resolve urgent student, preceptor, and site issues; and coordinate planning for site utilization and scheduling to ensure quality. Shown in the picture are Kristin Weitzel (Associate Director, UF Health Personalized Medicine Program and former Director of Experiential Programs), Stacey Curtis (Regional Coordinator Director/Regional Coordinator Gainesville and surrounding areas), and Patty Taddei-Allen (Regional Coordinator Tampa).

Upcoming Events

August 8th- Gainesville Regional Meeting
August 21st- Fall Semester Starts for 1PDs-3PDs
September 19th- Jacksonville Regional Meeting
November 8th- 27th Annual Alumni BBQ Reunion
November 8th & 9th- UF Homecoming
2013 Preceptors of the Year

Outpatient Care: Joseph Burghardt
Flagler Community Pharmacy Inc.

Outpatient Care: Karen Francoforte
Florida Hospital East

Inpatient Care: Doug Peterson
Lee Memorial Health System
HealthPark Medical Center

Inpatient Care: Christopher Jankowski
UF Health Jacksonville