

SCHOOL OF  
**Pharmacy**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



**Shaping the future of SIUE. Together.** That was the primary focus as we recently updated the University's strategic plan, which was originally developed in 2001. That plan served the institution well and was a guiding force as we envisioned the University's goals for the future.

In 2012, a campus-wide committee was established to determine long-term goals and update the key elements of the strategic plan – SIUE's mission, vision and values. The committee solicited input from internal and external stakeholder groups to guide SIUE through the next decade.

The new strategic plan reaffirms and enhances SIUE's ongoing efforts at adapting to state and

national trends, promoting and achieving student success, and continuing the University's momentum amidst the dynamic evolution of 21st-century higher education.

The School of Pharmacy continues to shape the future of student pharmacists by establishing and encouraging collaboration with academic and community partners. With an increased emphasis in interprofessional education, the School is dedicated to ensuring students receive hands-on opportunities to learn and practice in cooperative, team-based environments with other medical professionals. Examples of this dedication include the creation of interprofessional

courses; research initiatives between faculty and students; and experiential education offerings in health care facilities throughout the region.

The cooperation, hard work and persistence that have made this University successful will be increasingly important going forward. Every SIUE stakeholder has a role in shaping the future of the University, and I am confident the future holds great things for SIUE.

**Let's celebrate the "e"!**

Best wishes,

*Julie Furst-Bowe, EdD*  
SIUE Chancellor

## ABOUT SIUE

Beautifully situated on 2,660 acres, SIUE is a public university offering a broad choice of degrees and programs ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. Undergraduate and graduate degrees are offered in the arts and sciences, business, education, engineering, and nursing. The Schools of Dental Medicine and Pharmacy award doctor's "first professional" degrees in dental medicine (DMD) and pharmacy (PharmD). The Schools of Nursing and Education award doctoral degrees in nursing practice (DNP) and educational leadership (EdD). Nearly 14,000 students choose SIUE for the enlightening programs, engaging faculty and convenient location just 25 minutes from St. Louis.



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Over the years, the School of Pharmacy has developed quality educational programs that have given our students an added advantage when they enter the profession. We offer a unique education specialization that can be pursued during the PharmD, as well as a concurrent PharmD/MBA program. This year, we created a pediatrics specialization that awaits university approval, and additional specializations are in the works as we strive to create a portfolio of meaningful opportunities to prepare our students for the future.

With the acknowledgement that interprofessional practice is now an imperative for better patient care, this year's report focuses on the innovations we have created to address this concept. The School has collaborated with the School of Dental Medicine to create an ethics course and has teamed up with the School of Nursing and the Department of Speech Communication to create cultural competence cases for our students to address together. The interprofessional NIH-designated

Center of Excellence in Pain Education (COePE), directed by one of our faculty members, continues to develop course modules for health care professionals and students. Additionally, this year's high school summer diversity camp exposed rising juniors and seniors from neighboring counties to careers in pharmacy, dentistry and nursing.

The School has also undertaken several exciting endeavors as we recognize the critical value of diversity and inclusiveness in health care. Currently, one of our professors is working with the SIUE Department of Foreign Languages and the School of Nursing to develop a Spanish course for SIUE health professional students. Additionally, our faculty is partnering with the College of Arts and Sciences, the Schools of Education and Nursing, and the SIU School of Medicine to create an online global health course. In regard to experiential education, we have also developed a global health rotation with Management Sciences for Health (MSH).

I am proud to report that our faculty have recently approved our progressive new strategic plan. This plan will allow us to move the School to new heights in the next five years. The six major goals include advancing innovative education, service and research programs; promoting faculty and staff development and support; fostering the preparation of prospective pharmacy students; expanding and supporting the professional growth of students and alumni; cultivating diversity and inclusiveness; and identifying, developing, and sustaining external relations and financial support.

As we move forward in the years ahead, we will continue to engage our alumni and supporters as partners in our efforts to shape the pharmacy profession.

Warm Regards,

*Gireesh V. Gupchup, PhD, FAPhA  
Professor and Dean  
SIUE School of Pharmacy*

### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY MISSION

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy is an interdisciplinary educational community dedicated to the preparation of pharmacy professionals, scholars, and leaders, to improve the health and well being of the region and beyond.

### SCHOOL OF PHARMACY VISION

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy will be a national model for exceptional pharmacy education, patient centered care, and innovative research.

### SIUE MISSION

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is a student-centered educational community dedicated to communicating, expanding and integrating knowledge. In a spirit of collaboration enriched by diverse ideas, our comprehensive and unique array of undergraduate and graduate programs develops professionals, scholars and leaders who shape a changing world.

### SIUE VISION

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville will achieve greater national and global recognition and academic prominence through innovative and interdisciplinary programs that empower individuals to achieve their full potential.

## PHARMACY BY THE NUMBERS

2012  
North American  
Pharmacy Licensure  
Examination (NAPLEX)  
pass rate



2012  
Multistate Pharmacy  
Jurisprudence  
Examination (MPJE)  
pass rate



**TOTAL NUMBER OF ALUMNI** 387

### STUDENT PROFILE

TOTAL STUDENTS 327



SIUE Undergraduates 201



Non SIUE Undergraduates 126

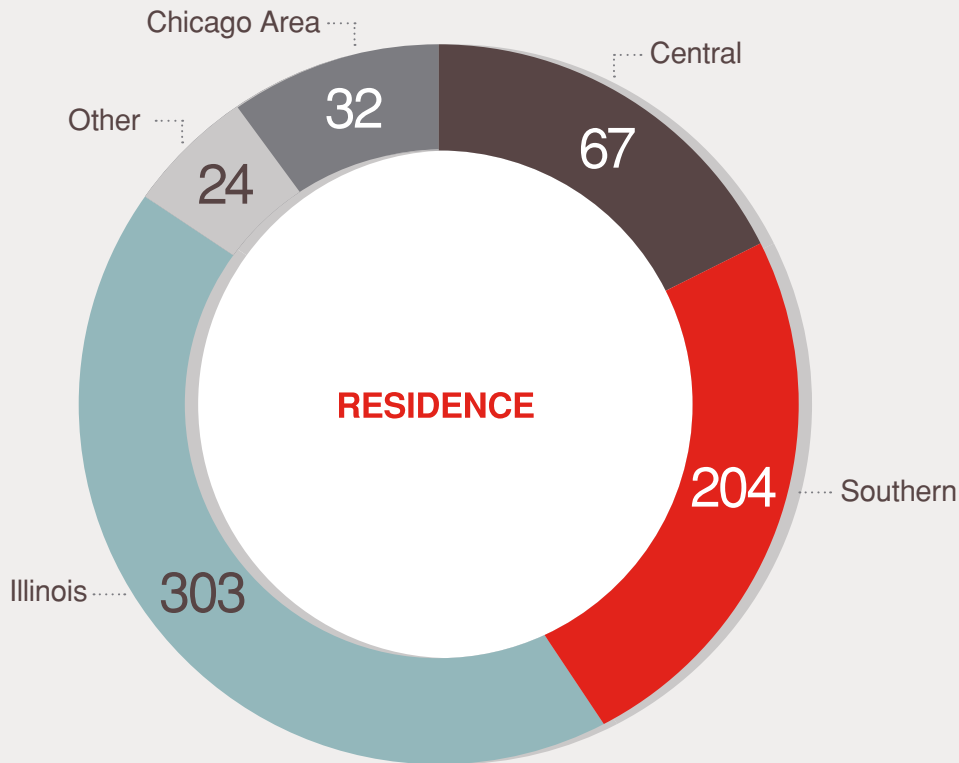


### MESSAGE FROM THE **PROVOST**

Students are our first priority at SIUE. Our goal is to ensure academic excellence for each student by providing rewarding educational experiences and quality instruction in a nurturing environment.

As an example, the School of Pharmacy creates opportunities for students to participate in interprofessional education offerings with other health science students. Interprofessional education (IPE) incorporates three





Matriculation  
Average  
Cumulative  
**GPA:**  
3.56

Average  
**PCAT:**  
63.1

domains that are at the core of reforming health care delivery: education, practice and research. Using IPE, the School has been successful in strengthening students' critical thinking skills and collaborative communication skills with other health providers; both of which, ultimately lead to improved treatment outcomes, enhanced safety and quality care for patients.

We are proud that, upon graduating, every SIUE pharmacy student will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully care for patients in an evolving, complex, health care system.

*Ann M. Boyle, DMD, MA*

*Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

## INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Interprofessional education and collaborative practice are playing an increasingly prominent role in modern health care training and delivery. In higher education, accreditation boards are now encouraging the integration of interprofessional education into the health science curriculum. The SIUE School of Pharmacy has taken the initiative to incorporate these opportunities into the student experience.



### FOCUSING ON ETHICS

In collaboration with the SIU School of Dental Medicine, faculty members in the School of Pharmacy have developed a collaborative, interprofessional learning experience designed to bring students from the two Schools together to focus on the ethical decision-making process.

“There are a number of ethical considerations that both dentists and pharmacists will encounter in the clinical environment,” said Dr. Allen Otsuka, associate professor in the School of Dental Medicine. “This joint course makes for an extremely productive learning experience, because students have the opportunity to share similar scenarios from either profession. They have the added benefit of hearing a different perspective on the matter from someone in another field.”

The first iteration of the joint ethics course, completed during the fall 2012 semester, paired first-year dental students with third-year pharmacy students. It consisted of two sessions covering case studies of ethical dilemmas in the clinical setting.

“For the fall 2013 semester, we are pairing first-year dental students with first-year pharmacy students in an effort to more effectively match students at similar places in their educational career,” said Dr. Terri Poirier, associate dean for education and academics in the School of Pharmacy. “We’re also expanding the experiences.”

The case-based approach aims to familiarize students with the ethical decision-making process and give them an opportunity to work through issues as a team.

This ethics course is just the beginning of SIUE’s interprofessional efforts, and the future will likely see the expansion of existing programs like the ethics course, as well as the creation of new partnerships among the various professional health schools.

### Summer Diversity Camp

The School of Pharmacy’s popular Diversity Summer Camp has evolved into an interprofessional educational experience for minority students in Madison, St. Clair and St. Louis counties. High school juniors and seniors from underrepresented groups

are invited to participate in the six-day residential camp where they learn about nursing, dental medicine and pharmacy careers.

“The interprofessional nature of this camp makes it a truly unique experience for minority high school



## DEVELOPING CULTURAL COMPETENCE

To health care professionals, the knowledge and understanding of other cultures, races and ethnicities is undeniably important. To reduce health disparities and improve access to high-quality health care, these professionals must provide culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services which require cultural competence.

Cultural competence is defined by the National Office of Minority Health as “a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes and policies that come together in a system, agency or among professionals that enables effective work in cross-cultural situations.”

SIUE’s School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy and Department of Speech Communication collaborated on an interprofessional program to address cultural competency in health care patient communication. Funded through the SIUE Excellence in Undergraduate Education (EUE) grant program, faculty team members Dr. Min Liu, assistant professor of speech

communication, Dr. Rhonda Comrie, associate professor of primary care/health systems nursing, and Drs. Lakesha Butler and Terri Poirier, pharmacy faculty members, designed a two-day course module to develop students’ cross-cultural communication skills in the clinical setting.

Building on cultural competence coursework already in place, faculty members from all three disciplines collaborated to add a communications theory perspective to the existing course content.

“While cultural competence is becoming a more widely covered topic in health care education, putting that information into a communication theory framework is pretty unique,” said Butler, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice.

During the program, second-year pharmacy students and sophomore nursing students worked in groups to collectively discuss cross-cultural

communication patient cases, while sharing perspectives from their own fields of study to develop solutions.

“It was very interesting to observe the similarities and differences between the professional schools,” said Liu. “Students have different professional identities, and those identities are manifested in how they react during these types of scenarios. One of our goals was to create awareness of these identities among the participants.”

During the program, students approached cultural issues using the Cultural Competence Continuum model. “The idea of this model is that cultural competence is not something you can check off the list at some point,” said Liu. “Individuals and organizations must always be focused on trying to understand the cultural backgrounds and needs of the people they serve.”

students,” said Dr. Lakesha Butler, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice. “This camp gives students who are unsure of their career path a chance to learn about the health care professional programs that SIUE offers.” Additionally,

the students participate in an ACT Crash Course in preparation for this important college entrance exam.

Thanks to financial support from Walgreens, Express Scripts and Target, the camp is free of charge to participants.



## GLOBAL EDUCATION

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 37 million U.S. residents age five and older speak Spanish at home. Illinois is considered to have a large Hispanic population compared to other states, with 15.2 percent of residents identifying themselves as having a Hispanic/Latino background.



*Dr. Heidi Carruthers and Dr. Marcelo Nieto*

## SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSE COLLABORATION

To meet the ever-changing needs of the nation's diverse population, health care education is adapting. At SIUE, Dr. Marcelo Nieto, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, Dr. Amelia Perez, assistant professor of nursing, and Dr. Heidi Carruthers, foreign language education program director and Spanish faculty member, have developed a new Spanish language course designed specifically for students interested in health care fields.

"There is certainly a need for this type of course," said Nieto. "Language and culture can unfortunately be barriers to clear communication between patients and providers. We want to offer students an opportunity to increase their knowledge in these areas so they may provide the best care possible."

In a review of the quality of health outcomes for Spanish-speaking patients, researchers concluded that a patient's level of English language literacy correlates with access to, and quality of, the pharmaceutical care they receive.

The three-credit course, which will begin during the 2014-2015 academic year, covers language as well as cultural topics. There will also be a community outreach component in which students will go into the field to use the knowledge they gain from the classroom in clinical environments.

"We want the students to practice what they learn and also to see that the need is real right here in the southern Illinois and St. Louis region," said Carruthers. "Students will have the

opportunity to make a contribution to the community, as well as make professional contacts for the future."

Open to students in all health care fields, the course will provide interprofessional learning opportunities through group projects. The course will culminate with the creation of a portfolio, in which students will combine the various projects they completed during the semester to be used upon graduation as a reference tool and Spanish-language guidebook of medical terminology.

In the future, Nieto, Perez and Carruthers would like to expand the course into a certificate program open to students and health professionals.



“It’s an exciting time for the School of Pharmacy and our students as we expand our efforts to include a focus on global health initiatives in the student experience.”

*William Wuller*  
Director of Experiential Education

## MEETING THE DEMANDS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION

SIUE faculty members across several disciplines are collaborating on a new online global health course initiated by Dr. Terri Poirier, associate dean for education and academics and professor of pharmacy practice. The course would begin in the fall of 2014 and meets a demand for global health education at SIUE. It is also aligned with the movement toward interprofessionalism in the field of health care education.

Regarded as a potential means to streamline and enhance patient care, interprofessional education in health care may be especially important in matters related to global health.

“Students entering the field of health science will need to be able to collaborate with other health professionals around the world,” said Dr. Huaibo Xin, assistant professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education. “The team-learning approach of this course is a good opportunity for students to gain an understanding of how that

collaboration can impact patient outcomes and benefit their work.”

The three-credit course, which will be offered as an elective for students in the health fields, is currently in the development stage. SIUE faculty members working together on the course bring expertise from the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, School of Pharmacy, School of Nursing, and SIU School of Medicine.

Faculty members from each of the contributing Schools are collaborating to create eight modules that will focus on topics ranging from global health care ethics to humanitarian emergencies. They will have the opportunity to share instruction and course administration responsibilities, offering their own professional perspective on each topic. The course will employ a variety of instructional strategies including case-based discussions, team assignments and sessions with a panel of global health practitioners.

## Global Education Rotation

The School of Pharmacy developed an exciting new partnership with Management Sciences for Health (MSH), a private non-profit international public health organization working to strengthen health care management and to improve access for vulnerable populations. In January 2014, an inaugural group of students will begin a five-week rotation at MSH in Washington D.C. Savanna Mattingly and Anand Patel, both fourth-year pharmacy students, are the first of hopefully many SIUE students to participate in this highly-selective educational experience.

“It’s an exciting time for the School of Pharmacy and our students as we expand our efforts to include a focus on global health initiatives in the student experience,” said William Wuller, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice and director of experiential education.

Students will work with MSH pharmacists to develop and design programs to strengthen health care management and improve access to critical health care around the world.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Dr. Barry Wilson, an individual who has spent much of his 50-year career in pharmacy helping to provide medicine to the homeless, indigent and uninsured, received the School's Service to Pharmacy Award.



Barry Wilson and Taylor Howell, P4

## BARRY WILSON AWARDED FOR SERVICE

The Service to Pharmacy Award is presented only when merited and the criteria, in part, states: “The individual selected must be of high moral and ethical character and display good citizenship. The candidate must have benefited the community in general, the profession of pharmacy and the SIUE School of Pharmacy.”

Barry Wilson is the chief pharmacy officer of Family Care Health Center (FCHC) in St. Louis, where he works as part of the health care team that helps thousands of St. Louis residents get the care they need, regardless of insured status.

“Barry is not only serving the community through pharmacy care, he is offering a unique learning

experience for the SIUE students who spend time at FCHC on rotation,” said William Wuller, clinical associate professor of pharmacy practice and director of experiential education, who nominated Wilson for the award.

The rotation experience at FCHC is truly unique. Alongside Wilson, students interact with a diverse patient population, gaining a keen understanding of their needs, as well as the variety of avenues Wilson uses to supply many patients with medications at a discounted price.

Additionally, the FCHC rotation experience is inherently interprofessional in nature, as pharmacy students work closely with doctors, nurses, even interpreters and other members of the health care team.

Kelcey Correll, a fourth-year pharmacy student who began her rotation at FCHC in June 2013, said that Wilson is someone who has devoted his life to his profession.

“During my tour of the clinic, it became evident that Barry is a very well respected professional,” said Correll. “Every nurse, physician and counselor knew Barry on a first name basis.”

Wilson said that his hope in working with students on rotation is that they will leave feeling empowered. “I try to put the students in charge as often as possible so they gain confidence,” he said. “I don’t want them to have any self-doubts when they graduate and go out into the field.”



**Interested in becoming a Hospice volunteer or accessing the online training modules?**

Email Dr. Chris Herndon, associate professor of pharmacy practice, at [cherndo@siue.edu](mailto:cherndo@siue.edu).

## SIUE HOSPICE STUDENT VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE

In November 2012, a seed was planted among SIUE School of Pharmacy students and faculty. The Class of 2015 and faculty leaders partnered with Hospice of Southern Illinois to host one of the largest Hospice volunteer training events on record. The event brought approximately 200 participants together for a live follow-up session that accompanied online training modules offered before the event.

The live event was a huge success and was the catalyst for a wave of new Hospice volunteers ready to make a difference.

“We wanted to design and implement a project that would have longevity,” said third-year pharmacy student James Langley, president of the Class of 2015.

What began as a class project centered on increasing the number and diversity of Hospice volunteers in the southern Illinois region, has turned into an efficient, technology-driven system for recruiting and training volunteers, and connecting them with Hospice needs.

“For this project, the focus was to connect students interested in volunteering with Hospice organizations,” said Dr. Miranda Wilhelm, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice and faculty mentor on the project. “At the same time,

we were able to integrate technology and social media into that volunteer experience because that was the most logical way to reach students who are more in touch with technology.”

From turning traditional Hospice training materials into online video modules, to the creation of an iPhone app, members of the Hospice volunteer student initiative have streamlined processes and made getting involved both more accessible and more attractive to a younger audience.

The app, called Volunteer Event Management System (VEMS), is fully operational and is available on iTunes. VEMS allows students to register for hospice volunteer events and even syncs with their smartphone’s calendar. It also makes it easy to log volunteer time, which is helpful for both students and Hospice organizations.

In just one short year, members of the Hospice volunteer student initiative have done remarkable and innovative work. This project has not only helped Hospice of Southern Illinois make significant progress, it has changed the way that volunteer programs can work.

This program has been submitted for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) Student Community Engaged Service Award.

## 2013 PRECEPTOR EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

*The School salutes all of our preceptors for their significant contributions in preparing the next generation of pharmacists.*

**Preceptor Excellence Award - Health System Pharmacy**  
**Danielle Rahman**  
 Gateway Regional Medical Center, Granite City, Ill.

**Preceptor Excellence Award - Community Pharmacy**  
**Dan Fieker**  
 Family Care Pharmacy  
 Highland, Ill.

**Preceptor Excellence Award - Alternative Practice Industry**  
**Mike Lloyd**  
 Pfizer Pharmaceuticals  
 Glen Carbon, Ill.

**Preceptor Excellence Award - Patient Care Practice**  
**Deaconess Health System**  
 Pharmacy, Evansville, Ind.

**Preceptor Excellence Award - SIUE Pharmacy Faculty**  
**Kelly Gable**  
 Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice

**SIUE School of Pharmacy Preceptor Above and Beyond Award - Community Pharmacy**  
**Al Pelate**  
 Medicap Pharmacy  
 Granite City, Ill.

**Preceptor Above and Beyond Award - Hospital Pharmacy**  
**Angelia Dreher**  
 Pekin Hospital, Pekin, Ill.



## FACULTY RESEARCH

Dr. Chris Lynch is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of those suffering with hypertension. A professor and director of clinical programs in the SIUE School of Pharmacy, Lynch helped secure a highly competitive CVS Caremark Community Grant to support a community health program in the southern Illinois region.



*Dr. Andrea Basso with patient*

## PHARMACY PRACTICE CVS CAREMARK GRANT

Through a partnership with Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation (SIHF) and Programs and Services for Older People (PSOP), the SIUE School of Pharmacy co-authored a CVS Caremark Community Grant. This grant offered an opportunity to design a program to support hypertension patients on their health care journey with the help of volunteer health care coaches.

The purpose of the program is to train individuals to serve as coaches for hypertension patients as they navigate the often-complicated health care system. These coaches will help to bridge the gap that sometimes exists between the patient and their health care providers, offering support by clarifying information, reminding patients about appointments and simply lending a listening ear when needed.

“Health care, in general, can be very confusing,” said Dr. Chris Lynch, director of clinical programs. “Having someone

there as a continuity figure who is trained to deal with these issues will offer a great deal of support to patients.”

For this one-year pilot program, 10 retired nurses have been selected as coaches. With a background in health care, these former nurses are a great fit for the role. Participating in this program also gives volunteers an opportunity to continue their service to others in their area of expertise.

A team of SIUE School of Pharmacy students under the supervision of Dr. Andrea Basso, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and clinician at Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation, along with a registered dietitian and an exercise physiologist, will train the volunteer coaches, giving them the most up-to-date knowledge on the management of hypertension.

“The School of Pharmacy students are very involved in the implementation of the program,” said Lynch. “From

recruitment and training to patient education, the pharmacy students will gain great experience in managing large projects, as well as in educating patients, which will be invaluable in clinical practice.”



*Dr. Chris Lynch*

In addition to facilitating coach-patient relationships, the program will host social and educational events at the PSOP facilities for all participants. These events will give patients an opportunity to share their stories and learn from each other, building a sense of community among the participants.

“The goal for the future is to make this program self-sustaining,” said Lynch. “We’d eventually like to see current patients become coaches after reaching their own blood pressure goals.”



## PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES IMPROVING HEALTH LITERACY

The National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) found that 36 percent of the U.S. population has limited health literacy. That means that more than 80 million adults may have trouble reading or understanding pertinent health care information.

Dr. Radhika Devraj, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is dedicated to helping the health care community understand this issue through her research. In addition, she also teaches pharmacy students about the importance of health literacy with hope that they will help to overcome the negative effect it has on the health and safety of millions of Americans. Recently, Devraj has conducted research exploring the role of health literacy in chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients.

“Although health literacy has gained attention as a public health issue, it has not been closely studied with regard to CKD,” said Devraj. “Patient’s self-management behaviors with diet, exercise, fluid intake and medication adherence are so important to prevent progression of CKD. This research will help us understand the connection between health literacy, patient knowledge of self-management behaviors and clinical outcomes of kidney disease (eGFR).”

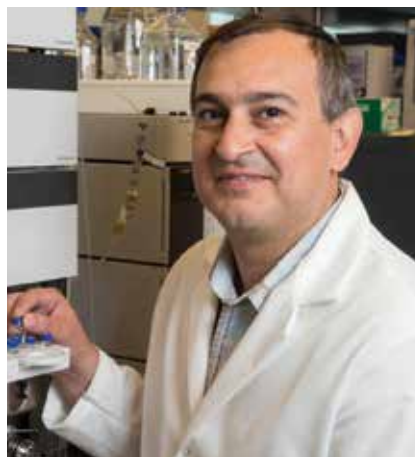


## PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES DESIGN AND DISCOVERY OF NOVEL ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS

Dr. Marcelo Nieto, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has dedicated his research efforts to the synthesis, purification and identification of novel anti-infective agents. According to the Center for Disease Control, more than 70 percent of hospital-acquired infections are now resistant to commonly used drugs. The threat of this issue is intensified by the steady decline in the number of new FDA-approved antibiotics on the market.

This research is critical for the future of public health and the treatment of disease. Nieto also sees it as an important experience for the pharmacy students who have been involved.

“I think that this kind of project gives students a lot of respect for the drugs that they are going to be dispensing,” said Nieto. “The ultimate goal is to develop an effective drug for the treatment of bacterial infections. We are looking at the structural qualities of existing agents and creating a library of this information to be used in the development of new drugs. Students are able to see first-hand that developing new drugs is difficult and that it takes time.”



## NIH Pain Consortium Update

Since SIUE’s recognition as a NIH Center of Excellence in Pain Education (CoEPE) in 2011, Dr. Chris Herndon, associate professor of pharmacy practice, and his colleagues have been developing interactive case-based scenarios, as well as a complete interprofessional course on pain management to be made available to medical and other health professional schools around the world.

“Currently, we are focused on completing the modules for the course,” said Herndon. “Course materials including teaching resources, narrated slide decks and assessment tools will reside on the NIH pain consortium website and will be available as a free download to any university.”

*Read more about the CoEPE at [siue.edu/pharmacy](http://siue.edu/pharmacy).*



## COLLABORATING WITH ALUMNI

Since its inaugural class graduated in 2009, the SIUE School of Pharmacy has conferred approximately 80 doctor of pharmacy degrees each year. A growing network of alumni is spread throughout Illinois and across the country. The School is passionate about building the alumni community and supporting the needs of this outstanding group.

In an effort to offer continuing education (CE) and social networking opportunities to alumni, Dr. Chris Lynch, professor of pharmacy practice and director of clinical programs, teamed up with Class of 2009 graduate Dr. Diana (Jason) Isaacs to develop a session on the rapidly-changing topic area of diabetes management.

“Diabetes is one disease that basically any pharmacist will encounter, no matter the clinical practice site,” said Lynch. “The number of treatments used for diabetes is constantly growing, and the American Diabetes Association Clinical Practice Recommendations are updated annually. A session on this disease is relevant to almost anyone.”

The one-hour program will be hosted in the future at Chicago State University, where Isaacs is a faculty member.

While this particular session is geared toward alumni living and working in the Chicago metropolitan area, there are plans to offer similar sessions across the state of Illinois in Peoria, Springfield, Marion and Carbondale.

“The plan is to partner with alumni in different regions, covering different topics each session,” said Lynch. “We’d like to see alumni who are providing unique or progressive models of care share that information with fellow alumni.”

These continuing education sessions don’t fit the typical model of obtaining the 30 hours required of practitioners every two years. “Most practitioners complete CE hours online without much opportunity for discussion or interaction,” said Lynch. “We want to create a collaborative experience that participants can tailor to meet their own professional needs. It will also serve as a time for friends and colleagues to reconnect.”

Isaacs was eager to get involved in this joint effort. “It’s so important to stay active in the profession,” said Isaacs. “These kinds of sessions provide alumni the chance to build and maintain professional connections that can lead to new opportunities in the field.”

*To learn more about continuing education programs, contact Dr. Walter Siganga at [wsigang@siue.edu](mailto:wsigang@siue.edu).*



■ **Diana (Jason) Isaacs,**  
*Class of 2009*



■ **Goldie Peters,** *Class of 2009*



■ **Shelley Otsuka,** *Class of 2010*

## ALUMNI IN FACULTY POSITIONS

*Degree: Doctor of Pharmacy  
(PharmD)*

*Current position: Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Chicago State University and Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Ambulatory Care at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital*

*Residency location: Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center*

**Why academia?** *I was always interested in teaching, even before I began pharmacy school. During my time at SIUE, I was really inspired by the faculty in the School of Pharmacy and had the opportunity to take course electives with a teaching concentration. Everyone was so supportive. They encouraged me to get involved in professional organizations, which opened the doors for networking opportunities and eventually led me to my current faculty position.*

**What do you love about your job?**

*I love serving students in the role of preceptor. I feel a responsibility to the next generation of pharmacists to help move the profession forward through guiding and mentoring students.*

**Do you have any advice for current pharmacy students considering academia?** *Stay open minded.*

*Take advantage of the chance to get involved in organizations and professional events. Staying active in the field will lead you to new and exciting opportunities no matter the direction you choose.*

*Degree: Doctor of Pharmacy  
(PharmD)*

*Current position: Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at St. Louis College of Pharmacy*

*Residency location: St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Ill.*

**Why academia?** *I wasn't positive about where I wanted to end up until I began my residency. Once I started working with the pharmacy students, I knew academia was the right direction for me. I let the residency experience lead me, and I couldn't be happier with my decision.*

**What do you love about your job?**

*I truly enjoy working with students on rotation and helping them understand what it means to be a pharmacist. I also get a lot of fulfillment out of the clinical service we are able to provide*

*to the veterans at the John Cochran Division of the VA St. Louis Health Care System.*

**What is your teaching style?**

*My philosophy is that the classroom should be an open environment. I want my students to know that it's OK to not know everything and to feel comfortable asking questions. My instructors at SIUE cultivated a very comfortable classroom environment, so I try to model my teaching after them.*

*Degree: Doctor of Pharmacy  
(PharmD)*

*Current position: Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy*

*Residency location: The Ohio State University*

**Why academia?** *I first became interested in academia when I took three elective courses focused on teaching at SIUE. Those courses really developed my interest in the field and gave me an idea of how dynamic a career in academia could be. I was attracted to the fact that faculty positions give you the opportunity to experience teaching, patient care, scholarly activities and more.*

**What do you love about your**

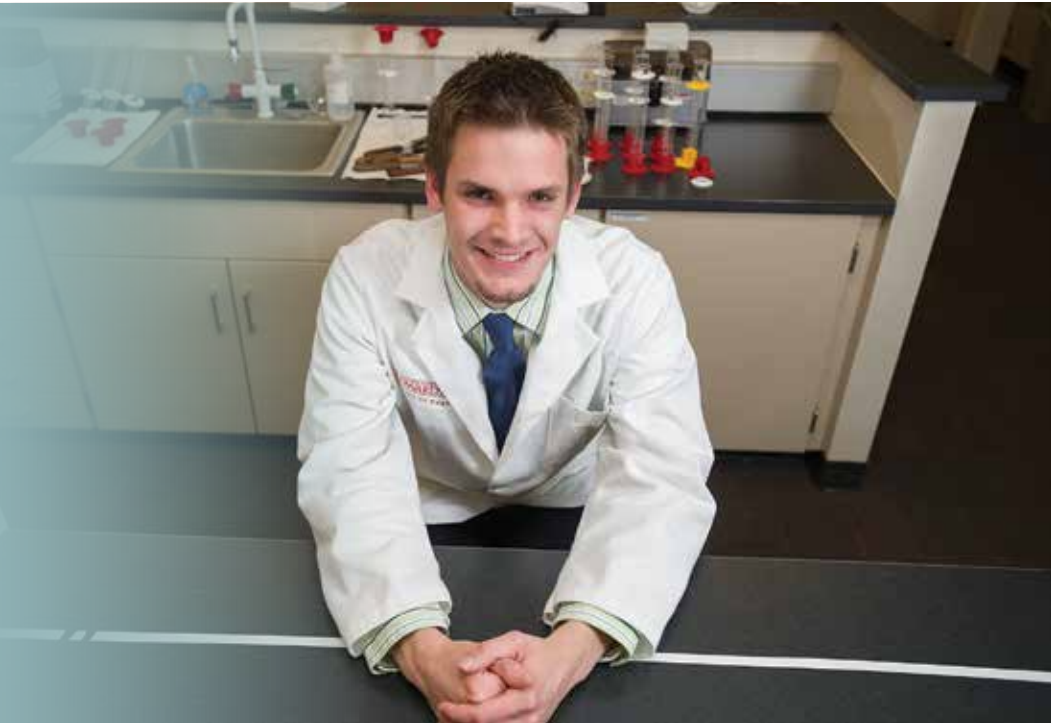
**job?** *As a preceptor, I am able to see students through their academic career. It's very rewarding. I also enjoy the flexibility my position allows. I'm able to work with patients, teach and mentor students, work on a variety of projects, and travel to a variety of conferences, which makes every day interesting*

**What are your research interests?**

*I am focused on chronic disease state management, health information technology and transition of care.*

## SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

“SIUE helped me move forward in my life and career, and I want to make sure that I’m supporting other students so that they have the opportunity to explore various career options and opportunities as I did,” said Charles Dragovich, BA, '86.



## CHARLES DRAGOVICH SCHOLARSHIP IN PHARMACY ENDOWMENT

Charles Dragovich, an SIUE alumnus, established an endowed scholarship for the School of Pharmacy in 2005. He and his family continue to add funds to the endowment and have a goal of generating one \$1,000 scholarship from the endowment each year by 2015. To date, five scholarship recipients have benefited from Dragovich’s generosity.

Originally from Macoupin County, Ill., Dragovich completed his bachelor of arts in chemistry at SIUE in 1986 and then attended pharmacy school in Iowa. Since earning his doctor of pharmacy degree, Dragovich has lived all over the country and worked for both large corporations and non-profit organizations, advancing his career in pharmacy at every point on his journey. He currently works as the

director of business development at Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) and lives in Washington, D.C.

Although his career has taken him far away from southern Illinois, Dragovich has maintained a close connection with SIUE. He served on the SIUE School of Pharmacy Advisory Board before establishing the endowed scholarship.

It is clear that Dragovich has a deep respect for the SIUE School of Pharmacy. “Although I didn’t receive my pharmacy degree from SIUE, I am so proud of what it has become in such a short time,” he said. “The fact that it has been designated as a Center of Excellence in Pain Education (CoEPE) by the National Institutes of Health is a clear indication that SIUE

has already established itself as an institution of learning, research and proactive thinking in pharmacy.”

Endowed scholarships in the School of Pharmacy help students maintain focus on their studies and allow them to explore their potential. Mark Hotop, a 2013 graduate from Perryville, Mo., was a recipient of the Charles Dragovich scholarship and says he feels motivated by the opportunity he was given.

“Scholarships give students more drive to do well in school and to contribute to their community,” said Hotop. “The Charles Dragovich Scholarship encouraged me to work hard to become a competent pharmacist. It feels good to be recognized for my hard work.”



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## FACULTY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

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