It is difficult to believe that we are half way through the IPPE experiences offered in the summer of 2014, residents have started PGY1 and PGY2 programs throughout the state, and the start of the fall semester is about 6 weeks away! As you know, I personally do a lot of site visits around the state and I can honestly say that I rarely see preceptor faculty with a lot idle time. We live in an age where efficiency is vital for us to maintain an adequate balance between our professional and our personal lives. For this reason, we would like to present the sequel to the "Value Added with a Student Pharmacist" during our fall Preceptors' Development Conferences. This topic was one of our highlights during the 2012 conferences. We are currently collecting availability for APPEs to be offered from January, 2015 through April, 2016.

Most of you know that our College of Pharmacy will host an accreditation visit for A.C.P.E. in the fall. Some of you in our major cities may be invited to meet with the site visit team while they are here. The faculty of the College of Pharmacy have expended considerable energy getting ready for this important activity and we are confident that the fruits of that labor will result in a quality visit. I will purposely keep this column short because I want to remind you about several important dates listed below.

**2014 Tennessee Pharmacists Association Annual Convention**
Hilton Head, South Carolina
July 20-24, 2014

**Preceptors' Development Conference (COP)**
Knoxville, TN
August 12, 2014

**UT COP Residency/ Rotation Day (COP)**
Knoxville, TN
August 13, 2014

**Preceptors' Development Conference (COP)**
Memphis, TN
August 20, 2014

**UT COP Residency/ Rotation Day (COP)**
Memphis, TN
August 21, 2014

**Preceptors' Development Conference (Nashville CEC)**
Nashville, TN
September 9, 2014
Faculty Spotlight

Dykiesha Rankin is the Pharmacy Manager at the Walgreens store on Austin Peay Highway in Memphis. She is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and precepts P2s/P3s in IPPE Community and P3s/P4s in Advanced Community and Medication Therapy Management.

**What formal pharmacy training did you have before becoming a faculty member?** I graduated from University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in 2005.

**Why did you pursue a career as a part time faculty member?**
As a student, I had some great experiences during my rotations. I learned from some amazing pharmacists. I also enjoy connecting with and mentoring students and sharing with them my enthusiasm for community pharmacy.

**Why did you choose community pharmacy as a career?**
Community pharmacy is where I saw the greatest need for competent and knowledgeable professionals. Let’s face it, we are usually the primary and sometimes the only resource for our patients. Patients share things with us that they are afraid to share with their providers. There are so many opportunities for community pharmacists to educate our patients and to influence them to take a proactive role in their health. I enjoy every hectic minute of community pharmacy.

**Where do you feel you have the biggest impact in your daily work?** As a pharmacist, I feel a call to action working with underserved populations. Increasing their health literacy and teaching them how to take a proactive stance towards the management of health is very rewarding.

**What is it like balancing your personal and professional life?**
Maintaining a healthy balance between personal and professional life is key to avoiding burnout. Since I am a pharmacy manager, I sometimes spend long hours at work away from my husband and six animals (three cats, two dogs, and one Russian tortoise). I am fortunate to have a husband who is very supportive of my career and aspirations. When I am away from work, I rarely discuss anything work related and will only answer calls or texts if there is an urgent situation. My time away from work is strictly for me to enjoy and pursue my interests. My pharmacy team respects my boundaries, and my professional life is enriched by establishing and adhering to boundaries.

(cont.)
What do you enjoy the most about being a preceptor?
I enjoy learning about my students and what influenced them to pursue a career in pharmacy. Each student has a unique and interesting story.

Give an example of when a student on your service made a major intervention.
My students make interventions on a regular basis. In community pharmacy, any intervention big or small can have a significant impact on a patient's life. Students often times make recommendations that may not necessarily save a life but may drastically improve the quality of life.

How do you handle a student that has substantial deficits in their database?
I encourage my students to be active seekers of knowledge. If a student has obvious deficits in knowledge, I will take some time to speak to him or her privately to find out how I can help and recommend refresher resources. However, a month is a short period of time to re-learn therapeutics. I try to emphasize the importance of understanding concepts and foundations and not simply memorizing data. My desire is for all of my students to be the very best that they can be.

Have you ever learned something new from a student?
I learn new things from my students all of the time. That’s one of the joys of being a preceptor.

How do you handle a student who has inappropriate professional behavior on a rotation?
Fortunately, I have not encountered many instances of inappropriate behavior. When it has occurred, I addressed the situation immediately and reinforced my expectations.

What assignments that you give out do you feel your students learn the most from?
I assign weekly topic discussions to my students and allow them to choose the topic. Sometimes their topic serves as a refresher and sometimes it’s completely new information. Also, if a student asks a question, I will frequently ask them to look it up and report to me their findings. They tend to remember the information better if they look it up versus my giving them an answer right away.

What assignments do you give to your students that promote self learning?
I assign case discussions and frequently ask students to teach me or my pharmacy staff about a new drug or device.

What advice would you give to a new preceptor?
Set aside time daily to talk to your student. Take the opportunity to get to know your students and their interests. Don’t be afraid to acknowledge that you don’t know everything. Keep current and stay committed to lifelong active learning.

(cont.)
What advice do you have for students looking to pursue a career in community pharmacy?

Community pharmacy has evolved so much over the past few years. There are countless opportunities for connecting with patients and truly making a difference in their lives. My best advice is to never let the fire die. To be successful in community pharmacy requires a passion that displaces complacency. Seek out what interests you in community pharmacy whether it is MTM, HIV patient care, Compounding, Immunizations, and find a mentor. Take advantage of community pharmacy management and independent pharmacy rotations in order to get an idea of how you would like to practice. Make connections! You never know what doors will open as a result of a connection made years or months ago.

E-newsletter/Journal Club in State Mental Health Sites

Drs. Wes Gemin and Jason Carter have developed a newsletter and journal club that is offered to preceptors and other pharmacists at the four state-run mental health hospitals in our state. This includes Memphis Mental Health Institute, Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institute (Chattanooga), Western State Mental Health Institute (Bolivar), and Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute (Nashville). Students completing APPEs in mental health or public policy participate in this educational program. They help develop a pharmacy newsletter that is distributed to all staff in the institutes. This newsletter, the RxFactor, contains a drug review, drug pricing, and other professional information such as new guidelines (e.g. JNC 8; ACC / AHA Cholesterol Guidelines, etc.), new legislation, or recently approved drugs. The newsletter also includes a summary sheet of a monthly webinar presented by the students completing a mental health APPE; during this webinar, the student reviews a study related to therapy with psychotropic agents. The newsletter has received very positive feedback since its inception in the fall of 2013. Hospital staff have reported that they learn something new from each issue and that the webinar summary sheet is especially helpful for keeping up-to-date on new developments in psychopharmacotherapy. A quote and cartoon are included in the newsletter to reflect the theme of each issue, but also to balance the clinical content with some humor and wit.
# Welcome New Preceptors

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**West Tennessee**
- Dr. Rex Brown
  - Director, OEL
  - rbrown@uthsc.edu

- Dr. Stephan Foster
  - Director, IPPE
  - sfoster@uthsc.edu

- LaVerne Jones
  - Coordinator
  - lajones@uthsc.edu

- Carla Ruffer
  - Coordinator
  - International Programs
  - cruffer@uthsc.edu

**Middle Tennessee**
- Dr. Todd Bess
  - Assistant Dean, Middle TN
  - dbess@uthsc.edu

**East Tennessee**
- Dr. Debbie Byrd
  - Associate Dean, Knoxville
  - dbyrd4@uthsc.edu

- Melissa Smith
  - Coordinator
  - Newsletter Editor
  - msmith18@uthsc.edu

**College of Pharmacy**
- Dean
  - Dr. Marie Chisholm-Burns

- Executive Associate
  - Deans
  - Dr. Jim Eoff

- Dr. Peter Chyka-Knoxville

- Academic Affairs
  - Dr. Stephanie Phelps