



2025

**UB** University at Buffalo®  
The State University of New York



SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES  
**C O M M E N C E M E N T**

Sunday

May 17, 2025

1:00 PM

Center for the Arts

North Campus



*Baird Point is an outdoor, Greek-style amphitheater located on the southern shore of Lake LaSalle. It was a gift to the University from the Baird Foundation and the Cameron Baird Foundation. The marble columns on the concrete platforms were once part of the old Federal Reserve Bank in downtown Buffalo. Following their relocation to the lake, the columns were dedicated as a memorial to servicemen and servicewomen.*

# Program

## Processional

Selections from Pomp and Circumstance  
by *Edward Elgar*

## Opening Declaration

Jennifer Rosenberg, PhD  
*Associate Dean*  
*Student Success and Engagement*  
*School of Pharmacy and*  
*Pharmaceutical Sciences*

## Master of Ceremonies

Associate Dean Rosenberg

## National Anthem

The Royal Pitches

## Introduction of the Platform Party

## Greetings

A. Scott Weber, PhD  
*Provost and Executive Vice President*  
*of Academic Affairs*

## Remarks

Gary M. Pollack, PhD  
*Dean*  
*School of Pharmacy and*  
*Pharmaceutical Sciences*

## Commencement Address

Mario Rocci Jr., PhD '81, BS '76  
*Chairman and CEO of Catalyx*

## Remarks

Raelea Derylak  
*PharmD Class President*

## Recommendation of Candidates

Dean Pollack

## Conferral of Degrees

Provost Weber

## Remarks

Curtis Haas, PharmD '89  
*Chief Pharmacy Officer*  
*University of Rochester Medical Center*

## Alma Mater

The Royal Pitches

## Closing Remarks and Declaration

Associate Dean Rosenberg

## Recessional

Triumphal March from Aida  
by *Giuseppe Verdi*

## SUNY Trustee and UB Officials

### Eunice Ashman Lewin

*Member of the State University of New York Board of Trustees*



President and co-founder of Impacto Consulting Associates, Eunice Ashman Lewin joined the SUNY Board of Trustees in February 2010. She serves on the board's Executive Committee and co-chairs

the Student Life Committee. She also serves on the committees for academic affairs, communications and external affairs, community colleges, and academic medical centers and hospitals.

A former commissioner of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Lewin was a founding member of the Roswell Park Alliance and a board member of the Buffalo Urban League and Hispanics United of Buffalo. She is a member of the Hispanic Women's League and the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable.

In 2024, Lewin was named chair of the Buffalo Urban League Board of Directors, dedicating herself to its mission of ensuring African Americans and others in underserved communities achieve their highest true social parity, economic self-reliance, power and civil rights.

A retired bilingual social worker for the Buffalo Board of Education, she is a champion for STEM education.

Born in Guantanamo, Cuba, Lewin immigrated to the United States with her family in 1967. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Marymount Manhattan College, a master's degree in American and Puerto Rican studies, and an EdM in educational administration, both from UB.

### Jerry Jacobs Jr.

*Chairman of the University at Buffalo Council*



Jeremy "Jerry" M. Jacobs Jr. is the chief executive officer of Delaware North, a role he shares with his brothers, Lou and Charlie. He also serves as an alternate governor to the Boston Bruins.

As CEO, Jacobs oversees the company and its operating subsidiaries, focusing on strategic growth, corporate governance and financial management. He joined Delaware North in 1986 and held progressive leadership roles before becoming CEO in 2015.

Jacobs is actively involved in numerous philanthropic, civic and business organizations in Buffalo and across the country. His current board positions include The Corps Network, Mimivax and the Jacobs Institute. He is also a member of the U.S. Travel Association's CEO Roundtable and the Partnership for New York City.

Jacobs was a founding board member of Say Yes Buffalo, and he has dedicated more than two decades of service to the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, including past chairmanships of the board of directors and the annual fundraising campaign. He is a past member of the Board of Regents at Georgetown University and past chair of the Nichols School's Board of Trustees. He also served three terms on the University at Buffalo Foundation board.

Jacobs holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Georgetown University.

### Satish K. Tripathi

*University President*



An internationally distinguished researcher and higher education leader, Satish K. Tripathi, PhD, is the University at Buffalo's 15th president.

Tripathi, who served as UB's provost from 2004-

2011, was dean of the Bourns College of Engineering at the University of California, Riverside, from 1997-2004. Previously, he spent 19 years as a professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, including seven as department chair.

In 2024, Tripathi was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. A fellow of IEEE and AAAS, he has published more than 200 scholarly papers, supervised more than 30 doctoral and postdoctoral students and served on program committees of numerous international conferences.

Tripathi graduated at the top of his class from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). He holds a master's degree and doctorate in computer science from the University of Toronto, as well as master's degrees in statistics from the University of Alberta and BHU. He has received honorary doctorates from Maharaja Surajmal Brij University, the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, and Brock University.

Tripathi co-chairs the Association of American Universities (AAU) Task Force on Expanding U.S.-India University Partnerships, serves on the College Football Playoff Board of Managers and the boards of University Innovation Alliance and Internet2. Previously, he chaired the Mid-American Conference Council of Presidents and Internet2 and served on the boards of the AAU, NCAA Division I, NCAA Board of Governors, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

### **A. Scott Weber**

*Provost and Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs*



As provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, A. Scott Weber, PhD, serves as the university's chief academic officer, providing leadership across the academic enterprise including research, scholarship and

creative activities; undergraduate, graduate, professional and international education; faculty development; inclusive excellence initiatives; and university libraries. Weber is leading the implementation of the university's vision to be recognized among the top 25 public research universities in the nation, focused on building on UB's strengths to achieve new levels of excellence in research, scholarship, education, clinical care and engagement.

A UB faculty member since 1983, Weber is an innovative scholar, teacher and former chair of UB's Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Prior to his appointment as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, Weber held several other senior administrative roles at UB, including senior vice provost for academic affairs, where he was instrumental in the creation of the UB Curriculum and nationally recognized Finish in 4 program; and vice president for student life, where he focused on enhancing the student experience and promoting overall student wellness.

Weber serves on New York's Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Board for Chemical Waste Management. He is a former board member and current advisory committee member of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

Weber earned bachelor's and master's of science degrees in civil engineering from Virginia Polytechnical Institute and a PhD in civil engineering from the University of California, Davis.

### **Allison Brashear**

*Vice President for Health Sciences  
Dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine  
and Biomedical Sciences*



Allison Brashear, MD, MBA, a world-renowned neurologist, is reshaping academic medicine at UB. As vice president for health sciences and dean of the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, she

promotes partnerships and integration across health sciences disciplines, driving health care innovation both locally and nationally. Additionally, she leads UBMD Physicians' Group as president and CEO.

Her impactful research has led to the approval of three botulinum toxin treatments for conditions like post-stroke spasticity. Continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2008, she is a leading expert in ATP1A3-related diseases, a spectrum of rare neurologic disorders.

Prior to UB, Brashear was dean of the University of California, Davis School of Medicine, as well as a professor and the Walter C. Teagle Endowed Chair of Neurology at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

Brashear earned her medical degree and completed her neurology residency at Indiana University School of Medicine. She earned her MBA, focused on health-sector management, at Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

In 2022, Brashear was elected to the Association of American Colleges Council of Deans Administrative Board; she became chair-elect in 2024. The same year, she was appointed to the AAMC's board of directors and joined the NIH Scientific Management Review Board. Brashear is also a trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation and a board member of the WNY Women's Foundation.

### **Gary M. Pollack**

*Dean of the School of Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences*



Dr. Pollack received his undergraduate degrees in chemistry and psychology from Knox College (Galesburg, IL), and his PhD in pharmaceutical sciences from the University at Buffalo. He spent nearly 26 years on faculty in the School of Pharmacy, the University

of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he also was a division chair and the school's first vice dean. Dr. Pollack subsequently served as dean of pharmacy at both Washington State University and the University of Toledo prior to coming home to Buffalo. In August 2021, he became the 12th dean of UB's School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Dr. Pollack has taught a wide range of subjects in both the professional and graduate curricula, with an emphasis on pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. He was the founding director of North Carolina's Center for Instructional Innovation in Pharmacy, has led changes in curricular delivery approaches in each of the institutions he has served, and has published in the area of teaching and learning. Dr. Pollack also has been a research mentor for students pursuing professional and graduate degrees, as well as postdoctoral scholars.

Dr. Pollack's research has focused on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs and toxicants in the central nervous system. His research group has made fundamental contributions to understanding the role of P-glycoprotein in limiting drug penetration into brain and in modulating pharmacologic response, and to defining the mechanisms and dynamics underlying the development of morphine tolerance. Dr. Pollack is a fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

## Commencement Speaker

### **Mario Rocci Jr., PhD '81, BS '76**

*Chairman and CEO of Catalyx*



Mario L. Rocci Jr., Ph.D., FCP, FFIP graduated from the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences with a BS degree in Pharmacy and a PhD in Pharmaceutics. He currently serves as the Chairman and CEO of Catalyx, the Executive Chairman of Solvias, an Executive Advisor and Board member for The IMA Group and a Strategic Advisor

to Water Street Healthcare Partners. His earlier roles include Division President at ICON, plc, Chief Executive Officer of Prevalere Life Sciences, and Head of the Laboratory for Investigative Medicine in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology at Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University. Mario has served as president of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AAPS) and the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT), is a former Chairman of the Product Quality Research Institute (PQRI) and a former Board Member of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP). Dr. Rocci also served as Chair of the Task Force on Science for the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (ASHP). He has received the Distinguished Service Award and a Presidential Citation from AAPS, the Willis G. Gregory Memorial Award from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University at Buffalo, SUNY; and the Henry W. Elliott Distinguished Service Award from ASCPT. Mario is an inductee of the Sigma Xi Honorary Research Society and the Rho Chi Honor Society.

## Guest Speaker

### **Curtis Haas, PharmD '89**

*Chief Pharmacy Officer of  
University of Rochester Medical Center*



Curtis E. Haas, PharmD, FCCP, is the Director of Pharmacy at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He earned his BS in Pharmacy from Albany College of Pharmacy and his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University at Buffalo.

Dr. Haas has over three decades of experience in pharmacy practice, education, and leadership. He spent 18 years in acute care, advancing through clinical, administrative, and research roles, including Director of the Clinical Pharmacology Trials Unit. He later joined the University at Buffalo as a faculty member, earning tenure as Associate Professor.

Specializing in critical care for 17 years, Dr. Haas has contributed extensively through teaching, research, and national presentations. His professional service includes leadership roles with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. He has been actively involved in training pharmacy students, residents, and fellows for more than 25 years.

## Program Descriptions

### **Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences**

The Pharmaceutics Major Program is a rigorous four-year curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Areas of interest in Pharmaceutics include: the Physical Chemistry of drug delivery systems; Biopharmaceutics, which encompasses the study of the relationship between drug tissue concentrations and drug effects on the body; Clinical Pharmacokinetics, or the application of pharmacokinetics to the safe and effective therapeutic management of individual patients; and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, which is the application of genetic engineering and recombinant DNA techniques important for the development of pharmaceutical drugs.

### **Master of Science or Doctorate of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences**

The MS and PhD programs offered by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences provide instruction and research training in drug discovery and experimental therapeutics, with interdisciplinary coursework and research in the Pharmaceutical Sciences at the molecular, biochemical, biological and clinical levels. These programs involve clinical as well as laboratory research including pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, drug delivery, drug transport and metabolism, drug analysis and pharmacogenomics. Graduates of these programs find extensive career opportunities where they will be involved in the discovery and development of new drugs in the Pharmaceutical Industry and in academia, and in the evaluation of drug therapies in various government and private agencies.

### **Doctor of Pharmacy Program**

The Doctor of Pharmacy program has a strong academic base, which is aimed at developing an in-depth understanding of the factors involved in making rational drug therapy decisions. The Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential program builds on this academic base, providing a wide range of exposure to various clinical pharmacy practice environments and medical subspecialty areas. Formal teaching opportunities and clinical research experiences are components of the program. Graduates of the Doctor of Pharmacy program practice in a wide variety of clinical pharmacy positions in university, hospital, community and industrial settings throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Africa.



# Candidates for Degrees

*Subject to the completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon those individuals listed herein who were identified by April 3, 2025, and upon such others as may meet the requirements of their respective degrees. Candidates are listed according to actual date of degree conferral (August 2024, February 2025, May 2025, June 2025 and August 2025).*

## Latin Honors

Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of the following minimum criteria, Latin honors may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements. To qualify for Latin honors, students must present a minimum of 60 credit hours of UB undergraduate coursework, at least 54 of which must be graded credits (i.e., not satisfactory or unsatisfactory [grades of 'S' or 'U']). The UB GPA must be a minimum of 3.2 (to 3.499) for cum laude, 3.5 (to 3.749) for magna cum laude and 3.75 (to 4.0) for summa cum laude.

To receive the Latin honors designation in the printed 2025 commencement programs, and to wear the gold cord, candidates for the May and June 2025 degree conferral date must qualify based upon their UB cumulative GPA through the Winter 2025 session and total number of UB credit hours projected through the Spring 2025 semester. Standings for Latin honors MAY change once final grades are posted or degrees conferred.

## Legend

Cum laude is denoted by one asterisk (\*)

Magna cum laude is denoted by two asterisks (\*\*)

Summa cum laude is denoted by three asterisks (\*\*\*)

## Academic Recognition Items

### The Gold Cord

This cord is awarded to students who are graduating with Latin honors.

### The Grey and Red Stole

This stole was received by students who are University Honors College graduates.

### The WNY Prosperity Fellowship Medallion

This medallion was received by graduating WNY Prosperity Fellows. They were selected for this fellowship based on their commitment and demonstrated potential to positively impact WNY's economic development and sustainability.

### The UB Flame of Wisdom Pin

This pin, depicting the flame of wisdom from the university's seal, was received by students who were honored at the UB Celebration of Student Academic Excellence for earning select national, SUNY and UB awards and citations.

## Non-Academic, University-Wide Recognition Items

### The Kente Stole

This stole was received by students who participated in UB's ALANA Celebration of Achievement which historically has honored graduating African, Latino/a, Asian and Native American students

### The Rainbow Tassel and Lavender Stole

These items were received by students who participated in the Lavender Ceremony, celebrating achievements of graduating students who identify with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community at UB.

### The Red, White and Blue Cord

This cord is being worn by graduating UB students who are reservists, members of the National Guard, newly commissioned officers or veterans of the United States armed forces.

## Baccalaureate Degrees

*Recommending Candidates for Degrees*

Dean Pollack

*School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences*

## Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences

### June 2025

Jimson Chen

Maisara Chowdhury

Michael Tyler Evans\*\*

Naushin Hossain

Lingling Huang\*\*\*

Liam Joseph Hubbard\*

Maureen Parks

Adam Plecha\*

David Schnell

Winnie Tang

Siyuan Wu\*\*\*

Alvin Yeung\*\*

## Masters Degrees

*Recommending Candidates for Degrees*

Dean Pollack

*School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences*

## Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences

### August 2024

Maitreyee Avinash Deshpande

Carson Essenburg

Dennis (Yao Heng) Huang

Harika Patibandla

### February 2025

Shweta Jogi

*Thesis Title: Effect of Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) – Induced Acute Lung Injury (ALI) on Pulmonary Pharmacokinetics of Antibodies*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Sravani Lanke

*Thesis Title: Development of Web based Application for Personalized Dosing of Monoclonal Antibodies in Pediatric Population*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Aditi Panchal

*Thesis Title: Development of Novel AAV-based Gene Therapy for Hashimoto's Thyroiditis*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Sirisha Presingu

*Thesis Title: Development of Quantitative Systems Pharmacology Model for the Prediction of Bone Marrow Toxicity of Trastuzumab-DXd*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Andrew Santulli

*Thesis Title: Population Pharmacokinetic Modeling of Sedative use in Mechanically Ventilated Pediatric Patients Experiencing Acute Respiratory Failure*

Advisor: Dr. Robert Bies

Shrusti Ashok Tiwari

*Thesis Title: Translational PBPK Model for Lipid Nanoparticle-Mediated Delivery of mRNA Expressing Monoclonal Antibody*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Lalasa Vavilthota

*Thesis Title: Development of Inducible Gene Expression System to Treat Bacterial Infections*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

### June 2025

Yegwon An

*Thesis Title: Dual Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic Model of Irinotecan and Nano-liposomal Formulation in Pediatric Tumor Mouse Model*

Advisor: Dr. Sukyung Woo

Madhumitha Arumugam

*Thesis Title: A Full Random Effect Population Model of Serum Creatinine in Neonates with Joint Covariate Distribution of Body Weight and Gestational Age*

Advisor: Dr. Wojciech Krzyzanski

Suprita Bhide

*Thesis Title: Evaluating Tumor Sensitization via GSH Depletion Using the Gamma-Glutamyl Transferase Inhibitor L-ABBA*

Advisor: Dr. Youngjae You

Junlang (Theo) Cai

*Thesis Title: ADC Treatment on Retinoblastoma*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

# Masters Degrees

Harley Le

*Thesis Title: Evaluation of PK/PD of Positively Charged ADC*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Shirley Lin

*Thesis Title: Characterizing Small Unilamellar Liposomes to Delivery Interleukin-12*

Advisor: Dr. Robert Straubinger

Leeha Mahmood

*Thesis Title: Developing Strategies for Updatable Phages Using Pseudomonas Phage LUZ19*

Advisor: Dr. Nicholas Smith

Samantha Mei

*Thesis Title: Assessing Pediatric Vancomycin Exposures and the Influences on Body Composition*

Advisor: Dr. Raymond Cha

Lav Patel

*Thesis Title: Engineering High Affinity Sweeping Antibodies Targeting Autoimmune IgA in IgA Vasculitis Using Yeast Surface Display-Derived Anti-IgA Fab Molecules*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Vijay Rajendran

*Thesis Title: Population Model of Vancomycin in Neonates with Inferred Serum Creatinine Covariate*

Advisor: Dr. Wojciech Krzyzanski

Keerthana Rajkumar

*Thesis Title: Shiny Application for Guiding Antenatal Corticosteroid Administration in Pregnant Women*

Advisor: Dr. Wojciech Krzyzanski

Aneesh Rajwade

*Thesis Title: Development of Dose Exposure Response Relationship for AAV Mediated Delivery of Antibody Therapeutics*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Sandra Salib

*Thesis Title: Race-Specific Differences in Enzautamide and MYCMI-6 Combination in Prostate Cancer*

Advisor: Dr. Donald Mager

Shraddha Sawant

*Thesis Title: Synergistic Pharmacodynamic Effects of Gemcitabine and Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor Inhibitors on Pancreatic Cancer Cell Cycle Kinetics and Proliferation*

Advisor: Dr. Robert Straubinger

Siddarth Thenkondar Thanigan

*Thesis Title: Synergistic Targeting of DNA and RNA Pathways in Pancreatic Cancer by Combined Nucleoside Analogues and FGFR Inhibitors*

Advisor: Dr. Robert Straubinger

Allison Warmuth

*Thesis Title: Investigation of Monocarboxylate Transporter 6 (MCT6)-Mediated Platinum Disposition*

Advisor: Dr. Jason Sprowl

Ryan Wollschleger

*Thesis Title: Serotype-Dependent Immunogenicity of Adeno-Associated Virus*

Advisor: Dr. Sathy Balu-Iyer

Nitheesh Yanamandala

*Thesis Title: PK/PD Modeling of Dexamethasone in Heart and Lung Tissues of Lipopolysaccharide-Challenged Rats*

Advisor: Dr. William Jusko

Yue Zhang

*Thesis Title: Investigating the Impact of Target mRNA Abundance on siRNA Efficacy and PK/PD Modeling Strategy*

Advisor: Dr. Sukyung Woo

Kerry Zhou

*Thesis Title: Chronic Ethanol Consumption Exacerbates Memory Loss by Modification of N6 Methyl-Adenosine Mediated Epigenetic Signaling*

Advisor: Dr. James O'Donnell

## August 2025

Sudhanshu Sachin Agnihotri

*Thesis Title: Prediction and Mitigation of Immunogenicity of Stressed Monoclonal Antibody*

Advisor: Dr. Sathy Balu-Iyer

Aniruddha Chaudhari

*Thesis Title: Differential Potency with HDAC Inhibitors and Proteasome Inhibition in Multiple Myeloma Cells*

Advisor: Dr. Donald Mager

Sheryl Dsouza

*Thesis Title: In Situ Photo-Vaccination for Cold Tumors: Combining PDT-Based Photoimmunotherapy with Immunoadjuvants to Enhance Abscopal Effects in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer*

Advisor: Dr. Youngjae You

Tanvi Ghanvatkar  
*Dosage form of Regulatory T cell Adjuvant, O-phospho-L-serine for Subcutaneous Delivery*  
Advisor: Dr. Sathy Balu-Iyer

Meining Gong  
Advisor: Dr. Nicholas Smith

Sujay Harne  
*Thesis Title: M-Cell Mediated Uptake of Tolerogenic Nanoparticles by Cell-Based In Vitro Assay*  
Advisor: Dr. Sathy Balu-Iyer

Palak Naresh Jethva  
Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Rutuja Kulkarni  
Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Saurav Kulkarni  
Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Prutha Suryakant Parmar  
*Thesis Title: PBPK Model to Characterize Maternal to Fetal Transfer of Antibody-based Therapeutics*  
Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Sahil Salvi  
*Thesis Title: Tissue Disposition of Antibodies with Enhanced Effector Functions*  
Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Miaoyan Wang  
Advisor: Dr. Qing Ma

Sanjana Yadav  
*Thesis Title: Development and Characterization of a Dosage Form for a Tolerogenic Lipid Nanoparticle Containing Insulin*  
Advisor: Dr. Sathy Balu-Iyer

## **Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Therapeutics**

**August 2024**  
Tom Sulli

**June 2025**  
Jingxiu Jin\*  
*Thesis Title: Quantifying XDR Acinetobacter baumannii Outer Membrane Permeability to Various Beta-lactams*  
Advisor: Dr. Robert Bies

Jack Klem  
*Thesis Title: Mechanistically Aware Combinations to Combat Superbugs: Translations From the Lab to Improve Patient Care*  
Advisor: Dr. Brian Tsuji

## **Master of Science in Pharmacometrics and Personal Pharmacotherapy**

**August 2024**  
Hsien Wei Huang

**February 2025**  
Candice Chang  
*Thesis Title: Comparing the Efficacy of Various Insulin Types: Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Modeling of Glucose Clamp Effects in Healthy Volunteers*  
Advisor: Dr. William Jusko

Sree Ojili  
*Thesis Title: Quantitative Evaluation of Pharmacokinetics of Antibodies in Reproductive System*  
Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Thomas Straubinger  
Advisor: Dr. Robert Bies

**June 2025**  
Haoran Gao  
*Thesis Title: Population Pharmacokinetic Modeling of Quetiapine in Schizophrenia and Alzheimer's Diseases Patients*  
Advisor: Dr. Youngjae You

Weihua Jiang\*\*\*  
*Thesis Title: Dual Minimal Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic Model of Tenofovir Alafenamide (TAF) and Its Metabolites in Humans*  
Advisor: Dr. Sukyung Woo

Sandra Salib  
*Thesis Title: Race-Specific Differences in Enzalutamide and MYCMI-6 Combination in Prostate Cancer*  
Advisor: Dr. Donald Mager

# Doctoral Degrees

## Recommending Candidates for Degrees

Dean Pollack  
School of Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences

## Doctor of Pharmacy

### August 2024

Minseon Chung\*  
Minghao Shi\*

### February 2025

Jason Dey\*

### May 2025

Chidima Adams  
Sarah Ahmed\*  
Yegwon An\*  
Aditi Aysee\*\*  
Sara Baldwin\*\*\*  
Sophia Benedisuk\*\*  
Brianna Bialy\*\*  
Olivia Brasser\*  
Joseph Carr  
Chelsey Case\*\*\*  
Michael Cerrato\*\*  
Allison Chan\*\*  
Shelby Chan\*\*  
Judy Chen  
Linda Chen\*\*\*  
Yan Lin Chen\*\*  
Selvi Chhabra\*  
Kiera Chibuzor\*\*\*  
Bidoura Chowdhury\*\*  
Edgar Joel Claudio  
Benjamin Colin\*\*\*  
Raelea Derylak\*

Emily Diep\*\*\*  
Katie Dollinger\*  
Nnaedozie Ezeilo\*\*  
Stephanie Flint\*\*\*  
Karina Ganzhur\*  
Filippo Gentile\*\*  
Gustavo Gonzalez\*\*\*  
James Grinchishin\*  
Farzaneh Hadji Esmaeili\*  
Kaitlyn Healy\*\*\*  
Callista Hipolito\*\*  
Leanna Hodge\*\*  
Jason Holbrook  
Shirley Huang\*  
Tom Hughes\*  
Michelle Hui\*\*\*  
Julia Hunt\*  
Isaac Idani\*  
Hajra Jamil\*  
Weihua Jiang\*\*\*  
Jingxiu Jin\*  
John Klem  
Jeffrey Klossner  
Kyle Koenig\*\*\*  
Eddie Kuang\*\*  
Zachary Larson\*\*  
Biru Li\*  
Tina Lin\*\*\*  
Clara Liparisa\*  
Dennis Liu\*\*\*  
Francesco Luppino\*  
Caroline Mak\*\*  
Salome Mawi\*\*  
Ben Meisner\*\*  
Macy Meng\*\*  
Elisabeth Milk\*\*\*

Malek Mohamed  
Ezinne Nwosu\*  
Sophia Osmond\*\*\*  
Roaa Othman\*  
Maria Pantano\*\*\*  
Ashutosh Anilkumar Patel\*\*  
Robert Peterson\*\*  
Natalie Peunic\*\*  
Kevin Pham\*  
Anourine Pullano\*\*\*  
Kasey Rabideau\*  
Eric Raine  
Yonas Redae  
Jordan Reyes\*\*\*  
Maria Riederer\*\*  
Heewon Seo\*\*  
Alice Shao\*  
Ridhi Sharma  
Matthew Simonetty\*\*\*  
Nicole Siwarski\*\*  
Abbey Tallman\*\*\*  
Jaclyn Wassel  
Michelle Whiteman\*  
Jasmine Yeoh\*\*  
Britney Yip  
Shiqi Zhang\*\*\*  
Ricky Zheng\*\*  
Maggie Zhou\*\*  
Yuyue Zhu\*\*

### August 2025

Donglin Huang  
Anthony Lee  
Christopher Liaw

## Research Projects

### Clinical Research Program

Bidoura Chowdhury  
*Project Title: Impact of Albumin on  
Bleeding Rates in Patients on Direct  
Acting Oral Anticoagulants*  
Mentor: Drs. Maya Chilbert & Ashley  
Woodruff

Hajra Jamil  
*Project Title: Investigation of MCT6  
Inhibitors to Prevent Cisplatin Hearing  
Loss*  
Mentor: Dr. Jason Sprowl

Jingxiu Jin  
*Project Title: Quantifying XDR  
Acinetobacter bau-mannii Outer  
Membrane Permeability Reflected by  
beta-lactams*  
Mentor: Dr. Brian Tsuji

Eddie Kuang  
*Project Title: Transmissible HIV-1  
Drug Resistance Mutations in  
Western New York*  
Mentor: Dr. Qing Ma

Kasey Rabideau  
*Project Title: Impact of Pharmacist  
Involvement in a Sickle Cell Clinic-  
Focus on Reproductive Health  
Outcomes*  
Mentor: Dr. Nicole Cieri-Hutcherson

Ricky Zheng  
*Project Title: Individualization of  
Antibiotic Regimens Based Upon  
PKPD Factors and Clinical Factors  
and Antimicrobial Resistance*  
Mentor: Dr. Raymond Cha

## **Scholars Program**

Chelsey Case

*Project Title: Impact of Pharmacist-driven Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice*

Mentor: Dr. Erin Slazak

Ben Colin

*Project Title: Utility of Transitioning from Propofol to Dexmedetomidine in Preparation for Extubation in Mechanically Ventilated Patients in the ICU Factors and Antimicrobial Resistance*

Mentor: Dr. Pat McGrath

Stephanie Flint

*Project Title: Systematic Review of Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Occurrence in Hospitalized Patients Receiving Prophylactic Unfractionated Heparin Twice vs Three Times Daily*

Mentor: Dr. Maya Chilbert

Kaitlyn Healy

*Project Title: Assessment of Student Pharmacists' Perceptions Regarding Transitions of Care*

Mentor: Dr. Maya Chilbert

Kyle Koenig

*Project Title: Human Factors of Deprescribing in Primary Care: A Patient-Informed Approach*

Mentor: Dr. Scott Monte

Elisabeth Milk

*Project Title: Digital Therapeutics – Leveraging Digital Technology for Patient Care*

Mentor: Dr. Fred Doloresco

Sophia Osmond

*Project Title: Two-Bag Protocol Compared to Conventional Protocol for Management of Diabetic Ketoacidosis in Adults*

Mentor: Dr. Kelsey Gregoire

Nicole Siwarski

*Project Title: Effectiveness and Safety of Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter-2 Inhibitor Continuation in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes and Late-Stage Chronic Kidney Disease*

Mentor: Dr. Nicole Albanese

Susie (Shiqi) Zhang

*Project Title: The Impact of Hypoalbuminemia on Bleeding Risk in Patients Treated with Apixaban*

Mentor: Dr. Ashley Woodruff

## **Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences**

### **August 2024**

Shufang Liu

*Thesis Title: Systems Pharmacokinetic Modeling of Antibody-based Therapeutics*

Advisor: Dr. Dhaval Shah

Xiaoyu Zhu

*Thesis Title: m Novel LC-MS Strategies for Enhancing Understanding of Drug Effects and Exploring Disease Mechanisms*

Advisor: Dr. Jun Qu

### **February 2025**

Brandon Bumbaca

*Thesis Title: Determining the Mechanisms of Cell State Transitions in Glioblastoma*

Advisor: Dr. James Gallo

Jue Gong

*Thesis Title: Pharmacokinetic Strategies to Enhance the Therapeutic Selectivity of Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs)*

Advisor: Dr. Joseph Balthasar

Qingqing Shen

*Thesis Title: Novel LC-MS-Based Strategies for Sensitive and Robust Absolute Quantification of Protein Therapeutics, Membrane Receptors, and Circulating Biomarkers*

Advisor: Dr. Jun Qu

### **June 2025**

Elizabeth Hayden

*Thesis Title: Tyrosine Kinase-Mediated Regulation of the OATP1B1 Transporter*

Advisor: Dr. Jason Sprowl

Kirk Hofman

*Thesis Title: Novel Methods for Assessment and Mitigation of Gene and Cell Therapy Immunogenicity*

Advisor: Dr. Sathy Balu-Iyer

### **August 2025**

Vincent Chak

*Thesis Title: Phosphatidylserine Mediated Oral Tolerance*

Advisor: Dr. Sathy Balu-Iyer

Ahmed Elsheikh

*Thesis Title: Identification and Preclinical Evaluation of Small Molecule APJ Antagonists for Treatment of Cancer*

Advisor: Dr. Sukyung Woo

Mfonabasi Ette

*Thesis Title: Pharmacometrics Approaches and Applications in Hybrid Modeling and Parameter Estimation Efficiency*

Advisor: Dr. Donald Mager

Andrea Serratore

*Thesis Title: Investigation of the Impact of Fibroblasts Growth Factor Receptor Inhibition on Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetic in Pancreatic Cancer*

Advisor: Dr. Robert Straubinger

# PharmD Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Program

*The Pharm.D. Professional Experiential Program consists of required rotations in ambulatory, acute care, or long-term care settings. Each segment includes a comprehensive clinical experience in providing pharmaceutical care for patients with a variety of acute and chronic diseases focusing on patient education, medication counseling, drug interactions, review of medical literature, managed care and pharmacoeconomics.*

## PharmD Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptors

Alexander Achenkuty	Christe Ange Cellino	Holly Forrestel	Brock Johndro
Dorcas Adjaloko	Craig Cendrowski	Aaron France	Kimberly Johnson
Traci Aladeen	Wendy Cendrowski	Sarah Fratto Santana	Mason Johnson
Nicole Albanese	Raymond Cha	Michael Frazzetta	Dave Jones
Natali Alberti	Mei Chang	Graziella Furnari	Diana Joyner
Gregory Alston	Kevin Chilbert	Nicholas Fusco	Jamie Keller
Pi Amin	Maya Chilbert	James Gaiser III	Alexa Keller Bellus
Sandra Archey	Mikyung M.K. Choe	Shelby Gangloff	Arthur Khaimov
Louiza Bako	Chia-Lin Chou	Daniel Garber	Mudasar Khan
Arsen Baloyan	Allen Chow	Virleny Garcia	Alisha Kher
Hongkai Bao	Nicole Cieri-Hutcherson	Lauren Gashlin	Alyssa Kiel
Charles Barone	Collin Clark	Adriana Giordano	Danielle Kilmer
Angela Barsa	Kimberly Clark	Mayer Goldberg	Lynne Kilner
Casey Baumgartner	Sean Connors	Laura Goode	Richard Ko
Tyler Bedard	Dana Conway	William Goral	Jamie Kobren
Edward Bednarczyk	Natalie Crown	Kelsey Gregoire	Alex Korik
Joseph Bellavia	Crystal Cruz	Neil Grewal	Cindy Kostek
Robert Bennett	Li Csont	Matthew Grimm	Michael Krajewski
Shreen Beshures	John D'Aloise	Aleah Groman	Andrea Krause
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Maria Birke	Melissa Danek	Daniel Guarasci	Francesca Kulczyk
James Bobal	Alexa Dearden	Melissa Guarino	Pooja Kumar
Laura Bolognino	Alyssa DeCastro	Michele Gump	Elanor Kung
Joanna Boone	Aubrey Defayette	Yi Guo	Cynthia Lackie
Angela Borton	Natalie DelGuidice	Lindsay Gymburch	Jordan LaFlair
Christopher Bowers	Tammie Lee Demler	Kevin Halpin	Connor Laforce
Stefan Brand	Edward Derck	Natalie Hathaway	Jordan Langro
Korey Brauen	Kalpesh Desai	Pierce Hawley	Jamie Latko
Matthew Brennan	Kenneth Dill	Breanne Helms	Natalie Latuga
Judy Bromley	Sara DiTursi	Shannon Hill	Thomas Latuga
Tom Brown	Fred Doloresco	Zac Hopkins	Natalie Lavino
Constance Browne	JoAnna Douglas	John Horton	Christian Lee
Kimberly Burns	Sarah Driscoll	Sami Hossain	Claudia Lee
Brian Campbell	Jasneet Dulai	Yen Nien Hou	Edward Lee
Peter Camporese III	Ronald Dunlap	Jason Hsin	Rose Lee
Andrew Canning	Miriam Ellison	Janet Ibrahim	Mark Lenard
Christopher Carames	Sandhya Emmadi	Ijeoma Anadi	Timothy Leong
Sarah Carges	Jason Erwin	Judy Izard	Andrew Levitsky
Megan Carroll	Sarah Jane Faro	Kelly Izydorczak	Chung Lin
Lori Castillo	David Feldman	Vivek Jain	Ryan Lindenau
Anthony Catalano	Nadia Ferguson	Kimberly Jay	Michael LoCascio
	James Ferrell	Calvin Jean	Alyssa Loecher
	Eric Field	Michelle Jensen	Chi-Hua (Richard) Lu

Chin Yee Lum  
 Eithu Lwin  
 Qing Ma  
 Patrick Mac  
 Donald Mager  
 Michelle Mangaser  
 Katrina Mann  
 Michael Manuszewski  
 Morgan Marriott  
 Todd Martino  
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 Sarah McDougall  
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 Patrick McGrinder  
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 Scott Monte  
 Toshiba Morgan-Joseph  
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 Julie Musarra  
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 Veronica Nasby  
 Joseph Navarra  
 Ernie Ng  
 Margaret Ng  
 Susan Ngo  
 Alain Nguyen  
 Daphney Nicolas  
 Melissa O'Donnell  
 Kevin Olivieri  
 Helen Ong  
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Michael Ott  
 Michael Otterson  
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 Siobhan Pappas  
 Adam Parker  
 Nilesh Patel  
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 Nicole Petrella  
 Sara Pivarunas  
 Melissa Pizano  
 Jill Pogodzinski  
 Emily Polischuk  
 Debra Porter  
 Andrew Portier  
 Whitney Porto  
 Ulyana Povroznik  
 Gina Prescott  
 Andrew Putzak  
 Vicky Qin-Jiang  
 Brenda Queeno  
 Christina Ramsay  
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 Grazyna Riebandt  
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Joshua Sawyer  
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 Paul Serio  
 Stephanie Seyse  
 Abhishek Shah  
 Dhara Shah  
 Rizwan Shah  
 Myroslava Sharabun  
 Christopher Sherrow  
 Angela Shih  
 Dara Shin  
 Praveen Shukla  
 Kaylee Sikora  
 Rubina Singh  
 Mark Sinnett  
 Erin Slazak  
 Kristen Slimmer  
 Alexander Smith  
 Nicholas Smith  
 Richard Smith  
 Aubrielle Smith-Masri  
 Laura Speidel  
 Sarah Spitznogle  
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 Arlene St Laurent  
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 Regina Yakubova  
 Anthony Yam  
 Ephiram Yeataihe  
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 Daniel Zhang  
 Yip-Kee Zou

# Alumni Association Letter

**Dear Member of the Class of 2025,**

Congratulations! On behalf of the UB Alumni Association, I'm delighted to welcome you to your global network of more than 308,000 alumni. We're proud of all you have accomplished.

As you begin your next chapter, please stay in touch! Your alumni status opens so many opportunities to stay connected to your alma mater and fellow alumni.

What does this mean for you in practical terms? It means that you have access to career help through our virtual Connect-a-Bull platform, that you can volunteer to recruit new students or help a current student, that you can prepare for the next stage in your professional and personal journey through free webinars and our Career North professional development portal, and that you can participate in a variety of social and sporting events. To learn more about what's available with your new alumni status, visit [buffalo.edu/alumni](https://buffalo.edu/alumni).

If you have questions about how to stay involved, contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at [ub-alumni@buffalo.edu](mailto:ub-alumni@buffalo.edu).

Remember, this isn't goodbye—it's WELCOME to the UB alumni family. We know you'll always be True Blue and proudly keep your Horns Up, wherever you go and whatever you do.

Go Bulls!



Joseph Stefko, BA '97, MA '99, PhD '03  
*President, UB Alumni Association Board of Directors*



## The Mace

Designed to tell the story of the university and the Niagara Frontier, the University at Buffalo mace was fashioned by silversmith Hudson Roysher of Arcadia, CA. It was used for the first time in the 1962 general commencement.

The mace is silver with accents of lapis and howlite to represent the university's colors. It is topped by a miniature-walled structure representing the City of Buffalo. Engraved atop the city are three arrows bound together, symbolizing the unity of UB and the city.

A band of alternating jewels of lapis and howlite encircles the head of the mace and bears the founding dates of the 13 divisions that composed the university in 1962.

The UB arms appear on the front of the head. On the back are the arms of the United States. The discovery of Lake Erie in 1669 by Louis Joliet and early explorations by Robert de LaSalle are symbolized on the left side of the head. A crest on the right side symbolizes the university's role as a dynamic center of human growth and welfare.

The wild rose, the state flower, is depicted in a floral motif at the top and bottom of the mace's head. Encircling the ends of the shaft are three wavy lines representing intellect and water, the latter a reference to the Niagara River and Great Lakes.

The motto "University and City: Community" is lettered in Latin around the knob of the shaft.

Traditionally used in university ceremonies, the mace is a symbol of enlightened authority. The macebearer is the chair of the university's Faculty Senate.



## UB Alma Mater

*Music by Walter S. Goodale, MD, 1903.  
Lyrics adapted by UB students in 2006 for contemporary use.*

### Verse 1:

The pride of our spirit and tradition,  
Our alma mater's truth and name declare.  
Celebrate our history and wisdom,  
O let us all prepare to sing her glory.

### Refrain:

To Buffalo all hail to thee,  
Noble and strong it's our university!  
To blue and white pledge loyalty,  
Singing, I will always remember thee!

### Verse 2:

We'll ever keep our standards high,  
And sing UB's praises to the sky.  
Receiving the finest education,  
Our knowledge we impart unto the nations.  
(Repeat refrain)

### Verse 3:

Our friends we've made with ties that bind,  
A union of our spirit, heart and mind.  
Together we'll continue life's journey,  
O may dear Buffalo forever be.  
(Repeat refrain)

# School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Administration

Gary Pollack <i>Dean</i>	<b>Faculty</b> Karl D. Fiebelkorn <i>Senior Associate Dean Emeritus Pharmacy Practice</i>	James Gallo <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	Irene Reilly <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>
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Nicole Albanese <i>Assistant Dean for Student Success &amp; Engagement</i>	Maya Chilbert <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	Yeh-Hsing Sima Lao <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	Anne Talkington <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>
Kalpesh Desai <i>Assistant Dean for Inclusive Excellence</i>	Qing Ma <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	Kathleen Tornatore <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	
Jaime Maerten-Rivera <i>Assistant Dean of Analytics and Accreditation Compliance</i>	Calvin Meaney <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	Robert Wahler <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	
Leigh Yates <i>Assistant Dean for Development</i>	Scott Monte <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	Zhenjia Wang <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	
Donald Mager <i>Chair, Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	Gene Morse <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	Karl Williams <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	
William Prescott <i>Chair, Pharmacy Practice</i>	Richard O'Brocta <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	Sukyoung Woo <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	
	Bhaskar Das <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	Ashley Woodruff <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	
	Sasmita Das <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	Youngjae You <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	
	Tammie Lee Demler <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	Kimberly Zammit <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>	
	Ho-Leung Fung <i>Emeritus</i>		
	Nicholas Fusco <i>Pharmacy Practice</i>		
		Jun Qu <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	
		Murali Ramanathan <i>Pharmaceutical Sciences</i>	



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**ON THE COVER:**

The modern seal for the University at Buffalo harks back to a design adopted in 1923 to reflect the evolution of the university from separate schools into a more close-knit organization. Though the seal has been revised several times over the decades, the foundational elements remain: a proud bison signifying the City of Buffalo atop a shield supported by the palm leaves of victory and emblazoned with the flames of wisdom.

