

## PharmD/MD Dual Degree Program

The Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy of Rutgers University is proud to inform our students of the introduction of a new, innovative PharmD/MD dual degree option that has been developed jointly by the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of Rutgers University (RWJMS) and the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP). **Only currently enrolled PharmD students at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy are eligible to apply for admission.**

This unique and highly selective program is designed to create an elite cadre of interdisciplinary practitioners, highly skilled in the disciplines of both pharmacy and medicine, and poised to provide leadership in collaborative clinical practice, academic research, public policy, and the pharmaceutical industry. This program will be directed by dual degree program committees in the School of Pharmacy and the RWJ Medical School. Successful applicants will be admitted to RWJMS upon their successful completion of the PharmD program, and will not be required to take the MCAT exam.

### Who may apply and when

In order to be eligible to apply for the program, you must be a current PharmD student at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. Students will normally apply during the fall semester of the third professional (P-3) year; students who wish to be considered in the second professional (P-2) year may contact Associate Dean Goldin for additional information. *Please note: to be eligible for RWJMS, you must be a U.S. citizen, hold a green card, or have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.*

### How to apply

Students who seek advice concerning a decision to apply are welcome to make an appointment with any of the members of the School of Pharmacy PharmD/MD dual degree committee whose names are listed below. Application materials are available online.

### Qualifications and selection criteria

In order to be considered, the applicant must have an excellent academic record, typically with a GPA of 3.5 or better, and must maintain academic excellence for the remainder of the PharmD program. Excellence in academic achievement is important, but clinical and/or research experience, service, and leadership are also essential. Prospective students should pursue opportunities to engage in clinical settings, participate in interprofessional programs, and work with student organizations to provide community service in health-related fields.

As part of the process, applicants will be required to submit a letter to the School of Pharmacy dual degree committee. The letter should convey the following information:

- Reasons for applying – how this program will meet your long-term career goals and aspirations.
- Clinical experience, especially employment or volunteer experience in pharmacies, either community-based or institutional.
- Research experience and accomplishments, *e.g.*, member of honors program, publications, *etc.*
- Special educational achievements and honors, *e.g.*, competitive scholarships, B.S. or B.A. degree, *etc.*
- Relevant extracurricular activities, particularly those demonstrating leadership skills.

- Service to society, *e.g.*, work in soup kitchens, tutoring underprivileged children, service in developing countries, etc.
- Competitive internships.

If the applicant's GPA is less than 3.5, he/she should submit evidence of extraordinary achievement in clinical experience, service to society, research, extracurricular activities, and other mitigating factors that might lessen the relevance of the GPA.

The Pharmacy committee will invite selected applicants for interviews.

### **Final decision on admission to the program**

After the Pharmacy interviews, The School's dual degree committee will select those applicants who will be advanced to the RWJMS Committee for a final decision on admission. The RWJMS decision will be based on all application materials, including the recommendations of the EMSOP committee and a series of "mini-interviews" with RWJMS faculty. The decision of the RWJMS committee will be final.

### **Admitted students**

Applicants will be notified about admission in the spring semester. Dual degree students will be encouraged to participate in interprofessional programs with students in other fields of healthcare. During the Advanced Pharmacy Practice rotations in the fourth professional (P-4) year, students will be assigned to specialized clinical clerkships emphasizing collaborative practice with medical students and physicians.

Once students begin the RWJMS curriculum, specialized enrichment options may be available that will provide opportunities to take advantage of the students' extensive knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacotherapy and pharmacy practice.

### **Questions?**

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity and have any questions, please arrange to meet with Associate Dean Goldin or any of the other members of the EMSOP committee.

### **EMSOP PharmD/MD dual degree committee members**

Prof. John Colaizzi, *Committee Chair*

Assoc. Dean Carol Goldin, *Co-chair*

Dean Joseph Barone, *ex-officio*

Prof. Luigi Brunetti

Prof. Suzie Chen

Prof. Craig Cocchio

Prof. Grace Guo

Prof. Aresh Hatefi

Prof. Evelyn Hermes DeSantis

Prof. Debbie Laskin

Prof. Megan Maroney

Prof. Yekaterina Opsha

Prof. Mary Wagner