From the Dean

Dear Alumni, Friends and Colleagues,

The impact we have on our students, our community and society starts with strong faculty committed to scholarship and teaching.

Please join me in welcoming eight new faculty members to the roster of the College of Health Sciences. All bring unique research and teaching experiences to the university, with potential for cross collaboration across the university and beyond.

Areas of faculty research expertise include improving food safety, understanding the role of the gut microbiome, preventing sports injuries, improving bone health and more.

I encourage you to get to learn more by reading through their bio sketches below.

Best,

Shortie McKinney
Dean of the College of Health Sciences
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Upcoming Events

Nursing Ph.D. 20th Anniversary Celebration
Sat., Oct. 15, 6 p.m.
More info

River Hawk Homecoming
Oct. 21 to 23
Cheer on our UMass Lowell men’s hockey team at two games and enjoy a weekend jam-packed with reunions, entertainment, campus tours, family fun and more. More info.

Alumni Appreciation Ice Hockey Night
Friday, Dec. 9, 7:15 p.m.
UMass Lowell vs. Merrimack College, Tsongas Center.
Alumni enjoy discounted tickets to the game. More info.

College of Health Sciences Alumni and Friends Ice Hockey Night
Saturday, Feb. 11, 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. game
UMass Lowell River Hawks vs. UMass Amherst Minutemen. Join College of Health Sciences alumni and friends for a pre-game reception in the Talon Club at the Tsongas Center before cheering on the River Hawks men’s ice hockey team. More info.

Your annual contribution is more than a gift -- it’s an investment in current UMass Lowell students and all the great work they will accomplish now and in the
Welcome to New Faculty

Asst. Prof. SoJung (Sophie) Kim of Physical Therapy identifies and promotes physical activities that enhance bone health and are sustainable in a community and throughout an individual's lifetime. She aims to prevent chronic diseases with a focus on osteoporosis, a strong risk factor for hip fracture in later life. Passionate about translating research into clinical practice, her future research goals include designing an alternative activity to prevent osteoporosis and bone fractures, increasing interest in research about bone health throughout life and targeting health professionals (parents, teachers, other researchers) about bone health. The transdisciplinary research she aims to perform would successfully merge her background in kinesiology, exercise physiology and biomechanics with her interest in health promotion. Read more.

Assoc. Prof. Alexandre Lopes of Physical Therapy has been a physical therapist since 1996, practicing primarily in orthopedics with a specialty in sports physical therapy. He completed his postdoctoral at Harvard University and doctoral degree in biodynamics of human movement at the University of Sao Paulo. His Master of Science in Rehabilitation degree was earned from the Federal University of Sao Paulo. He has residencies and fellowships in sports physical therapy and orthopedics. His research has focused on musculoskeletal injuries related to physical activity and sports. He has been investigating these musculoskeletal through epidemiology and biomechanics. He has participated as a physical therapist and official member of the Brazilian Olympic Committee of the many Olympic and Pan American Games. Read more.

Asst. Prof. Sabrina Noel in Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences is a member of the Center for Population Health at UMass Lowell. Her research focuses on studying the role of diet on chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis. She also studies health disparities in disadvantaged populations and works with surrounding communities to develop innovative dietary behavior change interventions. Read more.
Asst. Prof. Natalia Palacios of Public Health uses data-driven, epidemiological approaches to contribute to the understanding of Parkinson's disease and other neurological diseases. She is leading a five-year grant from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke in collaboration with Harvard University and Baylor College of Medicine, focused on understanding the role of the human gut microbiome in Parkinson disease. She has been funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health to study the role of air pollution in Parkinson's disease risk and progression and by the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society to study the impact of air pollution on MS risk. She is also interested in developing novel ways to collect and analyze cell phone and wearable data from patients. Read more.

Clinical Assoc. Prof. Amanda Salacinski of Physical Therapy received her doctoral degree in exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. She worked at Northern Illinois University for nine years prior to joining the faculty at UMass Lowell. Her prior research areas were vitamin D, breast cancer and ergogenic aids. She is a member of American College of Sports Medicine and serves on the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine's Quiz Bowl Committee. Read more.

Clinical Assoc. Prof. Edgar Torres of Physical Therapy has taught in the Doctor of Physical Therapy programs at the University of Michigan, Flint and the MGH Institute of Health Professions prior to joining the faculty at UMass Lowell in 2016. Torres has extensive experience in orthopedics and sports medicine and has worked as a clinician and manager in out-patient military and non-military physical therapy clinics. He is certified in mechanical diagnosis and therapy through the McKenzie Institute, USA. Torres was instrumental in starting a student-led pro-bono physical therapy and health education clinic and served as the director of physical therapy services for an urban health and wellness center, both at the University of Michigan, Flint. Torres is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association, the McKenzie Institute USA and the American College of Sports Medicine. Read more.
Asst. Prof. Angela Wangari Walter of Public Health is a health services researcher primarily focused on the prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug use disorders and co-occurring conditions including Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and mental illness. Her research uses community-based participatory approaches to improve access, quality and effectiveness of behavioral health services, particularly for underserved populations. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She is an investigator on a SAMHSA-funded offender re-entry program that aims to reduce substance abuse relapse and recidivism for justice-involved adults returning to their families and community from incarceration in state and local facilities. Read more.

Asst. Prof. Boce Zhang of Clinical Laboratory and Nutritional Sciences researches food safety, in the context of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). His interdisciplinary research program emphasizes on the key mandatory requirements of the FSMA, including evaluation of food safety hazards; comprehensive, science-based preventive controls; and efficient monitoring systems across the food supply chain. The Food Safety Lab at UMass Lowell welcomes and encourages applications from students with varied backgrounds, including but not limited to microbiology, chemistry, engineering, health science and food science. Read more.

University Halts Launch of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

By Provost Michael E. Vayda

Based on an updated analysis of the fiscal environment and start-up costs, we have made the difficult decision not to launch the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at this time. The current M.S., PSM and Ph.D. programs will be delivered as interdisciplinary programs in the College of Health Sciences in partnership with the Kennedy College of Sciences and the Francis College of Engineering. The university estimates this change in course will help us realize savings of $8.5 million to 10 million while delivering fully on our commitments to serve all our students and the needs of the Commonwealth. Read more.