



Rutgers-NPC 2025-2027 Health Policy & Communications Fellowship



RUTGERS HEALTH
Institute for Pharmaceutical
Industry Fellowships

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Leadership Statement

Dear Prospective Fellow,

On behalf of the National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC) and the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, thank you for your interest in the Rutgers-NPC Health Policy & Communications Fellowship.

Health policy is essential to maintaining patient access to pharmaceutical innovation. Good policy is based on good evidence, and for over 70 years, NPC has developed credible evidence to inform policy development. For most of our history, NPC has partnered with respected academic institutions to help prepare emerging leaders for careers in the biopharmaceutical industry.

The 2025 fellowship, in partnership with Rutgers, represents our continued commitment to training the next generation of pharmaceutical policy researchers and communicators.

This unique two-year fellowship is an accelerated path to industry experience and an opportunity to be part of a best-in-class research team, while forging relationships with thought leaders across the pharmaceutical industry. We invite you to **dream big, deliver impactful research, and drive better health policy** as a Rutgers-NPC fellow.

Sincerely,
John M. O'Brien, PharmD, MPH
President and CEO



About NPC

NPC is an inclusive community and leverages diversity of thought, background, perspective, and experience.

The work of the National Pharmaceutical Council (NPC) has never been more relevant – or more important. NPC conducts policy-relevant research about the value of biopharmaceutical innovation and communicates it with impact.

Founded in 1953 and supported by the nation’s major research-based biopharmaceutical companies, NPC is better positioned to educate leaders than ever before. The issues we examine four core questions:

- How do health policies encourage or inhibit biopharmaceutical innovation?
- What’s the value of medicines to patients and the healthcare system as a whole?
- How do health policies affect patient access to medicines?
- And, what types of evidence should be used to explore these questions?

Our policy-relevant research agenda and communications-forward approach make NPC a uniquely credible, trusted, and impactful voice in the biopharmaceutical research and health policy communities.

NPC does not lobby but seeks to help educate stakeholders and policymakers on what the research reveals. Membership in NPC is limited to research-based biopharmaceutical companies with at least one product commercially available in the United States.

Our Board of Directors governs NPC and provides strategic direction through key committees. Board members and staff from our member companies contribute to our efforts through multiple workgroups. For more information, please visit www.npcnow.org.

Stay up-to-date with NPC This Week, a weekly newsletter offering a timely look-ahead to the policy, research, and industry conversations that impact the future of biopharmaceutical innovation.



NPC Member Companies



Fellowship Overview

The Rutgers-NPC Fellowship is a unique two-year opportunity to learn the inner workings of a national health policy research organization supported by the U.S. pharmaceutical industry.

The fellow will report to and be mentored by the President and CEO, and work closely with NPC's senior leadership team, Board of Directors, and member company staff workgroups.

After completing their two-year program, the fellow will be highly qualified to join NPC or a similar organization as a health policy researcher or communicator, or join a pharmaceutical company in a health policy, market access, or strategic communications role. Past fellows have gone on to work for NPC members in roles including Associate Director of Policy Research and Director of Public Payer and Health System Strategy.



Fellow Rayan presents her poster "Mapping Medicaid: A Comparative Analysis of State-Level Racial and Ethnic Data Collection to Federal Guidelines" at ISPOR 2024.

National Pharmaceutical Council

NPC This Week

NPC's look-ahead to the policy, research, and industry conversations that impact the future of biopharmaceutical innovation.

July 16, 2024

Know a colleague who would be interested in this newsletter? Forward this email and [they can subscribe here](#).

In this issue: "What's good in politics is often not good policy," PBM practices, U.S. vs. EU approvals, and more.

NPC HIGHLIGHTS

An Honest Conversation on Drug Pricing
O'Brien sat down with journalist Steve U...
half-hour discussion on how our current s...
arbitrage opportunity to pay for other he...
podcast touches on many of NPC's core p...

Fellows play a leading role in policy-relevant research projects and communication initiatives.



Fellowship Responsibilities



Policy

Completing the AcademyHealth Health Policy Orientation

Evaluating and summarizing legislation, regulations, and other health policy proposals to NPC members

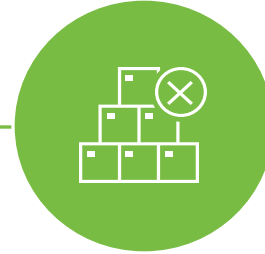
Drafting an official response or comment letter



Research

Completing ISPOR Short Course Core Curriculum

Leading all aspects of a longitudinal research project, including:
research design,
vendor management,
manuscript publication,
presentation of findings at a national meeting



Communications

Completing executive media training and presenting to high-profile audiences

Leading all aspects of a communications rollout, including:
content creation, press and social media plan, partner and KOL engagement, workgroup briefings



Leadership

Participating in leadership and professional development sessions designed for a strengths-based culture

Contributing to and executing against a strategic plan for a non-profit association

Key Fellowship Mentors



John M. O'Brien
PharmD, MPH

President & CEO

Leads NPC's strategic vision for research, communications and partnerships, bringing deep experience spanning the private sector, academia and government, including senior positions at HHS and CMS.



Jon D. Campbell
PhD

Chief Science Officer

Leads NPC's research agenda, providing deep expertise in health economics and value assessment study design in addition to applying evidence to decision-making and stakeholder engagement.



Kimberly Westrich
MA

Chief Strategy Officer

Provides strategic guidance to NPC's policy-relevant research and communications activities with deep passion for helping others learn and thrive. She is a certified yoga teacher and life coach.



Michael J. Pratt

Chief Communications Officer

Leads NPC's communications and external affairs work and brings deep experience in health, policy, and science communications from working with biopharmaceutical companies and at HHS.



Julie Patterson,
PharmD, PhD

Senior Director of Research; Director, NPC Enterprise Lab

Oversees major research projects at NPC with deep expertise in pharmacoeconomics, drug value and pricing, and patient preferences, and experience in teaching graduate students.

Fellowship Testimonies



"The Rutgers/NPC fellowship has provided me with hands-on experiences that have added to my technical skill sets as well as opportunities that have allowed me to hone my leadership skills. This fellowship is a unique mix of health policy research, communication, and association management. I look forward to using the mentorship I've gained from subject matter experts across the industry and policy landscapes to further develop as an early career professional."

Rayan Salih, PharmD, 2023-2025 Fellow



"I chose NPC because it is the premier organization for researching and communicating how to get innovative medications into patient hands despite an ever-changing regulatory landscape. This fellowship has expanded my career network across pharmaceutical, biotechnical, and government entities. By having a seat at the table, pharmacists like myself can make a difference across both the pharmacy counter and the healthcare ecosystem."

Haley McKeefer, PharmD, MHA, MS, 2024-2026 Fellow



Rutgers Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowship (RPIF) Program

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy (EMSOP)

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

The RPIF Program has thrived under the leadership of the founder, Dr. Joseph A. Barone, Dean and Distinguished Professor of the EMSOP, Dr. Carolyn Seyss, the Director for the Institute for Pharmaceutical Industry Fellowships, and Dr. Michael Toscani as the Director Emeritus.



Joseph A. Barone, PharmD, FCCP
Dean and Distinguished Professor



Carolyn Seyss, PharmD, RUCIF
Fellowship Director



Michael Toscani, PharmD
Research Professor,
Fellowship Director Emeritus

Program History

1984

EMSOP and 2 pharmaceutical companies began a first-of-its-kind collaborative pilot program to evaluate the potential contributions of clinically-trained pharmacists within a pharmaceutical industry practice setting. Following the successful pilot, the RPIF Program grew significantly and expanded to now include 27 companies within the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry with approximately 350 Fellows.

2002

Dr. Ernest Mario generously provided an endowment to establish RPIF as an Institute to enhance and promote the role of pharmacists in industry through the RPIF Program. The Institute staff members:

- Provide leadership and administrative support
- Promote quality, communication, scholarly activity, and professional development
- Arrange specialized training opportunities within the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry

2018

RPIF expanded to offer interdisciplinary Fellows' training by adding physician Fellowship opportunities to our well-established program.

2023

The RPIF Certificate is recognized with special credentials so our alumni can now proudly identify themselves as **RUCIF (Rutgers University Certified Industry Fellow)**.

Over 1,700 Post-Doctoral Fellows have completed the RPIF Program, most of whom are experiencing influential and rewarding careers in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry throughout the US and abroad. The RPIF Program has Preceptors and Mentors from industry who share their knowledge and experiences with the Fellows through an intense but closely-guided training program. Assignments and projects are challenging, meaningful, and designed to enhance understanding of the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry and the Fellow's functional area(s). Our goal is to provide the environment for Fellows to build the foundations to fuel their careers as future leaders in the industry.

Professional Development Series

All Fellows gather once monthly as a group to participate in the Professional Development Day (PDD) series, an important component of their training that complements the hands-on experience provided at the sponsor companies. The PDDs are steered by a committee of Fellows and are designed to enhance the Fellows' leadership skills such as emotional intelligence, communication, critical decision making, and presentation skills. Fellows develop skill sets under the guidance of external trainers and accomplished RPIF alumni. PDDs also provide general knowledge about various aspects of drug development/commercialization and issues facing the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry, and promote connectivity and a sense of community among Fellows and alumni from different companies and disciplines.

The Fellows can learn from each other through individual and group presentations on topics and issues related to the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry. In addition, outside experts provide training and professional development in a variety of areas (e.g., tools for corporate success, professional writing, presentations, meeting facilitation, negotiating, influencing, networking, conflict resolution, giving and receiving feedback, and business etiquette). Other PDD guest speakers include senior industry executives, including our successful RPIF Program alumni, who share their career paths, insights, and experiences. Importantly, PDDs provide an excellent opportunity for Fellows to interact with each other and develop lasting personal friendships and a strong professional network of Fellows, faculty, alumni, and other industry executives.

Key Program Features

RPIF FOSTERS the growth and development of future pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry professionals and leaders through:

- F** **Family of Leading Companies**
Partners include several top global pharmaceutical/biopharmaceutical companies and offer large to small company environments.
- O** **Outstanding Alumni Track Record**
Over 1,700 alumni hold prominent positions at many leading companies, including VP and C-suite levels.
- S** **Strong Network**
Fellows develop valuable, lasting connections with each other, alumni, Preceptors, and Rutgers EMSOP faculty.
- T** **Trusted and Proven Since 1984**
The Rutgers Fellowship Program is nationally recognized, trusted, and proven as the key pathway to industry for pharmacists as future leaders.
- E** **Enhanced Career Development**
Breadth of experiences informs career path choices, increasingly challenging assignments build depth of experience, and visibility creates opportunities - enhancing the potential for accelerated career paths.
- R** **Rigorous Academic Component**
Rutgers affiliation provides academic and professional development opportunities.

Because of its relationship with and close proximity to most of the nation's leading pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies, EMSOP and the RPIF Program are uniquely capable of providing Fellows with advanced training in the pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical industry.

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey is one of the major state university systems in the United States. EMSOP is part of Rutgers Health and is the only state school of pharmacy in New Jersey. EMSOP is located on the University's main science and technology campus in Piscataway, New Jersey.

While RPIF offers all the benefits of a large program with an extensive network of distinguished professionals, Fellows receive the individual attention of a small program where they are known and supported as individuals.

Application Process and Eligibility Requirements

Pharmacy Fellows for the RPIF Program are selected on a nationally competitive basis. Candidates must have completed a Doctor of Pharmacy from an ACPE-accredited institution before July 1 of the fellowship term.

HOW TO APPLY:

The RPIF Program is highly competitive. **Candidates will be selected for interviews on a rolling basis, so we strongly encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible.**

Interested candidates may submit their application with short-answer questions and supporting materials (letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and 3 letters of recommendation) as soon as **October 11, 2024** by visiting our website at: <https://pharmafellows.rutgers.edu/how-to-apply/>

All application materials must be submitted electronically to the RPIF website per instructions on the site.

REQUIRED ITEMS:

SUBMIT BY:

Application with short-answer questions	October 18th
Letter of Intent (LOI)	October 18th
Curriculum Vitae (CV)	October 18th
Letters of Recommendation (LORs)	December 1st

ADDRESS LOI AND LORs TO:

Joseph A. Barone, PharmD, FCCP
Dean and Distinguished Professor
Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
160 Frelinghuysen Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8020





"RPIF provides me transformative growth opportunities as I begin my pharmaceutical industry career. The Program's scale offers extensive networking across functional areas, while still delivering personalized attention for Fellows as they partake in opportunities like teaching, research, or committees. Through these opportunities I have developed crucial leadership and communication skills, while also gaining additional tools and connections to thrive in this dynamic field post-fellowship."

Morgan McCluskey Wirtz, PharmD, MBA
 Medical Communications Fellow,
 RPIF Chief Fellow



"As a Rutgers Fellow, I have had more opportunities through Rutgers and my company than I ever thought possible. The care and kindness of the leadership team and preceptors creates a learning environment that helps fellows flourish and prepare for their careers going forward."

Molly Nelson, PharmD
 Global Scientific Content- Health Systems Fellow
 RPIF Chief Fellow



"As a Rutgers fellow you'll experience the best of both worlds: the resources and opportunities of a large program combined with the individual support and tight-knit community of a small program. My capacity as both a leader and industry professional has grown immensely since joining—I'd choose RPIF every time!"

Macy Gipson, PharmD
 Clinical Science,
 Late Stage Development Fellow
 RPIF Chief Fellow

Connect with us on social media: @RutgersFellow





Aligned First Offer Date December 16, 2024

The choice of a Post-Doctoral Industry Fellowship is an important decision. AIFA exists to promote a consensus first offer date for all Fellowship positions. We believe this is a positive reflection of the cultures our Programs offer and that culture is a critical consideration in choice of Fellowship.

We hope that other academic and non-academic Fellowship Programs will NOT pressure candidates to accept offers prior to this aligned offer date.