

Quarterly Dose of Pharmacy

March 2021



DR. ARIN WHITMAN

Golden Bear Pharmacy Summer Camp

In 2016, Western New England University College of Pharmacy hosted its first Golden Bear Pharmacy Summer Camp with about ten attendees for three days of activities. For the past few years, Dr. Arin Whitman has supervised the expansion of this program by securing enough funding to host 50 high school students for a week at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at no cost to the student. Students learn about pharmaceutical sciences, pharmacy careers, occupational therapy, and many other topics. Dr. Whitman has been able to utilize the strengths of her colleagues to provide a great service to our community. By focusing on offering a variety of science and clinical practice based hands-on activities at no cost to the learners, including providing lunch daily, our hope is that we create an environment where students realize the profession of pharmacy has something to offer to a wide range of learners and that cost should not be a factor when determining who has the opportunity for educational experiences. For more information please go to wne.edu/pharmacy-and-health-sciences/high-school-visit/camp.



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ANTHONY ZIMMERMANN Medicinal Garden

Early 20th century schools and colleges of pharmacy designed and managed medicinal gardens. The collection of plants for medicinal properties dates back thousands of years. Over the last 20 years, new schools and colleges of pharmacy have abandoned this important tradition. With the creation of the inaugural College of Pharmacy at Western New England University in 2009, this tradition was reborn. The Native Medicinal Garden was conceived, built, and maintained by Dr. Tony E. Zimmermann, Clinical Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, on August 17, 2011. The goal was to promote a current day understanding of the medicinal use of native New England plants as it relates to the profession of pharmacy, both educationally and for research purposes.

In terms of educational purposes, Dr. Zimmermann has participated in the COPHS Summer Camp over the last several years. Part of the summer camp is dedicated to teaching high school students about medicinal plants. Over 50 students attend the program yearly. They learn the basic components of a medicinal plant and its efficacious properties in real life, and he provides each of them with hands-on work in the medicinal garden. The Native Medicinal Garden is home to over 18 different plants. There is a QR code and website (wne.edu/pharmacy-and-health-sciences/medicinal-garden) available for anyone who would like to learn more about each plant. In addition, Dr. Zimmermann has given tours of the garden to pharmacists after continuing educational programs at the University. Students and faculty members volunteer throughout the year to help maintain and learn more about the medicinal plants.

Lastly, Dr. Zimmermann has worked with faculty in the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences to begin basic research on extraction of specific compounds from the medicinal plants in order to determine any potential clinical properties.



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KAM CAPOCCIA

WNE COPHS & Big Y Foods Inc. Consultation and Wellness Center

The Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Big Y Foods Inc. Consultation and Wellness Center opened its doors to the Springfield community in September of 2010. Dr. Kam Capoccia implemented the model of pharmacist-as-educator as the first of its kind in the Northeast and the first one to be located in a supermarket. The goal was to provide education to bridge the gap between the patient and their health care provider; to create a team approach, facilitated by the pharmacist. Free services offered at the Consultation and Wellness Center include education and training programs related to chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol; evaluations and recommendations regarding medication therapy; creation of individualized patient care plans; and assistance with smoking cessation, weight loss, and healthy eating.

In 2014, Dr. Capoccia established a Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES) program and received accreditation by the American Diabetes Care and Education Specialists. This program has provided countless hours of diabetes education, at no cost, to hundreds of people with diabetes in the Springfield community.

The Consultation and Wellness Center is also a training site for Western New England (WNE) pharmacy students as well as for pharmacy residents. In 2015, Dr. Capoccia created and established a Post-Graduate Year 1 (PGY1) Community-Based Pharmacy Residency program with WNE and Big Y. To date, there have been six graduates from this program. Two of the graduates have completed a second year of residency training, three graduates continue to work for Big Y in leadership roles, one has become a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist, and two graduates have begun their own careers in academia. The PGY1 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency program received accreditation from the American Society of Health System Pharmacists in 2019.

Since the doors opened in September of 2010, more than 1500 people with diabetes have received education and care. New pharmacy services have been implemented in the community and numerous students have experienced the care provided at the clinic. Dr. Capoccia is honored and privileged to be a member of the diabetes care team and an advocate for her patients. The Consultation and Wellness Center, located in the Big Y on Cooley Street in Springfield, is a true collaboration that benefits the community.

