Graduate Student Association

The objective of the Pharmaceutics Graduate Student Association (GSA) is to aid development of leadership skills by encouraging students to become actively involved within the Department and School of Pharmacy.

School of Pharmacy Highlights

- Established in 1898, the VCU School of Pharmacy is rated among the nation's top professional degree programs.

- Ranked No. 17 in the annual Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research rankings. More than $9.5 million in National Institutes of Health grants during Fiscal Year 2017.

- 85 full time faculty teach within three departments: Pharmaceutics, Medicinal Chemistry, and Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science.

“Through my research...I will find a cure for emphysema.”
Tien Truong, PharmD/PhD student
What is Pharmaceutics?
Pharmaceutics is a multidisciplinary, (Pharmacists, Biologists, Chemists, Chemical Engineers, Physicians) applied science concerned with delivering & maintaining appropriate drug concentrations at target sites in the body.

Message from the Chair
“The VCU Department of Pharmaceutics facilitates the ability of faculty and students to positively impact human health through the advancement of research and education in the pharmaceutical sciences. Our graduates are engaged in research exploring the physical and chemical formulation of drugs, optimization of drug delivery devices, nanomedicine, drug pharmacokinetics, proteomics, and the regulatory aspects of drug approval. They are employed in the pharmaceutical industry, government (US FDA) and academia. Currently, we are working to implement a new program of study in Pharmaceutical Engineering.”
Dr Douglas Sweet, E. Claiborne Robins Professor & Chairman

Degree Programs
The Department of Pharmaceutics offers graduate study leading to the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Students may elect to pursue a joint PharmD / PhD program. These programs provide the preparation and research experience for academic, federal and industrial careers.

Students are required to participate in a common core of entry-level graduate courses. Building upon this core, graduate students then specialize, through advanced coursework and research, in an area of concentration within the Department.

Why Study Pharmaceutics?
VCU’s Department of Pharmaceutics specializes in the science and technology associated with innovations in drug delivery and drug development.

“I was able to successfully launch my research career in the pharmaceutical industry right out of school because of the unmatched expertise and training provided by the Department of Pharmaceutics professors and their continual maintenance of their relationships with local industry partners.”

Christine Farthing, PhD
Analytical Scientist
Pfizer, Richmond, VA

Research Areas
- Aerosol Drug Delivery (Drs Hindle, da Rocha & Sakagami)
- Biopharmaceutical Analysis (Dr Halquist)
- Center for Biomarker Research & Precision Medicine (Drs Aberg & Van den Oord)
- Drug Transporters (Drs Sweet & Gerk)
- Nanomedicine (Drs da Rocha & Xu)
- Ocular Drug Delivery (Xu)
- Pharmaceutical Compounding (Dr Masuda)
- Pharmaceutical Engineering (Drs da Rocha, Hindle, Sakagami & Xu)
- Pharmacokinetics & Pharmacodynamics (Drs Venitz & Gerk)
- Proteomics (Dr Hawkridge)

What’s Your Story?
Pravin Jadhav, PhD, ‘06

Pravin Jadhav earned his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2006 with a concentration in Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics. Below is a timeline of his career achievements thus far. Pravin is also a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics as well as a member of the VCU Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Advisory Board (GAB) VCU School of Pharmacy.

2016 Senior Director, Innovative Data Solutions, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Companies, NJ
2012 Director, Quantitative Pharmacology and Pharmacometrics, Merck, PA
2010 Expert Regulatory Scientist, National Institutes of Health, FDA, MD
2006 Pharmacometrics Team Leader, National Institutes of Health, FDA, MD
2003 Research Fellow (while pursuing PhD in VCU’s Department of Pharmaceutics), National Institutes of Health, FDA, MD
2002 Entered the PhD program in VCU’s Department of Pharmaceutics