



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
MPOWERING THE STATE

**Community-Engaged Research with the PATIENTS Program
at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy**

Focus Areas:

Public health, community-engaged research, translational research

SUMMER 2026

May 26 – July 31

This project is being offered through the **University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State (MPower)** (<http://mpower.maryland.edu>) – a formal collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership provides funding for the program.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The selected student will work with the **PATIENTS Program** at the University of Maryland Baltimore's School of Pharmacy, which supports community-engaged research with patients and community partners.

Originally started in 2013 with a five-year, \$5 million grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research Quality (AHRQ), an HHS agency, the program receives support from AHRQ, National Institute of Health (NIH), Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), the pharmaceutical industry, and several other public and private sources.

The UM Scholar will work under the supervision of Professor C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, Executive Director of the PATIENTS Program.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

- The PATIENTS Program collaborates with patients, care partners, and communities across the nation to guide research that improves lives and delivers positive health solutions for all. We advance and apply continuous engagement science through authentic community-academic partnerships to reduce health disparities and advance public health.
- Our research portfolio is “disease agnostic,” meaning that we focus on best practices for meaningful and trustworthy engagement in research; however, our current projects span conditions such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, food as medicine, maternal health, pain, and trauma.
- Our current Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and NIH-funded work investigates how the use of a memorandum of commitment and incorporation of community concerns and bioethical principles can enhance trustworthiness in research.



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- A recent collaborative research project with the FDA explored innovative ways to enhance recruitment in clinical trials by utilizing community pharmacy as a decentralized clinical trial recruitment site.
- In Summer 2022, we launched the PATIENTS Professors Academy, which was launched and expanded in 2023, in the hopes of providing an intern with the opportunity to participate in a training program about patient-centered research.

During this project, the UM Scholar:

- Will participate in meetings for ongoing research projects and will carve out a specific topic to lead. Topics could include developing a tool for the toolkit, developing questions for focus groups, or creating a “give back” or infographic about one of our community-engaged research projects.
- Participants will be encouraged to engage in community-based or virtual events alongside community-engaged research activities, which may include developing focus group questions or creating an infographic related to a research project

IDEAL CANDIDATE

This project is ideal for a student with outstanding interpersonal communications and a desire to interact with patients and the public. Students with project management, social media, and virtual platform skills are desired.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Students may come from UMCP’s College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, School of Public Health. Students interested in public health research are also encouraged to apply.

PROJECT LOCATION

This project will be conducted in a hybrid format. Students are expected to be on-site on Mondays, Tuesday, and Wednesdays from 8:30am-5:00pm and to work two additional days off-site, possibly in community settings. The student will be arranged with a cubicle on the 12th Floor of the Saratoga Building located on UMB’s campus. This is the address that the student will report to:

220 N. Arch Street.
On the UMB Campus

PROJECT LEAD/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

C. Daniel Mullins will serve as the person to whom the UM Scholar will report, with 1 or 2 additional co-mentors from the PATIENTS Program. Dr. Mullins is a Professor in the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.



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BIO: [C. Daniel Mullins, PhD](#)

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More than one student will be considered for this project.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

- 10 weeks/400-hour student research project conducted with schedule mutually defined and agreed upon by the student and mentor.
- The project is funded by the [University of Maryland Strategic Partnership: MPowering the State \(MPower\)](#) and is a part of the [UM Scholars program](#).
- The selected student will receive a stipend for their work, to be paid in multiple installments over the 10 weeks.
 - **\$5,500** for undergraduate students
 - **\$6,500** for graduate students
- Work is expected to occur during typical business hours; Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.
- To be eligible, the student must be enrolled in the Fall 2026 semester.
- Traveling to and from UMB, as well as parking, is the responsibility of the student and costs are included in the stipend.