



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

20 North Pine Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Francis S. Balassone Memorial Lecture

*“Is There a Role for Pharmacists
in the Medical Home Model?”*

Roger C. Merrill, MD
Chief Medical Officer, Perdue Farms Inc.



Monday, November 2, 2009

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

University of Maryland School of Pharmacy
Pharmacy Hall, Room 101
Balassone Lecture Hall



Program

Noon – 1 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, Dean

Featured Speaker

Roger C. Merrill, MD

Chief Medical Officer, Perdue Farms Inc.

“Is There a Role for Pharmacists in the Medical Home Model?”

1 – 1:30 p.m.

Presentation of Student Leadership Awards

Jill A. Morgan, PharmD, Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Cynthia J. Boyle, PharmD, FAPhA, Director, Office of Experiential Learning; SGA Adviser

Chai Wang, President of the SGA

FRANCIS S. BALASSONE (1915-1972)

Francis S. Balassone was born in 1915 in Thomas, W. Va. After graduating from high school, he worked in coal mines near his home to aid his family and to further his education, which led to a successful career in pharmacy. As a result, the pharmacy profession has benefited greatly.

In 1940, he earned a BS in pharmacy from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. He then worked for two Baltimore drug firms: the Standard Pharmaceutical Corp. and the Yager Drug Co. Balassone interrupted his pharmaceutical career to enlist as a private in the U.S. Marines, serving in World War II. He was discharged as a captain in 1946, and during the next five years, he returned to Yager and joined the teaching staff at his alma mater.

Balassone was owner-manager of the Overlea Pharmacy in Baltimore from 1951 to 1956. Subsequently, he served for nearly two decades as commissioner and secretary-treasurer of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy; chief of the Division of Drug Control, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and acting director of the Bureau of Consumer Health Protection.

In addition, he was a delegate of the United States Pharmacopeial Convention; delegate of the Office of Emergency Planning, Executive Office of the President; president of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy; member of the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education; president of the Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials; and chair of the Program Area Committee on Drugs, American Public Health Association.

Balassone served as secretary and president of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy Alumni Association and later as president of the Baltimore branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association. He also was a leader in the development of state drug laws.

Under Balassone's leadership, Maryland became the first state in the nation to replace the traditional pharmacy internship with an academic professional experience program. He collaborated with the School of Pharmacy in the development of the University of Maryland professional pharmacy program.

Awards conferred on Balassone include the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association Honored Alumnus and merit awards, and the Harvey W. Wiley Award, the nation's highest award in the field of drugs, food, and cosmetics law.



Roger C. Merrill, MD

Roger C. Merrill, MD, joined Perdue Farms Inc. in 1990 as corporate medical director and assumed his current position as chief medical officer in 2003. He has been in the active practice of internal medicine in Salisbury, Md. for 25 years. He has also served as chief of staff at Peninsula Regional Medical Center, a 425-bed tertiary care institution, and was a member of its Board of Trustees for eight years. Dr. Merrill is president of the County Medical Society, and is on numerous boards of medical and Quality assurance organizations, including the Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care (the QIO [formerly PRO] for Maryland and D.C.).

At Perdue, Dr. Merrill has led efforts in:

- the development of case management protocols and systems for worker's compensation including the establishment of physician networks
- the development of protocols for prevention and treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome, acute back pain, and other diseases
- the integration of safety and ergonomics into the overall patient—centered schema
- the design, development, and implementation of an integrated health care delivery system in rural areas serving 22,000 employees (approximately 50,000 lives)
- the establishment of wellness programs at plant sites with education, early detection, and intervention in non-occupational illnesses
- the creation and implementation of a proprietary Health Improvement Program (HIP), which has three major goals: treating controllable diseases, making lifestyle improvements, and the creation of a corporate environment of health

As a result of these interventions, Perdue has experienced a medical inflation rate of 0.5 percent per year for the last six years and a per capita cost well below national and poultry averages, and measurably improved health status for Perdue associates.

Education:

1972 BA in Physics, magna cum laude, from the University of Utah

1975 MD from the Medical College of Virginia (MCV)

1976 Internship at MCV Hospitals

1978 Residency in Internal Medicine at Wilmington, Del. Medical Center

1979 Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine