



## JORDYN (MCCORD) WINTCZAK

BS, Biological Engineering, Purdue University (2016); BS, Pharmaceutical Sciences (2016); MS Regulatory Science, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Purdue University (pending)

### What have you been doing since the publication of your article in JPUR, volume 7?

After graduation, I did some traveling and then started my career with Eli Lilly as a manufacturing scientist in the parenteral vial filling plant in Indianapolis. I spent three years in that plant and learned a lot very quickly about making medicine, “with safety first and quality always,” as we say at Lilly. In 2019, I moved to a quality assurance role, supporting a new facility build. Since then, we’ve been working diligently to deliver a parenteral manufacturing facility that will be dedicated to manufacturing new molecules for the clinical trial portfolio. During this time, I also got married, started graduate school, bought and sold my first home, moved to a new home in the woods, raised two dogs, and did a fair amount of traveling!

### What are your career goals?

I’m not sure anyone knows what they want to be “when they grow up,” but I know three things that are important to me in my career: (1) to be challenged, (2) to have influence, and (3) to provide value to our patients and my peers. I love making medicine; it’s a constant challenge in an ever-changing regulatory landscape, and we regularly consider the impact we have on our patients. I would like to stay connected to this

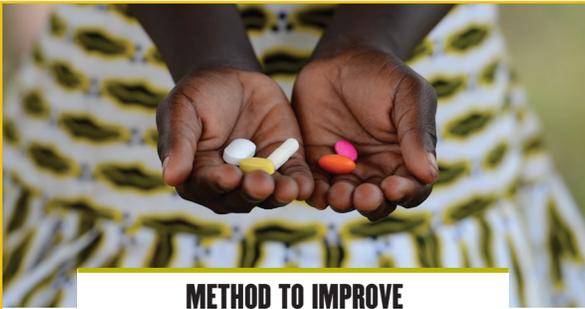
field through my career. I am currently what we call an “individual contributor” but hope to experience roles in leadership and maybe even spend some time in one of our international facilities in the future. I’m always open to new challenges and appreciate working for a company that has encouraged me to continue to learn and grow.

### How did the research you did as an undergraduate at Purdue impact your current endeavors? What is the value of undergraduate research?

Our undergraduate experience was unique in that we were working with Purdue students and professors as well as graduate students in Tanzania. The communication skills needed to initially assess the problem we were trying to solve was a huge growth opportunity for me. I regularly communicate cross-culturally with colleagues across the globe, and the skills of listening, asking questions, and taking time to define the issue have been invaluable. From a technical perspective, my experience supporting laboratory equipment has even helped me “speak the language” of our quality control analyst since I’m an engineer, but many of my colleagues spend their days in the lab.

### How did the faculty mentor relationship impact you during your time at Purdue?

I really appreciated the chance to engage with faculty outside of my direct coursework while researching at Purdue. Dr. Byrn, from the College of Pharmacy, was incredibly knowledgeable in the real-world application of pharmaceutical sciences, and I not only learned a lot from his mentorship, but was inspired to continue pursuing two difficult degrees to eventually work in this industry. Dr. Clase was and continues to be a great



**METHOD TO IMPROVE DRUG SAFETY IN AFRICA:**  
A Pharmaceutical Learning Module

**Student Authors**

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	<p><b>Michael Mavity</b> is a 2016 Purdue alumnus with degrees in biological engineering and pharmaceutical sciences. Recently, Mavity accepted a position as the sanitation supervisor at the Granite City facility.</p>		<p><b>Michael Stepanovic</b> is in his second professional year of the Purdue University Doctor of Pharmacy Program. Upon graduation, Stepanovic plans to continue his education by completing a PGY1 and PGY2 pharmacy residency program.</p>
	<p><b>Jordyn McCord</b> is a 2016 Purdue alumna with degrees in biological engineering and pharmaceutical sciences. McCord currently works as a scientist for Eli Lilly in the Technical Services Department of Parenteral Manufacturing.</p>		<p><b>David Wintczak</b> is a fourth-year pharmacy student at Purdue University. After graduation, Wintczak plans to work in either an independent retail pharmacy or in a small community hospital as a clinical pharmacist.</p>

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mentor in asking questions and remaining curious. I enjoyed working with them both so much that I decided to pursue a master's degree in their BIRS (Biotechnology Innovation and Regulatory Science) program.

**How did the experience of publishing an article in JPUR benefit you? What advice would you give to other undergraduates at Purdue who are interested in contributing to the journal?**

The JPUR publication was one of my first real technical writing experiences that wasn't just for a grade or coursework. For a course, you're typically writing to an informed audience (your professor), but for JPUR, we had to learn to write for a much broader audience. This skill has followed me into my professional life as I am often balancing how to communicate a complex technical issue with both people who know nothing about the situation or process and with experts in the process. Learning an effective and balanced communication style is important for undergraduates to hone—it will come in handy in your internships as well!

**What advice would you give to other undergraduates at Purdue who are interested in doing research?**

I would encourage all undergraduates to make the time and try a research experience—you will learn more than you realize, beyond even the technical application of the work. The mentorship and learning from the professors and the graduate students are invaluable in rounding out your educational experience. I also would encourage students to take the time to seek out experiences that may be outside of their department—I learned a lot in working with pharmacy students as well as other engineers. Working outside of my department I was able to expand the context of what I was learning in my classes as well. If you have the opportunity to support an international research project, I would absolutely encourage students to give it a shot. When I was at Purdue, the Global Design Teams that I was a part of were not only a unique learning experience, but a great résumé-builder and talking point for the career fairs.

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