



University of Houston College of Pharmacy

INTERACTIONS

Vol. 9 | No. 2 | Winter 2012/Spring 2013



Interprofessional Education

**Academic Partnerships
Aim to Reinvent Training
Across Health Professions**



DEAN'S MESSAGE



Acclaimed American cultural anthropologist, Margaret Mead once said, “Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.” This quote has special meaning for our UHCOP as our multifaceted teams continue to strive to achieve our many goals set forth by our new “Vision 2020” strategic plan (see details of our UHCOP Vision 20/20 at www.uh.edu/pharmacy/about-us/Vision-2020/index.php). Our new strategic plan will indeed take us beyond several important crossroads in the coming years.

As always, this edition of *Interactions* is replete with excellent examples of our College’s many teams of caring people working together on many exciting and impactful projects. Our UHCOP Dean’s Advisory Council (DAC), ambassadors, faculty, staff, students and UH administration are working very hard to bring together funding that will provide a new state-of-the-art Pharmacy Building and additional new initiatives that are crucial for the future of our great program.

Our faculty and students are reaching out to other Texas Medical Center (TMC) healthcare colleagues, such as the Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Women’s University to form early healthcare team synergies via multidisciplinary clinical programs that will translate to improvements in patient care (see the article concerning our LACE project). Our UHCOP student teams have formed the first Texas Student Chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy and the first UHCOP Student Political Action Committee (PAC). These two student led initiatives will be very important for the future of our profession as we continue to develop new approaches to improve healthcare delivery.

As I admire some of the great work of our faculty, staff, students and alumni highlighted in this edition of *Interactions*, I continue to feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to be associated with such an incredible group of “caring (and talented) people”! Dr. Mead had to have organizations such as our UHCOP in mind when she wrote, “Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have.”

The UHCOP remains totally committed to producing the highest quality professional pharmacists to meet the health care needs for our patients in the great state of Texas and beyond. This will provide a terrific foundation for our program as we continue our “Vision 2020 journey”.

F. Lamar Pritchard

F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Pharmacy



Clockwise from top, Dean Lamar Pritchard accepts a gift for Pharm.D. program support from PCCA’s Bruce Biundo ('61) and Renee Prescott ('02); Pritchard and Dean’s Advisory Council members Joe Ickes ('73) and Bill Heath (MBA '80) tour the new UH Health & Biomedical Sciences Building; and Pritchard welcomes back Villarreal twins Jacinto ('01) and Albert ('01), who delivered the Class of 2016 White Coat Ceremony address.



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

On the Cover: UH College of Pharmacy is partnering with fellow academic institutions, such as Baylor College of Medicine, to incorporate formal interprofessional education into their respective curricula as championed by leading academic health organizations. More on page 18.

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Publisher F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D.

Writer/Editor/Layout David “Chip” Lambert

Copy Editor Shara Zatopek

Photography David “Chip” Lambert (except where indicated)

Contact: *Interactions* Editor, University of Houston College of Pharmacy, 141 Science & Research Bldg. 2, Houston, TX 77204-5000 or email interactions@uh.edu.

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UH Regents Back Plan for Health Science Center Designation

The University of Houston System Board of Regents recently took a bold step to address changing healthcare needs by unanimously approving the creation of a Health Science Center at UH in January 2013.

With UH programs in the health sciences as one of the primary drivers in its move to Tier One status, the board agreed that the university must further develop these resources to achieve the next level of success.

In addition to the College of Pharmacy's programs, UH offers a wealth of health science programs, including undergraduate and graduate academic programs to prepare students for health-related careers; research programs addressing health-related scientific, engineering and policy issues; and clinical programs directly involved in patient care.

"The creation of a Health Science Center at UH, which would include patient care, workforce training, research and community outreach, is critical to the economic and social well-being of the region and state," said UH System Chancellor and UH President **Renu Khator**. "With numerous academic,

research and clinical programs in the health sciences, our university plays a vital role in meeting these needs. Formal creation of this Health Science Center brings a new level of synergy and focus that will broaden the impact of our research and education programs, and provide a clear point of access for the community."

As funding for higher education becomes increasingly scarce, universities must develop alternative means of securing resources. A Health Science Center would put UH in a position to increase tuition dollars through expanded enrollment in professional training programs, federal dollars through pioneering research programs and third-party payments for clinical services.

Implementation of the Affordable Care Act, in particular, will provide an influx of new resources into the health care arena. The university is seeking approval of the center from the Texas Legislature during its current session, with the official launch of the center projected for fiscal-year 2014.

– Lisa Merkl, University Communications

DAC Honors Hopson's Legislative Service, Welcomes Members

The UH College of Pharmacy Dean's Advisory Council recently added several members as alumni and friends respond to the call for advocates and allies to help catapult the college and university to Tier One status.

New members include:

Michael Adams, Pharm.D., R.Ph. (B.S. '90), CTH, owner/operator, Travelvax Pharmacy and Vaxanation;

Roger W. Anderson, DrPH, M.S., vice president and head, Division of Pharmacy, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (retired);

Roy Armstrong, R.Ph. (B.S. '84), market pharmacy director, Walgreens;

Prashant Desai, Pharm.D., R.Ph. (B.S. '96), senior clinical science manager-Rheumatology, AbbVie;

William C. Heath, MBA (Bauer '81), CFP, chairman and CEO, Barrington Financial Advisors Inc., and former Houston Astros catcher;

Chuck Hopson, R.Ph. (B.S. '65), principal, Hopson Consulting Group;

Rusul Karralli, Pharm.D. ('12), pharmacy administration



Dean Lamar Pritchard presents alumnus Chuck Hopson with a plaque in honor of Hopson's 12 years of service in the Texas Legislature.

M.S. student/PGY1 resident, UHCOP/ Memorial Hermann Healthcare System;

Prithvial (Paul) Likhari, M.Pharm., president, Apaar Investments Inc.;

Ali-Reza Shah Mohammadi, M.S. ('12), Pharm.D. ('10), R.Ph., Safe Medication Management Fellow, Institute for Safe Medication Practices;

Robert Scholz, M.S. ('88), MBA, R.Ph. (B.S. '77), vice president of Pharmacy Practice Consulting, McKesson;

Mary Utti, R.Ph. (B.S. '97), pharmacy supervisor, CVS/ Caremark;

Lucinda Van Anglen, Pharm.D., R.Ph., vice president of Pharmacy, Healix;

Alex C. Varkey, M.S., Pharm.D. ('05), R.Ph., pharmacy operations manager, The Methodist Hospital; and

May Woo, R.Ph. (B.S. '91), director of pharmacy - Houston area, Emerus Emergency Hospital.

Students **Bobby Clay**, **Ezequiel Medina**, **Osagie "Tony" Ohonba** and **Faizam Sattar** also were appointed to the council.

FACULTY NEWS

Karim Alkadhi, Ph.D., professor, and **Jessica Cottreau**, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical assistant professor, received the 2012 Teaching Excellence Awards from the UH Beta Omicron chapter of the Rho Chi Honor Society.

The 2012 Faculty Excellence Award winners are: Research – **Mohammad Asghar**, Ph.D., assistant professor; Teaching – **Joydip Das**, Ph.D.; and Service – **Catherine Hatfield**, Pharm.D., clinical associate professor.

Kimberly K. Birtcher, Pharm.D., M.S., BCPS, CDE, CLS, has been promoted to Clinical Professor.

Kimberly K. Birtcher, M.S., Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical professor, and **Jeffrey T. Sherer**, M.P.H., Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical associate professor, served as associate editors on the Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia 2013.

Elizabeth Coyle, Pharm.D., BCPS, has been promoted to Clinical Professor.

Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., professor, was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award from the National Taiwan University, where she received her undergraduate degree.

E. James Essien, DrPH, M.D., professor, has been appointed to the *Journal of AIDS and Therapy* editorial board.

Cathy Hatfield, Pharm.D., has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

Bradley McConnell, Ph.D., assistant professor, has been appointed to the *Journal of Pharmaceutics & Pharmacology* editorial board.

Nancy Ordonez, Pharm.D. ('98), BCPS, has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

Samina Salim, Ph.D., assistant professor, was appointed to the *Journal of Biochemical and Pharmacological Research* and the *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* editorial boards.

Andrea Smesny, M.P.H., Pharm.D. ('98), has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor.

Julianna Szilagyi, Ph.D., associate professor, has been appointed to the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* editorial board and elected Chair-elect of the AACP Assessment Special Interest Group.

Vincent H. Tam, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID), associate professor, has been appointed Associate Editor for the *Journal of Global Antimicrobial Resistance*.

Anne M. Tucker, Pharm.D., BCNSP, clinical associate professor, was honored with the TSHP Student Section Executive Committee's 2012 Educator Excellence Award during Health-System Pharmacy Week.

Louis Williams, Ph.D., associate professor, was one of only four advisors among nearly 80 Student National Pharmaceutical Association chapters nationwide to be honored at the 2012 Psi National Conference and one of 10 advisors from among Kappa Psi's 80-plus collegiate chapters to earn a 2012 Grand Council Deputy Certificate of Excellence.

Pritchard Tapped for Think-tank on Improving Patient Adherence, UH Provost Search Committee

UH College of Pharmacy Dean **F. Lamar Pritchard**, Ph.D., has been appointed to a national think-tank on improving patient medication adherence as well as to the search committee to find the UH/UH System's next executive for academic affairs.

The national Medication Adherence Alliance think-tank to which Pritchard has been appointed is working to compile and disseminate real-world best practices for improving patient medication adherence.

Spearheaded by Duke University and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the alliance includes representatives from academia, professional organizations, public/consumer advocacy groups, government/regulatory agencies, and the pharmaceutical industry.

In January 2013, Pritchard was appointed by UH System Chancellor/UH President Renu Khator to serve on the search committee for the next UH System Vice Chancellor/UH Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost following John Antel's return to full-time teaching duties in December.

TSHP, UHCOP Partner to Boost Health Systems' Participation in Practice Model Initiative Survey

The Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists recently partnered UH College of Pharmacy faculty members and student/residents to encourage participation by Texas health systems in the ASHP Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI) Self-Assessment tool.

The PPMI Task Force task force was led by **Monica Puebla**, R.Ph., BCPS, chair of TSHP Council on Professional Affairs, with UHCOP's **Paige Pitman**, Pharm.D., MBA, coordinating the outreach efforts of the college's M.S./Residency program participants, and **Kevin W. Garey**, Pharm.D., M.S., overseeing data collection/analyses.

The PPMI survey is designed to provide a benchmark and snapshot of how health-system practices in the state stack up against the rest of the country. The data will help identify next steps that hospitals and/or TSHP should take to bring about change in practice and improvement of patient care.

M.S./Residency program participants **John Blea**, Pharm.D. ('11), BCPS, and **Christy Gorbach**, Pharm.D., presented the results of the Texas PPMI survey data at the 2013 TSHP Annual Seminar in Austin.

Tucker, VA Colleagues Earn ASPEN's New Nutrition Support Award

UH College of Pharmacy Clinical Assistant Professor **Anne M. Tucker**, Pharm.D., BCNSP, and her colleagues at Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) recently were named among the inaugural recipients of the 2013 Clinical Nutrition Team of Distinction Award by the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN).

The award identifies and elevates the stature of interdisciplinary nutrition care within an institution or agency and externally in local communities. Clinical nutrition teams, as defined for this award, consist of an identified interdisciplinary group of practitioners with a member from each of four disciplines: dietetics, medicine, nursing and pharmacy.

The Nutrition Support Team participates in nutrition support rounds, formulary selection, policy revision, research, educational development, and development and implementation of new and updated guidelines. The members also round daily on parenteral nutrition patients, assist with ordering, and work to reduce metabolic and infectious complications.

"Pharmacists on nutrition support teams perform many roles, including development of patient-centered nutrition support care plans, fluid and electrolyte management, identification and management of drug-nutrient interactions, and necessary monitoring to prevent complications associated with nutrition therapy," said Tucker, who also recently was installed as chair-elect of ASPEN's Pharmacy Practice Section. "We also are active in assuring the safe compounding of parenteral nutrition, developing policies and procedures for nutrition support therapies, education, and integration of research into clinical practice."

Tucker's colleagues on the team are physician **Maria Velez**, M.D.; dietitians **Renee Walker**, M.S., R.D., CNSC, an alumna of the UH's Nutrition program, **Katie Schwartz**, M.S., R.D., CNSC, **Alicia Merritt**, M.S., R.D., CNSC, CSO, and



Matthew White/UH photo
UHCOP faculty member Anne Tucker, far right, is one of two pharmacists on a interprofessional Nutrition Support team at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston.

Holly Dittmar, M.S., R.D., C.N.S.C.; pharmacist **Nicole Keller**, Pharm.D., BCNSP; and nurses **Lissy Joseph**, R.N., B.S.N., **Sy Reeker**, R.N., M.S.N., and **Esther Mims**, R.N., M.S.N.

"We are honored by this recognition of our interdisciplinary clinical nutrition practice," said MEDVAMC Director Adam C. Walmus, M.H.A., M.A., FACHE. "I am extremely proud our staff members support each other and are focused on our mission to provide the highest quality health care possible to our veterans."

Founded in 1976, ASPEN is an interdisciplinary organization of dietitians, nurses, pharmacists, physicians, scientists, students and other health professionals from every facet of nutrition support clinical practice, research and education.

"The Clinical Nutrition Team of Distinction Award honors those hard-working teams who are at their patients' side each and every day," said ASPEN President Tom Jaksic, M.D., Ph.D. "Exceptional patient care is the heart and soul of everything we do."

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Tucker

Tucker also has become the first faculty member from the college to be appointed to a national specialty council of the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

Tucker's appointment is a three-year term on the BPS Nutrition Support Speciality Council, which is responsible for making recommendations regarding standards and other requirements for certification and recertification of pharmacists; developing and administering examinations; and evaluating the qualifications of individuals recommended for certification or recertification.

Certification is a voluntary process by which a pharmacist's education, experience, knowledge and skills in a particular practice area are confirmed beyond what is required for licensure.

Nearly 13,000 pharmacists in the U.S. hold board certification from BPS, which was established in 1976 as an autonomous division of the APhA.

New, Familiar Faces Among Recent College Faculty Appointments

UH College of Pharmacy recently welcomed three new faculty members – including an alumna of the college – to the Department of Clinical Sciences & Administration as well as the return of a former faculty member to the Department of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Julianna Fernandez, Pharm.D., BCPS, has joined UH College of Pharmacy as a clinical assistant professor, with a geriatrics practice site at The Methodist Hospital. A 2006 graduate of UHCOP's Pharm.D. program, Fernandez completed a PGY1 residency at University Medical Center–University of Arizona in Tucson.



Fernandez

Fernandez then served as an MTM pharmacist and staff pharmacist at UMC-UA before returning to Houston and joining Methodist, where she worked as a clinical specialist in internal medicine and pharmacy manager over Education and Staff Development. Fernandez also holds a B.A. in Spanish from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Her research interests include geriatric patient access to health care, medication safety and continuity in care between acute care to outpatient setting.

Marc L. Fleming, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.Ph., has joined the college as an assistant professor of pharmacy administration and public health. Fleming earned his Ph.D. and M.S. in Pharmacy (Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice) from The University of Texas at Austin; his Master of Public Health from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va.; and his B.S. in Pharmacy from Texas Southern University.



Fleming

Fleming's dissertation focused on Texas community pharmacists' intended use of the online prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) when making dispensing decisions regarding controlled prescription drugs. His other research interests include medication-use disparities of antidepressant medications and pain treatment as well as pharmacists' interventions to improve medication adherence.

Matthew Wanat, Pharm.D., BCPS, has joined the college as a clinical assistant professor, with a critical care practice site at Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center. After graduating from Northeastern University Bouve College of Health Sciences in Boston, Wanat completed PGY1 and PGY2 (critical care) residencies at The Methodist Hospital in Houston. His research interests include anticoagulation and heparin-induced thrombocytopenia; sedation/delirium; and cost-effectiveness of critical care pharmacotherapy.



Wanat

The college also recently welcomed **Tahir Hussain**, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology, back to UH after a year at Auburn University. During the 16 years Hussain previously worked at the college, he received the UH Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Research as well as the college's Faculty Service Excellence Award and the UH Rho Chi Society's Teaching Excellence Award.



Hussain

His current research in angiotensin II receptor function in obesity is supported by a multiyear R01 National Institutes of Health grant. Hussain received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Aligarh Muslim University in Aligarh, India.

Bond Helps Colleagues Celebrate Winning Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Professor **Richard A. Bond**, Ph.D. ('88), B.S. ('83), was in good company recently as he traveled to Stockholm, Sweden, to help his longtime friends and colleagues **Brian K. Kobilka**, M.D., and **Robert J. Lefkowitz**, M.D., celebrate their new status as Nobel Laureates.

Kobilka and Lefkowitz jointly received the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry from the Nobel Foundation in December "for studies of G-protein-coupled receptors." Bond was among the pair's family and friends present for the delivery of their Nobel Lectures at the Aula Magna lecture hall on the campus of Stockholm University, as well as private celebrations.



photo courtesy of Richard Bond
Professor Richard Bond, center, was on hand in Stockholm, Sweden, to congratulate longtime colleagues and friends Brian Kobilka and Robert Lefkowitz on being jointly awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Kobilka is professor and chair of molecular and cellular physiology at the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lefkowitz is professor of medicine and biochemistry at Duke University. Bond and Lefkowitz have collaborated on nearly two dozen publications since 1994, including papers in *Science*, *Nature* and *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science*, while Bond and Kobilka's first work together appeared in 2000.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Bond said. "It was an honor just to be a small part of their story, not just in terms of our past scientific collaboration, but to watch friends reach what most of us consider the pinnacle of the scientific world."

UH Hails Marwaha, Tejada-Simon for Teaching, Research Mentoring

UH College of Pharmacy pharmacology faculty members **Aditi Marwaha**, Ph.D. ('05), lecturer, and **Maria V. Tejada-Simon**, Ph.D., M.Ed. ('07), assistant professor, were honored by the University of Houston in April for excellence in teaching and mentorship.



Marwaha was among the recipients of the UH Teaching Excellence Award for Instructor/Clinical level faculty by the UH Office of the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost. A past recipient of the college's Teaching Excellence Award and the Rho Chi Teaching Award, she has taught and coordinated several Pharm.D. courses as well as an undergraduate course for non-science majors since joining the faculty seven years ago.

Marwaha was recognized by UH for her success in the classroom as a result of embracing new teaching methods and instructional aids to increase student engagement and provide an active learning environment, including use of audience-response devices, virtual classrooms and interactive, web-based content; eagerly inviting student and peer feedback on her presentations; and inspiring students to consider becoming teachers.

"When students get personal attention and feedback from their teacher, they get motivated to do better," Marwaha said. "They feel good that, in a class of 300 students, my teacher remembers what I do."

One student noted, "Dr. Marwaha's teaching is about more than just knowledge of the subject; it is also the kindness, consideration and respect she shows each and every day."

Tejada-Simon was honored as the inaugural recipient of the



Thomas Campbell/UH photos

Early Faculty Award for Mentoring Undergraduate Research from the UH Office of Undergraduate Research.

Tejada-Simon has mentored nine undergraduate students in her lab since joining the faculty in 2008, with seven peer-reviewed publications and more than two dozen presentations with at least one undergraduate coauthor.

Several of her undergraduate students have received competitive extramural travel awards to present at major conferences, support at the local level through UH and international undergraduate research scholarship/fellowship programs, and/or local and national recognition awards for the high quality of their presentations.

"To acquire research skills, a broad laboratory and scientific experience will allow a student to increase not only his/her talents and confidence, but also be more competitive in the global marketplace and perhaps open his/her eyes to the pursuit of graduate studies," she said.

Students in her lab are not only required to complete training in research ethics, safety, animal welfare and basic lab research techniques, but also participate in sessions on scientific writing, effective presentation skills and teaching methods.

"MariVi views each student that works with her as a diamond in the rough – to be pressed hard, nurtured, criticized when appropriate, gently and empathetically encouraged when needed – all with the objective of creating a lifelong learner skilled in the art of discovery, regardless of their chosen future pursuit," noted **Doug Eikenburg**, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the college's Department of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

STAFF NEWS

Mauthner Among '25 for 25' Honored During UH Staff Council Anniversary

UH College of Pharmacy Instructional Designer **Shari Mauthner**, M.S., recently was honored among the "25 Staff for 25 Years" in celebration of the UH Staff Council's 25th anniversary.

A staff member of the college for six years, her primary role is to support faculty members, students and staff in the use of technology in the classroom and the design of quality learning. Mauthner is a two-time Cougar, having earned a master's degree in Occupational Technology and a bachelor's degree in Information Systems from the College of Technology.

In addition to serving in a second term on the UH Staff Council,

Mauthner has volunteered her time for a variety of university-wide initiatives for several years, including the Cougar First Impressions new-student ambassador program and the UH March of Dimes Walk. She previously served as chair of the UHCOP Staff Advisory Council, which is similar in function but not affiliated with UH body. During her two-year term in the position, Mauthner served as college coordinator for such campus projects as the Sock and Blanket Drive for Houston's homeless shelters.



Mauthner

Aparasu Explores Risk of Dementia, Cognitive Decline in Elderly

UHCOP Professor **Rajender Aparasu**, Ph.D., is evaluating millions of medical claims to determine if use of anticholinergics increases the risk of cognitive decline, dementia, falls/fractures and death in elderly nursing home patients suffering from depression.

In its 2012 revision of the Beers Criteria guidelines, the American Geriatrics Society noted that “many (potentially inappropriate medications) continue to be prescribed and used as first-line treatment for the most vulnerable of older adults.” Separately, numerous studies have linked depression with cognitive impairment in older adults, but the degree of impact that anticholinergics have on patients with depression is not known.

Under a nearly \$1 million grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Aparasu’s four-year project will examine clinically rich Minimum Data Set-linked Medicare claims data from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Expected to incorporate medical data from more than 2 million patients, the project will be one of the largest studies of its kind.

“Ultimately, the goal is to improve the quality of life of geriatric patients,” Aparasu said. “By determining the health risks



Jerry Powers/UH photo
Professor Rajender Aparasu, center, and faculty co-investigators Hua Chen and Michael Johnson have received federal funding to determine the risks of anticholinergic use in nursing home patients with depression.

and impacts associated with anticholinergic drugs in this vulnerable population, our study will provide further evidence to help practitioners in their risk-benefit decision-making process.”

The study will focus on drugs with “clinically significant” anticholinergic activity, as classified in the Anticholinergic Drug Scale (ADS) system developed by co-investigator **Ryan Carnahan**, Pharm.D., M.S., BCPP, clinical assistant professor at the University of Iowa College of Public Health. UHCOP associate professors **Hua Chen**, Ph.D., M.D., and **Michael**

Johnson, Ph.D., also are co-investigators on the project.

“When I talk to clinicians, more often than not a large proportion of them have never heard of the Beers list; it’s well known in the world of geriatrics, but generalists and other specialties don’t necessarily know about it,” Carnahan said. “Some drugs have anticholinergic activity that is not recognized by clinicians, since it’s not their mechanism of action.

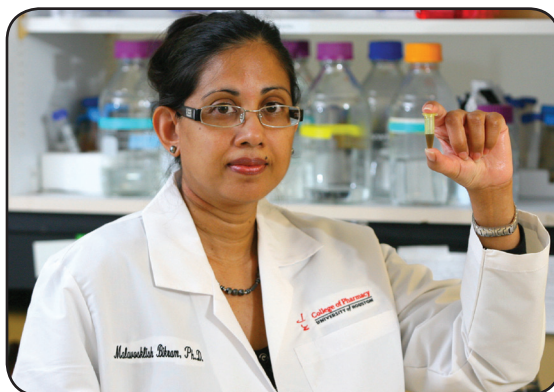
“In all cases, clinicians may not be aware of the risks, the magnitude of risk may not be well characterized, or they choose to accept the risks because they think the benefit of treatment could outweigh the risks.”

Nanoparticle Functions as Contrast Agent, Vehicle for Gene Delivery

Malavosklish “Liz” Bikram, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmaceuticals, has received a U.S. patent for an iron-oxide “superparamagnetic” nanoparticle designed to enhance the diagnostic imaging of tumors and deliver anti-tumor drug or gene therapies.

Bikram developed the dual-function, ultrasmall nanoparticle as a biomimetic contrast agent for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) diagnostics and nonviral gene therapy delivery system to target early stage and metastatic cancers.

The nanoparticle platform, which also incorporates an inert



Matthew White/UH photo
Assistant Professor Liz Bikram displays a sample of her patented iron-oxide nanoparticle for enhanced diagnostic imaging and delivery of therapeutics.

layer of gold coating the nanoparticle, offers opportunities for broad application in cancer diagnosis and care, especially in detecting and treating ovarian and breast cancers.

As with all forms of cancer (and diseases in general), early detection is critical to survival rates. Ovarian cancers are especially difficult to detect, partly due to non-specificity of symptoms and the limitations of current imaging tools. According to the American Cancer Society, only about 15 percent of all ovarian cancers are detected in the early stages when five-year survival rates run as high as 92 percent.

Tikunova Designs Protein Mutation to Recreate Cardiomyopathy

A novel “knock-in” mouse model designed by UHCOP Assistant Professor **Svetlana B. Tikunova**, Ph.D., may yield clues into how mutations in a key cardiac protein can lead to dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), one of the most common forms of heart disease.

Tikunova’s exploration into the molecular mechanisms of DCM is supported by a new three-year, \$451,166 grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

In DCM, the heart’s main pumping chamber (the left ventricle) becomes enlarged and weakened, reducing its ability to adequately pump blood to the rest of the body. DCM is a life-threatening condition that can lead to the development of blood clots, arrhythmia, congestive heart failure and sudden death. It can affect individuals of any age, including children, as well as many breeds of dogs.

Although the causes for all DCMs have not been identified, known causes include congenital heart disease, toxins, thyroid disease, inflammatory conditions, infections, severe long-standing hypertension, radiation and hereditary factors. Up to 40 percent of DCM cases are believed to be caused



Joe Gayle/UH photo
Assistant Professor Svetlana Tikunova and lab assistant Nathan Egge examine a slide of myofibrils from cardiac muscle.

by mutations in cytoskeletal and sarcomeric proteins, but how these mutations lead to the development of the disease is unclear.

Tikunova’s project will explore the role of mutations that alter calcium sensitivity of the cardiac troponin C in the development of cardiomyopathies. Cardiac troponin C (cTnC) is a regulatory protein, whose calcium-binding function is integral to cardiac-muscle contraction.

The cTnC mutation was engineered to desensitize cTnC to calcium and was introduced into mouse myocardium via gene targeting technology in order to recreate the phenotype of DCM.

“Our goal is to gain a better understanding of how mutations of regulatory proteins affect molecular signaling of calcium-binding and exchange, which

impacts the heart muscle’s normal function,” Tikunova said. “This engineered cTnC mutation results in reduced calcium sensitivity and a faster rate of calcium dissociation from thin filaments in the heart muscle. If our knock-in mouse model then develops DCM, we can demonstrate a link between calcium desensitization of cardiac muscle and the development of DCM.”

Bond, Knoll Investigate Key Cell Types in Development of Asthma

With \$430,000 in support from a special grant program of the National Institutes of Health, UHCOP faculty researchers **Richard A. Bond**, Ph.D. ('88), and **Brian J. Knoll**, Ph.D., are attempting to zero-in on the critical cell type within the airway system where activation triggers inflammation and other deleterious effects on the airway that are considered hallmarks of asthma.

In their decade-long quest to develop safer, improved medications for asthma, Bond and Knoll have been investigating the role and mechanism of the beta2-adrenergic receptor (beta2-AR) in the development of the disease.

“Our research has shown that chronic use of beta2-AR inverse agonists or genetic deletion of the beta2-AR in mouse

model of asthma produced broad anti-inflammatory effects in the airways, including reversal of excess mucous production by airway epithelial cells,” Bond said.

Funded by the special NIH Director’s Bridge Award program, their current research phase seeks to determine whether the epithelium is in fact a target for B2AR signaling, which components of the asthma phenotype are due to receptor activation in specific lung or stem cells, and the role of receptor inhibitors in mediating the pro-asthmatic effects.

The work of Bond, Knoll and their collaborators also has led to a new multi-center, double-blind, placebo-controlled study being conducted by Baylor College of Medicine, Duke University and Washington University.

Symposium Focuses on Impact of Comparative Effectiveness Studies

With the theme of “Step Forward to Improve Health Care Delivery,” UH College of Pharmacy hosted its first Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Symposium focusing on comparative effectiveness research March 29.

Four UH Pharmacy Administration doctoral program students received Best Poster awards from among the 33 posters presented at the event by students and faculty from across UH and several fellow Texas Medical Center institutions.

The top presentations were: “Predicting consumer intention to use generic drug discount programs: Structural equation modeling approach” by **Harshali K. Patel**, M.S.; “Impact of over-the-counter medication use on quality of life in the elderly” by **Shivani Mhatre**, M.S.; “Antipsychotic use and risk of pneumonia in elderly nursing home residents: A propensity-matched study” by **Satabdi Chatterjee**, M.S.; and “Factors associated with prescription drug expenditure



Pictured are student organizer Ayush Patel, faculty member/advisor Michael Johnson, student organizer Hemal Mehta, faculty members Sujit Sansgiry and James Essien, UH Vice Chancellor/Vice President Rathindra Bose, UHCOP Executive Vice Dean Mustafa Lokhandwala, guests speakers Carol Ashton, Catherine Cooksley and Aanand Naik; and faculty member Rajender Aparasu.

in patients with diabetes mellitus: A cross-sectional study of Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, 2005-2009” by **Rohan Medhekar**, M.Pharm.

Attendees were welcomed by **Rathindra Bose**, Ph.D., UH System Vice Chancellor of Research and Technology Transfer/UH Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer. The Methodist Hospital Research Institute’s **Carol Ashton**, M.D., MPH; University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston’s

Catherine D. Cooksley, DrPH; and Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine’s **Aanand D. Naik**, M.D., were the keynote speakers.

The symposium was organized by the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research-UH Chapter and Graduates and Alumni of Pharmacy Administration, and sponsored by Bayer, UH Activities Funding Board, ISPOR, McKesson and Xcenda/AmerisourceBergen Consulting Services.

BENCH NOTES

Karim A. Alkadhi, Ph.D., professor, has received a \$3,000 UH Small Grants Program award for his project, “Sleep deprivation-induced anxiety and cognitive impairment: Prevention by regular exercise.”

Greg D. Cuny, Ph.D., assistant professor, has received a \$133,125 subaward from Massachusetts General Hospital-East for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease-funded project, “Identification of novel integrin antagonists.”

Marc L. Fleming, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.Ph., assistant professor, has received a \$6,000 UH New Faculty Research Program award for his project, “Examination of emergency departments physicians’ use of a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program using the Technology Acceptance Model.”

Kevin W. Garey, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP, associate professor, has received \$196,000 in funding from T2 Biosystems Inc. as part of clinical trials of the T2Candida assay product; and a \$115,500 grant from Astellas Pharma US Inc. for his project, “Incidence, risk factors and outcomes associated with FKS mutants in patients with *C. glabrata* candidemia.”

Sujit Sansgiry, Ph.D., associate professor, has received a \$10,000 grant from Statscript for his project, “Development of documentation processes for Quality of Life Outcomes measures for patients in niche markets”; and the C.A. Bond Research Grant for \$2,500 from the TSHP Research & Education Foundation for

the project, “Inpatient pharmacist productivity: A comparison of Computer Physician Order Entry (CPOE) vs. a Paper-Based system.”

Vincent H. Tam, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID), associate professor, has received a \$134,000 grant from Theravance Inc. for his project, “PK/PD of Telavancin and nephrotoxicity” and a \$10,000 grant from The Methodist Hospital Research Institute for his project, “Pharmacodynamic assessment for formulary decisions.”

Maria V. Tejada-Simon, Ph.D., assistant professor, has received a \$88,961 renewal award from the FRAXA Research Foundation as part of her three-year, \$267,000 project, “Small Rho GTPases, a potential therapeutic target for Fragile X syndrome.”

Meghna V. Trivedi, Pharm.D. (’03), Ph.D. (’04), BCOP, assistant professor, has received a \$10,000 grant from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy for her project, “Identification of novel GPCR targets in HER2+ (human epidermal growth factor receptor-2) breast cancer” and a \$3,000 UH Small Grants Program award for her project, “Identifying mechanisms of resistance to anti-HER2 therapy.”

Matthew A. Wanat, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical assistant professor, has received a \$6,000 UH New Faculty Research Program award for his project, “Critical care pharmacy specialists Impact on pharmacotherapy interventions and cost savings: A Texas Medical Center study.”

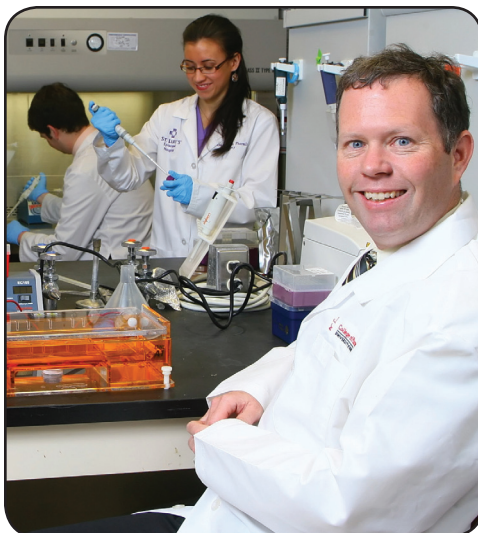
Garey Gains National Exposure for Infectious Diseases Expertise

Associate Professor **Kevin W. Garey**, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP, has been playing a major role in “rewriting the books” on infectious diseases pharmacotherapy over the past year.

Garey has secured a national award for a paper detailing a CDI treatment pilot study he led; an appointment to a national working group in the process of updating therapeutic guidelines for *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDI); citation of three publications in the recently updated guidelines for preventing surgical site infections.

Garey’s paper entitled “A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled pilot study to assess the ability of rifaximin to prevent recurrent diarrhoea (*sic*) in patients with *Clostridium difficile* infection” was selected in September as the 2012 Impact Paper of the Year by the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (his second award from SIDP). CDI has become the most common cause of antibiotic-associated diarrhea and healthcare-related infection in the developed world.

Published in the December 2011 *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*, the paper was coauthored by University of Texas-School of Public Health’s (UTSPH) **Shashank Ghantaji** and **Zhi-Dong Jiang**, M.D., Ph.D.; UHCOP’s **Dhara Shah**, Pharm.D. ('08), **Musarat Habib** and **Vaneet Arora**; and



Matthew White/UH photo
Associate Professor Kevin Garey, pictured with his infectious diseases fellows, has achieved national recognition with a recent appointment to an expert panel as well as an award and several citations for his research publications.

Herbert DuPont, M.D., SLEH/UTSPH/ Baylor College of Medicine.

The paper detailed Garey’s project into the effectiveness of using a rifaximin “chaser” following standard anti-CDI antibiotic therapy to prevent recurrent diarrhea in patients. According to the randomized, controlled study, patients given rifaximin had approximately 50 percent lower rates of recurrent diarrhea compared to patients given placebo.

Selected as a Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) in 2012, Garey represents the ASHP on a joint panel of panel of CDI experts currently updating the U.S. treatment guidelines on behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA).

In addition, three papers by Garey and his colleagues recently were cited in the updated U.S. guidelines for antimicrobial prophylaxis in surgery. The new guidelines by experts from ASHP, IDSA, SHEA and the Surgical Infection Society appear in the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*’s February 2013 issue. Garey’s latest recognition follows his citations in the most recent guideline updates for CDI by the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and for invasive candidiasis by the IDSA.

Fleming Nets APhA Award for Project on Drug Monitoring Program

A UHCOP faculty member’s study of Texas pharmacists’ intention to use a new online database designed to prevent prescription drug diversion and abuse was recognized with the Postgraduate Best Podium Presentation Award at the 2013 American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting March 1-4 in Los Angeles.

Marc Fleming, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.Ph., received the award from the APhA’s Academy of Pharmacy Research & Science’s Economic, Social and Administrative Sciences Section. Fleming’s presentation, entitled “Using the Theory of Planned Behavior to predict pharmacists’ intention to utilize a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) database,” was based on his dissertation work at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy.



Fleming

The web-based PDMP portal called Prescription Access Texas that was launched by the Texas Department of Public

Safety last fall replaced the state’s outdated fax-based manual system, which took 30-45 days for reports to be generated.

The study employed the theory of planned behavior – a model incorporating psychological factors such as attitudes and perceived social influence to predict subjects’ intention to pursue specific behaviors – to assess pharmacists’ intention to use the new online system. Fleming said validation of the theory’s applicability offers PDMP system administrators and policymakers guidance for future initiatives to address provider attitudes and other factors toward the system, develop best practices to preserve workflow efficiency for providers, or even make modifications to the system itself.

“I believe technologies such as this, if used effectively, can save lives,” Fleming said. “The overall goal of my research is to increase awareness of the technology; identify potential areas for improvement, either in the functionality of the system or in provider education; and to reduce or eliminate barriers to providers’ willingness or ability to use the system.”

Student, Fellow Research Earns Abstract, Presentation Awards

Senior Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Fellow **Nicholas Beyda**, Pharm.D., received travel awards from the American Society for Microbiology/Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA).



Beyda

Beyda earned the ICAAC Fellows Program grant to present “Molecular epidemiology and fluconazole susceptibility of *Candida glabrata* candidemia at a university-affiliated medical center,” at ICAAC 2012 Sept. 9-12 in San Francisco. His co-authors were **Abdullah Kılıç**, M.D., Gülhane Military Medical Academy, Ankara, Turkey (research sabbatical at UHCOP); **M. Jahangir Alam**, Ph.D., UHCOP; **Todd Lasco**, Ph.D., St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital (SLEH); and **Kevin Garey**, Pharm.D., M.S., UHCOP.

The IDSA Trainee Travel Grant supported Beyda’s presentation entitled “Aggregate measures of antifungal use in hospitalized patients: Defined daily doses vs. antimicrobial days” at IDWeek Oct. 17-21 in San Diego. His co-authors were **Dhara Shah**, Pharm.D. (’08), and **Jessica Cottreau**, Pharm.D., UHCOP/SLEH; SLEH’s **Miguel Salazar**, Ph.D., Pharm.D. (’06), and **Craig Frost**, R.Ph. (’90), MBA; and **Garey**.

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Hatfield

Mark Hatfield, who has entered the Pharmacy Administration doctoral program after completing the M.S. program in December, won first place in the Effectiveness category at the Kelsey Research Foundation’s 13th Annual Health Services and Outcomes Conference Dec. 13 in Houston.

The project, entitled “Pharmacist time spent on Computerized Provider Order Entry versus a paper-based model in an inpatient pharmacy,” was co-authored by **Rodney Cox**, Pharm.D., M.S. (’11), Memorial Hermann Health System; **Shivani Mhatre**, M.S. (’11), UHCOP; **W. Perry Flowers**, M.S., R.Ph. (B.S. ’90); and **Sujit Sansgiry**, Ph.D., UHCOP.

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Pharmacology doctoral student **Luis Martinez** received a travel award from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Maximizing Access to Research Careers (FASEB MARC) Program to present his research at the 2012 SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) National Conference Oct. 11-14 in Seattle. UHCOP’s **Maria V. Tejada-Simon**, Ph.D., coauthored the poster entitled



Martinez

“Association of Rac1 dysregulation and learning disability.”

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Pharmacology graduate student **Sourashish Nag** received a Certificate of Excellence at the 3rd Biennial UH Texas Obesity Research Center Conference at UH for his poster presentation entitled, “Angiotensin AT2R activation increases ACE2/ANG1-7/MASR axis and prevents fatty diet-induced obesity.” The project was coauthored by UH post-doctoral fellow and alumnus **Quaisar Ali**, Ph.D. (’11), Auburn University’s **Yonnie Wu**, Ph.D., and UHCOP faculty member **Tahir Hussain**, Ph.D.



Nag

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Pharmaceutics doctoral students **Tau Niu** and **Pranav Shah** received 2012 travel awards from the Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics and Drug Metabolism (PPDM) Section of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists to present their research at the 2012 AAPS Annual Meeting in Chicago Oct. 14-18.

Niu’s project, entitled “Oral administration of red ginseng extract significantly increases the activity of intestinal bacterial β -glucosidases and the relative abundance of *Lactobacillus* in A/J mouse intestine,” was coauthored by Baylor College of Medicine student **Diane Smith** and faculty member **Joseph Petrosino**, Ph.D., and UHCOP faculty member **Ming Hu**, Ph.D.



Niu



Shah

Shah’s project, entitled “Toll-like receptor 3-mediated regulation of drug metabolizing enzymes and transporters: Role of TRIF-dependent signaling,” was co-authored by UH biochemistry alumna **Ozozoma Omoluabi**, Ph.D., and UHCOP faculty member **Romi Ghose**, Ph.D.

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Pharmacology doctoral student **Vaidehi Thanawala** won the Best Poster Award at the Gulf Coast Consortia’s 2012 Lung Research Day: Collaborative Research Alliances for the Cure of Lung Diseases in Houston. Her project, entitled “Epinephrine is required for airway inflammatory cell infiltration and airway hyper-responsiveness in murine models of asthma,” was coauthored by fellow UHCOP students **Nour Al-Sawalha** and **Gloria Serwaa Forkuo**, **Ozozoma** and faculty members **Richard Bond**, Ph.D. (’88), B.S. (’83), and **Brian J. Knoll**, Ph.D.



Thanawala

NCPA Cougars Finish 2nd for National Student Chapter Honors

The UH chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association achieved its highest honor in October with its first runner-up finish in the national NCPA Student Chapter of the Year competition.

Although the chapter fell shy of its goal, members of the UH chapter were nonetheless proud of the national recognition for their hard work during the previous year.

“Our chapter skyrocketed to its highest position ever due to the passion of our members,” said **Bobby Clay**, who was the third consecutive UH student elected to the NCPA National Student Leadership Council and immediate past president of the UH chapter. “The organization was basically extinct three years ago, but now is flourishing within our college because students have realized that independent pharmacy is alive and well. I had a vision for the chapter, and our members shared that vision to make real changes in the community and change the perception of independent community pharmacy.”



photo courtesy of Ezequiel Medina
National NCPA student leaders Bobby Clay, left, and Ezequiel Medina, right, and faculty advisor Lynn Simpson display the certificates of recognition for chapter and individual service at the NCPA National Convention in October.

Highlights of the chapter’s activities included embarking on its inaugural “Texas road trip” to independent pharmacies around the state; launching a twice-yearly newsletter; and hosting networking events and presentations by independent pharmacy owners covering such topics as political advocacy and financial planning.

In addition to the chapter honors, **Danielle Stifter** was among the Outstanding Chapter Member recognized at the 114th NCPA Annual Convention.

“It has been a privilege working with the other officers in implementing the Professional Development Series, pharmacy and legislature visits, and our newsletter,” Stifter said. “We want to provide students with the tools to network with community pharmacists, develop professional skills necessary to own a pharmacy, and become more involved in advocacy.”



Stifter

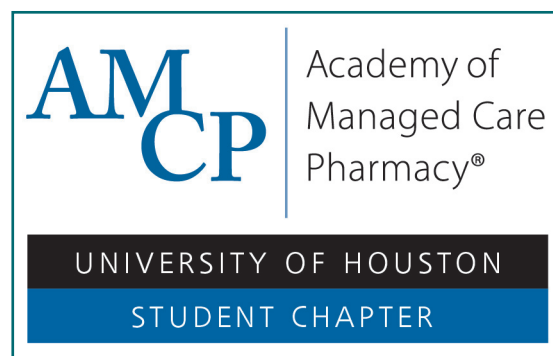
UHCOP Home to First Student Affiliate of AMCP Founded in Texas

UH College of Pharmacy students recently established the first student chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) in Texas.

The new chapter’s founders said they saw a need to raise awareness of the burgeoning field of managed care pharmacy, both as a career option and integral to today’s health care environment, among members and fellow students. Members of the new affiliate also recognized the networking, educational and other benefits of being part of a national organization with more than 50 student chapters and approximately 6,000 total members nationwide.

“Our members are interested in learning about careers in business, management, industry and other nonconventional pharmacy careers outside of retail and clinical settings, and managed care complements these established goals,” said student **Rachel Eppinette**, the 2012-13 chapter president.

The affiliation provides an opportunity for members to challenge potential student and public misperceptions about



managed care pharmacy, she said.

“Healthcare coverage is complex and the general public and students, including myself at one point, lump all types of coverage into a business purely out to make money and, by extension, only cause problems for customers,” Eppinette said. “After speaking with many pharmacists in managed care, my opinion definitely has changed: The goal of managed

care is to find the safest and most economical way to provide health care for all.”

Hanna Brobovnyk, who helped lead the effort to establish the new chapter, said implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and other aspects of healthcare reform are expected to generate additional demand for the skills and knowledge of managed care pharmacists.

“As more people will be acquiring coverage with ACA, there will be a greater need for drug formulary management, insurance drug coverage and overall disease-drug education from the patient and healthcare providers,” Brobovnyk said.

ASP Earns Leadership Award from UH Division of Student Affairs

The UH Chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists was recognized with the Most Improved Student Organization Award for the 2012-13 academic year at the UH Campus Leaders Reception in April.

Presented by the UH Division of Student Affairs, the award recognizes registered student organizations that have made significant strides in improving membership and increasing engagement with the campus community.

"I know I speak for everyone when I say that the leaders of APhA-ASP could not be more proud to be part of such an outstanding organization," said **Rachel Harvey**, 2012-13 chapter president. "We have made incredible leaps this year, and are on track to soar next year under the leadership of (2013-14 President) **Thuy Vo** and her fellow officers."

Highlights of ASP's campus activities during the 2012-13 academic year include organizing or participating in three major health fairs in which members provided a variety of wellness screenings, such as blood pressure checks and glucose screenings, as well as voter registration and educational presentations on a range of health topics.



photo courtesy of Kyle Stehling/University Center
Flanked by members of last year's winning organization, APhA-ASP chapter leaders **Ashley Trojcek**, **Trang Tran** and **Rachel Harvey** accept the Most Improved Student Organization Award at the UH Campus Leaders Reception in April.

"ASP always has been active in the community, but the students put a lot of effort and energy into being more visible and raising awareness about the college and the pharmacy profession among their fellow students, as well as UH faculty and staff during the past year," said **Lynn Simpson**, Pharm.D. ('97), clinical associate professor and ASP chapter co-advisor.

In addition to the chapter honor, Pharm.D. students **Osagie (Tony) Ohonba** and **Trang Tran** were nominated for individual awards.

Both were among the nominees in the Graduate Student Leader category, while Tran received a second nomination in the Outstanding Leadership category.

In nominating Ohonba, fellow student **Trung Kevin Tran** cited Ohonba's leadership as class president and chair of the new UH Pharmacy Student PAC (*see story on next page*) as well as his volunteerism outside of pharmacy, including working with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization.

Tran was credited by Simpson for her leadership in patient care initiatives, including the wellness events at UH and across the Greater Houston area as ASP Patient Care Coordinator, and developing the project for chronic hepatitis B education/management at HOPE Clinic (*see story on page 22*).

International Day Celebrates 20th Year

UH College of Pharmacy's annual International Day, which serves the dual purpose of celebrating the rich cultural heritage of its students and helping generate start-up funds for each new first-year class of Pharm.D. students, recently marked its 20th year. Hallmarks of the event for the entire campus include samples of ethnic cuisine, live musical and dance performances, and a fashion show displaying traditional dress representing cultures from around the world.



Jean, Garcia Work to Make Impact in Regional, National Offices

Third-year pharmacy students **Danny Jean** and **Diana Garcia** admit they feed on the energy of their fellow students, which inspired them into seek and attain national and regional leadership positions in the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA).

With their election to 2012-13 SNPhA National Vice President and Regional Facilitator for Region IV, Jean and Garcia join a long list of UH students who serve as ambassadors for the college through volunteerism and service at the highest level of pharmacy organizations.

A native of Baytown, Jean said he was inspired to seek a national leadership position at the encouragement of his chapters members and his desire for personal growth.

“One of the things I recognized immediately is that all of the members want to be ‘doers’; the passion our members have for helping the community is contagious,” Jean said of the UH chapter, which is one of the college’s largest at 120 members. “I also saw the leadership position as an opportunity to learn from others and mature by taking on the additional pressure and responsibility.”

Among Jean’s duties are coordinating programming, such as the clinical skills competition, for the national and regional meetings and encouraging collaboration between individual chapters.



UHCOP students Diana Garcia and Danny Jean are serving in regional and national offices of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association.

“Naturally, there’s always going to be a certain amount of healthy competition among chapters and colleges, but it’s important that we don’t lose sight of the fact that we’re all SNPhA members and future colleagues,” Jean said. “We need to help each other for the betterment of our profession, our patients and our communities.”

Describing herself as somewhat introverted and shy, Garcia said she pursued the regional position partly to challenge herself. She serves as a liaison between the national office and 11 chapters in her region, which includes reviewing monthly status reports and leading conference calls with chapter representatives.

“Getting out of my comfort zone has made me more confident in how I communicate, and I think this will help my patient counseling skills,” Garcia said.

Previously serving as UH chapter vice president, Garcia co-coordinated the first of what has become an annual SNPhA-Target Pharmacy community health fair with wellness screenings, counseling and education in predominately underserved areas of Houston.

“I love volunteering, so I plan to stay active after I graduate because SNPhA will always be in my heart and” said Garcia, who also is encouraging chapters to increase their outreach and mentorship of pre-pharmacy students.

Students Form PAC to Consolidate Advocacy on Common Interests

A new student organization has taken the old adage of “united we stand, divided we fall” to heart by focusing the political advocacy energies of UH College of Pharmacy students.

The UH Student PharmPAC comprises representatives from each student organization affiliated with the college, with **Osagie (Tony) Ohonba** serving as chair and founder.

“As far as I know, it’s the first of its kind among colleges of pharmacy across the country,” said Ohonba, who also serves as class president for the Pharm.D. Class of 2015 and as a student member on the UHCOP Dean’s Advisory Council. “One day it sort of hit me that I’ll be a pharmacist in two years, but there are decisions being made today that could have major, long-term effects on my profession, my career goals and my future patients.

“I don’t think it’s paranoia or an exaggeration to say that



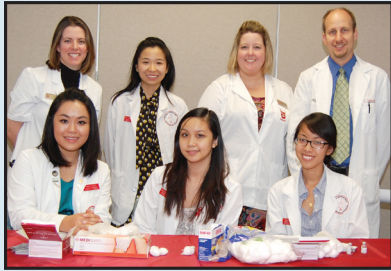
Ohonba

pharmacy faces threats from various factions at the state and national level, and we need to be informed, active and unafraid in fighting for our profession and our patients.”

Ohonba said the new organization will not collect dues, nor will it make campaign contributions to political candidates. It will, however, function as a sort of one-stop shop for keeping students informed about pharmacy-relevant developments in state and national government, policy opinions by allied professionals organizations, and the legislative process.

In addition, Ohonba said he’d like to see the PAC coordinate email- and letter-writing campaigns to “speak with one voice.”

“As students, we sometimes get so bogged down in our workload that we don’t always look at the long term,” Ohonba said. “I don’t expect immediate results from this effort, but I believe we owe it to ourselves, future students and the profession to begin working together on issues and challenges of common interest.”



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In one of the most active semesters in UHCOP history, Pharm.D. students performed more than 2,300 seasonal flu immunizations and 3,000 screenings during the Fall 2012 semester throughout the Greater Houston area in collaboration with retail community pharmacies, nonprofit organization, health systems, fellow academic institutions and other community partners.

UH Health Week

DATE: Oct. 25, 2012

SERVICES/PATIENTS: 200+ blood pressure and glucose screenings

PARTNERS: UH Health Center

UH Well Woman Extravaganza

DATE: Oct. 18, 2012

SERVICES/PATIENTS: 70+ blood pressure screenings and heartburn, tuberculosis, medication safety for new mothers/mothers-to-be, Alzheimer's, etc.

PARTNER: UH Collegiate Cancer Council

VN Teamwork Health Fair

DATE/LOCATION: Sept. 15, 2012, Alief

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 100+ blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol and bone density (osteoporosis) screenings

PARTNER: VN Teamwork

ESPN Desportes Soccer Tournament

DATE/LOCATION: Sept. 15, 2012, Eldridge Park

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 300+ blood pressure screenings

PARTNERS: American Heart Association, CVS

Brookshire Brothers Health Fairs

DATES/LOCATIONS: New Caney (Nov. 17), Magnolia (Nov. 10); Katy (Dec. 1); Dayton (Dec. 1)

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 60+ blood pressure, glucose, diabetic foot exams, osteoporosis/bone density

Geriatric Medication Reviews

DATE/LOCATION: Sept. 14 and Oct. 26, 2012, Ahepa Retirement Community, SW/Alief area

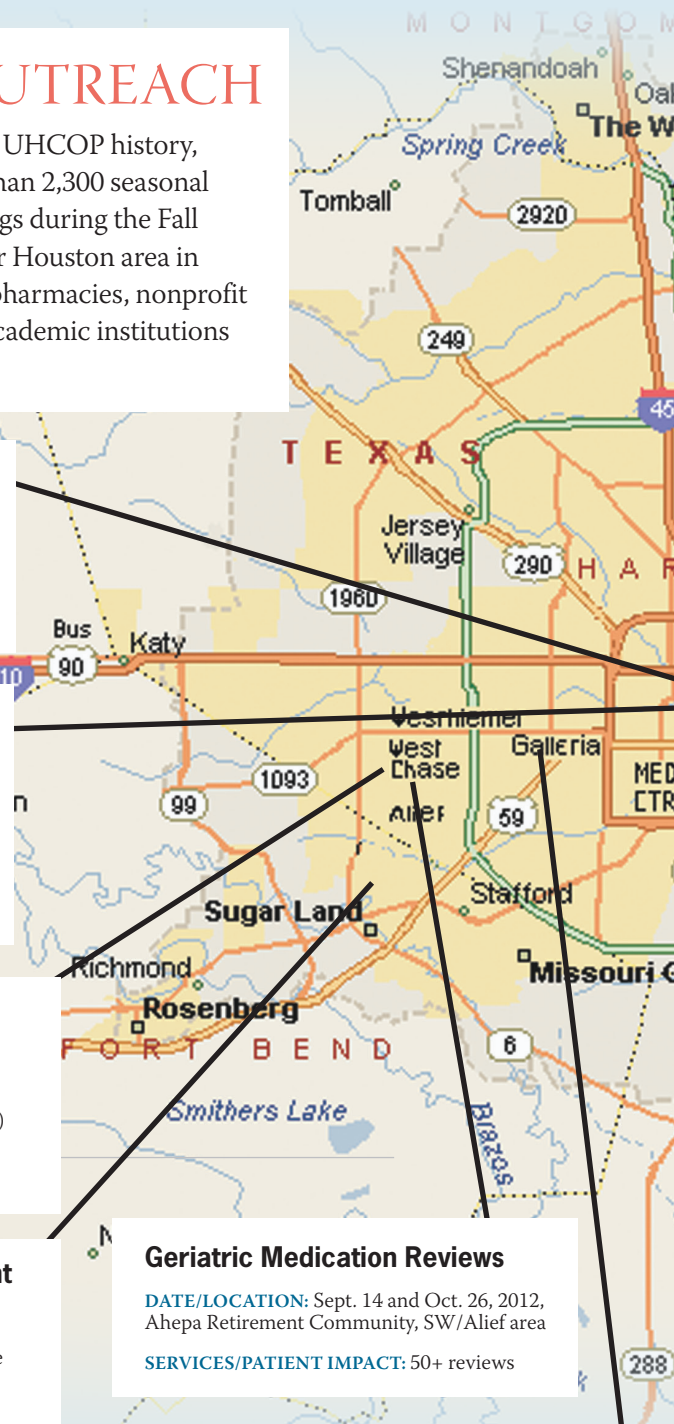
SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 50+ reviews

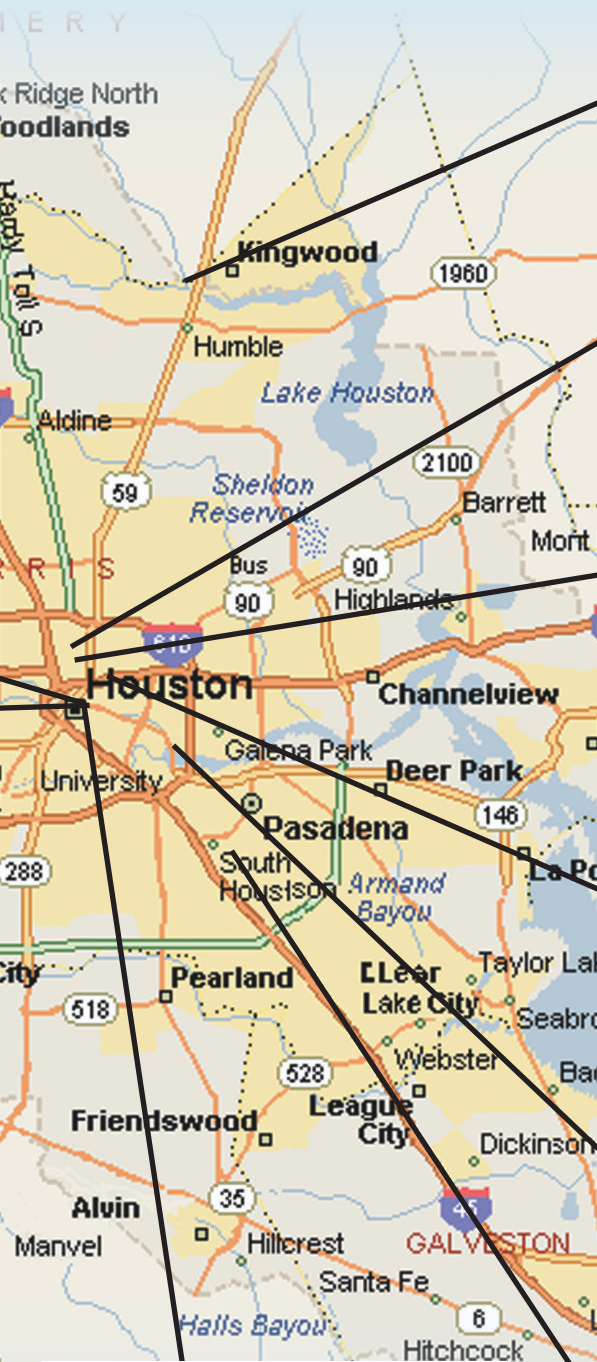
VANA Health Fair

DATE/LOCATION: Oct. 14, 2012, Memorial Hermann Southwest

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 300+ blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings

PARTNERS: Vietnamese American Nurses Association, Memorial Hermann Southwest





Humble 55+ Health Fair

DATE/LOCATION: Oct. 9, 2012, Humble

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 300+ seasonal flu immunizations; 800+ screenings (blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, diabetic foot exams, mini-mental status exams, medication reviews, osteoporosis/bone density)

PARTNER: Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital

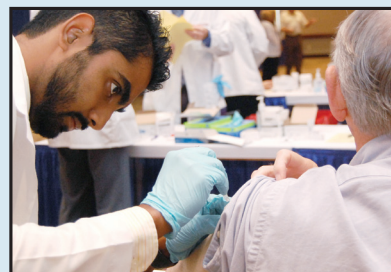


Kidney Action Day

DATE/LOCATION: Oct. 14, 2012, Downtown Houston

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 250+ blood pressure and glucose screenings; diabetes and nutrition awareness

PARTNER: American Kidney Fund



Flu Shot Clinic at HOMES Clinic

DATE/LOCATION: Oct. 14, 2012, Downtown Houston

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 65+ season flu shots for homeless population

PARTNERS: HOMES Clinic, Walgreens



Feria de Salud

DATE/LOCATION: Oct. 13, 2012, Magnolia Park

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 400+ cholesterol and diabetic foot exams

PARTNER: American Diabetes Association



Diabetes Awareness Day

DATE/LOCATION: Oct. 14, 2012, Cossaboom YMCA

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 75+ blood pressure, glucose screenings, BMI calculations, medication reviews

PARTNERS: Texas Rep. Carol Alvarado, YMCA Cossaboom, The Methodist Hospital Research Institute



Children's Health Day

DATE/LOCATION: Sept. 8, 2012, Almeda Mall

SERVICES/PATIENTS: 100+ blood pressure screenings, BMI calculations

PARTNERS: Community Health Choice & Change Happens



CVS Flu Shot Clinics

DATES/LOCATIONS: 10 clinics throughout Houston in October - November 2012

SERVICES/PATIENT: 2,000+ flu shots

PARTNER: CVS

UH Community Health Awareness Day & Drug Take-Back Day

DATE: Sept. 29, 2012

SERVICES/PATIENT IMPACT: 150+ blood pressure and glucose screenings; awareness on heartburn, tuberculosis, medication safety for new mothers/mothers-to-be, Alzheimer's, etc.

PARTNERS: CVS, Drug Enforcement Agency, Southeast Texas Poison Control Center



In-home Geriatric Patient Visits Yield Interprofessional Training for Pharmacy, Medical Students

Despite being first recommended by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) more than four decades ago, mainstream integration of interprofessional education into the respective curricula of the primary health professions has made little progress.

Guided by multiple IOM reports and an continuously growing body of evidence supporting the concept, the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) comprising associations that represent academia in medicine, osteopathy, nursing, public health, dentistry and pharmacy was formed in 2009.

In outlining the “Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice” in 2011, the IPEC affirmed its collective and respective obligation “to prepare all health professions students for *deliberately working together* with the common goal of building a safer and better patient-centered and community/population oriented U.S. health care system.”

Interprofessional collaborations are not entirely new to UH College of Pharmacy, however. The college is one of the founding members of the Healthcare for the Homeless—Houston’s HOMES Clinic, which has been successfully run by students from Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), the schools of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Texas, and UH for over a decade. The college also has participated in the annual Geriatric Interprofessional Student Competition organized by the UTHealth’s Houston Geriatric Education Center for the past five years.

With the past four years, however, UH College of Pharmacy has begun to aggressively pursue expanded interprofessional education initiatives with some of its academic partners.

One such collaboration is with BCM’s “No Place Like Home” program, one of the several Longitudinal Ambulatory Clinical Experience course tracks for its third-year medical students. In cooperation with Harris Health System, the program delivers



Pharm.D. students Lindsey Boyd and Carly Discher were among the students who participated in the first collaborative LACE program visits in spring 2012 with Baylor College of Medicine’s Anita Major.

in-home ambulatory care services by nurse practitioners and physicians to Houston-area geriatric patients who are predominately homebound due to mobility limitations typically resulting from comorbidities. The interprofessional education component of the program integrates pairs of BCM medical and UH pharmacy students into the healthcare team during the home visits.

Following a pilot stage in spring 2012, UHCOP and BCM expanded the program to more than 40 pharmacy and medical students from each institution in the 2012-13 academic year. The program partners are optimistic about eventually offering the experience to all third-year BCM medical and UH pharmacy students, as well as incorporating pharmacy faculty.

“It hasn’t been a homerun, it’s been a grand slam,” said Anne Gill, Dr.P.H., M.S., associate professor of Pediatrics and Medical Ethics and director of Longitudinal Programs at BCM. “It’s been a very rich, organic interchange among the clinicians and the medical and pharmacy students. The goal is to improve communication between patients and medical students as well as other health professions, and for the medical students to gain appreciation for the knowledge, skills and contributions brought by other members of the team.”

BCM/Harris Health System physician and medical student preceptor **Anita Major, M.D.**, said geriatrics is an ideal setting to begin exposing students to the value and respective contributions of interprofessional team-based care.

“I think it is essential to point out in the early stages of clinical education that an entire team helps to treat and keep the patient safe,” Major said. “There are so many issues – economic, psychological, medical, functional, spiritual, social – we need the expertise of several people to take good care of our patients. As it’s the reality of how we practice, why not encourage interprofessional interactions early among students?”

By interacting with patients in their home environment, the interprofessional team is able to observe aspects of patients’ normal routine and make adjustments to the care plan or even



BCM medical students Laura Knott and Paul Fischbuch inventory a patient’s polypharmacy with Pharm.D. students Danielle Stifter and Jamie Folk.

suggest changes in behavioral practices that might not otherwise be apparent.

“The bulk of my exposure to my patients had either been at settings such as the pharmacy store itself or during health fair events with organizations,” said Pharm.D. student **Kim Anh Pham**. “Having an opportunity to meet our patient in their home environment gives us a better idea of how they are living. We were able to take note on the type of food our patient is eating, identify any potential hazards in the home, and speak with the caretakers.”

Pharm.D. student **Susan Hammoude** agreed that seeing the entire “picture” of the patient first hand was invaluable to making appropriate evaluation of the current care plan.

“It brought all aspects of the patient – the life, home and family – within the spectrum of our care,” she said. “It was not just ‘take a history and move along’; it was more like ‘assess patient, interview family members, look at how the bottles of medicine are organized, take a look around for OTC/herbal products used, assess living conditions, assess the level of cooperation of the family/caretakers, determine potential living hazards, peek into the refrigerator to confirm adequate nutrition, and further inquiry of a variety of aspects of the patient’s life.’

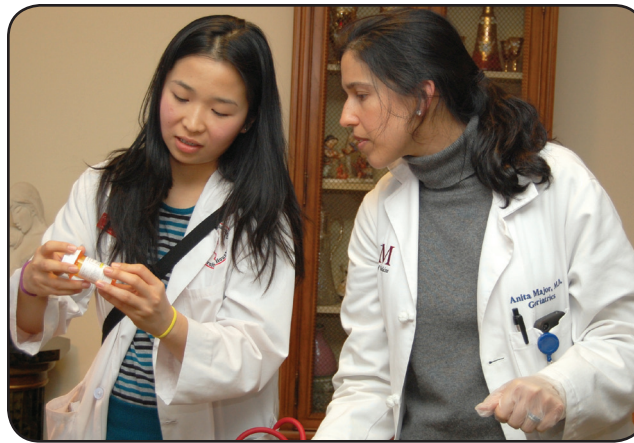
“This style of healthcare administration is especially important in geriatrics who not only suffer from physiological diseases, but also neurological comorbidities which often leave them incapable of self-care despite medical attention.”

One of the challenges to improvements in patient outcomes that the students recognized was poor medication adherence.

“This project gave us the opportunity to look behind the curtain to see the real aspects of patient life outside to a clinical setting,” said pharmacy students **Danielle Stifter**. “We had a case where a patient had so many medications that they were just mixed together in one container. The medications were only recognized by their physical characteristics, and the patient’s adherence was poor. We were able to intervene by educating the patient on medication adherence and counseled on the medications.”

Major agreed that identifying the underlying factors contributing to poor medication adherence can be difficult for students and practitioners without investigation.

“It opens their eyes to so many aspects of care and threats to patient safety, specifically related to medications,” Major said. “How else would they see the expired medication bottles? Or, notice the absence of food in the fridge, so therefore the obvious inability to pay for medications and adhere to



UHCOP Pharm.D. student Kim Anh Pham and BCM geriatrics physician Anita Major review a patient’s medications during an in-home visit.

treatment plans? Or, see the six bottles of the same medication because the auto-refill process works, but only if the patient actually takes the medication rather than saves it?”

Pharm.D. student **Jamie Folk** said the visits reinforced the necessity for healthcare professionals to ensure patients comprehend instructions and to pay attention to the details.

“I had no idea that people in the community didn’t know the correct way to use a pillbox,” Folk

said. “Instead of using the Sunday through Saturday box by placing the entire day’s medications in one slot, one patient had placed the blood pressure medication in Sunday’s slot, the diabetes medication in Monday, etc.

“To help our patient, we stayed longer and helped separate all the drugs into their (original) containers because our patient decided not to use the pillbox the way it was meant to be used. This was the biggest shock that I came away with, and it really opened my eyes to the importance of patient counseling.”

The visits went beyond a strictly “academic exercise,” with pharmacy and medical students making legitimate, valid contributions to patient care.

“The attending was very attentive to the recommendations we offered and quizzed us about the indications for a variety of drugs the patient was prescribed,” Hammoude said. “By the end of the visit, we recommended to reduce a carvedilol dose and advised the caretakers about the proper administration of bisphosphonates.”

Major agreed that the contributions and problem-solving capabilities of pharmacy practitioners – and students – cannot be underestimated or disregarded.

continued next page



Medical students Jason Zhang and Michael Abers and pharmacy students Vivian Nguyen and Quang Nguyen prepare recommendations for a geriatric patient during a January 2013 LACE home visit.

“I have the outpatient pharmacy saved in my cell phone because I so often call for advise or suggestions,” Major said. “When a patient can’t swallow pills, the pill can’t be crushed, and there isn’t a liquid form, what can I recommend? I have had some pharmacies agree to compound a liquid from medicated powder. Things I never would have considered possible, the pharmacist is able to do.

“In one case, I wasn’t sure oral furosemide would work anymore, and the student suggested IM furosemide since we did not want to admit to the hospital. Thus, the students have interacted with patients, educated them, and changed the treatment plan.”

The benefits of the interprofessional team approach were immediately realized by the participants, as the strengths of each profession were utilized to provide unique perspectives for developing or modifying the care plan.

“I didn’t realize how much they know after such a short time in medical school, and I felt they were also surprised at how much pharmacy students know and how we are able to help patients with their numerous medications,” Folk said. “It teaches us that we need collaboration in health care, with physicians and pharmacists working together.

“The medical students are able to diagnose the patient and do a thorough physical exam, and pharmacy students are able to give a recommendation/treatment option to the diagnosis. The patient gets the best of both worlds, instead of both groups skimming diagnosis and treatment.”

The medical students also acknowledged gaining a better appreciation of the impact of teamwork from the experience.

“I was impressed by the ability of the pharmacy students



BCM-UHCOP interprofessional team members help a geriatric patient better organize her medications to help her maintain adherence.

to apply their knowledge of drugs to real cases,” said BCM medical student **Michael Abers**. “I am very confident in the ability of pharmacists to contribute to patient care.”

With exposure to a clinical pharmacist-Pharm.D. student duo who “played a major role in our team’s decision and treatment options” during an earlier rotation, medical student **James Berg** said the home visits reinforced his esteem for pharmacy.

“They helped decipher particular generic and brand drugs, including their names and mechanism of action,” Berg said.

The UH students reported feeling like they bonded with their medical student counterparts.

“There was mutual respect between the medical students, pharmacy students, and physicians,” Stifter said. “We recognized that we shared the common goal of helping patients and were able to establish a rapport. In fact, the relationship between the disciplines was much more dynamic, more fluid than what I expected.”

Futurist Zilz Urges Residents to Integrate Knowledge from Other Fields

UH College of Pharmacy was among fewer than two dozen sites across the nation selected for the 2012 American Society of Health-system Pharmacists’ Visiting Leaders Program.

The program brought former ASHP President **David Zilz**, R.Ph., M.S., FASHP, to Houston for two days of lectures as well as group and one-on-one meetings with residents, residency directors, faculty members and students. A clinical professor emeritus of the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy and recipient of the ASHP Harvey K. Lecture Award, Zilz is recognized as a pharmacy visionary and futurist.

Zilz shared his analyses of trends shaping the future of the pharmacy profession and the public health challenges, such as the projected jump in the rates of obesity and diabetes, that present defining opportunities for practitioners. Zilz also urged the residents to take advantage of their peers’ pre-pharmacy education or careers to expand their “mental toolkit” and develop innovative solutions to issues.



Award-winning pharmacy visionary David Zilz held group discussions and individual project-development sessions with members of the Pharmacy Administration M.S./PGY1-PGY2 residency program.

Student's Pharmacy Skills in High Demand on Peruvian Mountain

Although she admits that the student's age-old lament of "when am I going to use this?" briefly crossed her mind while studying about the seemingly obscure bacterial infection *Helicobacter pylori* for an exam last fall, Pharm.D. student **Lynsey Smith** was nonetheless grateful for the knowledge only a week later during a medical mission trip to Peru.

"It's a painful gastrointestinal infection that's common in developing countries like Peru because of unsanitary food and drinking water," Smith said. "It was just one of the reminders of how fortunate we are here in terms of living conditions, nutrition and basic medical resources. Most of us don't give it much thought, but something as simple as a 30-day supply of ibuprofen means so much to them."

Smith's recent mission trip was her third visit to the mountain village of Collique, Peru, through a collaboration of South Main Baptist Church and Operación San Andrés (OSA).



Lynsey Smith reviews counsels an elderly Peruvian patient on her medications.

During the weeklong mission up to three times per year, about 50 team members from pharmacy, medicine, nursing, dentistry, optometry and social work care for up to 2,000 patients.

Although not a fluent Spanish speaker, Smith said she used key Spanish phrases to counsel the patients about proper

medication usage and adherence.

"Patients held on to every word and were thankful for our counseling," she said. "We also created educational pamphlets in Spanish for diabetes, hyperlipidemia and safe use of pain medications."

In addition to pain relievers, other high-demand therapeutics in the formulary were anti-hypertensive and anti-parasitic agents, vitamin-and-mineral supplements, and anti-inflammatory ointment.

"There is a great physician-pharmacist relationship in the field; many of the doctors would regularly consult with us on the best medication for patients," she said. "The experience gave me a lot of practical knowledge, especially the importance of teamwork and communicating efficiently in such a chaotic environment with so many patients, and using your best clinical judgment to make substitutions if supplies were running low."

Smith isn't the only Cougar who's undertaken medical missions to Peru: Alumna **Patti Peymann**, Pharm.D. ('97), interim system director of Clinical Pharmacy at Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, has been an OSA volunteer since 2004. Her work over several mission trips was recognized with Memorial Hermann's Award for Exceptional Missionary Work in 2009.



photos courtesy of Lynsey Smith
Lynsey Smith poses with one of her patients returning to the OSA Clinic.

High School Summer Camp Seeks to Promote Pharmacy, STEM Careers

UH College of Pharmacy is hosting a Pharmacy Summer Camp June 26-28 to encourage junior and senior high school students to pursue professional pharmacy or other careers in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

The camp is part of an effort to expose students, especially among students from traditionally underrepresented African-American and Hispanic backgrounds, to career tracks in the research sciences and health care.

According to the National Institutes of Health, African-Americans and Hispanics represent about 28 percent of the U.S. population yet account for only 7 percent of America's STEM workforce.

Camp activities will include advice and planning for pursuing an education and career in pharmacy and other STEM-related fields; career discovery to learn about the diverse job opportunities in science, research and health care; and tips and guidance for developing effective study skills to manage the academic and experiential requirements of a pharmacy educational program.

In addition, campers will participate in laboratory tours and discussions with UHCOP basic science and clinical research faculty; a tour of the Texas Medical Center; and presentations by real-world pharmacists from various practice settings.

The camp is being supported by diversity education grant from Walgreens.

Clinic Collaboration Cultivates Connection to Community Care

UH College of Pharmacy recently began building on its past experiences with preceptors and experiential sites in community health centers for the underserved and indigent to launch collaborations with clinics throughout Greater Houston, such as HOPE Clinic in the far southwest Houston community of Alief.

Established in 2002 by the Asian American Health Coalition in the area historically known as “New Chinatown,” HOPE Clinic’s mission is to “improve the health of residents in greater Houston through culturally and linguistically appropriate services.” The Federally Qualified Health Center serves about 13,000 patients per year of predominately Asian and Hispanic heritage.

Much of the credit for the collaboration between HOPE and the college goes to **Santhi Masilamani**, Pharm.D., MBA, CDE, UHCOP clinical assistant professor and director of Ambulatory Based Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences, who teamed with HOPE staff in the first HRSA-led Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC) when she worked at Harris Health System.

Community health clinics such as HOPE offer students a challenging setting to gain broad experience in pharmacy clinical services, including patient recruitment, disease state/medication therapy management, medication adherence, and interprofessional collaboration. Project leaders also develop a range of management, organizational and interpersonal skills by recruiting, training and coordinating fellow student volunteers.

“The diversity of our student body has been a great fit with the patient population served by the clinic,” Masilamani said. “Our projects not only address specific health priorities of these patients, but they also give students first-hand experience in every step of developing and implementing culturally and linguistically proficient clinical pharmacy services in an primary care setting.”

In addition to Masilamani, alumni/preceptors **Setchia Traore**, Pharm.D. ('12), and **Lynn Simpson**, Pharm.D. ('97), UHCOP clinical associate professor, are supervising students on projects with direct patient interaction.

Chronic Hepatitis B

Approximately one-half of the 1 million people in the U.S. with



Student **Trang Tran**, front row second from right, organized a community workshop on Hepatitis B in English, Vietnamese and Chinese with HOPE Clinic Chief Medical Officer **Richard Andrews** and fellow students.



Jerry Powers/UH photo

Pharm.D. student **Van Hoang** and alumna **Setchia Traore** have been recruiting patients diagnosed with or at risk of developing hyperlipidemia participate in a lipid management program at HOPE Clinic.

chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection are Asian/Pacific Islanders, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health. With many infected individuals unaware of their status or not actively managing their disease, third-year student **Trang Tran** began working with Masilamani and the HOPE team in 2011 to develop a community awareness and patient education/monitoring program.

Tran collaborated with medical students from UTHealth and Baylor College of Medicine last year to host a “Healthy Living and Hepatitis B” workshop targeting the Chinese and Vietnamese communities. The interprofessional collaboration extended further to providing awareness education at health fairs in the Asian-American community. Tran also coordinated several lectures sponsored by Gilead Sciences and Bristol Myers-Squibb to educate pharmacy and medical students on the epidemiology and management of chronic hepatitis B.

With such diversity within the college’s student body, Tran was able to recruit fellow students with the language capacity to conduct monthly telephone-based counseling sessions in English, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Mandarin Chinese, and Korean. The calls focus on educating patients about their disease state, medication adherence, potential side effects of therapeutic agents, and other preventive measures to protect their family. By March 2013, 20 patients were in the enrolled in the program.

“We’re emphasizing preventive measures, such as appropriate hygiene practices, to minimize the risk of transmission to friends and family,” Tran said. “We’re also encouraging patients to talk with their family and friends about getting screened and vaccinated.”

Dyslipidemia

Although one of the most preventable diseases through healthier lifestyle choices and controlling major risk factors such as obesity, lack of exercise and smoking, cardiovascular disease remains the top killer of men and women in the U.S.

Third-year student **Van Hoang** developed and launched a

hyperlipidemia disease-state management clinic in which students monitor patient compliance over the course of a year. Hoang developed a protocol with Masilamani which allows students to conduct in-clinic physical assessments, medication management and counseling of patients every three months under preceptor supervision. Students also perform follow-up sessions by telephone between the clinic visits.

“The project taught me how to start up a clinic, establish communication between providers beyond patient care, and an in-depth knowledge of lipids, guidelines and workflows, as well as some of the limitations of our program, such as the number of patients we can realistically see in one day,” Hoang said. “The experience solidified my intent to do a residency and pursue ambulatory care as a career.”

With her upcoming transition into fourth year experientials, Hoang is passing on project coordination to current second-year student **Christina (Thuy) Vo**.

Adverse Drug Events

According to a 1998 Institute of Medicine report, preventable medication errors result in approximately 98,000 deaths – more than diabetes, influenza and pneumonia – and more than 1 million injuries per year. While enhanced patient safety is the primary goal for greater pharmacovigilance, numerous studies also have demonstrated benefits ranging from significantly improved outcomes and lower total healthcare costs, including reduced hospital admissions, as a result of these efforts.

Second-year student Daniel Nguyen and Masilamani developed an ADE/ADR reporting system at HOPE using the clinic’s existing electronic medical record (EMR) program. By piggybacking onto the universal ICD-9 coding system by which patient diagnoses are classified in their EMR, Nguyen and HOPE’s Chief Medical Officer **Richard Andrews, M.D.**, created a cost-efficient, user-friendly system for logging ADEs/ADRs. Nguyen said the pharmacy informatics project offered a unique opportunity to interact with health professionals and administrative personnel while devising and testing the program and training users.

“I only had a general idea of what ADEs and ADRs were when I started the project, but I’ve gained a greater appreciation of the value and impact of reporting and tracking them,” Nguyen said.



HOPE’s Andrews and Pharm.D. student Daniel Nguyen run simulations of their ADE/ADR reporting system in the clinic’s patient electronic medical records.



UHCOP Clinical Assistant Professor Santhi Masilamani and HOPE Clinic CEO Andrea Caracostis see vast opportunities for collaboration between the college and the community health clinic in the heart of Houston’s New Chinatown.

“It’s actually been fun to learn about and come up with ideas for how the clinic staff, other students or professors can use the data for studying trends and other types of research.”

Diabetes

Masilamani and HOPE physician **Charu Sawheny, M.D.**, are working with students to deliver diabetes education to patients and families at the clinic. The group is tackling what is considered one of the greatest threats to American health: diabetes.

With the support of a \$20,000 grant from Novo Nordisk to HOPE Clinic, Masilamani has implemented a diabetes self-management education (DSME) program recruiting 400 patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes mellitus or borderline “at-risk” of developing the disease to receive self-management training. Diabetes group classes are presented in English and Spanish to teach patients disease monitoring with glucometers and management through a combination of diet, exercise and medication.

UHCOP students **Payal Patel** is helping to coordinate the program, with Spanish translation by student **Haruna Kato** and Vietnamese translation by students **Tram Tran** and **Jennie Do**.

“Diabetes is among the top 10 patient diagnoses at HOPE, and one in which pharmacists have had great interventional success,” said Masilamani, who is a certified diabetes educator. “Patients often don’t understand that monitoring and managing their disease is a lifelong commitment; we see many patients who don’t fully appreciate the seriousness of this disease and the life-changing, life-threatening consequences of poor compliance with their management plan.”

HOPE Clinic’s CEO **Andrea Caracostis, M.D.**, said partnerships with academic programs will be critical to maintain efficient use of resources with the expected increase in demand on clinics following implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2014.

“Part of our job as providers is to educate and train the *next* generation of providers,” Caracostis said. “It’s important for students to be exposed to nonprofit work so they might consider working in this setting after graduation.”

Internships Provide Last Piece of Puzzle for Graduate Students Seeking Edge into Industry Job

Although the pace of hiring has slowed over the last five years as the pharmaceutical industry has undergone massive restructuring and consolidation of operations, jobs are still available for highly skilled and experienced graduates. Many graduate students are finding (or rediscovering) the key to standing out from the crowd is through internships, which remain highly competitive in their own right.

Graduate student internships are much more valuable than a resume bulletpoint to catch the eye of recruiters; the level of responsibilities and expectations are multiplied exponentially in graduate-level internships along with the rewards of expanded networking opportunities, additional mentorship, exposure to corporate practices, and further polishing of technical and non-technical skills, including presentations.

“One of the good points for students with the job cuts has been the greater availability of internships,” observed pharmaceuticals graduate student **Tanay Samant**, who completed an internship with Pfizer in Groton, Conn., last summer and has been accepted into a second internship – this time with BioMarin – for summer 2013.

Although the interns noted that the basic lab techniques and equipment were mostly familiar territory, the underlying philosophy in academia and industry is significantly different.

“Academia is very curiosity driven, where you want to know ‘why’ about a specific problem,” said Pharmaceuticals doctoral student **Tao Niu**, who worked with Boehringer Ingelheim in Danbury, Conn., last summer. “In industry, the ultimate goal is to bring a product to market; if a drug candidate doesn’t work, they move on to another candidate instead of investing time and resources into finding out ‘why’ it doesn’t work.”



photo courtesy of Adarsh Gandhi
Recent Pharmaceuticals doctoral graduate Adarsh Gandhi completed an internship at Janssen Pharmaceuticals during his final semester at UH.

The UH interns said they were comfortable in the transition from academia to industry, largely thanks to the quality of their training and education at the college.

“Although the instruments, workload and data reporting were different from UH, I did not feel that as a challenge but instead made myself familiar with the company policies and scientific regulations very fast,” said **Adarsh Gandhi**, who completed an

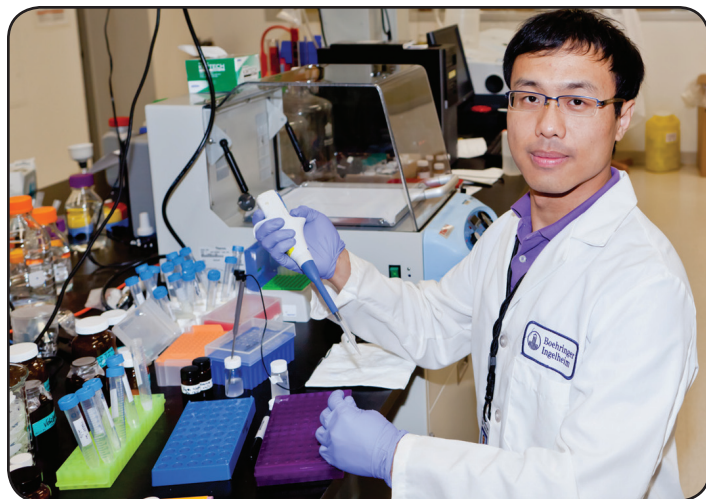


photo courtesy of Tao Niu

Pharmaceuticals graduate student Tao Niu worked on drug formulation phase-behavior studies during his summer internship with Boehringer Ingelheim.

internship at Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Raritan, N.J., in summer 2012 before graduating in August as a final “stepping stone” on his career path.

Much like their work on campus, graduate-level interns are expected to make legitimate contributions with a high level of accountability and independence.

“The interns are involved in lab/group meetings, presentations, and discussions with senior officials in designing and conducting studies,” Gandhi said. “I was lucky to have a supervising manager who was helpful at every stage. I had the complete freedom to express my views regarding my interest in a particular study.”

Samant said he was grateful for not only the technical support he received from supervisors and other team members, but also their guidance in navigating the working world.

“It was a fantastic experience to be working with some of the top researchers in the world,” Samant said. “Everyone was always approachable to sharing their advice and the steps they took in graduate school to help them establish their careers. They also gave me ideas to improve my doctoral project.”

Niu said he enjoyed the opportunity to gain experience in projects unrelated to his doctoral project, as well as interacting with fellow interns from around the country within and outside of the pharmaceuticals field.

“One of my roommates was an MBA student, so I was able to learn a little about the business side of the industry and make another connection because networking is so important no matter what area you’re working in,” Niu said.

Pharmaceuticals doctoral students aren’t alone in recognizing the benefits of pursuing and securing summer internships. Pharmacy administration doctoral student and UHCOP alumnus **Hemalkumar Mehta**, M.S. ('10), completed an internship with Merck & Co.’s Epidemiology unit in North Wales, Pa., last summer.

“As a summer intern, I got an opportunity to work on two

Pham, Suerte Among Recipients of ‘Make Your Mark’ Recognition at APhA-ASP Midyear Meeting

Pharm.D. students **Kim Anh Pham** and **Sarah Suerte** were among the “Make Your Mark” honorees at the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists’ Region 6 Midyear Regional Meeting Nov. 6-11 in Wichita, Kansas.

The program honors student pharmacists who have demonstrated continued involvement, dedication, and leadership at their local chapter. As chair of her ASP chapter’s “Operation Heart” initiative, Pham was recognized for her leadership in organizing collaborative projects with the American Heart Association-Southwest Affiliate, including a community health fair in ASP members performed more than 300 blood pressure screenings. Suerte was honored for her service as MRM Meeting Liaison as well as coordinating Mock Interview sessions for the chapter’s pre-pharmacy members.



Pham



Suerte

Clay Elected to Vice Satrap for Newly Reorganized Southwest Region of Kappa Psi Fraternity

Pharm.D. student **Bobby Clay** was elected Regional Vice Satrap (Vice President) at the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity’s Inaugural Assembly of the Southwest Province Oct. 19-21, 2012, in Dallas.

The new regional province comprises nine collegiate chapters, including UH’s Delta Delta chapter, and four graduate chapters from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The Kappa Psi provinces were realigned due to growth in the number of chapters across the country (the UH chapter’s former province encompassed 27 chapters spanning eight states).

Among other duties, Clay and his fellow executive board members, including alumna SueAnn Wang, Pharm.D. (’12), were tasking with developing the province’s new bylaws.



Clay

Internships *continued from page 24*

minor projects involving literature review and data analysis and one major project related to risk adjustment in type-2 diabetes mellitus patients,” Mehta said. “The research techniques I learned in the graduate program were very valuable to achieve my internship goals. It was a great experience and I would encourage all Ph.D. students to go for at least one internship.”



Mehta

Fellow Pharmacy Administration doctoral student **Parul Gupta**, M.Pharm, worked on hemophilia and multiple sclerosis-related projects during her internship with Biogen-Idec’s Global Market Access Department in Weston, Mass.



Gupta

“These projects gave me a good learning experience in three different types of studies that are required in health economics and outcomes research,” Gupta said. “These projects provided an opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills I gained from my graduate training. Students should be encouraged to go for such internship

programs as these are really enriching experience for personal and professional growth.”

The interns said they recognized the need to excel in the experience not only for their own benefit, but also as an

obligation to their faculty advisors as well as their peers and successors to ensure the pipeline between the college and industry remains open. In addition to Samant, at least four other UHCOP graduate students have been accepted into summer 2013 internships: Pharmaceutics students **Zhiyi Cui** and **Pranav Shah** will be at Genentech and AstraZeneca, respectively; and Pharmacy Administration students **Shalakh Gunjal**, **Shivani Mhatre** and **Ayush Patel** will be at Tufts Medical Center, Amgen and PharmMerit, respectively.



photo courtesy of Tanay Samant

After completing an internship with Pfizer last year, Pharmaceutics doctoral student Tanay Samant is looking forward to undertaking his second internship in summer 2013.

Recent Graduates Make Quick Transition to Award-winning Scholars

UH College of Pharmacy alumna **Amaris Fuentes**, Pharm.D. ('11), a PGY2 Critical Care resident and newly Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist at The Methodist Hospital, was awarded one of two Texas Society of Critical Care Medicine's Alan Fields Awards in November 2012.

Fuentes' project, entitled "Comparison of Calculated versus Urine Measured Creatinine Clearance in the Critically Ill," was selected as the top abstract in the category for individuals with less than two years' experience. The award supports winners' attendance at the national annual Society of Critical Care Congress.



Fuentes

treatment of bipolar disorder in children and adolescents: A retrospective claims-data study," was based on her master's thesis work at UHCOP. The study coauthors included UH faculty members **Rajender Aparasu**, Ph.D., and **Hua Chen**, Ph.D., M.D., and former pharmacy administration classmate and current doctoral student **Ayush Patel**, M.S. ('11).

Mehta also was a contributing author on one of only four Blue Ribbon Award-winning posters at the Annual Clinical Meeting of the 23rd American Academy of Pain Management Sept. 20-23 in Phoenix. The poster project was on "Systematic review and meta-analysis of pharmacological therapies for painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy."



Mehta

Pharmacy Administration alumna **Sonam Mehta**, M.S. ('11), outcomes research analyst at Pharmerit North America in Bethesda, Md., earned one of three Best New Investigator Podium Research Presentation awards at the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 17th Annual International Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Her presentation, "Comparative effectiveness of monotherapy with mood stabilizers versus atypical antipsychotics for the

Mehta's former classmate **Juhi Shah**, M.S. ('11), who is currently pursuing her Pharm.D. at Western University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy in Pomona, Calif., was recognized as first runner-up in the 3rd Annual Summer Intern Best Poster Competition at the AMCP's 2012 Educational Conference in October.



Shah

Shah's project, entitled "Opportunities to improve management of hepatitis C protease inhibitor therapy," resulted from her participation in the 2012 FMCP/Pfizer Managed Care Pharmacy Summer Internship Program.

Pharmacy Cougars Bid Farewell to Robertson Stadium in Final Season

UH Pharmacy alumni and students were among the Cougar Nation supporters to bid farewell to Robertson Stadium during its final season. Clockwise from top, Pat Downing ('70), Alton Kanak ('69) and Chuck Hopson ('65); Sarah Lake-Wallace ('00) and daughter Meagan; Mallory Gessner ('11), Quintin Broussard and Van Hoang; Dean Lamar Pritchard, Katherine Clouser ('12), Marshall Clouser ('66), Bruce Biundo ('61) and Sunny Clouser; Bryan ('01) and Renee Prescott ('02); Katie Scholz ('07), Diane Kivela, Lisa Scholz ('99) and Robert Scholz ('77, '88); Jenny Downing Yoakum ('97), Jan Downing and Jana Downing ('12); development director Kim Jordan and Vinay Naik ('87); and Collyn and Vicki Blythe ('78).



ALUMNI MAILBOX

Lydia Aguilera, Pharm.D., R.Ph. (B.S. '80), interim director and clinical assistant professor at The University of Texas-Pan American/UT College of Pharmacy, has been appointed to the Texas Pharmacy Association Board of Directors and is currently seeking the Vice President position for 2012-13.

Bernadette Asias, Pharm.D. ('11), has joined Memorial Hermann-TMC in Houston as a clinical specialist in ambulatory care.

Bindhu Batra, Pharm.D., director of academic affairs at PCCA, has been appointed to the IACP Foundation's 2013 Research Committee.

Tasneem Bawa-Khalife, Ph.D. ('03, Pharmacology), won the First Place Junior Faculty Poster Award at The University of Texas-M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's 2012 Division of Internal Medicine Research Retreat.



Jeena J. Connor, Pharm.D. ('06), director of pharmacy at Methodist Charlton Medical Center in Dallas, and **Todd K. Connor**, Pharm.D. ('07), M.S., associate director of pharmacy at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, welcomed **Jacob James** into the world in June 2012.

Lourdes M. Cuellar, M.S. ('79), R.Ph. (B.S. '73), FASHP, administrative director of pharmacy and clinical support services at TIRR Memorial Hermann, was elected Chair of TSHP's Texas delegation for the ASHP 2013 Summer Meeting & Exposition. Cuellar also served as the 2012 Robert L. Boblitt Lecturer of UH's Beta Omicron Chapter of Rho Chi Society in October 2012.

Stacie Sacky Dacus, Pharm.D. ('10), a community pharmacist for CVS pharmacy in north Texas, and husband **Brian Dacus** welcomed **Ethan Cole** into the world in April 2012.



Julianna M. Fernandez, Pharm.D. ('06), BCPS, clinical assistant professor at UHCOP, and husband **Richard Fernandez** welcomed their third child, **Nicholas William**, into the world in January 2013.

W. Perry Flowers, M.S., R.Ph. (B.S. '90), has joined Kaiser Permanente in California as Vice President, Acute Care and Infusion Pharmacy Programs. Flowers previously served as System Executive, Patient Support & System Pharmacy of Memorial Hermann Healthcare System for 11 years.

Ziad Ghanem, Pharm.D. ('04), has been promoted to Florida Market Director of Pharmacy Operations based in Orlando, Fla.

J. David Hayes, Pharm.D. ('97), BCPS, has joined iHealth Exchange Network as Vice President of Operations after serving as a UHCOP faculty member for 13 years.

Ed Horton, R.Ph. ('74), and **Joseph Maxwell**, R.Ph. ('78), were elected as Vice Presidents on the 2012-13 Board of Directors of the Alliance of Independent Pharmacists of Texas.

Alton Kanak, R.Ph. ('69), has been elected to the Board of Directors of American Pharmacies (APRx) pharmacy cooperative.

Chris Longspaugh, Pharm.D. ('98), has joined Dendreon Corp. in Stanwood, Wash., as Senior Manager of Medical Operations.

Susan M. Loughlin, Pharm.D. ('04), BCPS, was selected to serve

as Team Leader for TIRR Memorial Hermann's participation in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists/ASHP Advantage's national Mentored Adult Immunization Impact Program. TIRR Memorial Hermann is one of only 17 sites in the nationwide program.



Aditi Marwaha, Ph.D. ('05, Pharmacology), UHCOP lecturer, and husband **Bharat Marwaha** welcomed **Radhika Marwaha** into the world in April 2012.

Ann Marie Prazak, Pharm.D. ('09), M.S., married **Erich W. Hafenmaier** on July 14, 2012, in Lake Tahoe, Calif. Prazak is a clinical pharmacist and adjunct instructor of pharmacotherapy at the University of Utah Health Care/University of Utah College of Pharmacy in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Bryan Prescott, Pharm.D. ('01), has joined PCCA Inc. as a consultant pharmacist.

Ghazi Rahman, Ph.D. ('12), has joined M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's Department of Experimental Therapeutics as a post-doctoral fellow.

Richie Ray, R.Ph. (B.S. '96), president and CEO of Richie's Specialty Pharmacy in Conroe, received the 2012 R. Louis Rumsey PharmPAC Member of the Year Award from the TPA PharmPAC.

Katie M. Scholz, Pharm.D. ('07), M.S., has joined Memorial Hermann Healthcare System as Pharmacy Operations Manager.

Lisa M. Scholz, Pharm.D. ('99), MBA, has joined Safety Net Hospitals for Pharmaceutical Access in Washington, D.C., as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Pharmacy Officer.

Omar Serna, Pharm.D. ('08), has been promoted to Clinical Pharmacy Manager for HealthSpring in Houston.

Joyce A. Tipton, R.Ph. (B.S. '79), MBA, FASHP, director of Pharmacy and Respiratory Care at Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, served on the seven-member Advisory Committee for ASHP's Pharmacy Forecast 2013-2017 report, which was presented at the ASHP Midyear Meeting in December 2012.



Meghna Trivedi, Pharm.D. ('03), Ph.D. ('04), UHCOP assistant professor, and **Vihang A. Narkar**, Ph.D. ('02), assistant professor at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Institute of Molecular Medicine, welcomed son **Keshav** into the world in December 2012.

Amy Verret-Godfrey, Pharm.D. ('00), has joined HEB as pharmacy manager at the HEB Central Market in The Woodlands.

Dominic Vu, Pharm.D. ('10), Health Plan Clinical Pharmacist at Kelsey-Seybold Clinic in Houston, and wife **Christine Vu** welcomed **Parker Vu** into the world in October 2012.



Baojian Wu, Ph.D. ('12, Pharmaceutics), has joined Jinan University in Guangzhou, China, as a Professor of Pharmaceutics.

Zhen Yang, Ph.D. ('11, Pharmaceutics), has joined Merck & Co. Inc. as a Senior Scientist in Biopharmaceutics Product Value Enhancement.

Please e-mail interactions@uh.edu to contribute to the alumni mailbox! Photos are also welcome and appreciated!



Matthew White/UH photo

Carol Hardin-Oliver, R.Ph. (B.S. '83) **President-elect, Texas Pharmacy Association**

“If not now, when? If not me, who? We are in a time of extreme change – financially, professionally, politically and in practice. We can either stand by and be told what our role will be or step up and take ownership of the space we uniquely can affect.”

“Awareness, involvement and inclusiveness are characteristics we need in our leaders. There will be no second chances on some of the issues we face now. Find the local, state or national group that you prefer, but stay engaged. Your input is the key to change. One voice does make a difference. Inclusiveness is not just a current buzzword; inclusiveness is our power.”

“Any single-source initiative pushed forward solely by even the most powerful specialty group cannot begin to carry the power and authority of the entire profession working as one. When groups are called together to discuss and create solutions, be sure you’re at that table.”

Hardin-Oliver is a Walgreens Pharmacy District Supervisor and co-chair of the UHCOP Dean’s Advisory Council.

Julie Spier, R.Ph. (B.S. '86) **President, Texas Federation of Drug Stores**

“What motivated me was the nature of the organization itself. TFDS is a very collaborative team where competition is put aside for the good of retail pharmacy and the profession in general.”

“I have always believed that you get out of something what you put into it. Pharmacy and the practice are continually changing and evolving. It is critical to be part of the change and the solutions to the opportunities that arise rather than just letting your chosen profession dictate to you how you will practice.”

“The best advice I have for future leaders is to be a good listener, put yourself in the shoes of those that you are leading, be willing to lead by example and be open to change. The biggest thing is attitude – a positive attitude and going into a project with the idea that success will occur will take you a long way.”

Spier is Director of Pharmacy Operations for Randalls/Tom Thumb in Texas.



Matthew White/UH photo

Sarah Lake-Wallace, Pharm.D. ('00), M.S. **President, TSHP Research & Education Foundation**

“Healthcare has been in a state of change ever since I graduated but with the new expectations for accountable care, all the rules are changing. Being part of an organization allows for many things including hearing how others are managing but more importantly providing you a voice in directing the change. If the pharmacy profession does not work in a coordinated fashion, we will lose our seat at the table in defining what health care looks like.”

“As pharmacists, we often make do with what we have in front of us, but it is important that we actively voice what we need to take patient care to the next level. I also believe it makes your professional career richer, more well-rounded, and fulfilling.”

“As a leader, you can’t take yourself too serious. That’s not to say what you are doing isn’t important or serious, it’s just you have to take it all in perspective. Things I thought so important a few years ago – now seem hardly worth noticing.”

Lake-Wallace is Clinical Effectiveness Director at Memorial Hermann Healthcare System.



Jerry Powers/UH photo

Perhaps no time in UH College of Pharmacy's history has so many alumni held top leadership offices of pharmacy organizations at the state, regional and national level at the same time. Interactions asked these distinguished alumni to share their thoughts on leadership and the importance of involvement practitioner and student involvement in pharmacy organizations.



Jerry Powers/UH photo

Diane Ginsburg, M.S. ('90), R.Ph., FASHP **President, ASHP Foundation**

"I'll always remember something one of my mentors said, 'Joining a professional organization is the rent you pay on space you take up in the profession.' If we don't get involved and pay the 'rent,' our patients will. It's not about you, it's about the people who place their trust in you.

"The Affordable Care Act is phenomenal opportunity for pharmacy because pharmacy's been like 'Who-ville'; I think there's never been a more important time in our profession to speak up. Otherwise, we're going to be the 'Who's' that nobody hears. We have to be assertive for our patients. I have complete faith that pharmacists are up to the task. Just look at what we're producing from our programs and the quality of pharmacists coming into workforce, there have never been more educated and skilled practitioners in the profession."

Ginsburg is Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Clinical Professor of Health Outcomes & Pharmacy Practice at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. She previously served as ASHP President.

Phyllis Graham, R.Ph. ('76) **President, Southwest-Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy**

"It is a critical time for health care in America with the quickly changing healthcare landscape. By becoming active, you have the opportunity to influence the future of our profession. Pharmacy students bring fresh eyes and new perspective to the discussion and working professionals offer the voice of experience. The gain is both professional and personal to influence the future of healthcare delivery and network with other professionals dedicated to similar goals.

"Effective leaders embrace open communication, encourage innovation and accept responsibility. They listen to the needs of their organization and customers and then take action. We want to be the ones to define our future and there is great potential to increase the role of pharmacist in chronic care disease management within Patient-Centered Medical Home and Accountable Care Organizations by becoming involved.

Graham is Director of Client Services Account Management at OptumRx and a founding member of AMCP-Southwest Affiliate, which was formed in 2012 and comprises Texas and contiguous states.



Sam Anise/UH photo



Joe Gayle/UH photo

SueAnn Wang, Pharm.D. ('12) **Satrap (President), Kappa Psi Southwest Region**

"Life is about the people you know, and there is no better place to network than at pharmacy meetings and events. There are so many issues and changes that are currently happening to our careers and our industry, that if we do not get out there and listen, observe, and participate in the changes, we might just get swept away in all these changes. If you want a say in how your profession changes or doesn't change, go to events, meet people and make your voice heard.

"From my experience, leaders first and foremost must have a vision of what they want to achieve. They then must have various abilities and communication skills to make their vision turn into reality. The most effective leaders are all very like-able, and they adapt well to changing environments. Here's a message to tomorrow's leaders: Be honest and true to yourself and your passions, always communicate but listen more than you speak, and never cease to network. These are the tools that will lead you to a wonderful career path."

Wang is pharmacy manager for Wal-Mart Pharmacy in Pearland.

Scholarships Honor Legacies of Chiu Moon Chan, Gita Wasan Patel

Family and friends of UH College of Pharmacy alumnus **Chiu Moon Chan** have established a memorial scholarship for the pharmacist and entrepreneur who passed away on May 17, 2012, in Houston at the age of 59.

Born in Hong Kong in 1952, Chan attended and graduated from Wah Yan College Hong Kong before moving to the U.S. in 1973. He worked a variety of jobs to support his way through school, earning a B.S. in Pharmacy and becoming a registered pharmacist in 1978.

After starting a home infusion therapy business in 1988, Chan founded Dynacq International, Inc., now known as Dynacq Healthcare, Inc., in 1992. Dynacq became a publicly traded company, and achieved national recognition as one of the 200 fastest growing small businesses in the U.S. from such magazines as Forbes and FSB.



Chan served as President, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Dynacq for 20 years. During those two decades, his efforts resulted in gainful employment for hundreds of families and quality health care for thousands of patients in Houston, Pasadena, Dallas and in Baton Rouge, La. Dynacq's hospital facilities in Houston and Dallas were nationally

recognized as centers of healthcare excellence.

He was a member of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, a supporter of the Rotary Club and the Neighborhood Centers, and an active member of the Wah Yan Alumni Chapter in Houston. He also was an avid golfer and wine enthusiast who enjoyed meditating by his fish pond and traveling the world, especially with his beloved wife and sons.

Always helping friends and family whenever he could, he sponsored many friends and family to gain citizenship and financially supported others in a variety of business endeavors. He strongly believed in the value of education and assisted not only his two sons through university, but also many nieces and nephews.

Chan married Ms. Ella Cheng, his high school sweetheart, in 1976. He is survived by his wife of almost 36 years; his two sons, Dr. Eric K. Chan (and wife Michelle) and Bert K. Chan; and his three grandchildren, Kailee, Connor and Emmy, as well as his nine siblings and numerous nieces and nephews.

Chan will be remembered as extremely intelligent, highly energetic, and totally devoted to his family and to the company which he founded and presided over for two decades.

Gita Wasan Patel, who was born in Livingston, N.J., in December 1975 and passed in July 5, 2012, is being remembered by family members, friends and coworkers through the **Gita Wasan Patel Memorial Scholarship** at UH College of Pharmacy.



Patel received her B.S. in Pharmacy from UHCOP in 1995 and her Pharm.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Pharmacy in 2001.

Gita joined The Medical Center of Plano as Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator in 2001, and became the lead clinical pharmacist for the development of division clinical programs and education of staff. During her nine years with the hospital, Gita was instrumental in the implementation and assessment of numerous clinical programs and protocols. In 2010, she was promoted to Division Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services for multiple Texas divisions of HCA, which allowed her to focus more on infectious diseases initiatives. She worked to develop and implement clinical pharmacy services for all 17 HCA hospitals in the division and was instrumental in developing the Antimicrobial Management Program for the entire HCA system.

In addition to training the next generation of pharmacists as a preceptor, Patel published numerous abstracts and publications in the areas of outcomes research in PK/PD, antibiotic dosing, outpatient lipid management, tight glycemic control, anticoagulation, and sepsis.

In 2010, she was selected as a faculty member for a national IDSA/SHEA workshop on antibiotic stewardship and was recognized as a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. In March 2012, Patel completed the Antimicrobial Stewardship Certificate Program of the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists, which has established a new award in memory of Patel.

Among her numerous awards were the North Texas Division HCA Innovator Award for Quality/Patient Safety Improvement; The Medical Center of Plano HCA Innovator Award for Financial Impact; and the ASHP Best Practice Award Winner for project entitled "The Successful Implementation of a Collaborative Sepsis Bundle at a Community Hospital."

Patel is survived by fellow UHCOP alumnus Rakesh Patel, R.Ph. (B.S. '95), whom she married in 1999, and her two children, Sohan and Asha. She also loved animals and shared her home with three German Shepherds: Jake, Otto and Scout. She found great joy in helping local animal shelters with fund-raisers and always was available for animals in need.

New Development Officer Jordan Working to Match Interests of Supporters with Needs of College

UH College of Pharmacy recently welcomed **Kimberly Jordan** as the college's new director of development, who said she's committed to matching the interests of generous alumni and friends with the needs of the college, its students and faculty.

Jordan has worked in the contracted laboratory diagnostic services sales field for more than a decade. Prior to joining the college in late 2012, Jordan served as business development director for Memorial Hermann Diagnostic Laboratories, where she built a successful sales team working with physicians and hospital administrators.

A former public school teacher, Jordan earned a B.A. in Education from Sam Houston State University.

"Every day I'm learning more about the amazing work of our alumni, students and faculty pharmacists and researchers, and I'm eager to help the college move forward," Jordan said.

Jordan may be reached at 713-743-0859 or kajordan4@uh.edu.



Jordan



Thomas Campbell/UH photo

Tier One Scholarship Recipients Honored for Program Transition

Current Pharm.D. student Jennie Do (Class of 2016) and incoming students Mary Sun and Boxin Allen Xu (Class of 2017) — all recipients of the University of Houston Tier One Scholarship program — recently were presented with medallions in recognition of the completion of their pre-professional studies. Above, UH Director of Learning through Discovery Veronique Tran, UH System Chancellor/UH President Renu Khator and UHCOP Associate Dean Shara Zatopek present Do with a bronze medallion.

2012-13 Academic Year Scholarships

Bruce and Ann Biundo Endowment – Vaidehi Bhatt

Frank Bove Scholarship Endowment – Ezequiel Medina

Robert "Bob" O'Donnell Brown Jr. Scholarship Endowment – Gregory Alquiza

Joseph P. Buckley Endowed Scholarship – Yeun-Ju Lee, Ashton Stinnette

Chiu Moon Chan Memorial Scholarship – Shao-Yu Chiu

CVS Pharmacy – Rachael Bedard, Jin Kang, Jessica Preston, Kylee Richard, Samuel Stafford

Dallas Area Pharmacy Association Scholarship – Habeeba Nizamdin

Dean's Advisory Council Endowed Scholarship – Catherine Carey, Melanie Laine, Danielle Stifter

Doyle Endowed Scholarship Fund – Zhijun Le, Shiva Zangeneh

Noel Ferguson Scholarship Endowment – Lauren Williams, Sharifah Nurshaz Syed Zamaruddin

Dr. Bhagavan Jandhyala Endowed Scholarship – Sumit Basu

Martha Jane Jones Memorial Endowment – Courtney Jackson, Twisha Patel

Kmart Pharmacy Endowment for Community Excellence – Adrian Mata

Lau Family Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences Endowment – Tao Niu, Yang Teng

B.T. Lewis Annual Scholarship – Tanya Shie

Perin F. Lokhandwala Endowment – Abeer Rababah, Vaidehi Thanawala

Cora and Webb Mading Fund Endowment – Bobby Clay, Kasey Kellar, Mark Leu, Chestley Miller, Kim Anh Pham, Sara Thorsell-Pollard

Mortar and Pedal Endowment – Marianne Pham

National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation Pharmacy Partners Scholarship – Mgozi Ahaiwe, Sahrish Khawaja Rachel Harvey, Heather Schoeneberg, Marisa Smith

NCPA Foundation Presidential Scholarship – Bobby Clay

Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Co. Scholarship – Ryan Hudson, Omik Patel

Pharmacy Golf Tournament Endowed Scholarship – Linda Ehlig, Mohsin Ali

Golf Annual Awards – Henry Cao, Gia Castorina, Heidi Day, Rachel Eppinette, Annilee Hamilton, Michael (Danny) Jean, Osagie (Tony) Ohonba, Marisa

Smith, Christina (Thuy) Vo

Stanley M. Reinhaus Family Foundation Scholarship – Leslie Finney, Diana Garcia, Soniya Joseph

Texas Pharmacy Foundation Scholarship – Lauren Woo

Texas Pharmacy Foundation Larry "Neal" McClaugherty Scholarship – Chester Nguyen

TSHP Research & Education Foundation Glenda Lawson McRee Scholarship – Twisha Patel

TSHP Research & Education Foundation Phillis B. Ginsburg Memorial Scholarship – Amy Lehnert

TSHP Research & Education Foundation Sandra Evans Webb Scholarship – Jessica Preston

Walgreens Diversity Annual Scholarship – Zachary Kirk

C.R. Walgreen's Excellence Scholarship – Otsanya Ochosbu, Saroosh Lodhi

Wal-Mart Scholarship – Jennifer Collins, Khanh Le, Adrian Mata

Dr. M. George and Cecilia Webber Endowed Scholarship – Mason Kovar, Amelia Myers

0073034092
University of Houston
College of Pharmacy
141 Science & Research Bldg. 2
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, June 3

2013 UHCOP Golf Classic
Wildcat Golf Club, Houston
<http://tinyurl.com/uhcop-golf-2013>
Contact: Shara Zatopek, 713-743-1262 or szatopek@uh.edu

June 26-28

Pharmacy Summer Camp,
<http://tinyurl.com/uhcop-camp-2013>
Science & Research Bldg. 2, UH Campus
Contact: Nekesa Berkley, 713-743-1261 or nberkley@uh.edu

SAVE THE DATES:

Thursday, July 25

Alumni & Friends Reception at Texas Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting & Expo
Frisco, TX; *additional details TBA*
RSVP: Mary Reed, 713-743-1252 or mandress@uh.edu

Wednesday, Oct. 30- Friday, Nov. 1

Oct. 30: P1 Internship Networking Social
Oct. 31: P4 Placement Conference
Nov. 1: Residency Showcase
Contact: 832-842-8337 or uhcopexp@uh.edu



Top left, Walgreens' Ziad Ghanem ('02) and Roy Armstrong ('84) present Dean Lamar Pritchard with a gift to support scholarships and diversity initiatives; top right, Vi Doan ('12), Allison Lau ('12) and Daniel Ortiz ('11) help precept their future pharmacists at a diabetes health fair in Houston; and, below left, Matt Russell ('08), Jennifer Doyal Russell ('09) and Lynn Simpson ('97) and, below right, Bruce Biundo ('61), Renee Prescott ('02), Van Hoang and Dominic Vu ('10) at an alumni-student social sponsored by the UHCOP Dean's Advisory Council.

