

Interactions

The Official Newsletter of the University of Houston College of Pharmacy

Vol. 10 No. 2



Lessons in Leadership

RADM Scott Giberson Shares Insights on Nature of Leadership, Advancement of Profession

A message from DEAN PRITCHARD



An old African Proverb states “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.” This collaborative principle is very important across every aspect of our UHCOP Vision 20/20 Strategic Plan. In this issue of Interactions, you will see prime examples of how important a collaborative strategy is across all of our teaching, research and service initiatives. Reaching these laudable collaborative strategic goals will allow our College to: 1) produce professional graduates who will help to help create and lead our nation’s future healthcare delivery systems; 2) produce translational scientists whose important drug discoveries will help to alleviate disease and suffering; and 3) produce innovative clinical services to help provide critical team-based healthcare services for our patients who are most in need.

Our College’s Interprofessional Education (IPE) collaborative initiatives continue to gain momentum. We are indeed very fortunate to be located within the Texas Medical Center (TMC), the world’s largest medical center. We are building collaborative team-based approaches to health care with our high-quality partners such as the Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Women’s University’s College of Nursing. Our patients will be the beneficiaries of the improvements to healthcare that this team-based approach will produce. Please see the article discussing the fall 2014 Progressive Case Discussion (PCD) centering upon patient safety.

Our UHCOP faculty and graduate students continue to establish and advance our important collaborative translational research programs and discoveries. Please see the article discussing a novel approach to the prevention/treatment of space motion sickness by December 2014 Ph.D. graduate Dr. Lei Wu, Pharmaceutics professor Dr. Diana Chow, and NASA Chief Pharmacologist/Technical Manager and UHCOP alumna Dr. Lakshmi Putcha.

Our UHCOP faculty continue to apply their laudable clinical skills to create improved healthcare approaches to the treatment of disease. Please see the article discussing a new collaboration between our UHCOP and Texas Children’s Health Plan. This initiative led by Dr. Joy Alonzo will also provide a very important managed care pharmacy experiential site that will help train UHCOP pharmacy students to lead our State and National managed care organizations in the future.

These strategic UHCOP collaborative initiatives will provide a sound foundation for providing collaborative solutions to problems that have plagued our “siloeed” U.S. healthcare system for decades. I look forward to providing you with important updates in the near future as we “endeavor to go very far” during our journey.

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

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UHCOP, TMC Partners Tearing Down 'Silos' to Improve Patient Care

Through several initiatives in collaboration with its fellow Texas Medical Center institutions, UH College of Pharmacy is continuing to integrate interprofessional education into the Pharm.D. curriculum.

Interprofessional education (IPE) is one of the 25 key standards used by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education in the certification of Pharm.D. programs nationwide. Although UHCOP has long been a proponent of IPE through such collaborations as the student-run H.O.M.E.S. Clinic with Baylor College of Medicine and The University of Texas School of Medicine at the UT Health Science Center-Houston, the college has been implementing several curriculum-based IPE initiatives.

One of the most recent programs was centered on Patient Safety, with second- and third-year UH pharmacy students taking an elective online training component from the Institute



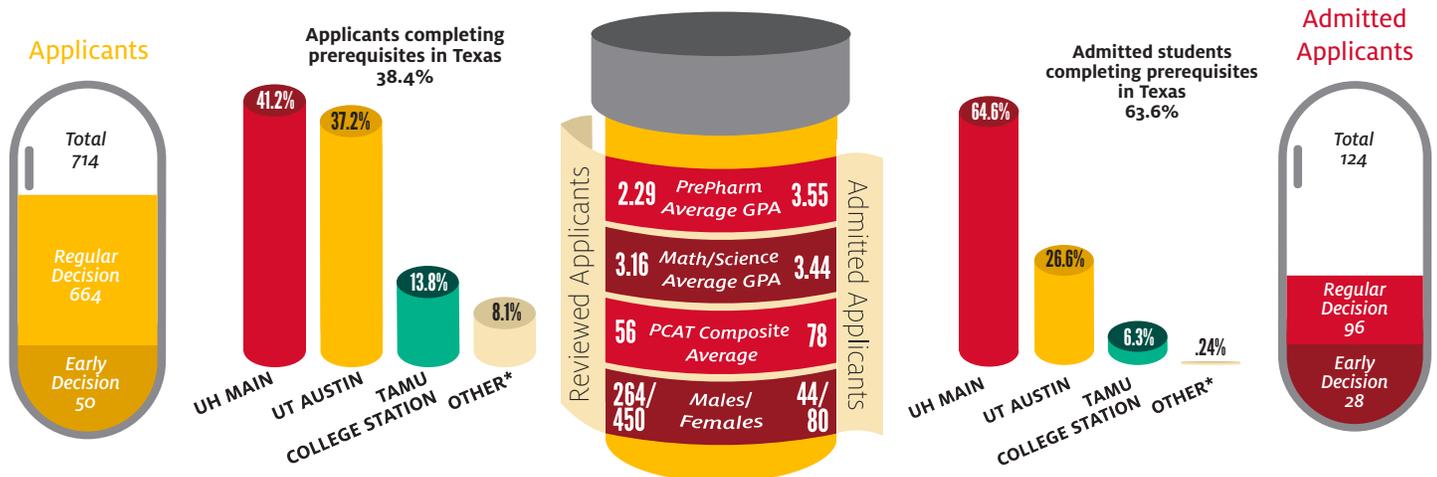
Nearly 300 UH pharmacy, TWU nursing and BCM medical students participated in the fall 2014 progressive case discussion, which is believed to be the largest academic exercise for interprofessional students in Texas Medical Center history.

for Healthcare Improvement and culminating in a live, faculty-facilitated progressive case discussion alongside medical students from BCM and nursing students from Texas Woman's University. A total of nearly 300 students participated in the program, marking what's believed to be the largest single interprofessional academic exercise ever held in the Texas Medical Center.

NAPLEX 100% MPJE

Congratulations! UHCOP Graduates Post 2nd Consecutive Year of Perfect First-time Pass Rates in 2014

Pharm.D. Class of 2018 Applications @ Admissions





photos by Kris Kehe

MECHANISMS OF ACTION

NEW DAC LEADERSHIP ISSUES RALLYING CRY TO ALUMNI

Two UH College of Pharmacy alumni national and state pharmacy scene have enthusiastically assumed the leadership of the Dean's Advisory Council at critical crossroad in the college's history, with several advocacy initiatives and the launch of a capital campaign looming large on the 'to-do' list.

Lisa Scholz, Pharm.D. ('99), MBA, chief operating officer and senior vice president at 340B Health, and **Julie Spier**, R.Ph. ('86), director of Pharmacy Operations-Southern and Houston Divisions for Randalls/Tom Thumb/Albertsons, took up the reins of the DAC in October 2014 with the mutual goal of firing up fellow DAC members and alumni alike to bring about overdue recognition and resources for the college.

"We want everyone to know what we know: UH is the best and it deserves the best," Spier said. "This is only going to happen with us all working together and with everyone engaged. I truly believe that we are stewards of our time and resources. It is our responsibility to use these resources so that we can make a difference.

"I feel that by serving on DAC that I am not only giving back to an organization that has given me so much, but I am able to make a difference helping the future of our profession."

Like their co-chair predecessors Bruce Biundo, R.Ph. ('61), and Carole Hardin-Oliver, R.Ph. ('83), Scholz and Spier have extensive experience as advocates for the profession in addition to their diverse background in the pharmacy trenches.

Prior to joining 340B Health, Scholz held leadership positions in the Pharmacy Services Support Center collaboration between the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration and the American Pharmacists Association. Scholz's practice portfolio includes nearly 20 years combined in community retail pharmacy management and clinical ambulatory care/health-system pharmacy at one of the nation's largest public health systems.

Spier, who has spent her entire pharmacy career with Randalls/Tom Thumb, is immediate past president of the Texas Federation of Drug Stores following four years as the organization's president-elect and president.

Scholz said the leadership and commitment exhibited by alumni such as Spier during her days at UH as well as the college's deliberate steps to transform the curriculum in recent years provided an added incentive for her.

"Being engaged in the Dean's Advisory Council is an important connection to my alma mater, especially when you live over 1,400 miles away in Washington, D.C., and being able to co-chair with Julie was an opportunity I could not refuse," Scholz said. "With the leadership Dean Pritchard has brought to the college, you can't help but want to be part of what he has been building over the last several years. Together, with the Dean's vision, Julie and I bring a collective energy and leadership style that will make us great 'servant leaders' to the students and alumni."

At their first meeting, Scholz and Spier sought not only to challenge their fellow DAC members but also to get them excited about the opportunities to lead the college to the next level.

"My vision for the DAC is to increase engagement of our current DAC leaders, so that our message can spread to each graduating class, whether the first class or the early careerists graduating in 2014," Scholz said. "The DAC is the start for igniting enthusiasm and pride. I can say that we are thinking about the future of our college — and we hope you are, too."

"The DAC only meets twice a year in person; the rest of the time we have to fulfill our commitments. Those commitments are connecting with community leaders, finding donors and rekindling Cougar Pride."

One of their first orders of business was to develop clear and actionable goals and objectives for not only the DAC body but individual alumni and supporters. The questions posed by Scholz and Spier were: "The result I am excited about contributing to UHCOP is ..."; "The three things that excite me about UHCOP are ..."; "The specific result I am committed to delivering over the next six months ..."; and "The key near-term actions I am planning to take to generate results are: who will I email, when I will donate to the college, who I will call or follow-up ..."

"Our questions are to inspire and empower," Spier said. "The other question that I would like all to answer is: 'Where would you be without UH College of Pharmacy? What would you be doing right now?' We are blessed to practice pharmacy."

Immediate responses to their queries included "The new building excites me!" and "The reputation for excellence enhances the value of my degree." Scholz encouraged UHCOP alumni and non-alumni supporters to share their responses with the DAC by sending them to lscholzpharmd@yahoo.com.

We want everyone to know what we know: UH is the best and it deserves the best!

— Julie Spier, co-chair, UHCOP Dean's Advisory Council



Houston history on tap at Saint Arnold's

Ahead of a full day of work aimed at moving the college forward, Dean's Advisory Council members took the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at the oldest craft brewery in Texas, the Saint Arnold Brewing Company near downtown Houston. Among those attending the college's traditional pre-meeting fellowship dinner were, left, Pat and Jan Downing, Dean F. Lamar Pritchard, John and Linda Stephenson and Ben Fry; below left, Kathaleya (Kay) Yindeemark, Renee Prescott, Mallory Wharton-Gessner and Katie Williams; and, below right, Julie Spier, John J. Lovoi, Bruce Biundo and Chuck Hopson with UHCOP development director Matt Perkins.



UNCOMMON SERVICE

COLLEGE CELEBRATES VISION, TENACITY OF BIUNDO, ANDERSON

At the past Mading Society induction dinner, the UHCOP Dean F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D., bestowed the college's 2014 Alumnus Pharmacist of the Year Award upon **Bruce V. Biundo, R.Ph.** ('61), and the 2014 Meritorious Service Award to **Roger W. Anderson, DrPH, M.S., R.Ph., FASHP.**

A former independent pharmacy owner/pharmacist, Biundo has developed an expertise in men's health issues during his nearly two decades as a consulting pharmacist at PCCA. He has served in numerous roles in the Texas Pharmacy Association, Texas Pharmacy Foundation and TPA PharmPAC, earning both the TPA Pharmacist of the Year and the R. Louis Rumsey PharmPAC Member of the Year awards in 2013 and TPA's Education Excellence Award in 2008.

Biundo also has served in leadership roles at the local level, including past co-chair of the UHCOP Dean's Advisory Council (DAC), past president of the Houston Area Pharmacy Association, and past president of the UH Pharmacy Alumni Association. In 2010, Biundo was recognized as UHCOP's Volunteer of the Year. A member of the college's Mading Society of supporters, Biundo recently accepted the role of chair of the UHCOP Capital Campaign to build a new home for the college.

"I do things that are important to me, so it doesn't seem like it's a big deal, but it's very gratifying to feel like you're making a difference and be recognized in this manner," he said. "There's always something important to be done, but you can't assume that someone else will always do it or can do it alone."

A fellow UHCOP DAC member, Anderson was honored for his visionary leadership in the evolution of pharmacy from a limited dispensing



Dean Lamar Pritchard presents the Alumni Pharmacists of the Year Award to Bruce Biundo, above, and the Meritorious Service Award to Roger Anderson, below.

role to being indispensable members of the patient care team.

After earning his B.S. in pharmacy, Anderson completed a master's program in hospital pharmacy and one of the earliest residency programs in the country. In the late 1970s, Anderson arrived in Texas to begin what would be a nearly 30-year career as Vice President/Head of the Pharmacy Division at The University of Texas-MD Anderson Cancer Center. Anderson left MD Anderson in 2004 for executive pharmacy positions with Medco Health and US Oncology before joining the ranks of the semi-retired in 2011.

Anderson also served seven years on the Texas State Board of Pharmacy, including a term as president, and has authored more than 60 publications in such journals as the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* and the *Journal of Oncology Practice*. A Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), he has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Ohio State University, the Harvey A.K. Whitney Lecture Award from ASHP, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Ferris State University, The Julie and Ben Rogers Award from MD Anderson and the Distinguished Service Award from UHCOP.

"It's a great honor that I will treasure very much, because the college has been a very important part of my life," Anderson said. "It's so important that we have future pharmacy leaders with the skills, knowledge and motivation to step into these institutions when people like me step down. I believe UH College of Pharmacy is on the cutting-edge of this vision of what pharmacy can be; the students coming out are top notch, and the college is moving forward as dramatically as any other program in the country."



Pharmacy farewells

UH College of Pharmacy said farewell to three retiring members of the UHCOP family in 2014: **Barbara Lewis**, MA, LPC, R.Ph. (B.S. 74); **Julie Szilagyi**, Ph.D., FAHA; and **Leon R. Morgan Sr.**

A UHCOP faculty member and administrator from 1994 to 2014, Lewis served many roles within the college, including director of counseling and advising and later assistant dean of Student & Professional Affairs. Not only was she responsible for student recruiting and academic advising in the Pharm.D. program, but she also was regarded as a source of strength, compassion and encouragement in her role as a licensed professional counselor. Lewis also served as advisor for the UH chapter of Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International and preceptor on several mission trips to the colonias of the Mexico-Texas border region. Following her retirement, Lewis is making plans for traveling internationally, including France and Dubai.

Julie Szilagyi, Ph.D., FAHA, retired in September 2014 after nearly 30 years as a faculty member in the Department of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences. Former director of the college's Office of Assessment, Szilagyi was a recipient of the UH Research Excellence Award, the UH Alumni Association's Outstanding Faculty Award, two Rho Chi Teaching Excellence Awards, and a Faculty Excellence Proclamation from the City of Houston. Szilagyi was active in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, serving on the board of directors, the editorial board of the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, and numerous councils and sections. Szilagyi's said she intends to continue pursuing her hobbies of woodcarving, photography and volunteering with an Italian Greyhound rescue group.

Although not officially an employee of the college, UH Department of Public Safety Security Officer **Leon R. Morgan Sr.** was nonetheless part of the UHCOP family. Morgan provided a reassuring presence for the faculty, staff and students at the college's TMC Campus before his retirement. Morgan was a highly decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, including two Purple Hearts, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation. Morgan's retirement plans include spending more time with his grandchildren.



Barbara Lewis

Barbara Lewis, MA, LPC, R.Ph., clinical assistant professor and assistant dean of Student & Professional Affairs, retired after 20 years in the college.



Julie Szilagyi

Julie Szilagyi, Ph.D., associate professor of Pharmacology and former director of the college's Office of Assessment, joined the college in 1985.



Leon R. Morgan

UH Department of Public Safety Officer Leon Morgan, a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, was assigned to the security desk of the college's TMC Campus.

Lessons in Leadership: RADM Scott Giberson





Above, Rear Adm. Scott Giberson meet with M.S./Residency program participants and directors/preceptors as well as UHCOP Faculty and staff members for a nearly three-hour roundtable discussion the day before serving as the college's commencement speaker (left); inset top left photo, Giberson presents graduating Pharm.D. student Melaine Laine with a USPHS Certificate of Appreciation for her commitment to academic/clinical excellence during her UHCOP education; and, inset bottom left, Giberson presents UHCOP Dean Lamar Pritchard with Giberson's USPHS commemorative coin.

LANDMARK REPORT'S AUTHOR SHARES INSIGHTS ON ADVANCED PRACTICE MODEL, EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

UH College of Pharmacy was honored to welcome a true champion of pharmacy and public health serving at the highest level of national health policy and practice as the college's 2014 Commencement speaker and a guest lecturer: Rear Admiral Scott Giberson, R.Ph., PhC, NCPS-PP, MPH.

Giberson currently serves as director/chief executive officer of the Division of the Commissioned Corps Personnel and Readiness and overall commander of the Commissioned Corps' Ebola Response in West Africa.

During his previous posts as acting deputy surgeon general and chief pharmacy officer, Giberson became widely recognized for authoring the landmark 2011 report to the U.S. Surgeon General entitled "Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes Through Advanced Pharmacy Practice."

Among the report's notable observations were "the [physician-pharmacist] collaboration, through extensive performance data, has demonstrated that patient care services delivered by pharmacists can improve patient outcomes, promote patient involvement, increase cost efficiency and reduce demands affecting the healthcare system" and "pharmacists may be the only health professionals (who manage disease through medications and provide other patient care services) who are not recognized in national health policy as healthcare providers or practitioners."

At Commencement, Giberson shook the hands of every

graduate, and Giberson engaged in a nearly three-hour roundtable discussion with participants and leaders of the post-graduate M.S./residency program. During the roundtable, Giberson shared his views on effective leadership and the opportunities and barriers for pharmacy at a time when the nation's healthcare system wrestles with strategies to address issues of access, safety, quality and cost.

"Chronic care is post-diagnosis, and who are the most trained post-diagnostic medication therapy experts? Pharmacists," Giberson told the forum attendees. "How often does the average person see the physician? Every 13 months, longer in rural areas. In contrast, patients see pharmacists every 30-60 days.

"We manage the patients when the primary therapy is medication. We're not after the outcomes of the medications; we're after the outcomes of the patient, the disease state. Don't see yourself as a 'pharmacist,' but as a health care leader. No one has the combination of education and accessibility that you do."

Giberson encouraged members of the profession to look beyond simply demonstrating capability in achieving desired patient outcomes.

"Instead of only outcomes, we need to show performance: Not proving that we can do it because we already have publication after publication with the data to back it up, but the key to advancing our profession is through the performance-based generation of revenue or reduction of costs," Giberson said.

GRADUATES OF 2014



DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACEUTICS

Pranav A. Shah

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACOLOGY

Isha S. Dhande

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION

Mark Alan Kramer
Hemalkumar B. Mehta
Harshali K. Patel

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION

Liqa Nasser Athamneh
Patrick John Birney
Avani Dhaval Desai
Rusul Gazwan Karalli
Kyle Andrew Munch
Achsah Samuel Philip

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Azizat Adetola Agbetoba
Hanna Bobrovnyk
Stephanie Ann Bowman
Jerod Pierce Braschler
Quintin Marshall Broussard
Christine Minh-Thu Bui
Kathleen Ngoc Cao
Catherine Jacqueline Carey
Calandre Michelle Carr

Paul Teh-Sheng Chen
Tiffany Jiae Chung
Bobby Denis Clay
Jennifer Lynn Collins
Amber Truitt Curry
Anthony John Jabido Dima-Ala
Austin Lawrence Dobbs
Linda Marie Ehlig
Hannan Isam Elquza
Herbert Lawrence Fisher III
Jamie Noel Folk
John Francis Siringan Fontanilla
McKinsey Ann Ford
Faraz Fozi
Narmadha Manickam Ganesan
Diana M. Garcia
Sean Stephan Garcia
Joshua Michael Garrison
Melinda Hai-Chau Ha
Susan Besma Hammoude
Danny Howard Harper
Samuel David Harpole
Van Ai Hoang
Ryan Markas Hudson
Claire Hung
Michael D. Jean
Harin B. Kalyanji
Zainab Batool Kazimi
Kasey Morgan Kellar
Melanie Elizabeth Laine
Amy L. Lehnert
Jennifer H. Lim
Nancy MyTram Mai
Yvonne Maria McClesley

Gregory Michael McRraith
Etta Yitong Meraji
Jessica Danielle Messa
Chestley Laborn Miller
Leeda Mohebbi
Nathan Taylor Moreno
Andrew Mark Morris
Sara Elizabeth Mueller
Ryan Adrian Murry
Martin Richard Newton III
Alexander Trung Nguyen
Huy Hoang Nguyen
Quang Xuan Nguyen
Vivian Le Nguyen
Habeeba Nizamdin
Jennifer Marie Parma
Nicole A. Patel
Omik Shashikant Patel
Payal Nalin Patel
Brook Taylor Pattera
Shameel Vinod Pattani
Biljana Peric
Mariane ThienVu Pham
Thai Duy Pham
Ha Bich Phan
Francisco Ismael Ponce Jr.
Shweta Singh Rana
Leah Marie Rickert
Kristy Michele Robinson
Anu Priya Sankaran
Sarah Caitlin Sayles
Tanya TramThanh Shie
Michael Shih
Ashley M. Smart

Lynsey Caroline Smith
Marisa Lee Smith
Danielle Elizabeth Stifter
Vu Duy Linh Ta
Michelle Kathleen Thomson
Shane Russell Tolleson
Duke Michael Torres
Lina Dao Tran
Thuy-Vy Nguyen Tran
Trang Minh Tran
Mariel Valdez
Ninu Varughese
David Villanueva
Timothy Wayne Virene
Ian Walker
Alexandra Renee Whiddon
Elizabeth Paige Window
Janaye Nicole Woods
Patty Pei-Hsin Wu
James David Young
Troy Reeves Zapata

CLASS OF 1964 GOLDEN COUGARS

Mr. George P. Barnes
Mr. Prentiss G. Crowe, Jr.
Mr. David DeVido
Mr. Gus Elizondo
Mr. Nicholas J. Martino
Mr. Harry Bullock Mason, Jr.
Mr. Fred S. McDuffie
Mr. Donald Michael Padgett
Mr. Sam E. Wood, Jr.



photos by Aaron Nelson

GRAD AWARDS

APHA-ASP Service Recognition Award – Rachel Harvey
 ASHP Health System Pharmacy Award – Amy Lehnert
 Award of Excellence in Clinical Communication Sponsored by Facts & Comparisons and Lexicomp – Lina Tran
 Dean Joseph P. Buckley Pharmacy Leadership Award – Catherine Carey, Danielle Stifter, Vu Ta and Mariel Valdez
 Joseph Buckley Award – Yavonne McClesky
 Lilly Achievement Award – Jennifer Lim
 Merck Award - McKinsey Ford, Ha Pham and Mariane Pham
 Mylan Pharmaceutical Excellence in Pharmacy Award – Shane Tolleson
 Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database Recognition Award – Marissa Smith
 Outstanding Achievement in Pharmaceutical Sciences Award (P2 Year) – Otsanya Ochogbu
 Phi Lambda Sigma Student Leadership Award – Danny Jean
 PHOP Graduate Student Excellence Award (Master's Program) – Liqa Athamneh
 PHOP Graduate Student Excellence Award (Doctoral Program) – Hemal Mehta

Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Outstanding Student – Melanie Laine
 UHCOP Ambulatory Care Award – Duke Torres
 UHCOP Award of Excellence in Non-Prescription Medications and Self Care – Linda Ehlig
 UHCOP Clinical Science and Administration Research Excellence Award – Sean Garcia and Alex Nguyen
 UHCOP Communication and Counseling Award – Melaine Laine
 UHCOP Community Leadership Award – Trey Fisher
 UHCOP James McCarty Community Pharmacy Internship Award – Ryan Hudson
 UHCOP Health Systems Pharmacy Internship Award – Omik Patel and Michael Shih
 UHCOP Legislative and Policy Award – Jerod Braschler
 UHCOP Most Spirited Volunteer and Leadership Award – Andrew Morris and Habeeba Nizamdin
 UHCOP RX Cougar Leadership Award – Bobby Clay and Van Hoang
 UHCOP Special Recognition Award for Excellence in Clinical Skills – Melanie Laine and Amy Lehnert
 U.S. Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award – Trang Tran



photos by Kris Kehe

MEDICAL HOME

UHCOP, TEXAS CHILDREN'S HEALTH PLAN TEAM ON MANAGED CARE FACULTY POST, EXPERIENTIAL SITE

A new collaboration between UH College of Pharmacy and Texas Children's Health Plan (TCHP) is bringing managed care pharmacy and a future experiential site for UHCOP pharmacy students to one of the state's largest managed care organizations.

The co-funded appointment of **Joy Alonzo**, Pharm.D., M.E., as UHCOP clinical assistant professor and TCHP Director of Pharmacy Services provides abundant opportunities for implementing programs that further demonstrate the impact of pharmacists in improving patient health outcomes while reducing healthcare costs. The collaboration will expose Pharm.D. students to careers in managed care with the TCHP serving as an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiential site beginning in fall 2015.

Texas Children's Health Plan was founded in 1996 by Texas Children's Hospital as the nation's first health maintenance organization created just for children. TCHP has more than 400,000 members served through the organization's staff and network providers of more than 2,100. It is the largest combined STAR/CHIP (Texas Medicaid and the Children's Health Plan) Managed Care Organization in the Harris County service area.

The organization operates two Houston-area locations of The Center for Children and Women, which offer a range of primary and affiliated patient care at two "one-stop" medical home facilities in north and southwest Houston. Services/providers at the centers include pediatricians, advance nurse practitioners, OB/GYNs, certified nurse midwives, optometry, imaging, a laboratory and an onsite pharmacy, with dentistry also available at its north Houston site.

"The size and complexity of TCHP's patient population provides an exciting opportunity to improve outcomes on a macro-scale through research and communicating best practices from a prescribing standpoint," Alonzo said.

Alonzo's activities includes developing and implementing a range of clinical pharmacy programs for providers, patients and caregivers, such as counseling teenagers with substance abuse issues about the pharmacology of illicit drugs and the mechanisms of addiction and monitoring and managing antimicrobial stewardship guidelines in pediatric populations.

"We put together a behavioral health collaborative with caregivers, case managers, providers and others to provide a forum for managing expectations of the patients' drug regimen, which may involve dose titration or potential adverse effects such as changes in weight or lipid levels," Alonzo said.

Another major push is aimed to improving health outcomes for



Alonzo discusses tips for counseling caregivers of pediatric asthma patients on the proper techniques for using inhalers with Texas Children's Hospital pharmacists Katherine Wang, Pharm.D., and Daniel Pham, Pharm.D.

pediatric asthma patients through enhanced caregiver education in medication adherence and other strategies.

"We've also implemented a smoking cessation program to help adult caregivers of pediatric asthma patients to quit smoking, and consequently help reduce the child's exposure to a common trigger of asthma," Alonzo said. "The program is structured as counseling and support sessions, with a pharmacist-managed dose protocol of the nicotine replacement therapy. Instead of more traditional approaches in which smoking is viewed as a 'bad habit,' the counseling treats the tobacco dependency as a disease state."

With the support of a UH New Faculty Grant, Alonzo also has initiated a retrospective study of the utilization and outcomes associated with palivizumab administered to children considered at high risk of developing complications from the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a major viral cause of respiratory illness associated with life-threatening complications in pediatric patients between 8 weeks and 30 weeks old (especially among premature infants).

The goal of this study is to evaluate the outcomes of those patients who were treated according to the State of Texas' guidelines requiring prior authorization for Medicaid patients versus the more stringent American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines to determine if there is a statistically and clinically significant difference relative to complications and the frequency of RSV-related hospitalizations.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

JOY P. ALONZO

Joy Alonzo joined the college from Texas A&M Health Science Center in Kingsville, where she served as a faculty member and preceptor in advanced interprofessional and collaborative clinical practice settings. Alonzo has a Pharm.D. from Howard University, a master's in Engineering Science from Pennsylvania State University; and a B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Pittsburgh. She has led medical residency training programs; diabetes self-management and chemical dependency outpatient clinics; a Type 2 diabetes intervention project aimed at middle and high school students; and the development of a novel method to detect and analyze adverse drug event/adverse drug reaction occurrence rates in specialized patient populations. Through a collaboration between Texas Children's Health Plan (TCHP) and UHCOP, Alonzo is serving in a dual role as clinical assistant professor at the college and director of Pharmacy Services at TCHP.



TARA L. JENKINS

Clinical Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Tara L. Jenkins joined the college from the Bernard Dunn School of Pharmacy at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va. With work experience in community and health-system pharmacy, she previously held faculty positions at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy and the University of Louisiana at Monroe College of Pharmacy. Jenkins earned her Ph.D. in Pharmacy Administration and B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. A Fellow of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Academic Leadership Fellowship Program and the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education, Jenkins is a recipient of the AACP Innovations in Teaching Award; ULM COP Excellence in Teaching Award; and poster presentation awards from the American Pharmacists Association and the Louisiana Health-System Pharmacists Association.

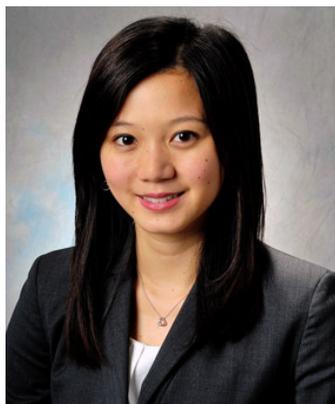
KIMBERLY A. NGUYEN

Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Institutional Based Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences Kimberly A. Nguyen joined the college from Houston Methodist Hospital, where she served in clinical specialist positions in Cardiology and Internal Medicine and developed and coordinated the Methodist Observership Program. She also received several citations during her career at Methodist, including Recognition of Excellence in Clinical Intervention Documentation; Recognition of Integrity and Versatility; ICARE Hospital Award nomination; and Certificate of Excellence-Speaker in the Grand Nursing Rounds. A 2002 UHCOP Pharm.D. alumna, Nguyen completed a PGY1 residency at Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center in association with Texas Tech University and a PGY2 Infectious Diseases residency at The University of Texas-M.D. Anderson Cancer Center before joining Houston Methodist.



Promotions

Faculty members **Jason L. Eriksen**, Ph.D.; and **Romi Ghose**, Ph.D.; **Bradley K. McConnell**, Ph.D., FAPhA; and **Maria V. Tejada-Simon**, M.Ed., Ph.D., have been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences.



AMELIA K. SOFJAN

Clinical Assistant Professor Amelia K. Sofjan joins the college from Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., where she completed a two-year (PGY1-PGY2) ASHP-accredited Pharmacotherapy Residency. Sofjan's academic and research interests include transplant infectious diseases, multi-drug resistant organisms, fungal infections and interprofessional education. Her project entitled "Evaluation of Standard Enoxaparin Dosing as a Risk Factor for Bleeding in Lung Transplant Recipients" was recognized as a Poster of Distinction at the World Transplant Congress this summer in San Francisco. Sofjan is a Pharm.D. graduate of The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy and UT Health Science Center at San Antonio and a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. Her infectious disease clinical practice site is at CHI St. Luke's Health-Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center.

D. GOMIKA UDUGAMASOORIYA

Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry D. Gomika Udugamasooriya joined UHCOP from The University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, where he served as an assistant professor in the Advanced Imaging Research Center and Department of Biochemistry. Co-owner of two U.S. patents, Udugamasooriya has approximately \$1.8 million in multiyear funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CIPRIT) and the U.S. Department of Defense. His research interests include combinatorial chemistry, peptoids and peptidomimetics, cancer therapy-diagnostic tool development, cancer and cancer stem cell biology research. Udugamasooriya earned a Ph.D. in Bioorganic Chemistry and Biochemistry from Wayne State University in Detroit and a B.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and completed a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at UT-Southwestern.



KNOLL NAMED ASSISTANT DEAN OF GRAD PROGRAMS



Brian J. Knoll, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacology, has been appointed Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs with administrative oversight for the college's doctoral programs in Pharmacology, Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes & Policy.

A UHCOP faculty member with a joint appointment in the UH College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics since 2000, Knoll has served as director of Graduate Education in the Department of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences since 2006. Knoll has served on various university and college committees and advisory councils, including as a member and chair/vice-chair of the UH Graduate and Professional Studies Council and chair of the UHCOP Faculty Advisory Council.

He received a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the University of Arizona College of Medicine. During his academic and research career, Knoll has authored or contributed to more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and received nearly \$4 million in research support, including more than \$2 million as principal investigator on National Institutes of Health-funded projects.

CGP, ACCP TEACHING & LEARNING CERTIFICATE

Julianna M. Fernandez, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical assistant professor, has been recognized as a Certified Geriatrics Pharmacist by the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy, a nonprofit organization created by the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists in 1997 and accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. Fewer than 2,000 pharmacists have achieved the Certified Geriatric Pharmacist credential. In October, Fernandez also completed the yearlong American College of Clinical Pharmacy ACCP Academy Teaching and Learning Certificate Program, which is designed to assist in the recruitment, motivation and preparation of clinical educators who can inspire students to advance the profession of pharmacy.



TEXAS SCCM EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Matthew A. Wanat, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical assistant professor, was honored with the Texas Chapter of the Society of Critical Care Medicine's 2014 Excellence in Leadership Award for his extraordinary service to the chapter. A critical care pharmacy specialist at Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Wanat served as on the chapter's Board of Directors and as co-chair of its Communications Committee. Wanat also served on the planning committee for the chapter's annual symposium. The award is presented by the TSCCM Executive Council to a member of the chapter's leadership who not only fulfills but goes above and beyond given responsibilities, contributing greatly to the continued success, growth and sustainability of the chapter.

COUGAR CHAIRS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Rajender R. Aparasu, Ph.D., FAPhA, department chair and professor of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy, was among the inaugural graduates of the UH Cougar Chairs Leadership Academy. Initiated by UH System Vice Chancellor/UH Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost Paula Myrick Short, Ph.D., the academy is a year-long leadership development program designed to provide ongoing support to academic department leaders and to aspirational department leaders at UH.



Faculty Accolades

Rajender R. Aparasu, Ph.D., FAPhA, professor, served as editor of a new reference book/textbook "Principles of Research Design and Drug Literature Evaluation."

Mohammad Asghar, Ph.D., assistant professor, has been appointed to the editorial board of *Clinical and Experimental Hypertension*.

Kim Birtcher, Pharm.D., M.S., BCPS, CDE, CLS, clinical professor; **Aditi Marwaha**, Ph.D., lecturer, and **Sujit Sansgiry**, Ph.D., associate professor, received the Rho Chi Society Beta Omicron Chapter's 2014 Faculty Excellence Awards.

Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., professor, was among the University of British Columbia's distinguished alumni honored at the institution's inaugural "Agents of Change Research Symposium: The Global Impact of UBC Pharm Sci Alumni" Sept. 26 in Vancouver, B.C.

Elizabeth A. Coyle, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCM, clinical professor, received a Presidential Citation from the Society of Critical Care Medicine at the 44th Critical Care Congress Jan. 17-21 in Phoenix, Ariz.

Jason L. Eriksen, Ph.D., associate professor, **Anne M. Tucker**, Pharm.D., BCNSP, clinical associate professor, and **Matthew A. Wanat**,

Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical assistant professor, were recognized with the 2014 UHCOP Faculty Awards for Excellence in Research, Service and Teaching, respectively.

Julianna Fernandez, Pharm.D., BCPS, CGP, clinical assistant professor; **Jeff Sherer**, Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS, CGP, clinical associate professor; and **Matthew Wanat**, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical assistant professor, have received adjunct faculty appointments at Baylor College of Medicine.

Brian J. Knoll, Ph.D., associate professor, was appointed to serve on a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP) panel to review pre-doctoral fellowship applications.

Maria V. Tejada-Simon, Ph.D., M.Ed., associate professor, and UH Biology undergrad **Alexander Oderhowho** received FASEB-MARC Mentor/Mentee travel awards to attend the 2014 SACNAS National Conference Oct. 16-18 in Los Angeles.

Louis Williams, Ph.D., associate professor and advisor for the UH Delta Delta chapter of the Kappa Psi National Pharmaceutical Fraternity, was named among the 2014 recipients of the Grand Council Deputy Certificate of Excellence.

HU SETS SIGHTS ON BIOAVAILABILITY PENALTY



Supported by a new four-year, \$1.2 million renewal grant awarded in 2014 by the National Institute of General Medicine, Professor **Ming Hu**, Ph.D., is continuing his quest to understand why antioxidant-rich flavonoid compounds have such poor bioavailability and explore ways to promote increased utilization of these compounds by the human body.

“Many *in vitro* and *in vivo* animal studies have supported the beneficial properties of dietary flavonoids, but their poor systemic bioavailability makes it impractical to conduct the necessary human clinical trials because a large study population would be required in what’s called the ‘bioavailability penalty,’” Hu said.

Hu’s previous work has led to greater understanding of how flavonoids and analog or metabolite conjugates are recycled not only in the enteric and enterohepatic pathways, but also in what he describes as a novel “local” recycling mechanism in the small intestine and colon. His research has shown that these three recycling pathways increase the half-life of flavonoid metabolites, which likely aids in overall health of the gut microbiome but may also present a “double-edged” sword with therapeutic drugs to treat cancer, infectious diseases and other ailments.

“We want to more fully understand these processes, particularly between the liver and large intestine, to reduce the amount of drug conjugates excreted through the bile duct, and back into the small intestine,” Hu said. “Limiting or controlling local recycling is especially important in the case of many current cytotoxic chemotherapy drugs, which destroy not only the fast-growing cancer cells but also the fast-growing gut cells.

“However, these recycling pathways that keep flavonoids and other compounds in the gut may also provide a novel opportunity for treating gastrointestinal cancers, inflammatory bowel disease and other diseases without some of the local or systemic side effects common with conventional therapies, such as damaging the gut microbiome.”

In his latest project, Hu is focusing on the role and mechanisms of efflux transporters in the disposition of flavonoids and other compounds and develop a classification system to identify the flavonoids with the highest potential for bioavailability.

“Efflux transporter proteins — and their interplay or coupling with metabolizing enzymes — are highly efficient in moving the parent drug and conjugates or metabolites out of the cell and through the recycling pathways,” Hu said. “The net result of inhibited transport can lead to increased concentrations and toxicity, while overexpression of efflux transport may result in suboptimal therapeutic concentration.

“My colleagues and I have tried to ‘get out’ of these pathways, but for the most part, we haven’t been successful. Every step along the way, we’re learning to appreciate the robust and redundant systems by which the body efficiently and effectively disposes of flavonoids and other xenobiotic compounds. Based on what we’ve learned, we’re now taking a different approach by seeing if and how we can use these recycling mechanisms to not only improve the bioavailability of flavonoid compounds, but also potentially design drugs that take advantage of those pathways to achieve the desired therapeutic effects in the gut.”

DOSING THE FLAMES



FACTORS MODULATING CYP EXPRESSION KEY TO IMPROVING SAFETY

In the search for safer, more effective therapeutics, UHCOP Associate Professor Romi Ghose, Ph.D., is taking a genome-wide approach to redefine current knowledge of the known and potentially unknown role players involved in regulating the expression of the Cytochrome P450 gene superfamily of enzymes that metabolize the vast majority of clinically used drugs.

The most abundant member of the CYP family in the human liver, CYP450 (specifically, the CYP3A4 enzyme) is responsible for metabolizing approximately 60 percent of known drugs. The pro-inflammatory environment present in cancer, infection and other disease states as well as the activity of drug compounds (or their metabolites/substrates) are believed to contribute to disrupted expression of CYP3A4 through induction or inhibition mechanisms.

“We see a lot of variability in drug responses in individuals, so we’re trying to understand the root mechanisms influencing it at the gene level,” Ghose said. “Our goal is not only to be able to explain these differences, but also develop sophisticated screening methods to identify patients at-risk or vulnerable to impaired drug metabolism that ultimately can be used to prevent toxicity and improve efficacy.”

Supported by a two-year, \$431,155 grant from the National Institutes of Health, Ghose’s project includes in vitro and in vivo studies using a humanized mouse model of induced and inhibited CYP3A4 gene expression as well as in vitro human cell lines with mutations on specific nucleotides to validate the mouse model.

“We know of basal transcription factors and nuclear receptors at the transcription level as well as microRNAs at the post-transcriptional level are involved in the down-regulation of CYP3A4 expression, but these are not well understood,” Ghose said. “We also believe that not all of the factors have been identified, and ultimately CYP3A4 down-regulation may be a result of the cumulative effect of these various factors.”

UHCOP, NASA Researchers Aim to Jettison Space Motion Sickness

December 2014 Ph.D. graduate **Lei Wu**'s work for more than three years to improve the bioavailability of a drug used for space motion sickness was recognized with a Student & Trainee Award at the American College of Clinical Pharmacology Annual Meeting Sept. 14-16 in Atlanta, Ga.

Wu has been working with a team of public and private sector researchers on the project, including UHCOP Professor and Director of the Institute for Drug Education and Research **Diana S-L. Chow**, Ph.D., who served as Wu's graduate advisor; NASA Chief Pharmacologist/Technical Manager and UHCOP alumna **Lakshmi Putcha**, Ph.D.; and others at UHCOP, NASA and private-sector contractor Wyle Laboratories.

Their mission has been to develop a pharmacokinetic model for an intranasal gel formulation of the drug scopolamine to provide more effective, predictable drug-delivery system for spaceflight crews. Astronauts previously have used an orally administered form of scopolamine, but the effectiveness of oral medications typically is limited due to poor bioavailability and other factors.

Space motion sickness is commonly experienced by astronauts

and often requires treatment with medications during the early flight days of space missions. With symptoms that can include nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, headaches, cold sweats and fatigue, space motion sickness is detrimental to the need for crews to operate at peak performance during their missions.

The pharmacokinetic model will be used to predict the relationship between plasma, saliva and urinary scopolamine concentrations. With a validated model, the bioavailability of the drug can be determined by saliva and/or urine data — instead of the more invasive blood sampling — in space and other remote environments.

Wu, who will continue to work with Chow as a post-doctoral researchers, received the same award in 2012 to present early results of the project. This year's award also marks the fourth consecutive year one of Chow's students has received an ACCP travel award.



Student Research

Pharm.D. candidates **Annilee Miller** and **Minoosh Sobhanian** and Clinical Professor **Kim K. Birtcher**, M.S., Pharm.D., BCPS, CLS, CDE, created a patient fact sheet (available at www.learnyourlipids.com) for the National Lipid Association's triglyceride education campaign as part of National Cholesterol Education Month in September 2014.

Pharmacology doctoral candidate **Odochi Ohia** was selected to attend the 2014 Summer Program in Neuroscience, Ethics and Survival (SPINES) at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. The program is jointly funded by the MBL and the National Institute of Mental Health.

Pharmacology doctoral student **Ankita Salvi** (advisor: Samina Salim, Ph.D., assistant professor) was invited for a poster presentation at the 5th World Congress on Targeting Mitochondria Oct. 29-31 in Berlin,

Germany. Her presentation was entitled "Effect of tempol on oxidative stress-induced mitochondrial dysfunction in HT22 cells."

Pharmaceutics doctoral student **Mahua Sarkar** (advisor: Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., professor) received an AstraZeneca Travelship Award to present her project, "Optimization of Liquid Formulation of Riluzole Using Central Composite Design," at the 2014 AAPS Annual Meeting & Exposition Nov. 2-6 in San Diego.

Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy doctoral student **Aylin Yucel** (advisor: Rajender Aparasu, Ph.D.) won the first place in the Patient Safety category at Kelsey Research Foundation's 15th Annual Health Services & Outcomes Research Conference Dec. 9 in Houston. Yucel's poster was entitled "Reduction in ER Visits of ADHD Patients: Effect of Long- and Short-Acting Stimulants."



Akasaka, Ohia and Patki Win Top Awards at PPS Symposium

Graduate students **Hironari Akasaka**, far left, and **Odochi Ohia**, far right, won the first-place poster and oral presentation awards, respectively, at the 2nd Annual UHCOP PPS Research Symposium. Akasaka presented "Identification of the two-phase mechanism of endogenous arachidonic acid regulating inflammatory prostaglandin E2 biosynthesis by targeting COX-2 and mPGES-1" and Ohia presented "Preventative effects of chronic treadmill exercise on cognitive and non-cognitive behaviors in P301S tau transgenic mice." **Gaurav Patki**, Ph.D. ('10), captured the post-doctoral category with his project, entitled "Tempol protects anxiogenic drug induced anxiety-like behavior in rats." The awards were announced by UH Graduate School Dean **Dmitri Litvinov**, Ph.D.



POLYMYXIN MISPERCEPTIONS

TAM EARNS SIDP AWARD FOR STUDY CHALLENGING PREVAILING VIEW OF DRUG

Professor **Vincent H. Tam**, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID), earned the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists' 2014 Pharmacotherapy Paper of the Year Award for his translational research challenging the perception of a "safer" choice between two "last resort" antimicrobial drugs used to treat multidrug resistant infections.

The award recognized Tam's paper entitled "In Vitro Assessment and Multicenter Cohort Study of Comparative Nephrotoxicity Rates Associated with Colistimethate versus Polymyxin B Therapy," which was published in the May 2014 issue of the *Journal of Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*.

The results of Tam's project call into question clinicians' use of colistin (also known as polymyxin E) vs. the use of the closely related polymyxin B, presumably due to a perceived benefit of a better safety profile with colistin.

"Colistin is more commonly used, but polymyxin B is pharmacokinetically more reliable and has other dosing advantages," Tam said. "The conversion of colistin from the pro-drug is erratic; in patients



with normal kidney function, more than 50 percent of the dose given would be eliminated before conversion, which means it's more difficult to achieve the desired concentration necessary to both inhibit control of the infection while also avoiding damage to the kidney."

Tam's team conducted both in vitro experiments using mammalian kidney cells exposed to each of the drugs as well as a retrospective analysis of 200 patients who were treated with one of the drugs at hospitals in Houston and New York City.

In both the in vitro experiments and the retrospective analysis, the team found no indication that polymyxin B was more toxic than colistin/polymyxin E.

"Our analysis indicated that the prevalence of nephrotoxicity was about 55 percent in colistimethate, compared to about 21 percent with Polymyxin B," Tam said. "Our results are generating inquiries from clinicians across the country who are evaluating the potential of adding polymyxin B into their drug formulary."

Bench Notes

Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., professor, received a \$70,174 grant from NAL Pharmaceuticals Inc. for the project entitled "Generic Albumin-bound Paclitaxel: Preparation, in vitro assessments and in vivo pharmacokinetic evaluations in rats."

Kevin W. Garey, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP, professor, received a \$127,656 grant from Cubist Pharmaceuticals Inc. for a project entitled "Humanistic outcomes associated with *Clostridium difficile* infection"; and a \$158,115 grant from Merck & Co. for a project entitled "Clinical outcomes associated with pre-emptive cytomegalovirus therapy in allogeneic hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation recipients."

Ke-He Ruan, Ph.D., M.D., professor, received a \$140,000 grant from the American Heart Association-Southwest Affiliate for his project entitled "PGE1/PGE2 receptor structure and function relationship."

Samina Salim, Ph.D., assistant professor, was an invited speaker at the 1st Global Conference of Biological Psychiatry in September 2014

in New Delhi, India. Her presentation was entitled "Why persistent psychological stress contributes to anxiety, depression and cognitive impairment."

Lindsay Schwarz, Ph.D., instructional assistant professor, received a \$24,897 UH Teaching Innovation Program Grant for her project, "Surveying Knowledge-based critical thinking skills: A logic and case-based self-assessment."

Vincent H. Tam, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID), professor, received a \$81,391 grant from Rempex Pharmaceuticals Inc. for his project entitled "Renal protective effects of minocycline."

Maria V. Tejada-Simon, Ph.D., M.Ed., associate professor, earned the Best Presentation certificate for her oral presentation, "Searching for new possibilities to target neuro-developmental disorders associated with cognitive disabilities" at the 3rd International Conference on Neurology and Therapeutics Sept. 8-10 in Philadelphia.

TROUBLED WATERS

CUNY PURSUES ENZYME INHIBITORS AS NOVEL DRUGS TO 'STARVE' PARASITE, STOP WATERBORNE INFECTIONS

With no vaccine available and current therapeutics largely ineffective, Assistant Professor **Greg Cuny**, Ph.D., is targeting a regulatory enzyme to kill a parasite responsible for highly contagious, primarily waterborne infections in the U.S. and around the world.

The parasite – a member of the *Cryptosporidium* species of protozoa – resides in the digestive tract of human and animal hosts, but its developmental stage “spores” called oocysts can survive for long periods of time in the soil, water, food and surfaces.

Cryptosporidiosis infections cause acute and chronic gastrointestinal pain and diarrhea; the resulting dehydration can be deadly for children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems. Such infections are seen not only as a public

health concern but its persistence in the environment, threat to vulnerable populations, and ease of dispersal also has generated security concerns as a potential biowarfare/bioterrorism agent.

“If one could access water-treatment facilities or the water supply, it would be easy to introduce, widely distribute and difficult to eradicate,” Cuny said. “The oocytes are resistant to chlorination and not all standard filtration systems are designed to block organisms like *Crypto*. Although not necessarily lethal in immuno-competent people, it could cause a lot of havoc and significant financial impact.”

Cryptosporidiosis outbreaks have been reported worldwide; in the U.S., a 1993 episode in Milwaukee – the largest documented waterborne disease outbreak in U.S. history – sickened up to 400,000 and at least partly contributed to the deaths of more than 100 people. Outside of the U.S., “*Crypto*” is of particular concern in developing nations where such factors as suboptimal water quality/treatment processes, general nutrition and health care can exacerbate an outbreak’s scope and severity.



photo by Kris Kehe

For several years, Cuny has been collaborating with colleagues at Brandeis University and Emory University to identify and characterize compounds that inhibit a key intracellular metabolic pathway in *Crypto*. Their approach centers on inhibiting an enzyme called Inosine-5'-monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH), which is a key regulator for cell growth and proliferation, to effectively “starve” the organism of the biochemical fuel necessary for survival.

Cuny received a \$697,000 National Institutes of Health grant in 2014 to continue in vitro and in vivo studies aimed at establishing the pharmacokinetic (PK) and acute toxicity properties of the compounds. In addition to his external collaborators, Cuny has recruited UHCOP Professor

Ming Hu, Ph.D., to assist with the PK and absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion (ADME) studies.

Cuny conceded success will require clearing some unusual hurdles.

“Developing a cell-infectivity model has been a challenge for the field,” he said. “Unlike bacteria, *Crypto* cannot be continuously cultured, which presents an issue in the development and evaluation of compounds. Normally, one would like to have a predictive cellular assay, which you have in the area of antifungals and antibacterials. In the case of *Crypto*, it has to go through that life cycle of passing through the animal host, which excretes the oocyte to then infect cells. The animal models also present some challenges, including the fact that rodents tend to clear the infection quite rapidly compared to humans.

“Overall, we hope our work leads to a pharmacophore model – a structural blueprint – of what is required for an IMPDH inhibitor, which increases the likelihood that a compound could advance to clinical trials.”



Above, Faizan Sattar, Scott Ondrasek, Heidi Day, Zachary Kirk, Jenny Choi, Erin McGregor, Allison Phuc Nguyen and Caroline Eppler celebrate the UH Chapter of APhA-ASP taking home the Student Advocacy Award at the 2014 TPA meeting in Austin.

MAKING THE CASE FOR PHARMACY

UH APhA-ASP CHAPTER'S ADVOCACY FOR PROFESSION DRAWS AWARD FROM TEXAS PHARMACY ASSOCIATION

The continued involvement, dedication and leadership to pharmacy advocacy in Texas by the UH Chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists garnered the Student Advocacy Award from the Texas Pharmacy Association at the 2014 TPA Conference & Expo.

Among the UH chapter's activities of note were:

- Organizing and hosting a town hall meeting on the "Affordable Care Act" at the UH campus, with speakers from the Texas House of Representatives, the U.S. House of Representatives, the City of Houston's Department of Health and Human Services, the Texas Pharmacy Association and the Texas PharmPAC;
- Meeting with elected officials and their staff members in Austin and Washington, D.C., as part of the APhA Summer Leadership Institute and the TPA Spring Leadership Symposium;
- Position outreach to state and federal elected officials via letters, emails and phone calls on a variety of pharmacy and healthcare issues;
- Hosting several chapter meetings with leading pharmacy advocates from across Texas, such as alumni Bruce Biundo, Carole Hardin-Oliver, Charles L. "Chuck" Hopson and Ed Horton, as well as Dennis Song and David Spence; and
- Receiving consecutive City of Houston Mayor's Proclamations recognizing American Pharmacists Month.

With chapter leaders deputized as county voter registrars, the chapter also encouraged voter registration at events on the UH campus and through the Greater Houston area.

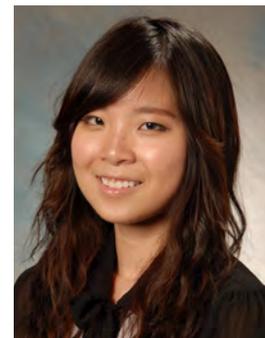
The winner was selected by the TPA Student Policy and Advocacy Awards Committee, which is made up of one student director from each school of pharmacy in the state.

STUDENTS OF DISTINCTION

STUDENTS EARN HONORS AT LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICE

NCPA OUTSTANDING STUDENT MEMBER

Pharm.D. student **Allison Phuc Nguyen** secured a rare “double” at the National Community Pharmacists Association’s 116th Annual Convention and Trade Exposition Oct. 16-22 in Austin. Not only was Nguyen honored among the 2014 NCPA Outstanding Student Member of the Year Award recipients at the national meeting, but she also secured a 2014 NCPA Foundation and Partners in Pharmacy Scholarship. Nguyen took an active role in the student organizations, especially organizing several health fairs across the Houston area during her term as chair of the UH NCPA chapter’s Community Outreach & Special Events committee. Nguyen also has been heavily involved in pharmacy advocacy, including meeting with state representatives and helping organize legislative workshops.



APHA-ASP REGION 6 STUDENT RECOGNITION

Pharm.D. student **Bianca Romero**’s commitment to patient care and supporting fellow members of the UH Chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) earned her the respect and admiration of her peers at the APhA-ASP Region 6 Midyear Regional Meeting Oct. 17-19 in Austin. A third-year pharmacy student from Granbury, Texas, Romero was one of several APhA-ASP members in Region 6 to be nominated by their respective college chapters for the Student Recognition Certificate. For the past two years, Romero has served in leadership roles – as a Junior Chair in 2013-14 and as the Senior Chair for this year – organizing and coordinating fellow students at community events as part of the UH chapter’s Operation Immunization activities.

GCSHP’S OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

Pharm.D. candidate **Zachary Kirk** was recognized by the Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists as the 2013-14 Outstanding Student. Kirk has been active in a variety of leadership positions in health-systems pharmacy organizations throughout his Pharm.D. education at UHCOP. He served as president-elect and president of the UH Society of Health-System Pharmacists, as a UH student representative on both the GCSHP Board of Directors and the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists Student Section Executive Committee. Kirk also received the GCSHP Leadership Scholarship through the TSHP Research & Education Foundation.



ACCP CLINICAL CHALLENGE

The team of Pharm.D. candidates **Dhara Bhakta**, **Tara Molina** and **Minoosh Sobhanian** advanced past all other Texas colleges participating in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s 2014 Clinical Pharmacy Challenge. The UHCOP team was among the 16 teams that progressed from Round 1 into Round 4 of the competition from an initial field of more than 100 teams nationwide.

BY THE NUMBERS



Student Outreach Fall 2014

photos by Kris Kehe, Chip Lambert and Alonso Munoz

3,531

Screenings



683

Immunizations



1,747

Patient Education



48

Events





SNPHA ON RANKINGS ROLL

UH MAINTAINS PLACE AMONG NATION'S TOP CHAPTERS; 2 ELECTED TO NATIONAL SEATS FOR 4TH STRAIGHT YEAR

The Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) UH Chapter was recognized among the top chapters in the U.S., while two individual members secured national and regional leadership positions at the 2014 SNPhA National Meeting.

The UH chapter was among the finalists for the Rite Aid/SNPhA Chapter Excellence Award in the Large Chapter category (marking the fourth time in the past five years the chapter has been among the top three contenders for the award).

The UH chapter's 2013-14 activities over the prior academic year included members providing wellness screenings, immunizations and educational outreach at health fairs throughout the Greater Houston area in partnership with nonprofit social service organizations, community pharmacies, other academic healthcare institutions and even a local elementary school.

The chapter also was recognized as First Runner-up in the Rite Aid Interprofessional Health Fair competition, which involved student-created videos showcasing collaborative health-related outreach and education activities and events. The UH submission can be viewed on YouTube here: tinyurl.com/snpha-ihf-comp14.

The meeting also saw Pharm.D. candidate **Patrick Maranon**

and Pharm.D. student **Rene Banzuelo** elected to serve as the National Diabetes Chair and Region IV Facilitator, respectively, on the 2014-15 SNPhA national board. It's the fourth consecutive year in which two UHCOP students have served at the national level in SNPhA.



UHCOP students Patrick Maranon and Rene Banzuelo were appointed to serve as the National Diabetes Chair and Region IV Facilitator, respectively, on the 2014-15 SNPhA national board.





photo by Majed Photography

ACCP HONORS GIACOMINI FOR PUSHING BOUNDARIES OF KNOWLEDGE IN STUDY OF TRANSPORTER GENOMICS

UH College of Pharmacy alumna **Kathleen M. Giacomini, Ph.D., B.S. ('74)**, was honored with the 2014 Distinguished Investigator Award by the American College of Clinical Pharmacology, which noted she “represents the best of the translational, laboratory-based approach to the discipline of clinical pharmacology.”

Giacomini is a professor and vice chair in the Department of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), as well as co-director of the Center of Excellence in Regulatory Sciences and Innovation, a Food and Drug Administration-funded collaborative established in 2014 between UCSF and Stanford University. Giacomini also serves as the principal investigator on the NIH Pharmacogenomics Research Network’s Pharmacogenomics Membrane Transporters Project that has resulted in \$45 million in federal funding over since 2000.

Giacomini relocated from Colorado to Houston when her husband was accepted into Baylor College of Medicine, a move that would profoundly change her life and career.

“When I transferred to UH, I was on track to work in community pharmacy, but the interaction with the faculty was life-changing because the outstanding teaching and learning environment got me so engaged in the pharmaceuticals and the pharmacology behind the medications,” she said. “Pharmacist-scientists have made a huge impact on the field of pharmacogenomics, and I’ve been fortunate to work with some true pioneers.”

After graduating from UH, Giacomini earned a Ph.D. in pharmaceuticals from the State University of New York at Buffalo, then completed postdoctoral research at the Stanford University School of Medicine before joining UCSF.

Giacomini is recognized as a leader in the field of pharmacogenomics, specifically in the area of membrane transporter genomics and the role of these proteins in drug targeting, disposition and response. A major focus of her work is identifying genetic variation in transporter genes and understanding how those differences can alter drug response.

Over the course of her career, Giacomini has helped discover about 50 coding and more than 100 promoter region variants in transporters that alter pharmacological effects in diverse populations. She is applying these findings to investigate the interactions between gene variants and specific drugs, particularly the antidiabetic drug Metformin.

With more than 200 publications and continuous NIH funding since 1979, Giacomini has collected an array of honors from such organizations as the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences; American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy; American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists; American College of Clinical Pharmacology; the International Pharmaceutical Federation; the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics; and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, to name a few.

Alumni Mailbox

1970s

Elvia A. Saenz, R.Ph. (B.S. '74), and husband **Jesus A. Saenz, R.Ph.**, owners of seven pharmacies in the Rio Grande Valley cities of Edinburg, Mission, McAllen and Penitas, were recognized as the 2014 Pharmacists of the Year by the RGV Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

1990s

Jennifer (Jenny) Downing Yoakum, R.Ph. (B.S. '97), pharmacist-in-charge at Med Shop Total Care Pharmacy in Longview, Texas, has been elected President-elect of the Alliance of Independent Pharmacists of Texas.

Prasad Abraham, Pharm.D. ('98), BCPS, critical care specialist at Grady Health System in Atlanta, was elected Fellow of the Society of Critical Care Medicine at the 44th Annual Critical Care Congress in January 2015. Abraham is pictured at right with his wife, Mary, at the induction ceremony in January.



2000s

Ola Adejuwon, Pharm.D. ('07), completed the 2014 ASHP Research & Education Foundation Critical Care Traineeship and passed her BCPS and BCNSP certifications.

Jon Arends, Pharm.D. ('08), AAHIVP, has been promoted to Director of Electronic Prescribing for Walgreens in Deerfield, Ill.

Andrew Laegeler, Pharm.D. ('08), M.S., pharmacy informatics operations manager at Harris Health System, was selected to participate in the 2014 Pharmacy Leadership Academy, a program of the ASHP Foundation's Center for Health-System Pharmacy Leadership.

Lina Saadat, Pharm.D. ('01), FASCP, has joined Cambridge, Mass.-based Genzyme Pharmaceuticals as a medical science liaison.

Ravi Yadav, M.S. PharmAd ('09), has joined business process solutions company EXL as a manager in New York.

2010s

Isha Dhande, Ph.D. PCOL ('14), has joined The University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston as a post-doctoral fellow.

Vi Doan, Pharm.D. ('12), has joined MD Anderson Cancer Center as a Stem Cell Transplant clinical pharmacy specialist after completing PGY1 and PGY2 oncology residencies at the institution.

Brian Fase, Pharm.D., M.S. ('11), BCPS, joined the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as associate director of the Dallas Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy.

Shalak Gunjal, M.S. ('14) has joined Precision Health Economics in Austin, Texas, as an associate research scientist.

Bamrom Jonathan, Pharm.D. ('02), has been promoted to vice president of Pharmacy Operations at Universal American.

Hemalkumar Mehta, Ph.D. PHOP ('14), M.S. PharmAd ('10), has joined The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston as an assistant professor.

Kyle Munch, Pharm.D., M.S. ('14), has joined Kingwood Medical Center in Kingwood, Texas, as pharmacy operations manager.

Tanay Samant, Ph.D. PCEU ('14), has joined the University of Florida as a post-doctoral fellow.

Vaidehi Thanawala, Ph.D. PCOL ('14), has joined The University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston as a post-doctoral fellow.

Dominic Vu, Pharm.D. ('11), and wife, Christine Vu, welcomed their second child, Christopher, in November 2014. Dominic recently joined Memorial Hermann Health Solutions in Houston as pharmacy operations manager.

Mo Yang, Ph.D. PHOP ('13), M.S. PharmAd ('10), has joined ARIAD Pharmaceuticals Inc. in Irvine, Calif., as Senior HEOR Analyst.



SECOND CHILD, GCSHP AWARD FOR VARKEY

It was a very good year for **Alex C. Varkey, Pharm.D. ('05), M.S.**, pharmacy operations manager at Houston Methodist Hospital, director of the Houston Methodist PGY1-PGY2 pharmacy administration residency program and UHCOP Dean's Advisory Council member. In June 2014, Alex and wife **Divya Varkey, Pharm.D., M.S.**, pharmacy operations manager at CHI St. Luke's Health-Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, welcomed their second child, Aysha Susan Varkey. In August 2014, Alex was named Outstanding Pharmacist by the Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists.



TRIO TOPS IN TEXAS

ALUMNI DRAW
HIGHEST HONORS
FROM TPA PEERS



photo by Nick de la Torre/courtesy of Emerus

May J. Woo, NASPA-APhA Bowl of Hygeia

In recognition of her long-standing and wide-ranging service to the profession, pharmacy education and her patients and communities near and far, **May J. Woo**, R.Ph. (B.S. '91) was awarded the 2014 Bowl of Hygeia by the Texas Pharmacy Association.

Considered one of the profession's most prestigious awards, the Bowl of Hygeia recognizes a pharmacist who has excelled beyond their standard job duties to pay back their communities through exceptional public service. It is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association, the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations and the APhA Foundation, with support from Boehringer Ingelheim.

A former faculty member/experiential director at the college, Woo currently serves as Houston area director of pharmacy for Emerus Emergency Hospital. She was named among the college's "50 Outstanding Alumni" in 1997 and recipient of the UHCOP Dean's Special Recognition Award in 1994. Woo also has been honored as the "Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year" by the Houston Area Pharmacy Association (HAPA) in 1996 and TPA's "40 under Forty Pharmacists" in 2005.

Her leadership activities include serving as national president-elect/president of the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership

Society; president-elect/president and director of HAPA; and as a director/trustee of both TPA and the Texas Pharmacy Foundation. Woo also has served on dozens of committees, task forces and councils at the local, state and national level for nearly 30 years, including as a Texas delegate to APhA and chair/chair-elect of the TPA House of Delegates.

A member of both the college's Mading Society and the Dean's Advisory Council, Woo frequently serves as volunteer preceptor for UHCOP student organizations as well as in various capacities for a range of nonprofit health, religious and academic organizations outside of UH.

"My challenge to the students and young pharmacists is to strive to be 'servant leaders': Serve your patients and communities, serve and support your colleges, serve the profession," Woo said.

In nominating Woo, then-TPA President Carole Hardin-Oliver and Immediate Past President Carol Reagan, Pharm.D., noted, "Her contributions to the world outside of pharmacy speak volumes for her character. As pharmacists, we take an oath to take care of our patients. May takes that commitment seriously and takes care of people who don't even know she's a pharmacist."



Carole Hardin-Oliver, Pharmacist of the Year

Walgreens' Carole Hardin-Oliver was named TPA's 2014 Pharmacist of the Year, an honor which "recognizes a pharmacist who possesses a record of unquestionable integrity, outstanding service to the local or state association and a personal record of exemplary service to the pharmacy community."

A long-time proponent of expanding pharmacy's role in patient care, Hardin-Oliver is a Houston-area pharmacy district manager over more than 30 pharmacies serving the Humble/Kingwood/far Northeast Houston communities.

Now serving as Immediate Past President of TPA, Hardin-Oliver was credited for her tireless efforts over the past two years as TPA president-elect and president as well as her prior service to TPA and TPF (including terms as a director/trustee, chair of the Academy of Chain Pharmacists, and as a member of numerous TPA committees), past president of the Lake Houston Area Pharmacy Association, and board member of HAPA and the UH Pharmacy Alumni Association.

Her most recent legislative advocacy and service activities include expanding Walgreens support of UHCOP student-run health fairs/immunization events, starting a video blog documenting TPA outreach to member chapters across the state, and spotlighting the extraordinary members of the profession.

"Carole's steadfast dedication, strength of vision and diligence to the expansion of the profession in and out of TPA distinguishes her excellence amongst her peers in the field," observed Charlotte Weller, R.Ph., Hardin-Oliver's successor. "Additionally, her passion for public service is also both a distinguished achievement and serves to bolster the vision of TPA to advance the field of pharmacy in the state. For these reasons, I feel that there is no better candidate for Pharmacist of the Year at this time."

F. Paul Lott, Robert L. Hayes Outstanding Consultant Pharmacist

F. Paul Lott, R.Ph., FASCP, was honored as the Robert L. Hayes Outstanding Consultant Pharmacist for the second time in his career at the 2014 Texas Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting & Expo.

The award “recognizes an individual who has demonstrated excellence in consultant pharmacy practice.” Owner/President of the Sugar Land, Texas-based LLW Consulting Inc., Lott has been working in institutional and long-term care pharmacy, including dispensing, consulting and local, regional and national management responsibilities, for more than 30 years.

“When I received the award for the first time over 20 years ago, I thought to myself, ‘Why the heck am I getting this award?’ because I’d only been in business a few years,” Lott said. “When they told me I was going to be honored with the award again, I thought, ‘OK, I feel comfortable with my accomplishments and contributions to my clients and their patients, to accept this recognition.”

A Fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, Lott recently served as the inaugural president of the the ASCP’s Texas Chapter. His other service activities include terms as president of the Houston Area Pharmacy Association, a member of the Texas Pharmacy Association Board of Directors, chair of TPA’s Academy of Consultant Pharmacists, and a trustee of the TPA Foundation. A member of the UHCOP Dean’s Advisory Council, Lott also has served as president of the UH Pharmacy Alumni Association. He is a longtime supporter/sponsor of the scholarship golf tournament for UHCOP students, member of the Cougar Executives Organization, Cougars football fan and student preceptor.

Lott and his wife and fellow UHCOP alum, Angela Andries-Lott, R.Ph., GCP, corporate pharmacy manager at Healix, are members of the UHCOP Mading Society and have established an endowed scholarship for UH Pharm.D. students. In 1998, the Lotts were jointly recognized with the college’s “Distinguished Alumnus Award.”



A professional portrait of Rusol Karralli, Pharm.D., with her arms crossed, wearing a dark blazer and a patterned scarf. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a building.

DASHBOARD LIGHTS UP CAREER PATH FOR KARRALLI

photo by Matt White

Although two-time UHCOP alumna Rusol Karralli, Pharm.D. ('12), M.S. ('14), always had her sights set on the intersection of pharmacy, policy, and business administration, it was the glow from a “340B dashboard” which illuminated her career path.

Karralli’s Pharm.D. education included unique experiential rotations with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as well as Cardinal Health, which provided her exposure to pharmaceutical supply chain management. Following graduation, she pursued the concurrent UHCOP M.S./Memorial Hermann Health System PGY1-PGY2 health-system pharmacy administration residency program.

During the residency, she had an active role in the 340B program management for seven Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) entities in the system as well as assisting in the preparation and completion of a HRSA audit at one of the sites. Karralli also spent a month in Washington, D.C., at 340B Health (formerly Safety Net Hospitals for Pharmaceutical Access), a membership organization of more than 1,000 U.S. public and private nonprofit hospitals and health systems participating in the 340B drug pricing program. Created in 1992, the federal 340B program allows qualified healthcare organizations such as safety net hospitals and federally qualified health centers to purchase covered outpatient drugs at reduced prices for their patients.

Among the projects Karralli tackled during the two-year program was Texas’ participation in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative survey and the development of a multi-site pharmacy PGY1 residency program, which is a collaborative resource-sharing model that increased the number of residency positions within Memorial Hermann system. Yet, it was her master’s project – the design of a 340B metrics dashboard – that allowed her skills, talents and passion to shine through.

The dashboard is a tool used to evaluate four domains – cost

savings, the program maintenance costs, compliance and the community benefit – associated with an individual hospital’s utilization of the 340B program.

“Given the complex intricacies of 340B implementation, one of the challenges is the need for metrics on how the program is being utilized, the implications of the program on an institution and its patients, and maintenance of program integrity,” said Karralli, who was honored with the TSHP Research & Education Foundation’s Leo F. and Ann Godley Residency Fellowship Award in 2014. “The 340B program is not a pharmacy program, but an entire organization’s responsibility. It is important to have adequate resources in place to support program compliance and measurement of performance. Knowing the effectiveness of one’s 340B program implementation is instrumental in continuous program integrity.

“My goal was to capture metrics that allow the macro assessment of program effectiveness at a hospital-centric level—this included financial, charity care and compliance information.”

Her research gathering and presentations at ASHP, TSHP and other venues brought her into contact with Irving, Texas-based Apexus LLC, which is the exclusive prime vendor of the 340B Drug Pricing Program under contract by the federal government. After completing the M.S./residency program, Karralli joined Apexus as Manager of 340B Education and Compliance Support.

“I’m in a field-based role providing education and compliance support to all 340B program stakeholders across the country, ranging from health care organizations, manufacturers, distributors, consultants, etc.,” she said. “It is essential that stakeholders utilize validated resources so that program integrity can be maintained in the marketplace. It is rewarding to have a role in providing stakeholders with compliant solutions as they navigate through the program.”

Father of the Beta Blockers

Invision Establishes Fund for PPS Student Travel in Memory of Sir James

Physician, researcher, educator, Royal Society fellow, knight, Nobel Laureate. Not a bad résumé for a lad from the coal fields of Scotland whose primary education was by his own admission largely marked by “daydreaming.”

From his humble academic beginnings, Sir James W. Black, M.D., FRS, would go on to developing some of the most important advancements of the 20th century in the fields of cardiovascular science and pharmacology: the beta-blocker propranolol for the treatment of angina, hypertension and other cardiovascular disorders and cimetidine for peptic ulcers.

In recognition of Black’s remarkable career and accomplishments spanning more than 50 years, the Australia-based biotechnology company Invision Ltd. has established an endowed memorial fund in Sir James’ name to support UHCOP pharmacology and pharmaceuticals graduate students’ travel to present their research at international conferences.

“Honoring Sir James Black through this scholarship makes perfect sense for Invision Ltd, reflecting both Dr. Black’s seminal contributions and his passion for mentoring and enabling young scientists,” said Dr. Mitchell Glass, M.D., executive vice president of Research & Development and chief medical officer of Invision. “James Black’s career focused on the practical applications of receptor theory, leading to drugs that affect the beta receptor, and paving the way for beta blockers which save millions of lives per year.

“Sir James Whyte Black was always intrigued by apparently contradictory discoveries, such as finding that blocking a single receptor could effectively reduce blood pressure, a system under complex control.”

Among the therapeutics in the Invision pipeline is INV102 (nadalol), which is currently in clinical trials for the treatment of mild, but chronic, asthma as well as being proposed for use in smoking cessation and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Nadalol was patented for use in asthma by UHCOP Professor Richard A. Bond, Ph.D. (’88), B.S. (’83), a longtime friend and



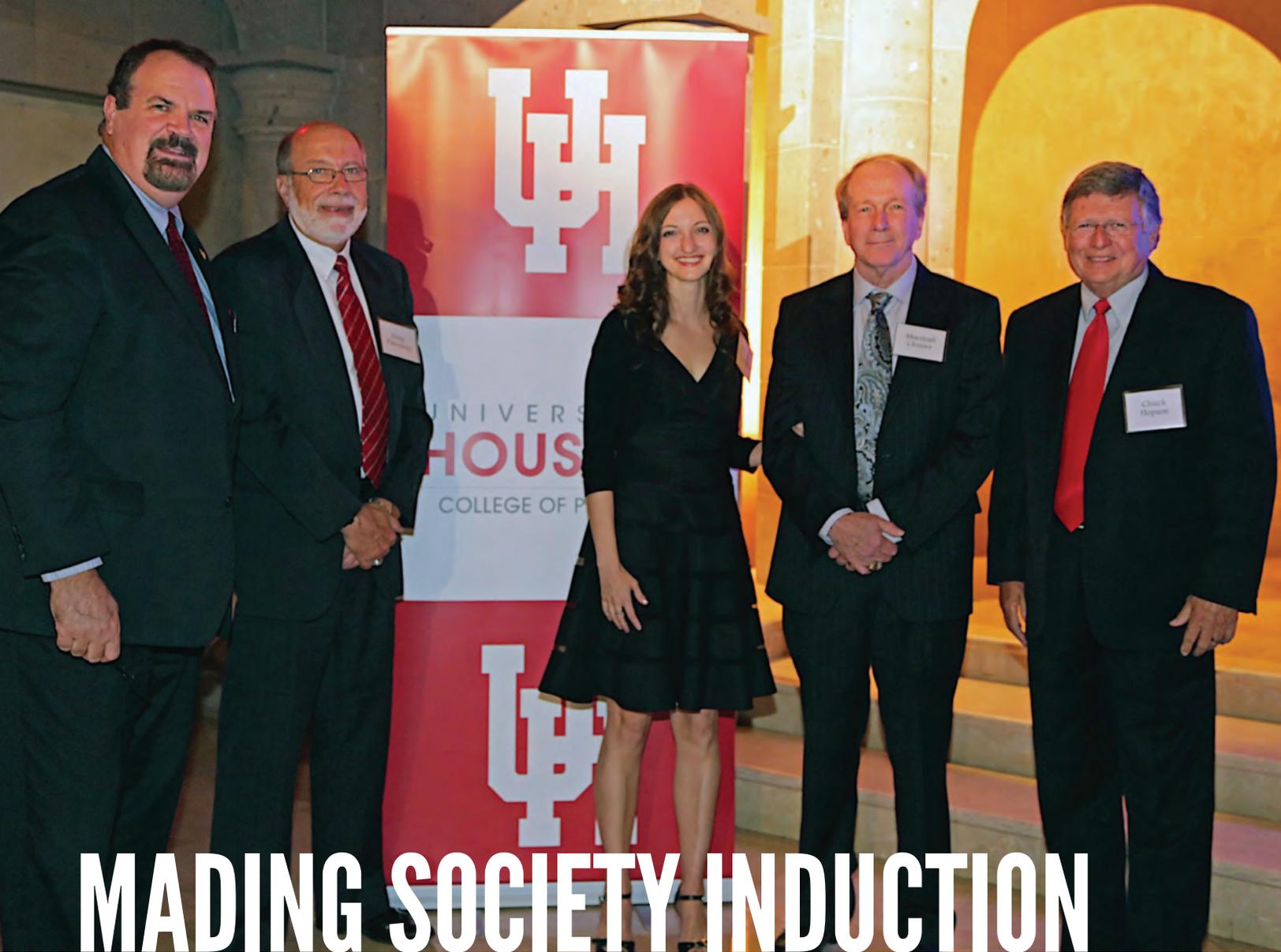
mentee of Sir James. With beta-blockers contraindicated for asthma (much like beta blockers were once contraindicated for congestive heart failure), Bond said Black’s work was a pivotal source of inspiration for investigating the potential benefits of a drug currently held to be “*pharma non grata*.”

Sir James held several academic positions during his career, including chancellor of Scotland’s University of Dundee, but his most important discoveries were made while in the pharmaceutical industry. Although his discoveries would become the best-selling prescription drugs of their time, Black himself gained little in the way of direct financial gain.

Sir James was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1976, knighted in 1981, awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (shared with Americans George H. Hitchings and Gertrude B. Elion) in 1988 and inducted into the Order of Merit by Queen Elizabeth II in 2000. The University of Dundee also founded the Sir James Black Centre, an interdisciplinary research focused on cancer, diabetes and tropical diseases, in his honor.

Sir James focused much of his energy on mentoring the next generation of scientists, and he recognized the unique value of scientific meetings as a means for sharing ideas freed from the constraints of published peer-review research, Glass said.

“Enabling highly qualified scientists early in their research careers to engage and enjoy their peers and mentors is a fitting tribute to this unique individual and his intellectual legacy,” Glass said.



MADING SOCIETY INDUCTION

5 WELCOMED INTO COLLEGE SOCIETY OF BENEFACTORS

UH College of Pharmacy Dean F. Lamar Pritchard announced the induction of five new members into the college's Mading Society of benefactors during the society's 2014 Dinner & Induction in October.

"Without the support of our alumni, faculty and staff as well as our corporate and foundation partners, the college would not be able to fulfill its mission to provide a first-class education to the next generation of pharmacists and researchers and maintain the reputation that our alumni, faculty, students and preceptors have worked so hard to establish," Pritchard said.

The 2014 inductees were:

- **Edward Marshall Clouser**, R.Ph. ('66), community pharmacist with Brookshire Brothers Pharmacy in Madisonville and Buffalo, Texas;
- The Honorable **Charles L. "Chuck" Hopson**, R.Ph. ('65), former Texas State Representative for District 11, UHCOP Dean's Advisory Council member, and director of Pharmacy Policy for Superior HealthPlan;
- **Douglas C. Eikenburg**, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences at UHCOP;
- **Katherine Clouser Hunt**, Pharm.D. ('12), executive team leader pharmacist at Target Pharmacy in League City and the society's youngest inductee; and
- **Invision Limited**, an Australia-based pharmaceutical drug development company focusing on therapeutics for inflammatory diseases.

The Mading Society was established in 1997 to recognize individual donors who have made college gifts or bequests of \$10,000 or more. In 1998, membership was extended to corporations and foundations that contribute \$25,000 or more in cumulative gifts.

The society is named in memory of Cora and Webb Mading, the college's first major benefactors. Upon Mr. Mading's death in 1953, the college was bequeathed \$20,000 for a scholarship endowment that has grown to \$100,000 in value.

Clouser



Eikenburg



Hopson



Clouser Hunt



Save the Date: Friday, Oct. 16
2015 Mading Society Induction



Bell Tower Beauty Greet Mading Members

Among the Mading Society members enjoying the picturesque atmosphere at the Houston's Bell Tower on 34th Street were, above from left, Pat Downing ('70) and Jan Downing; R. Louis Rumsey ('79), May J. Woo ('91) and Alton Kanak ('69); John J. Lovoi Jr. ('62) and Paula Lovoi; and, below, Bill Morgan ('63) and Margie Morgan; and Catherine Fischer Neill ('79), May K. Gee and John P. Gee ('71).





CALLED TO SERVE

CHUCK ‘THE PHARMACIST’ HOPSON STRIVES TO INSPIRE PUBLIC SERVICE BEYOND PROFESSION

The Honorable Charles L. “Chuck” Hopson, R.Ph., is the first to admit that he never imagined he would end up in the Texas Legislature, much less becoming an independent community pharmacist and business owner, but he hopes future generations of pharmacists become inspired as he was to serve their profession and patients beyond the counter.

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Texas, Hopson graduated from UH College of Pharmacy in 1965 and went to work at then-Hermann Hospital. After nine years in hospital pharmacy, Hopson said he was “coaxed” into becoming an independent community pharmacist in 1973.

“One day I was in May Drug having lunch and the owner, James A. May, pulled me aside and said he wanted to sell his pharmacy to someone,” Hopson said. “When I asked if you could make money with it, he showed me his income statement, and that got my attention. I said that I didn’t have any money to buy a pharmacy, and he said he’d finance it. I told him that I didn’t have any money for a down payment, he said I didn’t need one. Then, I told him ‘I think you just sold your pharmacy.’”

Hopson went on to operate May Drug for nearly 40 years (longer, in fact, than the pharmacy’s namesake), which provided not only for his family – wife, Billie, three children and six grandchildren – but also allowed him to both serve his community and represent his profession in other ways.

In addition to terms as president of the Central East Texas Pharmacy Association and the then-Texas Society of Hospital Pharmacists, Hopson served on the Jacksonville City Council, Jacksonville School Board and the governing boards of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Austin Bank, Nan Travis Hospital Foundation and Lon Morris College. Those leadership experiences propelled Hopson to seek higher office, with his election to the Texas House of Representatives in 2001.

During his tenure in the Texas Legislature, Hopson became known as “The Pharmacist” and his fellow lawmakers routinely sought his advice on the impact of laws and regulations concerning pharmacy issues.

“For 12 years, there weren’t any bills about pharmacy that I didn’t know about or couldn’t talk about,” said Hopson, who

now serves as director of Pharmacy Policy for managed health care company Superior Health Plan whose affiliated Superior HealthPlan Network manages the STAR health program statewide. “We didn’t always have success in pushing through bills on behalf of pharmacy, but I think we managed to defeat a lot of bills that would have hurt pharmacy.

“Politics, like pharmacy, is about relationships. In pharmacy, you build relationships with your patients, the prescribers, your wholesalers and distributors, your fellow pharmacists in the associations, and others. In politics, you build relationships with your constituents, fellow legislators, state employees and agency leaders, members of the business community and the like.”

In recognition of his commitment to building bridges, Hopson was named “Businessman of the Year” and “Citizen of the Year” by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, “Best Elected Official” by readers of his hometown newspaper and a “Fighter of Free Enterprise” by the Texas Association of Business.

A member of the UHCOP Dean’s Advisory Council, Hopson is a past recipient of the college’s Distinguished Alumnus Award and the Meritorious Achievement Award as well as serving as the Phi Lambda Sigma James T. McCarty Leadership Lecturer last spring.

With the recent creation of The Honorable Charles L. “Chuck” Hopson Scholarship Endowment at the college, Hopson said he hopes to not only assist UH students in completing their pharmacy education but also encourage them to serve their community in other capacities.

“I’d like to see more people get interested in politics because decisions are being made every day that affect our profession, schools, children, grandchildren and so many other aspects of our lives,” Hopson said. “I sincerely hope there are some in the next generation of pharmacists who recognize that people in Austin really do want to help and, if you work hard, you *can* make a difference for pharmacy and for Texas.

“It’s a big sacrifice, but if you’re fortunate enough to have a supportive family like I do, it’s one of the greatest experiences one can have: To serve not only your patients, but the people of an entire state.”

Politics, like pharmacy, is about relationships.

— Charles L. “Chuck” Hopson, R.Ph.

College Welcomes Perkins to Development Office

UH College of Pharmacy Dean F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D., recently welcomed Matt Perkins, MPA, as the college's Director of Advancement.

Before joining UH, Matt served as the major gifts officer for the Regional One Health hospital system in Memphis, Tenn. In his role at Regional One, Perkins successfully raised more than \$3 million for the expansion of the hospital's burn center. He also led numerous fundraising efforts for the neonatal intensive care unit, trauma center and education for first responders.

Perkins earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Arkansas and a master's degree in public administration from Norwich University. His wife, Meredith, is a native Houstonian. They enjoy traveling, and are both devoted Arkansas Razorback fans (although they're quickly becoming Cougar fans, too).

"I believe my previous experience in healthcare philanthropy will allow me to help the College of Pharmacy reach the goals that the leadership has laid out," Perkins said. "I was attracted to the University of Houston and the College of Pharmacy after learning about all of the successes they have achieved in recent years. It is very exciting to be on a team that is so dedicated and focused on the goals they have set out to accomplish."



PERKINS

Scholarships 2014-15 Academic Year

Albertsons Sav-on/Albertsons – Ciara Will

Alton and Sandra Kanak Endowed Scholarship – Omaid Hernandez-Ray

Amgen Foundation – Lang Nguyen

Anant Ram Gupta Presidential Endowed Scholarship – Jensen Idicula

Andrea L. Smesny Scholarship Endowment – Lillian Ooi

Andries-Lott Scholarship Endowment – Anh Nguyen and Stuart Tran

Bexar County Pharmacy Association Presidential Excellence Scholarship – Katherine Williams

Brookshire Brothers Pharmacy Endowed Scholarship – John Herman

Bruce Biundo, R.Ph., and Ann Biundo Endowed Scholarship – Tam Nguyen, Stefanie Underwood and Katherine Williams

Buckley Endowed Scholarship – Caroline Eppler

Cardinal Health Scholarship – John Herman

Celso and Matiana Cuellar Presidential Endowed Scholarship – Elizabeth Sulaica

Chiu Moon Chan Memorial Scholarship – Yuanli Li

Cora and Webb Mading Scholarship Endowment – Sunny Bhakta, Erin Chartier, Sherin Korah, Paige Mata, Robert Miller, Michelle Nguyen, Hiva Pourarsalan and Minoosh Sobhanian

CVS/Caremark Scholarship – Gia Castorina, Anthony Gall, Yoomi Kim and Elisabeth Sulaica

CVS/Caremark Scholarship Endowment – Amanda Martin

Dallas Area Pharmacy Association Scholarship – Maggie Chu

Dana S. Fitzsimmons Pharmacy Scholarship & Cultural Award Endowment – Diem Le

Dean's Scholarship Endowment – Lydia Matar and Sherien Zaid

Den Benny Chin and May Kim Chin Endowed Scholarship – Jonathan Merrill

Diana Jo Passarelli-Hurtado Presidential Endowed Scholarship – Ryan May Doyle Endowed Scholarship – Fenilkumar Patel and Allyson Thrall

Dr. Bhagavan Jandhyala Endowment – Hesong Liu and Ankita Salvi

Dr. Diana Chow Graduate Fellowship Endowment in Pharmaceuticals – Henrietta Abodakpi, Sumit Basu, Zhiyi Cui and Shufan Ge

Dr. James G. Hesbrook and Elena Vale Hesbrook Endowed Scholarship – Monica Lee

Dr. M. George and Cecilia Webber Scholarship Endowment – Gia Castorina, Stephen Hickerson and Robert Miller

Elena, Veronica and Johnny Guerra Scholarship Endowment – Alan Gracia

Frank Bove Scholarship Endowment Fund – Amanda Martin

Gary K. and Linda B. Rice Scholarship Endowment – Minoosh Sobhanian

Gupta Academic Award Endowment – Yong Ma and Morgan Mai

Harold and Doris Pieratt Endowed Scholarship – Tai Ly

Henry and Charlene McClain Endowed Scholarship – Zachary Roberman

Henry G. Lehrmann & J. W. Kolbe Scholarship Endowment – Katelyn Hobaugh

Henry Wertheimer Memorial Scholarship Endowment – Morgan Payne

Houston Area Pharmacy Association Endowed Scholarship – Zachary Kirk

James and Theresa Fischer Scholarship Endowment – Patrick Maranon, Rijo Santhosh and Sonal Singh

John J. & Paula Lovoi Endowed Scholarship – Heidi Day

John P. and May Gee Scholarship Endowment – Scarlett Najera, Daniel Nguyen and Amber Strickland

Johnnie Fadal, Jr. Endowed Scholarship – Nghi Bui

Joseph P. Buckley Scholarship Endowment – Amber Strickland and Zachary Kirk

Judge Kenton Lloyd Smith Pharmacy Ethics Scholarship Endowment – Caroline Eppler

Kai-King Chow & Cheng-Yok Chow Endowment – Henrietta Abodakpi

Kappa Psi Foundation Scholarship – Ally Thrall

Kelsey-Seybold Scholarship Endowment – Katelyn Hobaugh

Kenneth and Patty Korthauer Endowed Scholarship – Sarah Jung

Kmart Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment for Community Excellence – Katherine Williams

Kroger Company Scholarship Endowment – Nghi Bui and Stuart Tran

Leland F. Zatopek Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund – Katelyn Hobaugh, Osagie Ohonba, Zachary Roberman and Amber Strickland

Golf Sponsors, Players Sink \$8,200 for Students

UH College of Pharmacy alumni and friends raised \$8,200 in Pharm.D. student support from the 2014 Pharmacy Golf Classic tournament at Wildcat Golf Club.

Tournament sponsors included:

- Gold – Jeff Harrison ('05) and Jennifer Harrison ('05);
- Silver – Brookshire Brothers Food & Pharmacy, McGladrey LLP & Chi-Ngo Chen ('02), and Walgreens;
- Red & White – Fred Emmite ('77), Donald Lackey ('81), Kip Lackey & Pitney Bowes Foundation, Javier Manzano ('01), and Shara Zatopek ('74);
- Cougar – Robert Dean Brown ('85), Melchor Garza ('92), and David Wallace ('98) and Sarah Lake-Wallace ('00).

Gifts-in-kind were provided by Brix Bar and Grill, Central Texas Style Bar-B-Q, Chili's, CougarsDen.com, Edwin Watts Golf, Doug Eikenburg, Golf Galaxy, Golfsmith, Impressive Image Works, Industrial Insulation & Sheet Metal Inc., Killen's Steakhouse,

LostGolfBalls.com, McDonalds, PG Professional Golf, PotBelly Sandwich Shop, Glenn Rogers, truecolorGRAPHICS/FastSigns, David Wallace and Sarah Lake-Wallace, and Shara Zatopek.

The tournament pool also received direct gifts from Celso Cuellar ('65) and John J. ('62) and Paula Lovoi in memory of avid tournament player and supporter Porter Everts, the late spouse of Associate Dean and alumna Shara Zatopek who passed in early 2014.

The first-place Low Gross team comprised Jeff Hall ('02), Larry Jones, Joe Murillo and Brian Parrish (who sank a hole in one during play); and the first-place Low Net team featured student Brian Loe, James Casey ('65), student Jerry Merrill and Jonathan Merrill.

Prizes were awarded to three players in individual competitions: Longest Drive – Patrick Birney (M.S. '14) and Leslie Myers ('94); and Closest to the Pin – Jim Rutan ('92).

Lena and Marc Malacoff Scholarship Endowment – Pei Lin
Likhari Presidential Excellence Scholarship – Yuanli Li
Lynn and Bill Simpson Scholarship Endowment – Henry Cao
Mark Shadle Memorial Scholarship Endowment – Daniel Nguyen
Michael and Donna O'Neill Endowment – Nicole Ho and Thuy Lam
Mom's Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment – Alan Gracia
Mortar and Pedal Ride Scholarship Endowment – Stephanie Nguyen
NABP Scholarship – Alexandra Cao
NACDS Scholarship – Annie Bui and Nimisha Kizhkkethara
NCPA Foundation/Partners in Pharmacy Scholarship – Allison Phuc Nguyen
NCPA Scholarship – Alyssa Demassey and Ryan Daussat
Nilkanth K. and Yamini Patel Scholarship Endowment – Soniya Joseph and Vi Vu
Noel Ferguson Scholarship Endowment – Salman Farooqui and Robert Miller
Ohia-Edet Memorial Endowment – Sunny Bhakta
Perin F. Lokhandwala Endowment – Hironari Akasaka, Radhika Joshi, Santosh Suryavans and Xitao Wang
Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Co. Scholarship – Andrea Fetea, Tiffany Han and Patrick Maranon
Pharmacy Golf Tournament Scholarship Endowment – Rene Banzuelo and Alyssa DeMassey
Prithvial and Manmeet Likhari "Inspiring Excellence" Scholarship Endowment – Tianrui Yang
Randall's Food and Pharmacy Scholarship Endowment – Aisha Jangda and Stuart Tran
Red, White and Blue Scholarship Endowment – Dao Ly
Robert "Bob" O'Donnell Brown, Jr. Scholarship Endowment – Ashley Tran
Robert L. Boblitt Scholarship Endowment – Linh Nguyen
Rosemarie and David DeVido Scholarship Endowment – Jensen Idicula, Ashley Mathew and Jared Moore
Roy Wiese, Jr. Scholarship Endowment – Anne Le, Ron Le, Kim Anh Pham and Amber Strickland

Safeway Inc. Scholarships – Maggie Chu, Krutina Garcia, Shuaishuai Guo, Caitlin Le and Jun Wang
Sandra Webb Endowed Scholarship – Thuy Lam
Scholz Family Endowment – Tam Nguyen
Shara L. Zatopek Scholarship Endowment – Rey Ferrer
Suzanne May Handal Scholarship Endowment – Brittany Greensage
Suzanne W. Woo Honorary Scholarship Endowment in Memory of William McKinley Woo – Kathaleya Yindeemark
Tarrant County Pharmacy Association Scholarship Endowment – Pari Wafayee
Texas Pharmacy Foundation – Kim Anh Pham (Larry "Neal" McClagherty Scholarship) and Ally Thrall (TPF Scholarship)
Texas Pharmacy Foundation Scholarship Endowment – Osagie Ohonba
Thurmon "Joe" Ickes Scholarship – James Miller
TSHP Research & Education Foundation – Pari Wafayee (Grace Dyan Coggin MSHP Memorial Scholarship), Tara Molina (Eustacio Galvan Memorial Scholarship), Zachary Kirk (Hudlow/Tamble Memorial Scholarship), Morgan Payne (Phyllis B. Ginsburg Memorial Scholarship) and Laura Stokes (Sandra Evans Webb Scholarship)
UHCOP Dean's Advisory Council Endowment – Tara Molina, Anh Nguyen, Phuoc Nguyen and Odochi Ohia-Nwoko
UHCOP Dean's Executive Council Endowment – Mohsin Ali, Yuanli Li, Jag Maturi and Shawn Varghese
W. Benjamin Fry Rio Grande Valley Endowed Scholarship – Alan Gracia
Walgreens Scholarship – Christina Vo
Walmart Stores Scholarship – Meghann Davis, Tyler Kiles and Courtney Nguyen
Walmart/SNPhA Region 4 Future Leader Award Scholarship – Ashley Tran
Wayne & Dolores Gentsch Scholarship Endowment – Kyle Jones
West Texas Pharmacy Association-United Supermarkets Scholarship – Jag Maturi
Yoginder Nath Goel & Swaran Lata Goel Academic Achievement Award Endowment – Prajakta Gadgil

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McClagherty Consulting Named to Cougar 100 List

McClagherty Consulting Services LLC, owned and operated by UHCOP alumnus Larry McClagherty, R.Ph. (B.S. '72), MPH, and wife, Kathy McClagherty, RN, was among the UH Alumni Association's inaugural Cougar 100 businesses honored as the world's fastest-growing businesses owned or led by Cougars. The McClagherty Consulting team includes UHCOP alumni Harin Kalyanji, Pharm.D. ('14); Jessica L. Davis, Pharm.D. ('12); James Plimper, Pharm.D. ('08), who serves as Director of Consulting; and Timothy Potts, Pharm.D. ('11).