

**Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy  
Report to the Texas Pharmacy Congress: May 12, 2016**

## STUDENT NEWS

### Rho Chi Society Award

The Gamma Omega Chapter of the Rho Chi Society at the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy was named the Regional Finalist for 2014-2015 Chapter Achievement Award for Region VI during the 92nd Annual Award Reception of the Society at the APhA-ASP Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, in March.

### ACCP Clinical Pharmacy Challenge

Nine teams of P2s and P3s competed in the ACCP (American Colleges of Clinical Pharmacy) Clinical Pharmacy Challenge. Winners of the local competition are:

- **First place: Oziel Martinez, Jr., Josue Guerra, and Roderick Hess**
- **Second place: Monica Pham, Shannon White, and Sasha Cruz**
- **Third place: Hannah Ehrenfeld, Matthew Untermeyer, and Kathryn Garcia**

**Oziel, Josue, and Roderick** will be representing the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy during the first round of the national competition beginning September 8, 2016.

### Disaster Day 2016

On March 24, several students and clinical faculty members of the College Station cohort (and a few visitors too!) participated in the 10th annual "Disaster Day" mass casualty simulation. The event is organized and executed by the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Nursing with the assistance of students and faculty from Medicine, Public Health, and Pharmacy all working together to make the event a true interprofessional experience.

This year's mock disaster scenario was a train derailment in the center of downtown Bryan during an outdoor festival. Many people were injured when one of the buildings collapsed and a car caught fire. The more critically injured patients were transported to area hospitals, but the HSC students and faculty in conjunction with the American Red Cross set up a medical station to accept and treat the less severely injured and the walking wounded.

The College of Pharmacy participation included 22 - P1s, 30 - P2s, 14 - P4s, two alumni and six faculty members all assuming various roles as patients, dispensing pharmacists, clinical pharmacists and clinical observers.

The pharmacy students played an integral role in the treatment of these patients and proved to be indispensable members of a healthcare team. Pharmacy student coordinators for Disaster Day 2016 were **Blake Maxson, Chris Cavazos, and Michelle Yazdchi**.



## Scholarship Recipients

The Awards, Honors and Scholarships Committee of the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy selected the following students to receive scholarships for the spring 2016 semester:

- Walgreens Diversity Scholarship - **Valerie Guerra** (P2), **Emmy Jiang** (P2), **Lei Wu** (P1)
- Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion Excellence Scholarship - **Honey Patel** (P2)
- Dr. James Robertson Jr. Memorial Scholarship - **Cyrus Koochekzadeh** (P2)
- Safeway Scholarship - **Shahrouz Shoghi** (P2), **Dealer Rockwell** (P2), **Juan Garcia** (P1)

## FACULTY NEWS

### Professional Appointments

**Indra K. Reddy, Ph.D.**, professor and founding dean of the Texas A&M Health Science Center Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, has been elected chair of the International Commission for the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, effective Feb. 1.

Reddy has been serving as an international commissioner through the International Service Program since 2012. From February 2015 until February 2016, Reddy served as vice chair/chair elect of the International Commission for ACPE.

The ACPE Board of Directors established the ACPE International Services Program, the mission of which is to promote, assure and advance the quality of pharmacy education internationally to improve patient care through safe and effective medication use. The expert members serving as commissioners are drawn from around the world and are approved by the ACPE Board of Directors.

**Victoria B. Pho, PharmD, CGP**, assistant professor of pharmacy practice currently serves as the immediate past chair of AACP Geriatric Special Interest Group (SIG). Her leadership has helped increase the engagement among the SIG members and foster great leadership within the committees. Under her leadership, support and working closely with the committee chairs, the annual program has a special session at the annual meeting in July 2016.

**Alkhateeb Fadi, Ph.D.**, associate professor and director of assessment, was elected to the Advisory Committee Board, Del Mar Community College Pharmacy Technician Program, located in Corpus Christi, TX. The Board is charged with ensuring the program curriculum adequately prepares students for a career as certified pharmacy technicians.

### Presentations

**Adam Brown**, Trista A. Bailey, Kayley Will and Phyo Anne Nguyen (April 2016) Tips for New Preceptors. Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists, Annual Seminar – Frisco, TX.

Taryn B. Bainum, Steven E. Knight, Yeunju Lee, Phuoc Anne Nguyen and **Adam Brown** (April 2016) Residency vs. Non-Residency Panel: What's Your Path? Texas Society of Health System Pharmacists, Annual Seminar – Frisco, TX.

**Dr. Mary Chavez**, professor and chair of pharmacy practice, made an oral presentation at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Coast Pharmacy Symposium sponsored by the Texas A&M HSC Coastal Bend Health Education Center, Corpus Christi, TX entitled "Current Management of Prostate Cancer" on Feb. 27, 2016.

## Presentations (con't)

**Dr. Andrea Luce**, assistant professor of pharmacy practice was invited to be the guest speaker at the Rho Chi Induction banquet at the University of the Incarnate Word Feik School of Pharmacy on February 21, 2016.

**Powell, Catherine A.**, Bhakta, Komal, **Meruvu, Sunitha, Sonkar, Ravi, Choudhury, Mahua.** (2016). Double Trouble- Plastic and Fats: Combination of Benzyl Butyl Phthalate and Palmitic Acid Enhance Adipogenesis By Epigenetic Regulation. Society of Toxicology's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, March 13-17, 2016.

**Meruvu S**, and **Choudhury M.** Poster Presentation (2016). Society of Toxicology (SOT) 55th Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana. Butyl Benzyl Phthalate (BBP) Induces Adipogenesis via Mirna-34a Mediated Regulation.

**Bree Watzak** (April 14, 2016) Geriatric Simulation Experience: Using a "day in the life" experience to increase empathy and improve communication. Southern Group on Educational Affairs Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.

**Bree Watzak**, Benny Holland, Laura Livingston, Courtney West, Lori Graham, Anne Gill, Tyson Pillow. (April 14, 2016) Sharing, Adopting, and Implementing Best IPE Practices. Southern Group on Educational Affairs Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.

Robert Steele, **Bree Watzak.** (April 26, 2016). The design and implementation of a Pharmacotherapeutics course for physicians returning to practice and other physicians with educational needs. The Coalition for Physician Enhancement. San Diego, CA.

Jackie Stout, Alison Pittman, Regina Bentley, Jerry Livingston, and **Bree Watzak.** The Effects of Interprofessional Pediatric End-Of-Life Simulation on Communication and Role Understanding in Health Professions Students. Interprofessional Education and Research Conference, College Station, TX.

**Sonkar. R, Powell. A. C**, and **Choudhury. M.** (2015) Benzyl butyl phthalate induces epigenetic stress to enhance adipogenesis in mesenchymal stem cells. Evolution of Stress: From the Genome to Disease, College Station, Texas.

**Sonkar. R, Powell. A. C**, and **Choudhury. M.** (2016) Benzyl butyl phthalate induces epigenetic stress to enhance adipogenesis in mesenchymal stem cells. 55<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting and Tox EXPOTM-Society of Toxicology, New Orleans.

**Jian Zhang** and **Mahua Choudhury** (2016), The Plasticizer BBP Promotes Adipogenesis in C3H10T1/2 Stem Cell Line. Society of Toxicology (SOT) 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and ToxExpo March 13-17, 2016. New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Lixian Zhong, Charles Douglas, Robert Hutchison, David Potter** (2016) Utilization Pattern of Prescription Pain Medication Among Adults with Diabetes Mellitus. 21<sup>st</sup> Annual International Meeting of International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, Washington DC, May 2016.

## Awards and Honors

**Adam Brown, Pharm.D., BCPS** was recognized with the TSHP Board of Directors Award for his work as the New Practitioner's Section Chair.

## Publications

Wahawisan J, Salazar M, Walters R, **Alkhateeb FM**, Attarabeen O. Reliability assessment of a peer evaluation instrument in a team-based learning course. *Pharmacy Practice*. 2016 Jan-Mar;14(1):676.

## Publications (con't)

Koo, Cathy L., **Elaine L. Demps, Charlotte Farris, John D. Bowman, Ladan Panahi**, Paul Boyle  
Impact of Flipped Classroom Design on Student Performance and Perceptions in a Pharmacotherapy Course.  
American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education Volume 80, Issue 2, 2016: Article 33.

**Hutchison R.** (2016) Transforming Pain Management and the Role of the Clinical Pharmacist. Hospital  
Pharmacy: January 2016, Vol. 51, No. 1, pp. 6-8; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1310/hpj5101-6>

Steinburg C.... **Hutchison R**, et al., (2015). Four Core Messages to Drive a Cultural Transformation in the Way  
Pain is Perceived, Judged and Treated. CPATF, <http://www.painsproject.org/news-alert/>

**Lu D**, Wei HX, Zhang J, Gu Y, Osenkowski P, Ye W, Selkoe DJ, Wolfe MS, Augelli-Szafran CE. (2016) Part 1:  
Notch-sparing  $\gamma$ -secretase inhibitors: The identification of novel naphthyl and benzofuranyl amide analogs,  
Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett. 26(9):2129-32.

Wei HX, **Lu D**, Sun V, Zhang J, Gu Y, Osenkowski P, Ye W, Selkoe DJ, Wolfe MS, Augelli-Szafran CE. (2016)  
Part 2. Notch-sparing  $\gamma$ -secretase inhibitors: The study of novel  $\gamma$ -amino naphthyl alcohols, Bioorg. Med. Chem.  
Lett. 26(9):2133-2137.

Zhang J, **Lu D**, Wei HX, Gu Y, Selkoe DJ, Wolfe MS, Augelli-Szafran CE. (2016) Part 3: Notch-sparing  $\gamma$ -  
secretase inhibitors: SAR studies of 2-substituted aminopyridopyrimidinones, Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.  
26(9):2138-2141

Ashok K. Shetty; Co-I: **RaviKumar Majeti**. (2016-2019). Curcumin nanoparticle therapy for gulf war illness.  
Department of Defense U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command, Congressionally  
Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP).

**Majeti, RaviKumar** Mono-(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate Increases Oxidative Stress Responsive miRNAs in First  
Trimester Placental Cell Line HTR8/SVneo.

**Meruvu S**, Zhang J, Choudhury M. Chem Res Toxicol. 2016 Mar 21;29(3):430-5. doi:  
10.1021/acs.chemrestox.6b00038. Epub 2016 Feb 29. PMID:26871967

**Sunitha Meruvu, John Bowman, Mahua Choudhury** (2016) "Can Epigenetics Help Cure Diabetes and  
Obesity?" Epibeat ([http://www.epibeat.com/tools-technology/can-epigenetics-help-cure-diabetes-  
obesity/2910/](http://www.epibeat.com/tools-technology/can-epigenetics-help-cure-diabetes-obesity/2910/)).

**Kim, Dongin**, Detection of ovarian cancer micrometastasis using nanoparticle-delivered probe targeted  
towards tumor-associated neovasculature, *Clin Cancer Res*, 2016, 22; A61

**Kim Dongin**, Book chapter submission

Title: "Artificial antigen-presenting cells for immunotherapies" in *Methods in Molecular Biology* (Springer)

**Kim Dongin**, Journal reviews

Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology, and Medicine (Elsevier)

Colloids and Surfaces B: Biointerfaces

Mehra NK, Cai D, Kuo L, Hein T, **Palakurthi S**. Safety and toxicity of nanomaterials for ocular drug delivery  
applications. *Nanotoxicology*. 2016 Mar 30:1-22.

**Mehra NK, Palakurthi S**. Interactions between carbon nanotubes and bioactives: a drug delivery perspective.  
*Drug Discov Today*. 2016 Apr;21(4):585-97. doi: 10.1016/j.drudis.2015.11.011.

## **Publications (con't)**

Z. Wei, M. Magnati, B. Martinez, K. K. Vangara, **S. Palakurthi**, Z. Luo, S. Bashir, H.-C Zhou, J. Liu, Biological Study of Metal-organic Frameworks towards Human Ovarian Cancer Cell Lines. *Canadian J. Chem.*, 2016, 94(4): 380-385, 10.1139/cjc-2015-0370

**Sonkar, Ravi, Powell, Catherine A., Choudhury, Mahua.** Benzyl butyl phthalate induces epigenetic stress to enhance adipogenesis in mesenchymal stem cells. *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology*. 2016. *In press*.

Ying Tu and **Lin Zhu\***, "Matrix Metalloproteinase-sensitive Nanocarriers" (Chapter 3), in the book "Smart Pharmaceutical Nanocarriers", *Imperial College Press*, 2016.

## **NEW HIRES**

**Adam Brown, Pharm.D., BCPS** has joined the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Brown joins the College from the Memorial Hermann Heart and Vascular Institute in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. He earned his bachelor's degree in Biology from The University of Texas at Austin and Pharm.D. from Texas A&M University.

**Rene A. Verduzco, Pharm.D.** has joined the College of Pharmacy and Doctors Hospital at Renaissance (DHR) as a clinical assistant professor and Residency Director in Edinburg, Texas. In his new role, he will be responsible for working with the College and DHR to develop, conduct and provide oversight of the new collaborative PGY1 residency program.

### **Chunyan Li**

Research Assistant, Kingsville, working in Dr. Mahua Choudhury's laboratory

### **Rohan Jayasuriya**

Research Assistant, Kingsville, working in Dr. Narendra Kumar's laboratory