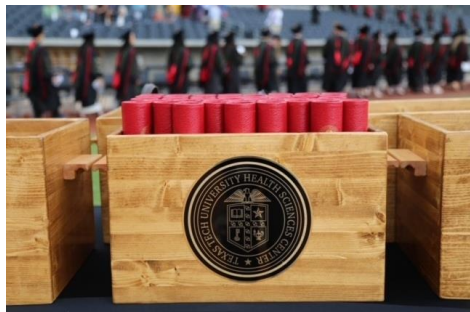




The TTUHSC School of Pharmacy building was officially dedicated Aug. 14, 1996, and the first semester was immediately under way with 65 students, 26 faculty, 10 staff and two departments: pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical sciences.



2021 GRADUATION CEREMONY - FULFILLING A PROMISE, CELEBRATING SAFELY



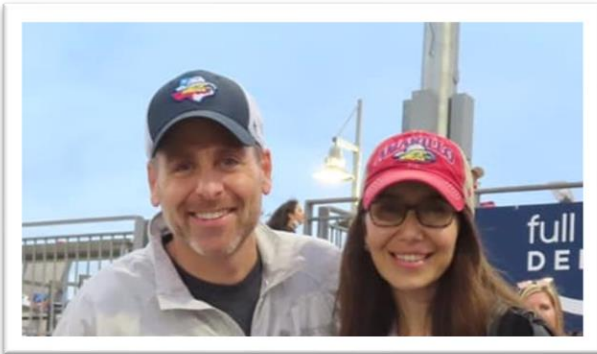
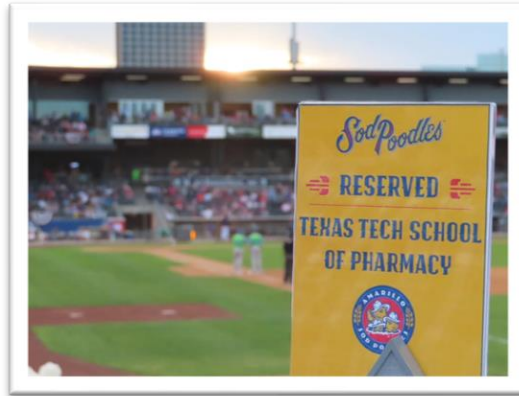
The TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy commencement ceremony was held outdoors on May 22, 2021 at the Hodgetown stadium in downtown Amarillo. Graduates from the classes of 2020 and 2021 were able to safely celebrate, reconnect, and receive their diplomas and recognitions. Dr. Joseph DiPiro, author of an essential textbook in Pharmacy and world-renowned professor of Pharmacotherapy, delivered an inspiring commencement speech. This ceremony represented delivery on a promise to safely celebrate the accomplishments of our Pharm.D graduates together in person.





2021 OUTDOOR GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

The School of Pharmacy held several graduation celebrations on May 21st, 2021, including a Food Truck picnic on the TTUHSC Amarillo campus and an evening Sod Poodles game at Hodgetown. These events gave graduates, faculty, and their families opportunities to join together in joyful celebrations of their accomplishments after a year challenged by social distancing requirements and virtual classes.



FACULTY RECEIVE PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Dr.'s **Amie Blaszczyk**, Pharm.D. (Dallas, Pharmacy Practice); **Vardan Karamyan**, Ph.D. (Amarillo, Pharmaceutical Sciences); and **Monica Mathys**, Pharm.D. (Dallas, Pharmacy Practice) who all received promotions to Professor, effective September 1, 2021.





CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS GRANT AWARDED FOR LC-MS/MS INSTRUMENTATION, RESEARCH, AND SUPPORT

William “Trey” Putnam, Ph.D., a professor of pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical sciences for the TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy, received a Core Facility Support Award from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) on Aug. 18, 2021, which will provide an anticipated \$2,965,226 to support the purchase of new instrumentation and support core infrastructure for the North Texas Clinical Pharmacology Cancer Core (NTCPCC).

“The additional funding will allow for the purchase of a Sciex 7500 QTRAP, one of, if not the most sensitive quantitative mass spectrometers on the market,” Putnam explained. “This enhanced sensitivity will allow better determination of the PK, PD and metabolism of experimental cancer therapeutics.”

The grant also will allow the NTCPCC to purchase a Sciex ZenoTOF 7600 system, one of the most sensitive high-resolution Q-TOF systems commercially available which enables us to probe deeper into clinical samples.



“The ZenoTOF 7600 system will greatly improve the capabilities of the NTCPCC,” Putnam said. “Being one of the first laboratories with this instrumentation means the NTCPCC will be able to conduct unique experiments bringing value to the clinical cancer community. Furthermore, this instrument allows clinical samples to be profiled and essentially all of the mass spectral information to be collected for later interrogation, as needed.”

EXCITING RESEARCH ADVANCES

The TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy has had one of the best years ever in research grant funding with ~\$3M in NIH funding and ~\$6M total. The recent addition of the TTUHSC Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation, Dr. Lance McMahan, who has deep roots in pharmaceutical research, bodes well for the future of research at the School. We’ve already had outstanding collaborations with the newly formed TTU School of Veterinary Medicine, which is located in Amarillo and expect this to only grow in the future.

GOING STRONG - PLACEMENTS OF 2020 AND 2021 GRADUATES

The number of TTUHSC Pharm.D. graduates accepted into PGY1 residency programs, a strong marker of quality, has grown to ~25% of the graduating class (N = 39-40) of the 2019, 2020, and 2021 classes.

The dual Pharm.D./MBA program in our School continues to grow over the years so that now 25% (n=40) of the graduating class has completed an MBA degree in our joint program with TTU School of Business.



GOING STRONG – NATIONAL TEST SCORES OF GRADUATES

Graduates of the TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy continue to place in the top ranks of students on the PCOA exam, averaging 26th percentile nationally over the last four years, with the 2020 graduating class being ranked 18th in the nation. Pretty good for a school that is only 25 years old!

The 2020 graduating class received a first-time pass rate on the national NAPLEX licensure exam of 93.66%, ranking 36th in the nation (26th percentile of 137 listings) among all accredited USA schools of pharmacy, and more than 5 points above first-time pass rate (88.43%) of all 2020 graduates of ACPE accredited programs.



WHITE COAT CEREMONIES IN ABILENE, AMARILLO, AND DALLAS, AUGUST 2021

The TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy officially welcomed 106 incoming first and returning second year students whose ceremony was postponed last year due to the pandemic, at in-person White Coat ceremonies on all 3 of our 4-year campuses. Receiving the white coat is a reminder of the commitment students are making to an honorable and trusted profession.



RECENT PUBLICATION BY SOP FACULTY ON BRADYKININ STORM IN COVID-19

Dr. Vardan Karamyan in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences recently published a review paper entitled “**Between two storms, vasoactive peptides or bradykinin underlie severity of COVID-19?**” ([Physiol Rep.](#) 2021 Mar; 9(5): e14796), in which he proposes, from a close evaluation of recent research, that a “vasoactive peptide storm,” composed of three peptidergic systems, could be the major drivers of increased microvascular permeability and inflammation-induced complications of COVID-19 pathology.