



# School Moving Forward on All Campuses

## President Supports Projects

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy is benefiting in a multitude of ways from more than \$4 million in building renovations and construction this year across its campuses.

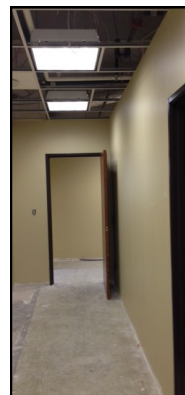
On the Amarillo Campus, TTUHSC has extended approximately \$1.1 million to exterior refurbishments of the SOP main building and \$810,000 was put into development of new Medicinal Chemistry laboratories.

In Dallas, \$580,000 has been invested into renovation of the Southwest Campus for new and refurbished labs, offices and an expanded classroom.

In Abilene, \$610,000 was put into equipment for the new sterile products lab, \$80,000 is going into an improved water system, and \$908,520 has been provided by the Develop-



Dallas Southwest Campus construction in progress will greatly benefit the programs soon.



ment Corporation of Abilene for expansion of the Abilene Campus vivarium.

"In total, the expansion will provide almost 5,000 square feet of state-of-the-art vivarium space for TTUHSC researchers, en-

hancing the competitiveness of student training, research and drug development at the Abilene Campus," according to Dr. Jon Weidanz, Chair of the Department of Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology.

## Medicinal Chemistry Expanded

By Dr. Thomas Abbruscato

In 2012, The School of Pharmacy and its Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences set out to significantly enhance the delivery of medicinal chemistry coursework for the education of both pharmacy students and graduate students in pharmaceutical sciences.

These changes included new equipment and laboratory enhancements to increase research potential at the SOP.

The process began with the targeted recruitment of a new faculty member in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences with training and experience in medicinal chemistry. Dr. Paul Trippier was hired in the summer of 2012 from Northwestern University as a new tenure track assistant professor.

Dr. Trippier received his postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Richard Silverman on the synthesis and intracellular target identification of potential therapeutics for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. Since the summer of 2012, Dr. Trippier has built his laboratory research at TTUHSC to focus on the design and synthesis of compounds to modulate tumor-stromal interaction for drug resistant cancer and compounds to promote neuroprotection for a variety of CNS



400 MHz Bruker NMR

diseases.

To make the recruitment of Dr. Trippier possible, TTUHSC, the School of Pharmacy and its Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences put together resources to purchase a new 400 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) to support small molecule analysis and the new research program of Dr. Trippier.

Offering this type of analytical equipment maintains the School's status as one of the best in the nation. NMR analysis provides the only method to unequivocally determine the structure of small molecules synthesized in a medicinal chemistry program.

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## Pharmacy Practice Earns Large Recruitment Success

The Department of Pharmacy Practice scored a significant win over the past few months in successful recruitment for multiple faculty positions that will greatly enhance the strength and teaching options of this department.

Six open faculty positions Abilene were filled with a 100 percent success rate, despite some difficulty in finding faculty suited in the less metropolitan environment.

Matching successes were made in Amarillo and Dallas. These new hires add significantly to the department and help the School deliver a first-class training program.

### Amarillo Campus:

- Dr. Les Covington, Geriatrics/Ambulatory Care

### Abilene Campus:

- Dr. Brian Terrell, Ambulatory Care (Dyess AFB)
- Dr. Kayley Will, Ambulatory Care (Hendrick)
- Dr. Livia Macedo, Correctional Healthcare

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## Faculty News

### Faculty Honored for Excellence

#### Dr. Anna Karamyan – P1 Teacher of the Year

Anna Kochanowska-Karamyan, MPharm, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy. She joined the institution in November 2010. She obtained a Master of Pharmacy degree from the Medical University of Lublin in 2005 and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences with emphasis in Pharmacognosy from the University of Mississippi in 2009. Her research interests include marine natural products and drug discovery.



#### Dr. Luca Cucullo – P2 Teacher of the Year

Dr. Cucullo joined the Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty in September of 2011. He received his doctoral degree in Pharmaceutical Technology /Biotechnology from the University of Pisa School of Pharmacy in 2000. He then engaged in postdoctoral training at the Cleveland Clinic in the Department of Cell Biology/Cerebrovascular Research Center. There he began specializing in cerebrovascular modeling under the guidance of Prof. Damir Janigro, Ph.D. His research programs are currently funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse and Alternative Research and Development Foundation.



#### Dr. Ming-Hai Wang – P3 Teacher of the Year

Dr. Ming-Hai Wang is a cancer biologist and immunologist with M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Zhejiang University School of Medicine in Hangzhou of China. After a postdoctoral training in NIH National Cancer Institute, he pursued his independent research career at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and later at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver.



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## SOP Develops Innovative Training

Experiential education makes up approximately 1/3 of all colleges/schools curricula around the country. With new colleges/schools opening their doors each year coupled with increasing enrollment from existing institutions, the need for preceptors is at an all-time high and will only continue to increase. It is estimated that more than 80 percent of introductory and advanced pharmacy practice experiences are delivered by adjunct faculty, most of which have little to no formal training on how to teach. For the remaining experi-



ences taught by full-time faculty, many of these individuals also have limited training on teaching, even if they had a structured teaching certificate program they completed during their PGY1 and/or

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## Three Faculty Members Receive Promotions

Two faculty members in the Pharmacy Practice Department and one in the Department of Biomedical Sciences have recently received promotions.

Dr. Brian Irons, Division Head of Ambulatory Care, has been promoted to full Professor, non-tenure track. He has been with the SOP since 1999 and serves with the faculty on the Lubbock Campus.



Dr. Sachin Shah, Associate Dean for Assessment and Accreditation, was also promoted to full Professor, non-tenure track. He serves on the Dallas campuses, where he created and developed a clinical oncology pharmacy program at the Dallas

VA Medical Center and also established an ASHP accredited Hematology/Oncology Specialty Residency program.

Dr. Kalkunte Srivenugopal has been promoted to full Professor with tenure in the Biomedical Sciences Department. He joined the SOP in 2002, where his research interests include anticancer drug resistance focusing on the DNA-repair 06-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT), redox stress in cancers and regulation of p53 function.



## Greene Installed as President-Elect for TSHP

Dr. Shane Greene, Associate Professor in Ambulatory Care in the Pharmacy Practice Department on the Dallas Campus, was elected May 2013 to serve as President-Elect of the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists. He will take over as President in April 2015.

Greene said his installment into this position shows how the TTUHSC SOP continues its growing history of fostering the growth of its faculty into leaders re-

gionally, within the state and nationally.

"I have been fortunate to have had great mentors as senior faculty and/or as Chairs that themselves have been presidents of many organizations, including two currently on faculty as past-TSHP presidents," Greene said.





## One of First Faculty Bids Adieu Habeger to Retire, Founding Dean Remembers Early Years

Dr. Butch Habeger was just the “round peg” Founding Dean Arthur Nelson was seeking when he started hiring positions for the newly opened School of Pharmacy.

“Butch was a ‘round peg’ to help me fill a ‘round hole’ in the development of the SOP,” Nelson said, when asked about Habeger’s impending retirement. He was looking for someone to head up a new opportunity to provide comprehensive, quality pharmaceutical care to the west Texas sector of the Department of Criminal Justice prisons.

Nelson said Habeger became available with the exact skill set the SOP needed and quickly went to work designing the goals and mission of the SOP’s patient care services that later grew into multiple contracts with hospitals throughout the region, established three pharmacies in Texas Tech clinics and developed a group buying program for all TTUHSC pharmaceuticals, in addition to recruiting key staff.

“None of this could have been accomplished without Butch’s hard work, deep experience in pharmacy operations, and his ability to work with all types of people from chief medical directors to technicians — all focused toward a common goal,” Nelson said.

Nelson said there was one funny issue with the hiring of Habeger.

“He was not the first faculty member hired; he was the first faculty member to come to work,” Nelson said, adding that

Dr. David Allen was actually hired first but delayed his start date.

“When David was at the SOP, the two of them were always claiming to be first, and BOTH were correct, just in a different way!

“Hiring Butch Habeger was one of the critical early hires that lead to developing a successful, comprehensive School of Pharmacy,” Nelson added with all seriousness.

“It set boundaries and expectations that all Pharmacy Practice faculty and students learn best by applying classroom knowledge and laboratory skills in the actual care of patients — something that is central to the concept of a Health Sciences Center and the role of the SOP in TTUHSC patient care and education,” he said.

He praised Habeger for placing high importance on duty and honor — traits he learned in the military and still lives today, and characteristics he brought to his work at the SOP.

“Today’s students, faculty, staff *and patients* are reaping the special benefits that Butch Habeger brought to this job during the very foundational developmental years of the SOP,” Nelson said. “I am proud to have been his leader and consider him to be a dear friend and colleague.”



## Students Honored, Receive Scholarships

Elizabeth Neyland-Turner was chosen for the Dean’s Student Leadership Award 2013-14 for the Dallas Campus.



Dr. Krystal Edwards praised Neyland-Turner’s ability and eagerness to lead by example and her active role in research even before entering the SOP. She noted Neyland-Turner’s passion for patient-centered care and collaborative drug therapy management while on rotation, as well.

In addition, Dr. Edwards said Neyland-Turner led a number of initiatives and was part of numerous committees that changed or helped grow student organizations at TTUHSC. She is humble, kind and caring, according to Dr. Edwards, who said she reaches out to those in need of extra encouragement or help and does not expect recognition for her deeds or accomplishments.

Dean Quentin Smith presented Neyland-Turner with her award in Dallas April 28.

### WTPA Scholarships Awarded

- Kathryn Bachman, Amarillo P1
- Teryn Bibb, Abilene P2
- Lida Binesheian, Amarillo P2
- Carissa Chadwick, Abilene P4
- Cody Clark, Abilene P4
- Haylee Contreras, Lubbock P4
- Cody Frausto, Amarillo P2
- Nathan Harris, Amarillo P3
- Chris Hobart, Lubbock P4
- Anh Huynh, Lubbock P3
- Sydney Kutter, Abilene P1
- Suzanne Lamb, Amarillo P4
- Crystal Le, Abilene P2
- Hannah Lenamon, Abilene P1
- Cortney McGinnis, Amarillo P2
- Myka McMeans, Dallas P4
- Justin Miranda, Lubbock P4
- Phuong Nguyen, Abilene P2
- John O’Connor, Amarillo P2
- Andrew Patel, Lubbock P3
- Danielle Rodgers, Abilene P4
- Megan Sneller, Amarillo P4
- Samantha St. Claire, Lubbock P4
- Amy Stretcher, Abilene P1
- Jordan Talley, Abilene P4
- Aaron Thompson, Lubbock P3
- Justin Urby, Abilene P1
- Erika White, Abilene P2

## Students Matched with Residency Programs

Dr. Steven Pass, Vice Chair for Residency Programs, noted that the program has shown much success this year:

• 18 students in the Class of 2014 were matched to PGY-1 residency programs. This included 12 to traditional PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice programs, two to PGY-1 Community programs, one to PGY-1 Managed Care and three to two-year Pharmacotherapy programs.

• Three PGY-1 residents from the Class of 2014 successfully matched to PGY-2 programs.

• The program currently has 26 resi-

dents (14 PGY-1 and 12 PGY-2) in the 2013-14 residency class that will complete their training in June.

• The 2014-15 TTUHSC residency class will consist of 15 programs and 28 residents (15 PGY-1 and 13 PGY-2) on the four campuses. This includes two new programs (PGY-2 Oncology at UT-Southwestern Medical Center and PGY-2 Psychiatry at the Dallas VA Medical Center).

• Dr. Pass was appointed to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Commission on Credentialing for a three-year term.



## Meet the SOP Alumni Board



From left, Sid Phillips, Past President; Sarah Ussery; Shawn Gautreaux, President; Kevin Aloysius; Sarah Gibbons; Angela Wu; Kenna Payne.

## Alumni Board Plans More Involvement

The Alumni Association Board of Directors met April 29 and on the agenda were items that included more involvement with TTUHSC School of Pharmacy and its current students.

On tap for this year are a golf tournament in conjunction with NCPA, a fund-raising initiative, a fall tailgate and an Alumni Reception at the Texas Pharmacy Association Conference.

Also on the agenda is a discussion of how to increase alumni participation in TTUHSC SOP activities for both alumni and the Alumni Association Board. Some of those events already on their radar are White Coat Ceremonies, the Career Fair, Mentoring Round Tables and the Graduation and Hooding Ceremony.

## Metting, Baker Fêted for Service

Traci Metting, PharmD, class of 2000, and Alisia Baker Sutton, PharmD, class of 2006, were recognized for their service to the TTUHSC SOP Alumni Association.

Metting served on the SOPAA Board from 2009 to 2013 and was the board Chair from 2009 to 2011. She is currently the Director of Pharmacy and Medication Safety at Tenet Healthcare in Dallas and was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni in 2003.

Sutton is a staff pharmacist at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Forth Worth. She served on the SOPAA Board from 2009 to 2013 and served as board Secretary from 2011 to 2012.

## Buerkle Honored for WTPA Service

SOP alum Nathan Buerkle, class of 2009, was recently honored as the outgoing President of West Texas Pharmacy Association.

Buerkle is Pharmacist in Charge for Sam's Club in Lubbock. He had received WTPA scholarships for three years while in school and was named a 2012 Adjunct Faculty Preceptor of the Year in 2012.

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To date the spectrometer has been used for more than 1150 hours in its first year of operation and has stimulated collaborative research between numerous groups.

Additional resources were provided by TTUHSC in 2013 to make possible the research infrastructure improvements necessary to support the growing medicinal chemistry research programs of Dr. Trippier and an additional medicinal chemistry faculty recruited by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

After a national faculty search, Dr. Nadia German was recruited to the department from the Research Triangle Institute as a tenure track assistant professor. Dr. German will start her faculty position in August. She received postdoctoral training at Virginia Commonwealth University under the direction of Dr. Richard Glennon. Her expertise lies in the design and synthesis of allosteric modulators of CNS

receptor systems for a variety of CNS diseases.

The consolidation of medicinal chemistry research into SOP Lab 427 (targeted completion in August of 2014) is essential to support the newly hired medicinal chemistry faculty members and the continued expansion of medicinal chemistry in the School. Lab 427 will now be equipped with a new HVAC system to support 4x8 foot chemical fume hoods (plumbed for water, drain and vacuum), as medicinal chemistry is a discipline that requires hood space rather than bench space.

This renovation will add hood space for a total of eight chemists and, with existing facilities in the adjacent Lab 426, will allow up to 10 chemists to work productively and safely.

This will allow further recruitment of students and faculty and, with all of the chemistry students in one lab, collaboration, sharing of resources, and learning will be enhanced.

*Continued from Page 1 — New Faculty*

- Dr. Becky Mahan, Geriatrics (Hendrick)
- Dr. Bethany Ibach, Pediatrics (Hendrick/ Ambulatory Pediatrics Clinics)
- Dr. Chephra McKee, Pediatrics (Hendrick/Ambulatory Pediatrics Clinics)

On the Amarillo Campus, interviews continue for a Correctional Healthcare position, and interviews continue in Dallas for a position in Clinical and Translational Research and Practice Management and an offer has been for Ambulatory Care.

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PGY2 residency program(s). Thus, the needs for preceptor training continue to increase. Although training programs exist around the country, they are somewhat limited in quantity and diversity of mediums. With this understanding, Craig D. Cox, PharmD, BCPS, the Vice Chair

for Experiential Programs, worked with Brittany Patterson, Assistant Director, to develop a preceptor development strategy that targets preceptors representing all health professions.

One of the first programs to be developed was a preceptor mini-series. The series was premiered March 27 at a theater in Lubbock and received rave reviews.

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Currently, he is a tenured Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, the Amarillo Community Endowed Chair in Cancer Research, and Director of the Cancer Biology Center at the School of Pharmacy.

### P1 Teaching Team of the Year – Drug Delivery Systems I Team

Dr. Fahkrul Ahsan, Dr. Nishil Desai, Dr. Anna

Karamyan

### P2 Teaching Team of the year – Infectious Diseases Team

Dr. Harold Miller, Dr. Young Lee, Dr. Xinli Liu, Dr. Mark Lyte, Dr. Krystal Haase, Dr. Jennifer Grelle

### P3 Teaching Team of the Year – Oncology Team

Dr. Kaljunte S. Srivenugopal, Dr. Sachin Shah, Dr. Ming-Hai Wang