



College Closes Out FY14 with 2nd Highest Year in Research Funding

UH College of Pharmacy posted its second highest year in research funding – \$4.3 million in total awards from federal, state, industry and foundation sources – during Fiscal Year 2014.

The FY14 total trails the college’s record-setting \$6 million in FY 2010, when several faculty researchers received new awards or one-time supplements through the American Recovery Act and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Among the highlights of the FY14 cycle were a new record of more than \$2 million in funding to faculty within the college’s Department of Clinical Sciences & Administration as well as initial or total funding of nearly \$4 million in new/continuation awards to faculty members from the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Defense, including:

A one-year, \$697,000 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases R56 grant to **Gregory D. Cuny**, Ph.D., assistant professor, for his project, “Optimizing IMPDH inhibitors for the treatment of cryptosporidiosis”;



A one-year, \$241,000 NIH R21 National Institute on Drug Abuse award to **Romi Ghose**, Ph.D., associate professor, for her project, “Novel In-Vivo Regulatory Mechanisms of Human CYP3A4”;



A five-year, \$1.59 million National Institute of General Medical Sciences R01 grant to **Ming Hu**, Ph.D., professor, for his project, “Disposition of Flavonoids via Glucuronidation, Critical Role of Efflux Transporters”;



A one-year, \$518,000 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases R56 grant to **Vincent H. Tam**, Pharm.D., BCPS-AQ (ID), professor, for his project, “Optimized antimicrobial combinations to suppress resistance”;



A three-year, \$688,600 grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity to **Meghna Trivedi**, Ph.D., Pharm.D., assistant professor, for her project, “Targeting GPR110 in HER2-Overexpressing Breast Cancer.”



Polymyxin Nephrotoxicity Research by Tam Draws SIDP Recognition as ‘Pharmacotherapy Paper of Year’

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



Presented Sept. 5 at the SIDP Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., 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,” and published in the May 2014 *Journal of Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. The results from Tam’s NIH-funded project call into question clinicians’ use of colistin (polymyxin E) vs. the use of the closely related but less commonly used polymyxin B, presumably due to a perceived benefit of a better nephrotoxicity safety profile with colistin.

Through 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, the study found no indication that polymyxin B was more toxic to the kidneys than colistin/polymyxin E.

Phase 1 Clinical Trials Initiated for Phosphaplatin Anticancer Agent Developed by UH Professor Bose

Three cancer centers in the U.S. are beginning clinical trials of a new platinum-based chemotherapy discovered by **Rathindra Bose**, Ph.D., who holds joint professorships in the UH colleges of Natural Sciences & Mathematics and Pharmacy.

The Phase I clinical trials on the drug, known as PT-112, will focus on patients with non-small cell lung cancer, gastrointestinal cancers, or recurrent ovarian cancer. The trials are underway at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, the Sarah Cannon Research Institute in Nashville, Tenn., and the University of Colorado Cancer Center in Aurora, Colo. The study is designed to enroll around 80 patients across the three centers.



Part of a new family of compounds called phosphaplatins, PT-112 is designed to replace prior generations of platinum-based chemotherapies that can produce occasionally severe toxicity and are commonly linked to kidney damage, nerve pain, shaking and hearing loss.

College Salutes Biundo, Anderson for Countless Contributions to Pharmacy Profession, Education

UH College of Pharmacy recently recognized **Bruce Biundo**, R.Ph., and **Roger W. Anderson**, DrPH, M.S., R.Ph., FASHP, for their the countless contributions to advancing the profession of pharmacy and championing pharmacy education throughout Texas and the U.S.

A consulting pharmacist with PCCA, Biundo was honored as the college's **2014 Pharmacist Alumnus of the Year** for his many years of loyal support of the college, pharmacy students and the profession. A past TPA Pharmacist of the Year, TPA PharmPAC Member of the Year and Education Excellence Award recipient, Biundo recently was appointed chair of the college's capital campaign after completed a five-year term as co-chair of the UHCOP Dean's Advisory Council.

Fellow UHCOP DAC member Anderson was honored with the college's **Meritorious Service Award** for his leadership and vision in helping transform the scope of practice and perception of pharmacists from a dispensing role to serving as an indispensable member of the patient care team. In addition to recent executive positions at US Oncology and Medco, Anderson led the pharmacy division at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and served as a UHCOP faculty member for nearly 30 years.

Student News

The UHCOP team of Pharm.D. candidates **Dhara Bhakta**, **Tara Molina** and **Minoosh Sobhanian** was one of 104 teams to participate in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Clinical Pharmacy Challenge, and one of only 16 teams – and the only Texas team – to advance to Round 4 of the competition.

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Pharm.D. candidate **Zachary Kirk**, immediate past president of the UH SSHP Chapter, was honored as the 2013-14 Outstanding Student by the Gulf Coast Society of Health-system Pharmacists.

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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 for the National Lipid Association's triglyceride education campaign as part of its National Cholesterol Education Month activities in September 2014. To access the patient sheet, visit www.learnyourlipids.com.

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P3 student **Allison Phuc Nguyen** was honored both as a NCPA Student Outstanding Member of the Year and as a recipient of a 2014 NCPA Foundation and Partners in Pharmacy Presidential Scholarship at NCPA's 116th Annual Convention & Trade Exposition Oct. 18-22 in Austin.

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Pharm.D. candidate **Bianca Romero** was honored as an APhA-

College Calendar

- Dec. 1 — Application Deadline: Pharm.D. Regular Decision
- Jan. 1 — Application Deadline: Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Fellowship (UHCOP & CHI St. Luke's Health/Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center)
- Jan. 9 — Application Deadline: Pharmacy Leadership and Administration M.S./PGY1-PGY2 Residency
- Jan. 9 — Application Deadline: PGY2 Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy Residency (UHCOP and Cardinal Health Pharmacy Solutions)
- Jan. 10 — Application Deadline: PGY2 HIV/Clinical Pharmacogenetics Residency (UHCOP and Companion Dx)
- Jan. 15 — Application Deadline: PGY1 Community Residency (Walgreens-UHCOP)
- Jan. 27 — SSHP Residency Mentoring Social (UHCOP & TSU)
- Jan. 31 — Application Deadline: Ph.D. in Pharmacology/Pharmaceutics; Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy

ASP Chapter Member of the Year at the organization's Region 6 Midyear Regional Meeting Oct. 17-19 in Austin.

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P3 student **Allyson "Ally" Thrall** has received a national 2014 Kappa Psi Foundation Scholarship.

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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. Salvi's presentation was entitled "Effect of tempol on oxidative stress-induced mitochondrial dysfunction in HT22 cells."

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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.

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More than 250 pharmacy students from eight colleges/schools as well as representatives from more than 30 residency programs attended the **2014 UHCOP Residency Showcase** Nov. 7 at the UH main campus. Organized and hosted by the UH Chapter of SSHP, the event is supported by the **Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists**.

New Managed Care, Infectious Disease and Medicinal Chemistry Faculty

UH College of Pharmacy recently welcomed new faculty members **Joy P. Alonzo**, Pharm.D., M.E., clinical assistant professor, and **Amelia K. Sofjan**, Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor, in the Department of Clinical Sciences & Administration, and **D. Gomika Udugamasooriya**, Ph.D., associate professor, in the Department of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Alonzo joins 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 holds a Pharm.D. from Howard University; an M.E. in Engineering Science from Pennsylvania State University; and a B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Pittsburgh. Her experience includes managing medical residency training, diabetes self-management, and the chemical dependency outpatient clinics; spearheading an externally funded Diabetes intervention project for middle and high school students; and developing a novel method to detect and analyze ADE/ADR occurrence rates in specialized patient populations. Alonzo will teach and precept students in managed care pharmacy experientials as clinical pharmacy consultant at Texas Children's Health Plan.



Austin College of Pharmacy and The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. With a clinical practice site at clinical practice site at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, 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 2014 July 26-31 in San Francisco.



Udugamasooriya joins 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. He earned a Ph.D. in Bioorganic Chemistry and Biochemistry from Wayne State University and a B.Sc. in Chemistry from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, and completed a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at UT-Southwestern. Co-owner of three U.S. patents, Udugamasooriya currently has approximately \$1.8 million in multiyear funding from the NIH, CIPRIT and DOD. His research interests include combinatorial chemistry, peptoids and peptidomimetics, cancer therapy-diagnostic tool development, and cancer stem cell biology research.



Sofjan joins the college from Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Mo., where she completed a two-year ASHP-accredited Pharmacotherapy Residency. Sofjan is a Pharm.D. graduate of The University of Texas at

2014 UHCOP National Board Results

UHCOP Pharm.D. graduates once again have achieved a perfect 100 percent passing rate on both the NAPLEX licensure exam and the MPJE exam for the May to August testing period.

"We are very proud of our UHCOP students as they continue to demonstrate why they are among our nation's best," said UHCOP Dean F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D., R.Ph.

Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., professor, was one of seven distinguished alumni of the University of British Columbia 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.

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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. Fernandez also completed the ACCP Academy Teaching and Learning Certificate Program in October.

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F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D., R.Ph., professor and dean, and **Santhi Masilamani**, Pharm.D., CDE, MBA, clinical assistant professor, have received a \$40,250 grant from Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg to implement "Medication Therapy Management for Patients

with Type I & II diabetes: A Rio Grande Valley Ambulatory Care Project."

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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."

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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. Tejada-Simon and UH Biology undergrad **Alexander Oderhowho** received FASEB-MARC travel awards to attend the 2014 SACNAS National Conference Oct. 16-18 in Los Angeles.

Recent Publications

Molecular and functional consequences of mutations in the central helix of cardiac troponin C. Swindle N, Albury AN, Baroud B, Burney M, **Tikunova SB**. Arch Biochem Biophys. 2014 Apr 15;548:46-53. doi: 10.1016/j.abb.2014.03.004. Epub 2014 Mar 17. PMID: 24650606

Impact of computerized provider order entry on pharmacist productivity. **Hatfield MD, Cox R, Mhatre SK**, Flowers WP, **Sansgiry SS**. Hosp Pharm. 2014 May;49(5):458-65. doi: 10.1310/hpj4905-458. PMID: 24958959

Repurposing cryptosporidium inosine 5'-monophosphate dehydrogenase inhibitors as potential antibacterial agents. Mandapati K, Gorla SK, House AL, McKenney ES, Zhang M, Rao SN, Gollapalli DR, Mann BJ, Goldberg JB, **Cuny GD**, Glomski IJ, Hedstrom L. ACS Med Chem Lett. 2014 Jun 10;5(8):846-50. doi: 10.1021/ml500203p. eCollection 2014 Aug 14. PMID: 25147601

System and Patient Barriers to Care among People Living with HIV/AIDS in Houston/Harris County, Texas: HIV Medical Care Providers' Perspectives. Mgbere O, Khuwaja S, Bell TK, Rodriguez-Barradas MC, Arafat R, **Essien EJ**, Singh M, Aguilar J, Roland E. J Int Assoc Provid AIDS Care. 2014 Jun 18. pii: 2325957414539045. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 24943655

Review of Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of LDL-Related Risk. Morris PB, Ballantyne CM, **Birtcher KK**, Dunn SP, Urbina EM. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2014 Jul 15;64(2):196-206. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2014.05.015. Review. PMID: 25011724

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Amino acid facilitates absorption of copper in the Caco-2 cell culture model. Gao S, Yin T, **Xu B, Ma Y, Hu M**. Life Sci. 2014 Jul 25;109(1):50-6. doi: 10.1016/j.lfs.2014.05.021. Epub 2014 Jun 12. PMID: 24931904

Inhibitor of the Tyrosine Phosphatase STEP Reverses Cognitive Deficits in a Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease. Xu J, Chatterjee M, Baguley TD, Brouillette J, Kurup P, Ghosh D, Kanyo J, Zhang Y, Seyb K, Ononenyi C, Foscue E, Anderson GM, Gresack J, **Cuny GD**, Glicksman MA, Greengard P, Lam TT, Tautz L, Nairn AC, Ellman JA, Lombroso PJ. PLoS Biol. 2014 Aug 5;12(8):e1001923. doi: 10.1371/journal.pbio.1001923. eCollection 2014 Aug. PMID: 25093460

Chronic Stress Decreases Basal Levels of Memory-Related Signaling Molecules in Area CA1 of At-Risk (Subclinical) Model of Alzheimer's Disease. **Alkadhi KA**, Tran TT. Mol Neurobiol. 2014 Aug 12. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25112676

Host Factors and Clinical Outcomes of Candida Colonization in

Critically Ill Patients. **Jacobs DM, Beyda ND**, Asuphon O, **Jahangir Alam M, Garey KW**. Mycopathologia. 2014 Aug 31. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25173925

Impact of a clinical pharmacy program on changes in hemoglobin A1c, diabetes-related hospitalizations, and diabetes-related emergency department visits for patients with diabetes in an underserved population. **Chung N**, Rascati K, Lopez D, Jokerst J, Garza A. J Manag Care Pharm. 2014 Sep;20(9):914-9. PMID: 25166290

To prescribe codeine or not to prescribe codeine? **Fleming ML, Wanat MA**. J Pain Palliat Care Pharmacother. 2014 Sep;28(3):251-4. doi: 10.3109/15360288.2014.938888. Epub 2014 Aug 7. PMID: 25102040

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Agreement among measurements and estimations of glomerular filtration in children with cancer. Bernhardt MB, Moffett BS, **Johnson M, Tam VH**, Thompson P, **Garey KW**. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2014 Sep 27. doi: 10.1002/pbc.25194. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25263332

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