



Report to the Texas Pharmacy Congress — Feb. 15-16, 2017

## UH Welcomes 9 Pharmacy Practice, Basic Sciences Faculty

UH College of Pharmacy recently welcomed nine new faculty members to its departments of Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research and Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Sciences.

**Bernadette Asias-Dinh**, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE, clinical assistant professor, is an ambulatory care clinical pharmacist with experience in disease state management services through collaborative drug therapy agreements in anticoagulation, diabetes, tobacco cessation, and immunizations. Asias-Dinh maintains a clinical site at Vecino Health Center's Denver Harbor Family Clinic, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving Houston's East Inner Loop communities.



Asias-Dinh

**Krishna M. Boini**, Ph.D., assistant professor of Pharmacology, has primary research interests in renal physiology and pathophysiology in mouse models of renal diseases, glucose metabolism, hypertension and obesity. His current project, "Instigation of Glomerular Injury by Inflammasomes in Obesity: Beyond Inflammation," is being supported by a five-year, \$1.7 million National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Diseases grant awarded in 2015.



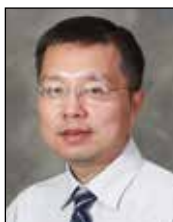
Boini

**Austin De La Cruz**, Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor, has practice experience in the management of various mental health disorders. His research interests include evaluating the use of evidence-based therapies for treatment-resistant schizophrenia and major depressive disorder, impact of mental health pharmacists on acute-care psychiatry, management of psychiatric illnesses and symptomatology in the geriatric population, and expanding the role of psychiatric pharmacy services. His practice site is at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston's Texas Medical Center.



De La Cruz

**Bin Guo**, Ph.D., associate professor of Pharmaceutics, is focused on understanding the epigenetic mechanisms that regulate cancer progression and the development of new cancer therapeutic agents. Guo's research is currently funded by two National Institutes of Health R01 grants totaling more than \$2.5 million: "Echogenic Polymersomes for Triggered Contents Release" and "RNA Therapeutics for Targeted Treatment of Colon Cancer."



Guo

**Sai Sudha Koka**, Ph.D., R.Ph., research assistant professor of Pharmacology, is focused on understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms regulating the development of

cardiometabolic disorders and identifying novel pharmacologic strategies to combat cardiovascular diseases, such as atherosclerosis in diabetic, obese and aging patients. Koka's current work is on the role of gut microbe-derived metabolites in endothelial and vascular cell signaling, inflammation and cardiovascular dysfunction.



Koka

**Xinli Liu**, Ph.D., associate professor of Pharmaceutics, is working to develop molecular-targeted nanocarriers and drug conjugates to deliver small molecule anticancer agents and biologics to target cancer metastasis. Her current projects include a three-year, \$446,000 R15 National Cancer Institute grant for "Novel Therapeutics Targeting HER2 Positive Breast Cancer Brain Metastasis" and a two-year, \$200,000 Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) grant for "Engineered Bone Targeting Nanomedicine for Treatment of Bone Metastases from Breast Cancer."



Liu

**Katie Smith**, Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor, has clinical practice and research interests in the impact of pharmacists on chronic disease states in underserved populations, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and interdisciplinary education. Smith will maintain a practice site at Vecino Health Center's Denver Harbor Family Clinic.



Smith

**Alexander V. Statsyuk**, Ph.D., assistant professor of Medicinal Chemistry, has current research interests in mechanistic studies of enzymes that control protein ubiquitination and developing chemical probes that target this class of undruggable enzymes to understand their biology and test novel therapeutic hypotheses. His current project, "Pharmacological Inhibitors of Nedd4 Ubiquitin Ligase as Anticancer Therapeutics," is supported by a five-year, \$1.4 million NIH grant awarded in 2015.

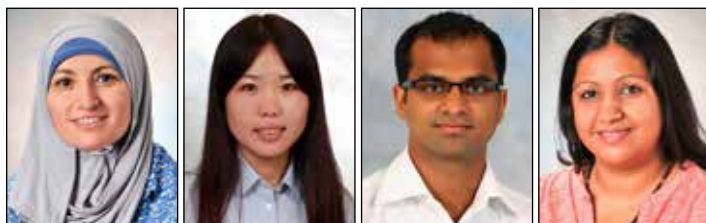


Statsyuk

**Divya Varkey**, Pharm.D., M.S., clinical associate professor, has academic, administrative and research interests in achieving operational efficiency and excellence, outcomes related to expansion of clinical pharmacy services, and personnel development and management. She will oversee growth and development of the two-year M.S./PGY1-PGY2 Houston Program in Pharmacy Leadership and Administration.



Varkey



Atrooz      Liu      Suryavanshi      Sharma

Four UHCOP Ph.D. candidates were selected to participate in the 2016-17 UH Future Faculty Fellowship (F3) program, which is designed to provide structured professional development workshops and other activities for UH graduate students with an interest and potential to enter into academia after graduation. The participants are Pharmacology Ph.D. candidates **Fatin Atrooz**, **Hesong Liu** and **Santosh Suryavanshi** and Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy **Manvi Sharma**.

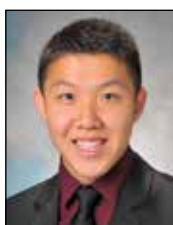
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Pharmaceutics Ph.D. candidates **Asma El-Zailik** and **Mahua Sarkar**, who both work under Professor **Diana S-L. Chow**, Ph.D., were selected as Student Award Winners at the American College of Clinical Pharmacology 2016 Annual Meeting Sept. 25-27 in Bethesda, Md. The awards recognized the presentations entitled "Impacts of Gastric Bypass Surgery on the Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Simvastatin, Atorvastatin, and Rosuvastatin" by El-Zailik and "Impact of Co-administered Minocycline on Plasma Pharmacokinetics and CNS Distribution of Riluzole" by Sarkar.



El-Zailik      Sarkar

The UHCOP Chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association won the national NCPA Simplify My Meds® Challenge at the 2016 NCPA Annual Convention Oct. 15-19 in New Orleans. Created for the exclusive use of NCPA members, Simplify My Meds® provides pharmacies with tools and training to implement a medication synchronization program. In addition, chapter Past President **Edwin Ng** was received a NCPA Foundation Presidential Scholarship.



Ng

UH Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences undergraduate student **Francisco Blanco**, a lab member under Associate Professor **Joydip Das**, Ph.D., received a Travel Award and a Student Poster Presentation Award at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) Nov. 9-12 in Tampa, Fla. Blanco's presentation was entitled "Mammalian Unc13-1 and Unc13-2 Isoforms as Potential Novel Bryostatin-1 Targets."



Blanco

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Pharmaceutics Ph.D. candidate **Guncha Taneja**, who works under Associate Professor **Romi Ghose**, Ph.D., received an American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Travel Award to present their project, "Molecular Mechanism of Regulation of Drug Metabolizing Enzymes/Transporters In Vivo: Genomic Profiling and Proteomic Approaches," at the 2016 AAPS Annual Meeting Nov. 13-17 in Denver.



Taneja

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The UHCOP Chapter of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists won its second consecutive Operation Heart Award at the Region 6 Midyear Regional Meeting Nov. 4-6 in Little Rock, Ark. The chapter's Operation Heart initiative provided approximately 2,000 blood pressure screenings and education interactions at more than 20 health events during the 2015-16 year.

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Pharmacology Ph.D. candidate **Santosh Suryavanshi**, who works under Associate Professor **Bradley K. McConnell**, Ph.D., FAPS, FAHA, associate professor, won second place in the Graduate Student category for the oral presentation of his project entitled "Gravin-dependent regulation of cardiac calcium handling and contractility," at the 7th National Meeting of the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin Jan. 15-16 in Houston.



Suryavanshi

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Pharm.D. candidate **Erin Moody** will represent UHCOP for the second time in the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists' National Patient Counseling Competition March 24-27, after winning her second consecutive UHCOP competition Feb. 6. The UHCOP APhA-ASP chapter's immediate past president, Moody also was the chapter's honoree for the Student Member Recognition Certificate at the APhA-ASP Region 6 Midyear Regional Meeting Nov. 4-6.



Moody

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The team of Pharm.D. students **Elissa Chin**, **Kim Dinh**, **Minthong Le** and **Sean Liang** won the 2017 P&T Competition hosted by the UHCOP Chapter of the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacists Jan. 20. The team is now awaiting word of an invitation to the National P&T Competition at the AMCP Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy Annual Meeting March 27-30 in Denver, Colo.



Chin      Dinh      Le      Liang



## Faculty News

**Joy P. Alonzo**, Pharm.D., M.E., Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research clinical assistant professor, has been appointed to a two-year term on the Research in Administrative and Social Pharmacy editorial advisory board. Alonzo also was recently elected vice president of the North Houston Pharmacy Association.



Alonzo

**Rajender A. Aparasu**, Ph.D., FAPhA, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy, has received a one-year, \$91,000 grant from Novartis for his project entitled "Pediatric Asthma Medication Management in Ambulatory Settings."



Aparasu

**Kimberly K. Birtcher**, Pharm.D., M.S., BCPS, CDE, CLS, Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research clinical professor, has been appointed associate editorial team lead for the Prevention collection at ACC.org, the official website of the American College of Cardiology. Birtcher also has been appointed to the ACCF/AHA Task Force Liaison on the ACC/AHA Guideline on the Management of Blood Cholesterol and the ACC Geriatric Cardiology Section Leadership Council, as well as reappointed to the ACCF/AHA Task Force On Clinical Practice Guidelines.



Birtcher

**Richard A. Bond**, Ph.D., Pharmacology professor, has been inducted as a Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society. Bond also has received a \$159,959 subcontract award from Duke University under a National Institutes of Health R01 grant, "Optimizing  $\beta$ -adrenoreceptor signaling bias in asthma."



Bond

**Hua Chen**, M.D., Ph.D., Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy assistant professor, has been appointed to a four-year term on the Healthcare Safety and Quality Improvement Research (HSQR) Study Section of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).



Chen

**Diana S-L. Chow**, Ph.D., Pharmaceutics professor and director of the Institute of Drug Education and Research, is one of five inductees of the Texas Medical Center Women's History Project for 2017. Launched in 2013 by the Texas Medical Center Library, the project aims to preserve the oral history of select individuals in



Chow

the Texas Medical Center who have made significant contributions to the development of the TMC. Interviews with the inductees are recorded for posterity and transcribed for preservation within the archives of the TMC Library, and made available to researchers and institutions of the TMC and the public.

**Elizabeth A. Coyle**, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCM, Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research clinical professor and assistant dean of Assessment, was recognized with a Presidential Citation by the Society of Critical Care Medicine at the 46th Annual Critical Care Congress Jan. 21-25 in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Coyle

**Joydip Das**, Ph.D., served as chair and organizer of a session entitled "Alcohol Actions: From Atoms to Systems Molecules" at the ISBRA/ESBRA Berlin 2016 Congress Sept. 2-5 in Berlin, Germany. During the session, Das presented "Presynaptic Munc13-1 binds ethanol and affects ethanol sedation sensitivity."



Das

**Brian J. Knoll**, Ph.D., Pharmacology associate professor and associate dean of Graduate Programs, has been accepted into the UH Cougar Chairs Leadership Academy, a yearlong professional/leadership development program of the UH Provost's Office now in its fourth year.



Knoll

**Sanket Patel**, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Professor of Pharmacology **Tahir Hussain**, Ph.D., received a Kidney Council New Investigator Travel Award to present his project entitled "Co-localization and Natriuretic Interdependence of Angiotensin AT2R and MasR in Obese Rat Kidney," at the American Heart Association's Council on Hypertension Scientific Sessions 2016 Sept. 14-17 in Orlando, Fla.



Patel

**Matthew A. Wanat**, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP, Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research clinical assistant professor, has received a one-year, \$207,548 grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer for his project entitled "Risk of Thrombosis and Bleeding in Patients on Warfarin or Apixaban (Eliquis) and Concomitant Anti-arrhythmic Medications." Wanat also was recently installed as president of the Society of Critical Care Medicine Texas Chapter and was honored with a SCCM Presidential Citation at the 46th Annual Critical Care Congress Jan. 21-25 in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Wanat

## Recent Publications

- Polyphenol compounds and PKC signaling. **Das J**, Ramani R, Suraju MO. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2016 Oct;1860(10):2107-21. doi: 10.1016/j.bbagen.2016.06.022. Epub 2016 Jun 29. PMID: 27369735
- Antimuscarinic Medication Use in Elderly Patients with Overactive Bladder. **Kachru N**, **Sura S**, **Chatterjee S**, **Aparasu RR**. *Drugs Aging*. 2016 Oct;33(10):755-763. PMID: 27681701
- High Rates of Nonsusceptibility to Ceftazidime-avibactam and Identification of New Delhi Metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase Production in Enterobacteriaceae Bloodstream Infections at a Major Cancer Center. **Aitken SL**, Tarrand JJ, Deshpande LM, Tverdek FP, Jones AL, Shelburne SA, **Prince RA**, Bhatti MM, Rolston KV, Jones RN, Castanheira M, Chemaly RF. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2016 Oct 1;63(7):954-8. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciw398. Epub 2016 Jun 16. PMID: 27313265
- Simultaneous quantification of mycophenolic acid and its glucuronide metabolites in human plasma by an UPLC-MS/MS assay. Zhang D, **Chow DS**, Renbarger JL. *Biomed Chromatogr*. 2016 Oct;30(10):1648-55. doi: 10.1002/bmc.3736. Epub 2016 May 9. PMID: 27061819
- Discharge medication complexity and 30-day heart failure readmissions. **Colavecchia AC**, Putney DR, **Johnson ML**, **Aparasu RR**. *Res Social Adm Pharm*. 2016 Oct 8. pii: S1551-7411(16)30478-8. doi: 10.1016/j.sapharm.2016.10.002. [Epub] PMID: 27771308
- Prevalence and Factors Associated with Multiple Provider Episodes in Texas: An Epidemiological Analysis of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data. **Ferries EA**, Gilson AM, **Aparasu RR**, **Chen H**, **Johnson ML**, **Fleming ML**. *Pain Med*. 2016 Oct 15. pii: pnw250. [Epub] PMID: 27744401
- Comparative Pharmacokinetic Profiling of Different Polymyxin B Components. **Manchandani P**, Dubrovskaya Y, **Gao S**, **Tam VH**. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2016 Oct 21;60(11):6980-6982. doi: 10.1128/AAC.00702-16. PMID 27697755
- Effect of Communication Style on Perceptions of Medication Side Effect Risk among Pharmacy Students. **Sawant RV**, Beatty CR, **Sansgiry SS**. *Am J Pharm Educ*. 2016 Oct 25;80(8):131. PMID: 27899827
- Effect of Chlorhexidine Bathing Every Other Day on Prevention of Hospital-Acquired Infections in the Surgical ICU: A Single-Center, Randomized Controlled Trial. Swan JT, Ashton CM, Bui LN, Pham VP, Shirkey BA, Blackshear JE, Bersamin JB, Pomer RM, **Johnson ML**, Magtoto AD, Butler MO, Tran SK, Sanchez LR, Patel JG, Ochoa RA Jr, Hai SA, Denison KI, Graviss EA, Wray NP. *Crit Care Med*. 2016 Oct;44(10):1822-32. doi: 10.1097/CCM.0000000000001820. PMID: 27428384
- Evaluation of Enoxaparin Dosing as a Risk Factor for Bleeding in Lung Transplant Recipients. **Sofjan AK**, Iuppa JA, Bain KB, Deal EN, Witt CA, Hachem RR, Yusen RD. *Ann Pharmacother*. 2016 Oct;50(10):824-31. doi: 10.1177/1060028016656434. Epub 2016 Jun 29. PMID 27363845
- Chronic insulin treatment phosphorylates the renal Na-K-ATPase  $\alpha$ 1-subunit at serine 16/23 and reduces its activity involving PI3-kinase-dependent PKC activation. **Banday AA**. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol*. 2016 Nov 1;311(5):F958-F966. doi: 10.1152/ajprenal.00355.2016. Epub 2016 Sep 7. PMID: 27605582
- Curcumin Inhibits Protein Kinase  $C\alpha$  Activity by Binding to Its C1 Domain. **Pany S**, **You Y**, **Das J**. *Biochemistry*. 2016 Nov 15;55(45):6327-6336. Epub 2016 Nov 2. PMID: 27776404
- A Critical Care Hybrid Online Elective Course for Third-Year Pharmacy Students. **Wanat MA**, Tucker AM, **Coyle EA**. *Am J Pharm Educ*. 2016 Nov 25;80(9):154. doi: 10.5688/ajpe809154. PMID: 28090103
- Risk of Nondherence to Diabetes Medications Among Medicare Advantage Enrollees: Development of a Validated Risk Prediction Tool. **Mhatre SK**, Serna O, Sansgiry S, **Fleming ML**, **Essien EJ**, **Sansgiry SS**. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm*. 2016 Nov;22(11):1293-1301. PMID: 27783546
- Pharmacokinetic Variability of Mycophenolic Acid in Pediatric and Adult Patients With Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation. Zhang D, Renbarger JL, **Chow DS**. *J Clin Pharmacol*. 2016 Nov;56(11):1378-1386. doi: 10.1002/jcph.745. PMID: 27060685
- Shoe soles as a potential vector for pathogen transmission: a systematic review. Rashid T, VonVille HM, Hasan I, **Garey KW**. *J Appl Microbiol*. 2016 Nov;121(5):1223-1231. doi: 10.1111/jam.13250. Review. PMID: 27495010
- Predicting the risk of nephrotoxicity in patients receiving colistimethate sodium: a multicentre, retrospective, cohort study. **Phe K**, Shields RK, Tverdek FP, **Aitken SL**, **Guervil DJ**, **Lam WM**, **Musgrove RJ**, Luce AM, **Tam VH**. *J Antimicrob Chemother*. 2016 Dec;71(12):3585-3587. Epub 2016 Aug 19. PMID 27543655
- Educating Pharmacists on a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. **Fleming ML**, **Phan Y**, **Ferries EA**, **Hatfield MD**. *J Pharm Pract*. 2016 Dec;29(6):543-548. Epub 2015 May 6. PMID: 25947949
- Time-kill determination of the bactericidal activity of telavancin and vancomycin against clinical methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates from cancer patients. Rolston KV, Wang W, Neshler L, Smith JR, Rybak MJ, **Prince RA**. *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis*. 2016 Dec 16. pii: S0732-8893(16)30428-X. doi: 10.1016/j.diagmicrobio.2016.12.010. [Epub] PMID 28109549
- Probable Nonconvulsive Status Epilepticus With the Use of High-Dose Continuous Infusion Ceftazidime. Collins RD, Tverdek FP, Bruno JJ, **Coyle EA**. *J Pharm Pract*. 2016 Dec;29(6):564-568. Epub 2015 Oct 16. PMID: 26475124

## Recent Presentations

- "Exercise Protects the Brain Against Chronic Stress," **Alkadhi KA**. American Physiological Society-Integrative Biology of Exercise VII/ Nov. 2-4, 2016. Phoenix, Ariz.
- "The Role of Non-Statins Therapies for LDL-Cholesterol Lowering in the Management of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease Risk: ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway - A Dialogue with the Experts" (enduring continuing education webinar) in 4 vignettes, **Birtcher KK**. American College of Cardiology, recorded Dec. 2016
- "Case Studies: The Role of Non-Statins Therapies for LDL-C Lowering in the Management of ASCVD Risk," **Birtcher, KK**. American College of Cardiology New York Cardiovascular Symposium Pre-Conference, New York, N.Y., Dec. 8, 2016
- "Case Studies in the Management of Hypercholesterolemia: The Role of Non-statin Therapies, The Changing Landscape of Hypercholesterolemia - The Emerging Role of Non-Statins Therapies," **Birtcher KK**. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting, Las Vegas, Nev., Dec. 6, 2016
- "Lipid Lowering Medications and Interactions," **Birtcher KK**. Baylor College of Medicine's Atherosclerosis Fellows Core Curriculum, Houston, Texas, Sept. 26, 2016
- "Comparison of a cardiac arrest simulation lab to a paper-based case on student learning/perceptions." **Wanat MA\***, Donahue K, Lee M, Herndon B, Lee Y, Tucker A, **Fernandez J**. Presented at the Society of Critical Care Medicine 46th Annual Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- "Structure and dynamics of the activator binding domain of PKC." **Das J**. American Chemical Society 72nd Annual Southwest Regional Meeting, Galveston, Texas, Nov. 10-13, 2016.
- "Studies of curcumin-PKC $\alpha$  interaction using in vitro binding and molecular modeling." **Pany S**, **You Y**, **Das J**. American Chemical Society 72nd Annual Southwest Regional Meeting, Galveston, Texas, Nov. 10-13, 2016.