



PharmD/MBA Dual Degree Greenlit for Fall 2016 Rollout

Beginning in Fall 2016, UH College of Pharmacy and the UH C.T. Bauer College of Business will offer a Pharm.D./MBA dual degree program.

The program will allow students to complete the requirements of both programs in less time than it would by pursuing them separately. Program eligibility is open to both applicants to the UHCOP Pharm.D. degree program as well as currently enrolled Pharm.D. students before the end of their first year in the professional pharmacy program.

“Our Pharm.D. curriculum already provides a solid, high-quality foundation in such areas as pharmacy management and operations, but the dual degree offers students the opportunity to take that knowledge to the next level,” said F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D., R.Ph. “As organizations, pharmacy departments and pharmacists themselves are becoming more accountable for measurable outcomes — not only for the health of our patients — but also for the overall quality of healthcare outcomes being achieved by the entity, regardless of whether it’s a for- or non-profit organization.

“The Bauer MBA program’s robust curriculum in such areas as entrepreneurship, project management and marketing will undoubtedly position our dual degree graduates for success, whether they’re starting an independent pharmacy, helping identify and implement operational efficiencies in virtually any practice setting, or seeking an executive C-suite position in a healthcare organization.”

Bauer’s full-time MBA program is ranked in the top 50 among public business schools nationwide by *U.S. News & World Report* and *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*.

“The tremendous scientific advances happening in healthcare present challenges to the resource allocation and delivery mechanisms in pharmaceutical therapies and in medicine,” said Bauer College of Business Dean Latha Ramchand, Ph.D. “Addressing those challenges will require leaders whose competence in business is as deep as their scientific expertise. Bauer College is pleased to partner with the College of Pharmacy to offer this program to the next generation of healthcare leaders in pharmacy.”

NIDDK Awards \$1.7M Renewal to Hussain for Study of ATR in Obesity-related Hypertension

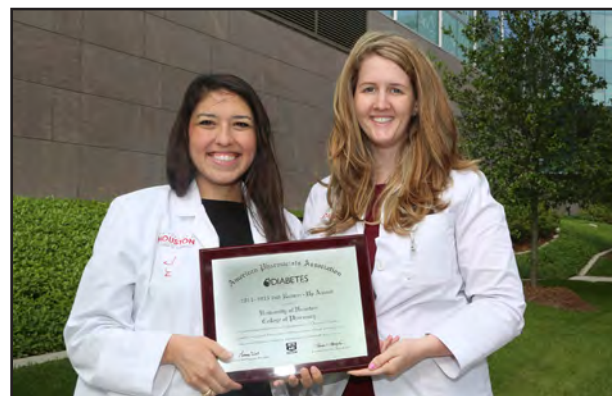
UHCOP Professor of Pharmacology **Tahir Hussain**, Ph.D., has been awarded a five-year, \$1.7 million R01 renewal grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases in support of his work investigating the potential use of angiotensin type 2 receptors (ATR) as a novel therapeutic target to reverse kidney dysfunction and treat obesity-related hypertension.



Hussain

Hussain’s project seeks to advance understanding of the increasingly complex regulation of renal physiology by the renin-angiotensin system (RAS), particularly the protective role by the ATR component. It is the second renewal for Hussain, whose initial R01 grant was awarded in 2003.

Aims of the newly funded phase are to determine that ATR and Mas receptors functionally interact to stimulate cell signaling and promote natriuresis, and to determine that ATR increase Ang(1-7) levels by inhibiting the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway, thereby enhancing activation of the Ang(1-7) producing enzyme neprilysin.



Operation Diabetes Finalist

The UH College of Pharmacy American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Chapter’s Operation Diabetes initiative received national recognition at the 2016 APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition March 4-7 in Baltimore, Md., as the 2014-15 Operation Diabetes.

The chapter collaborated with nonprofit organizations and private entities to provide wellness screenings and education at 19 events throughout greater Houston during the year. Pictured above are initiative senior co-chairs Scarlett Najera and Stephanie Underwood.

Delta Delta Chapter of Kappa Psi Fraternity Wins Province Chapter of Year, Presentation Awards

The Kappa Psi (KY) Pharmaceutical Fraternity's Delta Delta Chapter at UH College of Pharmacy secured the Chapter of the Year and Best Presentation awards at the organization's Southwest Province 2016 Spring Assembly March 18-20 in Houston. The Chapter of the Year award recognizes those with the most points in such categories as leadership, activities, service and scholastic achievements in the 12 months between each spring meeting.

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Pharmacology Ph.D. Candidates Receive Invitations, Awards for Presentations at ASIOA, ASPET Meetings

Pharmacology doctoral candidate **Santosh Suryavanshi** secured a third-place finish in the Graduate Student Best Presentation competition of the Cardiovascular Pharmacology Division at the American Society of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) 2016 Annual Meeting April 2-6 in San Diego, Calif.



Suryavanshi

The project, "Absence of Gravin's Scaffolding Enhances Myofilament Sensitivity to Calcium by Modulating Actomyosin ATPase Activity," was coauthored by UHCOP alumna **Sonal Singh**, Ph.D., University of Florida College of Pharmacy; **Wei Dong Gao**, M.D., Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; and Suryavanshi's faculty advisor **Bradley K. McConnell**, Ph.D., FAPS, FAHA, whose NIH grant supported it.

In addition, fellow Pharmacology Ph.D. candidate **Luis Martinez** received a 2016 Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Maximizing Access to Research Careers (FASEB-MARC) Program Travel Award to deliver an oral research presentation at the ASPET meeting. Martinez's project, "Correcting Memory Deficits in Fragile X Syndrome by Targeting Rac1/PAK1 Signaling," was coauthored by his faculty advisor, **Maria V. Tejada-Simon**, Ph.D., M.Ed., UHCOP associate professor.



Martinez

Pharmacology Ph.D. candidate **Naimesh Solanki**, M.S., received the JOGUE Junior Scientist Award in Nutrition at the 34th Annual Meeting of the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America (ASIOA) held in conjunction with the Experimental Biology 2016 meeting. Working under faculty advisor **Samina Salim**, Ph.D., UHCOP assistant professor, Solanki delivered an oral presentation titled "Role of oxidative stress in behavioral and cognitive impairment in a rat model of social stress" before being presented with the award.



Solanki

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PHOP Doctoral Candidate Inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy Ph.D. candidate **Archita Bhansali**, M.S., was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the world's oldest multidisciplinary honor society at a ceremony April 10 at UH. Election to Phi Kappa Phi membership is by invitation only. Each chapter screens juniors, seniors, and graduate students for membership based upon their grade point averages and good character.



Bhansali

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Students Earn P1 Clinical Skills Crown, Honorable Mentions in DSM, Research Poster Events at TSHP

UH College of Pharmacy students collected several honors at the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists' 2016 Annual Seminar April 22-24 in Frisco, Texas.

The team of **Stephanie Crowley** and **Diane Dreucean** won the P1 division of the Clinical Skills Competition, while students **Tracey Thomas** and **Kaitlin Wasko** received Honorable Mentions in the Disease State Management and Student Research Poster competitions, respectively. Wasko's project, entitled "Environmental Prevalence of *Clostridium difficile* on Low-touch v. High-touch Areas at Houston Public Parks," was coauthored by UHCOP's **M. Jahangir Alam**, Ph.D., research assistant professor, and **Kevin W. Garey**, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP, professor; **Anana Anu**, University of Texas at Austin Engineering student; and **Julie Miranda**, UHCOP research staff member.



Crowley



Dreucean



Thomas



Wasko

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2 Students Picked for 3-year Internship Program in Houston Methodist Hospital Pharmacy Department

First-year Pharm.D. students **Ibrahim Chowdhury** and **Julie Le Pham** have been selected for the three-year Student Internship Program at Houston Methodist Hospital. Chowdhury and Pham join fellow UHCOP students **Grace Hwan**, **Lena Rakouki**, **David Pham** and **Lydia Matar** in the program.



Chowdhury



Pham

Faculty @ Research News

Rajender R. Aparasu, Ph.D., FAPhA, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy, has been selected for the Fulbright Specialist Roster for a five-year term running through 2021. Aparasu is the first UHCOP faculty member added to the candidate roster of the Fulbright program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



Aparasu

Ph.D. ('04), BCOP, received a Minority-serving Institution Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research Award from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) to present "Role of GPR110 on tumorigenesis and metastasis in HER2+ breast cancer in the context of anti-HER2 drug resistance" and "CTCs and CTC clusters in breast cancer patient-derived xenograft models" at the AACR 2016 Annual Meeting April 16-20 in New Orleans.



Trivedi

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Matthew A. Wanat, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP, clinical assistant professor, was honored with the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Texas Chapter's 2015 Excellence in Service Award for Education during the same March 16 meeting at which he was installed as the chapter's president-elect. Wanat serves as a clinical pharmacy specialist in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center and a clinical instructor at Baylor College of Medicine.



Wanat



A collaborative project by UH College of Pharmacy, Cigna HealthSpring and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) researchers was recognized with a Gold Medal at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy's AMCP & Specialty Pharmacy Annual Meeting April 19-22 in San Francisco.

Two UHCOP Pharmacology faculty members were recognized at the 34th Annual Meeting of the Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America (ASIOA) April 3 in San Diego. Professor **Tahir Hussain**, Ph.D., was honored with the association's Service Award for his work with the organization over several years. In addition, Assistant Professor **Samina Salim**, Ph.D., was installed to the ASIOA's Executive Committee.



Hussain



Salim

The project entitled, "Factors affecting Prescription Drug Coverage Gap among COPD Patients: Analysis of Time to Coverage," was led by **Sujit S. Sangiry**, Ph.D., UHCOP associate professor, and coauthored by **Archita Bhansali**, M.S. ('13), Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy Ph.D. candidate; **Omar Serna**, Pharm.D. ('08), BCACP, Cigna HealthSpring clinical pharmacy manager and UHCOP alumnus; **Marc L. Fleming**, Ph.D., MPH, R.Ph., and **Susan Abughosh**, Ph.D., UHCOP assistant professors; and GSK's **Michelle Kamdar**, Pharm.D., health outcomes director, National Accounts, and **Richard Stanford**, Pharm.D., senior director, Customer Engagement Value Evidence and Outcomes.

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Faculty members **Bradley K. McConnell**, Ph.D., FAPS, FAHA, associate professor, and **Matthew A. Wanat**, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP, clinical assistant professor, were honored with UH faculty and research awards April 14. Recognized with the Undergraduate Research Mentoring-Early Career Award, McConnell is the second UHCOP consecutive recipient of the award and the college's third winner since UH launched it four years ago. Wanat was honored among the UH Excellence in Teaching Award recipients in the Instructional/Clinical category.



McConnell



Wanat

Kevin W. Garey, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research, has received a one-year, \$72,974 grant from Cidara Therapeutics for his project, "Defining the Unmet Medical Need of Novel Echinocandins: A Real-World Study"; and a one-year, \$124,073 grant from Merck & Co. for his project, "How Does Fidaxomicin Inhibit Spore and Toxin Production: A Mechanistic Study."



Garey

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UHCOP Assistant Professor **Meghna V. Trivedi**, Pharm.D. ('03),

Recent Publications

- The role of the clinical pharmacist in the care of patients with cardiovascular disease. Dunn SP, **Birtcher KK**, Beavers CJ, Baker WL, Brouse SD, Page RL 2nd, Bittner V, Walsh MN. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2015 Nov 10;66(19):2129-39. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2015.09.025. Review. PMID: 26541925
- Factors Influencing Oral Bioavailability of Thai Mango Seed Kernel Extract and Its Key Phenolic Principles. Jiamboonsri P, Pithayanukul P, Bavovada R, Leanpolchareanchai J, Yin T, **Gao S, Hu M**. *Molecules*. 2015 Nov 30;20(12):21254-73. doi: 10.3390/molecules201219759. PMID: 26633325
- Comparison of the Effect of Exercise on Late-Phase LTP of the Dentate Gyrus and CA1 of Alzheimer's Disease Model. **Dao AT, Zagaar MA**, Levine AT, **Alkadhi KA**. *Mol Neurobiol*. 2015 Dec 12. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26660327
- Instigation of endothelial Nlrp3 inflammasome by adipokine visfatin promotes inter-endothelial junction disruption: role of HMGB1. Chen Y, Pitzer AL, **Li X**, Li PL, Wang L, **Zhang Y**. *J Cell Mol Med*. 2015 Dec;19(12):2715-27. doi: 10.1111/jcmm.12657. Epub 2015 Aug 20. PMID: 26293846
- Use of Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors, Angiotensin Receptor Blockers, and Risk of Dementia in Heart Failure. **Chitnis AS, Aparasu RR, Chen H**, Kunik ME, Schulz PE, **Johnson ML**. *Am J Alzheimers Dis Other Demen*. 2015 Dec 24. pii: 1533317515618799. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26705381
- Intention to quit water pipe smoking among Arab Americans: Application of the theory of planned behavior. **Athamneh L, Essien EJ, Sangsiry SS, Abughosh S**. *J Ethn Subst Abuse*. 2015 Dec 31:1-11. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26720395
- Use of Reporter Genes to Analyze Estrogen Response: The Transgenic Zebrafish Model. Gorelick DA, Pinto CL, Hao R, **Bondesson M**. *Methods Mol Biol*. 2016;1366:315-25. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939-3127-9_24. PMID: 26585145
- In Vitro Approaches to Study Regulation of Hepatic Cytochrome P450 (CYP) 3A Expression by Paclitaxel and Rifampicin. **Ghose R, Mallick P, Taneja G**, Chu C, Moorthy B. *Methods Mol Biol*. 2016;1395:55-68. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939-3347-1_4. PMID: 26910068
- Role of Adaptor Protein Toll-Like Interleukin Domain Containing Adaptor Inducing Interferon β in Toll-Like Receptor 3- and 4-Mediated Regulation of Hepatic Drug Metabolizing Enzyme and Transporter Genes. **Shah P**, Omoluabi O, Moorthy B, **Ghose R**. *Drug Metab Dispos*. 2016 Jan;44(1):61-7. doi: 10.1124/dmd.115.066761. Epub 2015 Oct 15. PMID: 26470915
- Comparative Effectiveness of Second-Generation Antidepressants in Reducing the Risk of Dementia in Elderly Nursing Home Residents with Depression. **Bali V**, Holmes HM, **Johnson ML, Chen H, Fleming ML, Aparasu RR**. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2016 Jan;36(1):38-48. doi: 10.1002/phar.1680. Epub 2016 Jan 9. PMID: 26748455
- Instant membrane resealing in nlrp3 inflammasome activation of endothelial cells. Chen Y, Yuan M, Xia M, Wang L, **Zhang Y**, Li PL. *Front Biosci (Landmark Ed)*. 2016 Jan 1;21:635-50. PMID: 26709796
- Regulation of dynein-mediated autophagosomes trafficking by ASM in CASMCs. Xu M, Zhang Q, Li PL, Nguyen T, Li X, **Zhang Y**. *Front Biosci (Landmark Ed)*. 2016 Jan 1;21:696-706. PMID: 26709800
- Characterization of oxygenated metabolites of ginsenoside Rg1 in plasma and urine of rat. Wang JR, Tong TT, Yau LF, Chen CY, Bai LP, Ma J, **Hu M**, Liu L, Jiang ZH. *J Chromatogr B Analyt Technol Biomed Life Sci*. 2016 Jan 9. pii: S1570-0232(15)30353-6. doi: 10.1016/j.jchromb.2015.12.028. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26809375
- Evaluating pharmacy leader development through the seven action logics. **Philip A, Desai A, Nguyen PA, Birney P, Colavecchia A, Karralli R, Smith L, Lorimer D, Burgess G, Munch K, Daniel N, Lionetti J, Garey KW**. *Am J Health Syst Pharm*. 2016 Jan 15;73(2):82-5. doi: 10.2146/ajhp150162. PMID: 26721538
- Development and Validation of a Clostridium difficile Health-related Quality-of-Life Questionnaire. **Garey KW, Aitken SL**, Gschwind L, Goddu S, Xie Y, Duff C, Barbut F, **Shah DN**, DuPont HL. *J Clin Gastroenterol*. 2016 Jan 19. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26796081
- Evaluating Pharmacist-Written Recommendations to Providers in a Medicare Advantage Plan: Factors Associated with Provider Acceptance. Mann A, **Esse T, Abughosh SM, Serna O**. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm*. 2016 Jan;22(1):49-55. doi: 10.18553/jmcp.2016.22.1.49. PMID: 27015051
- Differences in asthma study models and the effectiveness of β 2-adrenoceptor ligands: response to Lipworth et al. **Bond RA, Thanawala VJ**, Parra S, Leff P. *Br J Pharmacol*. 2016 Jan;173(1):250-1. doi: 10.1111/bph.13334. PMID: 26687674
- A Pharmacist Telephone Intervention to Identify Adherence Barriers and Improve Adherence Among Nonadherent Patients with Comorbid Hypertension and Diabetes in a Medicare Advantage Plan. **Abughosh SM, Wang X, Serna O, Henges C, Masilamani S, Essien EJ, Chung N, Fleming M**. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm*. 2016 Jan;22(1):63-73. doi: 10.18553/jmcp.2016.22.1.63. PMID: 27015053
- Tempol protects sleep-deprivation induced behavioral deficits in aggressive male Long-Evans rats. **Solanki N, Atrooz F, Asghar S, Salim S**. *Neurosci Lett*. 2016 Jan 26;612:245-50. doi: 10.1016/j.neulet.2015.12.032. Epub 2015 Dec 23. PMID: 26724222
- Establishment and use of new MDCK II cells overexpressing both UGT1A1 and MRP2 to characterize flavonoid metabolism via the glucuronidation pathway. Wang M, Yang G, **He Y, Xu B**, Zeng M, **Yin T, Gao S, Hu M**. *Mol Nutr Food Res*. 2016 Feb 2. doi: 10.1002/mnfr.201500321. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26833852
- Anticholinergic Medication Use and Risk of Pneumonia in Elderly Adults: A Nested Case-Control Study. **Chatterjee S**, Carnahan RM, **Chen H**, Holmes HM, **Johnson ML, Aparasu RR**. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2016 Feb;64(2):394-400. doi: 10.1111/jgs.13932. PMID: 26889844
- Disposition of Flavonoids via Recycling: Direct Biliary Excretion of Enterically or Extrahepatically Derived Flavonoid Glucuronides. Zeng M, Sun R, **Basu S, Ma Y, Ge S**, Yin T, **Gao S, Zhang J, Hu M**. *Mol Nutr Food Res*. 2016 Feb 4. doi: 10.1002/mnfr.201500692. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26843117
- N-Acetyl Cysteine Therapy Does Not Prevent Renal Failure in High-Risk Patients Undergoing Open-Heart Surgery. **Rababa'h AM**, Deo SV, Altarabsheh SE, De Caro J, Tarboush NA, **Alzoubi KH**, Ababneh M, **McConnell BK**, Markowitz AH, Park SJ. *Heart Surg Forum*. 2016 Feb 22;19(1):E016-22. doi: 10.1532/hcf.1424. PMID: 26913679