

# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

## COLLEGE OF PHARMACY



Report to the Texas Pharmacy Congress — August 8-9, 2017



## Phase 1 of Move-in Wrapping Up, Semester Prep Under Way

The first phase of UH College of Pharmacy's move to its new home in Health and Biomedical Sciences Building 2, a nine-story, 300,000-square-foot facility in the heart of UH's Biomedical District, is wrapping up as the college prepares to welcome its Pharm.D. Class of 2021 as well as returning students.

Among the college units that were moved during the first phase are the Dean's Office; Experiential Programs; Pharm.D. Student Services; Communications; Information Technology; Assessment; and the majority of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research (select PPTR faculty and their research labs will move during

a later phase). By the end of 2017, faculty and associated labs from the college's departments of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes & Policy and Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences as well as the remainder of the PPTR faculty and labs are expected to be housed in HBSB2. Upon completion of its space in late 2017, UHCOP will occupy approximately 138,000 square feet of teaching, administrative and research space over five floors.

The college's new official address is **4849 Calhoun Road, Room 3046, Houston, TX 77204-5000** (all phone numbers, emails and website are unchanged).

## UH, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance Team on RGV Satellite

In a signing ceremony June 27, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance Health System and the University of Houston committed to launching a satellite program for UH College of Pharmacy's Pharm.D. program in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) region.

The RGV satellite program will serve as a major teaching site for the college's Professional Pharmacy Hispanic Healthcare Certificate Program — the first program of its kind in the nation — and provide new education and training opportunities for meeting Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education-mandated Interprofessional Education standards.

The satellite program builds upon UHCOP's commitment to the region, which follows the signing of a 2015 Memorandum of



Participating in the signing ceremony were R. Armour Forse, M.D., Ph.D., DHR chief academic officer; F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D., R.Ph., UHCOP dean; Bruce Jones, Ph.D., UH vice provost for Academic Programs; Carlos J. Cardenas, M.D., DHR chief administrative officer and chairman of the board; and Gavino Garza, R.Ph., DHR director of Pharmacy.

Understanding with South Texas College in McAllen to offer a streamlined Pharm.D. pathway through academic advising support and services for STC pre-pharmacy program students. The DHR agreement includes provide teaching/administrative space and support for the hiring of an assistant dean and four clinical faculty members.

DHR is a 530-bed physician-owned health system that offers some of the most comprehensive medical care on the U.S. Southern border. From general acute care services and preventative health programs

to graduate medical education at DHR, more than 700 physicians and 1,200 nurses dedicate themselves to offering a full continuum of care in over 70 different sub-specialties.

## College Graduates 129 Students, Honors Alumni and Preceptors

UH College of Pharmacy bestowed 14 Ph.D., 108 Pharm.D., and 7 M.S. degrees at the college's May Class of 2017 Graduation Convocation & Commencement ceremonies May 10-11.

The 2017 class included 23 members of the Rho Chi Pharmacy Honor Society and 20 member of the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society as well as 35 students earning Summa Cum Laude Magna Cum Laude or Cum Laude academic honors. The college also recognized several Class of 1967 Golden Cougars on the 50th anniversary of their graduation: **Thomas N. Cammack Jr., Edna G. Houston, Royce E. Jackson, Charles E. Janak, Raul Martinez Jr., Ramiro Perez** and **Dr. Jerry A. Thiem**.

Graduation-related activities also included recognition of the college's top preceptors and site during the 2016-17 academic year:

Community Preceptor of the Year Award — **John Yoo**, Pharm.D. ('03),

pharmacist-in-charge at the Compounding Shop Pharmacy in Houston; Ambulatory Care Preceptor of the Year — **Ashley Burns**, Pharm.D. ('12), patient care service manager for the Houston Division of the Albertsons Cos.;

Institutional Patient Care Preceptor of the Year — **Megan Anderson**, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical pharmacist with Memorial Hermann Healthcare System;

Hospital Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year — **Mallory Gessner Wharton**, Pharm.D. ('11), M.S. ('13), BCPS, director of Pharmacy at Kingwood Medical Center;

Health Systems Pharmacy of the Year — **Houston Methodist Hospital**; and

Faculty Preceptor of the Year — **Matthew Wanat**, Pharm.D, BCPS, BCCCP, UHCOP clinical assistant professor.

## Student News

### UH Earns Chapter of Year, Individual Honors at SNPhA Nationals

The UHCOP Chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association claimed a bevy of top chapter and individual awards, ranging from Overall National Chapter of the Year to election to the office of National Vice President, at the NPhA/SNPhA 44th Annual National Meeting July 28-31 in Las Vegas, Nev.

It's the second time in the past three years in which the UHCOP chapter has won the SNPhA/Rite Aid Chauncey I. Cooper Chapter Excellence Award (Chapter of the Year) in both the Large Chapter Category and Overall in the same year. Among group honors, the chapter also brought home the Power to End Stroke Initiative Award sponsored by the American Heart Association and the 2017 National Convention Registration Award for Large Chapter Membership.

Several UHCOP SNPhA members also brought home individual honors, including: **Johnny Hoang** – Kroger Endowed Scholarship, **Darian Allen** – Attorney Sybil Richard Book Award, and **Sara Mirjamali** – Rite Aid Community Leader of the Year Award; **Gifty Gyebi** – elected 2017-2018 National Vice President, **Vivian Lieu**



– appointed 2017-2018 Region 4 Facilitator, and **Chidi Iroegbu** – appointed 2017-2018 Bridging the Gap Chair; and **Shutian Ju** and **Brian Nwokorie** – National Officer Awards in recognition of their service on the 2016-17 National Executive Board (as chairs of the Remember the Ribbon and Bridging the Gap initiatives, respectively).

### PHOP Team Achieves Historic Title Repeat in ISPOR Competition

A UH College of Pharmacy team of doctoral program students captured the first-ever consecutive title in the history of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research's Student Research Competition.

The team comprising Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy students **Carmine Colavecchia**, Pharm.D., M.S. ('14), BCPS; **Navneet Upadhyay**, M.S. ('14); **Aisha Vadhariya**; and **Qingqing Xu**, M.S., won the quiz bowl-style competition during the ISPOR 22nd Annual International Meeting May 20-24 in Boston, Mass.

In addition to the team win, recent PHOP graduate **Pratik Rane**, MBA, Ph.D. ('16), who works as Global Health Economics Manager at Amgen, was one of three recipients of the Best Student Research Poster awards for his project, "Risk of *Clostridium difficile* Infection Associated with Proton Pump Inhibitor Use Among Community Dwelling Adults with Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease."



Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy Ph.D. students **Navneet Upadhyay**, M.S. ('14); **Qingqing Xu**, M.S.; **Aisha Vadhariya**; and **Carmine Colavecchia**, Pharm.D., M.S. ('14), BCPS, celebrate their historic repeat win at ISPOR in Boston.

## Student News (cont.)

Two Pharm.D. students and a then-Pharm.D. candidate were awarded TSHP Research & Education Foundation scholarships during the 2017 TSHP Annual Seminar April 28-30 in Galveston: **Bradley Endres** – Micheline & Bourjois Abboud Scholarship; **Lauren Goldberg** – Arthur L. Davis Pharmacist Scholarship; and **Caitlin Le**, Pharm.D. ('17) – Sandra Evans Webb Scholarship.



Endres



Goldberg



Le

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Pharm.D. students **Sean Badal**, **Stephanie Crowley**, **Nancy Khong**, **Katie Rascon**, **Breanna Russ** and **Jeff Tu**, along with Clinical Assistant Professor **Joy Alonzo**, Pharm.D., M.E., participated in the 2017 APhA Institute on Alcoholism & Drug Dependencies May 30-June 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Badal



Crowley



Khong



Rascon



Russ



Tu

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Four Pharm.D. students were awarded scholarships from the Texas Pharmacy Foundation during the 2017 Texas Pharmacy Association's Annual Conference & Expo July 7-9 in San Antonio. The recipients were: **Lauren Goldberg** – TPF General Scholarship; **Amy Marie Kiley** – TPF Jim Martin Scholarship; **Jaekyu Lee** – TPF Larry "Neal" McClaugherty Scholarship; and **Breanna Russ** – TPF Professional Recovery Network Scholarship.



Goldberg



Kiley



Lee



Russ

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Pharm.D. students **Kaycie Rathburn** and **Ngan Nguyen**, UHCOP APhA-ASP Chapter's president-elect and vice president of Patient Care, respectively, attended the 2017 APhA-ASP Summer Leadership Institute July 14-16 in Washington, D.C.



Nguyen



Rathburn

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Pharm.D. student **Manal El-Khalil**, immediate past-president for the UHCOP Chapter of the Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists, was recognized with the 2016-17 Outstanding Student Award by the Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists.



El-Khalil

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Pharm.D. students **Dima Basatneh** and **Abigail Wright** recently completed the six-week Houston Methodist Pharmacy Student Observership Program, which is designed to provide early exposure to pharmacy students between their P1 and P2 years.



Basatneh



Wright

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Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy doctoral program students **Aisha Vadhariya** and **Qingqing Xu**, M.S., were selected for summer internships with Amgen in Thousand Oaks, Calif.



Vadhariya



Xu

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Pharm.D. candidates **Shutian Kathy Ju**, **Rebecca Kessinger**, **Jaekyu Lee**, **Lena Rakouki**, **Bolanle Soyombo** and **Andrei Zidaru** have been selected for the 2017-18 cohort of the Memorial Hermann Pharmacy Longitudinal Clinical Experiential Program (LCEP).



Ju



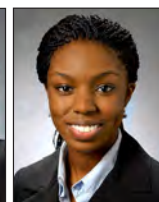
Kessinger



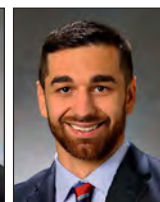
Lee



Rakouki



Soyombo



Zidaru

## SAVE THE DATE

Pharm.D. Orientation, Class of 2021 – Aug. 14-18  
 White Coat Ceremony, Class of 2021 – Aug. 18  
 First Day of Class, Fall Semester – Aug. 21  
 P1 Networking Social – Nov. 1  
 P4 Placement Conference – Nov. 2  
 Residency Showcase – Nov. 3

Effective Sept. 1, the following faculty members will be promoted to Associate Professor with tenure: **Susan Abughosh, Ph.D., Greg D. Cuny, Ph.D., and Samina Salim, Ph.D.**

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**Rajender R. Aparasu, Ph.D., FAPhA**, has received a three-year, \$384,000 R15 grant from the National Institute on Aging for his project, "Safety Profile of Antimuscarinics in Elderly Dementia Patients."

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**Bernadette Asias-Dinh, Pharm.D., BCPS**, clinical assistant professor, has been awarded credentials as a Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist (BCACP).

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**Hua Chen, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor, has received a \$30,000 UH Grants to Enhance and Advance Research award for her project entitled "The Impact of Access to Primary Care with Integrated Behavioral Services on Disparities in Pediatric Depression."

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**Elizabeth A. Coyle, Pharm.D., BCPS, FCCM**, clinical professor, has been appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

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**Austin De La Cruz, Pharm.D., BCPS**, clinical assistant professor, has been awarded credentials as Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist (BCPP) by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties.

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**Marc L. Fleming, Ph.D., MPH, R.Ph.**, has been awarded a five-year, \$375,000 subcontract from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to assist in the development of the state's Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF-Rx), a program funded by the U.S. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. Fleming also has been awarded a two-year, \$150,000 subcontract from the Texas Department of State Health Services' Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division to help develop the Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) program, which is intended to complement the SPF-Rx initiative.

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## College Bids Farewell to Simpson

After 20 years of service to the college and the pharmacy profession, **Lynn Simpson, Pharm.D.**, clinical associate professor, retired in May.

During her career, Simpson was honored with the APhA-ASP Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award, the Houston Pharmacy Association's Pharmacist of the Year Award, the Texas Pharmacy Association's Distinguished Young Pharmacist of Texas Award, and numerous awards at the college level.

Leading into her final year at the college, Simpson was serving as faculty co-advisor of three of the largest students organizations at the college (APhA-ASP, NCPA and Phi Lambda Sigma) and vice chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research; precepting at dozens of student community health fairs; and teaching courses ranging from Pharmacy Practice to Skill Labs.

**Kevin W. Garey, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP**, professor, has been awarded a five-year, \$750,430 co-investigator grant as part of a \$7.5 million NIH-funded U01 project, "Decoding Antibiotic-induced Susceptibility to Clostridium difficile Infection." The project is being led by Tor Savidge, Ph.D., associate professor of pathology and immunology at Baylor College of Medicine and associate director of Texas Children's Microbiome Center. In addition, Garey has received a \$140,000 contract from the Houston Health Department and the Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness in support of Garey's coordination of the Houston Antimicrobial Stewardship Symposium and assistance in establishing a Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and *Clostridium difficile* (C diff.) surveillance network for Houston hospitals.

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**Ming Hu, Ph.D.**, professor, has been awarded a five-year, \$819,857 subcontract award from Houston Methodist Research Institute for his work on the project, "A novel nanochannel system for sustained delivery of Tenofovir Alafenamide Fumarate and Emtricitabine for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis." Hu's collaborator, Alessandro Grattoni, Ph.D., HMRI associate member and chair of Houston Methodist Hospital's Department of Nanomedicine, was awarded a five-year, \$3.8 million R01 NIH grant for the project.

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**Sujit Sangiriy, Ph.D.**, professor, has received a \$40,000 grant from Biogen Idec Inc. for his project, "Alzheimer's Disease Progression Risk Factors."

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The recipients of UHCOP's 2016-17 Faculty Excellence Awards were Associate Professor **Gomika Udugamasooriya, Ph.D.** – Research; Assistant Professor **Marc L. Fleming, Ph.D., MPH, R.Ph.** – Service; and Assistant Professor **Samina Salim, Ph.D.** – Teaching.

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UHCOP's Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences will host its 5th Annual PPS Research Symposium Aug. 14-15, which showcases research by doctoral program and undergraduate students as well as post-doctoral fellows in UHCOP labs. The 2017 Scholar-in-Residence Jeff Aubé, Ph.D., University of North Carolina Eshelman Distinguished Professor, will present "New Generation Opioids: Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology," on Aug. 14.



Unabashed Disney fan, Lynn Simpson and her husband, Bill, enjoyed the company of many former colleagues and students and other "special guests" at her retirement party in May.

- Community Environmental Contamination of Toxigenic *Clostridium difficile*. **Alam MJ**, Walk ST, **Endres BT**, **Basseres E**, Khaleduzzaman M, Amadio J, Musick WL, Christensen JL, **Kuo J**, Atmar RL, **Garey KW**. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2017 Feb 10;4(1):ofx018. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofx018. eCollection 2017 Winter. PMID: 28480289
- Role of Renal Drug Exposure in Polymyxin B-Induced Nephrotoxicity. **Manchandani P**, **Zhou J**, **Babic JT**, **Ledesma KR**, **Truong LD**, **Tam VH**. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2017 Mar 24;61(4). pii: e02391-16. doi: 10.1128/AAC.02391-16. Print 2017 Apr. PMID: 28096166
- Effect of a Healthcare-system Respiratory Fluoroquinolone Restriction Program to Alter Utilization and Impact Rates of *C. difficile* Infection. Shea KM, Hobbs AL, Jaso TC, Bissett JD, Cruz CM, Douglass ET, **Garey KW**. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2017 Mar 27. pii: AAC.00125-17. doi: 10.1128/AAC.00125-17. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28348151
- Pharmacists' perceptions regarding the impact of hydrocodone rescheduling on prescription volume, workflow management, and patient outcomes. Varisco TJ, Ogunsanya ME, Barner JC, **Fleming ML**. *J Am Pharm Assoc (2003)*. 2017 Mar - Apr;57(2S):S51-S62. doi: 10.1016/j.japh.2017.01.020. PMID: 28292504
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- Effect of Psychopharmacotherapy on Body Mass Index Among Children and Adolescents with Bipolar Disorders. **Patel A**, Chan W, **Aparasu RR**, Ochoa-Perez M, **Sherer JT**, **Medhekar R**, **Chen H**. *J Child Adolesc Psychopharmacol*. 2017 Apr 19. doi: 10.1089/cap.2016.0133. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28422528
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- Modeling ecodevelopmental context of sexually transmitted disease/HIV risk and protective behaviors among African-American adolescents. **Li YH**, Mgbere O, **Abughosh S**, **Chen H**, Cuccaro P, **Essien EJ**. *HIV AIDS (Auckl)*. 2017 May 11;9:119-135. doi: 10.2147/HIV.S130930. eCollection 2017. PMID: 28694710
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