

TEXAS Pharmacy

REPORT TO THE TEXAS PHARMACY CONGRESS

FEBRUARY 2017



Dr. Adron Harris

\$29M grant supports alcoholism consortium

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a five-year grant totaling \$29 million to an international consortium seeking better pharmaceutical treatments for alcoholism. The administrative headquarters and several of the projects funded under the grant will be at The University of Texas at Austin, which will receive \$8.5 million of the total. The Integrative Neuroscience Initiative on Alcoholism-Neuroimmune Consortium will use brain gene studies, brain imaging and human laboratory studies to identify and test potential new treatments for alcoholism. Dr. Adron Harris, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, directs the consortium as well as UT's Waggoner Center for Alcoholism and Addictive Research.



Dr. John DiGiovanni

Study suggests enzyme safely starves cancer cells

Dr. John DiGiovanni, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, is part of a UT Austin research team that has engineered an enzyme that safely treats prostate and breast cancer in animals, and also lengthens the lifespan of models that develop chronic lymphocytic leukemia. The treatment and results from preclinical trials are described in a paper published recently in *Nature Medicine*. Many cancers depend on the non-essential amino acid cysteine to grow, survive, and even resist many chemotherapeutics. The research team engineered a human enzyme to systemically degrade cysteine. DiGiovanni's lab showed that injection of the cysteine-degrading enzyme into animals eliminates cysteine in blood, thus deprives the tumor cells of what it needs to grow.



NIPTE partners in national biopharmaceutical manufacturing institute

The National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education, Inc. (NIPTE) is part of the newly created public-private partnership called National Institute for Innovation of Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL). The group's goals to accelerate biopharmaceutical manufacturing innovation and education and to train a world-leading biopharmaceutical manufacturing workforce is supported by almost \$200M in grants. UT Austin is among the Tier 1, six-member institutional team from NIPTE that will partner with NIIMBL.



Dr. Marv Shepherd

Marv Shepherd honored at Health Outcomes Conference

Former graduate students of Dr. Marv Shepherd gathered to say thanks to their former professor and mentor. Approximately 75 former students and faculty members of the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice Division attended the event that included presentations by former graduate students including Dr. Rahul Sasane, Dr. Ryan Leslie, Dr. Michael Johnsrud, and Dr. Millidhishni Reddy. Shepherd, professor emeritus, retired last year.





UT team makes top 10 in ASHP clinical skills competition

Students Brittany Medenwald and Sarah Rumbellow were named among the top ten best teams in the clinical skills competition sponsored by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The competition, conducted at ASHP's mid-year meeting, included 131 teams competing against other student teams from colleges of pharmacy across the United States. Teams were given two hours to work up a complex patient case and develop a detailed pharmacotherapeutic patient care plan.



IPE teams present social media education programs

The concluding class meeting of the fall semester's Interprofessional Education class with pharmacy, social work, nursing, and medical students was highlighted by previewing the semester-long efforts of each team to develop a video promoting a health awareness initiative. The winning IPE team presented a video promoting an educational program focused on adolescent sexuality.



Dr. Benita Bamgbade

Grad student honored by Hogg Foundation

Benita Bamgbade, a Ph.D. student in the Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice, is a 2016 recipient of the Frances Fowler Wallace Award for Dissertation Research. The award was made by the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health and recognizes her dissertation, "The Impact of a Psychoeducational Intervention on the Attitudes and Mental Health Care Seeking Behaviors Among African Americans." The study will test a culturally tailored, evidence-based intervention on the mental health help-seeking behavior of African Americans.



Dr. Francis Lam

Lam named to Academy of Master Teachers

Dr. Francis Lam, clinical associate professor of pharmacotherapy, is one of four new members welcomed into the Academy of Master Teachers at UT Health San Antonio in December. The academy promotes and sustains excellence in health science education by building value and recognition in educational leadership and the scholarship of teaching. This is only the latest in a string of teaching recognitions received by Dr. Lam.



Dr. John Kuhn

Kuhn named HOPA Fellow

Dr. John Kuhn, emeritus professor of pharmacotherapy, has been selected as a 2017 fellow in the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association. The designation is given to recognized members who have made significant and outstanding contributions to the field of hematology/oncology pharmacy. As part of the second class to receive this designation, he will be recognized at the HOPA Annual Conference in March.



Dr. Nathan Pope

Pope named professor of the semester

Dr. Nathan Pope, clinical assistant professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, was named Professor of the Semester by the UT Senate of College Councils. Pope, who also leads the college's HEB/UT Community Pharmacy Residency Program, received the award from the Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee in December. He also serves as faculty advisor for the university's student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA).

Upcoming Events



The biggest open house in Texas - Explore UT - offers opportunities for people of all ages to experience the Forty Acres as The University of Texas at Austin rolls out the red carpet on Saturday, March 4.

February

25 Poverty Simulation

March

4 Explore UT

13 Spring Break begins

April

8 69th annual Honors Day

May

19 College of Pharmacy Commencement

20 UT at Austin graduation ceremonies