

## Overall Summary

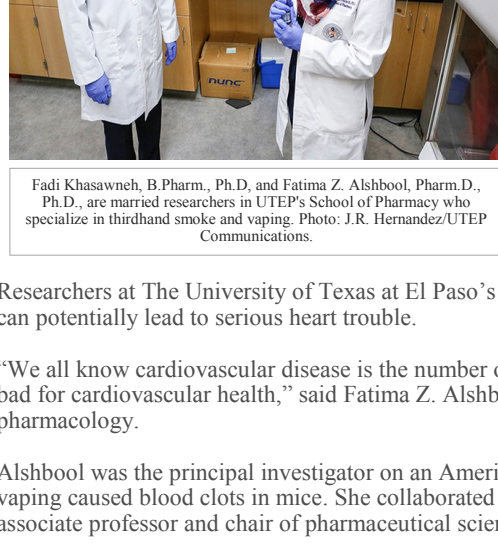
The UTEP School of Pharmacy (UTEP SOP) is committed to UTEP's twin goals of **access** and **excellence** through its admissions process, curriculum, clinical experiences, and community engagement. The integration and implementation of the UTEP motto is captured within the program's vision and mission statement. The UTEP School of Pharmacy vision is "To be a pioneer in the advancement of pharmacy education through Innovation, Diversity, Engagement, Access, and Leadership (IDEAL) in our community and beyond. The program's mission is "To bridge borders to achieve access and excellence by transforming pharmacy education, patient care, community engagement, research, and leadership for a 21st century demographic.

## Featured Story

### Smoking Alternatives Concern UTEP Researchers

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By Laura L. Acosta, UTEP Communications

Source: <https://www.utep.edu/newsfeed/campus/Smoking-Alternatives-Concern-UTEP-Researchers.html>



Fadi Khasawneh, B. Pharm., Ph.D. and Fatima Z. Alshbool, Pharm.D., Ph.D., are married researchers in UTEP's School of Pharmacy who specialize in thirdhand smoke and vaping. Photo: J.R. Hernandez/UTEP Communications.

Since electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, first came on the market in 2007, tobacco manufacturers have been touting their vaping products as a safe alternative to traditional cigarettes.

Rather than producing tobacco smoke, e-cigarettes heat e-liquid, or vape juice, into an aerosol containing nicotine, flavorings and other substances that users inhale or vape.

Although e-cigarettes do not contain as many toxins as conventional cigarettes, vaping is not risk free. More than 10 million adults in the United States use e-cigarettes.

Researchers at The University of Texas at El Paso's School of Pharmacy warn that e-cigarettes can potentially lead to serious heart trouble.

"We all know cardiovascular disease is the number one killer in the U.S. and that smoking is bad for cardiovascular health," said Fatima Z. Alshbool, Pharm.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmacology.

Alshbool was the principal investigator on an American Heart Association study that found that vaping caused blood clots in mice. She collaborated with Fadi Khasawneh, B. Pharm., Ph.D., associate professor and chair of pharmaceutical sciences, on the 2018 study.

"People looking for a way to quit smoking think e-cigarettes might be safer than regular cigarettes," Alshbool said. "They think e-cigarettes are emission free, but research shows that e-cigarettes emit a considerable number of toxicants."

Since they married in 2008, Alshbool and Khasawneh extended their commitment to each other to their research. They want to raise awareness about heart disease through their research. The couple joined UTEP in 2016.

Both researchers grew up in the Middle East where smoking was commonplace in restaurants, shops and in their homes. Each lost relatives to smoking-related illnesses, which ignited their mutual interest in heart health.

"I have family members who developed strokes and heart attacks," Alshbool said.

Just like in their personal relationship, Alshbool and Khasawneh each contribute their own perspectives and talents to enhance their scientific collaborations.

Although their focus is on cardiovascular disease and safety, they each specialize in different areas: Alshbool's research is on the health effects of e-cigarette vapor, and Khasawneh is studying the impact of thirdhand smoke, which is the residue from tobacco smoke.

They said they hope their studies will lead to new drug therapies that can manage certain forms of cardiovascular disease such as thrombosis, or blood clots.

"We're hoping to educate the public and to influence policy, and also to come up with better therapies to target tobacco dependent thrombotic disorders," Khasawneh said.

Of particular interest is how environmental factors such as vaping and thirdhand smoke affect platelet function.

Platelets are blood cells in plasma that help the body form clots to stop bleeding. Some conditions cause platelets to be hyperactive, resulting in the formation of blood clots and increasing the risk of developing a heart attack or stroke.

Alshbool's study found that the platelets in mice exposed to e-cigarette vapors over five days became hyperactive, causing blood clots to form.

While the study raised concerns about the risk of e-cigarette use in humans, Alshbool stressed that researchers must do more studies to understand better the health consequences of vaping, especially in teenagers whose developing brains are sensitive to the negative effects of nicotine.

"We don't know if vaping is more harmful or less harmful than smoking, but at least now we know it's not safe," Alshbool said. She is in the preliminary stage of translating the study to humans.

In 2015, Alshbool and Khasawneh were among the first group of researchers to demonstrate that thirdhand smoke could cause blood clots.

Thirdhand smoke is the chemical residue left on surfaces where smoking has occurred, such as floors, furniture and clothes. It is particularly harmful for children who inhale or ingest the residue as they crawl on carpets or play on furniture.

"The chemical aging process that tobacco toxicants undergo makes thirdhand smoke more toxic," Khasawneh said. "These particles can stay in the environment for months or years and even in your blood system for months and years. Markers for tobacco or smoking are being detected in the blood of individuals who never smoked or were never in close proximity to someone who smoked."

In August 2018, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences awarded Khasawneh a \$415,250 grant to examine the effects of thirdhand smoke on the cardiovascular health of children in utero. Alshbool will be his co-principal investigator.

The couple also will continue their work on an American Heart Association grant Khasawneh received in July 2018 to investigate new therapies to treat strokes and heart attacks caused by a protein inside blood cell platelets.

Alshbool said she hopes that their research will lead people to think twice before lighting up. She is especially concerned about teenagers who vape and the possibility that vaping could lead them to smoking. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that use of e-cigarettes by high school students skyrocketed 78 percent from 2017 to 2018.

"With e-cigarettes, we run into two issues," Alshbool said. "One is the dual use. Some people use e-cigarettes and they still smoke. The other issue is with the teenagers who have never smoked before. You create a new generation of tobacco users."

## Recent Awards/Honors

Outstanding Dissertation Award in Psychology  
Gabriel Fietze; Mentor - Dr. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant, Pharmacy. UTEP Psychology Department

## Contracts, Grants, and Sponsored Research

### Mendez, Ian (Assistant Professor)

Teach Tech Program Award. UTEP Information Resources and Planning.  
Contract to work collaboratively with technology experts to develop, evaluate and evaluate innovative strategies to integrate technology into SOP curriculum.  
McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience. McKnight Foundation.  
Loan Repayment Program. NIH

### Sias, Jeri (Clinical Professor)

New PLACES (Placement in Academic Clinical Education Sites) and New FACES (Faculty Acculturation to Clinical Education and Scholarship): Expanding Social Work and Interprofessional Education on the US-Mexico Border. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.  
2014 HEAL: Creating a Culture of Healthy Eating and Active Living in the Paso del Norte Region. PASO DEL NORTE HEALTH FOUNDATION.

### Chang, Jongwha (Assistant Professor)

UTEP-SKU Educational Grant. UT SYSTEM.  
The Association of comorbid anxiety and mood disorders with health-related quality of life (HRQoL) among U.S. chronic disease (Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia & Diabetes) patients. PASO DEL NORTE HEALTH FOUNDATION.

### Norman, Sarah A. (Clinical Assistant Professor)

**Currently Under Review**  
Mueller, Vanessa T (Principal), Summers, Connie (Co-Principal), Norman, Sarah (Co-Principal), Pinal, Denise I (Co-Principal), Elliott, Lisa (Co-Principal), "Spanish/English Autism Curriculum (SEAC) Series: A Family Education Tool for Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)," Foundation. (2017 - 2019).

## Intellectual Contributions/Publications

### Published

- **Fietze, Gabriel (2018)**. A Comprehensive Report on Marijuana: Focus on the Paso Del Norte Region. Digital Commons / Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Commons.
- **Fietze, Gabriel (2018)**. Executive Summary: A Comprehensive Report on Marijuana: Focus on the Paso Del Norte Region. Digital Commons / Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Commons.

### Submitted

- **Christenberry, Emily**. Co-curricular assessment plan for developing pharmacy professionals (RxPro). Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning.

### In Preparation

- Norman, Sarah. Comparison of medication reconciliation completion times before and after electronic prescription data system implementation.
- Norman, Sarah. Impact of a Designated Pharmacy Technician Performing Medication Reconciliation by Telephone on Reducing Medication Reconciliation Completion Time at a Behavioral Health Facility.

## Posters and Abstracts

- Loya, Amanda. Piloting a tool to assess pharmacy student attitudes and perceptions of community medication literacy skills in a Texas-Mexico border region. ASHP Clinical Midyear Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 3, 2018.
- Christenberry, Emily. Evaluation of the Implementation of an Intravenous Immunoglobulin Guideline at an Academic Medical Center. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 5, 2018.
- Christenberry, Emily. Implementation of a pharmacist-managed transitions of care service in patients' preferred language in a Spanish speaking community. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 5, 2018.
- Fietze, Gabriel. Comparison of the Incidence of Acute Kidney Injury for Adult Hispanic Patients on Cefepime Treatment as Monotherapy or in Combination with Piperacillin-Tazobactam or Vancomycin. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition. Anaheim, CA, December 3, 2018.
- Fietze, Gabriel. Personality correlates of self-reported fantasy football success. The Society for Judgment and Decision Making. New Orleans, LA, November 2018.
- Chang, Jongwha. Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Pharmacist-led Transitions of Care on the All-Cause 30-day Readmission Rate of Patients with Congestive Heart Failure. American Society of Health-System Pharmacist (ASHP) Midyear and Clinical Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 10, 2018.
- Padilla, Margie. Community Health Center Pharmacist's Impact on Latino Immunization Rates. ISPOR 17th Annual International Meeting. Washington, DC.

## Presentations

### Oral Presentation

- Pinal, Denise. Curricular Integration of High-Impact Practices. UTEP Fall Faculty Retreat 2018. University of Texas at El Paso, August 21, 2018.
- Mendez, Ian. The Pursuit of Happiness: New Insights into the Neurobiological Mechanisms Driving Reward Seeking Behavior. Cold Springs Harbor Laboratory Seminar Series. Cold Springs Harbor, NY, January 3, 2019.
- Mendez, Ian. Mendez Lab Research Scope. Building Scholars Orientation. El Paso, TX, November 16, 2018.
- Padilla, Margie. Lessons Learned from Building a Productive Interprofessional Education Community. 6th Annual UTEP IDRE Symposium. Thomas Rivera, UTEP, November 6, 2018.
- Sirimulla, Suman. Deep Learning Application for Predicting Drug Metabolism and Pharmacokinetic Properties. AAPS PharmSci 360. Washington, DC, November 4, 2018.

### Poster Presentation

- Fietze, Gabriel. Evaluation of the Implementation of an Intravenous Immunoglobulin Guideline at an Academic Medical Center. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 5, 2018.
- Fietze, Gabriel. Implementation of a pharmacist-managed transitions of care service in patients' preferred language in a Spanish speaking community. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 5, 2018.
- Navarrete, Jacquelyn. From R. Sun Teaching and Learning Conference. El Paso, TX.
- Sias, Jeri. Piloting a tool to assess pharmacy student attitudes and perceptions of community medication literacy skills in a Texas-Mexico border region. ASHP Clinical Midyear Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 3, 2018.
- Shenberger-Trujillo, Jessica. Piloting a tool to assess pharmacy student attitudes and perceptions of community medication literacy skills in a Texas-Mexico border region. ASHP Clinical Midyear Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 3, 2018.
- Rivera, Jose. Community Health Center Pharmacist's Impact on Latino Immunization Rates. ISPOR 17th Annual International Meeting. Washington, DC.
- Padilla, Margie. Implementation of a pharmacist-managed transitions of care service in patients' preferred language in a Spanish speaking community. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 5, 2018.
- Andrews, Sweta. Implementation of a pharmacist-managed transitions of care service in patients' preferred language in a Spanish speaking community. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. Anaheim, CA, December 5, 2018.

## Leadership and Research Development Projects

- REALIZE Executive Leadership. Paso del Norte Health Foundation. Dr. Amanda Loya, Clinical Associate Professor
- Faculty Development Workshop. UTEP School of Pharmacy. Dr. Emily Christenberry, Clinical Assistant Professor
- ExamSoft training "train the trainer". UTEP School of Pharmacy. Dr. Fatima Alshbool, Assistant Professor
- 2018-2019 Annual Training for Interviewing. UTEP School of Pharmacy. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Ed-Tech HPV meeting. College of Health Sciences School of Nursing. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- New Faculty & Professional Staff Welcome Program. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- New Faculty and Professional Staff Welcome Dinner. UTEP. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- New Instructor Workshop. Center for Faculty Leadership and Development. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Students with Disabilities: Faculty Responsibilities. The Center for Accommodations and Support. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Campus and Community Resources Expo. Staff Council, Faculty Senate and various University departments. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Fall Instructor Retreat. Center for Faculty Leadership and Development. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Faculty Technology Orientation. Information Technology. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- New Faculty & Professional Staff Onboarding Workshop. Office of Human Resources. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Faculty Development Workshop #2. UTEP School of Pharmacy. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Faculty Development Workshop. UTEP School of Pharmacy. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Training for New IT/AV Systems @ Campbell. UTEP School of Pharmacy. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Emotional Intelligence Seminar. UTEP Human Resources. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- Learning Style Inventory/ACPE Guidelines & CAPE Outcomes. UTEP-SOP. Dr. Liliana Lunares, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Professionalism in the Workplace. UTEP HR. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- El Paso Immunization Conference. El Paso Immunization Coalition. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- Multigenerational Differences. UTEP HR. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- Servant Leadership by Dr. Michael Williams. UTEP Training Development at UTEP. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- Aspects of Clinical Pharmacy. La Fe INC. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- Promotion and Tenure QA with Dr. Wiebe. UTEP Provost Office. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- Blackboard Institute. The University of Texas at El Paso- Academic Technology Center. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- 2018 ACCP Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy. American College on Clinical Pharmacy. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- Panopto Training. Campus Edge. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- Tips to Completing the UTEP SOP Annual Performance Evaluation (APE). UTEP School of Pharmacy Faculty Excellence Team (FET). Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor