

Overall Summary



These are exciting times for the UTEP Pharmacy program, as we move from a Cooperative Program with The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) to a stand-alone School of Pharmacy at UTEP. By opening a new School of Pharmacy, UTEP is in a position to make a significant contribution to meet the health needs and challenges facing the Paso del Norte region. We are committed to working closely with our community partners toward this goal.

The current Cooperative Pharmacy Program with UT Austin has proven fruitful in increasing the number of pharmacists in the region and providing continuing education for local pharmacists. While the Cooperative Program has served us well in many ways, it cannot meet the increasing demands for health care providers, specifically pharmacists, in this region. UTEP Pharmacy will continue to meet its obligation to Cooperative pharmacy students who are already enrolled and looks forward to a continued strong and productive relationship with the UT Austin College of Pharmacy.

The UTEP School of Pharmacy 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.

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Accreditation Status

The UTEP School of Pharmacy is currently in the process of completing its accreditation application for Candidate status with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). For a Doctor of Pharmacy program offered by a new College or School of Pharmacy, ACPE accreditation is a multi-year process that generally involves three steps: Precandidate Status, Candidate Status, and Accredited Status.

The six-year accreditation process requires UTEP Pharmacy to demonstrate that it has the capacity, capability, and resources to institute a successful and competitive pharmacy program. We are confident that we can meet and exceed these requirements.

The University of Texas at El Paso School of Pharmacy Doctor of Pharmacy program was granted Pre-candidate status by ACPE Board of Directors on July 11th, 2017. The School submitted its application for Candidate status on January 12, 2018, and will undergo its Candidate Status Evaluating site visit on February 27—March 1, 2018.

Recent Hires and Appointments

- Dr. Denise Pinal, PharmD, Clinical Asst. Professor (Pediatrics)—Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Pediatrics at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine

Board Certifications

- Dr. Denise Pinal, PharmD, Clinical Asst. Professor (Pediatrics)—Board Certified Pediatric Pharmacy Specialist (BCPPS)
- Dr. Jacquelyn Navarrete, PharmD, Director of Experiential Education—Board Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacists (BCACP)

Awards

Meritus Award: “Development of Flousterone Nanoemulgel for treating Fatty liver disease”
Maya Ruiz; Mentor – Dr. Jwala Renukntla, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmaceutics)

Grants

Printing Nano-Engineering (PNE) Educational Grant
JongWha Chang, PhD, Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Administration
Co-Project Investigator
\$873,155

Grant will be used towards a collaboration between the College of Engineering (Dr. Namsoo (Peter) Kim, Associate Professor of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering), and the School of Pharmacy (JongWha Chang, PhD, Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Administration will be acting as Co-PI) will enable for the expansion of new areas of research to include: food printing, creation of micro needles as a drug delivery system.

Brain and Behavior Research Foundation NARSAD Young Investigator Award
Ian Mendez, PhD, Asst. Prof. of Pharm. Sciences (Pharmacology)
Project Investigator
\$75,000

Grant will investigate the role of striatal enkephalin in cue-induced reward seeking behavior and is awarded for a two year duration.

Accepted Posters & Presented Posters

- Meador S, Christenberry EJ, Padilla ME, Fritze G, Franck A. Tdap and herpes zoster uptake following healthcare provider education in an academic family medicine clinic along the United States-Mexico border. ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. Orlando, FL. December 2017.
- Mendez, I.A., Murphy, N.P., Ostlund, S.B., Maidment, N.T. (2017). Age-related changes in licking microstructure and motivation for palatable rewards. Poster Presented at the 2017 Society for Neuroscience Annual Conference on November 13th.
- Perez, G. M., Gorbett, D., Nuñez, S., Taylor, T., Hernandez, N., Torres, A., and Rivera, J. O. (2018, April). Tobacco retailers’ proximity to schools in a predominantly Hispanic community. Poster to be presented at the 39th Annual Meeting and Scientific Session of the Society of Behavioral Medicine, New Orleans, LA.
- Perez, G. M., Gorbett, D. M., Hernandez, N., Torres, A., Rivera, J. O., & Renner, J. (2018, February). Set Your Date: Evaluation of a tobacco cessation media campaign. Poster to be presented at Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Gorbett, D. M., Perez, G. M., Nunez, S., Hernandez, N., Torres, A., & Rivera, J. O. (2018, February). An updated evaluation of a tri-state and bi-national tobacco control network. Poster to be presented at Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.