

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 obligations 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 has submitted its accreditation application for Candidate status with the **Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)**, and conducted the following on-site interview. 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 underwent its Candidate Status Evaluating site visit on February 27—March 1, 2018.

Awards

Population Health Scholar Award—Nora Hernandez, MBA CPH
Awarded January 30, 2017

Among 10 ten individuals selected nationwide for Academy Health's Population Health Scholarship Program, made possible with support from The Kresge Foundation. The program provides emerging community health leaders with small group training on topics related to federal policymaking as well as the opportunity to participate in the 2017 National Health Policy Conference (NHPC) and meet with representatives from federal agencies and other relevant stakeholder organizations.

Grants

UTEPSKU Education Grant - \$873,155
Dr. Namsoo (Peter) Kim, Associate Professor of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering
Co-PI: JongWha Chang, PhD, Assistant Professor in Pharmacy Administration Co-PI

Grant will be used towards a collaboration between the College of Engineering, Dr. Namsoo and the School of Pharmacy, Dr. JongWha Chang, which will enable for the expansion of new areas of research to include: food printing, creation of micro needles as a drug delivery system

Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program - \$395,000
Dr. Candace Berger, PI
Co-PI: Dr. José O. Rivera, PharmD
Others: Dr. Jeri J. Sias, Dr. Margie Padilla

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

The Role of Enkephalin in Cue-Induced Changes in Motivation
Brain and Behavior Research Foundation NARSAD Young Investigator Award - \$75,000
Project Investigator: Ian Mendez, PhD, Asst. Prof. of Pharm. Sciences (Pharmacology)

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

Identifying small molecule inhibitors of Axon degeneration via TMEM184b.
\$ 37,750 (Border Biomedical Research Pilot Grant (NIH))
PI: Dr. Suman Sirimulla
Collaborators: Dr. Martha Bhattacharya

Texas Department of State Health Services, Smoke Free Public Housing – Statewide- \$180,000
PI: Nora Hernandez, MBA, CPH
Collaborators: Dr. José O. Rivera, PharmD

With extensive experience in the area of tobacco control and policy development and adoption, UTEP will provide technical assistance to Texas public housing authorities on smoke-free housing policies, education on tobacco treatment resources, and developing a comprehensive data

CVS Health Foundation
Diabetes Empowerment and Education Program expansion for Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe - \$15,000

The aim of this study is to expand the Diabetes Empowerment and Education Program (DEEP) educational classes from one to three clinics and measure key health improvements of class participants. The six-week DEEP curriculum is designed to educate patients on diabetes management, prevention of complications, setting goals, and problem-solving. Key outcomes of the study are to: 1) enroll 550 participants in the DEEP classes, 2) graduate 247 participants from the DEEP 6-week course, 3) monitor patient health outcomes (e.g. participant drop of Hemoglobin A1C by 10%), and 4) increase the total number of patients who have implemented DEEP classes activities in their daily life. Methods include measuring DEEP participant engagement (i.e. enrollment, retention for class completion, medication and lifestyle changes adherence, monitoring of blood sugars, monitoring of diabetes complications, and health milestones (i.e. Hemoglobin A1c). Since the program implementation 132 people have graduated from the DEEP 6-week course, 230 people have been enrolled into the DEEP course. Data is pending on participant engagement and measurement of key health improvements.
Co-PI: Dr. Jacquelyn Navarrete, PharmD

UTEPSKU Educational Grant - \$873,155
Co-PI: Dr. Jongwha Chang
Development of a dual bachelor's degree in UTEP-SKU

UTEPSKU TeachTech Grant - \$2000
Improve technology use in the classroom
PI: Dr. Margie Padilla

TACC Research Allocation: VinaXB by Texas Advanced Computing Center
Improve technology use in the classroom
PI: Dr. Suman Sirimulla

Collaborations

Application: Microneedle & Nicotine project
Collaborators: Dean Rivera (UTEP Pharmacy), Dr. Peter Kim (UTEP Engineering), & Dr. Jwala Renukuntla (UTEP School of Pharmacy)
PhD student—Abilashi, Undergraduate student—Jonghyun Lee
Role: Co-PI

Discovery: Discovery of Novel chemical Modulators of Glycine Transporters
Collaborators: Jongwha, Chang, Manuel Miranda-Aarango
Role: Principal Investigator

This project involves studying the structure, dynamics of Glycine Transporters(1 and 2) and discovery of lead compounds that modulate them. PhD student(s) Brian Ashely Lopez

Oral Presentations & Poster Presentations

- Hanan Qasim, Fatima Z. AlshboolZubair A. Karim, Juan C. Silva-Espinoza, Fadi T. Khasawneh, Jose O. Rivera, Ismael Beltran, Hector Olvera, Cameron C. Ellis, Stephanie L. Bauer, Igor C. Almeida. "Short-term E-cigarette Exposure Increases the Risk of Thrombogenesis and Enhances Platelet Function in Mice" - Health-Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight Event, UTEPEI Paso, Texas
- Dr. Emily J. Christenberry, Dr. Margie E. Padilla, Gabriel Frieze, Agathe Franck, Dr. Amanda M. Loya. "Healthcare Provider Perceptions of Vaccinations in an Academic PCMH Family Medicine Clinic" - ACCP Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ
- Hyejin Jung. "Mental Health Care Needs in Subsidized Housing: What it Takes to Build a Mental Health Supporting Community" - Society for Social Work and Research, Washington D.C
- Dr. Fatima Alshbool. "E-cigarettes: A New and a Serious Threat to our Health" - Health-Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight- UTEP, El Paso, TX
- Dr. Mary Chavez. "Seeking the Truth: Evaluating Resources for and Evidence-Based Clinical Pearls for Commonly Utilized Natural Products and Nutraceuticals" - AACP Annual Meeting, October 9, 2017, Phoenix, Arizona
- Gerardo Muela, Suman Sirimulla, Mahmudulla Hassan, Danielle Castaneda, Ricardo Avila, Olac Fuentes. "DLSCORE: a deep learning based model for reliable protein-ligand scoring" - American Chemical Society National Meeting, New Orleans
- Suman Sirimulla "Efficient Protocols for Computer Aided Drug Discovery Research" - UTEP BBRC Symposium, El Paso, TX
- Nora Hernandez. "Strengthening On-Campus Policies" - Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit, Houston, TX
- Dessaray Gorbett, B.S. Jose O. Rivera, Pharm.D. Giovanna Perez, Stephen Nunez, Nora Hernandez, Annette Torres. "An updated evaluation of a tri-state and bi-national tobacco control network." - Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Torres, A., Villalobos, S., Mata, H., & Hernandez, N. "Aligning Policy Advocacy Efforts Across Substances and Sectors, Atlanta, GA
- Dylan K. Richards Craig A. Field Reyna P. Puentes, Candice F. Coffman, Osvaldo F. Morea. "Do protective behavioral strategies mediate the effects of a brief motivational intervention on alcohol-related problems among injured patients" - Research Society on Alcoholism, San Diego, CA
- Jacquelyn Navarrete Jacquelyn Navarrete Liliana Lunaes, Monica Cedillos. "Diabetes Empowerment and Education Program expansion for Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe" - The University of Texas at El Paso Health Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight, El Paso, TX
- Oliva, R. Frieze, G., & Shenberger-Trujillo, J. "Are Perceptions and Social Norms Linked to Knowledge of HPV and HPV Vaccine Adherence in Male Populations" - 2017 COURI Symposia, El Paso, TX
- Suresh Gorle, Suman Sirimulla, Fadi T. Khasawneh. "Modeling of allosteric and drug binding pathway of Human Thromboxane A2 Receptor" - Health-Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight, UTEP, El Paso, Texas
- Siena Meador Emily J. Christenberry, Margie E. Padilla, Gabriel Frieze, Agathe Franck. "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
- Isha Patel. "Diabetes Mellitus Self-Management Interventions in Latino Adults in the United States: The Role of Pharmacists" - International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, Glasgow, Scotland
- Hanan Qasim Fatima AlshboolZubair Karim, Juan Silva-Espinoza, Fadi Khasawneh, Jose Rivera, Annette Torres, Stephanie Bauer, Igor Almeida, Ismael Beltran, Hector Olvera. "Short-term E-cigarette Exposure Increases the Risk of Thrombogenesis and Enhances Platelet Function in Mice" - Health-Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight, UTEP, El Paso, TX
- Suman Sirimulla. "Recent advances in Autodock Vina molecular docking software" - 253rd American Chemical Society National Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- Suman Sirimulla. "Incorporation of sigma hole interactions in scoring function" - Openeye Scientific CUP conference, 2017, Santa Fe, NM
- Mahmudulla Hassan, Suman Sirimulla, Danielle Castaneda, Ricardo Avila "DLSCORE: Deep Learning Model for the Prediction of Binding Affinities of Protein-Ligand Complexes" - Openeye Scientific CUP Conference 2018, Santa Fe, NM
- Suresh Gorle Suman Sirimulla Fadi Khasawneh. "Modeling of allosteric and drug binding pathway of Human Thromboxane A2 Receptor" - Health-Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight, 2018 UTEP, El Paso, TX
- Nora Hernandez. "Prevencion y Tratamiento del Tabaquismo" - 4 Simposium de Enfermedades Pulmonares Obstructivas, Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico
- Giovanna Perez, B.A. Jose O. Rivera, PharmD, Dessaray M. Gorbett B.S., Stephen Nunez, Thomas Taylor Ph.D., Nora Hernandez MBA, Annette Torres B.A. "Tobacco retailers proximity to schools in a predominantly Hispanic community" - Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Llanes, K.D. Cabriales, J. A., Cai, T.X., Hernandez, N., & Cooper, T. V. "Electronic cigarette use and the adoption of a tobacco-free campus policy" - Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, New York, NY
- Jacquelyn Navarrete Jacquelyn Navarrete Jeri Sias, Sam Aboud, Juan Loya. "Project UnBundle: Unpackaging the Bundle Reimbursement Model in Community Health Centers." - American Pharmacists Association
- Lara, H.J. Frieze, G., Pinal, D., & Shenberger-Trujillo, J. "Health Care Provider Relationship and HPV Vaccination Adherence in a Young Adult Population" - 2017 COURI Symposia, El Paso, TX
- Emily J. Christenberry Margie E. Padilla, Agathe Franck, Siena Meador, Gabriel Frieze, Amanda M. Loya. "Increasing Uptake of Tdap and Herpes Zoster Vaccination in an Academic Family Medicine Clinic along the United States-Mexico Border" - UTEP IACR Spotlight, El Paso, TX
- Ma, X, Jongwha Chang Peer-reviewed/refereed Other Dr. Sweta Andrews. "Factors Associated with Physician Prescribing Behavior of Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 (DPP-4) Inhibitors for Type 2 Diabetes in the US Outpatient Population" - Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, Denver, CO
- Campbell Building Highlights Health-Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight, The University of Texas at El Paso UTEP
- Filip Fratev Suman Sirimulla. "Efficient structure-based protocol for lead identification" - Southwest Regional American Chemical Society Meeting, 2017 Lubbock, TX
- Suman Sirimulla, Miguel Rivera. "Identification of ZIKA virus inhibitors using in silico screening" - 253rd American Chemical Society National Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- Suman Sirimulla, Claire Govea. "In silico techniques used in the Drug Discovery of Corticotropin-releasing factor receptor 2 (CRHR2)" - Health-Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight, 2018, El Paso, TX
- Nora Hernandez. "Translating Policy into the Community" - 2017 Eliminate Tobacco Use Summit, Austin, TX
- Jacquelyn Navarrete. "Smoking Cessation Products"- KHRO The Fox 1150 AM: Parks and Recreation, El Paso, TX
- Fincham, D., Mendoza, G., Frieze, G., & Shenberger-Trujillo, J. "Understanding culture: Opportunities for healthcare practitioners to impact HPV immunization adherence". RCMi Translational Science 2017 Conference, Washington DC
- Feng, X., "Spatial and Temporal Variations of Screening for Breast and Colorectal Cancer in the United States, 2008-2012". Conference on Geospatial Approaches to Cancer Control and Population Sciences, Bethesda, MD
- Denise Cano, Suman Sirimulla, Miguel Rivera, Filip Fratev. "Identification of Akt1 inhibitors for the treatment of colorectal cancer". COURI Symposium, El Paso, TX
- Suman Sirimulla. "Role of unconventional non-covalent interactions in protein-ligand complexes". Gordon Research Conference-Physical Organic Chemistry, Holderness, NH
- Ibrahim Salama, Suman Sirimulla, Suresh Gorle "Identification of lead compounds of CXCR6 using in silico approaches". Health-Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight 2018, El Paso, TX
- Nora Hernandez, Annette Torres, Jose Cabriales, Theodore Cooper, José O. Rivera, and Stephen Nunez. "Establishing a tobacco free campus policy in a predominantly Hispanic University". 2017 National Conference on Tobacco or Health, Austin, TX
- Jacquelyn Navarrete. "Focus on Campus: UTEP School of Pharmacy", El Paso, TX
- Sara A. Thompson, Margie E. Padilla, PharmD, CDE, BCACP; Amanda M. Loya, PharmD, BCPS; Mary L. Chavez, PharmD, FAACP; Jessica Shenberger-Trujillo, PhD. "Understanding Career Preparedness, Exposure, and Support by Surveying Clinical Pharmacists in Oncology Practice to Identify Opportunities for Development in PharmD Curricula". Midyear
- Cho, N. "The Effects of Information Sharing in Health IT Systems on Hospital Efficiency Academy of Management". Anaheim, CA
- Suman Sirimulla. "Development of Polarizable Scoring Functions for Rational Drug Design". Gordon Research Conference-Computer Aided Drug Design, 2017. West Dover, VT
- Gerardo Muela, Suman Sirimulla. "Solving drug discovery problems using machine learning techniques". El Paso Data Scientists Meetup, El Paso, TX
- Ricardo Avila, Suman Sirimulla, Danielle Castaneda, Md Mahmudulla Hassan. "OpenDMPK: an open toolkit for the prediction of drug pharmacokinetic and metabolic properties". Health-Focused Interdisciplinary Research Spotlight, El Paso, TX
- Liz Williams, Nora Hernandez, Santos Diaz and Teddy Montoya. "Supporting Implementation of HUDs Smokefree Public Housing Rule". 2017 National Conference on Tobacco or Health, Austin, TX
- Emily J. Christenberry, PharmD, BCPS, I Jessica Shenberger-Trujillo, PhD, I Margie E. Padilla, PharmD, CDE, BCACP, I Stuart T. Haines, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, BC-ADM2. "MeRIT Project: Co-curricular Assessment Plan for Developing Pharmacy Professionals (RxPRO)". ACCP