

## Overall Summary



Since our last meeting, so much has developed around the world and within our respective localities. I hope all of you, as well as your families, are doing well, are safe, and remain in good health.

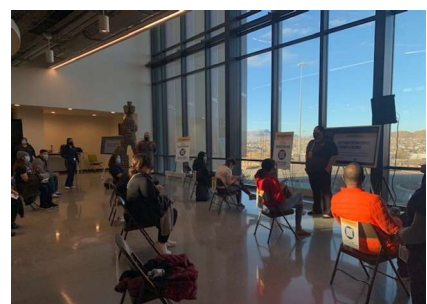
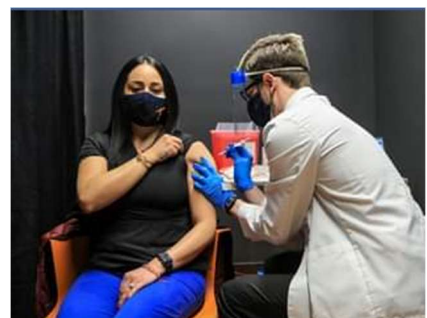
Here, at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) School of Pharmacy (SOP) we have been diligently working to make a positive impact in our community. We could not remain passive as the ramifications of the ongoing pandemic continued to increase and the populations we serve struggled to contend with them.

Currently, UTEP continues to offer free testing available to UTEP staff, faculty, and students, as well as state testing for symptomatic cases. No appointments are necessary for either testing option. We are very proud to report that in addition to the University's testing efforts, our School of

Pharmacy with the amazing support of UTEP's Administration, and the College of Health Sciences, began administering doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, upon receipt of the first shipment on January 21, 2021. The vaccine has been repeatedly allocated to UTEP by the State of Texas, and so far, we have been able to administer 3478 first doses to the highest priority groups.

We are so thankful for our amazing UTEP community and the many individuals from across multiple departments who have helped us achieve the monumental task of implementing a Vaccination Clinic, and immunizing UTEP's most vulnerable and at-risk. We are particularly proud of our Pharmacy students, as well as the Clinical Laboratory Science students from the College of Science, who have been prompt to serve, and continue to be the backbone of the clinic while still managing the demands of their school and personal responsibilities.

We are glad to be able to do our part in the fight against COVID-19, and we look forward to the quickly approaching comprehensive ACPE Accreditation visit, which will accompany the celebration of our inaugural cohort's graduation in May 2021.



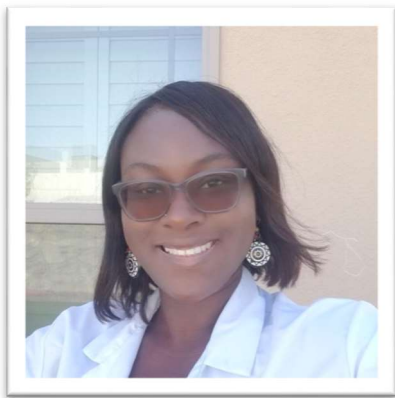
## Accreditation Update

As of February 2021, The ACPE Board of Directors has met and decided to grant the UTEP School of Pharmacy's continuation of Candidate status through June 2021, until our full accreditation review. The Candidate accreditation designation was originally granted in June 2018 extending through January 31, 2021. Before this, on September 22-23, 2020, the SoP underwent a virtual site evaluation. Historically, site evaluations have been conducted in person, however out of precaution for all involved and the COVID-19 pandemic, the site visit was successfully conducted virtually.

The next comprehensive evaluation visit will take place in April 2021, and will pave the way for full accreditation status, upon the graduation of our inaugural student cohort in May 2021, and the decision of the ACPE Board of Directors in July 2021.

## Recent Hires

Uchenna O Gbugu, PharmD, MPH, BCACP  
Clinical Instructor



## Recent Faculty Awards and Honors

**Gabriel Frieze, Assistant Professor of Instruction**  
School of Pharmacy Scholar Award

**Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor**  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy New Investigator Award

**Md Nurunnabi, Assistant Professor**  
School of Pharmacy Scholar Award

**Taslim Al-Hilal, Assistant Professor**  
P1 Teacher of the Year

## Grants

**Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor (Principal)**

Texas Public Health Region 9/10 United States-Mexico Border Communities Rural Healthcare Services Outreach Program. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

**Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor (Principal)**

Sex Differences and The Influence of Ovarian Hormones on the Mechanisms that Promote Nicotine Withdrawal. NIDA.  
Loan Repayment Program. NIH.

**Jacquelyn Navarrete, Clinical Assistant Professor (Principal)**

American Association of Diabetes Educators accreditation of health service. American Association of Diabetes Educators.

**Jessica Shenberger-Trujillo, Clinical Assistant Professor (Principal)**

Louis Stokes Regional Center of Excellence: Inclusive Mentoring in STEM. National Science Foundation (NSF). We propose to launch the Louis Stokes Inclusive Mentoring in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (Louis Stokes IM STEM) Center, which will bring together experts dedicated to building and diffusing knowledge of inclusive STEM mentoring best practices. The Louis Stokes IM STEM Center will support academic institutions, Department of Energy (DoE) national laboratories, professional societies, and regional industrial partners as they augment their inclusive mentoring activities of underrepresented minority (URM) students and students from other underserved populations. IM STEM will conduct knowledge-building and -diffusion activities in three focal areas: mentoring of community college students in transition, mentoring of undergraduate and graduate student researchers, and mentoring of experiential learning students

**Md Nurunnabi, Assistant Professor**

Biosensor Based Cardiotoxicity Detection Induced By Cancer Chemotherapy. LIZANELL AND COLBERT COLDWELL FOUNDATION (FNDN).

Most of the small molecule-based cancer chemotherapy induce extreme side effects mediated toxicity. The side effect included but not limited to hair loss, breathing problem and cardiac dysfunctions.

#### **Suman Sirimulla, Assistant Professor**

CHE: Exploring C-H...H-C di hydrogen contacts in Proteins. NSF.

#### **Taslim Al-Hilal, Assistant Professor**

To study the role of tumor endothelium-specific prion-gene PRND in epithelial ovarian cancer. National Institute of Health.

#### **Yong Qin, Assistant Professor**

Targeting A Stress-Derived Immunosuppressive Adenosine Pathway In Tumors Resistant To Checkpoint Inhibitors. US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH & MATERIAL CMD (FED).

To date, the mechanism for immune resistance driven by the CD73-Adenosine-A2AR pathway in uveal melanoma (UM) and pancreatic cancer remains unknown. Clinical experience with CD73/A2AR inhibitors in UM and pancreatic cancer patients and related tumor immune signatures are not yet known. An effective immunotherapy for metastatic UM and pancreatic cancer patients is a currently unmet need. Li

## **Publications**

### **Revising to Resubmit**

- Loya, Amanda. Improving medical students learning through an interprofessional pharmacotherapy selective. Medical Science Educator.
- Christenberry, Emily. Implementation of a pharmacist-managed transitions of care service in patients' preferred language in a Spanish speaking community. Journal of Pharmacy Practice.
- Padilla, Margie. Implementation of a pharmacist-managed transitions of care service in patients' preferred language in a Spanish speaking community. Journal of Pharmacy Practice.

### **Resubmitted**

- Christenberry, Emily. Implementation of a pharmacist-managed transitions of care service in patients' preferred language in a Spanish speaking community. Journal of Pharmacy Practice.

## **Posters & Abstracts**

- Mendez, Ian. Blocking nicotinic receptors following repeated nicotine vapor exposure induces withdrawal and anxiety-like behavior in rats. Society for Neuroscience Global Connectome. Virtual, January 11, 2021.
- Mendez, Ian. Short-term increases in risky choice following nicotine vapor exposure in rats. Society for Neuroscience Global Connectome. Virtual, January 11, 2021.
- Chang, Jongwha. Association of Health-Related Quality of Life with Breast Cancer Survival among Hispanic Population Using 10 Years of MEPS 2006-2015. American Society of Health-System Pharmacist (ASHP) Midyear and Clinical Meeting. Virtual, December 2020.
- Chang, Jongwha. Direct Medical Expenditure and Healthcare Utilization in US Hispanic vs. Non-Hispanic Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): An Analysis of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey 2012-2016. American Society of Health-System Pharmacist (ASHP) Midyear and Clinical Meeting. Virtual, December 2020.
- Chang, Jongwha. Performance-based risk-sharing arrangements (PBRSA): Is it a solution to increase bang for the buck for pharmaceutical reimbursement strategy for our nation and around the world?". American Society of Health-System Pharmacist (ASHP) Midyear and Clinical Meeting. Virtual, December 2020.

## **Presentations**

### **Conference Attendance**

- Padilla, Margie. Workshop 10: Developing a Longitudinal, Case-Based IPE Experience that Incorporates Relationship-building, Collaboration, and Leadership Opportunities | The University of Texas at El Paso & Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine. Excellence in Virtual IPE Learning Today for a Better Healthcare Tomorrow. Virtual Platform, December 15, 2020.

### **Oral Presentation**

- Fietze, Gabriel. COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance: Perceived Risk, Safety, and Effectiveness. El Paso, Texas (Virtual - Zoom Meeting), December 15, 2020.

## Leadership and Research Development Programs

- 55th ASHP Clinical Midyear Meeting. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Dr. Amanda Loya, Clinical Associate Professor
- Taking Care of Under-Represented Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Dr. Amanda Loya, Clinical Associate Professor
- The Little Things Matter. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Dr. Amanda Loya, Clinical Associate Professor
- Transitioning to Virtual Recruitment - Tips and Tricks for Residency Programs in Navigating the ASHP Midyear Virtual Showcases. American Society of Health-systems Pharmacists. Dr. Amanda Loya, Clinical Associate Professor
- 12th Annual El Paso Pharmacy Association CE Conference and Expo. El Paso Pharmacy Association. Dr. Amanda Loya, Clinical Associate Professor
- Writing Effective Exam Questions. UTEP School of Pharmacy. Dr. Amanda Loya, Clinical Associate Professor
- Pharmacotherapy Rounds: Special Considerations in Anticoagulation. University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Vaccine Uptake in Underserved Populations: Vaccine Hesitancy and Cultural Competency. ProCE, LLC. Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Pharmacy Laws and Regulations in Texas: Recent Updates to the Texas Pharmacy Act and the Texas Board of Pharmacy Rules. Postgraduate Healthcare Education, LLC. Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant Professor
- SOAR to Health and Wellness. Postgraduate Institute for Medicine. Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant Professor
- HeartCode Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS). American Heart Association. Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Co-Curriculum Accreditation: Lessons Learned. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Feminizing and Masculinizing Hormone Therapy in Gender-Affirming Care. American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant Professor
- HeartCode Basic Life Support (BLS). American Heart Association. Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Managing Time as a Preceptor. CEImpact. Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Staying Healthy: Avoiding Burnout and Compassion Fatigue. SELC. Dr. Emily Christenberry, Clinical Assistant Professor
- ASCP Annual Meeting 2020. American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. Dr. Emily Christenberry, Clinical Assistant Professor
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) Jumpstart Program. UTEP. Dr. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- 21st Century Teaching: Essential Curricular Design Elements of Hybrid and Online Courses for Pharmacy Programs. AACP. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- How to Provide a High Quality Peer Review for Journals. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Assessing the Impacts of a Pandemic on Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Utilization. ISPOR. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Replicate, Regulate and Redefine: RWE use cases in the next decade. ISPOR. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Introduction to Machine Learning. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Health Care Trends and the Impact of COVID-19. Academy of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- NIDA Career Workshop. National Institute on Drug Abuse. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- CETal Fall Instructor Retreat. UTEP. Dr. Jessica Shenberger-Trujillo, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Preceptor Mini-Series Part 1: Preceptor Pharm Tools. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Jordan Bell, Clinical Assistant Professor

- Preventing Sexual Harassment/Sexual Assault. University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Katherine Cho, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Practical Strategies for Supporting Students' Overall Success and Mental Health. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Dr. Katherine Cho, Clinical Assistant Professor
- COVID-19 Equity Evidence Academy 2021: Translating Innovations in Testing. Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor
- Blackboard Retention Center Training. UTEP School of Pharmacy. Mary Chavez, Professor
- Strengthening the Team. UTEP HR. Mary Chavez, Professor
- Professionalism in the Workplace. UTEP HR. Mary Chavez, Professor
- Effective Communication. UTEP HR. Mary Chavez, Professor
- Multigenerational Differences. UTEP HR. Mary Chavez, Professor
- Servant Leadership. Dr. Michael Williams. UTEP CFLD. Mary Chavez, Professor
- ExamSoft Training. UTEP School of Pharmacy. Mary Chavez, Professor
- Promotion & Tenure Q&A. Dr., Wiebe. UTEP Provost's Office. Mary Chavez, Professor
- Taking Care of Under-Represented Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic. ACCP. Dr. Natalie Arndt, Clinical Assistant Professor
- NIH Jumpstart program. NIH/UTEP. Professor Suman Sirimulla, Assistant Professor
- IPE Faculty Development - About, With, and From: Facilitating Interprofessional Learning Groups. Vicki Howe, Instructor

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