



## Overall Summary

The UTEP School of Pharmacy continues on its path of growth. We are happy to update we have admitted our 4<sup>th</sup> cohort made up of 59 students. The class of 2024 received their White Coats just last weekend (August 22, 2020) in a health-conscious, but meaningful ceremony.

Despite the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, this situation has also guided us to operate more efficiently, improved our communication skills, and renewed our commitment to our students in unprecedented ways.

Our staff continues to support the school and its goals, and a growing familiarity with the technological resources at our disposal has allowed them to ensure tasks and projects are completed efficiently. I would like to highlight the performance of our *Manager of Education Technology & Analytics*, Adrian Enriquez, who has become the most critical staff member of our school these past few months. He has facilitated and fine-tuned our virtual classrooms, coordinated access and managed issues with our virtual filing system, and overall truly risen to the challenge that the ongoing pandemic has created for our program.

Our Student Affairs area was able to successfully recruit and interview an entire new cohort and organize a White Coat ceremony despite the quarantine and continually changing circumstances at hand. I want to recognize Carmen Ramos, *Director of Student Affairs*, and Mary Rinker, *Program Coordinator/Academic Advisor* for their amazing work and commitment.

Lastly, I would like to commend each and every one of faculty for their flexibility and diligence in fulfilling the needs of our students, while remaining productive in their research. Their adaptation and preparation for this upcoming school year has been nothing short of admirable.

We will continue dealing with this worldwide health emergency as best as we know how, by continuing to learn, by caring for one another, and by preparing our students to perform their best in any situation. The School of Pharmacy is working diligently to set a solid foundation to achieve its mission: to bridge borders for access and excellence by transforming pharmacy education, patient care, community service, research and leadership to benefit a 21st century demographic. UTEP's School of Pharmacy will be a pioneer for excellence in pharmacy education for "Innovation, Diversity, Engagement, Access, and Leadership (IDEAL)".

Sincerely,

José O. Rivera  
Founding Dean

## Accreditation Update

Provided the unprecedented seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) decided it would reschedule the School of Pharmacy's onsite evaluation from April 1-2, 2020 to September 22-23, 2020. Historically, site evaluations have been conducted in person, however out of precaution for all involved, the site visit will be conducted virtually.

The School of Pharmacy's Candidate Accreditation status (determined at the June 20-23, 2018 meeting) will be extended to January 31, 2021. The ACPE Board, at its June 2020 meeting - under ACPE's policy of administrative extension of term - decided the Evaluation Team Report from the Fall 2020 reschedule evaluation will then be considered by the ACPE Board at its January 2021 meeting, with the necessary actions on status and term to be taken.

## Recent Hires

Regarding the development and recruitment of Faculty and Staff, from the Spring of 2020 until now, the School of Pharmacy has successfully hired a total of 6 new faculty positions including 5 Clinical Assistant Professors in the Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Sciences Department, as well as one Tenure Track Assistant Professor in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department. Our most recent hires are displayed below by area:

### Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Sciences Team:

1. **Dr. Ballard Saul**, *Clinical Assistant Professor*, August 3, 2020
2. **Dr. Christopher Medlin**, *Clinical Assistant Professor*, August 3, 2020
3. **Dr. Jordan Bell**, *Clinical Assistant Professor*, August 3, 2020,
4. **Dr. Katherine Cho**, *Clinical Assistant Professor*, August 10, 2020
5. **Dr. Natalie Arndt**, *Clinical Assistant Professor*, August 3, 2020

### Pharmaceutical Sciences Team:

1. **Dr. Yong Qin**, *Assistant Professor*, July 1, 2020

## Board Certifications

### Amanda Loya

*Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist - Board of Pharmacy Specialties*  
*Medication Therapy Management - American Pharmacists Association*  
*APhA Immunization Certification - American Pharmacists Association*

### Denise Pinal

*Clinician-Educator Teaching Certificate - Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center*  
*Board Certified Pediatric Pharmacy Specialist - Board of Pharmacy Specialties*

### Emily Christenberry

*Board Certified Geriatric Pharmacist - Board of Pharmacy Specialties*  
*Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist - Board of Pharmacy Specialties*  
*Basic Life Support - American Heart Association*

### Gabriel Frieze

*Teaching Online Academy - UTEP*  
*Quantitative Methods Certificate - University of Texas at El Paso*  
*The University of Texas at El Paso Security Training - UTEP*

### Jacquelyn Navarrete

*Board Certification in Ambulatory Care Pharmacy - Board of Pharmacy Specialties*

### Jeri Sias

*Medication Therapy Management Certification - American Pharmacists Association*  
*Pharmacy-Based Immunization Delivery Certificate - American Pharmacists Association*

### Jongwha Chang

*Doctor of Philosophy - University of Michigan*

### José Rivera

*CITI Program Certification - CITI Program*

*Sterile Compounding - ASHP*  
*Medication Therapy Management (MTM) - APhA*

### **Margie Padilla**

*ACCP Academy Program (Precision Medicine): Applied Pharmacogenomics - American College of Clinical Pharmacists (ACCP)*  
*Train-the-Trainer: Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS 2.0) - Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ)*  
*Community Pharmacy-Based Point-of-Care Testing Train-the-Trainer - National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)*  
*University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy Pharmacist Assessment Certificate Program - The University of New Mexico School of Pharmacy*  
*Medication Therapy Management Train the Trainer - APhA*  
*Prescriptive Authority for Centro San Vicente - Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP)*  
*Dejate de ese Vicio: Smoking Cessation Trainer*  
*Medication Therapy Management Certification Program - APhA*  
*Diabetes Disease State Management - University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy*  
*Registered Pharmacist - Texas Board of Pharmacy*  
*Texas Preceptor - Texas State Board of Pharmacy*  
*Immunization Certification - APhA*  
*UTEP Teaching Online Academy (TOA) Certification - The University of Texas*  
*Board Certification in Ambulatory Care (BCACP) - Board of Specialty Pharmacies*

### **Mary Chavez**

*APhA Train-the-Trainer Immunization - APhA*  
*APhA Immunization Certification - APhA*  
*Texas Pharmacy License - Texas State Board of Pharmacy*

### **Sara Smith**

*Certified Immunizer - American Pharmacist Association*  
*PharmD*

### **Vicki Howe**

*Missouri Pharmacist License - Missouri Board of Pharmacy*  
*Texas Pharmacist License - Texas Board of Pharmacy*  
*Minnesota Pharmacist License - Minnesota Board of Pharmacy*  
*South Dakota Pharmacist License - South Dakota Board of Pharmacy*  
*Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. Certificate #3090581 - Board of Pharmacy Specialties*

## **Recent Faculty Awards and Honors**

### **Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy**

*Interdisciplinary Research Building Space Award*

### **Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy**

*Teacher of the Year 2019-2020*

### **Dr. Margie Padilla, Clinical Associate Professor, Pharmacy. UTEP**

*Dialogues in Leadership (DiL)*

## Grants



### **Therapeutic Targeting Of Androgen Receptor-Associated Cochaperones For The Treatment Of Breast And Prostate Cancer**

**PI: Marc Cox, *Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences / Professor***

Sponsor: LIZANELL AND COLBERT COLDWELL FOUNDATION  
Biological Sciences

Amount awarded: \$100,000

Posting date: Wed, 05/06/2020

Award start date: Wed, 04/01/2020

Award end date: Thu, 12/31/2020

This grant supports continuation of cancer research in developing drug technologies toward commercialization using genomic and proteomic studies.



### **Sc2 Supplement: Dr. Felix Matos: Assessing The Effects Of Adolescent Nicotine Vapor Exposure On Motivation And Decision For Rewards**

**PI: Ian Mendez, *Assistant Professor***

Co-PI: Laura O'Dell

Sponsor: NIH - NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE  
Psychology

Amount awarded: \$120,000

Posting date: Wed, 07/22/2020

Award start date: Thu, 10/01/2020

Award end date: Thu, 09/30/2021

This letter serves to confirm the eligibility of Dr. Felix Matos for a Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research from the National Institute on General Medical Sciences. Dr. Matos is a United States citizen of Puerto Rican descent. We are eligible for this award because Dr. Matos has not been funded through a diversity supplement in the past. Given that Dr. Matos is preparing to go on the job market for a tenure-track faculty position, we are requesting 1 year of funding for him to complete his current studies and obtain a faculty position.



### **Development Of Imaging Nanoprobe For Real-Time Noninvasive Diagnosis Of Cardiotoxicity Induced By Cancer Chemotherapeutic Agents**

**PI: Md Nurunnabi, *Assistant Professor***

Sponsor: LIZANELL AND COLBERT COLDWELL FOUNDATION

Amount awarded: \$100,000

Posting date: Wed, 05/06/2020

Award start date: Wed, 04/01/2020

Award end date: Thu, 12/31/2020

This project develops an injectable imaging nanoprobe that can be monitored externally, in real-time, to quantify toxicity in cardiac muscle cells (cardiomyocytes) in order for patients receiving cancer chemotherapy to avoid chronic cardiac dysfunction.

### **Development of antiviral drugs that will target COVID-19**

**PI: Sirimulla, Suman (*Assistant Professor*)**

Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF) through UTEP's Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM) Center for Advanced Materials Research (CMR)

Amount Awarded: \$80,000





## Funded

Chintalapalle, Ramana V (Principal), Sirimulla, Suman (Co-Principal), "PREM Supplement: Integrate Computational Expertise into Center for Advanced Materials Research (CMR) to Address COVID-19," Sponsored by National Science Foundation, \$73,675.00. (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020).

Mendez, Ian A. (Principal), "Support of Competitive Research Program 2 (SC2)," Sponsored by NIGMS, Federal, \$339,750.00. (April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2023).

## Currently Under Review

Oprea, Tudor I (Principal), Sirimulla, Suman (Co-Principal), Johnson, Colleen (Co-Principal), Bradfute, Steven (Co-Principal), "Computer-Aided Drug Repositioning for COVID19," Sponsored by NIH. (August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2020).

## Currently Under Review

Al-Hilal, Taslim A (Principal), Sirimulla, Suman (Other), "Inhaled particles of nitric oxide donors for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19 and future viral outbreaks," Sponsored by American Lung Association, Foundation. (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2022).

## Patents

- Cox, Marc B. Pharmaceutical Compositions Directly Targeting Fkbp52 For The Treatment Of Prostate Cancer And Methods Of Using Same. Patent No. 10,682,339. Issue Date: June 16, 2020

## Publications

### In Preparation; Not Yet Submitted

- Loya, Amanda. Improving medical students' knowledge, attitudes and skills through an interprofessional, application-based pharmacotherapy selective. Academic Medicine.

## Posters & Abstracts

- Mendez, Ian. Female rats display greater neuronal activation in the interpeduncular nucleus during nicotine withdrawal than males. COURI Spring Symposium. El Paso, TX, April 28, 2020.

## Presentations

### Conference Attendance

- Fietze, Gabriel. Novel Tobacco and Marijuana Products (NTMPs): Perceptions of Risk Associated with Combustibles, Vapors, Topicals, Sublinguals and Edibles. 2020 COURI Symposia: Showcase Emerging Researchers. El Paso, Tx, April 25, 2020.
- Shenberger-Trujillo, Jessica. Novel Tobacco and Marijuana Products (NTMPs): Perceptions of Risk Associated with Combustibles, Vapors, Topicals, Sublinguals and Edibles. 2020 COURI Symposia: Showcase Emerging Researchers. El Paso, Tx, April 25, 2020.

### Keynote/Plenary Address

- Nurunnabi, Md. Potential of Ionic Liquid for treating obesity. BACABANA 2020. Madison, (Virtual), July 13, 2020.


### Oral Presentation

- Kang, Hyeun Ah. Adherence to Hydroxyurea and Its Association with Clinical and Economic Outcomes among Texas Medicaid Enrollees with Sickle Cell Disease. RxChange Series. UTEP School of Pharmacy Room 214, March 11, 2020.
- Nurunnabi, Md. Bioengineered Oral Medicine to Treat Diabetes and Obesity. Terasaki Institute of Biomedical. Virtual, August 12, 2020.
- Sirimulla, Suman. Screening over Billion compounds against SARS-CoV-2 proteins. JEDI MOONSHOT SYMPOSIUM #2. Virtual, July 8, 2020.
- Sirimulla, Suman. LigandNet: A Suite of Ligand Based Predictive Models for Activity and Property Prediction. Openeye Scientific CUPXX meeting. Santa Fe, NM, March 11, 2020.

## Leadership and Research Development Programs

- ACCP Leadership Academy. American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP). Dr. Denise Pinal, Clinical Assistant Professor
- CORE Virtual Series: Engaging Multiple Generations in the Workplace. UTEP. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Helping Students Cope with Transitions in the Wake of COVID-19. AACP. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Technology for TBL - Opportunity to Collaborate. AACP. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Overdose Prevention and Response T.O.N.I Training. El Paso Harm Reduction Alliance (EPHRA). Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- ISPOR's COVID-19 Virtual Plenary Session: HEOR in the Era of COVID-19! ISPOR. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- ISPOR's COVID-19 Virtual Plenary Session: HEOR in the Era of COVID-19! ISPOR. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- WEBINAR: Teaching with Video Series--Universal Design, OER, and Video. UTEP Campus Edge. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- An Educator's Guide to Teaching over Zoom. Zoom. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Adding Depth to Observational Research through Data Linkage. International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Tips and Best Practices for Obtaining Early-to-Mid Career Grant Funding. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Exam Integrity: Technical Webinar. ExamSoft. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- Remote Class Meetings/Virtual Office Hours Using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. UTEP Campus Edge. Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor
- School of Pharmacy Fall Retreat. UTEP SOP. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- ACUE Course in Effective Online Teaching. UTEP Center for Instructional Design. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- Teaching Online Academy. UTEP Center for Instructional Design. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- Estimation Statistics and Statistical Power. Society for Neuroscience. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- Annual Performance Evaluation Review Session. UTEP SOP. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- The Intentional Mentor: Effective Mentorship of Undergraduate Science Students. Society for Neuroscience. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- Exam ID workshop. Examsoft. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- Blackboard Collaborate Workshop. UTEP SOP. Dr. Ian Mendez, Assistant Professor
- CETal Fall Instructor Retreat. UTEP. Dr. Jessica Shenberger-Trujillo, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Transforming your teaching with blackboard Learn- A cohort-based professional development experiences. UTEP IT. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- The value of continuous glucose monitoring during the COVID-19 Pandemic and New Era of digital healthcare. Impact Education, LLC. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- Economic and clinical outcomes assessment of Immuno-oncology agents: A guide for payer decision makers. Impact Education, LLC. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- COVID-19 Lessons Learned: Examining the costs and challenges for managed care organizations and health systems. Impact Education, LLC. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor

- Health policy trends impacting managed care pharmacy: are you ready? AMCP. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- Placing potential cures within reach: Real-world experience and evolving management. AMCP. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- Evaluating digital therapeutics, drugs, and health technology for optimizing clinical and financial outcomes. AMCP. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- Teaching Remotely for Large Class Seminars. UTEP IT. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- Exam Integrity for Legacy Portal. Examssoft. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- OneDrive. UTEP IT. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- Online office hours with Blackboard Collaborate. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- Remote Class Meetings / Virtual Office hours using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- Essential Blackboard Tools for Remote Teaching. UTEP IT. Dr. Jongwha Chang, Assistant Professor
- Teaching Online Academy. UTEP. 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
- AACP. car. Mary Chavez, Professor
- Assessment of Stress and Quality of Life Between Non-Native and Native English Speakers Enrolled in a Doctor of Pharmacy Program. UTEP School of Pharmacy. Mary Chavez, Professor
- Leadership During Turbulent Times. GoToWebinar. Mary Chavez, Professor
- NIH JUMPSTART. UTEP. Md Nurunnabi, Assistant Professor
- Quality Assurance with Virtual APPE and Factors that Impact Student Experiences. AACP. Vicki Howe, Instructor
- How to Provide a High Quality Peer Review for Journals. AACP. Vicki Howe, Instructor
- 2020 Conversations in IPE - Virtual Simulations with SPs. Texas IPE Consortium. Vicki Howe, Instructor
- Assessment of Stress and Quality of Life Between Non-Native and Native English Speakers Enrolled in a Doctor of Pharmacy Program. Vicki Howe, Instructor
- CORE Virtual Series: Effective Communication. UTEP HR. Vicki Howe, Instructor
- ACUE Effective Teaching Practices. Vicki Howe, Instructor
- Web-Based Interprofessional (IPE) Case and Debrief. AACP. Vicki Howe, Instructor
- More Bang for Your Buck: Incorporating Learners Into Your Practice & Scholarship. AACP. Vicki Howe, Instructor
- Positivity and Gratitude for Wellness. AACP. Vicki Howe, Instructor
- The Role of Interprofessional Education and Interprofessional Practice in Practice Transformation. AACP. Vicki Howe, Instructor



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