



## School of Pharmacy News

Following a rigorous six-year process, it is with great pleasure that we announce The University of Texas at El Paso School of Pharmacy's Doctor of Pharmacy Program has advanced from Candidate to Accredited Status, awarded by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

This accreditation was reviewed and approved during the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education Board of Directors meeting on June 16-18, 2021. Specifically, the ACPE Board of Directors found the UTEP Doctor of Pharmacy program to be in compliance with all accreditation standards.

## Summer 2021 Student Study Away Experiences



Nine students traveled to **Nashville, Tennessee**, and other smaller communities surrounding Davidson County, for their **Study Away** trip. They participated in flood relief repairs, food sorting at the Second Harvest Food Bank, and vaccine distribution at a local COVID-19 Drive-Thru Clinic.

During these experiences, the students were able to engage with local leaders to learn about food insecurity issues that effect Tennessee and the health disparities that have arisen because of them. Students were also able to speak with community members that have been impacted by the major flooding along Nashville's Cumberland River, and contribute through volunteer efforts to help them recover.

During their **Kansas Study Away** trip, our students learned about the social determinants of health in Wichita, Kansas and the surrounding rural communities of Greensburg and Hesston. They visited a host of different clinics including HealthCore, Hunter Health, Guadalupe, and Grace Med to observe health issues present in different communities, and participated in a student run clinic, JayDoc, where medical and pharmacy students collaborated to work with underserved patients and create wellness-plans for them. Students also had the opportunity to meet with Wichita Vice Mayor Johnson to discuss how political issues affect the community's overall health and access to services. Thank you to the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy and to all the organizations and independent pharmacies that welcomed us!





Eleven students visited several towns in Presidio and Brewster Counties, including Alpine, Terlingua, and Presidio on their **West Texas Study Away** experience. During their experience they engaged in discussions about healthcare, pharmacy deserts, and social services in rural communities. While exploring Social Determinants of Health they also spent time meeting community members and volunteering. Special thanks to all pharmacists, medical providers, and community leaders that welcomed us! Presidio, Texas Mayor, Presidio County Medical Clinic, Preventative Care Health Services, Inc., Big Bend Regional Medical Center, Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, Highland Drug.

## Recent Faculty Awards and Honors

Our talented faculty were voted **Teacher of the Year** by our student cohorts P1's, P2's, and P3's.



**P1 Teacher of the Year**  
**Md Nurunnabi, PhD**  
Assistant Professor



**P2 Teacher of the Year**  
**Dr. Natalie Gordon**  
Clinical Assistant Professor



**P3 Teacher of the Year**  
**Dr. Chris Medlin**  
Clinical Assistant Professor



**Taslim Al-Hilal, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dr. Taslim Al-Hilal, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences for being chosen to collaborate on one of the first projects being funded by the newly established Joint Seed Grant Program between The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso).

This partnership is focused on supporting research in the Paso Del Norte region that could have significant impact on the well-being of the community



**Vicki Howe, PharmD, BCPS**  
Clinical Assistant Professor / Experiential Education Clinical Coordinator

Dr. Howe was awarded the Experiential Education Section Award for Excellence in Experiential Education by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

## Grants



### **Marc B. Cox, M.S.P.H., Ph.D.**

Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences / Professor

We are proud to announce that, Dr. Cox, was selected to receive a Texas Regional Excellence in Cancer Research Award from the Cancer Prevention and Institute of Texas for \$5,881,734 over the next 5 years.

#### **Abstract**

No one is safe from cancer, regardless of their gender, ethnicity or income; however, burden is greater for certain populations based on their socioeconomic status, racial/ethnic group, and cancer type. In El Paso, Texas, Hispanics account for more than 85% of the population. Hispanics have a lower risk for some cancers but have the highest rates for many cancers. The Center for the study of Hispanic Cancer Disparities (CHCD) at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) seeks to define underlying mechanisms that support a body of emerging evidence that

links socioeconomic and biological factors to the development of cancer disparities among Hispanics.

UTEP is committed to reducing cancer health disparities by being the bridge to our community in El Paso to ensure excellence in multidisciplinary, culturally relevant research, and cancer prevention through developing a team of cancer researchers in order to increase health equity throughout the region. To this end, integrated research support across multiple disciplines focusing on innovation and translation of ideas from basic research into novel therapy will be provided to junior faculty with research programs in the area of Hispanic cancer disparities. A well-designed and intensive mentoring program from UT MD Anderson Cancer Center will foster and augment the success through collaborations with project leaders. We will build capacity to impact our local population by incentivizing and training talented early stage researchers to pursue research on cancer issues relevant to the local population, hiring additional researchers with a strong background, and providing professional development opportunities to all of these researchers to enhance their success and impact in the area of Hispanic cancer disparities.

## Leadership and Research Development Programs

- Dr. Christopher Medlin, Clinical Assistant 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. National Institutes of Health (NIH) Jumpstart Program. UTEP. Dr. Gabriel Fietze, Research Assistant
- Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Assistant Professor. 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).

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