



IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IS FOCUS OF NEW STUDY

Combining mobile health technology, or mHealth, and community outreach to improve the health outcomes of people experiencing homelessness is the target of a new study by pharmacy researchers at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, thanks to a five-year research grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

People experiencing homelessness are at high risk for emergency department visits and hospital use due in part to difficulty maintaining communication or lack of consistent communication between health and social services providers. The project, led by **Leticia R. Moczygemba**, hopes to maximize the use of a smartphone as a tool for people experiencing homelessness to take care of their health care needs, including managing their appointments and taking medications, as well as empowering individuals to use the phone to access resources and connect with community organizations for housing and employment.

The research team will work with the community partners and the Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center, housed within Sunrise Community Church in south Austin. Sunrise leadership and staff and people experiencing homelessness provided input into the design and execution of the project's initial feasibility studies.

"This is true community-engaged work, said Moczygemba, an associate professor in the Division of Health Outcomes. "We consider Sunrise to be the 'hub' for this project because it is our primary recruitment site, and the case manager for the project will be integrated with the Sunrise Navigation Center."



M. LYNN CRISMON WINS ASHP DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP AWARD

M. Lynn Crismon, Pharm.D. has been named the recipient of the 2021 Distinguished Leadership Award from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Board of Directors.

The award is one of the highest honors in the pharmacy profession. ASHP's official announcement in part reads:

Dr. Crismon is a nationally esteemed and prolific pharmacy scholar, educator, and leader with more than 45 years of practice and research experience related to the development and evaluation of strategies to improve psychiatric pharmacotherapy and health outcomes of adults and children with severe mental disorders.



KOMPELLA RECEIVES FULBRIGHT AWARD FOR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH

The U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced that **Pallavi Kompella, Ph.D.** received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to Spain. She will research at the Biomedical Research Institute of Málaga as part of a project to study the role of obesity-mediated epigenetic modification of DNA damage repair genes in the early-onset of colorectal cancer. Currently, Kompella is a researcher in the lab of **Karen Vasquez, Ph.D.** in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. Her Fulbright fellowship begins in October of this year.



RIDINGS-MYHRA EARNS TSHP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Assistant Dean for Experiential and Professional Affairs **Jennifer L. Ridings-Myhra, M.Ed., R.Ph.** is 2021's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP). The announcement came on April 10, 2021 during TSHP's annual meeting. It is the highest honor TSHP can bestow on an individual.

The award is given annually to someone who has made significant contributions to the practice of health-system pharmacy. Contributions to practice may be in the form of sustained exemplary service, an outstanding single achievement or a combination of accomplishments promoting and advancing pharmacy.

Dean Ridings-Myhra oversees the statewide experiential (internship) program at The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy. She also coordinates the Foundations of Professional Development course for third year pharmacy students and facilitates discussion labs.

Dean Ridings-Myhra has served as the secretary to the Texas Pharmacy Congress since its inception in 1988, and facilitates the Texas Consortium on Experiential Programs. She also serves as a liaison from the college to local, state and national pharmacy organizations. Her research and professional interests are focused in the areas of experiential learning, preceptor development and facilitation.



PHARMACY VIRTUAL RESEARCH DAY 2021

Researchers participated in a virtual version of the 17th Annual Louis C. Littlefield Celebrating Pharmacy Research Excellence Day on April 14, 2021. The event was held during The University of Texas at Austin's Research Week. Undergraduates, Pharm.D. students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and residents remotely presented their research in abstracts and poster presentations to see who would take the top prizes. The event was hosted by the College of Pharmacy's Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.

The event included a keynote scientific lecture from **Yasmin Hurd, Ph.D.** Hurd is a professor in neuroscience, pharmacological sciences and psychiatry and is the Ward-Coleman Chair of Translational Neuroscience and the director of the Addiction Institute at Mount Sinai. Her lecture was titled "Neurobiological Pathways to Addiction Drive Novel Treatment Interventions."

The event also included a distinguished faculty lecture from **M. Lynn Crismon, Pharm.D.**, the Behrens Centennial Professor of Pharmacy in the College of Pharmacy and professor of psychiatry in the Dell Medical School. From 2007 until 2020 he served as dean of the college and James T. Doluisio Regents Chair. His presentation was titled "A Journey Through Psychiatric Pharmacy – From Clinician to Researcher to Dean."

In addition to abstract and poster presentations, this year's event also featured a Three Minute Poster Presentation competition. In the spirit of the Graduate School's Three Minute Thesis (3MT), participants created a three minute video of their poster that focused on communicating to the audience as succinctly as possible the importance of one's research and recent results.



DEAI HOSTS DISCUSSION ON SAFETY AND SUCCESS OF FEMALE MENTEEES

The College of Pharmacy's office of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI) hosted the event "Guidance for Male Mentors to Support the Safety and Success of Female Mentees" on March 24. The virtual event was a facilitated discussion by **Dr. Lucas Hill** and **Dr. S. Andrea Laguado** that focused on their paper and strategies surrounding the need for male mentors in the field to recognize their role in creating safe and equitable environments for female mentees to learn and collaborate.



TxCORE RESEARCH WINS PhRMA FOUNDATION AWARD

Three researchers from The University of Texas College of Pharmacy won a Valuing Diversity: Addressing Health Disparities Challenge Award from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) Foundation. **Leticia R. Moczygemba, Pharm.D., Ph.D., Carolyn M. Brown, Ph.D.** and **Michael Johnsrud, Ph.D., R.Ph.** were awarded \$5,000 from the PhRMA Foundation for their proposal to advance racial and ethnic representation in value assessments. All three are part of the Texas Center for Health Outcomes Research and Education (TxCORE), associated with the college's Division of Health Outcomes.

The research proposal, titled "It's Time to Represent: Shifting the paradigm to improve the quality of inputs into value assessment frameworks" seeks to better understand the importance of equity in value framework and advance the racial and ethnic representation inputs in value assessment.

The PhRMA Foundation's new Challenge Award aims to support bold and vital research into how value assessment methods and processes can better consider population diversity and drivers of health disparities. The PhRMA Foundation works to improve public health by proactively investing in innovative research, education and value-driven health care.

TxCORE's mission is to be a leader in addressing population and individual patient health through innovative, high-quality research and education and to serve the community by responding to critical health care issues that impact patients' daily lives.



SUH WINS FELLOWSHIP FOR 3D BIOPRINTING RESEARCH

Student pharmacist **Johana Suh** earned an undergraduate fellowship award for research on 3D bioprinted modeling of the neurodegenerative disease NPC-1, or Niemann-Pick disease type C1. Suh is a second-year Doctor of Pharmacy candidate in The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, and serves as an undergraduate researcher in the Pharmaceutical Engineering and 3D Printing (PharmE3D) Labs led by **Mo Maniruzzaman, Ph.D.**

The University of Texas at Austin's Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) is offered by the School of Undergraduate Studies and provides up to \$1,000 in support for specific scholarly research projects conducted by full-time UT undergraduate students enrolled in any department.