



UT PHARMACY'S VITAL VACCINATION ROLE

Since the university began its Phase 1A COVID-19 vaccination efforts on December 15, 2020, The University of Texas College of Pharmacy has been an integral part of the immunization of front-line health care workers in both Austin and San Antonio.

The college is a key member of the university's Health and Wellness Taskforce, which is responsible for testing, contact tracing and vaccination; working collaboratively with the schools of nursing and medicine on both campuses. UT Pharmacy took the lead role for vaccine preparation in Austin and San Antonio and will continue to do so as the second doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are administered.

The college's broad vaccination effort is truly a bright spot in what has been a challenging time. It is one clear example of how pharmacists work with our friends and colleagues in Nursing, Medicine, and Health Information Technology as an interprofessional team to battle this pandemic. The results of our collective effort will have a lasting positive impact and spotlight the importance of large-scale health and wellness efforts as we move into the future.



CROYLE LAB'S PEELABLE FILM GARNERS ATTENTION

Molecular Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery Professor **Maria A. Croyle, Ph.D.** [received extensive coverage](#) in the upcoming March 2021 edition of *Texas Monthly* regarding her innovative peelable film drug delivery research. Among its many potential applications, Dr. Croyle's technology could deliver COVID-19 vaccines through a small oral strip, without need for refrigeration or extensive storage and transportation infrastructure.

In March 2020, researchers in the Croyle Lab on released a paper describing a peelable lightweight film that stabilizes biologics, is inexpensive and withstands extreme temperature changes. The technology has already demonstrated proof of concept for model Ebola and H1N1 vaccines, and may prove an effective method of delivery COVID-19 vaccines.



WILLIAMS WANTS TO TURN COVID-19 VACCINE INTO POWDER TO HELP WITH STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION

Molecular Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery Professor **Robert O. (Bill) Williams III, Ph.D.** [talked to CBS Austin](#) about the potential for his thin film freezing technology to increase the shelf life of COVID-19 vaccines. Dr. Williams's thin film freezing technology stabilizes biologics using high powered flash freezing and administered through dry powder inhalation. The research has also showed promise in COVID-19 antiviral treatment; administering remdesivir directly to the lungs in order to better target the infection.



GRADUATE STUDENT CHERISH TAYLOR HONORED

Neuroscience graduate student **Cherish Taylor** took home the top prize in the Graduate School's Three Minute Thesis competition. Taylor is a graduate student in the lab of **Somshuvra Mukhopadhyay, M.B.B.S., Ph.D.** in the College of Pharmacy's Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Cherish was also named a 2021 *Diverse Rising Graduate Scholar* in *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* magazine. She is one of ten rising graduate scholars who will be profiled in the March 18, 2021 Graduate Education edition of the magazine.



GINSBURG APPOINTED TO LEADERSHIP TEXAS

Clinical Professor and Associate Dean for Healthcare Partnerships **Diane Ginsburg, Ph.D., M.S., R.Ph., FASHP** has been accepted into the Leadership Texas 2021 class by Leadership Women, Inc. She, along with Leticia Acosta from the McCombs School of Business, will represent The University of Texas at Austin during Leadership Texas sessions through November 2021. Her nomination came from the recommendation of the Deans' and Vice Presidents' Councils, and was accepted by President Hartzell.

Leadership Women is a nonprofit social enterprise that seeks to improve women's lives for the common good and ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life. The Leadership Texas program provides educational and development opportunities to Texas women who seek to advance as leaders and expand their knowledge of the diverse dynamics, issues, challenges, and opportunities that impact their work, personal lives, and communities.

Ginsburg has exhibited strong leadership throughout her tenure as Associate Dean for Healthcare Partnerships, cultivating the college's residency program with an impressive roster of partnerships. She also has an excellent track record in leadership roles at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP).



LAURA CANNON: AN EMPATHETIC VOICE FOR PATIENTS & STUDENTS

Dell Medical School [recently profiled](#) **Laura Cannon, Pharm.D., MPH**, a clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, in *Voices*, a series of profiles that highlight the people of Dell Med as they work to improve health with a unique focus on our community. Dr. Cannon was in her residency when her late husband was diagnosed with cancer. Her experience shapes her unique perspective as she works to simplify the education process surrounding cancer treatment.



CROYLE EARNS FUNDING FOR SARS-COV-2 RESEARCH

Molecular Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery professor **Maria A. Croyle R.Ph., Ph.D.** earned 2021's David Lehr Research Award from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET). Dr. Croyle will receive research funding to investigate novel regulatory mechanisms of drug metabolism in the context of active infection with SARS-CoV-2 and after recovery.



UT CENTER FOR HEALTH IPE TO HOST VIRTUAL SHOWCASE

UT's Center for Health Interprofessional Practice and Education (CHIPE) will host its third Interprofessional Health Showcase via a virtual format on Friday, April 30th, 2021 and is currently accepting abstracts to be considered for presentation.

The Center for Health IPE serves as UT Austin's central body to promote innovative learning experiences, disseminate best practices, convene key health and education stakeholders and champion impact-driven scholarship that advances collaborative, person-centered care and population-oriented health.



VIRTUAL RESEARCH DAY 2021 SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14

The college's Office for Research and Graduate Studies has announced the 17th Annual Louis C. Littlefield Celebrating Pharmacy Research Excellence Day, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021 as a synchronous online event that will allow for dynamic participant interactions.

The research day event is sponsored by the UT College of Pharmacy during the university's research week and is free and open to the public. It highlights the research accomplishments of all researchers associated with the college, including undergraduate, Pharm.D. and graduate students as well as postdoctoral fellows, pharmacy residents and faculty.

Yasmin Hurd, Ph.D. will conduct this year's Keynote Lecture. Dr. Hurd is a professor in neuroscience, pharmacological sciences and psychiatry, as well as Ward-Coleman Chair of Translational Neuroscience. She also serves as the director of Addiction Institute at Mount Sinai New York.

The Distinguished Faculty Lecture will be by **M. Lynn Crismon, Pharm.D.** Dr. Crismon is the former dean of the college and a professor in the Division of Health Outcomes. His research is focused on strategies to improve the pharmacotherapy and health outcomes of adults and children with severe mental disorders.

In addition to abstract and poster submissions, this year's Research Day will also feature a "three minute poster" video submission and award. Participants will upload their video onto YouTube or other video hosting site and provide the link to the organizers.