



TEXAS PHARMACY RISES TO #8 NATIONALLY FOR TOTAL RESEARCH FUNDING

The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy moved up in several research funding categories, as reported in the newly-released rankings from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). The college rose to #8 nationally in total research funding during the 2019-2020 fiscal year, compared to #9 in 2018-2019.

This marks 2019-2020 research grant funding for the college at \$23,598,010, more than any other pharmacy school in the state of Texas. These rankings show the overwhelming skill and talent of researchers and faculty at the college, and the institution’s commitment to public health and innovation.

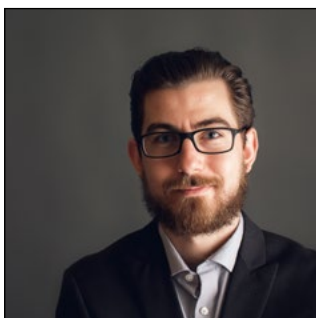
Compared to the 2018-2019 fiscal year, UT Pharmacy saw strong rankings across multiple areas. Federal grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) rose to #16, compared to #21. Total federal awards moved up to #21 from #32, and for non-federal awards, the college remains at #3 nationally.

“The latest pharmacy research funding rankings from AACP confirm that The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy is one of the top pharmacy research institutions in the nation,” says **Samuel M. Poloyac**, dean of the UT College of Pharmacy. “Our consistent rise in rank across the board shows the results of our college’s commitment to research innovation, and we will continue to use all available resources to support our researchers and their important work.”



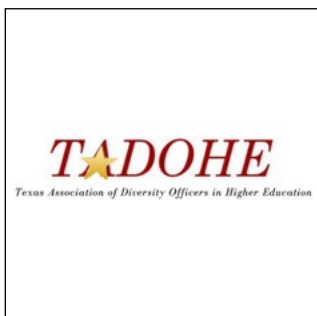
WILLIAMS ON KXAN TO DISCUSS HOW THIN FILM FREEZING CAN HELP TREAT COVID PATIENTS

Division Head and Professor of Molecular Pharmaceutics and Drug Delivery **Dr. Bill Williams** was on Austin’s KXAN News to talk about promising new data from TFF Pharmaceuticals and Augmenta Bioworks. The companies plan to develop Dr. Williams’ thin film freezing technology to better deliver antibody treatment directly to the lungs of COVID patients.



HILL TALKS TO THE WASHINGTON POST TO BUST FENTANYL MYTHS

Director of the Pharmacy Addictions Research & Medicine Program (PhARM) **Dr. Lucas Hill** talked to the *Washington Post* to bust myths regarding casual contact with fentanyl. Hill helped organize an online petition asking news organizations to retract their accounts of a recent video from the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department purporting to show a deputy experiencing an overdose simply from being in the vicinity of fentanyl powder. “The probability that the deputy shown in that video experienced harm related to opioid exposure is zero percent,” Hill told the *Post*. “Absolutely nothing in that video is consistent with an opioid overdose.”



UT AUSTIN STUDENTS EARN DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

College of Pharmacy community members won several Emerging Leaders Spotlight Awards during the recent chapter meeting of the Texas Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (TADOHE). The inaugural awards seek to highlight and acknowledge individuals in higher education who actively support TADOHE's mission and diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion (DEAI) as a whole.

Catherine Schlichting, M.Ed. won 2021's Emerging Leader of the Year Award. The award recognizes a student leader who most noticeably demonstrates initiative, motivation and potential for continued leadership within their community or organization. Catherine serves as senior administrative associate in the College of Pharmacy's Office of Student Affairs and recently earned her Master's degree in educational leadership and policy from UT's College of Education.

The Exceptional Student Leader Award went to student pharmacist **Grace A. Akinyemi**. Grace helps with the active recruitment of diverse students in the College of Pharmacy by being a student planner and facilitator for Pharm.D. admissions over the past two years. The award recognizes a student who has had a positive influence on the student body and made an exceptional contribution to the community.

Student pharmacist **Farhana Hossain** earned the Most Involved Leader Award. Farhana has participated in and facilitated several programs and workshops in UT Pharmacy that speak to her commitment for employing inclusive practices and promoting an informed cultural awareness of social justice. The award recognizes a student leader who publicly shows involvement in college events aimed at justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility.



NATHAN POPE NAMED NEW ASSISTANT DEAN

Nathan Pope, Pharm.D., BCACP, FACA has been named The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy's new assistant dean of experiential education and will succeed **Jennifer Ridings-Myhra, M.Ed., R.Ph.**, who plans to work with Dr. Pope through July and August to assist in the transition. The start date for this new role is effective July 1, 2021.

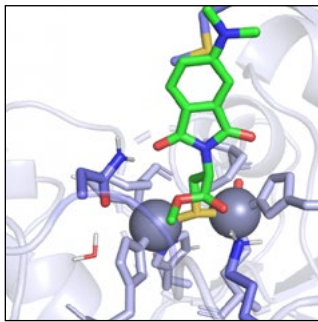
Dr. Pope has been with the college since 2008 and currently serves as a clinical associate professor in the Division of Pharmacy Practice. He received his bachelor of science in pharmacy and doctor of pharmacy degrees from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He then completed a post-graduate (PGY1) community-based pharmacy residency with Walgreens at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. After residency, he worked in various community pharmacy-based settings ranging from a large national chain, a small regional chain and independent pharmacy in California and Texas.

As assistant dean of experiential education, Dr. Pope will provide leadership, coordination and oversight of all of the college's Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs) and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs), work with regional internship personnel in five Texas internship regions and supervise staff team members in the Office of Experiential Education.



VASQUEZ APPEARS ON BBC WORLD SERVICE TO DISCUSS Z-DNA

Division Head and Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology **Karen Vasquez, Ph.D.** appeared on BBC World Service's *Science in Action* to talk about Z-DNA. Dr. Vasquez's research focuses on DNA damage and repair, genomic instability, gene targeting, DNA structure and cancer therapeutics.



FIGHT AGAINST ANTIBIOTIC-RESISTANT BACTERIA HAS A GLOWING NEW WEAPON

Chemistry Assistant Professor **Emily Que, Ph.D.** and the College of Pharmacy's **Walt Fast, Ph.D.** are working together to research new methods to fight against antibiotic resistance. The fluorescent chemical probe developed by Que and Fast may help find a different way to combat resistant bacteria. In the perpetual arms races between bacteria and human-made antibiotics, their labs have developed new tool that may give human medicine the edge, in part by revealing bacterial weaknesses and potentially by leading to more targeted or new treatments for bacterial infections.



MANIRUZZAMAN LAB EARNS GRANT TO RESEARCH 3D PRINTED COVID-19 TREATMENT

The College of Pharmacy's Pharmaceutical Engineering and 3D Printing (PharmE3D) Lab earned a Texas Global Faculty Research Seed Grant for its work on patient-specific treatment of COVID-19. PharmE3D, led by **Mo Maniruzzaman, Ph.D.** shows its commitment to enhancing UT Austin's engagement with international partners to address global challenges.

The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 appears as a large single-stranded virus where positive RNA genome is encapsulated within a membrane envelope dotted with glycoprotein spikes. Some therapeutic candidates such as favipiravir, ritonavir and remdesivir have shown some early promise in COVID-19 treatment but unfortunately there's no approved single fixed-dose combination of two or more anti-viral drugs available with tailored therapeutic effects that could potentially combat COVID-19.

Interindividual variability of patients is an issue for efficient therapeutic outcomes. The concurrent use of multiple medications to treat COVID-19 is a significant concern due to the high pill burden and poor patient adherence and compliance, which may increase potential risk associated with medication errors.

In order to overcome some of these challenges, Maniruzzaman teamed up with the lab of **Professor Jerry Heng** from the Department of Chemical Engineering at Imperial College London to research novel 3D printed complex fixed-dose combination dosage forms. Those forms contain multiple anti-viral drugs based on a deeper understanding of patients' physiological and biological characteristics.



UT STUDENTS IN TOP 3 FOR 2021 GOOD NEIGHBOR PHARMACY NCPA PRUITT-SCHUTTE STUDENT BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

UT Pharmacy's National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) business plan team is a top three finalist in the 2021 Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition.

The team is comprised of current fourth-year student pharmacists **Daniel Alonso, Hector Fernandez, Braden Kahanek** and **Mitchell Telles**, who will present their business plan in a live competition on Oct. 9, 2021 at the NCPA Annual Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

To promote interest in independent community pharmacy ownership, the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) and the NCPA Foundation have established the Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition. The goal of the competition is to motivate student pharmacists to create the blueprint necessary for buying an existing independent community pharmacy or developing a new pharmacy.



UT PHARMACY FACULTY WIN BIG AT ACCP AWARDS

The UT College of Pharmacy will make its presence well-known at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's (ACCP) 2021 Annual Meeting this October. Former Dean **Dr. M. Lynn Crismon** has been chosen by ACCP's Parker Medal Selection Committee as the 2021 recipient of the Paul F. Parker Medal for Distinguished Service to the Profession of Pharmacy. The Paul F. Parker Medal recognizes an individual who has made outstanding and sustained contributions to the profession that improve patient or service outcomes, create innovative practices, affect populations of patients, further the professional role of pharmacists or expand the recognition of pharmacists as health professionals.

Dr. Lucas Hill was awarded the ACCP New Educator Award, which recognizes and honors a new educator for outstanding contributions to the discipline of teaching and the education of health care practitioners.

Dr. Kirk Evoy earned the ACCP New Investigator Award, which recognizes an ACCP member who has made a significant impact on an aspect of clinical pharmaceutical science.