

IN COLLEGE NEWS



Laurajo Ryan

Ryan named Educator of the Year

Dr. Laurajo Ryan, clinical associate professor of pharmacotherapy, is recipient of the College's 2015 Educator of the Year award. Ryan was named to receive the honor at the recent, student-coordinated spring social. Other faculty honored at the event include, Dr. Bill Williams, professor of pharmaceuticals, recipient of the first year (P1) teaching honor; Mr. Jim Koeller, professor of pharmacotherapy, recipient of the second year (P2) teaching honor; and Dr. Chris Frei, associate professor and division head of pharmacotherapy, recipient of the third year (P3) teaching honor.



James McGinity

McGinity is UT's Inventor of the Year

Dr. James W. McGinity is one of two faculty members named as 2014 UT Austin Inventors of the Year. Dr. George Georgiou, from the Cockrell School of Engineering, was named as co-recipient at the Inventor Award Ceremony in November. McGinity, the Johnson & Johnson Centennial Chair Emeritus in Pharmacy, devoted his career to making sure that medicines are effectively administered to patients. Medical experts say McGinity's work with OxyContin is not only promoting appropriate use of the powerful painkiller but also saving "countless lives" by cutting down the potential for abuse.



Walter Fast

Fast awarded \$2.1 million to counter antibiotic resistance

Dr. Walter Fast, associate professor of medicinal chemistry, has been awarded a four-year \$2.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop small-molecules that counter antibiotic resistance in Gram-negative bacteria. If successful, the research could lead to new drugs for clinicians to use in treating bacterial infections that are resistant to most antibiotics. Fast is studying a class of enzymes, called metallo-beta-lactamases, that confer resistance to almost all clinically-used beta-lactam antibiotics, including penicillins, cephalosporins, and even carbapenems that are often used as 'drugs of last resort' for treating resistant infections.



John DiGiovanni

CPRIT grant to support DiGiovanni's skin cancer research

Dr. John DiGiovanni, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, has been awarded a \$900,000 grant to study the role of a protein, Twist1, in the development of nonmelanoma skin cancer (NMSC). The award was made by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). DiGiovanni's award was one of 54 statewide awards announced by CPRIT in mid-February including four for product development and 51 grants for academic cancer research.



Lydia Aguilera

Aguilera receives mentoring award

Dr. Lydia Aguilera, assistant dean for the college's Cooperative Program in the Rio Grande Valley, has been named recipient of the 2015 College Excellence Award in Mentoring for the College of Health Sciences and Human Services (COHSHS) at The University of Texas-Pan American. Aguilera, who also serves as a clinical assistant professor, works for the college on the Pan American campus. She was formally recognized with a plaque and a \$1,500 stipend at the Faculty excellence Awards Luncheon on May 1.



Solomon Stavchansky

Stavchansky joins Kentucky's distinguished alumni

Dr. Salomon Stavchansky, professor of pharmaceuticals, is one of four named to the Hall of Distinguished Alumni at the University of Kentucky's College of Pharmacy. Stavchansky, who received his Ph.D. in pharmaceutical sciences from the UK College of Pharmacy in 1974, has directed and participated in research concerning the development of analytical methodology for the measurement of drugs in biological fluids; the absorption, metabolism, distribution, and elimination of drugs from biological fluids in animals and man; and the evaluation and design of drug delivery systems.



Carolyn Brown

Brown elected to UT's Faculty Council

Dr. Carolyn Brown, professor of health outcomes and pharmacy practice, has been elected to the university's Faculty Council. She was one of ten professors and associate professors from throughout the campus selected in the Spring 2015 election. The Council is one of two governing bodies representing the faculty.



Creed W. Abell III

College mourns Creed Abell III

Dr. Creed W. Abell III, the Henry M. Burlage Centennial Endowed Professor Emeritus, died September 9, 2014. Dr. Abell was internationally recognized for his contribution to neurochemistry and neurobiology. His work contributed to the scientific information and understanding regarding diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and to the understanding of how aging affects neurological function.



*Dr. Kentya Ford, Dr. Benita Bamgbade,
and Dr. Jamie Barner*

APhA podium competition winner

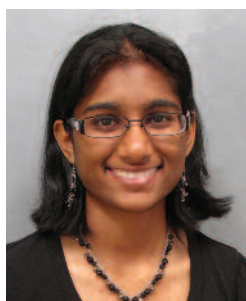
Benita Bamgbade, a Ph.D. student working with Dr. Jamie Barner, was named winner of a Best Podium Presentation Award at the annual meeting of the American Pharmacists Association meeting in San Diego, Ca. Dr. Bamgbade, who earned her Pharm.D. from the college in 2011, partnered with co-authors Drs. Barner and Kentya Ford for her presentation titled, "Impact of Mental Illness Stigma Awareness Intervention on Pharmacy Student Perceptions and Factors Influencing Willingness to Counsel."



Marilyn Mootz

Mootz receives RESPy Award

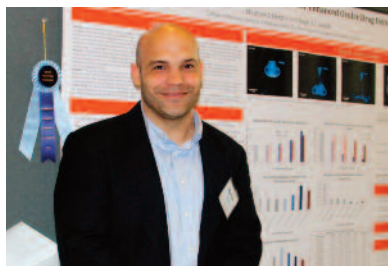
Second year student Marilyn Mootz has been selected to receive the RESPy Award presented by Walmart and Pharmacy Times. The RESPy Award recognizes extraordinary humanitarian work in the community, and salutes the service of pharmacy students throughout the country. Since 2007, Walmart and Pharmacy Times have honored 67 student pharmacists nationwide with the RESPy Award. Students selected for the RESPy honor receive a \$1,000 scholarship, a handcrafted mortar and pestle, invitation to the Walmart pharmacy intern program, and a full-page feature article about their service and commitment in Pharmacy Times.



Bindia Patel

Patel earns high honors at APhA's Patient Counseling Competition

P4 student Bindia Patel was named first runner up in the national patient counseling competition sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association's (APhA) Academy of Student Pharmacists. Patel emerged as a winner from the local competition to represent The University of Texas at Austin at the national competition. Announcement was made at the association's March meeting in San Diego, Ca.



*Matthew Herpin, a graduate student
in Dr. Hugh Smyth's lab,
was one of the award winners
at Research Day 2015*

College celebrates Research Day

The Eleventh Annual Louis C. Littlefield Celebrating Pharmacy Research Excellence Day highlighted the research accomplishments of Pharm.D., honor, and graduate students, as well as postdoctoral fellows and residents. Research efforts by undergraduate students working with college faculty were also included. Poster presentation awards were presented in each category. The distinguished faculty lecture kicked off the day with a presentation by Dr. Christian P. Whitman, professor of medicinal chemistry, who discussed "How Do Caterpillars, Bacteria, and Scientists Evolve?" Dr. Daniel C. Malone, professor of pharmacy at the University of Arizona, presented the keynote scientific lecture.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

- 16 Reception during ISPOR meeting in Philadelphia
- 22 College of Pharmacy graduation activities
- 23 University commencement
- 25 Memorial Day holiday

July

- 10 Alumni reception during the Texas Pharmacy Association Meeting: 7:30 - 9 pm,
The Woodlands Hotel & Convention Center, The Woodlands, Tx.

August

- 23 New Student Orientation
- 24 Gone to Texas
- 25 First Day of Fall Classes

October

- 26 Alumni reception during the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists meeting
in Orlando, Florida

November

- 6 Homecoming