

IN COLLEGE NEWS



Karen Vasquez

Vasquez named AAAS Fellow

Dr. Karen Vasquez, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, is among five faculty members at The University of Texas at Austin recently elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Vasquez, the James T. Doluisio Regents Professor in the College of Pharmacy, was recognized for pioneering contributions concerning genome instability, particularly by demonstrating that non-canonical DNA structures can be mutagenic, and for discovering new roles for DNA repair factors.



Somshuvra Mukhopadhyay

Mukhopadhyay featured on *The Academic Minute*

Dr. Somshuvra Mukhopadhyay, assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology, discussed his recent research findings related to Parkinson's Disease when he was featured on a Feb. 12 edition of *The Academic Minute*. The program, a production of Northeast Public Radio, features researchers from colleges and universities around the world keeping listeners abreast on what's new and exciting in the academia. The broadcast airs on WAMC weekdays at 7:30 am and 3:56 pm. Broadcasts can be heard at <http://academicminute.org/>



Elizabeth Hand

Hand weighs in on vaccine debate

Dr. Elizabeth Hand, assistant clinical professor of pharmacotherapy who specializes in infectious diseases and pediatrics, was quoted in an article appearing in the *San Antonio Express News*. The Feb. 9 article examined the incidents of students in area school districts who claim exceptions from required vaccines.



Carlton Erickson

Erickson discusses advances in alcohol research

Dr. Carlton Erickson, associate dean for research and graduate studies, wrote an article for The University of Texas at Austin website concerning advances in alcohol research over the past few years. The article also appeared on the opinion-editorial page of the *Austin American Statesman* on Jan. 26 and on the website of the Greater Austin Underage Drinking Prevention Council.



Students to learn challenges of living in poverty

Pharmacy students will join their counterparts at nursing, social work, and pre-med on Feb. 21 to participate in an intense simulation designed to help them build empathy and understanding for the daily challenges faced by individuals living in poverty. The Poverty Simulation is a unique tool used to educate participants from policy makers to local community leaders about the day-to-day realities of life with a shortage of money and an abundance of stress. During the simulation, participants role-play the lives of low-income families, from single parents caring for children to senior citizens, as they struggle to provide their families with food, shelter, and other basic necessities. Dr. Veronica Young serves as faculty advisor of this program.



Members of the student delegation attending the ASHP Midyear meeting

UT-SSHP members attend mid-year meeting

Approximately 45 members of UT-SSHP attended ASHP's Midyear in Anaheim, Ca. P4 students Nancy Pattyn and Stacy Warren represented the college in the national Clinical Skills Competition where they placed 8th out of 127 teams participating teams. Ten members presented research posters and multiple members interviewed with residency programs through the PPS service. Student leaders presented the poster "Promoting Safe Medication Disposal within Communities" at the Student Society Showcase. UT-SSHP was also involved in the statewide initiative with other Texas SSHP chapters to increase antibiotic awareness. Samantha Vogel serves as president and Dr. James Karboski is faculty advisor of UT-SSHP.



Leaders and presenters at the Independent Pharmacy Ownership Workshop

NCPA hosts Independent Pharmacy Ownership Workshop

In November, the UT student chapter of the National Community Pharmacists Association hosted its first ever workshop on independent pharmacy ownership. Participants included more than 70 pharmacy students representing UT Austin, Incarnate Word, Houston and Texas Tech. The event featured two morning sessions followed by an afternoon program where small student groups rotated through small sessions focusing on four speciality areas. Special thanks to Andy Ruiz from Stonegate pharmacy (compounding), John Anderson from B&J pharmacy (Herbal and nutritional supplements), Chris Perling from Genorite (pharmacogenomics), Mark Newberry and Zach Corbell from Tarrytown ExpoCare (long term care), and Mckesson for sponsorship support. Cody Gummelt serves as president and Dr. Nathan Pope serves as faculty advisor of UT's NCPA chapter.



The student leadership team celebrates conclusion of the first round of candidate interviews

College implements multiple mini interviews for prospective students

In February, the college completed two weekends of interviews for prospective students seeking a place in the Class of 2019. For the first time, the college utilized the multiple mini interview (MMI) format in the candidate review process. A total of 232 candidates made their way through the interviews that were conducted by approximately 40 evaluators. A team of approximately 250 current students led by student leaders Tori Vaughan, Lilian Tran, Angelica Cuenco and Issac Perales assisted Dr. Rich Wilcox, assistant dean for admissions/advising and Ann Spencer, administrative associate in admissions, in organizing the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

- 07 Explore UT
- 14 Medication Therapy Management CE Event - Dallas
- 16-21 Spring Break
- 28 Reception during APhA meeting, Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego, CA

April

- 18 Honors Day
- 21 Reception during CPNP meeting, Marriott, Tampa, Fla
- 23 11th annual Louis C. Littlefield Celebrating Pharmacy Research Excellence Day
- 24 Reception during TSHP meeting, Hilton Palacio Del Rio, San Antonio, TX
- 30 Advisory Council meeting

May

- 02 Medication Therapy Management CE Event - Austin
- 08 Last class day
- 16 Reception during ISPOR meeting in Philadelphia
- 22 College of Pharmacy graduation activities
- 23 University commencement
- 25 Memorial Day holiday