

IN COLLEGE NEWS



James McGinity

**McGinity named UT Inventor of the Year**

Dr. James McGinity, the Johnson & Johnson Centennial Chair Emeritus in pharmaceuticals, was named to receive the University of Texas' Inventor of the Year Award at a ceremony in November. The award is was presented by the UT Office of Technology Commercialiation. McGinity was honored for his patent of a polymer-based formulation that makes oxycontin, a highly effective but equally highly addictive pain medication, more difficult to abuse. He shared the honor with George Georgiou, professor of engineering.



Somshuvra Mukhopadhyay

**Parkinson gene link may aid in battle against disease**

Dr. Somshuvra Mukhopadhyay, assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology, leads a research team that focuses on the gene SLC30A10 and its role as a "door opener" in helping to remove elevated levels of manganese from cells. The study was published in the Oct. 15 issue of *The Journal of Neuroscience*. The link is considered a major step in finding an effective treatment for parkinsonian disorders, including Parkinson's disease. His work will be featured in an upcoming edition of National Public Radio's *The Academic Minute*.



Kelly Reveles

**Reveles traces rate of hospital infections**

Patients admitted to hospitals in the United States during 2010 were twice as likely to have a potentially life-threatening bacterial infection than those admitted 10 years earlier, according to a recent study by Dr. Kelly Reveles, assistant professor of pharmacotherapy. The study found that the incidence of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI), a highly contagious gastrointestinal disease often linked to the overprescribing of antibiotics, nearly doubled between 2001 and 2010. Results were published in the October issue of the *American Journal of Infection Control* and in *The New York Times*.



Maria Croyle

**Inhaled ebola vaccine may offer long-term protection from virus**

A potentially breathable, respiratory vaccine in development by Dr. Maria Croyle, her lab, and collaborators in Canada has been shown to provide long-term protection for non-human primates against the deadly Ebola virus. Results from a recent pre-clinical study represent the only proof to date that a single dose of a non-injectable vaccine platform for Ebola is long lasting. A breathable vaccine could surmount the logistical obstacles of storing, transporting and administering injectable vaccines in parts of Africa most afflicted by the virus. Her research drew media attention at the recent meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.



*Ken  
Lawson*



*James  
McKinley*



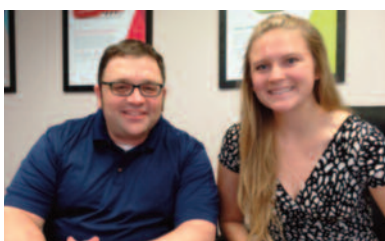
*Dave  
Miller*

### **Alumni Association honors three**

The Alumni Association celebrated Homecoming 2014 with an early November filled with celebration. The group honored three with its highest honors including Ken Lawson, recipient of the William J. Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award; James McKinley, recipient of the Legend of Pharmacy Award; and Dave Miller, recipient of the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award. Lawson is a distinguished academician and serves as head of the college's Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice. McKinley, a pioneer in hospital pharmacy, spent the majority of his career as director of pharmacy services at MD Anderson. In his relatively young career, Dave Miller has been listed as co-inventor of two patent applications and co-author of numerous journal articles. He currently serves as vice president of research and development at DisperSol Technologies. In addition, members of the Classes of 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, and 2004 were honored at the annual Tailgate Party prior to the UT vs. West Virginia football game.

### **Campaign for Texas concludes**

The history-making Campaign for Texas has drawn to a close. The College of Pharmacy joined the rest of the university community in celebrating the generosity of donors. The college received gifts and pledges totalling \$32 million during the eight-year effort. The money will fund 28 new endowments to be used to assist students financially with tuition, books and travel stipends. Half of the college's new funding came in the form of planned gifts - money dedicated by generous donors to come to the college in the future via estate planning or wills.



*Marcus Stavchansky  
and Maggie Monogue*

### **Getting the most from a research rotation**

Maggie Monogue, Pharm.D. 2014, and her preceptor, Dr. Marcus Stavchansky, Pharm.D. 2000, took an elective research rotation to a whole new level this spring when they decided to look at the impact of pharmacists' interventions in adherence rates. Their study was selected to be included in the 50th annual Drug Information Association conference in San Diego. In addition, their abstract was published in the July 2014 issue of Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science.



*Students teamed with the DEA  
to ensure disposal of unused drugs.*

### **Students participate in National Drug Take-Back Day**

The college and the Forty Acres Pharmacy partnered with UT police to collect expired or unused medications as part of National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in September. During the event, students and other members of the Austin community were allowed to return unused or expired drugs to make sure the medications were disposed of properly. The program reduces the risk of drug misuse and prevents the drugs from being flushed down toilets, which can cause harm to water supplies. The Drug Enforcement Administration worked with communities around the country for National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **December**

- 05 Last class day
- 07 ASHP Midyear Meeting  
Anaheim, California
- 27 Holiday Break (campus closed)

### **January**

- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday
- 20 Spring classes begin

### **March**

- 7 Explore UT
- 16-20 Spring Break