TOP STORY

Stooksbury Elected APhA-ASP Member-at-Large

Chase Stooksbury, second year student pharmacist based on the Knoxville campus, was recently elected as American Pharmacists Association’s Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Region III Member-at-Large at the Midyear Regional Meeting in Orlando, FL. Fifty-two UT student pharmacists and a total of over 400 student pharmacists attended the meeting in October.

As the regional member-at-large, some of his duties include promoting APhA-ASP Patient Care Programs, serving as a Regional Membership Coordinator, acting as the regional contact for the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF), and assisting the Regional Delegate in coordinating and convening a regional caucus at the APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition. “I am excited to be able to serve not only the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, but the profession of pharmacy as a whole,” says Chase. “I am deeply grateful to those who have supported me thus far in this endeavour and who will continue to do so throughout my term.”

Region III is the largest region in the nation, consisting of Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy schools in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.
Meibohm Honored as AAPS Fellow
Bernd Meibohm, PhD, FCP, professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and associate dean of Graduate Programs and Research, was honored at the 25th Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AAPS) on October 23, 2011 by AAPS president Phil Mayer (far right). The designation of Fellow in AAPS is based on the documented sustained level of superior and distinguished professional achievement and contributions in the relevant field of Pharmaceutical Sciences. This year, AAPS awarded Fellow status to only 14 of its 12,000 members worldwide.

AAPS is a professional, scientific association of approximately 12,000 members employed in academia, industry, government and other research institutes worldwide. AAPS aims to improve global health through advances in pharmaceutical sciences. The AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition, the world’s largest pharmaceutical sciences meeting, was held in Washington, DC, October 23-27, 2011. An estimated 9,000 scientists from around the world participated in 90 sessions, including more than 60 symposia and roundtables.

Brown Honored by Hungarian Private Pharmacists Association
Lawrence Brown, PharmD, PhD, (below right) associate professor, vice-chair Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and director of Graduate Studies in Health Outcomes and Policy Research, was awarded the “Medallion of the Association” by the Hungarian Private Pharmacists Association (MOSZ) at its Annual Meeting in Siofok, Hungary on October 7, 2011. He was recognized for his work with Hungarian community pharmacists to advance the practice of pharmacy in Hungary over the past eight years. The Medallion of the Association is the second highest award given by the MOSZ. He is the first non-Hungarian to receive this honor. The highest honor awarded by MOSZ is the “Lifetime Achievement Award” which was presented to Dean Emeritus Dick Gourley a few years ago. Dr. Brown is pictured above with the President of the Hungarian Private Pharmacist Association, Dr. Mikola Balint (far left).
RxBio, Inc. Awarded $15 Million Federal Contract

MEMPHIS, Nov 8, 2011 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) is pleased to announce that RxBio, Inc., an early stage biopharmaceutical company that has spun out of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), has been awarded a $15 million federal contract. The contract will fund the further development of Rx100, the company's potent radiomitigant countermeasure drug, which may protect against the potentially lethal effects from radiation exposure. To date, no such drug has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) contract is valued at up to $24 million ($15 million in the base contract; $9 million in options) over the next two years.

Rx100 resulted from pioneering collaboration among three UTHSC scientists: Gabor Tigyi, MD, PhD, chairman and professor in the Department of Physiology, Duane Miller, PhD, chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences (pictured right), and Leonard R. Johnson, PhD, professor in the Department of Physiology. Once the initial discovery was made, they contacted W. Shannon McCool, DPh, a UT College of Pharmacy alumnus, and an individual with a substantial track record in developing and commercializing major pharmaceutical products. RxBio, Inc., was formed. Rx100 was licensed from UT Research Foundation, and the company commenced further development.

"As part of a national preparedness effort, we are pleased to work locally to develop a radiation countermeasure that could save the lives of countless Americans, as well as citizens around the world who are exposed to lethal levels of radiation," said Dr. McCool, chairman and chief executive officer of RxBio.

Rx100 is unique in that it is a small molecule that has shown a significant survival benefit whether administered 24 hours before or up to 72 hours after exposure to radiation at levels several times lethal. Another unique characteristic, Rx100 is effective against the higher levels of radiation that affect the gastrointestinal tract. Development of the drug to date has been funded by a combination of private equity and federal funding. The drug has been a sponsored project of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) charged with the identification and early development of radiation countermeasures -- which has to date provided nearly $5 million in early stage funding. This award effectively moves sponsorship from NIAID to BARDA -- the federal agency responsible for funding advanced development of such drugs.

Development of Rx100 to date has taken place within the Memphis Bioworks Foundation Incubator. Further development will rely heavily on use of facilities within UTHSC, including its Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL), a specially constructed laboratory dedicated to biomedical and biodefense research, and research training. The UTHSC RBL is situated on the UT-Baptist Research Park adjacent to the university's urban campus.
FACULTY

RxBio, Inc. Awarded $15 Million Federal Contract – continued

"We would not have been able to conduct the research necessary to further develop this drug without access to the facilities within the Regional Biocontainment Lab," Dr. McCool said. "The RBL provides a unique opportunity in this region to safely simulate and analyze threats to our population, like radiation exposure."

Dr. Tigyi serves as chief scientific officer for RxBio. Ryan Yates, PharmD, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UTHSC (pictured above right with Dr. Miller, left), serves as project chief for the BARDA initiative, as well as vice president of Research and Development for RxBio. In addition to Drs. Tigyi and Yates, Drs. Miller and Johnson will continue to provide guidance and direct critical and pertinent aspects of the project as needed.

This project has been funded in whole or in part with Federal funds from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHSO100201100036C. BARDA provides an integrated, systematic approach to the development and purchase of the necessary vaccines, drugs, therapies, and diagnostic tools for public health medical emergencies.

Rogers Leads UTHSC Campus CPR and AED Training

Kelly Rogers, PharmD, professor of Clinical Pharmacy (pictured far right), along with student pharmacists, taught CPR during the first annual UTHSC cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) training event held on November 10-11, 2011. With the assistance of 26 American Heart Association (AHA) basic life support instructors over 2 days, they trained 250 people in the AHA Heartsaver® CPR/AED Course. The goal was to teach persons who are not healthcare professionals how to perform CPR and how to use AEDs. Since 2007, Dr. Rogers has been the
Rogers Leads UTHSC Campus CPR and AED Training – continued

UTCOP Memphis campus American Pharmacists Association’s Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) CPR faculty advisor, and has worked with student instructors to increase the service commitment to the community over the past 5 years. She has been a BLS instructor for 7 years and a training center faculty which allows her to be an instructor trainer for 3 years. Dr. Rogers provides all AHA CPR instructor training at UTCOP. Last year she noticed there were very few AEDs on campus at UTHSC. Last fall, she brought this to attention to her student pharmacist APhA-ASP CPR vice chairs, Haley Armstrong and Tiffany Nason. Together, they presented the information to Dr. Ken Brown, executive vice chancellor and chief operating officer. As a result, Dr. Rogers and Dr. Lawrence Madlock, medical director of University Health Services, selected new AEDs and UTHSC purchased 35 with 30 installed in buildings across campus and 5 for use by Campus Police in their cruisers. Dr. Rogers was recently named UTHSC AED Coordinator and AHA Regional Faculty.

American Heart Association facts regarding CPR and defibrillation:
- Approximately 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital.
- Effective bystander CPR, provided immediately after cardiac arrest, can double a victim’s chance of survival.
- Death from sudden cardiac arrest is not inevitable. If more people knew CPR, more lives could be saved.
- CPR helps maintain vital blood flow to the heart and brain and increases the amount of time that an electric shock from a defibrillator can be effective.
- Brain death starts to occur four to six minutes after someone experiences cardiac arrest if no CPR and defibrillation occurs during that time.
- If bystander CPR is not provided, a sudden cardiac arrest victim’s chances of survival fall 7 to 10 percent for every minute of delay until defibrillation. Few attempts at resuscitation are successful if CPR and defibrillation are not provided within minutes of collapse.

White-Means Health Care Hero Finalist
Shelley White-Means, MA, PhD, professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences (pictured right), was a finalist for the Memphis Business Journal’s 13th Annual Health Care Heroes Award in the area of Community Outreach. The Health Care Heroes program honors exceptional health care professionals in the Memphis area in five different categories: Administrative Excellence, Community Outreach, Health Care Innovations, Health Care Provider Non-Physician and Health Care Provider Physician. Dr. White-Means was one of only twenty finalists.
PUBLICATIONS


POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS


STUDENTS, GRAD STUDENTS & POST DOC RESIDENTS

Clinical Skills Competition Winners
APhA-ASP hosted the annual local Clinical Skills Competition. The Clinical Skills Competition encourages student pharmacists to apply their current knowledge to help patients make the best use of their medications. Students team up and compete against peer teams. First place winners are awarded free registration to attend and compete in the national competition at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting held in this month in New Orleans, LA. The 2011 winners:

First Place
Morgan Honeycutt & Cyle White

Second Place
Danesha Williams & Sloan Regen

Third Place
Whitney Elliott & Lindsey Wells
Fellow Herrera Awarded PPAG Grant

Oscar Rafael Herrera, PharmD (’11), a Fellow in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy, has received the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group (PPAG) 2011 Neonatal Pharmacy Resident/Fellow Research Grant for the proposed project, “Optimum concentration of eicosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid on bile acid induced apoptosis in HepG2 cells.” The grant will be used to purchase laboratory supplies and assay kits.

Now in its 3rd year, the Neonatal Pharmacy Resident/Fellow Research Grant supports research in neonatal medication use conducted by pharmacy residents and fellows. The primary purpose of the research award is to improve safe and effective use of medications in neonates. PPAG is an international, nonprofit, professional association representing the interests of pediatric pharmacists and their patients. The group is dedicated to improving medication therapy in children. Their sole purpose is to promote safe and effective medication use in children through communication, education, and research.

Career Fair and Interview Days a Success

Each year, student pharmacists have an opportunity to explore potential career paths at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy Annual Career Fairs and Career Interview Days in Knoxville and Memphis in November. Typically, there are 25-35 companies represented including hospitals, home healthcare, community and independent pharmacies. In Knoxville, second and third year students networked with more than 10 companies and institutions at the Career Fair held at UTK Carolyn P. Brown University Center. Fourth year student pharmacists enjoyed dinner at the Foundry, sponsored by Walgreens, Kroger, CVS, Walmart and Rite Aid, where they had an opportunity to talk with company representatives before interview day. In Memphis, student pharmacists enjoyed dinner at the Butcher Shop and participated in interviews at the Holiday Inn Select.

Employer participants commented that our student pharmacists are well prepared, professional, and highly sought after.
The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy celebrated American Pharmacy Educator Week with a student and faculty reception where faculty discussed their careers with students. For the first time, the college offered a faculty shadowing program to help students find out what a career in academia entails on a daily basis. The program matched ten students with faculty members to shadow. A faculty breakfast on both campuses was hosted by the APhA-ASP executive committee. Videoconferencing between both campuses was utilized to display an electronic billboard between classes throughout the week showcasing College of Pharmacy faculty. Each faculty member provided a picture and commented on where they completed their pharmacy education and postdoctoral training, their current position, and their favorite aspect of being a pharmacy educator.

Dr. Debbie Byrd, professor and associate dean of Professional Affairs (seated, below right), contributed, “Watching the extraordinary transformation of students from the recruiting and admissions process through graduation and beyond,” as being the best part of her career as a pharmacy educator. “Did You Know” slides were included this year to let students know about interesting facts about the faculty. One example was “Did You Know that...Dr. Dickerson will be the first pharmacist to receive the prestigious Jonathan Rhoads Research Lecturer Award from the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition in January, 2012?”

Christa George, associate professor, answered, “Mentoring students through the process of transitioning from a student to a clinician and helping students find their career path.”
ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Alumni Weekend

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy and Office of Development and Alumni Affairs held several events in Knoxville during the first weekend in November as part of our annual Alumni Weekend. The Alumni Board of Directors and Dean’s Advisory Council conducted a business meeting on Friday November 4, 2011, while others enjoyed the continuing education offerings at UT COP’s Fall Therapeutics Seminar. The Awards and Reunion Luncheon honored our Golden Graduates from the Class of 1961 (pictured left). Back row (from left to right): Tom Langford, Jerry Kelley, Carroll Reagan, Carl Hylton, Frank Baker, Jr., Dan Erranton. Front row (from left to right): Jackson Sims, James Hill, Larry DePriest, Charles Carr, F. Clifton Exum, Jr.


Dick Gourley, PharmD (’69, ’70), Dean Emeritus (pictured left), was recognized by Pam Phillips (’82), president of the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy Alumni Association, with the 2011 Outstanding Alumnus Award for his distinguished accomplishments as Dean for more than 22 years. In addition, Rob Nolly, DPh, professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences (pictured right) accepted the 2011 Distinguished Service to Pharmacy Award from Jim Eoff, Interim Dean (far right). Dr. Nolly was recognized for his tireless efforts as chair of the UTCOP Building Committee over the past several years.
Alumni Weekend – continued

Alumni Weekend closed on a high note with the Pharmacy Alumni Tailgate Party and UT vs. Middle Tennessee State University football game on Saturday afternoon.

Keith Carver, PhD (left), executive assistant to UT President Joe DiPietro and Nell Blair, director of development (right) hosted Tara Moore (’92) in the President’s Skybox at Neyland Stadium during the game.

Risk Management: Diversion Prevention

Dianne Duncan, DPh (’65), was a panelist during the ElderWatch Conference in Knoxville on October 26, 2011. Approximately 250 attendees participated in the conference entitled “Grandma’s Medicine Cabinet: Rx for Diversion.” Dr. Duncan discussed “Risk Management: Diversion Prevention.” She was the only pharmacist among the drug enforcement officials and health care professionals who spoke at the conference. Don Dare, WATE 6 On Your Side Reporter, was the facilitator.

Happy Holidays

During this holiday season, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy is deeply thankful for your loyalty and contributions to our success. We sincerely appreciate our UTCOP family and extend to you our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Attention Holiday Shoppers!

ASP is selling UTCOP nalgene water bottles for $12 and ornaments for $7! Feeling a little chilly this holiday season? Bundle up with UTCOP embroidered fleece blankets for $23! For questions contact Kim Kleinaitis kkleinai@uthsc.edu in Memphis or Rachel Wilkinson racewil@uthsc.edu in Knoxville.
OTHER

Condolences
The college family extends condolences to:

Dr. David Solomon (‘69, ‘70), whose mother, Julia (Judy) Nelson Boring Solomon of Concord/Farragut, passed away on November 6, at the age of 90.

Dr. Phil Johnston (‘72, ‘73), whose father, Rev. Earl A. Johnston of Germantown, passed away on Friday, November 18, at the age of 84.

Acknowledgement
Special thanks to fourth year student pharmacist, Phuoc Tran, for his valuable contributions to this edition of College of Pharmacy News.

Visit our website at: www.uthsc.edu/pharmacy

The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy

Please submit news items to dbyrd4@uthsc.edu

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