UTCOP Receives $4.5M for New Building

The final state budget for 2011-2012 was passed by the legislature in late May and includes $4.5 million for the new pharmacy building. The funds will be used to complete the 5th floor of the building, which will house the Medicinal Chemistry group. Senator Randy McNally, a 1969 UTCOP alumnus and current Chair of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, strongly supported the College of Pharmacy building project. Representative David Shepard, a 1974 COP alumnus, was also a key supporter. Many other alumni, faculty, staff and students were instrumental in rallying support across the state.

While these funds will allow completion of a select division of the building, an additional $5.2 million will be needed for completion of the remainder of the building, which will house faculty/staff offices, in addition to several pharmaceutical sciences laboratories. Completion of classroom construction and placement of distance education technology is expected by summer 2011, in time for the entering class of 2015 to begin classes in the new facility. Dean Gourley hopes to secure funds for completion of the building by December 2011. Please join us for the building dedication and ribbon cutting on Thursday, August 25th. To see live webcam images of building construction, follow the link below: http://www.uthsc.edu/pharmacy/news/webcammemphis.php
MORE TOP STORIES

Richard Brown and Christa George Receive Excellence in Teaching Awards

Drs. Richard Brown and Christa George were awarded UTHSC Student Government Executive Committee Excellence in Teaching Awards in May. This award recognizes concerned, outstanding teachers known for their ability to communicate, to respond to student needs, and to promote independent thought among the student body.

Dr. Richard Brown, BS, PharmD, FASHP (pictured left with Jake Smith, P3 and PSGA President) is a Professor in the UT Colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine. Until his retirement from practice in 2006, Dr. Brown served as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Internal Medicine and Director of Drug Information services at the VA Medical Center in Memphis. He is also a previous recipient of the SGAEC Excellence in Teaching Award in 1997 and 2004.

Dr. Christa George, PharmD, BCPS (pictured right) is an Associate Professor of Clinical Pharmacy. She currently practices as a Clinical Pharmacist at the UT/St. Francis Family Practice Center in Memphis. She provides care to patients with diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and hypercoagulable states. She teaches UT pharmacy students in a didactic and experiential capacity in the areas of diabetes, communication skills, OTC medications, and general ambulatory care.

Grace Kuo visits UTCOP Knoxville Campus

UTHSC College of Pharmacy welcomed Grace Kuo, PharmD, PhD, MPH to the Knoxville Campus as the inaugural speaker for the Research Seminar Series, a joint venture between the Departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Clinical Pharmacy. Dr. Kuo is the Associate Dean for Academic Clinical Affairs at UC San Diego, Director of the San Diego Pharmacist’s Research Network, and an Executive Committee member of the National Interdisciplinary Primary Care PBRN. Dr Kuo is a recent recipient of a PhD in Pharmacoeconomics, the founding president of the ACCP PBRN, a successful Ambulatory Care Clinical Pharmacist, a reviewer for AHRQ, and a researcher with over 18 grants from the NIH, AHRQ, and CDC. She offered significant insight and strategy to the establishment of successful practices in clinical pharmacy and research through meetings with 16 faculty from the Departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Clinical Pharmacy in Kingsport, Knoxville, Memphis, and Murfreesboro. Her seminar entitled “Development of Pharmacists’ PBRNs” was also videoconferenced to faculty and students in Memphis and Nashville. The goal of the Research Series is to bring successfully funded researchers to UTCOP to network with faculty on site. Please contact Ram Mahato in Pharmaceutical Sciences or Anita Airee in Clinical Pharmacy with suggestions for future Research Seminar Series speakers.
ACCOLADES

FACULTY

Heather Eppert Featured in ASHP Section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists

Heather Eppert, PharmD, BCPS was featured in the May 2011 Spotlight for the ASHP section of Clinical Specialists and Scientists. Dr. Eppert is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy on the Knoxville Campus and practices as a Clinical Specialist in Emergency Medicine at Blount Memorial Hospital in Maryville. Since joining the faculty in September 2006, she has developed an Emergency Department practice where her clinical roles include a combination of optimizing empiric pharmacotherapy regimens, providing answers to drug information requests, participating in resuscitation of critically ill patients and providing education to healthcare providers and patients. She also serves as an integral part of several resuscitation teams including the STEMI Team, Sepsis Response Team, and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Team. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, Dr. Eppert teaches pharmacy students in both the didactic and experiential settings. She delivers didactic lectures on topics related to cardiology, toxicology and physical assessment. Her research area and interests include documentation and evaluation of the impact of Emergency Medicine Pharmacists services on patient outcomes, particularly related to the STEMI Team and the Sepsis Response Team. As a testament to her success as a clinician and educator, Dr. Eppert was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award from the SGAEC in 2009, the Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award from TPA in July 2010 and Preceptor of the Year Award in August 2010. She serves as a role model for students and colleagues, not only in the field of Emergency Medicine, but as a scholar and educator. To view the ASHP article in its entirety, visit: http://www.ashp.org/DocLibrary/MemberCenter/ClinicalSpecialistsandScientists/Spotlight-Heather-Eppert.aspx.

Dr. Rolly Dickerson Honored by ASHP for Practice Excellence and Leadership

Dr. Roland (Rolly) Dickerson, PharmD, BCNSP has been selected as a 2011 Fellow of ASHP. The ASHP Practitioner Recognition Program recognizes excellence in practice and promotes public awareness of outstanding pharmacists. Those pharmacists achieving “Fellow” status must meet rigorous criteria in areas including contributions to scientific literature, research, and education, as well as leadership in professional activities. In addition, the pharmacist must have practiced within a health-system pharmacy for at least 10 years. Dr. Dickerson is a Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and practices as a Clinical Pharmacist in Trauma and Nutritional Support at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis.
Ben Gross Represents Pharmacists as Part of the “Medical Home”

Dr. Ben Gross, PharmD, BCPS, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Ambulatory Care Pharmacist at Holston Medical Group (HMG) in Kingsport, was featured with a physician colleague in an article in the Kingsport Times News describing the Medical Home model used for patient care at HMG. The Medical Home is a concept in which the patient is at the center of the practice. The Medical Home consists of a group of interdisciplinary healthcare professionals including primary care physicians, specialty physicians, pharmacists, nurses, dieticians, physical therapists and others who care for the patient with a team approach. Dr. Gross has been an integral part of development of pharmacist services at HMG. In addition to his clinical duties, he teaches pharmacy students in both the didactic and experiential settings. His didactic instruction includes topics related to diabetes and heart failure. He also serves as a preceptor for students on advanced experiential rotations. Dr. Gross is a 2006 graduate of UT College of Pharmacy. Prior to becoming full-time faculty in 2007, he completed a pharmacy practice residency in ambulatory care at HMG.

PharmForum 2011 Dedicated to the Memory of Dr. Atul Shukla

The College of Pharmacy hosted PharmForum 2011, presented by the UTHSC student chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) and the AAPS Southern Regional Discussion Group on May 16-17 in Memphis. The meeting was dedicated to the memory of Atul J. Shukla, PhD, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the College. Dr. Shukla passed away in 2009 after serving for 20 years as a faculty member of the UT College of Pharmacy. In addition to his teaching role, he founded the continuing education program in tablet technology. This hands-on course has educated hundreds of students in industry, academia, and regulatory agencies from around the world. PharmForum 2011 is a regional research conference to promote and highlight pharmaceutical research efforts of graduate students and faculty at universities and research institutions in the southeast U.S. Dr. Hassan Almoazen is the chair of the AAPS Southern Regional Discussion Group. Jin Xu is chair of the UT student chapter of AAPS. The meeting featured presentations and posters of both faculty and students.
UTCOP Community Pharmacy Residency Granted Continued ASHP Accreditation

ASHP has continued accreditation of the UTCOP Postgraduate Year One (PGY1) Community Pharmacy residency program until 2014. Residency Director, Eugene Smith, PharmD, MPH and Clinical Coordinator, Cindy Smith, PharmD, BCPS provided a progress report to ASHP outlining steps taken to meet the requirements and standards for the residency. The UTCOP Community Pharmacy Residency program has a strong history, as it is the oldest community residency in the nation, and continues to be one of the largest programs in the U.S. The current community pharmacy residency sites extend across the state of Tennessee and include Duren Pharmacy in Waynesboro, Kroger Regional Operations in Memphis, Reeves-Sain Pharmacy in Murfreesboro, and Wilson Pharmacy in Johnson City. As Dr. Eugene Smith is retiring, Dr. Todd Bess has accepted the position of Director of the Community Pharmacy residency program beginning July 1, 2011.

Stephan Foster Receives Recognition and Awards

Stephan Foster, PharmD, FASHP, CAPT (ret) USPHS, has been selected as the recipient of the 2011 Alumni Public Service Award for the UT Health Sciences Center Campus. Recipients honored with this award have provided outstanding service to the public. In addition to recognition by the University for his public service, Dr. Foster will be inducted into the National Academies of Practice (NAP). NAP is a non-profit organization comprised of elected and distinguished practitioners within several different healthcare disciplines whose role is to advise public policy makers on healthcare issues. Dr. Foster has also been invited and accepted as a Founding Member of the Edward Jenner Society. This society was created for academic vaccinologists. Their mission includes promoting research and growth in the field of vaccinology. Dr. Foster retired from the U.S. Public Health Service in 1998, where he served as a Pharmacist Clinician. He currently serves as Professor and Vice Chair for Community Health in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy.

Pharmacokinetics Training Course Held at UTCOP

In April, the College offered an introductory pharmacometric training course on the “Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Protein Therapeutics” for pharmaceutical scientists in industry, academia, and regulatory agencies. The five-day course introduced participants to basic principles in the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamic evaluation of novel protein therapeutics and provided opportunities for hands-on pharmacokinetic and pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic data analysis by modeling and simulations examples relevant for protein drugs.

The course was co-directed by Dr. Bernd Meibohm, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UTCOP and Dr. Johan Gabrielson from AstraZeneca in Gothenburg, Sweden. The course attracted more than thirty participants from Belgium, Sweden, Germany, Canada, and the United States. This was the first time the course has been offered; due to its overwhelming success, it will be offered again next spring.
Congratulations to Newly Board Certified Faculty

The following full-time, part-time and affiliate UTCOP faculty passed the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties exam in October to become Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialists:

- Patrick Blankenship
- James (Brad) Doby
- Ben Eddlemon
- Jeff Lewis
- Efrain Marrero
- David (Nick) Patterson
- Kelli Rumbaugh

Publications


Foster SL. Recent rundown of topics covered at recent ACIP meeting. Pharmacy Today. April 2011; 17(4):27.


Foster SL. Q&A from APhA immunization webinar. Posted on APhA Immunization Website "Ask the Experts" at www.pharmacist.com March 17, 2011.

Foster SL. Rundown of topics covered at recent ACIP meeting. Posted on APhA Immunization Website "Ask the Experts" at www.pharmacist.com March 7, 2011.


*KH Vo, PharmD, Class of 2011
**KM Smith, PharmD, Class of 2011
UTCOP SNPhA Chapter Hosts 2011 Regional Conference

For the first time in seven years, the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) came to Memphis in March. With her, she brought 31 Colleges of Pharmacy and 250 attendees! The University of Tennessee SNPhA chapter hosted the 2011 SNPhA Region I & II Conference at The Westin Memphis Beale Street Hotel. The theme for the conference was “The Pharmacy Profession: Top Destinations of the New Millennium.” Members within these regions had opportunities to meet pharmacists through Roundtable Discussion Sessions and Information Sessions. With 19 speakers, all well known nationally in various fields of pharmacy such as management, clinical pharmacy, academia, and research, SNPhA members left with a “top destination” in mind that they were impelled to pursue. Not only were members inspired professionally, but also they were exposed to numerous attractions of the soulful, yet historic city of Memphis. Two events were held away from the hotel: dinner at the world famous Charles Vergos’ Rendezvous Barbeque Restaurant on Friday night and the Awards Reception at the Rock-N-Soul Museum on Saturday night. Moreover, tours at the National Civil Rights Museum were made available to those interested. In addition to hosting a great conference, the University of Tennessee teams placed 1st and 2nd among 13 competing colleges of pharmacy in the Region I & II Clinical Skills Competition.

On behalf of the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy SNPhA chapter, we would like to thank the faculty, administration, sponsors, and alumni that contributed to and participated in this conference. We could not have had such a great time hosting without your support!

UTCOP Students Place First and Second in SNPhA Patient Counseling Competition

1st Place

2nd Place

Left to right: McLisa Davis, SNPhA President; Titilola Afolabi, P3 winner; Bobby Thomas, SNPhA Advisor and Assistant Dean; Alda Shepherd, P3 winner

Left to right: Juan Lopez, SNPhA National Vice-President; Dr. Mike Wasson, Kroger Representative; Danesha Williams, P3 winner; Sloan Regen, P3 winner; Aftan Dyson, SNPhA President-Elect
ACCOLADES
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People’s Custom Rx Awarded Small Business Award

People’s Custom Rx, owned by Bill Johns, DPh, was awarded the Memphis Business Journal’s 2011 Small Business Award. Each year for the past 31 years, this prestigious and coveted honor has been bestowed on small businesses that achieve high levels of customer service, employee satisfaction, quality performance, and sustained profitability. Bill Johns, owner and compounding pharmacist, is a 1965 graduate of UTCOP. He received the TPA Innovative Pharmacist Award in 1997. People’s Rx serves as an experiential rotation site for UTCOP students in Memphis.

CEO of St. Jude Speaks at Ray Symposium

William E. Evans, PharmD, Director and Chief Executive Officer of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, spoke about pharmacogenomics at the 5th Annual Ray Symposium at Western University Health Sciences in April. Pharmacogenomics encompasses the study of DNA and how differences affect responses to pharmacotherapy. The Ray Symposium is organized by the College of Pharmacy in honor of Max Ray, MS, PharmD, Dean Emeritus of Western University College of Pharmacy, where he served as Dean from 1996 to 2006. In 2007, Dr. Ray joined to faculty of UTCOP as Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Health Outcomes and Research Policy. Dr. Evans is a UTCOP 1974 PharmD graduate.

Left to right: Daniel Robinson, Dean of Western University COP; William Evans, Director & CEO St. Jude; Max Ray, Dean Emeritus of Western University COP

UT Alumnus Weds

Teresa Shanks Cooper, UTCOP Class of 1975, married William Cary Graham on April 16, 2011. Teresa is a Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist, practicing with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. She currently serves as the Pharmacy Director at Central Virginia Training Center in Madison Heights, VA. She is a past president of the Virginia Pharmacists Association.
Acknowledgements
Special thanks to Sarah Eanes, current PGY2 Pharmacotherapy resident, and Stephanie Weathers for their contributions to this edition of the newsletter.

Congratulations Class of 2011!

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

The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy

Please submit news items to sweather@uthsc.edu or jbogue@uthsc.edu