

PharmNews

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER -
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

FALL 2015

Celebration of Achievement

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Promotion to Professor

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SOP signs agreement with Abilene's McMurry

McMurry University President Sandra Harper, Ph.D., and SOP Dean Quentin Smith, Ph.D., came together on Aug. 18 to sign an agreement that would allow McMurry University students to transition to the SOP after successfully completing three years at McMurry, one of three private universities in Abilene.

The agreement means a year of tuition savings for students who enroll in the pre-pharmacy program at McMurry, but involves rigorous coursework to make sure students are prepared when they enter pharmacy school. Once a student completes the program they will have a bachelor's degree in biochemistry or biomedical science from McMurry University and a doctorate in pharmacy from TTUHSC.



White Coat Ceremony highlights pharmacy school boot camp

The 2015-2016 academic year officially opened Aug. 17, but the pharmacy school began a bit earlier in the month by **welcoming the incoming Amarillo Class of 2019** at the annual White Coat Ceremony Aug. 10 at the Paramount Theatre in Abilene and Aug. 17 at the Amarillo Civic Center. CVS/Caremark helped sponsored the event.

In addition to receiving their white pharmacy coats, the incoming students also sign the Pharmacist Code of Conduct and recite the Oath of a Pharmacist for the first time. The

Pharmacist Code of Conduct defines the roles and responsibilities of pharmacists and forms the basis for student conduct when they interact with patients and colleagues during their years in the TTUHSC pharmacy program and after they graduate and enter the profession.

The event concludes the pharmacy school's annual orientation period that prepares students for their first year of classes and provides them with an overview of the school's four-year doctor of pharmacy (Pharm.D.) program.

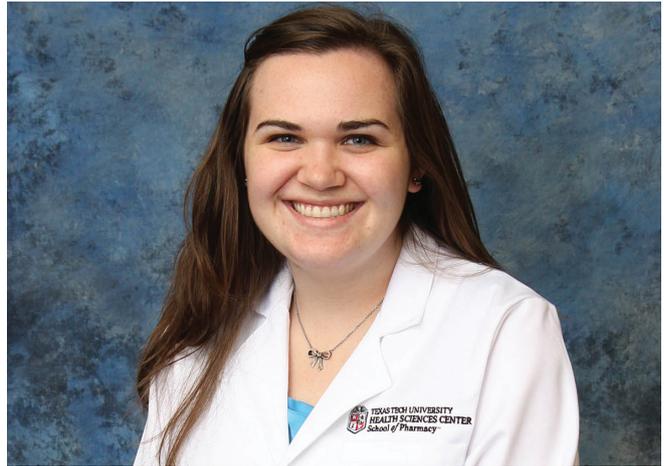
Student organization named Chapter of the Year

During the 2010-2011 academic year, a group of students from the School of Pharmacy helped found a TTUHSC student chapter for the Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC).

The organization's mission is to provide access to medical care for the millions of underprivileged and medically underserved children around the world. Each year, the national FIMRC office selects a Chapter of the Year from among its more than 60 local chapters spread across the U.S., Canada and Australia for their contributions to the organization's efforts. In September, FIMRC Operations Specialist Abigail Proctor traveled to Amarillo to recognize the TTUHSC chapter as the 2014-2015 FIMRC Chapter of

the Year. "TTUHSC-SOP best exemplified what it means to be a FIMRC chapter through their local volunteering in the Amarillo area, their commitment to fundraising through events such as the volleyball tournament, advocating for health issues and traveling to our project site in the Dominican Republic," Proctor said. "Student involvement is integral to our mission because our chapters play such an important role in advocating for health issues that affect those in underserved countries.

The work that these students do benefits FIMRC by making global health issues visible in their communities, while also strengthening the health of members in their own community."



Abilene student, alumna named to PDC posts

A current SOP student and an alumna, both from the Abilene campus, were elected to serve Phi Delta Chi (PDC) at the pharmacy fraternity's 70th Grand Council meeting in Albuquerque.

Megan Fenney, a P4, was **elected by regional delegates** to serve as PDC's South Central Regional Correspondent. During her one-year term, Fenney will be responsible for communication between the national office and the region and for ensuring all 12 region chapters are participating at the highest level possible.

In addition, Tiffany Johnson (Class of '13) was elected to a PDC national office and will serve a two-year term as the organization's Grand Vice President for Collegiate Affairs. One of Johnson's primary tasks will be to work with all PDC collegiate chapters to **expand the professional fraternity's membership**. She will also help PDC promote its Collegiate Chapter Standards, organize and coordinate material judging for PDC's Achievement Award Program and supervise the activities of the group's regional collegiate affairs directors.

In case you missed it...



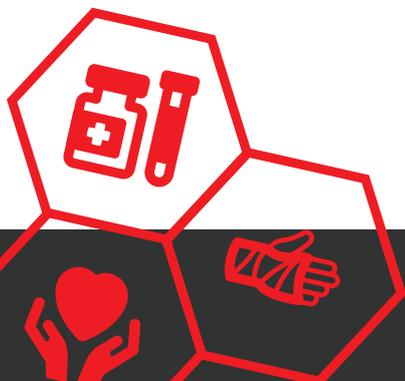
P3s James Milner and Joshua Falk recently received a case study award and scholarship from Target. Pictured left to right: Target representatives Shea Hudson and Ashley Hartsell; Milner; Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Dean Roland Patry, Dr.PH.; Falk; SOP Practice Management Division Head Joel Epps, M.B.A.; and SOP Dean Quentin Smith, Ph.D.

(Left) Lubbock Regional Dean Charles Seifert, Pharm.D., fits Rebecca Sleeper, Pharm.D., with a white coat to commemorate her promotion to professor. (Right) Sleeper and Seifert with Lubbock P4s Michael Engelke, Tony Yong and Kurt Wettlaufer.



From Butch Habeger's retirement reception

From Amarillo's Back to School Picnic





Researcher to receive drug discovery software

In August, SOP assistant professor Paul Trippier, Ph.D., learned that his application to the Rare Genomics Institute for **a software informatics package** to manage compound synthesis and screening for drug discovery projects has been awarded.

“This is a significant addition to the lab’s ability to coordinate drug discovery data with my collaborators and potentially other labs,” Trippier explained. “It is used in many of the leading university drug discovery centers and pharma and has become the gold standard. It will be a great opportunity for my grad students to become familiar with this software before entering the workforce.

Trippier, who works for the department of pharmaceutical sciences in Amarillo, said the software package **also provides several modeling and simulation elements** for physicochemical property determination and prioritization of compounds.

“There is also a significant dollar value attached to this as I get five licenses for at least five years,” he added.



Abbruscato named NIH section chair

Thomas J. Abbruscato, Ph.D., professor and chair for the School of Pharmacy’s department of pharmaceutical sciences, has accepted an invitation from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to serve as **chairperson for the Drug Discovery for the Nervous System Study Section, Center for Scientific Review**.

Members are selected based upon their competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as demonstrated by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors.

Abbruscato’s term began in July and ends in June 2016.



SOP grad students receive travel scholarships



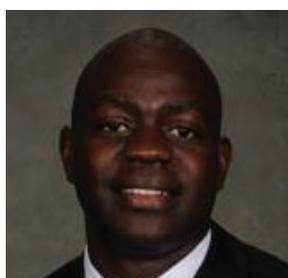
Four students from the School of Pharmacy's Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences recently received travel scholarships to attend meetings related to their fields of research.



Three of the honorees received travel **scholarships to attend the 2015 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Annual Meeting and Exposition Oct. 25-29 in Orlando, Florida.**



The trio, all from the SOP's department of pharmaceutical sciences, includes Tanvir 'Tanvir' Hye, who works in the lab of Xinli Liu, Ph.D.; Mohammad Jahidur 'Jahid' Rashid, who works in the lab of Fakhru Ahsan, Ph.D.; and Shikha Prasad, who works in the lab of Luca Cucullo, Ph.D.



Hye and Rashid received their scholarships from the AAPS Formulation Design and Development Section. Prasad received her scholarship from the AAPS Pharmaceuticals Global Health Focus Group.

In addition, Benard Ogola, who works for the SOP's department of biomedical sciences in the lab of Thomas Thekkumkara, Ph.D., was selected by the American Physiological Society (APS) to receive a Minority Travel Fellowship Award to attend the APS Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolic Diseases: Physiology and Gender Conference Nov. 17-20 in Annapolis, Maryland.



POISON
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TPPC kicks off Fall Medication Cleanout cycle

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) opened its Fall 2015 collection cycle Sept. 12 at the TTUHSC campus in Amarillo. According to TPPC Managing Director Jeanie Jaramillo-Stametz, Pharm.D., 776 people brought in 1,879 pounds of medications for proper disposal, making this the largest Medication Cleanout event since the program started in September 2009.

To date, **TPPC has conducted 39 Medication Cleanout events** in Amarillo, Abilene, Lubbock and several other smaller communities in the TPPC service area since its inception. Combined, the collections have now taken in more than 25,500 pounds of unused, unwanted and expired medications for proper disposal.

"These medications are no longer available as a source for poisonings, abuse, misuse or environmental contamination," Jaramillo-Stametz said.

Additional Fall 2015 Medication Cleanout collections are scheduled for Lubbock (Oct. 3) and Abilene (Oct. 17).



Xcel grant helps important Poison Center program

An important community outreach program received a \$10,000 shot in the arm July 10 through a grant awarded by the Xcel Energy Foundation, which awarded \$400,000 in grants to 74 nonprofits in the company's Texas-New Mexico service area. The Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC), managed by the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) through the School of Pharmacy, was one of 40 Texas Panhandle nonprofits to receive one of the grants.

TPPC will use the grant to pay for costs associated with its Amarillo Medication Cleanout events in 2015.

"The budget we submitted to Xcel was for incineration expenses as well as supplies, advertising, refreshments for volunteers and server maintenance," TPPC Managing Director Jeanie Jaramillo-Stametz, Pharm.D., said.

While unused medications in the home create a risk for poisonings, something most people understand, Jaramillo-Stametz said teens and young adults target many of these same medications for experimentation and abuse.

"Studies have shown that **those who abuse prescription medications for non-medical reasons often move on to abuse illicit drugs in the future.** So, they start with prescription medications that they feel are safe and gain confidence with the abuse. Then, they either become addicted or simply desire the high and seek an alternative. This shift to illicit

drug use often leads to crime as they engage in activities to support their habit."

Jaramillo-Stametz said there is also an environmental safety component to Medication Cleanout because consumers are often unsure how to dispose of unused medications or they may not fully understand the consequences of inappropriate disposal. This uncertainty may lead to old and **unwanted medications being flushed**, washed down a drain or tossed into the trash.

"Most current wastewater treatment technologies do not adequately filter pharmaceuticals, so flushing medications or rinsing them down the drain results in contamination," Jaramillo-Stametz explained. "Medications that are trashed, in most cases, find their way to the landfill. While landfill liners are required to meet minimum standards, over time, leachate can occur and also contaminate not only underground water supplies, but also soil."

Jaramillo-Stametz said surveys indicate that approximately 11 percent of participants would have flushed or washed their medications down the drain and an additional 26 percent said they would have thrown their medications in the trash if they were unable to bring them to Medication Cleanout. The surveys also indicate that 54 percent of participants would have simply kept their medications had Medication Cleanout not been available to them.



Brown receives Texans Caring for Texans recognition

Each year state agencies from the upper 26 counties in the Texas Panhandle are invited to select an employee or team of employees to receive a **Texans Caring for Texans award**. The award recognizes state employees for the effort they put forth to positively impact their communities. The event was created in 1996 by former State Representative David Swinford.

The 2015 recipients were honored Aug. 20 in a ceremony on the West Texas A&M University campus in Canyon. Jeri Brown, executive associate for the SOP's Dean's Office, was among the recipients from the TTUHSC campus in Amarillo. TTUHSC President **Tedd Mitchell, M.D., was the keynote speaker** for the event. State representative's John Smithee and Four Price were also present to honor this year's recipients.

SOP professor speaks in Turkey

Sanjay K. Srivastava, Ph.D., a professor for the School of Pharmacy's Department of Biomedical Sciences and associate dean for sciences, **delivered a keynote speech** at the International Conference on Natural Products for Cancer Prevention and Therapy in Istanbul, Turkey.

Srivastava also served as a session chair for one of the conference's scientific sessions. The conference, held Aug. 31-Sept. 2, was organized by Turkey's Erciyes University.



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