

# PharmNews

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER -  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

WINTER 2015

## SOP Faculty Win Awards

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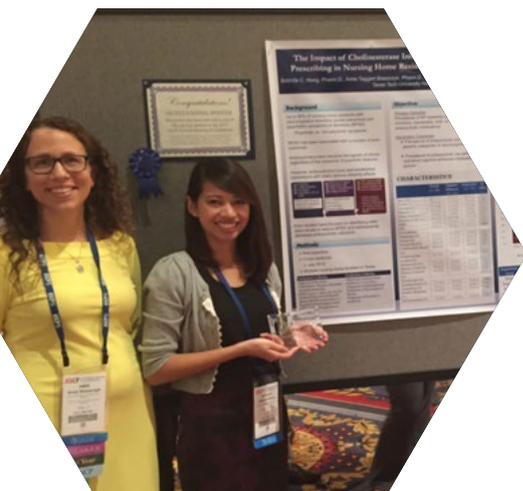
## SOP teams participate in Amarillo's WISE Symposium

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## DFW residency alumna wins national award

Belinda Hong, Pharm.D., a PGY2 geriatrics residency program alumna from the Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) campus, won the Best Poster Award at the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists' 2015 Annual Meeting Oct. 30-Nov. 1 in Las Vegas. Hong, who is a clinical geriatrics pharmacist for Evolution Health, L.L.C., presented her residency research project, titled, "The Impact of Cholinesterase Inhibitors with or without Memantine on Antipsychotic Prescribing in Nursing Home Residents with Alzheimer's type Neurocognitive Disorder" as a poster at the event. Hong's collaborators on the poster included SOP Assistant Professors Monica Mathys, Pharm.D., and Amie Blaszczyk, Pharm.D., from the DFW campus and Hennie Garza, M.S., R.Ph., director of pharmacy for Senior Care Centers in Dallas.



## SOP researcher receives NIH grant

An Abilene faculty researcher was notified Dec. 8 that a research project he is conducting will receive funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Maciej Markiewski, M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor for the Department of Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology, was awarded a five-year R01 grant totaling \$1,749,940 for his project, titled, "Targeting the Premetastatic Niche by Antiangiogenic Immunotherapy." The R01 is the original and historically oldest grant mechanism used by NIH and it provides support for health-related research and development based on the NIH mission. Markiewski will receive \$349,988 annually for his R01 project through 2020.



"The goal of this project is to provide the proof-of-concept for immunotherapy targeting angiogenesis in the premetastatic niche," Markiewski said. "The premetastatic niche encompasses a variety of changes in organs that become targets for cancer metastasis and is formed prior to the arrival of cancer cells to these organs."

Markiewski said therapeutically targeting the premetastatic niche may prevent metastasis, which is the spread of cancer to distant sites in the body and is responsible for the majority of cancer deaths.

"We have discovered that angiogenesis, which is a formation of new blood vessels and plays an important role in tumor growth, begins in the lungs prior to metastasis and facilitates lung seeding by tumor cells," Markiewski added. "Therefore, we postulate that immunotherapy that inhibits angiogenesis in the premetastatic lungs will also protect this organ from metastases. This is in contrast to the current paradigm."

The Department of Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology was established at the School of Pharmacy in 2012 with support provided by the Abilene community and the Dodge Jones Foundation. This major grant recognizes the quality and excellence of research performed at the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy campus in Abilene.

# SOP faculty sweeps awards at President's State of the University Address

At the 2015 State of the University Address, TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., recognized 39 TTUHSC faculty members for their exceptional efforts in the clinic and the classroom. The recipients included 12 faculty members from the School of Pharmacy who received 13 awards. The SOP honorees included:

## President's Excellence in Teaching Team Award

**Charles Seifert, Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS**  
(as a member of the Clarion Course Team)

## President's Excellence in Research Award

**Ruiwen Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.**

## President's Young Investigator Award

**Luca Cucullo, Ph.D.**

## President's Outstanding Clinician Award

**Steven Pass, Pharm.D., FCCM, FCCP, FASHP, BCPS**  
**Sachin Shah, Pharm.D., BCOP, FCCP**

## President's Excellence in Interprofessional Teamwork Award

**Charles Seifert, Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS**  
(as a member of the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program)

## University Distinguished Professor Awards

**Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D.**  
**Fakhrul Ahsan, Ph.D.**  
**Roland Patry, Dr. PH.**  
**Sanjay Srivastava, Ph.D.**  
**Thomas Thekkumkara, Ph.D.**  
**Jon Weidanz, Ph.D.**



# SOP teams participate in Amarillo's WISE Symposium

Two teams comprised of students and alumni from the SOP shared their passion for science with local middle school-aged girls at the 2015 Women in Science Endeavors (WISE) Symposium Nov. 14 at Amarillo College.

SOP alumna Mandy Whiteside (Class of 2014) and graduate students Alejandra Fernandez and Shyanne Page demonstrated some of the basic scientific principles related to compounding medications by having the students make their own lotion. P2 Devan Craig and SOP alumna Sarah Willis (Class of 2013) introduced the students to the practice side of pharmacy by helping them make lip balm and lozenges.

WISE is an annual Amarillo Independent School District event designed to introduce middle-school aged girls to career opportunities in various science-related fields. The School of Pharmacy has participated in the event every year since 2008.

# School of Pharmacy hosts 2015 Job Fair

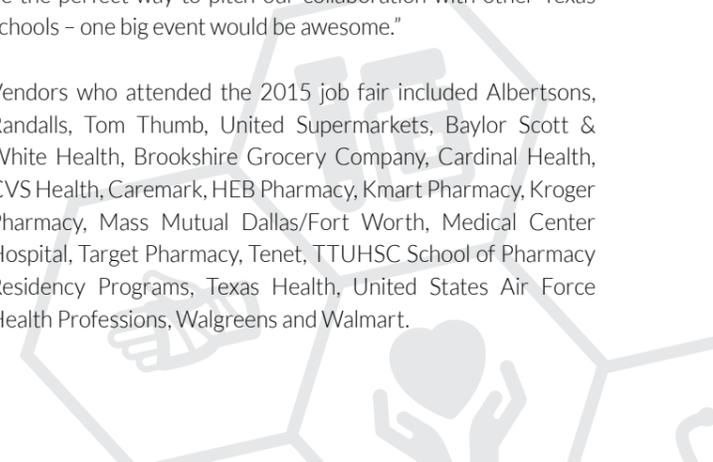
More than 200 third- and fourth-year students from the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy attended the school's annual job fair Oct. 8-9 at the Hurst Convention Center in Hurst, Texas.

The students discussed potential job opportunities with representatives from retail and chain pharmacies, drug manufacturers and distributors, hospitals and other health care facilities. Students also had opportunities to attend workshops covering topics like CV updating and reviewing, networking, dressing for success and business etiquette, career pathways, interviewing skills, how to manage finances and student loan debt and residency preparation.

Deb Notturmo-Strong, Ph.D., assistant dean for professional affairs at the School of Pharmacy, said residency programs were invited to participate free of charge and vendors paid \$450 to \$1,000 for space. Students who interviewed were charged \$25 as a reservation fee.

"The venue was perfect - we had the entire convention center," said. "Our fourth-year students interviewed with retail pharmacies on Friday as well as attended workshops. This might be the perfect way to pitch our collaboration with other Texas schools - one big event would be awesome."

Vendors who attended the 2015 job fair included Albertsons, Randalls, Tom Thumb, United Supermarkets, Baylor Scott & White Health, Brookshire Grocery Company, Cardinal Health, CVS Health, Caremark, HEB Pharmacy, Kmart Pharmacy, Kroger Pharmacy, Mass Mutual Dallas/Fort Worth, Medical Center Hospital, Target Pharmacy, Tenet, TTUHSC School of Pharmacy Residency Programs, Texas Health, United States Air Force Health Professions, Walgreens and Walmart.



# Abilene campus hosts Open House, Fall Festival



The SOP campus in Abilene celebrated the arrival of autumn with a pair of community events in October. On Oct. 10, the campus hosted the Future Healthcare Professionals Experience, a cost-free event that TTUHSC Unit Coordinator Bridgett Gann said was designed to provide local high school and college students interested in a health care career a glimpse into the technology employed by the school as it trains aspiring pharmacists, nurses and public health workers. She said attendees were also be able to speak with current health care providers and instructors about the latest trends in health-related education.

"We gave them a tour of the School of Nursing simulation center and the research laboratories in the School of Pharmacy building," Gann said. "Those who wished to participate in the interactive education demonstrations had the opportunity to figure out, as a group, how a disease outbreak occurred. They took steps and did their own investigating to find the cause."

Gann said attendees also visited the SOP's modern sterile compounding laboratory and viewed the anatomage table where students perform virtual dissections and watched a precipitous birth demonstration at the School of Nursing's simulation laboratory.

On Oct. 29, the Abilene Student Government Association hosted its annual Fall Festival at Abilene's TTUHSC campus parking lot. The cost-free event was open to the public and featured plenty of fun activities for children, including games, candy, booths and costumes.

## In case you missed it...



### Department names interim chair

Harold Miller, Ph.D., an associate professor for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Abilene campus, has been named interim chair for the Department of Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology. Miller, whose appointment began Dec. 5, replaces Jon Weidanz, Ph.D., who accepted a position with the University of Texas at Arlington.



### Amarillo Penny Wars raised money for the American Heart Association

The SOP Amarillo campus came together in a Penny War to raise a total of \$887.87 for the American Heart Association. The winner of the contest, Phi Delta Chi, was awarded dessert at their club meeting.



### Board of Pharmacy Specialties selects SOP faculty

Department of Pharmacy Practice faculty members Mark Haase, Pharm.D., and Sachin Shah, Pharm.D., were recently selected as specialty council members by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties. Haase (associate professor - Amarillo campus) was selected as a member of the Pediatrics Specialty Council and Shah (professor - Dallas/Fort Worth) was named to the Oncology Specialty Council.



### SOP faculty member helps American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Amie Blaszczyk, Pharm.D., an associate professor for the Department of Pharmacy Practice in Dallas/Fort Worth, is one of three geriatrics-focused faculty invited to design new CGP boot camp and recertification programming for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.



## TPPC wraps up Fall Medication Cleanout cycle

The Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) completed its Fall 2015 collection cycle Oct. 17 at the TTUHSC campus in Abilene. Previous fall collections were conducted Sept. 12 in Amarillo and Oct. 3 in Lubbock.

According to TPPC Managing Director Jeanie Jaramillo-Stametz, Pharm.D., 1,334 people drove through the three events and dropped off more than 3,200 pounds of medications for proper disposal. The Amarillo event saw 776 people bring in more than 1,815 pounds, making it the largest Medication Cleanout event since the program started in September 2009.

Since the inception of Medication Cleanout, TPPC has conducted 41 events in Amarillo, Abilene, Lubbock and several other smaller communities in the TPPC service area. Combined, the collections have now taken in more than 27,000 pounds of unused, unwanted and expired medications for proper disposal.

## Shum retirement brings change to Poison Center



This fall, the Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) said goodbye to its first medical director and welcomed his successor.

With Shum beginning the next chapter in his life, Dr. Thomas Martin has stepped in and will serve as TPPC's next medical director.

On Sept. 30, TPPC and TTUHSC hosted a reception to thank Dr. Shu Shum for his service to both organizations. Shum, a board certified toxicologist, spent 21 years as the medical director for TPPC and 14 years as a professor for the department of pediatrics at the TTUHSC School of Medicine.

Martin is board certified in emergency medicine, medical toxicology and occupational medicine. Prior to coming to TPPC and TTUHSC, he served as director for the University of Washington's Medical Toxicology Service and the associate medical director for the Washington Poison Center. While there, he served on the Washington Overdose Prevention Workgroup, the Opioid Abuse Workgroup, the Opioid Risk Workgroup Steering Committee, the Seattle/King County Heroin Task Force and many others, too numerous to list.

Shum began working to get a poison center located in Amarillo in the mid-1980s. His efforts finally paid off in 1994 when the Amarillo Hospital District sub-contracted with Northwest Texas Hospital to be TPPC's host institution.

Martin has authored more than 30 publications and multiple textbook chapters. His current research initiatives include QT/QTc prolongation, TdP and VTach in antidepressant and neuroleptic exposures and outcomes comparison in salicylate intoxications with or without hemodialysis.

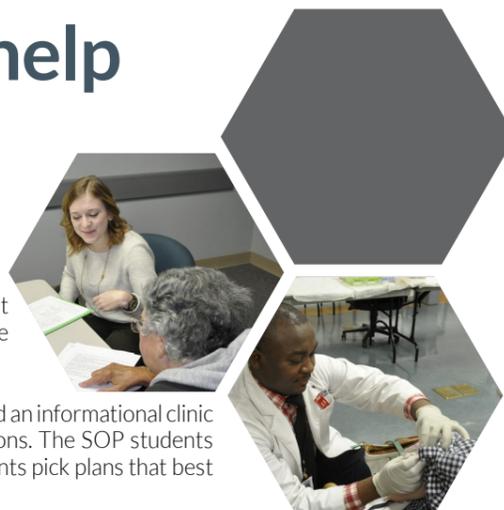
Nine years later, on September 1, 2003, TTUHSC began hosting the TPPC through the School of Pharmacy in Amarillo. Shum served as TPPC's medical director from the day it opened until his retirement last month.



# Students give flu shots, help patients with Medicare Part D

During October, students from the School of Pharmacy in Amarillo helped jump-start the flu vaccination season by administering flu shots to the spouses of veterans at the Thomas E. Creek VA Medical Center in Amarillo.

On Nov. 13, Amarillo students from the Phi Delta Chi student organization conducted an informational clinic to assist senior citizens in evaluating currently available Medicare Part D plan options. The SOP students helped patients better understand the differences in the plans and helped the patients pick plans that best fit their individual health care needs.



# Students selected for scholarships, ambassador service

Several SOP students from Amarillo, Abilene and Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) received special recognition this fall from a long-time school supporter and TTUHSC.

Jessica McKinney, a P2 at the Amarillo campus, received the Dean's Leadership scholarship sponsored by Walgreens. Other scholarship recipients named by Walgreens include Abilene P3 Cara Gorton, who received the Walgreens Diversity and Inclusion scholarship, and Cindy Adibe (P4-DFW), Adriana Campa (P1-Amarillo) and Juana Rivas (P2-Amarillo), who each received a Walgreens Diversity scholarship.

In addition, three SOP students were included in a group of 21 TTUHSC students to be named as President' Select Ambassadors. The SOP trio includes Adibe, Abilene P3 Sydney Kutter and Abilene P3 Addie Young.

Students chosen to participate in the President's Select Ambassador program learn leadership skills and help support the important work of TTUHSC.

# FIFTEENTH ANNUAL RESEARCH DAYS

JUNE 1-2, 2016 | Amarillo Civic Center - Heritage Room

*Save the Date!*



## TEXAS TECH HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER *School of Pharmacy*

CONGRATULATES ITS 2015

# 20 | UNDER | 40

HONOREE

TTUHSC SOP is proud to have such distinguished faculty members!



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
School of Pharmacy



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