

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Veteran Recognition
- ACCP Education Award
- Faculty Highlights
- AAPS Poster Award
- ACCP Candidates
- Thekkumkara Retirement
- Research Symposium
- EDUCAUSE Scholar
- Pharmacy Tailgate
- Leadership Retreat
- TPF Scholarships
- NIH Scholar
- Clinical Pharmacy Challenge
- TPA Competitions
- Health Fairs
- Medication Cleanouts
- ORC Do You Know
- Great Colleges
- Upcoming Events
- Fun Around Campus

## CLASS OF 2026 WELCOMED

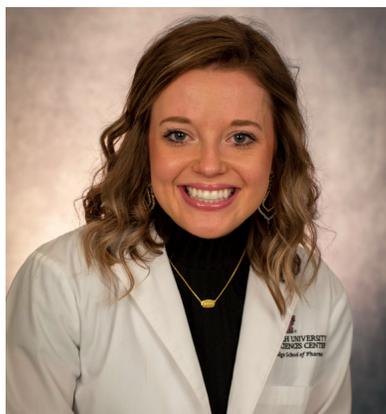


The TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy welcomed the 100-member Class of 2026 with white coat ceremonies at the Dallas, Amarillo, and Abilene campuses. The annual events invited family members and friends to watch as the school's incoming students receive their traditional white pharmacy coats, sign the Pharmacist Code of Conduct and recite the Oath of a Pharmacist for the first time. For incoming students, receiving the white coat is a reminder of the commitment they are making to an honorable and trusted profession.

The Dallas ceremony, held Aug. 6, included 55 incoming first-year students. Amarillo's 24-member Class of 2026 attended their ceremony on Aug. 13 and Abilene's 21-member Class of 2026 attended their ceremony on Aug. 14.

## BILLINGS AWARDED WALMART SCHOLARSHIP

Jacee Billings, P4 on the Abilene campus, was selected by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) as one of 10 inaugural recipients of Walmart's Health Equity Scholarship out of a pool of nearly 700 applicants. The scholarship recognizes leadership, academic success and commitment to serving rural or medically underserved patient populations upon graduation.



# VETERAN RECOGNITION

November 11 is Veterans Day, a day to recognize and honor all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces. TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy has several team members, students and alumni who have bravely and selflessly defended our country and our freedoms. To each of you, we send our deepest gratitude for your service and the sacrifices you and your loved ones have made.

## TTUHSC JERRY H. HODGE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY VETERANS:



**Ikechukwu Achonye**

P3 Student - AMA  
Sgt - E5, US Army  
Reserve status



**Seng Mai**

P2 Student - AMA  
Sgt, US Marine Corps  
4 Years of Service



**Jennifer Mejil**

P1 Student - DAL  
PO2, US Navy  
9 Years of Service



**Debra Notturmo-Strong**

Pharmacy Practice - ABI  
Lt Col, US Air Force  
23 Years of Service



**David Paden**

Managed Health - AMA  
AW1 (NAC), US Navy  
20 Years of Service



**Katie Phelan**

P3 Student - AMA  
SSgt, US Air Force  
10 Years of Service



**Vicki Rodrigues-Whiteaker**

Pharmacy Practice - ABI  
MSgt, US Air Force  
22 Years of Service

## MACLAUGHLIN WINS ACCP EDUCATION AWARD

**Eric MacLaughlin, PharmD**, professor and chair of pharmacy practice at the Amarillo campus, received the Education Award from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) at the 2022 Global Conference on Clinical Pharmacy on October 16. The award recognizes members who have made substantial and outstanding contributions to clinical pharmacy education at the professional or postgraduate level.



# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



**Ron Hall, PharmD, MSCS**, associate professor and vice-chair of research for the Pharmacy Practice department at the Dallas campus, was awarded a seed grant from the TTUHSC disparities research program. The study has a proposed \$10,000 budget and will evaluate differences in documentation of penicillin allergy in the electronic health record based on race and/or ethnicity among outpatients being treated for skin and soft tissue infections. It will also evaluate differences in prescribed antibiotics for skin infections and the treatment outcomes.



**Brian Irons, PharmD, FCCP, BCACP**, professor of pharmacy practice at the Lubbock campus, received the 2022 Outstanding Achievement Award from the ACCP Endocrine and Metabolism Practice Research Network (PRN) at the PRN annual business meeting on Oct. 16. Irons is only the second member to receive this prestigious recognition, and has become a pillar in both the history and future of the PRN.

## KALLEM WINS AAPS POSTER AWARD



**Rajareddy Kallem, Ph.D.**, associate lab director for the department of pharmacy practice was selected as one of the recipients of the 2022 American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Best Abstract award. The award brings attention to the most exciting research to be found in posters, based on abstracts that are submitted and screened before the event.

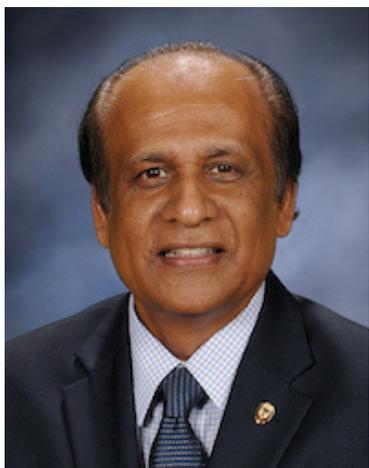
Kallem's abstract titled, A Targeted LC-MS/MS Method for Quantitative Tissue Distribution Analysis (QTDA) of Metabolomics in Tumors using Laser Microdissection, was ranked in the top 10% of abstracts by the AAPS Abstract Screening Committee.

## FACULTY UP FOR ACCP ELECTION



Two TTUHSCSOP faculty members have been recommended as candidates for the 2023 American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) election. **Krystal Haase, PharmD**, professor and division head of adult medicine in the Department of Pharmacy Practice in Amarillo, has been recommended as President-Elect, and **Brian Irons, PharmD, FCCP, BCACP**, professor of pharmacy practice at the Lubbock campus, has been recommended for Regent. The election will be held in spring 2023, and successful candidates will assume office at the 2023 ACCP Annual Meeting.

# THEKKUMKARA TO RETIRE



Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara, a University Distinguished Professor, joined the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) Pharmaceutical Sciences Department in July 2000 as an Associate Professor (tenure-track) after serving five years as a faculty member at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He received his tenure in February of 2003 and was appointed Associate Dean for Research at the School of Pharmacy seven months later. The same year, in recognition of his significant contributions to the development and progress of the School of Pharmacy, he was awarded the TTUHSC Distinguished Faculty Award. In September 2005, he was promoted to Professor, and in 2009 he was appointed as the Amarillo Regional Dean of the School of Pharmacy.

During his time at the TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy, he has also served as the Department Chair of the Biomedical Sciences, Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Admission, and Interim Dean of the School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Thekkumkara, originally from India, is a graduate of Kanpur University. He moved to the United States in 1984 and joined the Department of Biochemistry at Case Western Reserve University as a Postdoctoral Fellow. He started his research career at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, where he became interested in the biochemical and molecular mechanisms of action of the renin-angiotensin system. In 1991, he joined the Weis Center for Research at Penn State University College of Medicine and started his independent research. Since then, he has developed a well-funded research program and published peer-reviewed manuscripts in journals of high impact and stature. Dr. Thekkumkara was the first faculty to bring an NIH-funded laboratory to the School of Pharmacy, and his research is widely recognized by the scientific community, as evidenced by higher than 2600 citations of his published work and his collaborations with national and international scientists. His recent study shows the effect of estrogen metabolite 2-methoxyestradiol on angiotensin receptor down-regulation and its potential benefits on blood pressure control.

Dr. Thekkumkara is a member of four professional scientific societies, including the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, American Physiological Society, International Diabetes Federation (Life Member), and American Heart Association. He has also been a recipient of the TTUHSC President's Research Achievement Award, the Texas Tech University Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award, and a three-time recipient of the School of Pharmacy Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy teaching team of the Year Award.

During his tenure at TTUHSC, Dr. Thekkumkara has served as a research mentor and collaborator to many of our trainees and new faculty at critical times of research growth. The School has benefited immensely from his contributions!

Dr. Thekkumkara will retire on April 1, 2023.

# ABILENE CAMPUS HOSTS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

In September, the Immunotherapeutics and Biotechnology department hosted the Fifth Annual Abilene Interdisciplinary Symposium on Cancer and Biomedical Research. The event brought researchers from local universities and colleges together to talk about research and build collaborations.



## WOOD EARNS EDUCAUSE SCHOLARSHIP



Robyn Wood, M.Ed., MPH, assistant director for the office of Technology, was recently accepted as an EDUCAUSE scholar. The scholarship award allowed Wood to focus on professional development by providing a complimentary registration for the EDUCAUSE 2022 Annual Conference that took place in late October.

## SOP HOSTS ANNUAL TAILGATE



In October, TTUHSCSOP alumni, students, team members, friends and the TTU pre-pharmacy organization enjoyed a fajita and nacho bar, as well as other food and drinks courtesy of United Supermarkets at the annual tailgate. The family friendly event also offered games and networking leading up to the TTU vs West Virginia game.

## STUDENT RETREAT FOCUSES ON LEADERSHIP

In August, students from all four TTUHSCSOP campuses attended a three day student leadership retreat at the Dallas campus.

This year's theme was BELIEVE - Leadership and Team Lessons, and students who attended learned the basics of leadership and how to apply these skills to professional interactions and activities.

The retreat kicked off with a service project at Austin Street Center where students painted rocks, moved equipment, sorted donations, and washed and packed clothing for shelter members; and continued with large and small group sessions, team building and networking activities.



# STUDENTS AWARDED TPF SCHOLARSHIPS



In August, the Texas Pharmacy Foundation (TPF) awarded scholarships to four TTUHSCSOP students.

- Afsana Musharof, P2 on the Dallas campus, was awarded the TPF General Scholarship.
- Lakyn Lucio, P4 on the Lubbock campus, was awarded the Buford Abeldt Jr. Scholarship.
- Jenan Mahmoud, P4 on the Abilene campus, was awarded the John and Beverly Carson Scholarship.
- Maura Shaffer, P4 on the Abilene campus, was awarded the George Webb Scholarship.

## NIH ALL OF US RESEARCH SCHOLAR



Khadijah Mohiuddin, a P2 on the Dallas campus, was accepted to the 2022-2023 NIH All of Us Research Scholar Program. The virtual, eight-month program champions student researchers from underrepresented communities in an effort to increase diversity in the biomedical workforce, and will provide Mohiuddin with opportunities for significant mentorship, support, and hands-on experience.

## STUDENTS COMPETE IN CLINICAL PHARMACY CHALLENGE

In September, Saja Naffa, Anita Yazdani and Jina Zhao, all P4s on the Dallas campus, received the top score in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) and Student College of Clinical Pharmacy (SCCP) Texas Tech local Clinical Pharmacy Challenge (CPC). The group went on to represent TTUHSCSOP in the virtual National ACCP CPC competition.



## STUDENTS PLACE IN TOP 5 AT TPA COMPETITIONS

Four TTUHSCSOP students competed in competitions held at the Texas Pharmacy Association Conference over the summer. P4s Raj Mehta and Matthew Gehrlein and P3s Hong Tran and Vivian Pham competed in the team competition and placed in the top five in the Student Pharmacist Self-Care Championship. Matthew Gehrlein placed second in the Student Pharmacists Patient Counseling Competition.



# STUDENTS HELP WITH HEALTH FAIRS



TTUHSCSOP students have volunteered their time to help with several community health fairs over the last couple of months. During these events, students helped with a variety of needs ranging from blood glucose and blood pressure screenings, to smoking cessation and asthma education, to immunizations, to helping with consent forms and medication reviews.

- The 22nd Annual Asian Safety and Health Fair - Dallas Student National Pharmaceutical Association
- The Amarillo TTUHSC community Health Resource Fair held in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month
- TTUHSCSOP and TTU School of Veterinary Medicine's health fair at the Guyon Saunders Resource Center benefitting the homeless population of Amarillo and their animals
- Strive For Live Community Health Expo - Dallas Phi Delta Chi and Student Pediatric Pharmacy Association



# TPPC AND TTUHSC PARTNER FOR MEDICATION CLEANOUT EVENTS

In October, the Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) hosted collection events at the TTUHSC Lubbock, Abilene and Amarillo campuses. Community members were able to drop off unwanted medicines and sharps to dispose of them in a free, legal and environmentally responsible manner. School of Pharmacy student volunteers had the opportunity to collaborate with students from other TTUHSC schools and see first hand the issues with non-adherence to medications.

- The Lubbock event collected 755 pounds of unused or expired medication and 71 pounds of sharps.
- The Abilene event collected 562 pounds of unused or expired medication and 124 pounds of sharps.
- The Amarillo event collected 1702.5 pounds of unused or expired medication and 265 pounds of sharps.



# DO YOU KNOW: How To Determine if Your Invention is Patentable?

In order for something to be patentable it must be novel, non-obvious, useful and also be reduced to practice. Check out the below tips on how to identify “prior art” and other things that can impact your invention’s patentability.



## Steps to Search for Prior Art (e.g., evidence your invention is already known in the “art”):

1. Brainstorm to identify keywords that best describe your invention, what it is made of, and how it will be used
2. Conduct a broad search on Google, PubMed, Google Scholar etc., using keywords identified
3. Conduct a further search on publicly available patent databases like the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Google Patents, or the World Intellectual Property Office for international patents
4. Review and narrow down the most relevant publications, patents and patent applications focusing first on the abstract and associated drawings/figures
5. Compare your proposed invention to those identified in your searches to see how/if it can be distinguished as novel and not obvious
6. Contact an ORC team member for assistance and to learn more

## Some Examples of Prior Art and Public Disclosure Include:

1. Manuscripts, abstracts, poster, and oral presentations given at scientific conferences
2. Student theses and dissertations
3. Grant applications and abstracts that are published by the funding agency
4. Presentations given by faculty or students at companies or to visitors without a confidentiality agreement

The ORC can review manuscript’s, posters, presentations or planned research for potential intellectual property and work with you to assess and protect patentable inventions prior to any planned public disclosure. For more information on the ORC, visit <http://www.orc.ttu.edu> or contact the School of Pharmacy’s ORC liaison, Jennifer Souter at [jesouter@ttu.edu](mailto:jesouter@ttu.edu) to set up a meeting.

# TTUHSC - GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR



According to the Great Colleges to Work For® program, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for! This marks the third time the university has been recognized. TTUHSC won honors in eight categories.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center will be observing several holidays over the next few months. We hope you all enjoy your time away from the office.

November 24 and 25: Thanksgiving Holidays

December 26: Winter Holiday

December 30: New Year's Holiday

January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

## November:

- 4: HSC-wide IPE Event – (mandatory for P3's and P4's)
- 10: SOP Monthly Deans Huddle
- 11: SOP Student Interview Day, In Person (AMA, ABI, DAL campuses)
- 14: State of the University and Faculty Convocation (Lubbock ACB 150)
- 17: Abilene SOP Thanksgiving
- 19: TTU Alumni Football Watch Party, School of Vet Med Auditorium

## DECEMBER:

- 4-8: ASHP Mid-Year Meeting, Las Vegas
- 5-16: Final Exams
- 8: SOP Monthly Dean's Huddle
- 9: SOP Student Interviews, Virtual  
SOP Faculty Meeting  
Dallas SOP Holiday Party, Musume
- 16: SOP Mock Residency Interviews, All Campuses  
Amarillo SOP Holiday Gathering, Student Lounge



# Fun Around Campus



White Coat Ceremonies



Orientation Week



Leadership Retreat



Halloween

Have something or someone you'd like to see featured in the SOP Newsletter? Send a photo and a brief description of what you would like to see featured to [amber.bustos@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:amber.bustos@ttuhsc.edu)