

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The fall semester is full of excitement as we welcome P1 and returning students to campus. Our team members, both faculty and staff, are hard at work as we launch another new academic year. In this newsletter issue, we include highlights of accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, as well as updates from the School of Pharmacy and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.



To kick off the academic year, we recognized 25 School of Pharmacy team members who have worked at the school/university for 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 years. Their dedication and commitment are inspiring! In addition, two staff received distinguished awards of the “President’s Award of Excellence” and the Quality Staff Award.” Several faculty members received promotion, distinction, research grants, and preceptor awards. We welcomed new pharmacists-in-charge to both outpatient pharmacies operated by the School of Pharmacy. We bid farewell to our beloved alumna/faculty Dr. Janie Robles and her friends and colleagues have established a memorial scholarship in her honor.

At the beginning of the school year, students from all four campuses were selected through a competitive process to attend a leadership retreat, where they bonded, learned together, and participated in a community service project. Students have been actively engaged in multiple community service opportunities, including medication cleanout events and health fairs. Several students gave presentations at the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists national meeting. Three alumni and a faculty member received the 2022-2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards. We thank alumni advisory board members for their continual service; we also look forward to welcoming new members!

The new TTUHSC branding has been revealed; we are excited about the future of health! In September, the new TTUHSC Institute of Telehealth and Digital Innovation was established. TTUHSC has continued to be named as one of the best colleges in the nation to work for with special designation as an “Honor Roll” institution.

I am grateful to be working with dedicated and collaborative teams at the School of Pharmacy and TTUHSC. Thank you for all you do to support students and help the School/University achieve strategic goals.

Gratefully,

Grace M. Kuo, PharmD, MPH, PhD, FCCP, FNAP
Dean and Professor

TEAM MEMBERS' SERVICE RECOGNIZED

25 School of Pharmacy team members were recognized for their years of service to TTUHSC. Congratulations and a big thank you to all of our honorees!

25 YEARS

Paula Breeding, Pharmacy Practice, Amarillo
Charles Seifert, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, Lubbock



20 YEARS

Krystal Edwards, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, Dallas
Ronald Hall, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, Dallas
Nga Nguyen, Office of Sciences, Amarillo
Kalkunte Srivenugopal, PhD, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Amarillo



15 YEARS

Randi King, BA, Experiential Programs, Abilene
Mary Klein, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, Abilene
Molly Minze, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice/Student Affairs & Admissions, Abilene
Russell Snyder, PhD, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Amarillo

10 YEARS

Trista Bailey, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, Abilene
Nakia Duncan, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, Dallas
Heather Grubb, Office of Sciences, Amarillo
Amanda Hines, Professional Affairs, Dallas
Susan King, Graduate School, Amarillo
Rebecca Mahan, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, Abilene
Kristin Mauldin, Pharmacy Practice, Amarillo
Brian Terrell, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, Abilene



5 YEARS

Randall Best, BS, Technology, Dallas
Sami Nazzal, PhD, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dallas
Anita Owens, Pharmacy Practice, Amarillo
Jalpa Patel, BS, Immunotherapeutic and Biotechnology, Abilene
Aaron Perkins, MS, Pharmacy Practice, Dallas
Indhumathy Sankar Subramaniyan, MS, Pharmacy Practice, Dallas
Christopher Selby, PharmD, Pharmacy Practice, Dallas



PRESIDENT'S AWARDS HONOR STAFF

In August, two team members were among those honored at the 2023 Distinguished Staff Awards ceremony.

Talia Jaryszak, business manager for the department of immunotherapeutics and biotechnology at the Abilene campus was awarded the "President's Award of Excellence," which recognizes those who promote integrity in the workplace by committing to honesty, ethical choices and transparency in their actions and purpose.

Kristin Mauldin, assistant director of professional continuing education within in the Office of Experiential Programs, was awarded the "Quality Staff Award," which is presented to team members who continually demonstrate the TTUHSC value of Beyond Service by creating and delivering positive defining moments, anticipating the needs of others, and going the extra mile.



ABBRUSCATO EARNS PROFESSORSHIP



In August, the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents approved the appointment of Thomas J. Abbruscato, Ph.D., senior associate dean of the TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, as a Grover E. Murray Professor. The Grover E. Murray Professorship is intended for faculty members who have attained national and international distinction in their fields for outstanding research, excellence in scholarship and creative achievement.

FACULTY RECEIVE PROMOTIONS/TENURE

In March, the Board of Regents approved tenure and promotion appointments for three faculty members that went into effect on September 1, 2023.

- Mary Klein, PharmD, promotion - assistant professor to associate professor
- Becky Mahan, PharmD, promotion - assistant professor to associate professor
- Grace Kuo, PharmD, MPH, PhD, tenure



FOUR FACULTY AWARDED GRANTS



Over the last few months, four of our faculty members received grants to support their work.

Ron Hall, PharmD, was awarded an investigator-initiated grant (Total Costs: \$172,800) from the Merck Investigator Studies Program entitled “A retrospective cohort study using Cerner Real-World Data to evaluate the use ceftolozane/tazobactam in patients with bacteremia due to gram-negative pathogens”. The grant will support Hall and his team over one year to determine the impact of ceftolozane/tazobactam on 30-day failure rates of patients with bacteremia due to *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* compared to other standard-of-care antibiotics. They will also conduct a similar analysis for gram-negative pathogens other than *P. aeruginosa* and evaluate the use of ceftolozane/tazobactam in patients with gram-negative bacteremia over a seven-year period. The study will be conducted using a national cohort from Cerner Real-World Data, which consists of more than 100 million patients.

Irene La-Beck, PharmD, was awarded a \$2,370,000 R01 grant from the National Cancer Institute for her project titled “Cholesterol metabolism in the pharmacology of liposomal therapeutics.” La-Beck will collaborate with Dr. Zhang from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to identify novel mechanisms by which liposomes are metabolized within the body, determine metabolites that alter immune function, and develop new formulations of liposomal chemotherapies for the treatment of cancer that are expected to be both safer and more effective.

Ashley Selby, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, was awarded a health disparities grant from TTUHSC for a project entitled “Evolution of Potential Disparities in the Treatment of Candidemia in Obese Patients.” The grant will support Selby and the team over a one year period to determine the impact of obesity on in-hospital mortality in patients treated for candidemia from 2013-2022 in three hospitals located in Amarillo, Fort Worth, and Lubbock. The analysis will be conducted in collaboration with Chip Shaw, PhD, executive director of the TTUHSC Central Data Warehouse.

Jenny Wilkerson, PhD, is the principal investigator of a new \$1.9M NIH R35 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) that will be completed at the Amarillo campus over the next five years. The project will examine sex hormone alteration on post-operative pain development and treatment. The critical work will help to enhance understanding of sex hormone alterations within vulnerable patient populations, the role of sex hormones on healing after surgery, and clarify analgesic treatment options.

PRECEPTORS OF THE YEAR NAMED



Each year, students can nominate their favorite preceptor for the Preceptor of the Year Award. A faculty and adjunct faculty member are selected from each campus to receive the award. The 2023 Preceptors of the Year are:

- Chelsea Krueger, PharmD, Faculty, Dallas
- Sherry Luedtke, PharmD, Faculty, Amarillo
- Jacy Malone, PharmD, Adjunct Faculty, Amarillo
- Grace Poon, PharmD, Adjunct Faculty, Dallas
- Janie Robles, PharmD, Faculty, Lubbock
- Brian Terrell, PharmD, Faculty, Abilene
- Danielle Thomas, PharmD, Adjunct Faculty, Abilene
- Katherine Weigartz, PharmD, Adjunct Faculty, Lubbock



RARE MICROSCOPE BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Thanks to a 2020 CPRIT grant that funded the purchase of three state-of-the-art imaging instruments, and a new USDA subcontract, Ulrich Bickel, M.D., associate professor and associate dean of sciences, will collaborate on a study with the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine in Amarillo. The collaboration could be the first of many.

TTUHSC RANKS TOP 75

In a list published by the National Academy of Inventors, the Texas Tech University System, including TTUHSC, ranked 75th among the Top 100 U.S. Universities Granted Utility Patents in 2022.

HALL PRESENTS AT CPRIT INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE

Ron Hall, PharmD, presented a research poster entitled “Impact of Class II/III Obesity on Doxorubicin Pharmacokinetics in Women with Breast Cancer” at the Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference. The conference highlighted exceptional progress across cancer research, prevention, and product development at medical and academic research centers, in communities, and at companies around Texas. Hall’s study was funded by the TTUHSC Laura W. Bush Women’s Health Research Institute and his SOP co-authors on the project included Drs. Trey Putnam and Raja Reddy.

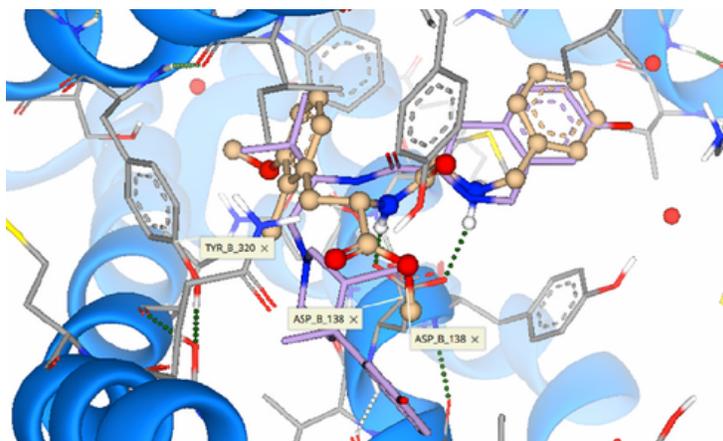


KLEIN FEATURED IN APHA SERIES

In September, Pharmacy Times put together an article series for the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) that highlights vaccine confidence. The series shares stories of how pharmacists across the country are impacting success rates for COVID-19 vaccinations in their communities. TTUHSCSOP’s Mary Klein, PharmD, associate professor at the Abilene campus, was among the pharmacists featured.

FACULTY MANUSCRIPT PUBLISHED

The collaboration of three faculty members, Nadia German, PhD; Thomas Abbruscato, PhD; and Lance McMahon, PhD, resulted in the investigation of novel kappa opioid receptor ligands to treat pain. The trio published their manuscript, titled “Studies on diketopiperazine and dipeptide analogs as opioid receptor ligands,” in the European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry.



ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM BRINGS RESEARCHERS TOGETHER

On October 27, the sixth annual Abilene Interdisciplinary Symposium on Cancer and Biomedical Research was held on the Abilene campus. Keynote speakers included Manish Aghi, MD, PhD, professor of neurological surgery at the University of California's Weill Institute for Neurosciences School of Medicine and Michael C. Wiener, PhD, professor and department chair for the department of cell physiology & molecular biophysics at TTUHSC School of Medicine. The event, which invites students and researchers from far and wide to come together, also included distinguished speakers from TTUHSC, Abilene Christian University and Hendrick Medical Center, and student poster presentations.



WHITE COAT CEREMONIES WELCOME CLASS OF 2027

The TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy welcomed the Class of 2027 with white coat ceremonies at the Dallas, Abilene and Amarillo 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.



STUDENTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP RETREAT



In August, students from all four campuses had the opportunity to attend the annual Student Leadership Retreat. This year's Harry Potter themed retreat, held at the Abilene campus, explored "The Magical World of Leadership." The two-day event included a service project where students and team members packed 1,500 weekend food packs at CarePacks for Kids, multiple sessions covering leadership topics, a keynote address from Professor and Dean Emeritus Arthur Nelson, and networking activities.

TTUHSC RECEIVES FIRST EVER VEERA

For the first time, TTUHSC has received a Veterans Education Excellence Recognition Award (VEERA) from the Texas Veterans Commission. The VEERA program recognizes public colleges' and universities' excellence in providing education and related services to veterans and the military-connected community.



FALL MED CLEANOUT CYCLE CONCLUDES

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. Similarly, students at the Dallas campus participated in the DEA National Drug Take Back Day event.

- The Lubbock event collected 796 pounds of unused or expired medication and 109 pounds of sharps from 240 cars.
- The Abilene event collected 371 pounds of unused or expired medication and 56.5 pounds of sharps from 146 cars.
- The Amarillo event collected 1488.5 pounds of unused or expired medication and 227.5 pounds of sharps from 359 cars.



IPE EVENT OFF TEAM BASED CARE EXPERIENCE

With an interprofessional education (IPE) schedule that kicked off in August, students have been busy working with students from the TTUHSC Schools of Medicine and Nursing and other schools to learn about teamwork, team based care, patient safety, effective communication and more.

IPE is an important part of all health professionals' education, as it gives students from different specialties the valuable opportunity to work together as a healthcare team to optimize patient care and safety.



One student had this to say of their experience, "I learned that patient care is more advanced when we all work together. We can more effectively treat our patient when we respect each other's expertise knowledge."

SEMINARS ADDRESS PHARMACY PRACTICE ISSUES

Our career development programming has featured three seminars, open to all students and team members, designed to provide opportunities to learn about pharmacy practice issues. The seminars have brought guests from CVS and Walgreens and the President of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) to our campuses.



TTUHSC REVEALS FUTURE OF HEALTH



In September, TTUHSC revealed a new look with the launch of its refreshed brand. The complete overhaul aligns with the mission, culture and values of the university with the look and feel of everything from advertising to business cards. To celebrate the milestone, brand launch events boasting the new future of health look were held at each campus.

STUDENTS MAKE IMPACT THROUGH HEALTH FAIRS

On October 14, the Student College of Clinical Pharmacy helped organize a health fair booth at the Plano International Festival. Dallas students provided blood pressure and blood glucose screenings to 74 patients. A few days later, students at the Amarillo campus joined the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine as they hosted the OneHealth Clinic at Guyon Saunders Resource Center. The event benefited individuals experiencing homelessness and their pets. Under the supervision of faculty, pharmacy students provided flu vaccines, and blood pressure and blood glucose checks, while veterinary medicine students provided physical exams and annual vaccinations for pets, including rabies vaccinations.



TTUHSC WINS GREAT COLLEGES HONORS

The Great Colleges to Work For® program, named TTUHSC as one of the best colleges in the nation to work for with special designation as an “Honor Roll” institution. This marks the fourth time the university has been recognized. The eight categories TTUHSC received honors in include:

- Job Satisfaction and Support
- Compensation and Benefits
- Professional Development
- Mission and Pride
- Confidence in Senior Leadership
- Faculty and Staff Well-Being
- Shared Governance
- Faculty Experience

DIGITAL HEALTH TAKES CENTER STAGE



In September, during the Telehealth Week at TTUHSC conference, university leadership cut the ribbon on the new TTUHSC Institute of Telehealth and Digital Innovation. The Institute will support health care in rural communities and focus on three pillars: access to care, research, and academics.

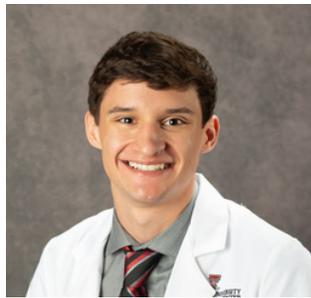
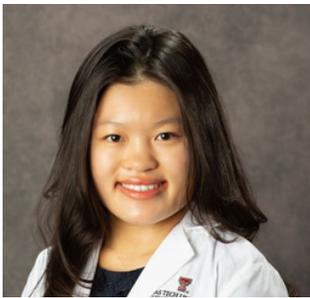


TTUHSC WELL REPRESENTED AT ASCP

The American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) held its Annual Meeting in Kissimmee, Florida in November. Faith Collum, P3 at the Dallas campus and Ghislain Nyami, P4 at the Abilene campus, received travel scholarships from the ASCP Texas chapter to attend. During the meeting, #TTUHSCSOP faculty and students gave three poster presentations and an Express Talk.

- Faith Collum and Becky Mahan, PharmD, presented an Express Talk over medication adherence resources
- Kalin Clifford, PharmD, presented a presentation over HIV updates in older adults
- Trista Bailey, PharmD, presented a presentation over updates in osteoporosis
- Faith Collum, president of the Texas Tech ASCP student chapter, presented a poster over the chapter's activities

2023 CLINICAL SKILLS COMPETITION



Sarah Tran and Brandon McCormick, P4s at the Dallas campus, were the 2023 winners of the Local Clinical Skills Competition and will represent #TTUHSCSOP at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) National Clinical Skills Competition in December as part of the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

TTUHSC PHARMACIES GET NEW PIC

Both the Amarillo and Lubbock Pharmaceutical Care Centers have new pharmacists in charge (PIC). Chase Timms, PharmD, took over in Amarillo when David Simmons retired after 20 years of service. Stephanie Whitaker, PharmD, took over in Lubbock after the departure of Chad Cartwright. Operated by School of Pharmacy professors, residents and students, the Pharmaceutical Care Centers provide patients with convenient, quality, and friendly pharmaceutical care.



MEMORY OF PHARMACY PROFESSOR /ALUMNA HONORED WITH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Colleagues and friends of alumna Janie Robles have established the Dr. Janie Robles Memorial Scholarship in her honor. Robles was an associate professor in the department of pharmacy practice at the Lubbock campus and a valued faculty member for 17 years. A member of the Class of 2003, she was passionate about TTUHSC and enriching the lives of children through pediatric pharmacotherapy. The recipient of the Dr. Janie Robles scholarship will have shown commitment to academic excellence and to serving children throughout their time in the TTUHSC SOP. Learn more about Dr. Robles and her impact [here](#).

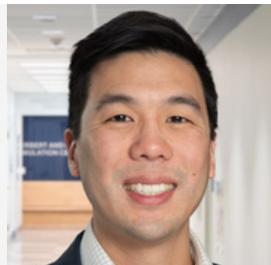
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORED

Each year we invite nominations to acknowledge the impact of our fellow alumni on the pharmacy profession. In October, the TTUHSC Alumni Association honored three SOP alumni and an SOP faculty member at the 2022-2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner.



Excellence in Practice Award

Jordan Burdine, PharmD, MBA,
BCPPS - Class of 2015



Pharmacy Research Award

James Lee, PharmD
- Class of 2010



Pharmacy Leadership Award

Ming Hong, PharmD, MBA-HA
- Class of 2012



GSBS Distinguished Alumni Award

Kaci Bohn, PhD
SOP Faculty Member
Graduate School of Biomedical
Sciences Alumna

SOPAA BOARD NEWS

The School of Pharmacy Alumni Association (SOPAA) recently held elections for board positions vacated by Martin Bishop and Jennifer Bullin. We thank them for their service and are excited to welcome our new members.



Jacob Rogers
Class of 2020 - ABI
SOPAA Board Chair



Ike Oguejiofor
Class of 2018 - AMA
SOPAA Board Member



Mikala Conatser
Class of 2011 - AMA
SOPAA Board Member



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MARTIN BISHOP

Tell us about yourself: I am from Arlington, TX (home of your 2023 World Series champion Texas Rangers) and completed my PharmD at TTUHSC in 2011. After completing residency training at UT Southwestern in Dallas, TX and The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD and Master's coursework at Johns Hopkins University, I practiced in ambulatory care for the Johns Hopkins Health System. In this role, I grew into responsibilities in value based care, population health management, and predictive analytics in partnership with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Where do you practice now? Martin is now an Associate Director for Optum Insight, responsible for pharmacy analytics—specifically supporting drug-use related modules within several products for patients' risk stratification and population health management. In addition to this analytical work, I consult on drug studies with health outcomes and economics researchers elsewhere in Optum. I work remotely and live in Maryland, between Baltimore and Washington DC.

Training at Texas Tech, especially with faculty at the Dallas campus generally and with those focused on ambulatory care specifically, helped provide a foundation for the variety of skills and responsibilities I gained throughout my career. As a result of the rigorous coursework and experiential training, I was well-suited to succeed in jobs/roles that have evolved over time.

What are your favorite things to do outside of pharmacy?

When not working, I like to travel, sample craft beer (and brew it occasionally), dabble in woodworking, and spend time with my kiddo and wife.

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN THE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT SECTION?

To highlight yours or a colleague's current work or life events, please email the board at sopaa.ttuhsoc@gmail.com

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 23 and 24: Thanksgiving Holidays

December 25 and 26: Christmas Day and Winter Holiday

January 1 : New Year's Day

January 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

NOVEMBER:

- 11: Veterans Day
- 16: National Rural Health Day
- 28: Giving Tuesday
- 29: Lubbock SOP Campus Holiday Party

DECEMBER:

- 4-8: ASHP Mid-Year Meeting, Las Vegas
- 5-16: Final Exams
- 13: Abilene HSC Holiday Luncheon, Grace Museum, 11:30am - 1pm
- 14: SOP Monthly Dean's Huddle
- 15: Amarillo SOP Holiday Gathering, 2 - 4pm
- 19: Amarillo HSC Holiday Luncheon, 11:30am - 1:30pm
Dallas HSC Holiday Party, Felix Culpa (subject to change)

JANUARY:

- 8: First Day of Class for Spring Semester
- 12: National Pharmacist Day



Fun Around Campus



Years of Service Award Recognition



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