



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Pharmacy™

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From the DEAN'S DESK



November - December 2008

SOP Professors Organize Costa Rica Clerkship

In the Fall of 2006, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice assistant professors Dr. Niambi Horton and Dr. Shawna King discovered they had a shared enthusiasm for Central America mission work, especially in Costa Rica. This mutual interest motivated them to begin the initial planning of what would become the Global Health Outreach elective clerkship.

“Dr. King and I both have a passion for helping others,” Dr. Horton explained. “She and I have both been on mission trips before and we wanted to offer our students a similar experience, but as it relates to healthcare.”

Drs. Horton and King had the opportunity to travel to Tamarindo, Costa Rica in June 2008.

Dr. King said Tamarindo is located about six hours south of

Costa Rica’s capital city of San José and about 45 minutes from Panama.

“Tamarindo cannot be located on the map,” she explained. “There is a resort in Costa Rica with the same name, but this is not where we are going. Tamarindo is one of the poorest zones or regions in Costa Rica with more than 50 percent of the population living in some form of poverty.”

Dr. Horton said the mission of the Global Health Outreach elective clerkship is to expose students to

populations in which barriers to healthcare exist and to teach the students how pharmacists can help to overcome these barriers. Students will be expected to provide pharmaceutical care in a setting with limited resources and to patients with different cultural backgrounds and languages.

This clerkship will be offered, for the first time in Block 1 of the 2009 summer semester. Six fourth-year (P4) students will be selected in February to participate in the clerkship. Interested students will be required to submit an application and will also undergo an interview.

Drs. King and Horton are presently the only faculty involved with this course. However, they said they would like to expand the clerkship in the future.



Dr. Niambi Horton



Dr. Shawna King

Introducing...

Dr. Young Min Kwon
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Dr. Karen S. Mark
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo

Shelia Printers
Senior Business Assistant
Office of Student Affairs
Dallas/Fort Worth (SW)

**Please take a moment to welcome each of these individuals
to TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy.**

Trip to Saudi Arabia - a Chance to Help and Learn

In November I had the opportunity to travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as part of a three-member team that was invited to consult with several of their institutions, including their College of Clinical Pharmacy, about accreditation standards. Two team members were from the US and the third was from Australia.

Saudi Arabia is in the midst of instituting a Western-style accrediting process for its universities and major professional schools. The College of Clinical Pharmacy is new and is the only one of 22 pharmacy programs in Saudi Arabia that offers the Pharm.D. degree. The College is in year five of the six-year post-high school program.



A view of the front entrance at Saudi Arabia's College of Clinical Pharmacy.

As part of the consulting process, we were asked to review and offer recommendations regarding various aspects of their programs that need attention. We also offered suggestions that will help them improve their processes prior to the actual accreditation visits that are scheduled for 2009/2010. We were also afforded the opportunity to visit with faculty and students and help them better understand pharmacy education in the US and in Australia.

We also learned much about the Saudi health care system, community pharmacy and hospital practice. The hospital we visited was very Western and looked and functioned just like those in the US.

The Community pharmacy, however, was much different. All



Outside one of the chain drugstores in Saudi Arabia.

medications are prepackaged; pharmacists do no counting or repackaging. There are prescriptions, but the pharmacist does not keep the prescription after dispensing the medication; there is no label and minimal counseling. Pharmacists only keep a log of the medications they dispense with no patient history information.

The Kingdom has about three national chain drugstores as well as independents. Saudi law requires all pharmacies to carry only health related items.

The Saudi government pays for all health care and salaries are based upon classification regardless of where one works. Hospitals are classified higher than community and almost all community pharmacists are foreigners—primarily Egyptian—due in large part to the low pay. The Pharm.D.s will be classified higher and their salaries will approach those of physicians. Physicians and pharmacists are not paid nearly as much, on a relative basis, as those in the US.

Saudi male and female students have the same curriculum; however, women are not allowed to teach men and men are not allowed to teach women. The only exception is in the School of Medicine, though we recommended that the same exception be made for the College of Pharmacy. Medicine and pharmacy are taught in English; however, other University programs are essentially taught in Arabic. Saudi students are highly motivated to come to the US and complete residency programs.

As you might imagine, the trip required much travel time: 25 hours to get there and 32 hours to return. We stayed in a first class Western-style hotel that included a guarded barrier at the entry, which is a mark of quality hotels in Saudi Arabia. The in-room TVs broadcast both Western and Arabic channels and they even carried *Desperate Housewives* on the Arabic station!

We also learned a lot about Saudi culture. Women cannot go out in public without a male member of their family or spouse and there are no groups of women or single women allowed outside the home. The country has a very high smoking rate, which contributes to a high incidence of cancer death. Camels (the four-legged type, not the cigarettes) run free in the desert and everyone drives at top speeds through city streets, so traveling by car is done at your own risk. Gas, as you might expect, is very cheap!!!



Some of the "free-range" camels that can be seen roaming the desert landscape in Saudi Arabia.

There is no alcohol in the Kingdom and drug use is very low. The people are very friendly and their hospitality was generous. Everyone was extremely interested in the election of Obama.

To further assist the Kingdom with their pharmacy program development, we have invited a delegation of Saudi pharmacy faculty to visit Amarillo later this year to learn more about our system of pharmacy education, particularly our curriculum and clinical education program. The dates have not been set yet, but when they are I'll be sure to let everyone know.

TPM Exhibits Help With Area Historical Celebrations

To coincide with Texas Archeology Awareness Month, The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon held its first Archeology Fair on Oct. 28 and the Texas Pharmacy Museum was among the contingent of volunteers who provided information and demonstrations at the event.



A view of the TPM's Chuck Wagon exhibit

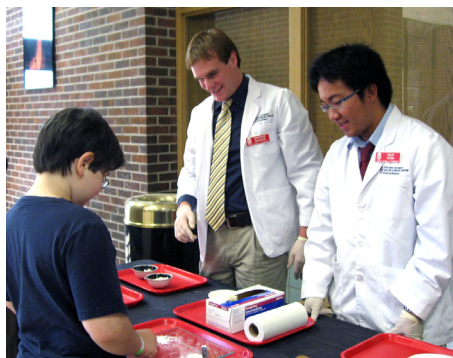
Dr. Paul Katz (TPM Curator and Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo) used the museum's traveling “Chuck

Wagon Therapy” exhibit to describe and demonstrate the tools and medicaments that were frequently employed on the cattle drives of the late 19th century to keep the cowboys healthy and provide care to those who became ill or injured.

According to Millie Vanover, Curator of Education at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum and organizer of the Archeology Fair, 365 teachers and

students from schools all over the Texas Panhandle attended the fair and learned about a wide range of archeological-related topics common to the area. These included prehistoric and historic investigations, prehistoric and historic Indian tool making and food preparation, geology and soils and 19th century military activities.

Dr. Katz and the TPM were also among the exhibitors who attended the 12th Annual Fannin Heritage Festival at Fannin Middle School in Amarillo. The event, which takes place during National Pharmacy Month in October, provides the TPM a wonderful opportunity to inform school aged children, their families and



A Fannin Heritage Festival attendee tries his hand at pill rolling as Amarillo P2s Brandon Bledsoe (left) and Valdi Tatan look on.

the general public about present and past aspects of pharmacy. The TPM is among a group of exhibitors who have participated in the festival since its inception.

This year Dr. Katz and 10 Amarillo P2 students demonstrated pill rolling by using an edible chocolate ‘clay’ and a hand operated pill machine. They also used a mortar and pestle to grind Smarties® candy to produce a sugar coating for the pills.

Julie Greene, Fannin Middle School librarian and organizer of the festival, estimated that more than 1,600 people attended the event this year. After six hours of constant demonstrations and talking about pharmacy, Dr. Katz said the SOP/TPM contingent felt that they had visited with all 1,600 attendees!

The SOP students who participated in the event are all members of the Phi Delta Chi professional pharmacy fraternity. The group included Brandon Bledsoe, Daniel Bourn, Eric Chan, Christina Corona, Chris Esparza, Shanna James, Diana Mukalel, Valdi Tatan, Emily Wang and Daniel Wei.

SOP Names New Director of Accreditation and Planning



Bill Pulliam

As many of you may already know, Mr. Bill Pulliam joined the TTUHSC-SOP on Dec. 1 as Senior Director of Accreditation and Planning.

In his new position, Bill will be responsible for managing and coordinating all aspects of the SOP's accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education for Pharm.D. and

CE accreditation and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Bill will also coordinate the SOP's strategic and operational plans, which will include facilitating the work of the Dean and the various program administrators in developing, implementing and monitoring all SOP planning.

Bill comes to the SOP from West Texas A&M University. He served on the steering committee for the last two WTAMU SACS reac-

creditation/reaffirmation processes and led the development of the WTAMU online submission system that is now required by SACS.

As Budget Officer at WTAMU, Bill was the primary lead in developing strategic plans and for coordinating strategic planning. He also incorporated strategic planning into the WTAMU budget development process.

Please welcome Bill as he starts his new duties. His office is located on the SOP's Amarillo campus.

In Case You Missed It...



Dr. Quentin Smith

Dr. Quentin Smith (Chair and Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo) attended the annual meeting for the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Nov. 16-20 in Atlanta where he authored or co-authored six oral or poster presentations and assisted with the TTUHSC-SOP Alumni and Friends Reception. He was also inducted into the association as an AAPS Fellow.



Dr. Majid Moridani

Dr. Majid Moridani (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) made three presentations in Nov. at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists in Atlanta. Dr. Moridani's presentations were entitled: *Tyrosinase prodrug activation for treatment*

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- Dr. Majid Moridani (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo) made three presentations

of melanoma; An overview of pharmacogenetics of drug metabolizing enzymes; and The application of pharmacogenetics in clinical medicine. He also co-chaired one session entitled *Prodrug Approaches for organ specific targeted therapy* and a second session—*Introduction, Method, and Technology*—at a two-day workshop that addressed the topic of Pharmacogenetics in Individualized Medicine: Methods, Regulatory and Clinical Applications.

- Dr. Brandy McGinnis (SOP Class of 2004) was interviewed Nov. 13 on National Public Radio for a story about why patients stop taking statins despite their cardiovascular benefits. Dr. McGinnis presently works for Kaiser/Colorado. The story can be accessed at www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=96928250.

- Branch Willis (Texas Panhandle Poison Center) successfully completed his seven-year recertification exam as a Specialist in Poison Information.



Dr. Jon Weidanz

Dr. Jon Weidanz (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Abilene) was the keynote speaker in Nov. for the Human Therapeutics Antibodies Conference in New York City.



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The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, masters, doctoral, and professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Getting to Know...

**Toni Bryan
Coordinator**

Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Amarillo

Toni was born in Alabama and moved to Amarillo when she was 4. Her mother's family is from Spearman, which is located about 90 miles north of Amarillo, and Toni says she moved there "when I was in the first grade and graduated high school in Spearman in 1994."

After high school, Toni attended the University of Miami for three semesters. While living in Florida, she traveled to England for what was supposed to be a three-week trip, but she ended up staying for four years. "I got

to travel a lot throughout Europe: the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland, Scotland, Wales."

Toni eventually returned to Amarillo and enrolled at Amarillo



Toni Bryan with her husband, Brandon, their six-month old son, Wyatt, and Shelbi.

College, earning her Associate's degree in Mass Communications/PR/Advertising.

Toni and her husband, Brandon, have a six-month old son named Wyatt who was born in July. She says the family also includes "a spoiled dog" named Shelbi. "I used to enjoy reading but I don't have much time or energy for it anymore! The same goes for going to the movies and traveling. Right now my focus is on my adorable little boy and spending time with family."

SOP Photo Gallery

Amarillo P4s Kathy Wheeler (left) and Norma Solis present Dr. Glenn Anderson (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of the Drug Information Center) with reference books for the DIC on behalf of Rho Chi.



One of the unusual rock formations one can see while driving through the desert in Saudi Arabia.



Amarillo P2 Tanis Herr signs an alumni Christmas card for her mother, Quinn Herr, who is a member of the SOP Class of 2002.



Amarillo P2 Kristen White gets into the holiday spirit by placing an ornament on the SOP's Christmas tree.



A photo of the Dallas/Fort Worth SOP team that participated in the 2008 Memory Walk at the Dallas Zoo.

Amarillo P2 Brenda Ojeda (right) checks the blood pressure of Joann Reilman (Unit Asst. Dir. - TTUHSC Human Resources Office) at the NCPA's Wellness Challenge.



Representatives from the College of Clinical Pharmacy presented me with a gift of figs during my trip to Saudi Arabia.



Walgreens' District Pharmacy Supervisor Jennifer Barnett and District Manager Jim McDougall present a check to the SOP. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say their support is greatly appreciated.



NCPA members pose for a photo while preparing for the organization's Nov. Wellness Challenge. The group included Amarillo P2s Caroline Sandoval (left) and Brenda Ojeda (right) and PIs Cheryl Mooney and Craig Tipton.

How to Submit Items for the Dean's Newsletter

The mission of "From the Dean's Desk" is to communicate the news, events and achievements from the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy to all four of our campus sites and to alumni and other friends of the school who enjoy hearing about your good work.

If you or your department, division, organization or class have something you'd like to include in this newsletter, or if you have a question about the types of items typically included in the newsletter, please contact:

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