



Nucleus

The newsletter of the School of Pharmacy's Office of Research

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Sixth Annual Research Days

The Sixth Annual Research Days, sponsored by the Office of Research, was held August 2-3 in Amarillo. All four campuses were represented by students and faculty, which made this year a huge success. With more than 150 attendees, 49 shown posters, a world renowned keynote speaker, and faculty podium presentations collaboration, friendship and fun were abound. The event opened with a luncheon and a warm welcome from Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara. After lunch, Group One poster presentations began with Drs. Thomas Abbruscato, David Fike, Kystal Haase, and US Rao serving as the 2007 poster judging panel.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Ken Miller, Senior Vice President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, lectured on the possibilities of the SOP's educational and research programs. He also spoke of what paths would be better to get there successfully. That evening, attendees then met at the Party Barn for a social hour, dinner, and discussion.



From Left: Dr. Ken Miller, Dr. Cynthia Raehl, Dean Arthur Nelson, Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara

The highlight of the second day was the four faculty presentations. Podium Presentations began with Ming-Hai Wang, Ph.D. presentation "Potential Therapeutical Antibodies for Targeted Therapy of Cancers Overexpressing Human RON Receptor Tyrosine Kinase." After Dr. Wang, Richard Leff, Pharm.D. presented "Inositol for the Prevention of Retinopathy of Prematurity: Analyses of Inositol and Isomers," followed by Eugene Shek, Ph.D. "Alteration of Leptin Receptor Expression and Signal

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President Baldwin Visits TTUHSC-SOP



TTUHSC President Dr. John Baldwin visited the Amarillo campus Thursday, September 6, 2007. Although it was a short visit, the Department Chairs, Associate/Assistant Deans, and student representatives got a chance to talk to President Baldwin. During

his tour of the facilities, he supported the

research efforts put forth by the School of Pharmacy and his hopes to continue to expand and improve the program. Dr. Baldwin joins the TTUHSC family as the seventh President after serving at Harvard University as a Professor of Surgery and President of the Immune Disease Institute. The Office of Research would like to extended our gratitude to Dr. Baldwin for his dedication to research and we are excited to have his support. ■

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Dr. Paul Lockman, Assistant Professor, was awarded the 2007 AACP Innovations and Teaching award during the 2007 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting and Seminars. The event took place July 13-18 in Orlando, Florida

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 ing in Overweight Aged Rat Kidneys: New Paradigm of Age-related Hypertension” And Eric MacLaughlin, Pharm.D. “Tips from the Trenches: Performing Research in a Clinical Practice Environment.” Group Two poster presentations took place that afternoon followed by a demonstration of the new VCS system.

At the closing ceremony, the Office of Research recognized the participants in the Amarillo Biomedical Research Internship as well as the Research Advisory Committee and the poster judges. The GSBS also took the opportunity to acknowledge their two graduating students Chaitanya Chimalakonda and Jennifer Paulson. Also revealed at the closing ceremony were the poster winners which included: 3rd Place Poster: Bhakti Naik “The biochemical metabolism and toxicity of CAPE (caffeic acid phenethyl ester) in SK-MEL-28 melanoma cells” (mentored by Majid Moridani, Ph.D.) 2nd Place Poster:



From left: Dr. James Stoll, Dr. Ulrich Bickel, and Dr. Karen Borges at the Reception Dinner.

Katie Bennett “Expression and peptide purification of two novel transporters, BOCT1 and BOCT2” (mentored by James Stoll, Ph.D.), 1st Place Poster: Nikhil Vad “The Biochemical Mechanism of Acetaminophen Induced Toxicity in Human SK-MEL-28 Melanoma Cell Line” (mentored by Majid Moridani, Ph.D.).

The Office of Research would like to thank everyone for all their hard work and efforts to make the Sixth Annual Research Days such a enjoyable experience. ■

For more pictures of the event, see page 7.

From Good to Great

Several Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty met in Dallas July 31 to discuss future plans for the SOP research. The objectives for the meeting included of defining a future institutional relationship between University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and TTUHSC School of Pharmacy, recommendations to

increase recruiting and retaining basic and clinical/translational scientists and building steps for a successful Pharm.D./Ph.D. program.

Faculty had the opportunity to met with consultants Ken Miller, Ph.D., Robert Blouin, Pharm.D., and Barry Carter, Pharm.D. Dr. Blouin is currently Dean at the University of North Carolina and has chaired the AACP Task Force on educating clinical scientists. Dr. Carter, who’s research is focused in clinical pharmacist physician collaborative studies, is a Professor of Pharmacy and Family Medicine at the University of Iowa and is one of the nation’s foremost ambulatory care clinical pharmacists. Dr. Miller is Senior Vice President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and academic pharmacy liaison to the NIH.



Dr Barry Carter, Dr. Ken Miller, Dean Arthur Nelson, Dr. Bob Blouin

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Faculty Receives Recognition



Dr. Mark Lyte, Professor of Pharmacy Practice, has been invited to the Institute for Food Research and the Jon Innes Center in Norwich, England this October to lecture on *Microbial Endocrinology in the Gut: Where Bacteria, Nerves and Food Interact in Disease and Homeostasis*

Dr. Lyte recently co-convened the 107th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Microbiology's session on "Microbial Endocrinology: Neuroendocrine-Bacterial In-

teractions in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease." The meeting was held in Toronto, making it the first time in the history of the ASM that the annual meeting was not held in the United States.

Dr. Lyte also obtained a book contract for his interdisciplinary research titled "Microbial Endocrinology: Inter-kingdom Signaling in Health and Disease." In addition, he has been appointed as an adjunct Full Professor to the departments of Biology, Animal & Food Sciences, and the graduate school at Texas Tech University. ■

Research Days Receives Rave Reviews!

The Office of Research recently sent out a survey to all Research Days' attendees to evaluate their satisfaction and obtain suggestions for next year's event. Attendees were ninety-one percent satisfied with the overall event. In addition, 100 percent of the faculty and students who traveled to Amarillo were very pleased with their travel accommodations. Those who took the survey expressed approval for the schedule and the set-up of the events. The only areas of

concern were the poster competition and the time of the year Research Days is held. Several people were concern about the amount of time allotted to each poster.

The Office of Research will revisit these issues to make sure that next year's event will be at a convenient time for most of our faculty and ensure enough time for all poster presenters. We would like to thank all participants for their input and time. ■

Faculty Chairs Session at National Meeting

Dr. Majid Moridani, Assistant Professor, organized, chaired and presented at the American Association of Clinical Chemistry's "Application of Pharmacogenetics in Clinical Medicine." The event took place on July 15-19 in San Diego, California. The objectives of the session included concepts and practical aspects of



developing personalized treatment using pharmacogenetics information to diminish toxicity and increase therapeutic outcome in drug therapy.

The event accommodated nearly 19,000 clinical laboratory professionals, physicians, making it the world's largest laboratory conference and research scientists. Each of the attendees were involved with clinical chemistry and related disciplines. ■

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Dr. Eugene Shek, Assistant Professor, will be presenting "Impaired Leptin-induced Diuresis and Natriuresis with Age is Mediated by the Attenuated Expression of Renal Leptin Receptor and P13-K Signaling" at the American Heart Association's "61st Annual Council for High Blood Pressure Research Conference, 2007. The event will be held September 26-29, 2007 in Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Shek's research is funded by the SOP Research Initiative Award.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Dr. Quentin Smith was an invited speaker to the 10th Annual Symposium on Signal Transduction in the Blood-Brain Barriers. The conference was held September 13-16 at the Postdam-Sanssouci near Berlin, Germany. Dr. Smith presented "Blood-Brain barrier drug transport and regulation."

Graduate Program Welcomes New Students

The Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences (GPPS) recently admitted seven new Ph.D. students for the fall semester, which increases the programs to total of 36 graduate students. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new students; Joseph Bass, Prabodh Kandala, Siva Koganti, Sashi Kudugunti, Kaushik Shah, Samata Tiwara, and Sarah Willis.

Fall is also the time when many of our GPPS graduate students will be presenting their research at two of the major national meetings. This year both the Society for Neuroscience and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists meetings will be held in San Diego and the School of Pharmacy will have 16 GPPS graduate students presenting their research work at these national meetings.

I would also like to encourage everyone to attend the weekly Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Seminars (**Mondays from 11:30-12:30 PM in Room 107**) where our graduate students will present the latest findings from their research projects done here at the School of Pharmacy.

We are very proud of all the hard work and productivity from our graduate students, who contribute immensely to the strong research environment at the School of Pharmacy. They are an integral component to the research mission of our school. ■



*Tom Abbruscato, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and
Graduate Program Advisor
Pharmaceutical Sciences*

Seminars

Satya Goda Graduate Student/Research Assistant. Monday, August 27, 2007. SOP Room 107. "Blood-Brain Barrier Permeability And Transport Of Bumetanide."

Vamshi Manda, Graduate Student/Research Assistant. Monday, September 17, 2007. SOP Room 107. "Nicotine and Cotinine In-

creases BBB Permeability of Saquinavir."

Rajendar Mittapalli, Graduate Student/Research Assistant. Monday, September 24, 2007. SOP Room 107. "Permeability Measurements at the Blood-Brain and Blood-Tumor Barrier Using Different Molecular Weight Fluorescent Markers." ■

New Research Building

After years of planning, the TTUHSC Amarillo campus celebrated the new Research Building with a ground breaking ceremony. The ceremony was held August 23 at the cite of the new building.

TTUHSC faculty and staff welcomed the general public to the celebration. Attendees had the chance to hear future plans for School of Pharmacy and School of Medi-

cine research and what kind of role the new building will have for it.

The Research Building will be located southeast of the School of Medicine and will house several new laboratories and offices. The new 48,000 square-foot structure is scheduled to be completed by October 2008. ■

CATALYST Seminar Series to Being

The Office of Research will be sponsoring a new seminar series titled, CATALYST.

The series will employ a forum in which the presentations will be discussed openly and informally and question and answer sessions will be encouraged.

SOP faculty will prepare an overview of ongoing research in their laboratory. The goal of this series is for the presenter to obtain input from peers on the ongoing research and new grant proposals, as well as to develop inter-laboratory collaborations

All faculty, residents, graduate students and post-doctoral researchers are invited to attend.

The CATALYST seminars will begin at 5:30p.m. and be followed by dinner starting 6:30p.m. Attendance will be voluntary. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ms. Logan LaRue (356-4000 x 326 OR logan.larue@ttuhsc.edu). An e-mail will be sent out with the date of the first presentation soon. ■

(continued from page 2)

During the full day of open discussion, both departments and each of the research centers shared their progress and plans. Each of the consultants also shared informative ideas to better connect the two departments.

On the following day, all the attendees convened at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSWMC) to meet with Dr. Milton Packer, Director of Clinical Research to discuss long-term scientific collaboration between TTUSHC SOP and UTSWMC. Dr. Packer gave an overview of

his institutions portfolio and Clinical and Translational Science Award; he then covered areas that he thought would be ideal for TTUHSC-SOP and UTSWMC to collaborate. Consultants offered advice on how to make a smooth transaction. We are currently waiting for the consultants report.

With the input from our faculty, the consultants, and Dr. Packer, the School of Pharmacy hopes to developed a vision for future research and use the tools obtained to have a successful follow through. ■

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ABRI Students

The Amarillo Biomedical Research Interns finished their 10 week program at the Sixth Annual Research Days. At the closing ceremony, all of the interns were recognized for their participation. Jennifer Markley, who was mentored by Dr. Margaret Weis, received first place for her poster presentation. Afterwards, each of the students stated how much they enjoyed this opportunity to work in a research setting and all were grateful for chance to see what a career in Biomedical Research is really like. The Office of Research would like to thank participating faculty for all of their hard work and dedication.

Publications

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To include information in the next edition of this newsletter, please submit materials to the Office of Research

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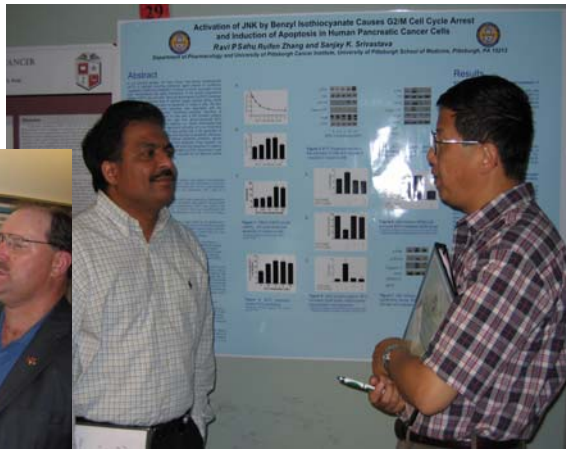
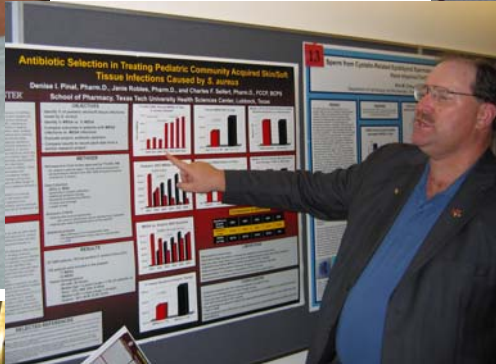
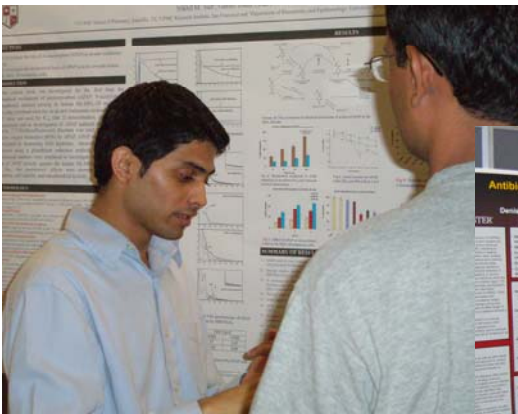
The Sixth Annual Research Days



The Vendors Show



POSTERS



Keynote Speaker, Ken Miller, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President of the American Association of
Colleges of Pharmacy



Snap Shots



The Party Barn



The Awards Ceremony



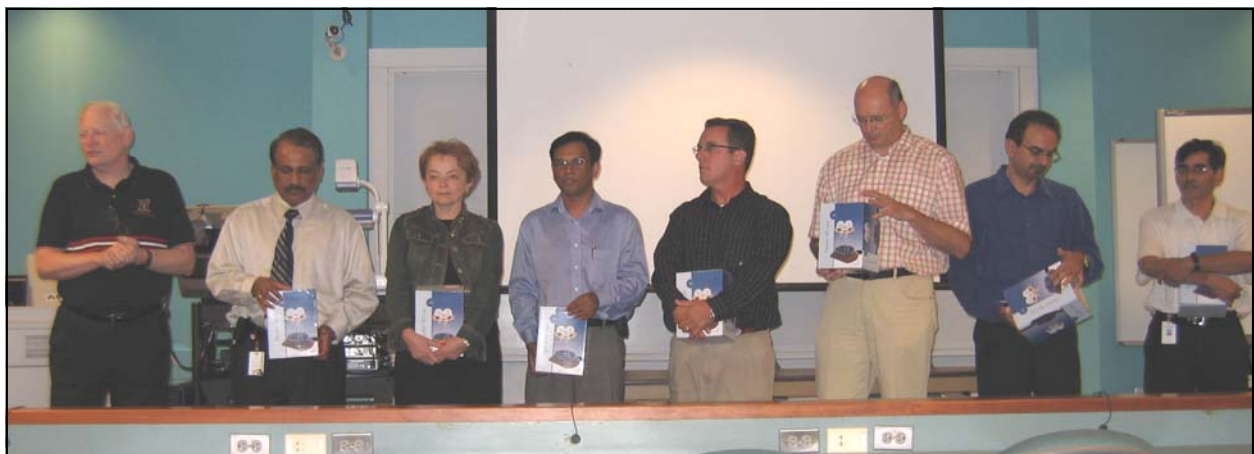
This years first place poster award went to Nikhil Vad and his mentor, Majid Moridani, Ph.D.



This year's ABRI poster award winner, Jennifer Markley receives her certificate from Dr. Thekkumkara.



The GSAA recognized it's two graduating student. Jennifer Paulson received her Ph.D. and is entering the Pharm.D. program. Chaitanya Chimalakonda received his Masters.



Dean Nelson hands out awards to those faculties that made this years AACCP ranking possible: Thomas Thekkumkara, Ph.D., Margaret Weis, Ph.D., Fakhurul Ahsan, Ph.D., Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D., Ulrich Bickel, M.D., Reza Mehvar, Ph.D., US Rao, Ph.D.