

**TEXAS**

# TECHSAN

THE MAGAZINE for TEXAS TECH ALUMNI

JULY/AUGUST 2010

VOL 63 / NUM 04



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## **Texas Tech School of Pharmacy**

*Campuses in Amarillo, Dallas/  
Fort Worth, Abilene and Lubbock*

SINCE ITS INCEPTION in the mid-1920s, Texas Tech has grown from a small college to a major university with campuses spread across the state of Texas. Some of these campuses are new, some older. But, chances are, as alumni, you know only a little about these “Off-Campus Campuses.”

Five of the Texas Tech University System off-campus sites will be covered, and I have asked employees from four of Texas Tech's off-campus campuses to write a feature story about their respective programs.

*Jennifer Ritz, Associate Editor*

# Pharmacy

## THE SCHOOL OF

By Mark Hendricks

### IN THE BEGINNING

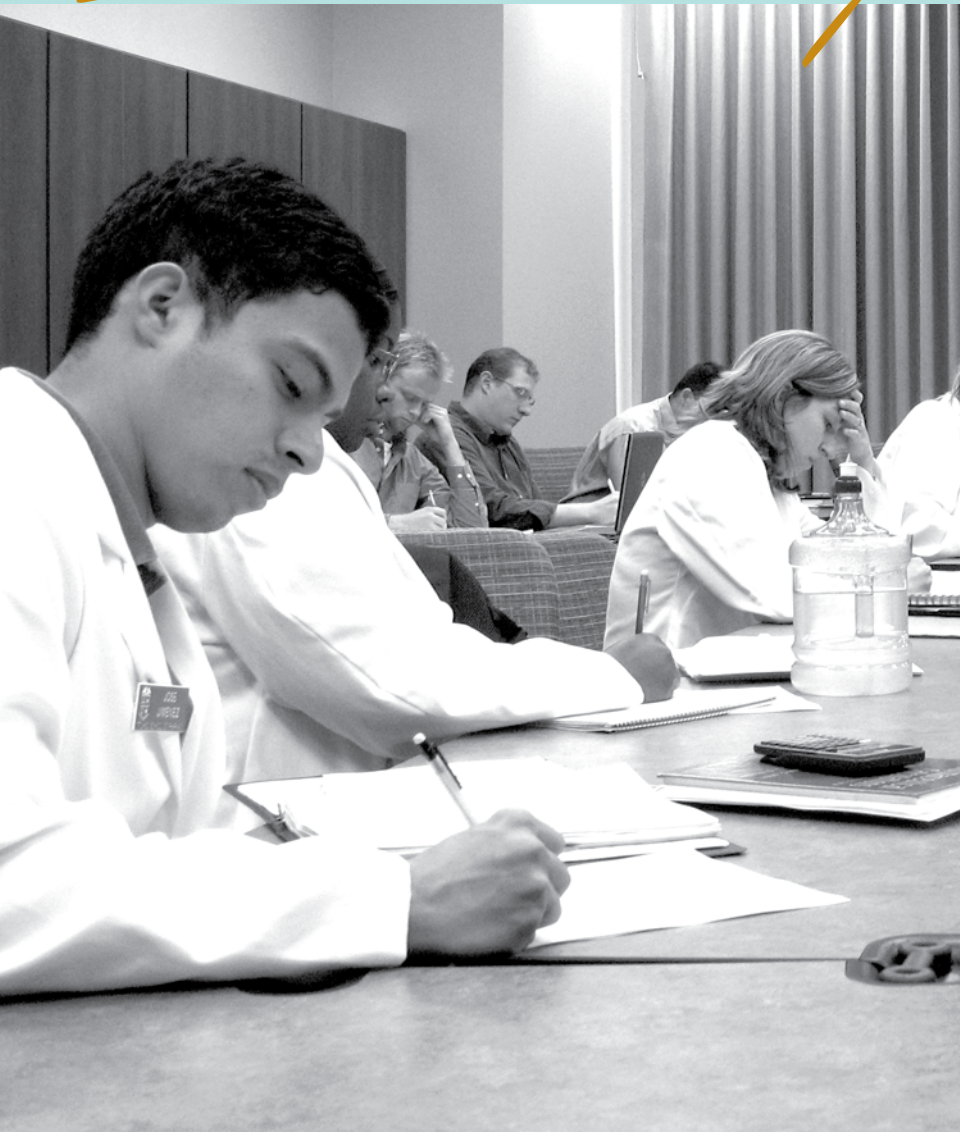
In 1993, the Texas Legislature established the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy, and in doing so, created the first publicly supported pharmacy program in the United States in nearly five decades. As part of the process, the legislators mandated the SOP be located in Amarillo and that no state funds be used to construct the facility.

In response, the Amarillo community rallied behind the efforts of the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation, the Amarillo Hospital District and a host of public and private donors to raise more than \$13 million for the project. Three years later those contributions had transformed a dusty slice of Panhandle prairie into a 102,000-square foot addition to Amarillo's Harrington Regional Medical Center. At that time, the School of Pharmacy was the only school in the Texas Tech System where the main campus was located outside Lubbock.

The first classes began in August 2006 with 65 students, 26 faculty and 10 staff. By the start of the 2009-2010 academic year, those numbers grew to more than 475 students, 39 graduate students, 86 faculty, 23 residents and more than 80 staff located in Amarillo and at the SOP's regional campuses in Lubbock, Dallas/Fort Worth and Abilene.

Since its inception, TTUHSC-SOP has embraced new classroom technologies to advance its curriculum and prepare students for the ever-increasing opportunities that exist in pharmacy today. In fact, it was the first program in the nation to require all of its students to have laptop computers and to deliver materials and email services in support of coursework.

In November 2009 the Amarillo campus expanded by opening its Pharmacy Academic Center. The 23,000 square-foot facility gives the SOP the ability to increase its Amarillo class sizes from 90 in 2009-2010 to 115 students beginning in 2010-2011.



## SOP REGIONAL CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

The SOP's growth has helped the state of Texas address its pharmacist shortage: more than 90 percent of students who have graduated from TTUHSC-SOP have remained in the Lone Star state. TTUHSC-SOP has also expanded its innovative professional program to multiple campuses, and in the process, has gained a national reputation for its active involvement as a health care provider.

Students who enroll in TTUHSC's pharmacy program have the option of attending their first and second years of classes at the main campus in Amarillo or at the SOP's Abilene regional campus. Students at the Amarillo campus can remain there for their third and fourth years or they can transfer to either of the SOP's regional campuses in Lubbock or Dallas/Fort Worth. Abilene students remain at that campus for all four years.



SOP Main Campus: Amarillo



SOP Lubbock

## LUBBOCK

The SOP's Lubbock regional campus opened in January of 1998 under the direction of regional dean Charles Seifert, Dr.P.H., who still oversees the regional campus today. The campus is located within the main TTUHSC building in Lubbock and is presently the home to 35 P3 and P4 students, nine faculty, four post-doctoral residents and five staff.

SOP faculty in Lubbock have many clinical interests, including adult internal medicine, primary care, geriatrics, pediatrics, community pharmacy and infectious disease research. Their clinical practice sites include University Medical Center, TTUHSC Clinics and the Garrison Geriatric Education and Care Center.

Lubbock faculty and residents also operate the TTUHSC Pharmacy, which provides medications and biologicals to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Montford Unit Regional Medical Facility; the TTUHSC International Pain Institute; the Garrison Geriatric Education and Care Center; and TTUHSC clinics in Lubbock, Odessa and El Paso. The TTUHSC Pharmacy also provides telepharmacy services to the rural Texas communities of Turkey and Earth. In fact, the first telepharmacy prescription dispensed in Texas occurred September 18, 2002, between the TTUHSC Pharmacy and the Turkey Medical Clinic.

## DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Roughly one-third of the TTUHSC-SOP student population has historically come from within a 100-mile radius of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, an area of the state where the shortage of pharmacists has often been described as critical.

To help ease the shortage, the school began developing its DFW regional program in 1997 with clinical placements for a few fourth-year students. In 1999, TTUHSC-SOP officially opened its DFW regional campus using facilities leased from Baylor University Medical Center.

In 2002, Richard Leff, Dr.P.H., was named regional dean for the DFW campus. Later that year, the campus was relocated to the grounds of the North Texas Veterans Affairs Hospital in Dallas, where a 4,800 square-foot building was renovated and dedicated to the School of Pharmacy. Additional construction during 2003 expanded the campus to approximately 8,000 square feet.

In August 2008, TTUHSC expanded its DFW program to a second location inside the Southwest Professional Building. The 9,300 square-foot facility includes a 62-seat state-of-the-art classroom, research labs and administrative support areas. The additional space gives TTUHSC-SOP the ability to host roughly 184 P3 and P4 students. It also affords faculty and students better access to the Dallas Medical Center and several of the school's important partners, such as Children's Medical Center, Parkland Hospital and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School clinics and hospitals.

Today there are 92 P3 and P4 students, 16 faculty, 13 residents and four staff members at the SOP's D/FW regional campus sites.



SOP Dallas: Southwest Campus

SOP Abilene: Regional Campus



## ABILENE

The concept for expanding the TTUHSC-SOP program into Abilene first came about in 2004 when a group of community and private organizations first approached the school.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the expansion in January 2006 and the school began making plans for extending its Dr.P.H. and post-graduate pharmacy education programs into the Texas Big Country. Since that time, a 40,000 square-foot campus has been constructed, and classes began in August 2007.

Virgil Van Dusen, Dr.P.H., is regional dean for the Abilene campus, which is presently home to 120 students, 14 faculty, three residents, five staff members. By the start of the 2010-2011 academic year, Abilene will be home to 160 pharmacy students.

Each year the SOP's Abilene campus hosts the Raider Red Pharmacy Summer Camp for high school juniors and seniors who are interested in pharmacy as a career. The camp is an excellent opportunity for TTUHSC-SOP faculty and local pharmacists to introduce these young men and women to the profession through hands-on learning experiences and activities that demonstrate drug compounding, patient assessment and pharmacy research. The students also tour local healthcare facilities and meet with recruiters from local colleges who discuss pre-pharmacy course requirements.



## DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY PRACTICE

The TTUHSC-SOP Department of Pharmacy Practice is comprised of 61 faculty and seven divisions. Cynthia Raehl, Dr.P.H., the department's founding chair, oversees clinical research and development, which includes the department's Geriatrics, Adult Medicine and Clinical Sciences and Research divisions. Department co-chair Roland Patry, Dr.P.H., directs the SOP's clinical practice and management divisions—Primary Care, Pediatrics, Community Care and Practice Management—and oversees the Office of Experiential Programs and the Graduate Pharmacy Education (Residency) Program.

The Office of Experiential Programs, which includes personnel from the SOP campus sites in Abilene, Amarillo, Dallas/Fort Worth and Lubbock, places SOP students in actual practice settings across the state of Texas. The technology-driven program provides these future practitioners with opportunities to interact with real patients and other healthcare professionals and has earned high marks from both students and preceptors.

The Graduate Pharmacy Education Program is one of the nation's largest and school-funded post-graduate residency programs. It supports the missions of TTUHSC and the SOP by offering unique training opportunities through 13 distinct pharmacy practice and specialty programs located in each of the SOP's campus communities. Since its inception in 1997, more than 140 pharmacy residents have completed training.

## TTUHSC-SOP RESEARCH

TTUHSC-SOP continues to promote and facilitate clinical and basic science research for its faculty. Senior Associate Dean for Sciences Quentin Smith, Dr.P.H., and his staff oversee all SOP resources related to research and disseminating results to the professional community. In 2009 the TTUHSC Board of Regents named Smith the sixth recipient of the Grover E. Murray Professorship, the highest honor TTUHSC bestows upon its faculty members.

In April the SOP and the TTUHSC School of Medicine cut the ribbon on the new Amarillo Research Building. The 48,000 square-foot facility provides additional space for up to 15 SOP laboratories and offices for researchers, graduate student researchers and support personnel.

Each year the SOP hosts the Wendy & Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship in Pharmacology & Neurochemistry of Substance Abuse/Addiction. The endowment brings speakers of the highest national and international reputation to the SOP and is funded by the Marshes to give the SOP national recognition in the pharmacological area of substance abuse and the neurochemistry that precipitates this type of addictive behavior.

The SOP and its research faculty also manage the Amarillo Biomedical Research Internship summer program. The ABRI program provides valuable hands-on research experience to student investigators by allowing them to develop and conduct an investigator-initiated research project in conjunction with their mentor.

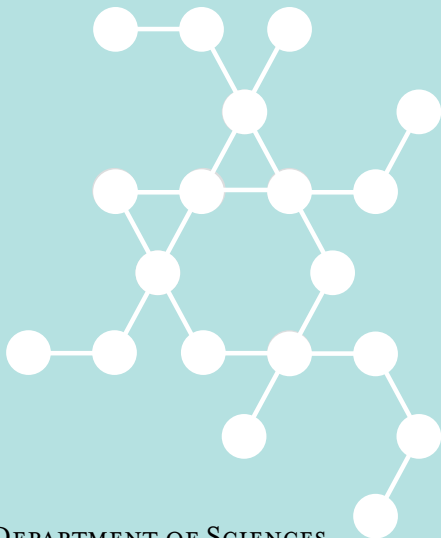
In 2001 the SOP established a grant program that resulted in the development of three centers for research excellence during its first three years: The Center for Cancer Biology Research, The Center



for Pathophysiology and Treatment of Stroke and The Pediatric Pharmacology Research and Development Center.

A fourth research center—The Center for Immunotherapeutic Research and Development—was established in 2007 as part of the School's expansion into Abilene. In 2008 The Center for Pathophysiology and Treatment of Stroke was reorganized as The Vascular Drug Research Center to take advantage of several important collaborations that developed over recent years between the labs of several SOP investigators.

Each summer the SOP brings faculty and student researchers from each TTUHSC-SOP campus to Amarillo for the school's annual Research Days. The event is an interdisciplinary forum designed to showcase research activities that have taken place at the pharmacy school during the preceding year. Faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students meet to exchange research ideas and interests to stimulate interdisciplinary collaborations between the SOP's departments and campuses.



## DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCES

The School of Pharmacy reorganized its science-based research faculty in 2009, creating two departments: the long-standing Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the newly formed Department of Biomedical Sciences. Together these two departments are comprised of 23 research-based faculty, two academic faculty and nearly 60 postdoctoral associates, graduate students and technicians in Amarillo and Abilene.

Ulrich Bickel, Dr.P.H., Reza Mehvar, Dr.P.H., and Thomas Abbruscato, Dr.P.H., are interim chairs for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Amarillo Regional Dean Thomas Thekkumkara, Dr.P.H., is serving as interim chair for the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Pharmaceutical sciences researchers use the latest research protocols related to modern drug development, targeting and formulation to focus upon critical research areas such as pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, biochemistry, immunology and pharmacokinetics.

Biomedical sciences investigators employ integrated research to take advantage of cutting-edge molecular advances in biology and medicine as they focus their research upon cancer biology, immunology, vascular biology, cell signaling, immunotherapy, cell biology, molecular biology and neurobiology.

During 2009, the combined SOP sciences faculty received more than \$2.54 million in research funding from the National Institutes of Health and other government, foundation and pharmaceutical industry entities. They also contributed more than 60 semester credit hours of teaching to the SOP's Dr.P.H. curriculum and administered the graduate program in pharmaceutical sciences.

The GPPS is part of the TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and offers master's and doctoral degrees in integrated biomedical/pharmaceutical research. GPPS enrollment grew to 39 doctoral and master's students in 2009 and accounted for more than one-third of total GSBS enrollment. Many GPPS graduates presently fill important positions with academic labs, government agencies and private companies within the pharmaceutical and biotech industries.

## POISON CONTROL CENTER

Since September 2003, TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy have hosted the Texas Panhandle Poison Center, which is one of six regional poison centers established in 1993 by the Texas Legislature to provide emergency treatment in poisonings or toxic exposures for Texas residents.

TPPC's coverage area includes Texas Public Health Regions 1 and 2, which consists of the Texas Panhandle, the South Plains region and a portion of central Texas. The geographical area covers 71 mostly rural counties but also takes in four urban areas: Amarillo, Lubbock, Abilene and Wichita Falls. The total coverage area is equivalent to roughly 25 percent of the state and includes a population of more than 1.3 million Texans.



## TEXAS PHARMACY MUSEUM

The Texas Pharmacy Museum is the largest museum in the state dedicated to collecting, preserving and displaying items that document the history of pharmacy. The museum, located in the basement of the SOP's main campus in Amarillo, opened in 1998 thanks to the combined efforts of SOP Dean Arthur Nelson and Billy Walker, a San Antonio resident who began collecting pharmacy paraphernalia during his travels as a field representative for Wyeth Laboratories.

Since Walker began putting the collection together in 1996, the museum has amassed more than 11,000 items, including pharmacy art and books, various commercial remedies and products, bottles and containers, laboratory glassware and other tools of the trade. These pieces of drugstore history have found their way to the museum thanks to 140 donors from 34 Texas communities and six other states. 