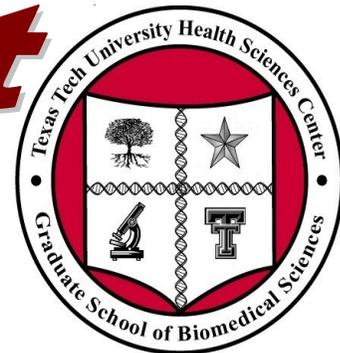




Agonist

The Official Newsletter for the
Graduate Program of
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo, Texas



UPDATE FROM DR. ABRUSCATO

Summer and fall of 2012 was an exciting and busy time for the Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Faculty-mentored graduate student research resulted in seven journal publications and thirteen presentations at national meetings, including Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research, Society for Neuroscience and AAPS. We are happy to provide opportunities for our GPPS students to present their research to the scientific community and excited that they get to meet and interact with leading scientists in their specific discipline. GPPS also hosted a Clinical Pharmacology Reviewer Seminar in September through the FDA Ambassadors Program. Dr. Sheetal Agarwal held a two day lecture series on the role of the Office of Clinical Pharmacology for drug design and approval specifically for graduate students and the postdoctoral research associates.

Also, please be on the lookout for the upcoming Student Research Week in Lubbock hosted by GSBS on March 4-6, 2013. The topic for SRW will be "The Genomic Revolution: Personalizing Medicine", emphasizing the topic of pharmacogenomics. Leading scientists will be speaking from both Mayo Clinic and Vanderbilt University.

We are also fortunate to have recently selected **Dr. Fakhru Ahsan** to assume the Graduate Program Advisor position for GPPS. We trust that he will lead the graduate students and faculty into the future, especially given all his past efforts to improve and grow our Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Please congratulate Dr. Ahsan for assuming this new position! ■



Spring 2013
Issue 11

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OCP Ambassador Program Comes to Amarillo



Clinical Pharmacology Reviewer **Sheetal Agarwal, Ph.D.**, held a two day lecture series September 20-21, 2012, specifically for the graduate students and the postdoctoral research associates. She is with the Office of Clinical Pharmacology, Office of Translational Sciences, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Silver Spring, Maryland. Thursday morning's seminar presentation was entitled "How OCP Improves Patient Care by Promoting Rational Drug Development and Regulatory Review" followed by a roundtable discussion and lunch with students and postdocs. On Friday during a noontime meeting, Dr. Agarwal gave a scientific presentation for interested persons entitled "Transporter-Mediated Drug-Drug Interactions: Clinical Relevance and Regulatory Implications." While in Amarillo she also met with groups of graduate students/postdocs and faculty members. ■



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Dr. Fakhru Ahsan, Graduate Program Advisor, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, x335

Teresa Carlisle, Graduate Program Coordinator, x287

Susan King, Graduate Student Advisor, x227

Dr. Thomas Abbruscato, Associate Dean for GSBS, Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences x320

Agonist is published every fall and spring semester by the Graduate Program of Pharmaceutical Sciences (GPPS). For updates and new information, email Teresa at teresa.carlisle@ttuhsc.edu.

SPRING 2013 DISSERTATIONS

Shuangting Zhang - Lab of Dr. Quentin Smith
Friday, March 15, 2013 - 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
AMA SOP 335 / ABI 2601 / LUB 260D

Hussaini Syed Sha Qhattal - Lab of Dr. Xinli Liu
Friday, March 19, 2013 - 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
AMA HLC 100 / ABI 1130 / LUB HSC ACB 260D



**Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences
Class of 2012-2013**

PUBLICATIONS

≈Absar S, Choi S, Ahsan F, Cobos E, Yang VC, Kwon YM. Preparation and characterization of anionic oligopeptide-modified tissue plasminogen activator for triggered delivery: An approach for localized thrombolysis. *Thromb Res.* 2012 Dec 23. [Epub ahead of print]

≈Inzana TJ, **Balyan R**, Howard MD. Decoration of *Histophilus somni* lipooligosaccharide with N-acetyl-5-neuraminic acid enhances bacterial binding of complement factor H and resistance to killing by serum and polymorphonuclear leukocytes. *Vet Microbiol.* 2012 Jul 17. [Epub ahead of print].

≈Moridani, Majid and **Rajiv Balyan**. Introductory Statistics for Clinicians. *Introduction to Clinical Research*. T.L. Vasylyeva. Amarillo, Hale Publishing: 109-140.

≈Loganathan S, Kandala PK, **Gupta P**, Srivastava SK. Inhibition of EGFR-AKT Axis Results in the Suppression of Ovarian Tumors In Vitro and in Pre-

clinical Mouse Model. *PLoS One.* 2012;7(8):e43577. Epub 2012 Aug 27.

≈Wang W, Ao L, Rayburn ER, Xu H, Zhang X, Zhang X, **Nag SA**, Wu X, Wang MH, Wang H, Van Meir EG, Zhang R. KCN1, a Novel Synthetic Sulfonamide Anticancer Agent: In Vitro and In Vivo Anti-Pancreatic Cancer Activities and Preclinical Pharmacology. *PLoS One.* 2012;7(9):e44883. Epub 2012 Sep 13.

≈**P. Naik, S. Prasad** and L. Cucullo. (2012). Role and Function of Dehydrogenases in CNS and Blood-Brain Barrier Pathophysiology. Rosa Angela Canuto, Ed. *Dehydrogenases* (pp. 91-114). Croatia: InTech. Retrieved from <http://www.intechopen.com/books/dehydrogenases>.

≈**Shah K, Desilva S**, Abbruscato T. The Role of Glucose Transporters in Brain Disease: Diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2012 Oct 3;13(10):12629-55. □

New Student for Spring 2013

Maria (Heidi) Villalba, B.S.
Lab: Dr. Paul Lockman
West Texas A&M University
Canyon, Texas



Welcome, Susan King!

Susan is the new Graduate Student Advisor for GPPS. She has worked in various capacities for TTU and also TTUHSC in the Internal Medicine Department.



WISE - WOMEN IN SCIENCE ENDEAVORS

By Alejandra Fernandez & Pooja Naik

Each year WiSE organizes interactive science workshops to inspire and motivate middle school girls to pursue a career in science and research. On October 13, 2012, WiSE organized the event at Amarillo College where 17 different experimental workshops were demonstrated to middle school girls.

On behalf of TTUHSC, GPPS students Alejandra Fernandez and Pooja Naik along with Amanda Whiteside presented interesting workshops about chapstick and lozenge preparation. They also showed the girls how to prepare solid and liquid perfumes. The girls got to choose their favorite scents, make their own perfumes and take them home. They were very excited not just to do hands-on preparation but also to know the science behind it. The workshop taught the girls the chemistry of perfume making and the biology of our sensory system and brain in understanding the different kinds of smell. The middle school girls found this an interesting workshop, because they never thought perfumes involved so much chemistry.

WiSE is a great experience not only for middle school girls but also for people already active in science. The experience of motivating young girls to pursue science is mutually exciting and Texas Tech students look forward to participating in WiSE every year. ▣



In pink Alejandra Fernandez (L) and Pooja Naik
In green 2nd from left, Morgan Abbruscato

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Parul Gupta, Hussaini Syed Sha Qhattal - Mary Lou Clements Scholarship, October 2012 - \$500

Parul Gupta - 2013 SOT Graduate Student Travel Support Award - \$1000

Nilesh Gupta - Best Junior Oral Presentation in Graduate Student Seminar presented by Graduate Student Association at Amarillo

Ameya Paranjpe - Best Senior Oral Presentation in Graduate Student Seminar presented by Graduate Student Association at Amarillo ▣

[Click here for deadlines of Current Awards, Scholarships & Fellowships](#)

"If something is exceptionally well done, it has embedded in it's very existence the aim of lifting the common denominator rather than catering to it." Edward Fischer

GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR PROGRAM - SPRING 2012

8/22/12 - **Parul Gupta** - "Role of Integrins in Curcubitacin B mediated breast cancer growth suppression"

8/29/12 - **Jun Liu** - "Potential Photoaffinity Labels to Study Low-Affinity Choline Transporter"

8/29/12 - **Neel Fofaria** - "Anti-Melanoma Effect of Various Components of Black Pepper"

9/5/12 - **Manoj Banjara** - "Recognition of Endogenous Danger Signals by C6 Glial Cells"

9/5/12 - **Kito Barrow** - "Improving the Chemotherapy of Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer with Next-Generation Selenium"

9/12/12 - **Guest Speaker: Dr. Ln Guan**, Dept of Cell Physiology & Molecular Biophysics, TTUHSC, Lubbock - "Molecular Mechanism of the Na⁺-Coupled Sugar Symport by MelB"

9/20/12 - **Guest Speaker: Dr. Sheetal Agarwal**, Office of Clinical Pharmacology, FDA - "How OCP Improves Patient Care by Promoting Rational Drug Development and Regulatory Review"

9/26/12 - **Brijeshkumar Patel** - "Inhaled Heparin for the Treatment of Asthma"

9/26/12 - **Subhasree Nag** - "Novel MDM2 Inhibitors as Anti-Cancer Agents"

10/3/12 - **Forum Discussion: Dr. U.S. Rao, Dr. Reza Mehvar, Dr. Fakhrul Ahsan** - "How to Write Manuscripts and Abstracts"

10/10/12 - **Sharad Sharma** - "Small Molecule RON/MET Kinase Inhibitor Induces Polyploidy in Breast Cancer Cells : Molecular Mechanism and Therapeutic Implications"

10/10/12 - **Alejandra Fernandez** - "Effect of Metformin on Seizure Threshold of Triheptanoin-Fed Pilocarpine-Induced Epileptic Mice"

10/24/12 - **Guest Speaker: Dr. Larry Meeker**, Regional Chemistry Specialist, Waters Corporation - "Fundamentals of Developing a Reliable Separation Method"

10/31/12 - **Guest Speaker: Dr. Steven Schwendeman**, Professor and Chair, College of

Pharmacy, University of Michigan - "Aqueous-based Microencapsulation of Large Molecules in PLGAs"

11/7/12 - **Shuangling Zhang** - "Alpha 1-Acid Glycoprotein (AGP) Effects on Tight Junction Protein Expression and Function"

11/7/12 - **Kamrun Nahar** - "Biophysical Targeting of Fasudil for the Treatment of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH)"

11/14/12 - **Pooja Naik** - "Effect of Tobacco Smoke on BBB Endothelial Cells: A Preliminary Comparative Study"

11/14/12 - **Tanvirul Hye** - "Targeting HER2 Positive Breast Cancer Brain Metastases with Lapatinib-Angiopep2 Conjugate"

11/21/12 - **Md. Koswer Miah** - "Effects of Warm Hepatic Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury on the Pharmacokinetics of Rhodamine 123 in Rats"

11/21/12 - **Md. Jahidur Rashid** - "Potential Mechanisms of Acquired Resistance by Colorectal Cancer Cells to Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor BMS-777607: Preliminary Studies and Future Direction"

11/28/12 - **Ameya Paranjpe** - "Inhibition of MGMT Catalyzed Base Excision Repair by Antiestrogens and Its Significance for Improving Breast Cancer Therapy"

11/28/12 - **Raghavender Chivukula** - "Development of Tolerogenic Mouse Models for Evaluating T-Cell Receptor Like Antibodies"

12/5/12 - **Md. Rashedul Islam** - "Neuroprotective Function of Biphalin Analogs in Models of Ischemia"

12/5/12 - **Nina Blakeman** - "Linking Fatty Acyl-CoA Metabolism and Signaling to Endothelial Dysfunction"

12/12/12 - **Md. Mamunur Rashid** - "The Upregulation of Membrane-Bound Endopeptidase Neurolysin (EC 3.4.24.16) in Mouse Stroke Model" ■

∞ **Mohammad R Islam** and Thomas J Abbruscato. "Neuroprotective Function of Biphalin and a Pegylated Analog Against Ischemia Induced Neurotoxicity"



NEW ORLEANS
OCTOBER 13-17, 2012



∞ **Parul Gupta** and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Curcubitacin B exhibits cytotoxic effects by inhibiting Integrin-HER2 signaling in breast cancer cells"

∞ **Alejandra Fernandez**, Sarah Willis, Karin Borges, and James Stoll. "Effects of chronic metformin treatment and a 35% triheptanoin diet on seizure threshold of pilocarpine-induced epileptic mice"

AMERICAN
EPILEPSY
SOCIETY 2012

66th Annual Meeting
4th Biennial North American Epilepsy Congress
SAN DIEGO, CA
San Diego Convention Center
Friday, November 30 - Tuesday, December 4
Exhibits: December 1-3, 2012

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2012 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition

October 14-18, 2012
McCormick Place, Chicago

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- ∞ **Shahriar Absar** and Fakhru Ahsan. “Enzyme cleavable delivery system for tissue plasminogen activator for site-specific clot busting”
- ∞ **C. E. Adkins**, Q. R. Smith, P. R. Lockman. “Permeability Characteristics of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Brain Metastases Over Time”
- ∞ **Rajiv Balyan**, Helen R. Thorsheim, Ramakrishna Samala, Paul R. Lockman, Quentin R. Smith. “Brain distribution of capecitabine and its metabolites after oral administration in mice”
- ∞ **Nilesh Gupta**, Fakhru Ahsan. “Nanoerythroosomal Fasudil Exhibits Selective Cytotoxicity toward Cancer Cells”
- ∞ **Mohammad K. Miah**, Imam H. Shaik, Reza Mehvar. “Effects of warm hepatic ischemia-reperfusion injury on the pharmacokinetics of rhodamine-123 in rats”
- ∞ **Kamrun Nahar**, Fakhru Ahsan. “Magnetic Liposomes Enhance Cellular Uptake and Extend Circulation Life of Fasudil, a Rho Kinase Inhibitor”
- ∞ **Brijesh Patel**, Fakhru Ahsan. “PEG-PLGA Based Large Porous Particles for Pulmonary Delivery of a Highly Soluble Drug, Low Molecular Weight Heparin”
- ∞ **Brijesh Patel**, Fakhru Ahsan. “Pulmonary Delivery of Montelukast: In Vitro, In Vivo and Ex Vivo Evaluation”
- ∞ **Hussaini Syed Sha Qhattal**, Tanvirul Hye, Xinli Liu. “Self-Emulsifying Nanoemulsions Target Glioblastoma Tumors and Enhance Brain Delivery”
- ∞ **Hussaini Syed Sha Qhattal**, Tanvirul Hye, Xinli Liu. “Pharmacokinetics and Biodistribution of Hyaluronan grafted Liposomes”



At table R. Sumbria, S. Absar, K. Nahar



R. Mittapalli, N. Nejtarian

2012 ANNUAL AAPS ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECEPTION
October 15th - 5:30-7:00 pm
Water Tower Parlor,
Palmer House, Chicago



Dr. Smith, C. Thomas, I. Shaik



F. Ahsan, VC Pillai and wife Janani



K. Nahar, C. Thomas, K. Miah, RK Samala,

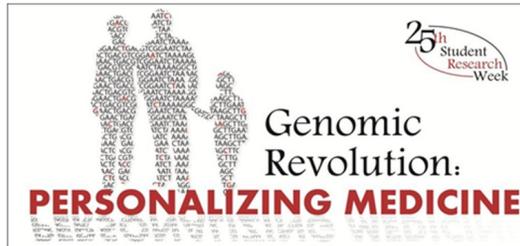


S. Nazzal, F. Ahsan, J. Lockman, P. Lockman, D. Allen, Q. Smith



P & L Lockman, D. Allen, Q. Smith, X. Liu, H. SS Qhattal

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March 4-6, 2013
Lubbock, Texas

[For more information, click here](#)

Each year, Student Research Week (SRW) gives the opportunity for students across TTU, TTUHSC, and regional universities to showcase research in the clinical and biological sciences. The theme for the 2013 SRW will be **Genomic Revolution: Personalizing Medicine**, and will emphasize the topic of **Pharmacogenomics**, which is the use of patient genetic inheritance to dictate treatment designed to maximize effectiveness and minimize side-effects. This event will highlight this rapidly advancing field of medicine which will undoubtedly reshape the future of all medical professions. SRW is proud to host the following two distinguished keynote speakers who will present their own research and expertise in this revolutionary field of medical research: **Dan M. Roden, M.D.**, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Personalized Medicine, Professor of Medicine & Pharmacology, William Stokes Chair in Experimental Therapeutics, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; and **Richard M. Weinsilboum, M.D.**, Professor of Medicine & Pharmacology, Chair, Department of Pharmacology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. ■

UPCOMING CONFERENCES



**Eleventh Annual
School of Pharmacy
Research Days
TTUHSC Amarillo
June 5 - 7, 2013**
Watch your email
for further
information from
Office of Sciences.

The 10-week 2012 Amarillo Biomedical Research Internship Program will begin the end of May and run through the beginning of August. Applications will be accepted until Friday, **March 15, 2012**. Interested undergrad students are encouraged to apply [online](#), in person to the Graduate Program Office or by email to teresa.carlisle@ttuhsc.edu. ■



**A Texas Panhandle sky
Contributed by Chris Adkins**

If you have a picture that you
have taken, please send it to us!



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New information is in red.

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(Continued on page 8)

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*For more detailed information on an alumni
OR for any changes/ additions, please contact
the Graduate Program Office. ■

GSAA BULLETIN BOARD

GPSS students participated in:

- *Back to School Event
- *Clothing Drive for Salvation Army
- *AHA Heart Walk
- *Canyon Junior High Science Fair Judging

Planned Community Events:

- *2013 Highland Park ISD Science Fair
Judging - March 4-8th

Upcoming Fun Stuff

- *International Night & Talent Show -
March 8th
- *Taos Ski Trip - TBD



Born to **Tori Cowan Terrell** on 9/29/12 -
Roxie May
8 lb 14.5



Born to **Shuangling Zhang** on
1/18/13 -
Yongbin Kevin
6 lb 11 oz.



Vivek Gupta ('11) to Sushama
November 30, 2012
Meerut, India

Parul Gupta to Nilesh Gupta
December 6, 2012
Jhansi, V.P., India

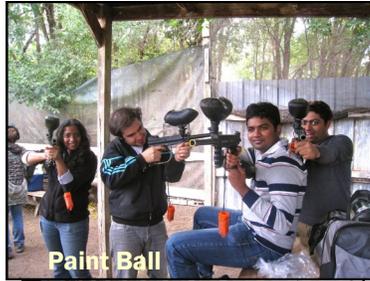
Manoj Banjara to Prabina
December 14, 2012
Nepal

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Clothes Drive



Paint Ball



Halloween



Bowling Party



Diwali

