UPDATE FROM DR. ABBRUSCATO

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. Fakhrul 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!

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.

GPPS OFFICE - Suite 217 - 806-356-4015; Fax 356-4021

Dr. Fakhrul 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.


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.

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

“If something is exceptionally well done, it has embedded in its 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 Lapanitib-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 Against Ischemia Induced Neurotoxicity”
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 Abborscato. “Neuroprotective Function of Biphalin and a Pegylated Analog Against Ischemia Induced Neurotoxicity”

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”
Shahriar Absar and Fakhrul 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 capcitabine and its metabolites after oral administration in mice”

Nilesh Gupta, Fakhrul Ahsan. “Nanoerythrosomal 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, Fakhrul Ahsan. “Magnetic Liposomes Enhance Cellular Uptake and Extend Circulation Life of Fasudil, a Rho Kinase Inhibitor”

Brijesh Patel, Fakhrul Ahsan. “PEG-PLGA Based Large Porous Particles for Pulmonary Delivery of a Highly Soluble Drug, Low Molecular Weight Heparin”


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

Dr. Smith, C. Thomas, I. Shaik

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

F. Ahsan, VC Pillai and wife Janani

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

R. Mittapalli, N. Nejartian

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

K. Nahar, C. Thomas, K. Miah, RK Samala,
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. Weinshilboum, M.D., Professor of Medicine & Pharmacology, Chair, Department of Pharmacology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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!
2001
Vikas Agrawal, Ph.D.
CIMA LABS INC
Brooklyn, MN
vikas.agrawal@cimalabs.com
Sivakumar Vaithiyalingam, Ph.D.
NEED INFORMATION

2002
Sami Nazzal, Ph.D.
Gratis Assistant Professor
Dept of Pharmacology, Toxicology & Neuroscience, LA State University, Shreveport
Also College of Pharmacy
The University of Louisiana at Monroe
nazzal@ulm.edu

2003
Paul Lockman, Ph.D.
TTUHSC
Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo, TX
paul.lockman@ttuhsc.edu

2004
Anitha Palamakula, Ph.D., R.Ph
CDER/FDA
Rockville, MD
anitha_100@yahoo.com
Rakhi Shah, Ph.D.
FDA
Silver Springs, MD
rakhi.shah@fda.hhs.gov
Fatima Mustafa, MS, RPh
Rite Aid
State College, PA 16801
fkhan810@gmail.com
Mohammad Nutan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Rangel College of Pharmacy
Texas A&M HSC
Kingsville, Texas
mnutan@pharmacy.tamhsc.edu

2005
Anjaneya Chimalakonda, Ph.D.
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.
Pennington, NJ
anjaneya.chimalakonda@bms.com
Ragini Vuppugalla, Ph.D.
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Princeton, NJ
ragini.vuppugalla@bms.com
Alamdar Hussain, Ph.D.
Dept of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy
University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, OK
alamdar-hussain@ouhsu.edu
Haritha Mandula, Ph.D.
FDA

2006
Derwood, MD
haritha.mandula@gmail.com
Jagan Mohan Parepally, Ph.D.
FDA
Derwood, MD
jagan.parepally@fda.hhs.gov
Young Tag Ko, Ph.D.
Gwangju Institute of Science & Technology
Gwangju, South Korea
younghakko@gmail.com
Nusrat Motlekar, Ph.D.
FMA NEED INFORMATION
FDA
nusratm@gmail.com
Joachim Hartmann, Ph.D.
LST Lothmann Therapie Systeme AG
Andernach, Germany
joachim.hartmann@lstlothmann.de
Ceele Spidel, Ph.D.
Canyon, TX
spidel@uddenlink.net
Vaughan Wittman, Ph.D.
Director, Immunoassay Development
Sanofi Pasteur
VaxDesign Corporation
Orlando, FL
vaughan.wittman@sanofipasteur.com
Julie Gaasch Lockman, Ph.D.
Department of Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences
WTAMU, Canyon, TX
jlockman@wtamu.edu
Cornelia Kiewert, Ph.D
Stiftslinikum Mittelrhein gGmbH
Kloeben, Germany
connie.and.jo@web.de
Chaitanya Chimalakonda, M.S.
Univ of Arkansas, Dept of Pharmacology and Toxicology
Little Rock, AR
kchimalakonda@uams.edu
Jennifer Paulson, Ph.D., Pharm.D.
Target Pharmacy
Amarillo, Texas
paulson.jennifer@ymail.com
James Egbert, M.S.
Sequirt DNA Technology Services
Houston, TX
Jiukuan Hao, Ph.D.
Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Winkle College of Pharmacy
Cincinnati, OH
haojin@ucmail.uc.edu

2007
Shuhua Bai, Ph.D.
Dept of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy
Husson University
Bangor, ME
bai@husson.edu
Fancy Thomas, Ph.D.
President Life Sciences
New Delhi, India
fancyvenc@gmail.com
Sharanya Venumala, Ph.D.
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Cambridge, MA
sharanyavenumala@gmail.com
Katie Bennett, Ph.D.
TTUHSC, Clinical Laboratory
Sciences Program
Molecular Pathology Program
Lubbock, TX
katie.bennett@ttuhsc.edu
 Chandan Thomas, Ph.D.
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and School of Pharmacy
Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Bradenton, FL
cmthomas@lecom.edu
Nikhil Vad, Ph.D.
Department of Cell Biology & Biochemistry
TTUHSC School of Medicine
Lubbock, TX
nikhil.vad@ttuhsc.edu
Lloyd Alfonso, Ph.D.
DVC School of Pharmacy
Buffalo, NY 14201
alfonsol@dyce.edu
Cornelia Kiewert, Ph.D.
Stiftslinikum Mittelrhein gGmbH
Kloeben, Germany
connie.and.jo@web.de

2008
Erika Wisdom, M.S.
Savannah River Site, DOE
Aiken, South Carolina
erikawisdom@yahoo.com
Hollis Guin, Ph.D.
Anschutz Medical Campus
University of Colorado
Aurora, CO
sunny.guin@gmail.com
Vamshi Manda, Ph.D.
St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital
Memphis, TN
vamshivemanda@gmail.com
Ridhi Paramparmpura, Ph.D.
The State University of New York

2009
Kaci Bohn, Ph.D.
Harding University
Searcy, AR
kbohn@harding.edu
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Co
Buffalo, NY
ridhipm@gmail.com
Sarah Willis, M.S.
PharmD Student
TTUHSC School of Pharmacy
Amarillo, TX
sarah.seth@ttuhsc.edu
Vivek Gupta, Ph.D.
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA
vkg4280@gmail.com
Rajendar Mitapalli, Ph.D.
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
rajendar@umn.edu

2010
Anushe Satelli, Ph.D.
MD Anderson Cancer Institute
Houston, TX
arun.satelli@gmail.com
Sathyarayana Goda, Ph.D.
Dept of Pharmaceutics & Medicinal Chemistry
University of the Pacific
Stockton, CA
sgoda@pacific.edu

2011
Vinay Rudraraju, Ph.D.
Safety Scientist
Daichi Sankyo
Edison, NJ
virun@gmail.com
Arun Satelli, Ph.D.
MD Anderson Cancer Institute
Houston, TX
arun.satelli@gmail.com

2012
Joachim Hartmann, Ph.D.
LST Lothmann Therapie Systeme AG
Andernach, Germany

(Continued on page 8)
ALUMNI DIRECTORY
Continued

Prabodh Kandala, Ph.D.
Formulation Intern
Ricon Pharma LLC
Denville, NJ
732-789-7699
prabodh.kandala@gmail.com

Siva Koganti, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Dept of Internal Medicine,
Cardiovascular Medicine
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA
sivarkoganti@yahoo.com

Shashi Kudugunti, Ph.D.
Research Associate
Repligen Corporation
Waltham, MA
skudugunti@repligen.com

Snehal Padhye, Ph.D.
Formulation Scientist
Biovolutions Inc
Woburn, MA
snehal.padhye@gmail.com

Ramakrishna Samala, Ph.D.
Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences
TTUHSC, Amarillo, TX
ramakrishna.samala@ttuhsc.edu

Russell Snyder, Ph.D.
Dept of Biomedical Sciences
TTUHSC, Amarillo, TX
russell.snyder@ttuhsc.edu

Bhavna Verma, Ph.D.
USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center
Los Angeles, CA
ursbhavna@gmail.com

Yan Xu, Ph.D.
Bristol-Myers-Squibb
New Brunswick, NJ
yamxu@gmail.com

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

GSAA BULLETIN BOARD

GPPS 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

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

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.

12 Days of Christmas

Vivek Gupta (’11) to Sushama
November 30, 2012
Meerut, India
Clothes Drive
Paint Ball
Halloween
Bowling Party
Diwali