UPDATE FROM DR. ABBRUSCATO

The Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences continues to be active in all segments of research. In Fall 2009, GPPS graduate students participated in a total of 24 presentations at national meetings including the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago, American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Los Angeles, American Epilepsy Society in Boston and the American Association for Cancer Research in San Antonio. Additionally in fall of 2009, GPPS students authored a total of 11 peer reviewed publications. We are fortunate that the faculty and graduate students work so hard for the research mission of the School of Pharmacy and continue to publish and present their research findings. I urge faculty and lab staff to attend our Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences Seminar Program, which occurs every Wednesday at 4:00 PM in SOP 208 (new room). This is a great opportunity to see the latest research of graduate students. Please consider attending the Student Research Week 2010 “Demystifying the Brain: Aging and Addiction” March 2-5th. This year’s keynote address will be given by Dr. Henry Lester from California Institute of Technology. Also, March 9-10th will be the 13th Annual Wendy and Stanley Marsh 3rd Endowed Lectureship which will sponsor Dr. Peter Kalivas to present his work on “The Glutamate Homeostasis of Addiction”. These are great opportunities to see and interact with some leading scientists here in West Texas.

WINNER OF YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD

Prabodh Kandala, Graduate Student/Research Assistant, was awarded the “Professional A. R. Rao Memorial Young Researcher Award” at the “International Symposium on Cancer Chemoprevention and Translational Research” held at School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India on December 21st, 2009. His presentation was entitled “Chemotherapeutic Effects of Diindolylmethane against Ovarian Cancer”. He works in the lab of Dr. Sanjay Srivastava. Congratulations, Prabodh!

2009 CH Foundation Scholarship Winners
1st Year Students:
Md. Shahriarul (Abir) Absar; Parul Gupta; Jun Liu; Pooja Naik; Ameya Paranjpe; Shuangling Zhang.
2nd - 5th Year Students:
Md. Mamunur (Moon) Rashid; Kaushik Shah; Venki Chithambaram Pillai

GSBS Course Evaluation Scholarship Winner
Venki Chithambaram Pillai; Ameya Paranjpe

Best Poster Award - Epilepsy Society Australia 24th Annual Scientific Meeting - Perth, Australia
Sarah Seth Willis

GSBS OFFICE - 806-356-4015; Fax 356-4021
Dr. Tom Abbruscato, Associate Dean for GSBS,
Graduate Program Advisor, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences
Teresa Carlisle, Graduate Program Coordinator
Shari Morris, Graduate Student Advisor
Agonist is published every fall and spring semester by the Graduate Program of Pharmaceutical Sciences (GPPS). For updates and new information, email Shari at shari.morris@ttuhsc.edu.
FALL 2009
PH.D. GRADUATE
Imam Shaik
Lab of Dr. Reza Mehvar
Dissertation Presented
August 31, 2009
Role of Cytochrome P450 in Hepatic Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury in Rats

Professional Information:
Postdoctoral Fellow
TTUHSC School of Pharmacy
1300 Coulter
Amarillo, Texas 79106
imam.shaik@ttuhsc.edu

PRESENTATIONS
39th Annual Meeting
Society for Neuroscience
Chicago, Illinois
October 17-21, 2009
M. M. Rashid, T. V. Arumugam, V. T. Karamyan.
Preliminary characterization of the novel, non-AT1, non-AT2 angiotensin binding site in mouse primary cortical neurons.


Epilepsy Society Australia
24th Annual Scientific Meeting
Perth, Australia
November 2-4, 2009

American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Los Angeles, California
November 8-12, 2009


V. Manda, R. Mittapalli, C. Adkins, P. R. Lockman. Nicotine increases the brain endothelial cell permeability of saquinavir leading to blood brain barrier disruption.

Mittapalli RK, Bohn KA, Taskar KS, Rudraraju V, Adkins CE, Palmieri D, Steeg PS, Smith QR, Lockman PR. Tumor vascular permeability in breast cancer metastasis to brain tumor models.

Mittapalli RK, Manda VK, Hussaini SSQ, Bohn KA, Liu X, Lockman PR. Relative Expression of CD44 and CD133 in breast cancer cell lines.


Imam Shaik and Reza Mehvar. Role of Cytochrome P450 in Hepatic Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury: Effects of P450 Induction by Phenobarbital.

Rachita K. Sumbria, Peter M. Bungay and Ulrich Bickel. Microdialysis as a tool to study the dynamics of blood-brain barrier opening. (Continued on Page 3)
Spring 2010, Issue 5

(AAPS continued from page 2)


Yan Xu, Jon Weidanz and Ulrich Bickel. In vivo model for vascular targeting to peptide-HLA complexes.

L. Yang, K. K. Shah, T. J. Abbruscato. Dimeric Mu and Delta Opioid Receptor Agonist, Biphalin, Reduces Brain Edema and Infarct Size in a Model of Focal Brain Ischemia.

63rd Annual Meeting American Epilepsy Society Boston, Massachusetts December 4-8, 2009


Cancer Therapy & Research Center - American Association for Cancer Research San Antonio, Texas December 9-13, 2009

Verma B, Weidanz J. TCR mimic monoclonal antibody generated from a directly discovered epitope of p68 RNA helicase dramatically debulks large established tumors through recognition of a specific HLA/peptide complex.

GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS


RON Receptor Tyrosine Kinase as a Target for Delivery of Chemotherapeutic Agents by Antibody Directed Pathway for Cancer Cell Cytotoxicity. Sunny Guin, Hang-Ping Yao and Ming-Hai Wang. Mol Pharm. 2009 Dec 29. [Epub ahead of print]


TTUHSC AAPS Student Chapter Featured in NOVEMBER AAPS Student/Postdoc Focus

Read all about it right here: AAPS Student News. There will be an update of this article in the AAPS News Magazine in the March 2010 issue.
WHAT’S NEW?

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
ACADEMIC CENTER
By November 2009, the move from the School of Pharmacy building to the new “PAC” was well underway. Departments that moved into the PAC included Student Services, Professional Affairs and CTLT. Currently the two classrooms with 120 seating capacity are being used for testing but will be fully operational by Fall 2010.

2009 ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECEPTION
AAPS Texas Tech Student Chapter, Office of Sciences and the School of Pharmacy hosted the "Texas Tech School of Pharmacy Alumni and Friends Reception" at the AAPS Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA. It was held in the La Brea Room at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel on Monday, November 9th. Current faculty and graduate students who attended the conference joined with alumni in having a good time catching up on life events and research.
The Amarillo Regional Dean's Office has announced that the 13th Annual Wendy & Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship will be held March 9-10, 2010. Dr. Peter Kalivas, Professor in the Department of Neurosciences at the Medical University of South Carolina will be delivering the endowed lectureship on March 9th at 4pm. titled “The Glutamate Homeostasis Hypothesis of Addiction.” On March 10th at 12:00pm, Dr. Kalivas will present the Grand Round titled “Using Neuroplasticity to Treat Addiction.”

This endowment is funded by the Marshes in an effort to give the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy national recognition in the pharmacologic area of substance abuse and the neurochemistry that precipitates this addictive behavior. For more information email Logan Larue or contact the Office of the Regional Dean at 806-356-4000 x 326.

Amarillo Biomedical Research Internships
Preparations are underway for the ABRI 2010 summer internship program. Faculty members interested in advising summer interns may contact the Graduate Program Office. Application deadline is March 23, 2010.

2010 Research Days
The Amarillo TTUHSC-SOP Campus will host the 2010 Research Days, which will be held June 15-16, 2010. Students, faculty and residents from each TTUHSC-SOP campus will join together to present research activities from the pharmacy school and the departments of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences. More details will be forthcoming.

American Association for Cancer Research 101st Annual Meeting 2010
Washington, DC April 17-21, 2010

Experimental Biology 2010
Anaheim, CA — April 24-28, 2010

37th Annual Meeting & Exposition of the Controlled Release Society.
Portland, OR July 10-14, 2010

The Graduate Program Offices have moved to SOP Suite 217.
806-356-4015/Fax 356-4021 Teresa Carlisle - x287 Shari Morris - x227
Dr. Abbruscato - Room 214 x320

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - SOP Suite 400; 806-356-4015
Unit Supervisor - Cinnamon Copeland, x245. Coordinator - Rachel Barron, x247

Department of Biomedical Sciences - SOP Suite 309; 806-356-4015
Unit Supervisor - Marty Stephens, x241. Coordinator - Janie Rogers, x271

Office of Regional Dean - SOP Room 112L; 806-356-4000
Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara, x341. Administrator - Logan Larue, x326

Office of Sciences - ARB 2103; 806-356-4750
Senior Associate Dean for Sciences - Dr. Quentin Smith, x250.
Unit Supervisor - Lynn Finkenbinder, x251
Naomi Wangler and Sarah Willis represented TTUHSC at the WiSE conference that took place November 14th at Amarillo Area Center for Advanced Learning (AACAL). Girls in the 6th-8th grades were taught about purifying DNA from strawberries, crushing candy pills with a mortar and pestle, and compounding lip balm and lozenges. ■

September 19th
Thompson Park

September 26th
Downtown Amarillo
Shari Morris, Student Advisor (center) with friends walking with Princess Warriors Team (support group for gynecological cancer)

October 17th
Medi-Park
Raised $2000

American Heart Association
Learn and Live
GSAA EVENTS COMING UP

General Body Meetings
Room 336, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
2/11/10; 3/11/10; 4/8/10

Fun Stuff:
2/20/10 - Indoor rock climbing
3/19-21/10 - Ski trip
4/24/10 - March of Dimes Walk
5/15/10 - Paintball
6/5/10 - Tascosa Drive In Theater

TTUHSC Amarillo has now a competitive men’s indoor soccer team. GSAA is proud to have 4th year graduate students Vamshi Manda and Vinay Rudraraju represent our graduate school. We wish them all our good luck in future and hope this will influence many more graduate students to follow their path.

GSAA partners with Kappa Psi for T-shirt fundraiser.

GSAA made a profit of $1200! Way to go!

Alumni Updates

Paul Lockman, Ph.D.
1406 Coulter, Room 1106
Amarillo, TX 79106
806-356-4750 x 227
Graduated Summer 2003

Shuhua Bai, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Basic Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy
Husson University
One College Circle
Bangor, ME 04401-2999
bais@husson.edu
Graduated Fall 2008

Sharanya Vemula, Ph.D.
Scientist 1
Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
130 Waverly St.
Cambridge, MA 02139
sharanyavemula@gmail.com
Graduated Fall 2008

Fancy Thomas
A-139, Vivek Vihar, Phase 2
First Floor, Delhi 95
India
thomasfancy@gmail.com
Graduated Fall 2008

GSAA partners with Kappa Psi for T-shirt fundraiser.

GSAA made a profit of $1200! Way to go!

Married Fall 2009:
Sunny Guin & Indrani Nayak
Fancy Thomas & Manu Purushotam