Researchers garner CPRIT funding

In November, TTUHSC cancer researchers received nearly $6 million in combined funding from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and more than $4 million of the total went to four SOP investigators.

SOP awardees include Dr. Richard Leff, SOP regional dean and professor for the Department of Pharmacy Practice in Dallas/Fort Worth ($2.5 million); Dr. Magdalena Karbowniczek, associate professor for the Department of Biomedical Sciences in Abilene ($756,644); Dr. Quentin Smith, professor and senior associate dean for sciences in Amarillo ($736,685); and Dr. Ulrich Bickel, professor for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Amarillo ($199,967).

TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., said the new funds demonstrate the institution’s competitive research.

“Competition is fierce for CPRIT funding,” Mitchell said. “Our faculty members have demonstrated their research programs can compete effectively at the state and national levels. We congratulate them for their dedication to the type of research that seeks answers for combating this disease.”

In this latest grant cycle, CPRIT apportioned roughly $100 million in funding to projects headed by Texas cancer researchers. The institute has now awarded more than $550 million in funding throughout the state for cancer research, prevention and commercialization projects during the last two years.

“In the two short years that we have been investing in cancer research, drug development and prevention efforts in Texas, we continue to be impressed by the quality of the work being done around the state,” said Jimmy Mansour, founding chairman of the institute’s governing board. “The fact that this research is being done right here in our own state is a testament to the people of Texas who made a commitment to support the fight against this deadly disease.”

Jodey Arrington, Texas Tech vice chancellor for research, commercialization and federal relations, said that competition for these awards remains a top strategic priority for the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) and the Office of Research and Commercialization assists its universities in pursuing these external funding opportunities.

“Our faculty did a great job and we can do even better as we leverage our competitive advantage of being the only public institution in Texas with a health sciences and general academic university on the same campus,” Arrington said.

TTUS Chancellor Kent Hance praised the efforts that have more than doubled the amount of state cancer research funding received by the school during the last year.

“The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas does an outstanding job furthering the battle against cancer, and we are very grateful for their continued support of our universities through these research grants,” Hance said.
From the Dean’s Desk

Colwell recognized for ability to lead, inspire

As the latest recipient of the Dean’s Student Leadership Award, Amarillo P4 Kristy Colwell has been described as someone with a natural ability to inspire others and an intuitive heart that knows when to offer encouragement. Colwell said she tries to do for others the things her family has always done for her. “My mother is the voice of encouragement and support in my life,” Colwell said. “No matter what I want to do, she is there telling me I can do it. And my sister, Tery, is my source of inspiration. She teaches me to follow my dreams regardless of the obstacles.”

Colwell serves as secretary for the Class of 2012 and she has been a class officer since arriving at the SOP. She has been an eager volunteer for extracurricular projects and activities since her P1 year and has served as an officer or chairperson for several student organizations, including the Academy of Student Pharmacists, the National Community Pharmacists Association, the Rho Chi Honor Society and the TTUHSC-SOP Student Senate. She also served on the Steering Committee and the Curriculum Subcommittee for the SOP’s Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Self-Study from March 2010 to August 2011.

Colwell said she enjoys the opportunities these positions have afforded her to positively influence and shape the TTUHSC pharmacy program now and into the future. “A saying comes to mind: ‘If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem.’ Although this might be a touch dramatic, I believe getting involved and making a contribution, no matter how large or small, does make a difference,” Colwell said. “What better opportunity do students have to improve upon and influence the direction of their school and profession?”

Still, Colwell understands that some of her classmates have other obligations and priorities that dictate their time outside the classroom. Volunteering, Colwell said, is one way she can help represent those students and their concerns. “Not every student gets involved, but every student has a voice and an opinion and I truly enjoy being an advocate for those students,” Colwell said.

Colwell said the Dean’s Student Leadership has validated her belief that the contributions students make to the SOP do matter and are appreciated by faculty and staff. “I know there are many other students deserving of this recognition, so I am truly honored and humbled to have been selected for my contributions,” Colwell said. “I would like to thank Drs. (Karen) Mark and (Reza) Mehvar for nominating me and Dean Nelson for appointing me to the ACPE Self-Study. The experience of being on that committee itself was extremely rewarding.”

ON TARGET... Celebrating Continuous Quality Improvement at the SOP

Each year the SOP dedicates a Saturday to student outcomes assessment. On that day, all Pharm.D. students complete a multidomain examination and participate in Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs). The next annual assessment is slated for Jan. 21 at all four SOP campuses.

In past years, the examination component of the annual outcomes assessment, as well as the OSCEs, was developed and administered by the SOP faculty. However, this year will mark a major change in the development and execution of the examination portion.

For the first time the SOP will contract with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to provide and administer the examination. The OSCE portion of the annual assessment will continue to be developed and administered by SOP faculty.

The new examination, titled Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA), is a standardized exam developed by NABP. It will be administered at 27 universities to more than 4,400 students.

The two major advantages of using the PCOA are:

- It will assist us in determining if students are learning what we teach and if we are teaching the correct things; and
- It will allow us to directly compare SOP student learning outcomes to those of students at other institutions.

For more information about the PCOA visit: http://www.nabp.net/programs/assessment/pcoa/
The Office of Experiential Programs has announced the honorees for faculty and adjunct faculty Preceptors of the Year for 2010-2011, as selected by the SOP’s P3 and P4 students.

Faculty Preceptors of the Year, all from the SOP Department of Pharmacy Practice, include: David Simmons, R.Ph. (Amarillo); Dr. Carol Fox (Abilene); Dr. Krystal Edwards (Dallas/Fort Worth); and Dr. Brian Irons (Lubbock).

Adjunct Faculty Preceptors of the Year include Randy Wright, R.Ph., Claude Pharmacy (Amarillo); Bill Carroll, R.Ph., Walmart (Abilene); Randy Ball, R.Ph., Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth (Dallas/Fort Worth); and Thomas Hesse, R.Ph., Nelson Pharmacy, Brownfield (Lubbock).

Five Amarillo SOP students recently displayed their passion for science and pharmacy at the Women in Science Endeavors (WISE) Symposium, an annual Amarillo Independent School District event designed to introduce middle-school age girls to career opportunities in various science-related fields.

The SOP was represented by two groups: P1 Mandy Whiteside teamed with graduate students Alejandra Fernandez and Naomi Wangler to present some of the scientific aspects of the profession and P2s Sarah Willis and Kaytlin Huseman introduced the students to pharmacy practice.

Whiteside, Wangler and Willis have been WISE participants since 2009. This was the second event for Fernandez and Huseman.

Whiteside said the WISE program is important because it sparks the girls’ interests in science at an early age and plays a key role in influencing their future endeavors into a science related field.

“I think it’s critical that these girls see women in the real world doing great things with math and science because it proves to them that they can do it too,” Whiteside said. “Seeing their eyes light up or the light bulb go on in their head when they understand or make the connection between something they have learned in class and the experiment we are performing is priceless.”

Wangler said the program teaches the girls that they can follow their passion for science and succeed.

“Young girls are so easily influenced by everything in pop culture,” Wangler said. “This is a chance to illuminate any doubt cast by social stigma or self-imposed limitation and really show these girls that intellectually demanding careers are achievable and rewarding. It is just as important for the more scientifically inclined women to impart our knowledge and enthusiasm for science.”

Fernandez enjoys interacting with the girls. She said hearing the girls describe what they want to do in the future is particularly rewarding.

“It’s important for them to realize that women can really make a difference in the sciences and that the pharmacy field comprises everything from making bubbles to making medicines,” Fernandez said.

Whiteside said she and her SOP colleagues work hard to explain the basic concepts of each experiment they perform so the girls will leave the event with a big-picture understanding that the influence of science is all around them.

“Naomi and Alejandra were awesome partners and we had a lot of fun working together,” Whiteside said. “Even when one of our experiments did not go as originally planned, we were able to make a learning experience out it for the girls.”
SOP Preceptors of the Year 2010-2011

Abilene

Abilene Adjunct Preceptor of the Year Bill Carroll, R.Ph. and P3 Ryan George (left).

Abilene Faculty Preceptor of the Year Dr. Carol Fox and interim Regional Dean Dr. Jose Vega (left).

Lubbock

Lubbock Faculty Preceptor of the Year Dr. Brian Irons. (A photo of Lubbock Adjunct Faculty Preceptor of the Year Thomas Hesse, R.Ph. will be available in a future issue of the newsletter.)

Amarillo

Amarillo Adjunct Preceptor of the Year Randy Wright, R.Ph.

Amarillo Faculty Preceptor of the Year David Simmons, R.Ph. and Amarillo Regional Dean Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara (right)

Dallas/Fort Worth

Dallas/Fort Worth Faculty Preceptor of the Year Dr. Krystal Edwards

Dallas/Fort Worth Adjunct Preceptor of the Year Randy Ball, R.Ph.
SOP Professor Dr. Quentin Smith was one of 13 faculty members from the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) to receive a Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Teaching and Research Award at a Dec. 9 ceremony in Lubbock.

The awards are the highest recognition given by TTUS to faculty members at its member institutions. The 2011 awards were announced by TTUS Chancellor Kent Hance.

“We have outstanding faculty at each of our component institutions and these individuals represent the best in academic instruction and research,” Hance said. “Not only are their efforts benefiting students and colleagues, but their influence is also helping advance our reputation statewide and nationally.”

Smith received a Distinguished Research Award for his research in drug development and delivery to the central nervous system for the treatment of brain tumors, stroke and neurodegenerative disease.

Smith has been with the SOP since 1997. In 2007, he was named a University Distinguished Professor and in 2009, he was named the sixth recipient of the Grover E. Murray Professorship, the highest honor TTUHSC bestows upon its faculty members.

Lockman to be part of new TTU-TTUHSC research initiative

A new initiative between TTUHSC and Texas Tech University (TTU) recently selected two cancer-related proposals to receive funding.

One of the proposals includes Dr. Paul Lockman, an assistant professor for the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Amarillo.

Dr. Lockman teamed with Dr. Yehia Mechref, an associate professor in the TTU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Dr. Siva Vanapalli, an assistant professor in TTU’s Department of Chemical Engineering.

Their proposal, titled Defining the Chemical and Physical Signature of Breast Cancer Cells Crossing the Blood-Brain Barrier, received $50,000 as a result of the competitive internal funding competition. The initiative is meant to provide seed funding to aid researchers in securing external funding from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas. It is also intended to foster long-term collaboration and stronger relationships between TTU and TTUHSC researchers.

A committee comprised of faculty members from across both universities received and reviewed 14 proposals in a competition divided into two categories: clinically focused and basic science focused.

The basic science-focused proposal by Drs. Lockman, Mechref and Vanapalli will allow the researchers to define characteristics of breast cancer cells that are able to cross the blood-brain barrier and eventually develop into a brain metastasis or a secondary tumor in the brain that started from a breast cancer.

“One once a woman receives a diagnosis of brain metastases of breast cancer, she has only a 20 percent chance to survive one year,” Lockman said. “Unfortunately, traditional chemotherapeutics ultimately fail in treating brain metastases. Understanding how these cells leave the main tumor, go through the blood stream and eventually migrate into the brain may be the first step into developing new therapies that may prevent the formation of brain metastasis. If our team is successful I hope we may eradicate one of the major problems facing breast cancer patients.”
As he entered his final year at the SOP, Brett Noteware had a basic understanding of his career options as a pharmacist. Today, that understanding is much deeper due in large part to the CVS Caremark Pharmacy Leadership Rotation.

In November, Noteware became the first TTUHSC-SOP student to complete the rotation, which introduces students to the CVS Caremark business model. The company has employed that model to successfully combine CVS/pharmacy stores, mail order pharmacy service, specialty pharmacy and retail clinics under one umbrella and become the nation’s largest pharmacy health care provider.

“I didn’t know all this existed a month ago,” Noteware said. “I’m realizing this is a very versatile profession and there are quite a number of avenues to go into with a pharmacy degree.”

The seeds for the rotation were planted about a year ago in a discussion between SOP Dean Dr. Arthur Nelson and Texas Tech alumnus David Joyner (’86, BBA, Finance) about the SOP’s joint Pharm.D./M.B.A. program that seeks to meet the growing complexities in health care by balancing clinical expertise with strong business acumen.

Joyner, who is the executive vice president of sales and account services for CVS Caremark, recognized the synergy between the school’s goals and CVS Caremark’s values. He proposed a collaborative rotation in which SOP students work with CVS Caremark leaders in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Joyner shared his idea with Jeff Garbe, CVS Caremark’s director of sales operations, and Steven Reynolds, the company’s talent acquisition supervisor. Garbe and Reynolds then spent the next several months developing the six-week program.

“We purposefully built this leadership rotation to be a reflection of our integrated business model,” Garbe said. “As a result, Brett gained leadership perspective that he quite frankly couldn’t get anywhere else because of our unique capabilities.”

Joyner said the program reflects an aligned area of interest between industry and academia to develop the next generation of pharmacy leaders.

“We’re investing in the future of pharmacy through activities like this and we were very pleased to open our doors to Brett and support his learning experience,” Joyner said.

Noteware, who will receive his Pharm.D. in May, learned about the CVS rotation while earning his M.B.A. through the Pharm.D./M.B.A. program. He said he signed up because he thought it offered a unique opportunity to learn about managed care pharmacy and observe how pharmacy benefit managers help control costs while ensuring quality. He compared the experience to learning a new language and said the rotation enhanced his overall pharmacy education.

“First, I was able to meet many outstanding people and I know the relationships I developed will serve me well in the future,” Noteware said. “Secondly, the rotation allowed me to gain in-depth knowledge about an area of pharmacy I had very little knowledge of going in. All of the leaders at CVS Caremark were very generous with their time and extremely patient and helpful.”

Noteware said he isn’t sure yet if, or how, the rotation will ultimately influence his career goals. He intends to pursue a residency position and become a leader in the profession.

“I feel like I am now more aware of the many different and unique job opportunities that the managed care area of pharmacy has to offer,” Noteware said. “Managed care entities employ roughly 18,000 pharmacists nationwide; I wasn’t truly aware of this fact before the rotation.”

Noteware said the experience with the CVS rotation has also spurred his interest in starting an Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy student organization chapter at the SOP.

“I want to help other students learn about managed care, the tools used to ensure appropriate use of medications and the many job opportunities that it offers,” Noteware said. “If any SOP students reading this are interested, they can contact me directly or go to www.amcp.org/studentcenter.”
SOP faculty members receive travel awards

In November, Dr. James Stoll, assistant professor and associate dean for faculty enhancement, announced the latest round of faculty enhancement travel awards. The awards provide additional funds to SOP faculty so they may attend conferences and workshops to meet their faculty development needs.

There are two award periods for the faculty enhancement travel funds. The current awards represent applications from the Fall period; the deadline was Oct. 15. The deadline for Spring Travel Awards is Feb. 15 and will cover travel from March 1 – Aug. 31.

In addition to completing their classwork and exams, SOP students participated in several competitions during the fall semester.

In November, P3s Anastasia Diamantopoulos and Candis Massingill garnered top honors in the 2011 Texas Tech Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists Clinical Skills Competition. Their first-place finish earned them the right to represent the SOP in the National Clinical Skills Competition Dec. 3 at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting in New Orleans.

P4s Brett Noteware and Jessica Green took home second place and P3s Rebecca Koch and Jean-Marie Gibson finished in third place.

Other students competing included P1s Kelsey Van Gorkom and Saeed Alzghari; Katrina Trapp and Kelley McGinnis; Y-Nha Nguyen and Karen Lee; Brian Le and Ryan Schuller; Nidhu Baby and Jisha Jacob; Jordan Burdine and Telyssa Anderson; Victor Tzuang and Hugh Teng; Heidi Michaels and Cathy Zhu; and Kimberly Chapman and Victoria Loveland; P2s Elizabeth Neyland and Traci Pafford; and Natalie Luu and Elena Doan; P3s Kevin Aloysius and Meredith Sigler; Andrew Cobert and Rene Mani; Kinjal Patel and Barakha Yadav; Greg Smith and Ryan Collins; Edu Medua and Holly Arimo; Cortny Anderson and Joel Taylor; and Chiamaka Ike and Sheba Jacob; and P4s Loretta Rios and Samrawit Agonafer; Brien Gale and Ronald Chai; and James Palmer and Angela Leferl.

Drs. Krystal Edwards and Monica Mathys (Dallas/Fort Worth), Dr. Pamela Ochoa (Abilene) and Dr. Shawna King (Amarillo) judged the competition.

Also in November, P2 Rachel Seka earned first place in the 2011 American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Academy of Student Pharmacists Patient Counseling Competition.

For her efforts, Seka will receive complimentary registration to the 2012 APhA Annual Meeting March 9-12 in New Orleans where she will represent the SOP in the national patient counseling competition.

Each student who finished in the top 10 will receive a selection of book prizes from APhA. In addition to Seka, the top 10 includes P3s Rosa Hoang, Kevin Aloysius and Holly Arimo and P2s Pratima Rajput, Elizabeth Neyland, Ji Woo, Chris Hobart, Traci Pafford and Loretta Bienih.

Dr. Valerie Vuylsteke (Dallas/Fort Worth), Dr. Anitra Maclaughlin (Amarillo) and Joel Epps (Amarillo) served as judges for the competition and Pafford served as coordinator.

Other volunteers included Chad Benson; SOP resident Dr. Shanna James; P1s Ricardo Avina, Paul Le, Titus Rajan and Catlin Svboda-Takac; P2 Urvi Desai; P4s Josh Jacobs, Loretta Rios and Angela Wu; and Dallas/Fort Worth staff member Steven Riedisser.

In December, students in the Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy Course completed the first Battle of the Bugs competition. Students participated by answering questions in rigorous head-to-head team competitions throughout the semester.

Team Levaquin-it to Win-it won the competition with 28 points and a 4-0 record. Team members included P2s Trenton Brown, Penny Calais, Urvi Desai, Jonathan Head, Antony Legge, Myka McMeans, Huan Nguyen, Ugo Okoli, Michael Rayos, Taryn Satterwhite, Steven Tran and Sarah Woodward.

The runner-up team, Don’t Be So Gram Negative, finished one point behind.

### Fall 2011 Faculty Enhancement Travel Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traveler</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
<th>Purpose of Travel</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fakhruil Ahsan, Ph.D. (Pharmaceutical Sciences)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Research presentations at Annual meeting of American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krystal Edwards, Pharm.D. (Pharmacy Practice)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Attend American Society of Hospital Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Abbrouscato, Ph.D. (Pharmaceutical Sciences)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Research presentation at Diabetes Drug Discovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meri Hix, Pharm.D. (Pharmacy Practice)</td>
<td>$855.60</td>
<td>Chair Committee at American College of Clinical Pharmacy meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Pass, Pharm.D. (Pharmacy Practice)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Poster presentation at Society of Critical Care Medicine Annual Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Hall, Pharm.D. (Pharmacy Practice)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Attend Workshop on Population Modeling Methodology using Phoenix NLME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric MacLaughlin, Pharm.D. (Pharmacy Practice)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Invited Talks at American College of Clinical Pharmacy Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fall semester includes competition for students

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The runner-up team, Don’t Be So Gram Negative, finished one point behind.
From the Dean’s Desk

Faculty announce important change to SOP curriculum

At the December SOP faculty meeting, the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) curriculum was changed. Effective May 1, 2012 all fourth-year (P4) pharmacy students are required to complete a new Hospital or Health System core Advanced Profession Practice Experience (APPE) clerkship.

The old Selective Advanced Hospital or Advanced Community clerkship requirement was altered to require the P4 clerkship. The SOP now requires two Hospital/Health System rotations (P3 and P4) and two Community Pharmacy Practice rotations (P3 and P4).

Students may also take an elective rotation in either Hospital or Community Pharmacy Management during their fourth year.

Sandy De Los Santos was born in Santa Ana, California but she has spent most of her life in Amarillo. She has been married for 13 years to Isaac, her high school sweetheart, and their family includes two daughters and a son.

Sandy spends her free time supporting her children’s activities. She and Isaac travel to watch their oldest daughter participate in band and play fast-pitch softball and volleyball. They especially enjoy watching her play catcher for her fast-pitch team.

Sandy is also very involved in her youngest daughter’s day-to-day activities.

“She is autistic and a true blessing,” Sandy said. “She keeps our eyes open to the things in life we take for granted.”

Sandy supports her daughter by working as an advocate for people with disabilities and work through Helping Hands and Amarillo Area Autism in Action, a pair of nonprofit organizations that raise funds to help families of children with disabilities and provide a support group that assist these families.

“I am my daughter’s voice,” Sandy said.

Sandy and Isaac also enjoy watching their son as he learns from his older sisters.

“He is approaching the terrible-twos,” Sandy said with a laugh. “He has added a whole new life to our home and he’s a true gift from God.”

On those rare occasions when they have time, Sandy said she and Isaac enjoy traveling and spending time outdoors with their family.

“We like to camp, fish and go four-wheeling,” Sandy said. “And I love baseball; go Rangers! I don’t miss a game.”
From the Dean’s Desk

SOP Photo Gallery

Medco Pharmacy Practice Director Tom Viering (center right) recently presented the SOP with a $5,000 scholarship endowment check. Representing the SOP (from left): alumnus Calvin Nguyen ('00), Development Director Carrie Croley and alumnus Huy Ha ('07).

Volunteers were busy at the Medication Cleanout in October at the Texas Tech Physicians Medical Pavilion in Lubbock.

P2 Derrick Walker (right photo) conducts free cholesterol screening while P1 Kimberly Chapman (below) explains the risks of tobacco use at the Guyon Sanders Resource Center Fall Health Fair in Amarillo.

Ronica Farrar, educator for the Texas Panhandle Poison Center, discusses poison safety with a visitor to the November SHARE Community event in Amarillo.

P2 Shonda McCay conducts a blood pressure screening at the November SHARE Community event in Amarillo.

SOP students, faculty and staff from the Dallas/Fort Worth campus participated in the 2011 Alzheimer’s Memory Walk in November.

P2s Britt Valenta and Gautej Koradia, candidates for the SOP’s combined Pharm.D./M.B.A. degree, show off the $1,000 scholarship check they received for winning the Target Case Study Competition in the Leadership and Ethics class.

It was a ‘Guns Up’ day for Texas Panhandle Poison Center Coordinator Robbi Rivers and her husband at the October Medication Cleanout in Lubbock.

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