



From The Dean's Desk

July 2005 - Issue 33

Residency Program Holds Dinners, Workshop

The last few months have been a case of “back to the future” for our residency program. In June each of our campuses hosted a dinner to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of the 2004-2005 residents. Then in July, the Dallas-Fort Worth regional campus hosted a three-day Residency Workshop to promote teamwork between the 2005-2006 residents at each campus.

According to *Dr. Sara Brouse (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth)*, the workshop was “a great success and accomplished all of my intended goals, particularly for group bonding among the campuses.”

The workshop also gave our 22 residents an opportunity to choose chief residents for 2005-2006. *Patrick Gallegos*, a second-year pharmacotherapy resident in Amarillo, was selected for the main campus in Amarillo and the Lubbock regional campus. *Lizzie Soto*, a second-year internal medicine resident at Harris-Methodist was selected for the Dallas-Fort Worth regional campus.

Congratulations to Dr. Brouse and all those who helped put together these events for our residents. Once again we have a great group of residents and I know they will continue to make the program a source of pride for our school.



Dallas-Fort Worth residents for 2004-2005 Residents pose for a group picture at the DFW Resident Dinner.



SOP Residents for 2005-2006 take part in a ropes training course at the July Residency Workshop.



All 22 2005-2006 residents pictured in front of the SOP's DFW Regional Campus

White Coat Ceremony Kicks Off Boot Camp for Class of 2009

The 88 new faces who make up the incoming Class of 2009 began their four-year stint with us on July 31 when they took the Oath of a Pharmacist at the annual White Coat Ceremony.

Bruce Scott, a registered pharmacist and Chief Operating Officer for McKesson Medication Management, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony and he gave a very inspirational presentation.

For those who may not be familiar with the process, the White Coat Ceremony kicks off the SOP's two-week "boot camp" for first-year students. The boot camp is designed to provide new students with an overview of our pharmacy program.

As usual, the our faculty and staff did a great job organizing the event and welcoming these fine men and women to SOP family. I know we are all looking forward to the contributions the Class of 2009 will make to our school and to our profession in the years to come.



Bruce Scott, CEO for McKesson Medication Management, addresses the Class of 2009 at the July 31 White Coat Ceremony.

Members of the Class of 2009 recite the Oath of a Pharmacist as part of the White Coat Ceremony.



Dr. Cynthia Raehl and Dr. Eric MacLaughlin help Peter Palizo put on his white coat for the first time.

Two SOP Students Distinguish Themselves

Please join me in congratulating **Mary Klein (P3 - Lubbock)** and **Haritha Mandula (Neuroscience Graduate Student, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo)** for honors they recently received.



Mary Klein

Mary has been named the new statewide chair-elect for the Texas Pharmacy Association - Academy of Student Pharmacists (TPA-ASP). After two years as an ASP director Mary was elected to her new position in July at the TPA-ASP annual meeting in San Antonio. This means Mary will serve as ASP chair for the 2006-2007 school year and will be in charge of directors meetings. She will also be responsible for organizing the group's Texas Pharmacy Lobby Day and for getting students more involved with ASP.

Haritha has been named a recipient of a Society for Neuroscience (SfN) Chapters Graduate Student Award. She will receive a \$750 travel award and a complimentary registration to the SfN Annual Meeting.



Haritha Mandula

SfN is a nonprofit membership organization of basic scientists and physicians who study the brain and nervous system whose primary goal is to promote the exchange of information among researchers. SfN is also devoted to education about the latest advances in brain research and the need to make neuroscience research a funding priority.

SOP Loses Faculty Member

I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say we are going to miss *Dr. Carolyn Bouma (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo)*. Dr. Bouma has accepted a position with West Texas A&M University and is leaving TTUHSC – SOP August 5.

We appreciate the contributions Dr. Bouma made to our program while she was with us and we wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors.

A Welcome to Our New Employees

Christi Srader and *Chaitanya Chimalakonda* have joined the department of pharmaceutical sciences. Christi is a Technician III and Chaitanya is a graduate student/research assistant.

Please join me in welcoming Christi and Chaitanya to TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy.

GETTING TO KNOW...

U. S. Rao, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo



Dr. U.S. Rao

Dr. Rao was born and brought up on a farm in India. He earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry at the Indian Institute of Science, India, in 1987 under the guidance of late Dr. S. Krishna Murthy. Dr. Rao's thesis work was on the identification of enzymes that hydrolyze cellulose so as to convert sugars released from this agricultural waste into useful alternate energy resource such as ethanol. After graduation, he joined the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill as a postdoctoral fellow where he studied the proton-translocating ATPase, which is related to medically important gastric and Na⁺-pumps and MDR1-protein. This postdoctoral work and the CFTR gene, which was a recent discovery in 1992, have been major influences on him and have focused his research on related-proteins important in the cancer and cystic fibrosis diseases.

Since completing his postdoctoral training Dr. Rao has been working independently on two research projects—one related to the problem of salt reabsorption in the cystic fibrosis disease and the other related to why some cancers are not treatable (or become untreatable) with chemo. Dr. Rao joined the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1998 as an assistant professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and continued his investigations on these two research projects.

Recently, Dr. Rao's laboratory has identified two new proteins in cancers that are chemo-resistant. His laboratory is currently investigating the function of these proteins in relation to the chemoresistance. Dr. Rao's laboratory is also investigating how cancer cells in tumors detach and migrate to other parts of the body, a phenomenon that is known as metastasis. His research is supported by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense.

Dr. Rao is married to Prema, who is also a basic science researcher. They have two daughters: Aruna, is a Junior at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, majoring in Biomedical Engineering; Asha is a sophomore at Amarillo High. Aruna and Asha are both proficient in a South Indian classical dance form called Bharatha Natyam.

In his spare time, Dr. Rao tries to imitate Bob Ross (in painting), Bill Gates (in computer programming), Roger Swain (in gardening) and various Indian musicians.

Jill Polk, Pharm.D., BCPS
Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo



Dr. Jill Polk

Jill grew up in Levelland, Texas (Yes, she says, there is a song about Levelland) and did her undergraduate work at South Plains College, which is also in Levelland. She decided to pursue a career in pharmacy after working at Baggett Pharmacy during college. She obtained her Pharm.D. from the University of Texas College of Pharmacy in 2004 (Hook 'em Horns! she says). While at UT, Jill was very involved with APhA and Christian Pharmacists Fellowship International (CPFI).

After graduation, Jill remained in the central Texas area to complete an ambulatory care residency at Scott & White Clinics, where she specialized in anticoagulation and diabetes. She says a patient in Sun City even taught her how to swing a golf club! Family, a need for less traffic, and a great opportunity brought her to Amarillo.

Jill joined the TTUHSC – SOP department of pharmacy practice on August 1 and is starting community clinical services at Village Pharmacy (next door to the sinful bakery – Village Bakery). She is currently serving as the ASP faculty advisor and working on her Gun's Up hand sign. New members to her family include a teacup Yorkie named CoCo Chanel (10-weeks/13 oz.).

Jill enjoys going to church, spending time with family and friends, shopping, kickboxing (Tae Bo), watching reality TV, baking and drinking diet cherry limes from HUD's. She says she is looking forward to Amarillo winters and being able to wear coats and sweaters again.

Jerri Patterson
Administrative Assistant
Staff, Managed Healthcare Pharmacy Services – Amarillo



Jerri Patterson "clowning around" with her granddaughter Makenzie

Jerri is originally from Canadian where she was raised by her grandmother. She started her career as a pharmacy technician in 1987 at Northwest Texas Hospital. Since that time she has managed a hospital pharmacy in Van Horn, Texas, traveled for Hunter Pharmacy Services out of Austin and taught a pharmacy technician program in San Antonio before moving back to Amarillo to be with her four grandkids.

Jerri has four children of her own—three are grown and one is still at home. She thinks her four grandkids “are just adorable.”

Jerri says one of her favorite hobbies, which she shares with her granddaughter Makenzie, is dressing up like a clown and entertaining people.

“She and I like to ‘clown around.’ Our alter ego names are Puddin’ Pop and Jr. We enjoy going to nursing homes, parades and just around the neighborhood. We even got a first place trophy in Canadian at the Fourth of July parade in 2003.”