



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
School of Pharmacy™

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From the **DEAN'S**
DESK



February - March 2007

Renowned Addiction Researcher Visits SOP

Dr. Michael Kuhar, one of the most frequently cited scientists in the world today, was the featured speaker when the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy hosted the 10th annual Wendy and Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship in Pharmacology and Neurochemistry of Substance Abuse/Addiction March 27 at the main SOP campus in Amarillo.

Dr. Kuhar, who is a research professor and division of neuroscience chief for the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center at Emory University, also made a clinical presentation March 28 as part of the TTUHSC weekly Grand Rounds in Amarillo.

Dr. Kuhar received his Ph.D. in 1970 from The Johns Hopkins University. After spending two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Yale Univer-



Dr. Michael Kuhar addresses the crowd at the Wendy and Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship.

sity School of Medicine, he returned to Johns Hopkins as an assistant professor and was promoted to professor in 1981. Prior to accepting his present position at Emory University, Dr. Kuhar served as the neuroscience branch chief for the

Addiction Research Center at the National Institution on Drug Abuse.

Throughout his career, Dr. Kuhar has focused much of his major research on drug addiction. His general research areas of interest include brain structure and function, neuropsychiatric disease and drugs that affect the brain.

The Wendy and Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship in Pharmacology and Neurochemistry of Substance Abuse/Addiction is an annual event featuring speakers of the highest national and international reputation. The endowment is funded by the Marshes to give TTUHSC - SOP national recognition in the pharmacological area of substance abuse and the neurochemistry that precipitates this type of addictive behavior.

Dr. Michael Kuhar (left) discusses his research with SOP professors Dr. Quentin Smith (middle left), Dr. Karin Borges (middle right) and Dr. Thomas Abbruscato.



Dr. Michael Kuhar (left) tours the Texas Pharmacy Museum with SOP professor and TPM curator Dr. Paul Katz.

SOP Residents Invited to Present Research

Four residents from the TTUHSC – SOP satellite campus in Dallas/Fort Worth will travel to Arizona in May to present their research projects at the 2007 National Lipid Association Annual Scientific Sessions Meeting in Scottsdale.

The quartet includes Dr. Amy Bain, a first-year pharmacotherapy resident; Dr. Anita Rahman, a second-year internal medicine resident; and first-year pharmacy practice residents Dr. Susan Eaton and Dr. Sean Nguyen.

Drs. Bain and Rahman are completing their residencies at the VA North

Texas Health System. Drs. Eaton and Nguyen are completing their residencies at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas.

Dr. Anthony Busti (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Dallas/Fort Worth) is mentoring all four residents. He is also the senior investigator for each of the projects, which he says address clinical lipidology within a special population.

“The individual residents for each project submitted our work in the Young Investigators section and each project was accepted to be presented as posters,” Dr. Busti explained. “This was a

peer-reviewed process for abstract submission and, as a result of being accepted, they will receive free meeting registration, a \$300 travel stipend and a chance to compete with other residents and fellows in medicine for the Young Investigator Award that will be decided at the meeting.”

Dr. Busti said the meeting is “predominately a physician oriented meeting and our getting in is significant.” He said each of the four residents will also see their abstracts published in the May issue of the *Journal of Clinical Lipidology*.

WHRI Awards First Multi-Campus Research Grants

The TTUHSC Women's Health Research Institute of Amarillo recently awarded more than \$100,000 in grants in its first multi-campus collaborative effort.

Dr. Majid Moridani (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo) is principal investigator for one of the projects that received WHRI funding support. He will be working with co-principal investigator Dr. Randall Schiffer (Professor and Chair,

Dept. of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science, TTUHSC – SOM – Lubbock). Their project, “*Cytochrome P450 Expression and Genotypes in Women with Alzheimer's Disease*,” will receive \$20,000 from the WHRI.

During the past decade burgeoning research into the gender-specific aspects of medical diseases has indicated that certain diseases may present themselves differently in women and may therefore require special diagnostic and

treatment approaches.

With that in mind, several HSCs around the country have initiated research centers dedicated to women's health issues. WHRI of Amarillo is one such center.

Established in 2000, WHRI is a community-wide effort to improve women's health through research and education and has provided seed grants to a wide range of investigators since its inception. Although most of the grants are collaborative efforts between TTUHSC – SOM and TTUHSC - SOP, the Harrington Cancer Center, Amarillo VA Healthcare Systems, Amarillo College and West Texas A&M University have also provided faculty and student researchers.

Dr. Margaret Weis (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo) and Dr. Marjorie Jenkins (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Internal Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynecology, TTUHSC SOM – Amarillo) presently serve as co-directors for WHRI of Amarillo.

WTPA Scholarship Winners Announced

TTUHSC - SOP students recently received a total of \$15,000 in scholarship support from the West Texas Pharmacy Association.

P1 recipients of a \$1,000 WTPA Scholarship included Angela Bazaldúa, Brooke Britten and Amanda Ulibarri. P2 recipients included Nathan Buerkle, Claire Jencopale, Bonnie Morrison and Norma Solis.

Our third- and fourth-year recipients included P3 Robyn McGraw (Lubbock) and P4s Kamal Bhakta (Amarillo) and Carlos Garcia (Dallas/

Fort Worth).

In addition, P2 Vern Stairs was awarded the \$2,000 WTPA Lonnie Hollingsworth Scholarship; P1 Andrea Hayes received the \$1,000 WTPA Robert Stanley Scholarship; and Lubbock P4s Amanda Leach and Michelle Wickson were named co-recipients of the \$2,000 WTPA Roberta High Scholarship.

Congratulations to each of these students and a big “Thanks You” to WTPA for their support!

Students Organize Second Health Fair

A group of SOP students recently provided free screening and other health related services to the public at the Second Annual SOP Health Fair. The event was held in the student lounge and other first-floor locations at the main SOP campus in Amarillo.

The Health Fair provides the public an opportunity to receive free screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes and bone density from supervised pharmacy students. It also gives our students a chance to interact



P2 Natalie Patman gives a blood pressure check to Alexandra Dellis-Harcha of TTUHSC's Office of Communications and Marketing.

with patients and sharpen their clinical skills.

Results from the patient's blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes screening can also be used to perform a free heart disease risk calculation.

Our students also provided free information regarding nutrition and smoking cessation and showed patients how to keep a medication diary and how to prepare a "Vial of Life" for emergency situations.

A Vial of Life is a list of the patient's

medication stored in a pill bottle and placed in a readily accessible and safe location such as a refrigerator. Emergency responders, family members or friends can retrieve the list in the event of an emergency situation where the patient cannot communicate.

I want to personally applaud the efforts of all the students and faculty who helped provide screenings and information to the public at this event and to those who do so at other similar events that are held throughout the year.



P1s Steven Walker and Rebekah Ferguson prepare the Vial of Life booth at the Second Annual SOP Student Health Fair.



P2 Ryan Burke obtains a patient's blood sample at the Second Annual SOP Student Health Fair.

Introducing...

Amanda Chumney
Sr. Business Assistant
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Amarillo

Dr. Holly Hoffman-Roberts
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Dallas/Fort Worth

Nga Nguyen
Senior Technician
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Sarah Seth
Technician III
Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Dee Simmons
Residency Coordinator
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Dallas/Fort Worth

Kayla Talbott
Sr. Business Assistant
Dept. of Pharmacy Practice
Abilene

Please take a moment to welcome each of the following individuals to TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy.

Stairs, Mason Receive Scholarships

Congratulations go out to SOP students Vern Stairs (P2) and Rachel Mason (P4 – Amarillo) who were recently awarded scholarships.



Vern Stairs

Vern received the Marlin Ferguson Memorial Scholarship by the Lubbock Area Society of Health-System Pharma-

cists. He was selected because he met criteria for this scholarship, which include academic achievement, integrity, dependability, consideration of others, cooperation with fellow students and school administration and ties to Lubbock and the surrounding areas.

Rachel was named recipient of an American Pharmacists Association & Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. APhA 2007 Annual Meeting & Exposition Travel Scholarship. She received free registra-



Rachel Mason

tion and \$300 for expenses related to attending the group's annual meeting, which

was held March 16-19 in Atlanta. She received one of only twenty-five such scholarships that were awarded nationally to final year pharmacy students.

Getting to Know...

Robbi Rivers Unit Coordinator Texas Panhandle Poison Center - Amarillo

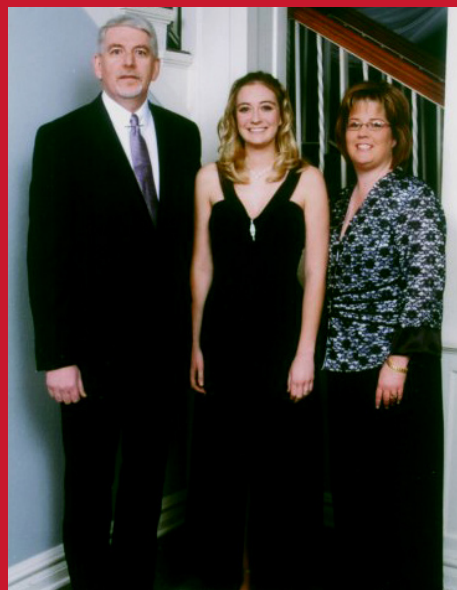
Robbi was born in Tulia, Texas but grew up in Amarillo. She is "the baby" of six kids (three boys, three girls) and says she is "very close" to her parents, Bob and Hazel McDaniel, who live in Amarillo.

Robbi graduated from Palo Duro High School and attended Amarillo College. Before coming to the Texas Panhandle Poison Center in November 2003, she spent 11 years working as a Computer Lab Manager for Windsor Elementary and Coronado Elementary in Amarillo. Her duties at TPPC include giving poison prevention education presentation tours to K-12 students and other TPPC visitors and "taking care of our fish and poisonous spiders."

Her niece, Kiesha Hanggee, works as a Senior Analyst in the TTUHSC - SOM Business Office.

Robbi and her husband, Mike, will celebrate their 25th anniversary in June. Mike is Parts Manager for All-

Star Dodge/Autoplex Imports. Their daughter, Berkley, is a sophomore at Texas Tech where she is studying vocal music education and is the Director of Rituals for Delta Gamma sorority. Robbi says her family also includes three pets: a Sheltie named Sassie and



Robbi Rivers (right) with husband, Mike, and daughter, Berkley.

two tabby cats named Tabitha (Tabby) and Twinkie.

Robbi is a member of the Palo Duro Alumni Association and serves as Chair of her class reunion committee. She is a former member of the Amarillo High School Band board and she and Mike served as President of the Amarillo High School Vocal Music Parents Association. She was awarded a Lifetime membership through the Texas PTA.

"I coached Kid's Inc and volunteered for the West Texas AAU Basketball Association," Robbi says. "At one time, I played flute in the Paramount Terrace Christian Church orchestra alongside my daughter."

Robbi says she and Mike are "huge" Texas Tech Red Raider fans. "We're season football ticket holders and also go to as many basketball games as we can." When she's not busy doing other things, Robbi says "you can find me scrapbooking."