



SOP Research Assistant Nabs ARCS Scholarship



Katie Bennett

Congratulations to *Katie Bennett (Research Assistant, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo)*, who has been named a recipient of the 2006-2007 Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Scholarship by the ARCS Foundation. The ARCS Foundation annually awards scholarships to academically outstanding United States citizens who are studying to complete their degrees in natural sciences, medicine and engineering.

This is the second straight year Katie has been awarded the \$5,000 ARCS scholarship. She is presently working as a research assistant for *Dr. James Stoll (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo)*.

SOP Professor Selected by NIH



Dr. Ron Hall

Kudos to *Dr. Ron Hall (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice - Dallas-Fort Worth)*, who was recently selected by the National Institutes of Health to be one of 14 clinical scholars working at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

The NIH clinical scholars program is administered by the Department of Clinical Sciences at UTSW Medical Center and is designed to help the NIH cultivate independent clinical researchers who are capable of becoming the next generation of leaders in patient-oriented research. The three-year program requires a 75 percent time commitment by the clinician, involves rigorous coursework and requires the scholar to serve as an apprentice to ongoing research projects while simultaneously conducting his/her own independent research project. Those who successfully complete the program will earn a Master's degree in clinical sciences.

Dr. Hall said the program “is an excellent opportunity for the School of Pharmacy and myself as I will have the opportunity to network and learn from some of the great clinical research minds in the nation. I am very excited about not only what I can gain from the Clinical Scholars program for my own research, but also how I will gain the skills to be able to help mentor my colleagues as they strive to become more active as clinical researchers and foster training of professional students as well as postgraduate residents and fellows.”

In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Hall presently has a clinical practice with the infectious diseases consult service at the Dallas VA Medical Center and serves as director for the Infectious Diseases Specialty Residency program, a collaboration between TTUHSC – SOP and the Dallas VAMC. His major research theme entering the NIH Clinical Scholars program is the interaction between obesity and infectious diseases.

NCPA Recognizes SOP Students



Mary Klein

The National Community Pharmacy Association Foundation recently handed out 15 Presidential Scholarships and two of those went to our own SOP students *Mary Klein (P4 – Lubbock)* and *Mindy Sexton (P4 – Lubbock)*. They were selected

based upon their leadership qualities and accomplishments, involvement in extracurricular activities and scholastic success.

Each will receive her scholarship check at an invitation-only awards luncheon, which will be held in October at the NCPA annual convention in Las Vegas. In addition to the scholarship, Mary and

Mindy will receive airfare, lodging in the host hotel, an allowance for food and complimentary registration for the meeting.

Both of these young ladies have been very involved with NCPA since our student chapter was formed in 2004. In fact, Mindy led the formation of our student chapter and was awarded the NCPA Foundation Outstanding Student member of the year in 2003-2004 and she will serve as NCPA's National Student President for the 2006-007 year.



Mindy Sexton

Texas Pharmacy Museum to Participate in Assessment Program

According to Dr. Paul Katz (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo) the Texas Pharmacy Museum was recently selected by the American Association of Museums and the Institute of Museum and Library Services to be one of 116 U.S. museums to participate in the Museum Assessment Program this year. As most of you know, Dr. Katz is the museum's curator.

MAP is a confidential process of self-study, peer review and implementation and embraces museums of all types and sizes, including art, history, science and technology, children's, natural history, historic houses, nature centers, botanical gardens and zoos. It is supported through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Museums selected to participate in the program undergo one of AAM's four museum assessments: institutional, collections management, governance and public dimension. Museums use the assessment process to strengthen operations, build capacity and enhance communication throughout the organization and in response to community needs.

All types of museums participate in the program, but small museums (those with annual operating expenses of \$125,000 or less) are eligible to participate free of charge. MAP participants regularly report an increased level of professionalism, an ability to focus more clearly on the museum's mission, an energized staff and governing authority and greater credibility with their stakeholders.

Investigators Receive DOD Breast Cancer Grant



Dr. Quentin Smith

Dr. Quentin Smith (Professor and Chair, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo) and Dr. Paul Lockman (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo) are among a team of scientists from the National Cancer Institute and eight other universities who have been selected for a prestigious Department of Defense Breast Cancer Center of Excellence award to develop novel therapeutic strategies to treat brain metastases of breast cancer.

The DOD Breast Cancer Center of Excellence Award mechanism supports multidisciplinary, multi-institutional teams of gifted scientists, clinicians, and consumer advocates in making groundbreaking advances toward the eradication of breast cancer. The Center of which Smith and Lockman are a part was the only one of 38 applications that was funded this year by the DOD. The Smith and Lockman labs will each receive approximately \$1.5 million over the next five years.



Dr. Paul Lockman

NIH Awards Grant to SOP Researcher



Dr. Thomas
Thekkumkara

Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara (Associate Dean for Research and Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo) has been awarded a four-year, \$1.2 million NIH R01 grant, entitled “Role of Glucose in hAT1 Gene Expression.”

Under this grant, Dr. Thekkumkara and his research team will focus primarily on how glucose affects the expression of the human angiotensin type 1 (hAT1) receptor, which is the primary mediator of hypertension. Their overall goal is to determine the functional significance of glucose in controlling hAT1 gene expression and identifying the role of specific factors associated with glucose signaling. This will provide a better understanding of the molecular and biochemical mechanisms that are involved in regulating the hAT1 gene in diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.

SOP Quartet Attend Capitol Hill News Conference



P2 Holly Bland (left), P2 Karen Lucas (second from right) and P4 Mary Klein fourth from right) with U.S. Congressman from Texas Henry Cuellar (center) and other students and NCPA members at NCPA's Annual Legislative Conference.

Four TTUHSC – SOP students were part of a group that attended a news conference in May on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Mindy Sexton (P4 - Lubbock), Mary Klein (P4 - Lubbock), Holly Bland (P2 - Amarillo) and Karen Lucas (P2 - Amarillo) were part of a group who gathered to voice support for H.R. 5182, otherwise known as the Fair and Speedy Treatment (FAST) of Medicare Prescription Drug Claims Act of 2006.

The news conference included a dozen members of Congress who support the bill and capped the annual legislative conference of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), which brought more than 450 pharmacists to our nation's capitol.

The bill, cosponsored by Reps. Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.) and Marion Berry (D-Ark.), would make important improvements to the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program to help ensure that community pharmacists continue to participate in the Part D program.



P4 Mindy Sexton (center), who is the National NCPA Student President, poses with (from left) TPA Executive Director Jim Martin, TPA President Daryl Spence, U. S. Congressman from Texas Louie Gohmert and NCPA Executive Committee Member Joe Harmison.

A Welcome to Our New Employees

Please take a moment to welcome the following individuals to TTUHSC and the School of Pharmacy. We are happy to have these new employees and look forward to their contributions!

- Joe Bass, Receptor Logic Intern
- LoisMay Bezuidenhout, Tech II – Temp.
- Jeremy Gooch, Student Assistant
- Loretta Laumbach, Temp. Worker
- Jennifer Roop, Tech II
- Rekha Yesudas, Post Doctoral Research Assistant

GETTING TO KNOW...

Kaci Henson

Academic Instructor

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Amarillo



Darrell (left) and Kaci Henson playing at the park with their children Beau and Nicole

Kaci is the youngest of seven children. Her great-grandparents came to the Texas Panhandle from Germany in the late 1800's; their family has been here ever since. She received her B.S. in Pharmacy from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, went to the Dallas Fort Worth area for 4 years and then returned to Canyon. "I could live anywhere in the world," she says, "but I choose to live here where my parents and several siblings reside; our family is very close and I love this area and the people in it."

Before coming to TTUHSC Kaci practiced in community pharmacy for eleven years, the last four at The Village Pharmacy in Amarillo. She says she still misses working out in the real world, but often enjoys the challenges of working here as well.

Kaci has been married for sixteen years to Darrell Henson (his family has been in the area for five generations). They have two children: 13-year old Nicole and 10-year old Beau. Darrell and Kaci stay busy running all over the country to support their children's sports of choice—Nicole plays competitive soccer with the Amarillo Lightning soccer club and Beau plays football and wrestles. The Henson's recently built their home just outside of Canyon and they are members of St. Ann's Catholic Church. The family enjoys many outdoor activities together, including camping, fishing, hunting, water and snow skiing, riding horses, gardening and caring for the many animals living with them.

Steven Reese

Director of Development, TTUHSC - SOP

Office of Institutional Advancement – Amarillo



Steven Reese and Nikki prior to their summer wedding.

Steven was born and raised in Borger, Texas and is the youngest of three boys. He attended Texas Tech University and received his B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies. He has worked as a fundraiser for close to 10 years and has served as Executive Director for two different social service organizations – Camp Fire Boys and Girls and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Steven also worked previously in the annual giving departments at TTU and the University of Kansas. "This summer I am marrying my best friend, Nikki, and can't wait to start my life with her," he said.

Ming Hai-Wang, M.D., Ph.D.

*Professor and Amarillo Community Endowed Chair
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo*



Dr. Wang

Dr. Wang came to TTUHSC from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, CU Cancer Center, and Denver Health Medical Center in Denver where he served as Associate Professor of Medicine & Cancer Biology and the Head of the Oncogene Research Group.

Dr. Wang was born in a small island along the east coast of Shanghai in China. His childhood was filled with fish, boats and waves of the sea. After graduating from high school, Dr. Wang went to Hangzhou, the most beautiful city in China. He received his Medical Degree in 1982 from the Department of Medicine and his Master of Medical Sciences in 1985 from the Institute of Infectious Diseases at Zhejiang University School

of Medicine.

After a short period of medical practice, Dr. Wang was selected as an Exchange Ph.D. Candidate and went to Borstel Research Center in Germany. He received his Doctor of Medical Sciences (Ph.D. equivalent) in 1989 from a joint program between Zhejiang University and the Medical University of Leubeck, Leubeck, F. R. Germany. From 1989-1994, Dr. Wang completed his post-doctoral training, first at Borstel Research Center in Germany and later at Laboratory of Immunobiology at National Cancer Institute of NIH. He says he was lucky to have worked during that period with Prof. Hans-Dieter Flad in Germany and Dr. Edward J. Leonard in the United States.

In 1995, Dr. Wang became a faculty member at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Michigan. He later joined the faculty of University of Colorado School of Medicine and was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine and Cancer Biology in 1999. He holds the Chang-Kung Scholar Program Professorship in Zhejiang University awarded by Chinese Ministry of Education.

Dr. Wang has published more than 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals including Science, PNAS, JCI, and JBC. He has served in the NIH Minority Programs Review Committee and as ad hoc reviewer for Oncogene, Carcinogenesis, J. Immunol, J. Pathol, and others. His research is focused on mechanisms of cancer invasion and metastasis, specifically on the metastatic potentials of a growth factor receptor called the RON receptor tyrosine kinase. NIH R01 grants, Amarillo Area foundation, and Chinese Chang-Kung Scholar Program currently support the projects.

Dr. Wang has been married to Dr. Yi-Qing Chen—his medical school classmate—for almost 20 years. They have two children: Jennifer, a college sophomore attending the Texas Academy of Math and Sciences at the University North Texas, and Freddie, a funny second-grade student who attends Amarillo's Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. They also share their home with Sunnymoon, a tiger-like cat who sleeps too long. Dr. Wang enjoys literature, history, and traveling. His dream is to visit the every major city in the world after retirement.