



From The Dean's Desk

March 2005 - Issue 29

SOP, Dallas VA Start New Residency Program

Late last month I had the pleasure of presenting a Certificate of Accreditation to the VA North Texas Health Care System. The certificate was for the joint Critical Care Residency program between TTUHSC - SOP and VA. *Dr. Anthony Busti (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth)* and *Dr. Sara Brouse (Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth)* helped me make the presentation.

This is our second accredited residency program at VA North Texas (Pharmacy Practice was the first), which as most of you know is also the host for our Dallas/Fort Worth regional campus. As always, we appreciate the support we receive from VA North Texas and we look forward to working with them in the future.



From left: Dr. Cynthia Foslien (Clinical Programs Manager-VA North Texas Health Care System), Gary Collins (Chief of Pharmacy Services - VA North Texas Health Care System), Betty Brown (acting director-VA North Texas Health Care System), myself, Dr. Sara Brouse and Dr. Anthony Busti.

Renowned Researcher Visits SOP



Dr. Thomas R. Kosten, one of the premier addiction investigators in the world, was the featured speaker when the SOP hosted the Wendy and Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship in Pharmacology and Neurochemistry of Substance Abuse/Addiction on March 16. Getting the chance to hear such an accomplished researcher speak about his work was very interesting and informative, to say the least, and we certainly want to thank the Mr. and Mrs. Marsh 3 for making such events possible.

Dr. Kosten is a professor of psychiatry and medicine at Yale University Medical School and deputy chief of psychiatry at VA Connecticut. He has been supported by a Research Scientist Award from the National Institutes of Health since 1987 and directs the Yale Medications Development Center for substance abuse. He is also a past president of the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, has served as a Congressional Fellow in the House of Representatives and is the founding vice chair for added qualifications in addiction psychiatry of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

His recent work includes serving on the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine Committee on ethical issues in developing vaccines for substance abuse. His research includes treating cocaine-induced cerebral perfusion defects, as detected with SPECT neuroimaging, and predicting pharmacotherapy outcome based on functional MRI brain activation during cocaine cue-induced craving. His medication contributions include developing a cocaine vaccine, immunotherapy for hallucinogens, buprenorphine for opioid dependence, disulfiram for cocaine dependence, vasodilators for cocaine-induced cerebral perfusion defects and using combined medications with contingency management for opioid and cocaine dependence.

The Wendy and Stanley Marsh 3 Endowed Lectureship in Pharmacology and Neurochemistry of Substance Abuse/Addiction 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. It's an annual event featuring speakers of the highest national reputation.

Phi Delta Chi Deals Cards at Casino Night

Phi Delta Chi recently held their seventh annual Casino Night fundraiser and as the pictures below show, everyone who attended had a great time, including yours truly. These young men and women certainly know how to shuffle a deck of cards!

The first Casino Night was held in March 1999 and was the fraternity's first-ever social event. It helps them raise money for traveling to professional association meetings and for participating in community events like the Eveline Rivers' Christmas project; the Pantex Science Bowl; a canned food drive for High Plains Food Bank; biochemistry tutoring for new students; a volleyball tournament to raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Hospital; and walks for the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association and the March of Dimes.



From left: Caleb Donley (husband of P2 Jennifer Donley), James Chennault, Rebecca Warren, Joe Fitzwater and Kelsey LaMunyon get their chips ready before the big wheel spins.



Four of the young ladies who helped organize Casino Night (from left): Haley Hankins, Jennifer Donley, Jessica Winters and Amanda Landrum.



Here I am with (from left) Lucus Holt, Kristen Carmichael, Melanie Boatwright and Eric Horne. I wonder why they look so ready to play and I look so nervous?

Ruiz, Chen Join SOP

I want to take this opportunity to welcome [Beatrice Ruiz](#) and [Elaine Chen](#) to the TTUHSC - SOP family.

Beatrice is our new Unit Assistant Director for Student Services. As such, her focus will be on recruitment and retainment.

Elaine is the newest member of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and has been hired as a Student Assistant.

Please take the time to welcome each of these ladies to the School and wish them luck in their new positions.

Volunteers Make Special Populations Game a Success

One of things that makes the SOP a special place is the way our faculty, staff and students work together. This teamwork was evident on March 18 when students enrolled in our Special Populations course took part in the Geriatric Medication Game. The game is actually an active learning experience in which students play the role of elderly patients and are forced by volunteers to experience the difficulties that can be present at times in today's health care system. The game was organized by *Dr. Rebecca Sleeper (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock)* with help from *Dr. Sherry Luedtke (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo)* and *Dr. Teresa Sterling (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo)*.

To be delivered effectively this type of active learning requires significant resources and personnel across all three campuses. In short, activities like the Geriatric Medication Game would not be possible without the efforts of volunteers. So with that in mind, I'd like to personally thank the following people for the time and energy they put in to make the game a memorable experience for our students:

Eric McLaughlin (Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo)

Ann Canales (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Amarillo)

Linda Goldstein (Unit Coordinator, Student Services – Amarillo)

Summer Balcer (Asst. Dean for Student Services – Amarillo)

Mark Hendricks (Communications Coordinator – Amarillo)

Brea Travis (P4 – Amarillo)

Courtney Hoelting (P4 – Amarillo)

Carissa Haynes (P4 – Amarillo)

Erik Maki (Pharmacotherapy Resident – Amarillo)

Dr. Angela Treadway (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Ft. Worth)

Thu Tran (Pharmacy Practice Resident – Dallas/Ft. Worth)

Craig Cox (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock)

Michael Peeters (Pharmacotherapy Resident – Lubbock)

Brad Stanford (Asst. Professor, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice – Lubbock)

Katy Mathews (P4 – Lubbock)

Britt Ross (P4 – Lubbock)

Rose Johnson Novak (P4 – Dallas/Ft. Worth)

Van Nguyen (P4 – Dallas/Ft. Worth)

Kyle Gropp (P4 – Dallas/Ft. Worth)

Allen Seiger (P4 – Dallas/Ft. Worth)

Nguyet Dang (P3 – Dallas/Ft. Worth)

Wesley Skalak (P4 – Dallas/Ft. Worth)

GETTING TO KNOW...

Jayarama Bhat Gunaje, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Amarillo*



Jay is originally from a village in India that is close to the coastal town of Kasaragod in Kerala State. He received his B.Sc from Mysore University, M.Sc. in Biosciences from Mangalore University, and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India.

Jay came to US in 1988 and worked in many organizations including both universities (Penn State University and UT Tyler), and biotechnology companies (ZymoGenetics Inc., and IcoGen Inc). He joined Texas Tech University School of Pharmacy in January 2004 and dearly loves his teaching and research duties. When compared to the places he has worked in the past, Jay says TTUHSC School of Pharmacy is an excellent place to work because of the environment created by friendly students, staff and faculty.

Apart from teaching P1, P2, and graduate students, Jay conducts research on the regulation of interleukin-6-induced signaling by alpha-thrombin in lung fibroblasts and studies the implications of this cross-talk in lung diseases. His dream is to become an excellent teacher and also an excellent researcher. Jay is married to Ambika and they have a precious eight-year old daughter named Navya.

Ronald Hall II, Pharm.D., BCPS

*Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacy Practice – Dallas/Fort Worth*



Dr. Hall grew up in East Prairie, which is a small town in Southeast Missouri. His father is a grain farmer (soybeans, corn, and wheat) and his mother is an elementary school teacher and serves as the curriculum coordinator for her district.

Dr. Hall earned both his Bachelor's and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the Saint Louis College of Pharmacy. He then completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at Baptist Memorial Health Care in Memphis, Tennessee and an Infectious Diseases Specialty Residency at the South Texas Veterans Healthcare System in San Antonio.

Dr. Hall joined the TTUHSC School of Pharmacy faculty about 2.5 years ago and is working at the Dallas/Fort Worth Regional Campus. He practices with the Infectious Diseases (ID) consult service at the Dallas VA Medical Center. Of note, Dr. Hall has been invited to lecture as part of the ID Fellows Core Curriculum course and ID Grand Rounds for the past two years at the UT Southwestern Medical School. He also has successfully established an ID specialty residency program and the inaugural resident, Darego Maclayton, Pharm.D., will complete the program this June. On the research front, Dr. Hall is actively studying the effects of obesity on antimicrobial pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics as well as its effects on the outcomes of patients with infectious diseases.

Dr. Hall is a sports fan at heart and his favorite teams are based in St. Louis (Cardinals, Rams, and Blues...if professional hockey ever comes back). Some of his favorite players/coaches include: Larry Bird, David Robinson, Brett Favre, Cal Ripkin Jr., and Rick Pitino. Some of his other favorite activities include golfing, playing cards, and spending time with friends. Dr. Hall also enjoys singing and is a member of the Sanctuary Choir at Park Cities Baptist Church.

Jo Long

*Executive Associate to the Dean
Staff, Office of the Dean – Amarillo*



Jo was born in Tucumcari, New Mexico and raised in Albuquerque. She has three brothers who still live in Albuquerque and a sister who lives in Lazbuddie.

Jo met and married her husband, Bo, more than 25 years ago. They have three children: Michael, Brent and Brian.

In her spare time, Jo enjoys outdoor activities and is crazy about fish. She spends a lot of time taking care of a saltwater reef tank and a koi pond she built in her backyard.