TTUHSC President Dr. John Baldwin visited the Amarillo campus Thursday, September 6, 2007. Although it was a short visit, the Department Chairs, Associate/Assistant Deans, and student representatives got a chance to talk to President Baldwin. During his tour of the facilities, he supported the research efforts put forth by the School of Pharmacy and his hopes to continue to expand and improve the program. Dr. Baldwin joins the TTUHSC family as the seventh President after serving at Harvard University as a Professor of Surgery and President of the Immune Disease Institute. The Office of Research would like to extended our gratitude to Dr. Baldwin for his dedication to research and we are excited to have his support.
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From Good to Great

Several Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty met in Dallas July 31 to discuss future plans for the SOP research. The objectives for the meeting included defining a future institutional relationship between University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and TTUHSC School of Pharmacy, recommendations to increase recruiting and retaining basic and clinical/translational scientists and building steps for a successful Pharm.D./Ph.D. program.

Faculty had the opportunity to meet with consultants Ken Miller, Ph.D., Robert Blouin, Pharm.D., and Barry Carter, Pharm.D. Dr. Blouin is currently Dean at the University of North Carolina and has chaired the AACP Task Force on educating clinical scientists. Dr. Carter, who’s research is focused in clinical pharmacist physician collaborative studies, is a Professor of Pharmacy and Family Medicine at the University of Iowa and is one of the nation’s foremost ambulatory care clinical pharmacists. Dr. Miller is Senior Vice President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and academic pharmacy liaison to the NIH.

(continues on page 5)
Faculty Receives Recognition

Dr. Mark Lyte, Professor of Pharmacy Practice, has been invited to the Institute for Food Research and the Jon Innes Center in Norwich, England this October to lecture on Microbial Endocrinology in the Gut: Where Bacteria, Nerves and Food Interact in Disease and Homeostasis.

Dr. Lyte recently co-convened the 107th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Microbiology’s session on “Microbial Endocrinology: Neuroendocrine-Bacterial Interactions in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease.” The meeting was held in Toronto, making it the first time in the history of the ASM that the annual meeting was not held in the United States.

Dr. Lyte also obtained a book contract for his interdisciplinary research titled “Microbial Endocrinology: Inter-kingdom Signaling in Health and Disease.” In addition, he has been appointed as an adjunct Full Professor to the departments of Biology, Animal & Food Sciences, and the graduate school at Texas Tech University.

Research Days Receives Rave Reviews!

The Office of Research recently sent out a survey to all Research Days’ attendees to evaluate their satisfaction and obtain suggestions for next year’s event. Attendees were ninety-one percent satisfied with the overall event. In addition, 100 percent of the faculty and students who traveled to Amarillo were very pleased with their travel accommodations. Those who took the survey expressed approval for the schedule and the set-up of the events. The only areas of concern were the poster competition and the time of the year Research Days is held. Several people were concerned about the amount of time allotted to each poster.

The Office of Research will revisit these issues to make sure that next year’s event will be at a convenient time for most of our faculty and ensure enough time for all poster presenters. We would like to thank all participants for their input and time.

Faculty Chairs Session at National Meeting

Dr. Majid Moridani, Assistant Professor, organized, chaired and presented at the American Association of Clinical Chemistry’s “Application of Pharmacogenetics in Clinical Medicine.” The event took place on July 15-19 in San Diego, California. The objectives of the session included concepts and practical aspects of developing personalized treatment using pharmacogenetics information to diminish toxicity and increase therapeutic outcome in drug therapy.

The event accommodated nearly 19,000 clinical laboratory professionals, physicians, making it the world’s largest laboratory conference and research scientists. Each of the attendees were involved with clinical chemistry and related disciplines.
Dr. Quentin Smith was an invited speaker to the 10th Annual Symposium on Signal Transduction in the Blood-Brain Barriers. The conference was held September 13-16 at the Postdam-Sansouci near Berlin, Germany. Dr. Smith presented "Blood-Brain barrier drug transport and regulation."

Fall is also the time when many of our GPPS graduate students will be presenting their research at two of the major national meetings. This year both the Society for Neuroscience and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists meetings will be held in San Diego and the School of Pharmacy will have 16 GPPS graduate students presenting their research work at these national meetings.

I would also like to encourage everyone to attend the weekly Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Seminars (Mondays from 11:30-12:30 PM in Room 107) where our graduate students will present the latest findings from their research projects done here at the School of Pharmacy.

We are very proud of all the hard work and productivity from our graduate students, who contribute immensely to the strong research environment at the School of Pharmacy. They are an integral component to the research mission of our school.

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Graduate Program Welcomes New Students

The Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences (GPPS) recently admitted seven new Ph.D. students for the fall semester, which increases the programs to total of 36 graduate students. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new students; Joseph Bass, Prabodh Kandal, Siva Koganti, Sashi Kudugunti, Kaushik Shah, Samata Tiwara, and Sarah Willis.

Seminars


New Research Building

After years of planning, the TTUHSC Amarillo campus celebrated the new Research Building with a ground breaking ceremony. The ceremony was held August 23 at the site of the new building.

TTUHSC faculty and staff welcomed the general public to the celebration. Attendees had the chance to hear future plans for School of Pharmacy and School of Medicine research and what kind of role the new building will have for it.

The Research Building will be located southeast of the School of Medicine and will house several new laboratories and offices. The new 48,000 square-foot structure is scheduled to be completed by October 2008.
CATALYST Seminar Series to Being

The Office of Research will be sponsoring a new seminar series titled, CATALYST. The series will employ a forum in which the presentations will be discussed openly and informally and question and answer sessions will be encouraged.

SOP faculty will prepare an overview of ongoing research in their laboratory. The goal of this series is for the presenter to obtain input from peers on the ongoing research and new grant proposals, as well as to develop inter-laboratory collaborations.

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During the full day of open discussion, both departments and each of the research centers shared their progress and plans. Each of the consultants also shared informative ideas to better connect the two departments.

On the following day, all the attendees convened at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSWMC) to meet with Dr. Milton Packer, Director of Clinical Research to discuss long-term scientific collaboration between TTUSHC SOP and UTSWMC. Dr. Packer gave an overview of his institutions portfolio and Clinical and Translational Science Award; he then covered areas that he thought would be ideal for TTUHSC-SOP and UTSWMC to collaborate. Consultants offered advice on how to make a smooth transaction. We are currently waiting for the consultants report.

With the input from our faculty, the consultants, and Dr. Packer, the School of Pharmacy hopes to developed a vision for future research and use the tools obtained to have a successful follow through.

Publications


Publications


The Sixth Annual Research Days
The Vendors Show

POSTERS
Keynote Speaker, Ken Miller, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
The Awards Ceremony

Dean Nelson hands out awards to those faculties that made this year's AACP ranking possible: Thomas Thekkumkara, Ph.D., Margaret Weis, Ph.D., Fakhrul Ahsan, Ph.D., Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D., Ulrich Bickel, M.D., Reza Mehvar, Ph.D., US Rao, Ph.D.

This year's first place poster award went to Nikhil Vad and his mentor, Majid Moridani, Ph.D.

The GSAA recognized its two graduating students. Jennifer Paulson received her Ph.D. and is entering the Pharm.D. program. Chaitanya Chimalakonda received his Masters.

This year's ABRI poster award winner, Jennifer Markley receives her certificate from Dr. Thekkumkara.

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