Dr. Christy Shaffer Visits UTHSC Campus

Christy Lin Cooper Shaffer, PhD ’85, president and chief executive officer of Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc., returned to campus in late April to meet with graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and faculty. The group was extremely impressed with the North Carolina Business Woman of the Year’s passionate and knowledgeable presentation.

Dr. Shaffer earned her PhD in pharmacology under the direction of UTHSC’s K.U. Malik, PhD, DSc. She followed with a post-doctoral fellowship at Chicago Medical School’s department of biological chemistry and structure. She subsequently became a research associate with pharmacologist Ken Hardin, PhD of the University of North Carolina, where she received a neurobiology training fellowship from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Shaffer served as senior clinical research scientist II at Glaxo Pharmaceuticals (formerly Burroughs Wellcome), before joining Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where she served as senior director for development and vice president for development/chief operating officer before assuming her present position.

She is a member of the North Carolina Biosciences Organization, the Kresge Scientific Advisory Board of Meredith College, and the Business Advisory Board for BioVista Capital.

Dr. Charles Sherr Receives Global Award for Cancer Work

Charles Sherr, MD, PhD, faculty member in the molecular sciences program, received the Landon-American Association for Cancer Research Basic Research Award. This international honor is the largest offered to cancer researchers from a professional society of their peers and is given in conjunction with the Kirk A. and Dorothy P. Landon Foundation.

Dr. Sherr, who serves as the Herrick Foundation Chair in the department of genetics and tumor cell biology and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, was recognized for a series of discoveries providing insight into the cell’s life cycle and the origins of cancer.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from Oberlin College in Ohio, and obtained both his MD and PhD degrees from the School of Medicine and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at New York University. Dr. Sherr interned at Bellevue Hospital Center and subsequently, held positions at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health.
A reception and dinner was held this past April in honor of Hal and Alma Reagan. In 1977, the couple donated 3,553 acres of prime Alabama farmland to the University of Tennessee. The donation was the largest the university had received up until that time, and the land was sold for $2.7 million. The Hal and Alma Reagan Endowment has generated $4 million over the last 10 years to support academic and athletic scholarships, graduate assistantships and fellowships.

Included in that total is $275,000, which has been dispersed to 11 UTHSC students since the endowment was established. These fellowships are awarded annually to outstanding graduate students working in the field of cancer research. The award is for one year with a potential for renewal in the second year.

Following is a list of the 11 individuals who have received the award since its inception:
1993 & 1994: Robert Fischer and Cynthia Pawlik
1995 & 1996: Jian Feng
1996 & 1997: Sourav Ghosh
1998 & 1999: Zhong Wu and Sizhi Gao
1999 & 2000: Brian Bothner and William Valentine
2000: Shilpa Oak
2002: Felicia Lewis, MD and Ying Shen

Alumni Updates

Ernest Daigneault, PhD ’57 enjoyed the February issue of CGHS Notes. “The pictures of Dr. Allen and Dr. Van brought back great memories. They were two of the best lecturers I ever had. I wonder if Dr. Van still meditates on the riverbank. I never was at a place that produced more memories than UTHSC.” Ernie was professor and chair at the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University and previously served on the faculty of Louisiana State University School of Medicine. Rumor has it that he spends his time between Johnson City, Tennessee and upper New England. He can be reached at Daig1234@aol.com.

Ronald Cowan, MD, PhD ’90 has indicated a change of address from Boston, MA, to 6123 Brentwood Chase Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027. Welcome back to Tennessee, Ron!

Roopa Andhare-Nath, PhD ’01 gave birth to her son, Rohan, last February. She still works as a biotechnology and genomics consultant in San Francisco, and her e-mail is roopa7@msn.com. Congratulations to the new mother and father.

Khosrow Kashfi, PhD ’92 is a faculty member in the department of physiology and pharmacology at the City College of New York Medical School, where he is the director of the interdepartmental chemistry program. Khosrow can be reached at: (212)-650-7000 or kashfi@med.cuny.edu

Yuan Gao, PhD ’03 graduated in May and resides in Cincinnati. He can be reached at: 720 Clifton Colony, Apt #5, Cincinnati, OH 45220. His phone numbers are (513) 281-2704 for home and (513) 636-0593 for office.

Chang Hyuk Kwon, PhD ’03 is doing a post-doctoral fellowship in Dallas. His address is 215

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Thirty-two individuals received diplomas at UTHSC commencement exercises in May. Eighteen doctorate degrees were awarded, and Ping Zou, PhD, earned UTHSC’s first doctorate degree in biomedical engineering. In addition, three master’s of dental science degrees and 11 master’s of science degrees were awarded, bringing the total to 1,082 degrees awarded in the College’s 75-year history. Congratulations to the newest graduates of the College of Graduate Health Sciences:

**Doctor of Philosophy**
- Lawrette Axley
- David Benhayon
- Stephen Wesley Clark
- Mathew Edick
- Jeetendra Eswaraka
- Yuan Gao
- Tammara T. Harris
- Loretta Jackson-Hayes
- Toya Denise Kimble
- Chang Hyuk Kwon
- Yi Lin
- Sun Young Moon
- Zhaohui Qian
- Gayathri Ramaswamy
- Ernest Allen Sickmier
- Henry Clinton Talley
- Yu Zhao
- Ping Zou

**Master of Science**
- Devon Cook
- Andrew Fried
- Bryan E. Green
- Alessandro Iannaccone, MD
- Jorge Lujan-Zilbermann, MD
- Preston Miller
- Thomas F. Mooney
- Kathryn M. Ryder, MD
- Nilesh Tannu
- Catherine Vick
- Carlos Vrancken
- Sachin Yende
- Dong Zhang
- Yong Zhang

North Moore Road, Apt #1025, Coppell, TX 75019.

**Malak Kotb**, PhD ’82 has recently co-authored a book with Thierry Calandra, MD, PhD. The book, published by *Humana Press*, is titled, “Cytokines and Chemokines in Infectious Diseases Handbook.” Cytokines and chemokines are effector molecules that play a role in facilitating the immune responses needed to eliminate pathogens.

**Mathew Edick**, PhD ’03 is a post-doctoral fellow at the Van Andel Research Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His phone number is (616) 234-5264, and his e-mail address is Mathew.Edick@vai.org.

**Donghua Yin**, PhD ’00 is a senior research scientist with Pharmacia Corporation in St. Louis. His home address is 11023-L Oak Forest Parkway Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146. Phone numbers are (314) 997-3429 for home and (314) 274-8937 for office; his e-mail address is donghua.yin@pharmacia.com.
Edward G. Schneider, associate dean, once again reported high numbers in the UTHSC Summer Research Scholars undergraduate program, which is sponsored by the graduate faculty and the Centers of Excellence.

Deborah Northcross, director of the Memphis McNair Program, sponsored 18 undergraduate students; Leonard Share, PhD, professor of physiology and principal investigator for an NIH grant titled, “Short-term Training for Minority Students,” sponsored 19 undergraduate students; and Eldridge Johnson, PhD, professor of anatomy and neurobiology, sponsored 15 recent high school graduates and six undergraduate students.

These faculty and staff play particularly important roles for the university and College by heading up programs designed to attract under-represented minority students into the biomedical sciences.

Marcello Arsura, PhD, assistant professor of pharmacology, also secured funding from the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics to help sponsor five additional students.

This summer, the faculty of the College of Graduate Health Sciences made their laboratories available to nearly 60 other undergraduate students who spent at least 10 weeks on campus. Students experienced the excitement of being involved in cutting-edge research for the first time. It is hoped that these programs will help the College recruit the next generation of biomedical scientists.

Student Awards

Keana Davis, a doctoral candidate in biomedical engineering, was awarded a $142,982 grant from the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) to develop computer software and a calibration device which measures the operational performance of a CT scanner. She also received a $51,683 grant from the National Cancer Institute as a master’s student.

Ramy Karam Aziz, a fourth-year graduate student in the department of molecular sciences and surgery, has recently received prestigious awards from both the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy and the American Society for Microbiology in recognition of his research on flesh-eating diseases.

Dr. Jim Dale Named Fellow

Jim Dale, MD, faculty member in the molecular sciences program, has been named a Fellow of the Association of American Physicians. Only 40 new members are elected each year, and the recipients are chosen based on life-long achievements in medical research and academic leadership.

Alumni Updates continued from page 3

Harold Wright, PhD ’96 is with the Bayer Company in Connecticut. Harold’s e-mail address is harold.wright.b@bayer.com.

Michael Fiedler, PhD ’00 is currently an associate professor and chair of the department of nurse anesthesia at Samford University. His address is: Samford University, Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing, 800 Lakeshore Drive, Birmingham, AL 35229.
It is a pleasure to send you this issue of the CGHS Notes. In addition to mailing it to graduates, we are making CGHS Notes available electronically. Please look for it on our website at www.utmem.edu/grad/.

What a delight it was to have Dr. Shaffer on campus in April and to learn about her accomplishments since graduation! The enthusiasm and passion that she exhibits is an inspiration for us all. Thanks for the visit, Christy.

Our graduate students continue to excel, and I know you will enjoy reading about the Student Research Symposium and the Hal and Alma Reagan Fellowship. Those who graduated in May 2003 are now among the 1,082 who have received degrees from the College during its 75-year history. Eleven of our graduates have provided updates of their accomplishments in this issue of CGHS Notes, and we would like very much to hear from the rest of you! Please e-mail any news to rpeppler@utmem.edu or call (901)-448-5506.

These are interesting times in Tennessee. I need not belabor the financial situation of the state nor the irresponsibility of our former president of the university. Unfortunately, when you pick fruit from a tree, you find most are healthy; one is not. The challenge is to not let it spoil the juices from the others. Your College provides many pieces of healthy and nourishing fruit for its students, faculty and graduates.

I invite you to continue to nourish the UT College of Graduate Health Sciences. Its progress depends, in part, on your continued support in providing stipends for the excellent students who will one day be productive scientists.

Research Statistics

Within the state of Tennessee, there were 923 National Institutes of Health awards for FY 2002. The UT Health Science Center and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital accounted for 252 awards in the amount of $89 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution/Department</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Number of Awards</th>
<th>National Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UT Health Science Center</td>
<td>$44 million</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Medicine</td>
<td>$42 million</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Neurobiology</td>
<td>$11 million</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>$5.2 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>$3.6 million</td>
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<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>$770,000</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Detailed information for states, cities, institutions and departments can be obtained at http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/award/awardindex.htm
Second Annual Student Research Symposium

The second time was a charm for the Student Research Symposium this past May. Coordinated by the Graduate Student Association and its president, Amy Cline (molecular sciences), the symposium met its goal of promoting campus interest, and providing encouragement, support and career resources for graduate students.

The event began with a buffet luncheon, and approximately 65 students heard, “From Bench to Business: Tips for Academics Considering Industrial Careers,” by Ram Mahato, PhD.

Following the luncheon, 32 graduate student posters were judged by 12 graduate faculty including: Bill Armstrong, PhD, Marcello Arsura, PhD, Jay Callaway, PhD, Angie Cantrell, PhD, Alex Dopico, MD, PhD, Eldridge Johnson, PhD, AP Naren, PhD, Ed Park, PhD, Muriel Rice, PhD, Chris Waters, PhD, Mona Wicks, PhD, and Herb Zeman, PhD.

The day ended with a workshop, “Preparing a CV for Post-Doc Positions,” by Bobby Roberson, PhD, administrative director of academic programs at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Following are the graduate student winners, who received cash prizes and gift certificates:

First Place:
Nik Hallworth
Anatomy and Neurobiology

Second Place:
Ying Shen
Molecular Sciences

Third Place:
Kerim Babaoglu
Interdisciplinary Program

Third-place winner, Kerim Babaoglu (center), reviews his poster for Dr. Chris Waters from physiology. Chunyan Li from anatomy and neurobiology observes. Outgoing GSA President, Amy Cline, thanks Dr. Ram Mahato for his presentation, as incoming GSA President Nico West (left) looks on.