Peek Wins ASHP Student Leadership Award

Grayson Peek, fourth year student pharmacist, was one of only eleven students nationwide recently recognized by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) for achievement in health-system pharmacy practice and campus leadership with the ASHP Student Leadership Award. The award, sponsored by ASHP and the ASHP Research and Education Foundation, is awarded to ASHP student members in their second through fourth professional years of pharmacy school. The program recognizes and celebrates the contribution of students who represent the very best attributes and accomplishment of ASHP student members. The award winners receive a plaque, an ASHP drug information reference library and a $2,500 cash award. Grayson has demonstrated leadership skills as well as a strong desire to advance pharmacy practice. He currently serves nationally as Chair for the ASHP-Pharmacy Student Forum Policy and Legislative Advocacy Advisory Group. He led a letter writing campaign for enhancing student involvement for pharmacy advocacy. He is also Class President and Executive Vice President of the Pharmacy Student Government Association. Grayson was born and raised in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee and is the son of Tony and Lori Peek.

UPCOMING EVENTS

P1 White Coat Ceremony
Tuesday, May 7th
3:00 pm CT

Memphis Area Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (MASPEN)
26th Annual Symposium
Tuesday, May 14th
7:30 am - 4:10 pm CT
St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
Barry Auditorium

Honors and Awards Convocation
Thursday, May 30th
3:00 pm CT
First Baptist Church, Memphis

UTHSC Graduation
Friday, May 31st
1:30 pm CT
FedEx Forum, Memphis

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Top Stories
- Faculty
- Students, Graduate Students & Residents
- Alumni & Friends

May 2013
The closing celebration for the APhA-ASP Annual Meeting in Los Angeles California was held on March 4, 2013. This awards ceremony showcases all the outstanding activities of the APhA-ASP chapters across the country and recognizes excellence in leadership, professionalism, membership, patient care, and legislative advocacy among student pharmacists. The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy APhA-ASP chapter has a long history of success and national presence and this year was no exception. In addition to several other exciting awards and accomplishments, our chapter received the Division A Chapter of the Year Award, which represents all colleges and schools of pharmacy with greater than 550 students. Our chapter had 60 students and several faculty and alumni in attendance to celebrate this huge honor and achievement. We are so excited to be able to continue the tradition of success and to represent the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy at the highest level.

"Having the opportunity to go to the APhA annual meetings each year has been such a wonderful experience. Meeting students from schools all across the country is such a great way to share all the amazing things our chapter does, as well as gain new ideas from them. Winning the Division A award this year was the perfect way to end the weekend in L.A. and it was so exciting to see our chapter's hard work rewarded." – Lindsey Plogger, P3 and UT APhA-ASP immediate past Executive Vice-President
Li and Miller Awarded NIH Grant

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty, Drs. Wei Li and Duane Miller, were awarded a $350,625 grant from National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), one of the research institutes of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The funding will support initial efforts to discover unique tissue-selective, nonhypercalcemic vitamin D receptor (VDR) modulators for rheumatoid arthritis treatment. “We are just excited about this new possibility of using new Vitamin D analogs to help out in inflammatory diseases like rheumatoid arthritis,” stated Dr. Miller.

“In addition to its well-known functions for calcium homeostasis, vitamin D has many other beneficial functions to our health including anti-inflammation and anti-cancer activities.” Dr. Li explained, “however, the use of vitamin D itself is limited by its toxicity – hypercalcemia, which can lead to severe calcification in soft tissues such as kidney and heart, at effective therapeutic doses.” The UTHSC research team, consisting of Drs. Li, Miller, Slominski (COM), and Postlethwaite (COM), has discovered new active vitamin D metabolites that are just as active as vitamin D itself in terms of the anti-inflammation activity, but does not have the undesired hypercalcemic toxicity even at very high doses as tested in mice and rats. “The purpose of this project is to design and synthesize new analogs based on our lead compounds and test their anti-inflammation activities, this will provide the initial proof-of-concept with the ultimate goal to come up with a safer and more effective agent to treat various inflammation disorders. I am personally very thankful for the students and postdocs, Dr. Jianjun Chen and Ms. Jin Wang from my group and Dr. Yan Lu from Dr. Miller’s group, who have been doing all the hard work leading to this grant,” stated Dr. Li.

The Miller and Li groups after a joint meeting are pictured above from left to right: Dr. Yan Lu, Dr. Shiva Patil, Ms. Jin Wang, Dr. Renuka Patil, Dr. Duane Miller, Dr. Jianjun Chen, Dr. Jayaprakash Pagadala, Mr. Zongtao Lin, Mr. Min Xiao, Ms. Georgina Masoud, Ms. Amira Ahmed, and Dr. Wei Li
Eoff honored as a UTHSC Distinguished Professor

Dr. James C. Eoff, III was recently honored as UTHSC Distinguished Professor after serving 34 years in a variety of capacities. He has many accomplishments and contributions during these years of distinguished service.

Dr. Eoff is Executive Associate Dean and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy. He received both his bachelor and doctorate degrees in pharmacy from the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy. He served on the faculty full time from 1970 to 1978 at which time he purchased Balmoral Pharmacy in Memphis. He rejoined the College in 1984 and served as interim dean of the College in 1989. He also holds the position of Director of the College’s Minority Center of Excellence and has been principal investigator for three Minority Center of Excellence grants in 1992; 2003; and 2010 totaling $6.5 million dollars.

Dr. Eoff served as president of the UT College of Pharmacy Alumni Association on two occasions and in 1987 he was the recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award of the College of Pharmacy. He has also served on the Shelby County UT Alumni Association Board and on the UT National Alumni Board of Governors. He was awarded the UT National Alumni Association’s Outstanding Teacher Award on four separate occasions and received the UTNAAA Distinguished Community Service Award in 1990. He has also received numerous student teaching awards during his career and is co-editor of the APhA’s Complete Pharmacy Review book, now in its 8th edition.

Excellence in Teaching Awards

Several faculty were recognized at the UTHSC Student Government Association Executive Committee (SGAEC) Awards Banquet. Drs. Heather Draper and Christa George received the “SGAEC Excellence in Teaching Awards” from the College of Pharmacy. Pictured below left, Clayton Johnston, PSGA President, presents the award to Dr. George. Pictured below right are Brian Winbigler, PSGA Executive Vice President and Dr. Draper.
FACULTY & STAFF

Finerson New Director of Admissions and Alumni Affairs

Angela Swain Finerson, PharmD, has been appointed COP Director of Admissions & Alumni Affairs. In her new role, Dr. Finerson will oversee and administer the recruitment and admissions processes for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree program, and coordinate activities with the dean, students, and other internal and external stakeholders related to the College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Finerson is a UTCOP alumna who graduated in 1999 after obtaining her BS in Biology at the University of Memphis in 1993. In addition, Dr. Finerson completes her MBA from the University of Memphis at the end of the 2013 Spring semester. Dr. Finerson’s professional experience includes being a staff pharmacist for Walgreen’s from 1999-2006. Thereafter, she was the clinical pharmacy manager for Healix Infusion Therapy from 2006-2010. Dr. Finerson will be resigning from her current position as pharmacy manager for Infusion Partners, A Division of Bioscript, to join the College of Pharmacy in May.

We are very fortunate to hire a UT COP alumna with the experience and people skills that Dr. Finerson brings to this position. As such, please welcome Dr. Finerson with open arms to the College of Pharmacy family upon seeing her in the near future.

Ruffer New Coordinator of International Programs

The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy would like to welcome Carla J. Ruffer as Coordinator for International Programs. She will oversee the student exchange program between our College and the 12 countries on four different continents that participate in this program. Currently, this program includes New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, Japan, Sweden, France, England, Ireland, Spain, Turkey, Gambia, and Hungary. She will also assist in Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience scheduling in the Office of Experiential Learning.

Ms. Ruffer received her BA degree from Centre College (Danville, KY) where she majored in history and minored in German. She received MA hours from the College of St. Rose (Albany, NY) in College Student Services Administration and an MA degree from Loyola University Chicago in Cultural and Educational Policy Studies/International Education. It is notable that she studied for a semester in Strasbourg, France during her undergraduate education and for a month in Rome during her master’s education. She speaks both French and German. She has served as Coordinator of Special Programs at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and most recently as Director of Student Life at Memphis College of Art.

Ms. Ruffer has 4 pets (2 cats and 2 dogs) and is a huge Harry Potter fan. She will join our College in June of 2013.
FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Foster SL. “Improving Immunization Rates by Overcoming Barriers” presented to Local pharmacists and providers in Savannah on April 18, 2013

Foster SL. “Establishing a Pharmacy Immunization Program” presented to Cleveland Society of Health-system Pharmacists in Cleveland, OH on April 17, 2013

Foster SL “Adult Vaccinations” presented to Denver, CO area pharmacists on April 10, 2013


Foster SL. “APhA Update on the February 2012 ACIP meeting” presented via webinar for APhA, March 18, 2013

Foster SL. “OSHA Training: Maintaining Compliance with the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard” presented at the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA on March 4, 2013

Foster SL. “APhA Pharmacy Based Immunization Delivery Train-the-Trainer Program” presented for the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA on March 3, 2013

Foster SL. “Immunization Update” presented at the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA on March 2, 2013

Foster SL. “APhA Pharmacy Based Immunization Delivery Program” presented at the APhA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA on March 1, 2013

Foster SL. “Immunization update” presented to faculty and pharmacist in the University of Utah System, Salt Lake City, UT on February 7, 2013


Foster SL. Ask the Experts: ACIP addresses variety of vaccine topics at latest meeting. Available at http://www.pharmacist.com/ask-experts-acip-addresses-variety-vaccine-topics-latest-meeting, Published March 22, 2013.


FACULTY PUBLICATIONS – continued


STUDENTS, GRADUATE STUDENTS & POST DOCTORAL RESIDENTS

**Race for the Summit**

APhA-ASP hosted the inaugural Race for the Summit 4-miler on March 23, 2013 in Memphis. With the help of over 400 donors, runners, and local businesses, the chapter raised $7,200 for The Pat Summitt Foundation, which promotes awareness and research funding for Alzheimer’s disease, and for the APhA-ASP chapter at The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy. The race started in front of the College of Pharmacy building and took runners through downtown Memphis and Midtown, ending at the UTHSC campus. Post-race activities consisted of free food, music, dance competition, raffle, and awards ceremony. Over eighty APhA-ASP student pharmacists participated in race day activities and helped make Race for the Summit a great success!
Cut the Tension 5K

This year, the UTHSC College of Pharmacy chapter of the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP), hosted the inaugural Cut the Tension 5K. The race was held on Saturday, March 23rd at Victor Ashe Park in Knoxville. Seventy-five runners braved the crisp morning air and comprised the race day competition, with participants ranging in age from 16 to 80, representing cities across east Tennessee and the Midwest. Several volunteers assisted in race-day registration, directing traffic, and providing water to runners. Additionally, UTCP student pharmacists performed blood pressure screenings for participants prior to the race to help promote the involvement of pharmacists in the management of cardiovascular disease.

The remarkable turnout allowed the Cut the Tension 5K to raise nearly $3,000 to benefit the American Heart Association and the UTHSC APhA-ASP chapter. Proceeds will contribute to cardiovascular disease and stroke research, education, and management, as well as APhA-ASP patient care endeavors. The Cut the Tension 5K would not have been a success without the assistance of several sponsors, and special thanks go out to all of those who donated to the cause. Business sponsors included Volunteer Pharmacy, Mac’s Pharmacy, Parkway Cardiology Associates, Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity Inc., Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Fraternity, Fleet Feet Sports of Knoxville, and Earth Fare. Timing services were conducted by Total Race Solutions.
Students Inducted into Imhotep Leadership Society

Yearly at the Student Government Association Executive Committee (SGAEC) Banquet, students from all colleges on the UTHSC campus are inducted in the Imhotep Society. Imhotep is named after the Egyptian god of medicine and is a campus organization to recognize students who, because of their service and leadership, have significantly contributed to student life on this campus. Congratulations to the 48 student pharmacists inducted this year.

Samantha Adams  Lindsey DeLoach  Tommie Jo Kinney  James Smith, Jr.
Clark Allen      Susan Dickey       Molly Kinsella       Amy Sparkman
Elly Baker       Hannah Eberle      Sperry Kotsianas     Brett Toney
Yousef Behbahani Natalie Finch     Sheila Liddell       Rachel Wilkinson
Renee Berube     Will Forkum        Emily May           Christine Wong
Samantha Boldin Laura Fuller       Kevin Patel          Sarah Wright
Hilary Box       Phillip Guidry     Elizabeth Pickren   
Daniel Bradley  Charles Harrison    Blake Poole
Johnny Butts     Whitney Harrison   Jamie Price
AhYoung Byun     Chiamaka Iwueke    Katie Qualls
Nick Capote      Sarah Jansala      Jennifer Reed
Bryan Cartmell  Jessica Keen       Josh Sanders
Maureen Cooper  Mitchell Keen       Erica Schumacher
Kishan Desai    Courtney Kennemore  Becky Shaffer
First-Year Student Pharmacist Wins Over $32K on ‘The Price Is Right’

29 second-year pharmacy students recently to attend the annual meeting of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) in Los Angeles. Before coming back to Memphis, the group decided to attend a taping of the TV show “The Price is Right,” forming a block of UT orange T-shirts in the show’s audience.

Originally from Dickson, Patel not only guessed the price of a 2013 Honda dirt bike, getting him up onstage with host Drew Carey, he guessed the exact amount, earning him an additional $500 cash.

“I want to thank those 29 fellow students who were there to support me and be my cheerleaders throughout the show,” Patel said. “They were the ones who gave me energy to make it as far as I could.”

Patel’s winning streak continued straight through to the Showcase Showdown at the end of the episode. His entire prize package included: a 2013 Honda “CRF 110F” off-road motorcycle worth $1,999, $500 cash, a Samsung “Chromebook” laptop computer worth $249, an Elmira Stove Works “Northstar” electric range worth $4,195, and a 2013 Dodge Avenger SXT worth $25,375.

Sworn to secrecy by the game show’s staff, Marie Chisholm-Burns, dean of the UT College of Pharmacy, decided to invite the entire college to watch the show when it aired in mid-April. Students, faculty, staff and administrators in both College of Pharmacy locations -- Memphis and Knoxville -- were invited to “Come on Over” – paraphrasing “The Price Is Right” lingo – for a watch party and BYOD (Bring Your Own Drink).

The college supplied the pizza and Patel supplied the excitement, reliving the big win in front of a UTHSC audience of about 400, counting both east and west Tennessee College of Pharmacy sites.
STUDENTS, GRADUATE STUDENTS & POST DOCTORAL RESIDENTS

Student Wins on ‘The Price Is Right’ – continued

“I also want to thank Dean Chisholm-Burns and all the faculty members for working around the schedule, canceling classes and allowing us to watch ‘The Price Is Right’ as a part of a big UT family, which meant a lot to me,” Patel said. “It was a huge moment in my life that I will never forget.” Above all, the lucky student wanted to thank David K. Solomon, PharmD, a professor who interviewed Patel when he was a candidate for the Class of 2016. “If it wasn’t for Dr. Solomon, the UT College of Pharmacy, and for the APhA-ASP, I wouldn’t have been on ‘The Price is Right,’” Patel said.

Check out the ‘Price Is Right’ UTCOP episode at http://www.cbs.com/shows/the_price_is_right/video/82AA10E7-B73E-A889-28CA-1B62B008E373/the-price-is-right-4-19-2013/

ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Condolences

The College of pharmacy extends our sympathy to the family and friends of pharmacist Jeffrey V White, DPh, of Apison, who passed away on April 7, 2013 at a local hospital at age 59. A 1976 graduate of the UT College of Pharmacy, Dr. White co-owned Moore & King Pharmacy in Chattanooga for 17 years, after which he worked as Pharmacy Manager for Walgreens and as a consultant for several nursing homes in the Chattanooga area. He was very active and much admired in the pharmacy community and received, among other honors, TPA’s 1996 Tom C. Sharp Pharmacist of the Year Award and 2006 Bowl of Hygeia Award for Community Service. Dr. White served on the UT College of Pharmacy Alumni Board of Directors for 11 years and as President from 2009-2011.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Ashia Montgomery and Brolin Poole for their invaluable contributions to this edition of the newsletter.

Visit our website at: www.uthsc.edu/pharmacy

The University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy

Please submit news items to dbyrd4@uthsc.edu

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA employer.