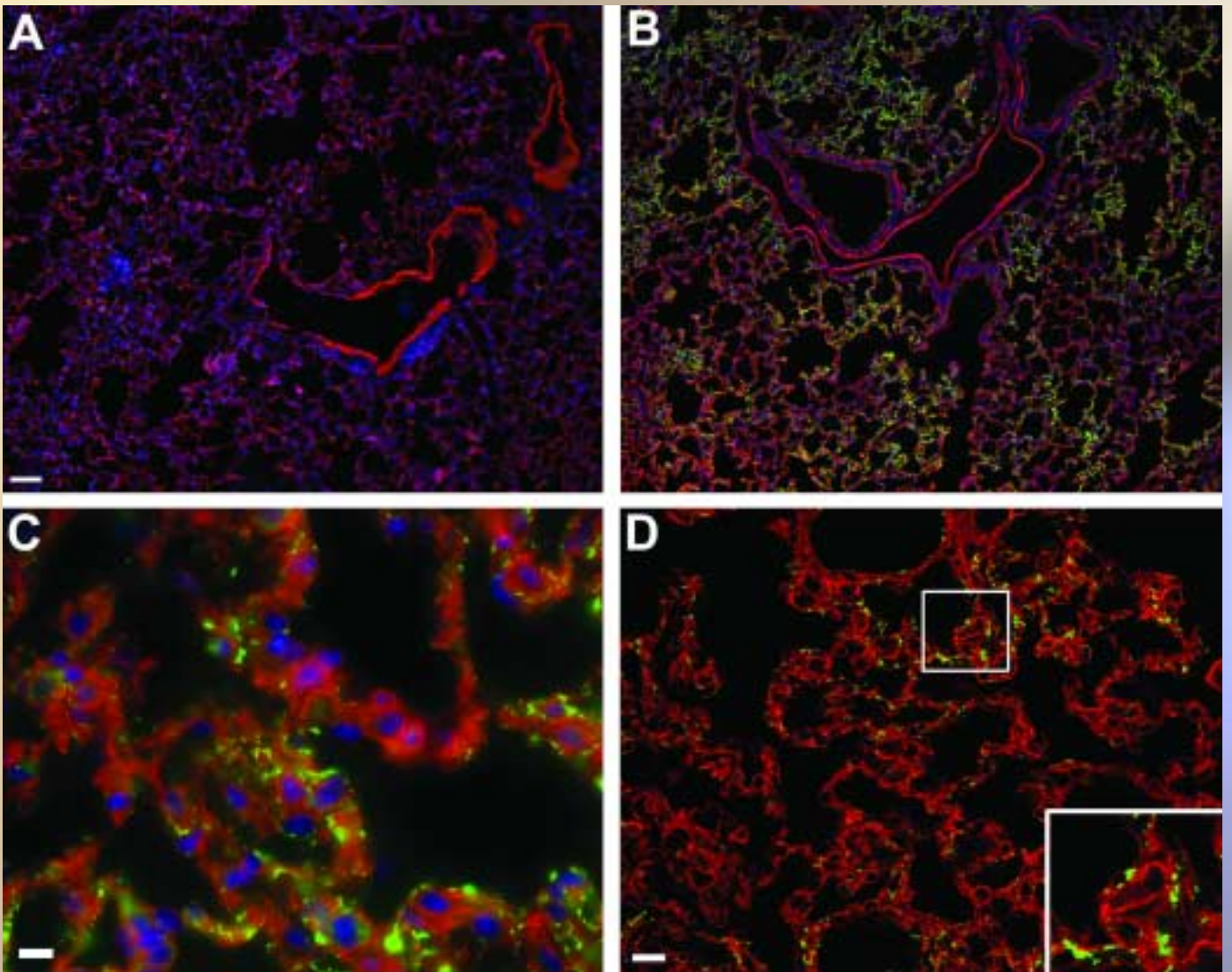


UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

PITTPharmacy

SUMMER 2003



Dear Friends,
We recently set new School of Pharmacy strategic goals given our rapid growth during the past several years. Explicit among those goals is to "gain national and local recognition for the excellence of our PharmD program." While there are many ways to measure excellence, we identified national awards and qualifications of our admitted students as two measures. As this academic year comes to a close, I conclude that we can celebrate!



The Opening Session of the March 2003 APhA meeting in New Orleans, La., started out with perhaps the greatest honor. Surgeon General Richard Carmona, MD presented the National Award for Operation Immunization to our Academy of Students of Pharmacy (ASP) chapter. As the meeting progressed, our Alpha Omicron chapter of Rho Chi received the Chapter Achievement Award. Our ASP chapter won the Best Overall Programming Award. And our Kappa Psi Chapter won the International Chapter of the Year Award. In an individual effort, P4 student Adam Welch, ranked among the top 10 students in the Patient Counseling Contest. Bringing local recognition for students, our RxRoad Runners won the Bronze Achievement Award for Diabetes Walk for A Cure. (See stories inside.)

How did this success happen? One can never be sure, but setting identifiable goals; building programs toward the goals; and generous amounts of talent, commitment, creativity, and enthusiasm no doubt contributed. At the Student Leadership Retreat, we engaged students to identify measures of their excellence. Some might say this was risky, but a look at our student body suggests otherwise. At the time of admission, our students have already demonstrated leadership, accomplishment, and commitment in their communities and schools. They are also high academic achievers; 91 percent of our P1 class ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school class and 13 percent had already received a four-year degree.

Please take a moment to relish the excellence of our students. We have taken giant steps toward gaining "national and local recognition for the excellence of our PharmD program." We all should be proud.

Sincerely,

Patricia D. Kroboth, PhD

P.S. We do have additional goals. I ask for your help in identifying men and minorities who will compete favorably for admission to our school and profession. Women account for 72 percent of our P1 class; African Americans account for 5 percent. Our applicant pool shows the same percentages. In order for pharmacy to maximize its potential in our growing role as health care providers, our students will ideally be as diverse as the public they will serve. Please recommend the pharmacy profession to those who will help us to achieve greater balance in our profession.

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PITTPharmacy is published twice a year by the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.

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On the cover: Images of mouse lung sections showing the distribution of oligonucleotides (ODNs), which are short segments of DNA material. Image B shows that labeled ODN can be successfully delivered to lung tissue by intravenous injection using a lipid vector; image A is the control. Image C shows the same tissue at higher resolution, and Image D shows confocal microscopy images of lung sections from mice receiving labeled ODN. For more information on this research, see the feature story on page four.

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Published in cooperation with the Department of University Marketing Communications. UMC4150-0703

Express Delivery:

Researcher Targets Pulmonary Disease with Gene-Based Drugs



Postdoctoral fellow Annette Wilson and Song Li prepare the lipid vector for delivering oligonucleotide to lung tissue.

Packing the wallop of a missile that hits its target with laser-sharp precision, gene-based drugs also carry the weight of heavy expectations in the pharmaceutical industry.

Picture a drug that delivers its therapeutic effects specifically to the tissues affected by disease, leaving little or no side effects in its wake. That's exactly what researchers have in mind when they delve into pharmacogenetics—the science of creating drug therapies that are more individualistic than previous generations ever could have imagined.

At the forefront of this genetic link is Song Li (MD, PhD), an assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and member of the Center for Pharmacogenetics. Li, who specializes in drugs treating pulmonary diseases and cancers, studies the targeted delivery of nucleic acids such as oligonucleotides.

Oligonucleotides serve as "therapeutic agents" by interfering, in a sequence-specific manner, with the fundamental machinery of protein synthesis. Although scientists don't yet fully understand what causes pulmonary hypertension, for example, many studies suggest that overproduction of a certain molecule—Endothelin-1, or ET-1—may be the culprit.

"I think it is the most potent vessel constrictor," explains Li. When the body releases too much ET-1 in lung tissue, pulmonary blood vessels squeeze, prompting a state of hypertension.

Currently, pulmonary hypertension is very difficult to treat, because when patients take their medication, it diffuses throughout their bodies and creates drug resistance and side effects on tissues unaffected by the disease.

"The drug goes everywhere," Li says.

But by using gene-based treatments, Li hopes to target ET-1 more efficiently. The oligonucleotide is a mirror of messenger RNA, the molecule that carries information from DNA for constructing ET-1, and the two are naturally attracted to one another. Li is attempting to alter the oligonucleotide so it can block production of ET-1. And because each protein uses a specific messenger RNA, these drugs would presumably block only ET-1 production, not other molecules, Li says.

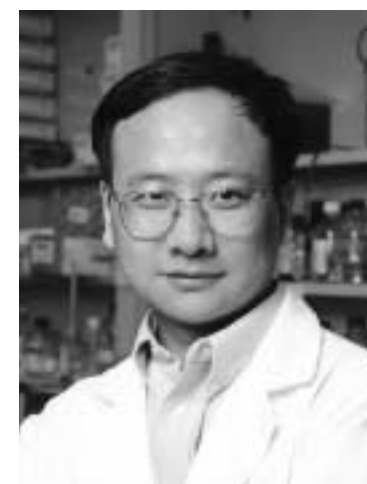
"We can really improve the therapeutic effect and also decrease the side effects," he says, though he cautions, "Right now, the use of oligonucleotides is still in preclinical studies, so the full picture of the side effects is not clear at the moment."

But while gene-based drugs are also hampered by limitations, they are more flexible and efficient when they do work, Li says.

Li's research, if successful, could eventually aid in the treatment of other disease, not just pulmonary hypertension, and his efforts to silence the adverse effects of ET-1 have generated attention from many prestigious circles, notably the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association. Currently he is working in the third year of a five-year grant, with several others pending. In fact, since the Center for Pharmacogenetics was established, the School of Pharmacy's NIH funding has risen.

"I think Dr. Li is just an outstanding young investigator," says Leaf Huang, PhD, the center's director, who hired Li. "Our center, as well as the school, was lucky to be able to recruit him. He's first rate ... one of the best."

Li, who did his postdoctoral work in Pitt's School of Medicine, says he first became interested in pulmonary hypertension because there is no currently effective treatment. And that interest dovetailed nicely with the University's strong history of pulmonary disease research, points out Huang.



Song Li

"Obviously, we're interested in any new form of potential therapeutics for our future," says Huang. "From the very beginning, when we set up this center, we had in mind recruiting people who are in the area of new drug development."

With the completion of the human genome project, the potential for using genes in drug development and delivery has exploded, Huang adds. "So we believe we are in the right place at the right time," he says.

Li says his research not only seeks to treat disease, it also seeks to study the function of new genes for use in future treatments. By manipulating genes in animals, scientists can better understand their function in human beings. And by controlling the size and frequency of drugs that affect certain genes, "we believe our system is more flexible than traditional drug therapies," Li says.

In addition to his pulmonary research, Li is also working on a project funded by the U.S. Department of Defense that seeks to silence the gene whose overabundance is thought to affect the development and progression of prostate cancer. In doing so, if science can restore chemical stability to the body of a cancer patient, Li believes tumors will respond to the treatment.

"We are trying to develop an approach which can be used in various diseases," he says.



Brave New World: Pharmacogenomics May Trigger New Treatments for Old Nemeses

Few topics in health care today are as ambitious as the mapping of the human genome. With the onset of research that is racing to map about 30,000 human genes comes the hope that, in doing so, scientists can create drug therapies that more accurately pinpoint and treat some of society's most persistent illnesses.

According to Wolfgang Sadée (PhD) chair of the Department of Pharmacology and director of the program in pharmacogenomics at Ohio State University, researchers can use genetic-genomic information to detect health risks. Specific research includes detecting disease susceptibility; discovering new drugs; and tailoring drug therapy by genotyping both patients and infectious agents, such as the HIV virus.

Sadée, who also serves as the Felts Mercer Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology, delivered the 47th annual Julius A. Koch Lecture at the School of Pharmacy on March 19. Recognized internationally as a leader in pharmacogenomics and signal transduction research, he spoke of the search to find new approaches to prevent and treat such illnesses as coronary artery disease, cancer, and drug addiction.

Sadée said that the stakes are high, because use of genetic information is one way to avoid adverse drug reactions. From 1966 through 1996, the World Health Organization reports that adverse reactions occurred in 3.1 billion prescriptions per year, resulting in 33 million hospital admissions. Such reactions were the fifth leading cause of death in that time.

As part of his presentation, Sadée offered this quote, attributed to artist Vincent Van Gogh: "We are far from the time when we can understand the peculiar relationships between one or the other fragment of nature which however complement and reinforce each other."



Finding the Right Words:

Patient Counseling Competition Highlights the Human Side of Pharmacy

When it comes to preventing medication errors, perhaps no line of defense is as simple—yet crucial—as clear communication between patient and pharmacist. Yet ironically, patient counseling did not become a major component of pharmacy education until the past decade or so.

Philosophies shifted in the early 1990s—and with good reason. Healthcare providers realized that better education could prevent potentially lethal medication errors—a theory that was backed up by later research. According to studies released in 1991 and 1998, for example, more than 7,000 people die each year due to such errors. And the Adverse Drug Event Prevention Study Group found that such accidents occur in 6.5 of every 100 hospital admissions, with 42 percent of these incidents categorized as serious or life threatening.

Current thinking in pharmaceutical care is that pharmacists are patient care providers, not merely medication dispensers. An annual patient counseling competition sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) reflects that theory—judging students on their ability to quickly and effectively communicate with patients who are sometimes hard to reach.

“If they are scared, you have to be able to take [your counseling] a step beyond and say, ‘Oh, I can see you have a problem,’ and really be compassionate to their concern,” says Adam Welch (PharmD ‘03), who beat 16 other School of Pharmacy students for the opportunity to represent the University of Pittsburgh at the national competition in March.



Adam Welch uses his computer during a counseling session.

It was the second consecutive year that Welch won the local competition. At the national level in New Orleans, La., where he faced 85 other contenders, he placed in the top 10 before being eliminated in the second round.

“I felt more comfortable this year, because I know how the routine goes. I was much less nervous,” says Welch, who has accepted a community practice residency position in Chapel Hill, N.C. “I knew what I wanted to say about each drug before I got there.”

Students at the national competition receive in advance a list of 10 drugs for which they may potentially have to counsel a “patient” (in reality, an APhA member who plays the role of a patient) during a five-minute videotaped session.

Before the camera started rolling, Welch used a five-minute review period to outline everything he wanted to say about the drug he was assigned—TobraDex,

an antibiotic-steroid combination eye drop. When his “patient” came into the room, she was in a rush and saying she didn’t have time to talk—a problem many pharmacists face when trying to counsel actual patients.

“It was my responsibility to say there were important points about this medication that [she] needed to know,” and overcome her urge to hurry me through the session, Welch says. Additionally, because the drug came in eye drop form, he advised the woman about the best way to administer the medication, since many people have trouble using drops.

Despite the patient’s rushed entrance, “I was afraid that I would go over my five-minute time limit,” Welch laughs. Fortunately, he was able to hit every point he planned to make, with a few seconds to spare.

In the next round, after placing in the top 10, Welch had to counsel a mother about using the antibiotic Biaxin for her child. Thrown for a loop by the fact that he was not talking to the actual patient, Welch was eliminated. But he says the experience was valuable anyway.

“It really helps you communicate well with the patient,” he says.

So dedicated was Welch to the idea of competing that he arranged to work four 10-hour days on his rotation in Buffalo, N.Y., so that he could take a fifth day off that week to attend the local competition in Pittsburgh. Seven hours, multiple tolls, and two tanks of gas later, he emerged triumphant.

Welch’s success furthers the School of Pharmacy’s tradition of high achievement in the annual competition. While preparing for New Orleans, he sought advice from Melissa Somma (PharmD ‘98). Now an assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, Somma was the third runner-up in the APhA competition in Los Angeles, Calif., as a Pitt student in 1997.

“It’s an established competition. It’s prestigious to do well, and your name gets publicized,” says Somma, who joined the School of Pharmacy’s faculty in January. “I’ve actually had people come up to me at meetings and say, ‘I recognize you!’ from the competition.”

Six years later, Somma still remembers the drug she had to review with her mock patient—Glucophage, an oral medication used to treat type 2 diabetes. Now a more common prescription, it was relatively new at the time.

To help Welch prepare for his competition, Somma spent three afternoons role playing counseling sessions on various drugs and reviewing the scoring sheet with him. At her prior job, as a member of the faculty at Wilkes University, Somma also helped prepare students for the competition, but she never had any who fared as well as Welch.

“He was very excited. I couldn’t be more proud of him,” she says.

“If they are scared, you have to be able to take [your counseling] a step beyond ... really be compassionate to their concern.”
—Adam Welch

The key to effective counseling, according to Somma, is establishing an open line of communication with the patient immediately by leaning in, saying hello, smiling, and generally presenting a friendly demeanor. She says the pharmacist should explain the importance of spending extra time discussing the medication, because “patients don’t have that expectation right now.”

Somma then recommends that pharmacists introduce each subject using three basic questions, which were developed by the Indian Health Service, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:

- What did the doctor tell you this medication was for?
- How did the doctor tell you to use this medication?
- What did the doctor tell you to expect from this medication?

Because the questions are open ended, they allow the patient to speak more freely, offering more information to the pharmacist, she says. Somma adds that pharmacists should summarize by asking their patients to repeat instructions to ensure they truly understand how they should use the drugs.

In reality, pharmacists might not have the opportunity to spend as much time counseling their patients and would rely on the

help of printed inserts to help reinforce important information. Despite this, Somma believes the competition enhances a pharmacy student’s future after graduation.

“It does two things. First, it gives them an experience in a high-pressure situation dealing with a patient. It’s looked upon very highly in any pharmacy environment that students took the initiative to do this, and that they have a skill set that maybe a lot of people don’t have,” she points out.

And when the student ends up in professional practice, the benefits trickle down to the patients.

“For the patient, it’s instantaneous—they see that this pharmacist cares about me, knows how to talk with me. And it allows the pharmacist to take much better care of the patient,” she says.

Bottled Tinctures Capture the Essence of Pharmacy's Roots



The Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum offers School of Pharmacy students, faculty, and alumni a chance to step back to a bygone era in pharmacy. "A Snapshot from Pharmacy's Past" provides alumni who cannot visit the museum (on the fourth floor of Salk Hall) an opportunity to see some of the valuable items on display there. The school's alumni and friends can also view the museum online by visiting the School of Pharmacy's Web page at www.pharmacy.pitt.edu and then clicking on the Alumni link.

Think back to the bygone days of the old-fashioned pharmacy, where tiny corked bottles of brightly colored liquids lined the shelves, awaiting mixture, "secundum artem," by the pharmacist's skilled hand. Known as tinctures, these crude drugs are largely a thing of the past, though they stand on display at the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum on the fourth floor of Salk Hall.

Pharmacists typically dissolved tinctures in alcohol through a process known as percolation, explains Richard A. Lithgow, '50, museum curator. Typically the drugs came in four-ounce bottles—first topped by corks, later by screw-on caps—and they covered the whole color spectrum.

"It's the sort of thing that signifies an apothecary's shop, those bottles of tinctures," says Lithgow. "They are part of the rich history of pharmacy."

Used to treat virtually every common ailment, the drugs—which enjoyed their heyday prior to World War II—carried a bitter taste, he explains. So pharmacists would mix the drugs into the alcohol and then put them into a larger liquid, such as cough syrup, to mask the flavor.

Today, pharmacists can deliver the same drugs in a tablet or capsule form that is more accurate and pleasant tasting, says Lithgow. Gone are the days of the bright little bottles on the pharmacy wall.

Refrigerator Magnet:

Saving the Lives of Seniors

It's a basic fact of life and a side effect of the advancements of modern pharmaceuticals: As people age, they need more prescription drugs—enough that sometimes the sheer number and sequence of medications they take can become mind-boggling. If people managing multiple prescriptions should have an emergency, they might not be able to give medics crucial, even life-saving, information about their drug regimen.

That's the challenge that the School of Pharmacy tackled by collaborating on the Facts of Life program, which seeks to make the household refrigerator a universal, central repository for information about a person's prescriptions.

The program, which targets Pittsburgh-area citizens who are 60 and older, offers participants a medical profile card and a reusable plastic storage pouch

in which they store an updated list of their medications. People attach the pouch to the interior wall of their refrigerators and put a decal on the outside indicating that they are part of the program. If emergency workers are in the home, they can quickly access valuable medical information from the refrigerator magnet or pouch.

According to Scott Drab, (BS '89, PharmD) assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of professional experience programs at the School of Pharmacy, about 600 people are currently enrolled in the program. It started in planning stages in March 2002 and will run through March 2005. The school recruited participants through presentations compiled by the School of Pharmacy as well as such programs as Meals on Wheels.

Pharmacists and Pitt pharmacy students presented educational information emphasizing the importance of medication management and storage as part of the recruitment effort.

Drab, who serves as a faculty advisor for Facts of Life, says the isolation of many elderly people underscores the need for such programs.

"A lot of individuals are living by themselves," he says. "They don't know their neighbors necessarily, and in an emergency situation, that could be kind of problematic."

A similar, earlier program known as Vial of Life used a card within a vial to record similar information about medication history. The problem, according to Drab, was that Vial of Life "was a one-shot deal. You gave the person a vial with a card, and that was it. There was never any updating. This program is different in that we were now able, with computers, to send out reminders."

Such follow-up is important because it reminds participants to keep their information up to date.

Drab says program organizers chose to use the refrigerator for storage because "everybody has one." Also, he adds, "A lot of people hang magnets on the refrigerator, so it's a common place to look" for the decal alerting emergency personnel to the presence of records inside.

To request a magnet and pouch for someone you know, contact Elder-Ado at 412-381-6900.

Facts of Life MEDICAL PROFILE PARTICIPANT

NAME: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____ PHONE NO.: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NO. 2: _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____ PHONE NO.: _____

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN (NAME): _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

MEDICARE NO.: _____

SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE: _____

GROUP NO.: _____ IDENTIFICATION NO.: _____

ANY SPECIAL MEDICAL CONDITION: _____

LOCATION OF MEDICATIONS: _____

ANY KNOWN ALLERGIES? _____

AVERAGE BLOOD PRESSURE READING: _____ TAKEN: _____

HOSPITAL PREFERENCE: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE MEDICATION LIST ON REVERSE SIDE

GEAR UP and SPARC: Student Recruitment

Students "GEAR UP" for Summer Research Internships

Every summer, students from across the country spend eight weeks finding out what being a pharmaceutical scientist is really like.

Started in 2002 as a component of the School of Pharmacy Graduate Education And Research at the University of Pittsburgh (GEAR UP) program, these summer research internships are designed to encourage undergraduate students to pursue graduate and postgraduate study in the pharmaceutical sciences. The internships are particularly attractive to students who don't have the educational opportunities for pharmaceutical study.

That's what makes the program unique, says Sam Poloyac, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences and program facilitator. "We bring in students from universities that don't have



Dr. Vollmer and GEAR UP students in lab.

graduate programs in pharmaceutical science, giving them a chance to experience things that aren't available in their home academic program."

Students work closely with a faculty advisor, and at the end of their internships, they must prepare a research poster, a five-minute presentation, and an accompanying abstract of their work. Feedback from the pilot year indicated that while all interns found the research valuable, they also liked interacting with their fellow interns.

"We create a peer-learning environment so that students can learn from each other," says Poloyac. That environment includes weekly faculty-moderated lunches where students share their ideas and progress with each other.

"I appreciated the discussions with the other interns. It was nice to be able to talk about our projects and future plans in a language we could understand," said Julie Aaron, a 2002 participant.

Shenandoah University intern Danielle Przychodin said the program gave her an accurate view of what to expect from continued education. "For several of us it confirmed our positive dreams of what graduate school could be as well as pointing out pitfalls to watch out for," she said.

Jonathan Ugege, also from Shenandoah, noted, "When I decide to pursue a graduate program, the University of Pittsburgh will be at the top of the list."

More than 30 students applied for the summer of 2003's 10 internship positions.

GEAR UP also offers a mini-graduate school weekend to educate future pharmaceutical scientists about graduate and doctoral educational opportunities.



Pharmacy Professor Michael Mokotoff works with GEAR UP students.

Colloquium "Sparks" the Interest of Future Scientists

Future pharmaceutical scientists attended the first School of Pharmacy Alumni and Research Symposium (SPARC) on February 20-21 at the University of Pittsburgh. Organized by Professor Raman Venkataramanan, SPARC was created to bring the school's alumni, graduate students, and faculty together for informative presentations, idea exchange, and networking.

The result of a pilot session launched in 2001, the colloquium was created to both make alumni aware of the school's progress and research, as well as to inform students of the career opportunities that await them after they complete their studies.

The keynote address was delivered by Arthur S. Levine, senior vice chancellor for health sciences and dean of the school of medicine. "Dr. Levine spoke about where biomedical research at Pitt would be in five years, which was a great way for alumni to see where we are going," said Venkataramanan.

SPARC featured additional presentations by the pharmacy school's Associate Dean for Research Randall B. Smith and Vice Chancellor for Research Conduct and Compliance—and former pharmacy dean—Randy P. Juhl. Eight alumni, each representing academia, industry, or government and start-up focus areas, participated in moderated panel discussions on their area of expertise.

One student attendee touted SPARC's "availability of alumni from various areas of the profession and the ability to discuss real-life issues in a comfortable, nonintimidating environment" as the colloquium's biggest draw.

Pharmacy students also displayed 16 poster presentations to attendees, while doctoral and postdoctoral fellows delivered five podium presentations.

The student research certainly impressed alumni and enhanced the "hire-ability" of pharmacy graduates.



Graduate student and poster winner Pradeep Tyagi with a GEAR UP student.

Noted alumnus Frank Kofi Bedu-Abbo ('95), "Whenever I need to hire, I will contact you to find out if there are any students graduating in the physical pharmacy field."

Alumni Scott Hill ('86), Anil D'Mello ('86), Lisa Rohan ('95), Richard Bergstrom ('73), David Rotella ('81), Mike Maurin ('83), Mehul Mehta ('86), and Karen Habucky ('87, '92) also participated in the colloquium.

GEAR UP Gifts Foster Future Pharmaceutical Scientists

For the second year, The Merck Company Foundation made a grant of \$29,400 in support of the GEAR UP program's summer 2003 student research internships.

Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical of Johnson & Johnson Service also made a \$10,000 gift in support of the internships, a donation that was supported by School of Pharmacy alumnus Karen Habucky ('87, PhD '92), director of research for Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development.

In response to this generous support, Patricia D. Kroboth, interim dean, remarked, "We are encouraged by the enthusiasm for the [GEAR UP] program from students, schools of pharmacy, and donors. We are all aware of the importance of recruiting the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists, and this program is an exciting new way to do that."

Grant funding is essential to the summer internship program, and it covers housing, travel, and a stipend for participants.



Alumni

Degrees conferred by the University of Pittsburgh have a year following the degree; degrees without a year following were conferred by another institution of higher learning.

1960s

Judith Becker Higgins ('67) of Starke, Fla., earned her PharmD from the University of Florida and recently accepted a position with Merck-Medco Health Solutions in Tampa, Fla.

1970s

Ann Hume ('77) professor of pharmacy and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Rhode Island, received the 2003 Primary Health Care Fellowship. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services sponsors the fellowship, which is coordinated by the Bureau of Health Professions of the Health Resources and Services Administration. Hume also serves as adjunct professor of family medicine at Brown University and as a faculty member of the University of Rhode Island Geriatric Education Center.

1980s

Richard Lush ('86, PhD '94) served as the preceptor for Olie Anum, who was awarded the Aventis Oncology Fellowship by the American College of Clinical Pharmacology (ACCP) Research Institute. Lush was recently named executive director of clinical research operations for the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Lutz, Fla.

Gordon J. Vanscoy (BS '84, PharmD, MBA '91), assistant dean for managed care and associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has been appointed honorary chair of the U.S. Business Advisory Council for the National Republican Congressional Committee by U.S. Representative Tom DeLay (R-Texas).



1990s

Melanie Joy ('91), a resident coordinator and clinical assistant professor in the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, won the Roche Transplantation Award from the American College of Clinical Pharmacology Research Institute for her project "Role of p-Glycoprotein in Drug-Induced Nephrotoxicity." After earning her pharmacy degree, Joy completed a specialty residency in nephrology at UPMC in 1994 and a fellowship in the School of Pharmacy in 1995.

James Capuzzi ('95) of Chalk Hill, Pa., is the owner and chief executive officer of MEDMART Pharmacy, an independent family pharmacy in Connellsville, Pa. In June 2002, the company opened its second location.

Jill Pfeufer ('95) of Fort Myers, Fla., earned her PharmD degree in 2001 from Shenandoah University. She is now working as the director of pharmacy at Gulf Coast Hospital in Fort Myers.

Timothy Jancel ('99) has completed a specialty residency in infectious disease at the University of California at San Francisco.

Faculty

Gil Burckart (PhD, BS '72) has left the school to take a post as professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Southern California, where he will build the department's research structure and develop the relationship between the school and its affiliated medical centers. Considered a pioneer in transplant pharmacotherapy and research, Burckart's NIH-funded research in liver transplant drug disposition ran for nine years and has contributed to a new treatment of refractory rejection in lung transplant patients.

Rebecca Corey (PharmD '00) was named assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics in January 2003. Her efforts focus on the liver transplant service at UPMC Presbyterian, and she will also be involved with daily patient care monitoring programs and optimizing therapy under protocols approved by the medical staff. Prior to joining the Pitt faculty, Corey worked as a clinical pharmacist in the solid organ transplant program at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y.

Margaret Chrymko (PharmD), an adjunct faculty member and School of Pharmacy preceptor, was honored with the Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists' 2003 Joe E. Smith Award, recognizing member pharmacists who demonstrate excellence in practice and outstanding service to their institution, community, and profession. Chrymko is also a pharmacist at the VA Medical Center in Erie, Pa., where she is implementing a new pharmacy residency program.

Scott Drab (PharmD, BS '89), assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of professional experience programs at the School of Pharmacy, will serve as associate editor of *Diabetes Forecast*, the premier patient publication of the American Diabetes Association.

Bethany Fedutes (PharmD), who is completing her residency in drug information at Pitt, will serve as an assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics and a clinical specialist at the Drug Information Center. Fedutes will be responsible for expanding the role of the center in clinical, financial, and humanistic outcomes related to medication use, as well as assisting in the development and evaluation of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Residency in Drug Information.

Reginald F. Frye (PhD '95), former associate professor with tenure, has accepted a position at the University of Florida as associate professor in the College of Pharmacy Center for Pharmacogenomics.

Xiang Gao (PhD '95) will join Pitt from Vanderbilt University as a research assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. As a Pitt student, Gao studied with Leaf Huang and synthesized DC-chol, the first cationic lipid used in several clinical trials. He has served on several NIH grant review panels and holds several U.S. patents. He is the principal investigator on an NIH-funded grant studying nonviral gene delivery systems for lung diseases.

Deanne Hall (PharmD '98), assistant professor and clinical pharmacist, was selected for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' (ASHP) Foundation Diabetes Patient Care Traineeship Program for 2003. With a focus on diabetes mellitus, this program prepares participants to design patient-specific pharmacotherapy, solve drug therapy problems, and work with patient care teams to develop protocols, policies, and procedures for patient treatment.

Laura Jung (PharmD) joined the school in January 2003 as an assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics. In collaboration with UPMC Cancer Centers, where she recently completed an oncology fellowship, Jung will focus her work on the pharmaceutical care of cancer patients undergoing treatment at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC. She will also coach and mentor students and faculty as they hone their oncology treatment skills.



Faculty

Sandra Kane (PharmD), an assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, earned one of two American College of Clinical Pharmacology (ACCP) Amgen Biotechnology Research Awards for her project "Clinical and Economic Outcomes of Epoetin Alfa."

Joanne Kowiatek (MDM, BS '77), pharmacy and therapeutics instructor and a UPMC pharmacy manager, will serve as a faculty member at the summer meeting of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists in San Diego, Calif. Kowiatek will participate in the course Medication-Use Safety: A Practical Approach to FMEA and RCA.

Edward P. Krenzelok (PharmD), director of the Pittsburgh Poison Center at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC and a professor of pharmacy and pediatrics, has written *Biological and Chemical Terrorism: A Pharmacy Preparedness Guide*. Published by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), the book guides pharmacy departments to develop emergency preparedness plans for use in the case of a chemical or biological attack. In addition, Krenzelok recently coordinated Poison Prevention Week activities with more than 140 Giant Eagle supermarket pharmacists to distribute Mr. Yuk stickers and poison prevention information to elementary school students.

Yong Tae Kwon (PhD) joined the school as an assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences. Kwon joined the Center for Pharmacogenetics in September 2002, transferring from California Institute of Technology. His research focuses on a subset of the ubiquitin pathway called the N-end rule pathway.

Karen Laughlin (PharmD) is a new assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. Laughlin, who completed ASHP residencies in both pharmacy practice and critical care/transplantation at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System and UPMC Presbyterian, will concentrate on clinical and nutritional care of patients in the Intestinal Transplant and Rehabilitation Center.

Gary R. Matzke (PharmD) won a three-year term as research institute trustee for the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP). Matzke is vice chair and professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, as well as a professor of renal medicine and a member of the Center for Clinical Pharmacology in the Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine. His practice, teaching, and research focus on clinical nephrology.

Brian A. Potoski (PharmD '99), assistant professor for pharmacy and therapeutics, was awarded one of two 2003 minisabbaticals by the ACCP Research Institute and the Infectious Diseases PRN. His work will include performing Monte Carlo analyses simulating pharmacodynamic variance of antimicrobial agents and how this affects dose or drug selection in clinical practice.

Rhonda Rea (PharmD) joined the faculty on July 1, 2003, as an assistant professor for pharmacy and therapeutics. Rea will divide her time between the School of Pharmacy and UPMC's medical intensive care unit as a clinical specialist. She was previously a specialty resident in critical care at Pitt and completed a residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Rowena Schwartz (PharmD), an associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, organized and spoke at a multidisciplinary conference for more than 70 oncology practitioners—including nurses, case managers, and pharmacists—on new drug updates for diseases affecting oncology patients. She was joined by School of Pharmacy colleagues Meredith Rose (anticoagulation), Amy Seybert (hypertension), Raeann Maxwell (depression), and Melissa Somma (diabetes).

Terry L. Schwinghammer (PharmD), professor of pharmaceutical sciences, assumed the post of chair-elect of the Council of Faculties of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) at that organization's 2003 annual meeting July in Minneapolis, Minn. He earned School of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year honors in 1994, '96, and '00 and has organized several special AACCP programs devoted to attracting young practitioners to academic careers. Schwinghammer is co-editor of the *Pharmacotherapy Handbook, 5th Edition*, published by McGraw-Hill.

Melissa Somma (PharmD '98), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics since January 2003, is serving as cochair on a task force, Ambulatory Practice: Building a Business Model, created by the ACCP. Composed of 20 practitioners nationwide, the task force is working to define a financially viable practice model. Somma also serves as director of outpatient pharmacotherapy education for the UPMC St. Margaret family practice residency program and is the contributing editor for pharmacy affairs for *Bulletin*, the journal of the Allegheny County Medical Society.

Bin Sun (MD) is a visiting research instructor of pharmaceutical sciences at the Center for Pharmacogenetics. She joined the center in October 2002, transferring from Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Sun's research centers on gene therapy. She will be supervising technicians and research associates in the center.

Raman Venkataramanan (PhD), a professor of pharmaceutical sciences who holds a joint post as a professor of pathology in the School of Medicine, was an invited speaker in the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists workshop titled Exposure Response Relationship of Immunomodulators in March 2003 in Washington, D.C.

A Mission of Mercy: School of Pharmacy's Connor Helps Build Modern Drug Treatment in Kenya

In the United States, where people can safely fill prescriptions at the local supermarket and the most common ailments aren't life threatening, it's easy to forget that in other parts of the world, modern pharmacy care is a completely foreign concept.

For Sharon Connor, PharmD, that message became a day-to-day reality for six months. From June 2002 through early January 2003, Connor took time off from her post as an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences to practice pharmacy in Africa as part of Doctors without Borders, a private nonprofit organization that delivers health care to third-world and war-torn nations.

Connor worked in a district hospital in the village of Homa Bay in western Kenya, on the shore of Lake Victoria. Her job was to help the hospital's pharmacy, which Doctors without Borders founded in 1999, become financially sustainable. Moreover, she sought to help Kenyans operate the pharmacy independently based on a sliding price scale.

In order to ensure an adequate supply of safe, quality prescription drugs, the group purchased all its supplies from a mission wholesaler and then set prices. For some medications,

the pharmacy marked up prices; for others, it sold the items below cost, thereby ensuring accessibility for all the patients.

"It's always finding a balance, working closely with the local pharmacists to figure out what price was reasonable," Connor explains. By the time she left, the pharmacy was recovering about 85 percent of its costs, but she adds that it won't be considered sustainable until it recovers more than 100 percent.

Doctors without Borders also evaluated the drug manufacturers and wholesalers to ensure they were carrying bona fide medications, not just sugar pills—"which can happen sometimes in Kenya," Connor notes.

As coordinator of the course Pharmaceutical Care to Underserved Populations at Pitt, Connor has seen her share of poverty-stricken patients who can't afford their medications. But she was still in for a touch of culture shock in Kenya, where the HIV rate is 35 percent.

Disease patterns are also different from the United States, she says.

"Here, there is a lot of chronic disease, such as heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure," Connor says.



Sharon Connor

"There, it's infectious disease—malaria, HIV, that type of thing. Things that we see all the time over here, like cholesterol-lowering medications, are virtually non-existent" in Kenya, she says.

As part of her mission, Connor also surveyed patients to ensure they were getting the services and drugs they needed. After implementing the survey system, she returned home.

"I really enjoyed it, but it was definitely a learning experience," Connor says of her tour of duty. "Living in Kenya gave me a greater appreciation of the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS in Africa, and it also reminded me never to take our national healthcare services for granted."

Scholarships and Awards for Academic Year 2002–03

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, the School of Pharmacy granted \$289,332 in scholarships and awards to 140 students in academic year 2002–03. These scholarships and awards were made possible through the endowed and annual funds listed below. Of the recipients, 18 are from the Class of 2006, 28 from the Class of 2005, 49 from the Class of 2004, 41 from the Class of 2003, and four are graduate students.

School of Pharmacy Scholarships and Awards

Albert J. Bauer Jr. Memorial Scholarship
J.H. Beal Prize
Don Bell Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Joseph A. Bianculli Pharmacy Award

Louis Bischoff and Mary V. Bischoff Scholarship
William L. Blockstein Scholarship
Dr. Frederick J. Blumenschein Scholarship
CECity Scholarship
Frank Miller Coad Memorial Scholarship
Stan Cohen Memorial Scholarship
John P. and Constance A. Curran Pharmacy Scholarship
CVS Scholarship
CVS and McNeil Consumer Healthcare Scholarship
Darbaker Scholarship
Eckerd Scholarship
Giant Food Stores Scholarship
Ronald S. Getz Memorial Scholarship
William W. Goode Scholarship
Reuben Helfant Pharmaceutical Scholarship
Phillip Hoffman Memorial Scholarship

Scott Horton Memorial (Rite Aid) Scholarship
Howard W. Jeffreys Memorial Scholarship
Evelyn and Milton Judd Scholarship
Ralph R. Kartub "Mr. Ralph" Scholarship
The Klingensmith Scholarship
Jama Urbanski Key Memorial (Giant Eagle) Scholarship
Bessie Black Kobrin Endowed Fund
Joseph Koslow Scholarship
Rich Kruzynski Pharmacy Award
Samuel L. Lefkowitz Scholarship
Herman R. Leven Memorial Scholarship
Maurice David Levenson Scholarship
Medicine Shoppe Scholarship
Maurice Mervis Scholarship
Daniel T. Mosse Memorial Scholarship

National Association of Chain Drug Stores Scholarship
Organon Scholarship
Pennsylvania Chain Drug Endowment Fund for the School of Pharmacy
Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Student Excellence Award
Pharmacist Mutual Companies Scholarship
Phar-Mor Endowed Scholarship
Rite Aid Scholarship
School of Pharmacy Scholarship
School of Pharmacy Alumni Society Board Scholarship
J. Howard Semple Memorial Scholarship
Ardella V. and Charles J. Sidehammer Scholarship
Robert C. Smith Scholarship for Minority Students in Pharmacy
Carl and Virginia Stoehr Memorial Scholarship
Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy Pharmaceutical Endowment
Walgreens Scholarship
Wal-Mart Scholarship
Louis Weinberger Scholarship

Student Honors

Lucy Chiao (P3) has earned the 2003 Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Student Award. The award recognizes students who have been actively involved in initiatives related to advancing the practice of health-systems pharmacy. Chiao, an intern at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, has also served as a research assistant with the School of Pharmacy's Pharmacodynamic Research Center. She serves as chair of the institutional practice committee of the Academy of Students of Pharmacy (ASP) and organized the school's clinical skills competition. In 2002, she

set out to rejuvenate Pitt's chapter of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, arranging for speakers and spearheading a successful student membership drive.

Evelyn Chiao (P3) and Dan Vanderpoel (P4) represented the School of Pharmacy at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' National Clinical Skills Competition, which was held December 7–8, 2002, in Atlanta, Ga. More than 2,500 students representing 69 schools participated in the program. They analyzed actual patient cases, demonstrated skills in assessing a patient's medical history, identified drug therapy problems and treatment goals, and recommended a pharmacist's care plan that included monitoring variables and desired outcomes.

The American College of Clinical Pharmacology honored Vera Donnenberg, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, with a student award recognizing her research abstract "Real Time Measurement of Rhodamine 123 (R 123) Transport in T-Cell Subsets: Kinetics of P-Glycoprotein (P-GP) Function in a Physiological System." Donnenberg's research centers on multiple drug resistant pumps in lymphocytes from both healthy volunteers and transplant recipients.

Tanya Fabian (PharmD '98) recently received the Thomas Detre Research Award for her work in the field of geriatric psychopharmacology. Detre presented Fabian with the award along with a check for \$500. Fabian, who is a PhD candidate in pharmaceutical sciences and a postdoctoral fellow in the

Department of Psychiatry, is studying under the mentorship of faculty members Patricia D. Kroboth and Bruce Pollock.

PharmD student Margie Markey (P3) wrote a proposal that was selected by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AAPC) to be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Her project, "The Diabetes Risk Assessment, Education, and Management Program," was selected among all student proposals for the competition for the DHHS 2003 Secretary's Award for Innovations in Health Promotion. Her proposal was then in competition with those from students of other health professions. AAPC is the national organization representing the interests of pharmaceutical education and educators. Comprising all 85 U.S. pharmacy colleges and schools including more than 4,000 faculty, 36,000 students enrolled in professional programs, and 3,600 individuals pursuing graduate study, AAPC is committed to excellence in pharmaceutical education. For more information, visit www.aacp.org.

Amanda Sallade (P4) beat out hundreds of other students to win the 2002 Parrish Martin Scholarship Award from Eckerd Corp. Pharmacy Manager Ray Smith cited Sallade's enthusiasm, commitment to excellence, academic achievement, and community service, which make her a "stellar performer in all aspects of pharmacy." Sallade, who ranks 10th in her class, is also a member of Rho Chi and the Academy of Students of Pharmacy. She plans to continue her career as a pharmacist with Eckerd Drugs in central Pennsylvania.



Pictured here are 65 of the 140 scholarship and award recipients for academic year 2002–03, all of whom extend a big thank you to their generous donors. They are pictured with Interim Dean Patricia D. Kroboth and Senior Executive Director of Development Renée M. Pekor on a sunny day in Pittsburgh on the stairs of the Petersen Events Center.

Student

Stacey L. Schontz (P2) participated in the Bridging the Gaps community health internship program during the summer of 2002. The internships educate students about the realities of underserved populations and the challenges and constraints of working with them. Students work directly with the community as well as a mentor and spend time reflecting on their experiences through group discussions and journal assignments. They also complete reading assignments, develop projects, and learn from guest speakers.

Pitt's Kappa Psi Chapter Recognized as Best in the World

The Kappa Psi pharmaceutical fraternity has honored the Beta Kappa chapter at the University of Pittsburgh as the best in the world. The ranking, which is based on criteria including the chapter's professional programs, involvement in regional and national Kappa Psi activities, and academic performance, was announced by chapter President Erin Walsh.

Kappa Psi boasts 67 collegiate and 43 graduate chapters in the United States and Canada. The Pitt chapter dates back to 1913.

Student Organization Garners National Awards

The American Pharmaceutical Association recognized the School of Pharmacy's Academy of Students of Pharmacy (ASP) chapter with three awards at its annual meeting in New Orleans, La., the weekend of March 28.

The chapter's Operation Immunization program, which used letters, flyers, and drives to inform five separate populations about the importance of vaccinations, received top honors among 43 participating organizations. U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona presented the award to Amber Lisi and Jennifer Gray, the chapter's cochairs of professional services, and faculty advisor Michael Romano.

The association also honored the Pitt ASP chapter for its program-ming efforts in the 2001–02 academic year. In 2001, in addition to Operation Immunization, School of Pharmacy students also ran Operation Diabetes, an information and screening program; a series of programs on safety, including Katy's Kids, a program that teaches elementary school children about the safe use of medications; and Poison Prevention Week. Other activities

included fundraisers, professional workshops, National Pharmacy Week, Pitt Pharmacy Week,

and participation in both the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Patient Counseling Competition and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists' Clinical Skills Competition.

Ninety-six percent of students attending the School of Pharmacy are members of ASP-APhA, the largest professional association of student pharmacists in the country. The Pitt chapter also received a membership award from the national organization for its efforts in promoting membership.

Honors for Pitt's Rho Chi Chapter

In recognition of its activities for academic year 2002–03, Pitt's Rho Chi chapter, Alpha Omicron, won a National Chapter Achievement Award. Rho Chi is an academic honor society in the pharmacy field. Membership in the society is only open to pharmacy students in the top 20 percent of their class. Some of the organization's activities include providing a tutoring program for pharmacy students, assisting in an Annual Career Expo, and organizing a Brown Bag Lecture Series.

The Alpha Omicron chapter also received several awards at the APhA annual meeting, including a first-place achievement award for its Annual Chapter Report and a third place achievement award for their Chapter Project.

Rx School

\$100,000 Randy P. Juhl Graduate Scholar Endowment is Established

This past February, the University of Pittsburgh Pharmacy Associates, the school's practice plan, established the Randy P. Juhl Graduate Scholar Award (an endowment named to honor the former School of Pharmacy dean).

The \$100,000 fund will support graduate students enrolled in the School of Pharmacy who are pursuing a PhD in areas related to clinical research. First preference shall be given to students who received the Doctor of Pharmacy or Bachelor of Science in pharmacy degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Second preference shall be given to students who received these degrees from another American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited school or college of pharmacy.

Now the vice chancellor for research conduct and compliance, Juhl served as dean of Pitt's School of Pharmacy for 16 years (1987–2002). Juhl joined the School of Pharmacy in 1979 as chair of the former Department of Pharmacy Practice.

Through his professional consulting with the industry and his involvement in the establishment of the practice plan in 1992, Juhl added considerable revenue to the University of Pittsburgh Pharmacy Associates practice plan. Upon his departure from the deanship, Juhl declined his portion of the revenue and directed that the plan should retain it for the benefit of the School of Pharmacy.

"One of the extras of my job as dean was the opportunity to serve as a consultant," says Juhl. "My activities related to the FDA process for switching prescription products to over-the-counter status attracted the interest of several companies and organizations over the years. It was an enjoyable activity for me that brought both a degree of recognition to the school and also a modicum of consulting funds into the faculty practice plan. It was my intention that those funds be put to good use within the school. Thus, I am both honored and gratified that the practice plan has created this endowed fund in my name."

Pitt Earns Top 10 Status in NIH Funding

For the third consecutive year, the University of Pittsburgh's School of Pharmacy has ranked among the top 10 schools in the country for National Institutes of Health funding. Pitt ranked ninth in fiscal year 2002, winning \$5.9 million in NIH grants and contracts—up from \$5.02 million the previous year.

In addition, School of Pharmacy faculty and investigators submitted the largest number of grants (for the highest dollar total) in the school's history. Those submissions include

- 16 grants with school faculty as principal investigators for a total of \$26.9 million in direct costs,
- additional grants as 14 subcontracts with principal investigators outside the school, and
- 30 grants for a total of \$37.6 million in total project costs.

Coro Fellows Study Drug Development Process

Seventeen students from various healthcare disciplines studied the drug development process at the School of Pharmacy as part of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation (JHF)/Coro Pittsburgh Health Sciences Fellowship program.

The 2002 event educated students from pharmacy, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, social work, public health, and physicians assistant programs. Fellows interviewed School of Pharmacy faculty members to learn more about each stage of the process: drug discovery, drug delivery and preclinical drug testing, clinical trials, and postmarketing evaluations. After the interviews, the fellows prepared a concept map, and a faculty expert panel responded to the fellows' impressions and questions.

The fellowship program is a collaborative project of the JHF and the Coro Center for Civic Leadership.

Walkers Raise Record-Setting Amounts for Juvenile Diabetes Research

Walkers representing the School of Pharmacy reached new heights in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's annual Walk to Cure Diabetes.

In 2002, 128 walkers raised \$4,460 for juvenile diabetes research—a school record, up from 46 walkers and \$2,086 raised the previous year. The previous record was 90 walkers and \$3,272 raised in 2000.



Rx School

School of Pharmacy Wins Substance Abuse Grant Worth \$400,000

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs has awarded the School of Pharmacy a three-year grant worth \$400,000 to address alcohol and substance abuse.

The grant focuses on people between the ages of 12 and 25 as well as the community at large. In 2000, the Pennsylvania Department of Health estimated that more than 630,000 state residents required treatment for substance or alcohol abuse, although the actual number who received treatment was 69,000. Funds for the grant were provided by the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

"This is a very prestigious award," says **Jan Pringle (PhD)**, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the School of Pharmacy and scientific director of the Pittsburgh-based Institute for Research, Education, and Training in Addictions.

"Our goal is to build a comprehensive resource center related to addictions research, health policy, prevention, intervention, and treatment, and to develop effective mechanisms to transfer that knowledge to the substance abuse field and policymakers," Pringle adds.

Information collected through the grant will be cataloged in the Performance Based Prevention System database in order to manage substance abuse prevention activities, monitor performance and outcomes, and evaluate effectiveness. The centrally hosted database will also provide real-time data access and operation.

Eventually, the state will use the information to develop a comprehensive, research-based prevention plan addressing alcohol and drug abuse through a consistent framework of state-operated federally funded programs. The School of Pharmacy will collaborate with more than a dozen state, federal, and community agencies on this project.

"Substance abuse is a chronic problem for thousands of young Pennsylvanians," says Pringle. "I believe through this collaborative effort, we will be able to achieve our goal of helping teens and young adults with chemical dependency problems who often slip through the cracks."

Pitt Expands Global Influence on Pharmaceutical Care

When **Francesca Venuti** returns to her home in Palermo, Italy, she will bring with her the knowledge gleaned from six months under the tutelage of the School of Pharmacy. Venuti, a pharmacist, served as a fellow through both the school and UPMC. On March 26, she delivered a speech to students and faculty about the role of a pharmacist in Italy. Her education was part of the School of Pharmacy's legacy of influencing pharmaceutical care on the international level.

In January, students **Yan Feng** and **Zhe Zhang** returned from a trip to China Pharmaceutical University, a sister school to the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. The students met with administrators at the Chinese university and discussed the relationship between the two schools. The affiliation dates back at least 16 years, when China Pharmaceutical University was

known as Nanjing School of Pharmacy. A Chinese algum fan, presented as a gift by **Dengkui An**, is displayed in the dean's office in Pittsburgh.

Students, Faculty Participate in Ask the Pharmacist Program

In conjunction with the Living at Home program, two of the School of Pharmacy's ambulatory care faculty and several fourth-year students have participated in multiple Ask the Pharmacist programs at Pittsburgh-area living facilities for the elderly. Those who attended included **Roberta Farrah (PharmD '97)**, and **Meredith Rose (PharmD)**, both assistant professors of pharmacy and therapeutics; pharmacy practice resident **Aesha Alkebulan**; and students **Jill Barnoski**, **Chiamaka Onuoha**, **Steve Mok**, and **Steve Ganchuk**.

School of Pharmacy Grads Outperform State, National Averages in Exam Results

Graduates of the School of Pharmacy continue to outperform state and national averages in the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination. According to the most recent results, Pitt's first-time candidates taking the exam from January 1 to June 30, 2002, passed at a rate of 97.33 percent. By comparison, the national average for the same time period was 82.1 percent, and the state passing rate was 93.25 percent. The two-hour exam measures competency through a series of 90 multiple-choice questions.

The school remembers the passing of the following alumni:

IN
MEMORIAM

Betty Haeckler Beck, '38
Samuel Charlson, '24, PhG '25
Paul James Geinzer, '63
Robert Krutz, BS '54, MPH '57
Harold Malion Sr., '48
Jack Mapel, '49
Norman Moritz, '62
Larry Papincak, BS '77, MD '81
Donald Patterson, '41
Gerrit Riley, '29
Thomas B. Sanders, '41
Edward Simons, '42
Marvin Sniderman, DDS, BS '43
Harold E. Terry, '29
Rudolph Yanda Jr., '39

Elizabeth A. Cochran ('23, PhG '26) of Butler, Pa., the first woman in Butler County to earn a degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy, passed away on July 26, 2002. She was 97 years old. Cochran began working in the pharmacy field while still a student at Butler Area High School. She worked in a number of Butler-area pharmacies until her retirement in 1988. An active member of the Butler County Pharmaceutical Association, Cochran also worked for the Milo Williams Jewelry Store from 1935 to 1948.

Lawrence Laby ('57, MS '70, MPH '72, PhD '74) of Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh, Pa., passed away on September 11, 2002. He was 73 years old. Born in 1929 in Brownsville, Pa., Laby dedicated his career to community, hospital, and institutional pharmacy practice in and around the city of Pittsburgh. He was also an active Mason and Shriner who enjoyed the public service aspect of the organizations. A dedicated Pitt alumnus who met his wife, Gilda, when they were both students at the University, Laby also stayed very friendly with his fellow students long after graduation, says his son, Arthur Laby. "My father was very proud of the work he did as a pharmacist, and he always engaged us with stories of his work," he recalls.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please send us information about your career advancements, papers presented, honors received, appointments, and further education. We'll include your news in the Alumni section as space allows. Please indicate names, dates, and location. Photos are welcome. Please print clearly.

Name: _____
Degree and Year of Graduation: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Home Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____
Business Address: _____

Business Telephone: _____
Position(s): _____
News: _____

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