

PITT Pharmacy

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

SPRING 2008



DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

I just returned to my office after a terrific meeting with the School of Pharmacy Alumni Society Board. It is refreshing to witness the members' enthusiasm and hear their vibrant ideas for bringing people together, enhancing communications, and sharing opportunities in pharmacy with today's students.

I paraphrase Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg when I say that the reputation of a school of pharmacy is built on the accomplishments of its alumni. Our alumni are generous and caring. Our alumni are exceptionally accomplished. And, our alumni are leaders.

I say they are leaders because as I look at national organizations, I see an amazing snapshot of the reputation of the School of Pharmacy. Just in the past two years, two alums have been at the elected leadership helm of two national organizations: Karen Habucky (BS '87, PhD '92) as president of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and Anthony Civello (BS '67) as chairman of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores. Congratulations to each of you! At least two alums have held similar elected positions in the past, and countless others of you serve in positions of significance in local, regional, and national organizations.

Another interesting fact is that at two of the three largest pharmacy chains, either the first or second person at the corporate helm is a Pitt pharmacy alum: Larry Merlo (BS '78) at CVS/pharmacy and James Mastrian (BS '65) at Rite Aid.

Our alums serve as wonderful role models for our students, who enter our school with a spirit of innovation and optimism about their abilities to improve health care as future pharmacists and leaders. Many of you have shared your stories in person as you have visited our school. Thank you! You are an inspiration.

I would like to know more about your professional stories and accomplishments. Please share these—and even a photo if you like.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Hail to Pitt!



To share your professional story and accomplishments, send an e-mail to laraine@pitt.edu.



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Assistant Professor Karen Pater and resident Gladys Garcia review a patient chart at UPMC Falk Pharmacy's medication therapy management service.

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On the Cover: Top left: Pharmacy students gain proficiency with drug administration techniques used in critical care settings. Associate Professor Amy Seybert (BS '94, PharmD '96) coaches as the students practice on a high-fidelity mannequin. Bottom left: Assistant Professor Melissa Somma McGivney (PharmD '98) and residents Stephanie Harriman (PharmD '07) and Aaron DiFilippo review and discuss patient medications in a community patient care setting. Right: Robert Weber, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, immunizes a patient at the Falk Clinic.

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Extra Credit

Pharmacy residents hone skills to become advanced practitioners

Midway through the last year of pharmacy school, a time when most college students are dreaming of a life free from final exams, a growing group of soon-to-be PharmDs are choosing a different route on their way to professional practice: residencies, which fine-tune their skills through one to two additional years of schooling, mentoring, and hands-on patient care.

And while it may now be the road less traveled, the traffic on the residency pathway is getting thicker, say those who run the University of Pittsburgh program.

From 1990 to 2000, the School of Pharmacy averaged six residents per year. As of 2007, Pitt was averaging 15 to 20 residents every year, with more on the horizon as new programs are added and existing programs expand. That growth reflects the shifting

role of the pharmacist from dispenser of medicine to direct care provider and the increased demand such responsibilities bring for more specialized training.

"The pharmacy practice model is continuing to change, and it's becoming much more patient centered than it used to be," says Robert Weber, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, who has been involved in the residency training program since 2000.

"Residencies provide [students] with those extra years of training and experience. It gives them the knowledge base to actually provide patient care."

Among the driving forces behind the profession's transformation are changes to state law related to medication therapy management. As medications become more abundant and complex, pharmacists require more experiential training so they can better counsel patients, Weber says.

Residency Programs at the School of Pharmacy

First postgraduate year:

- Community Care Pharmacy Practice
- Managed Care: UPMC
- Managed Care: Caremark
- Pharmacy Residency: UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside, UPMC St. Margaret, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Second postgraduate year:

- Ambulatory Care
- Cardiology
- Critical Care
- Drug Information
- Family Medicine
- Infectious Diseases
- Pharmacy Management
- Transplantation (new for 2008)

Planned for 2009:

- Psychiatry
- Geriatrics

In addition, residents gain up to two years of professional growth and development by participating in meetings and conferences where they give presentations and learn to develop a practice philosophy.

Melissa Somma McGivney (PharmD '98), assistant professor and director of the community care pharmacy practice residency program, compares residencies to getting three to five years' worth of professional experience in one. Typically, residents can work with anywhere from seven to 20 preceptors focused on helping them become advanced practitioners. By contrast, it would take more than a year for a pharmacist to gain that much mentoring in the working world, she says.

"When you graduate from a residency, you have a wealth of experience to draw from," she explains. "So if you want to start your own practice, you have all these mentors ... if you want to go into academia, mentors who can help you get there. [Residents] are future leaders in the area of patient care."

'A very deep experience'

The School of Pharmacy offers one-year general residencies as well as advanced practice training in several specialties, such as oncology, critical care, cardiology, or infectious diseases. Specialization requires an additional year of training beyond the general pharmacy residency. (See sidebar for a complete listing.)

Additional specialties are planned for transplant care in 2008 and geriatrics and psychiatry in 2009, according to Weber.

Heather Johnson, assistant professor, who will direct the transplant residency, believes the

"The pharmacy practice model is continuing to change, and it's becoming much more patient centered than it used to be."

—Robert Weber

program has been "a long time coming" because of the need for seasoned clinicians who can serve as preceptors with knowledge of various organs. Residents, who will begin their 12-month terms in July, will spend approximately three months in kidney transplant, three in liver, and two to three in cardiac care, with possible electives in transplant infectious diseases as well as pediatric, small bowel, bone marrow, or lung transplantation, she says.

Pittsburgh is well known as a pioneer in transplant medicine, and the School of Pharmacy has contributed a significant amount of research in the field, says Johnson. The new residency program is a natural outgrowth of that expertise and is expected to produce pharmacists who can meet the demands of new U.S. transplant programs, which are consistently expanding.

"We can offer young pharmacists a very deep experience," Johnson says. "We have visitors on a routine basis who come to UPMC to learn what we are doing in terms of transplant because they're starting a center of their own ... The strength of the Pitt residency program in and of itself speaks to where our residents go."

Advancing community practice

McGivney is a veteran of fledgling residency programs, dating back to a family practice specialty that she helped develop when she was with UPMC St. Margaret in 2003.

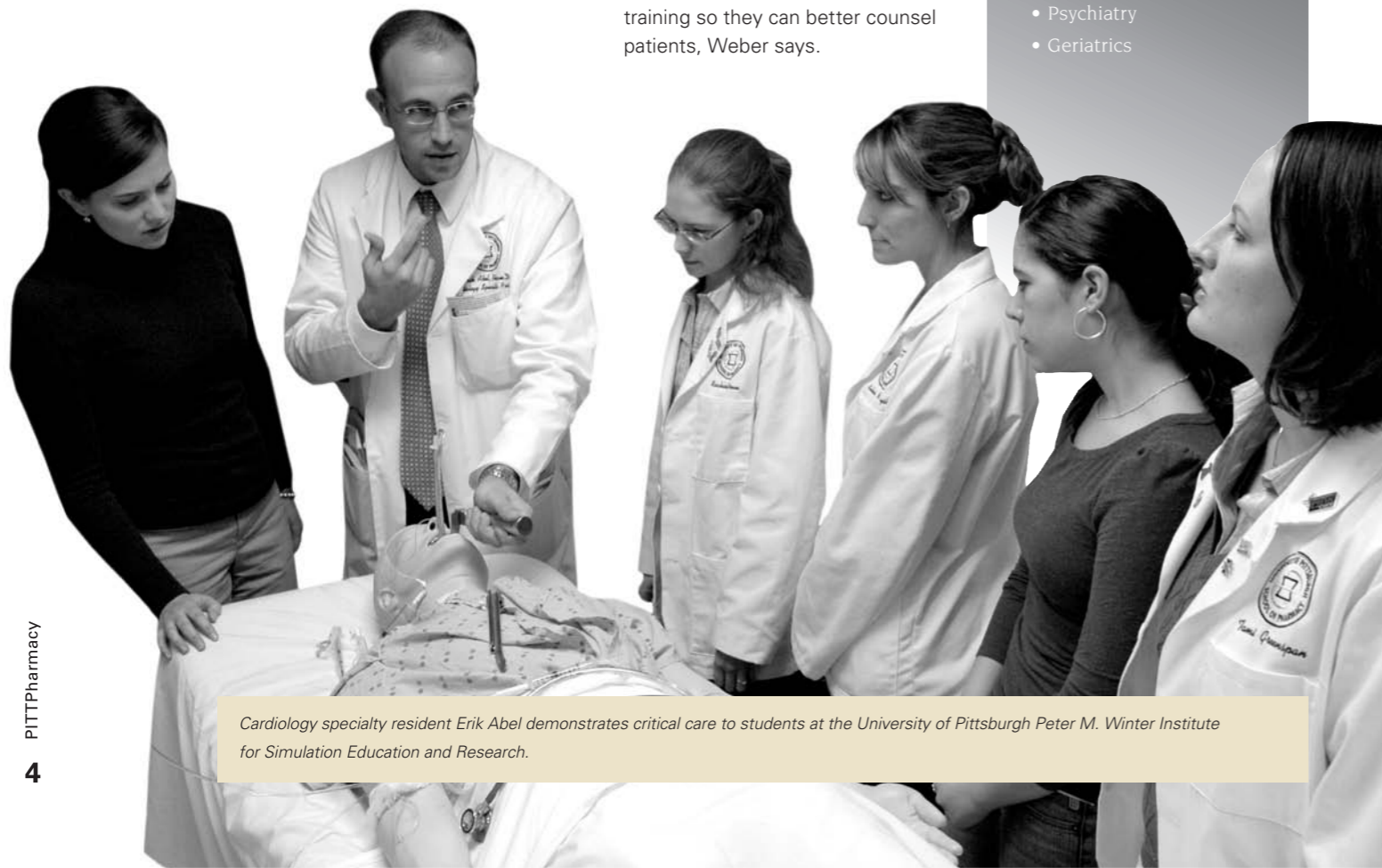


The 22-member class of the 2007-08 residency program, one of the largest enrollments from across the country.

She was instrumental in starting the community care pharmacy practice residency program, which she directs, in 2006. That year, the school worked in partnership with Rite Aid Corporation; beginning in 2007, the school gained a second resident working in partnership with UPMC.

McGivney, a School of Pharmacy alumnus who herself completed a residency in ambulatory care, has long focused on pharmacist-patient care practices in the community. In the community practice program, residents learn to collaborate with physicians in a variety of settings, regardless of whether they are in the same physical location.

"Community-based pharmacists are most often in separate geographic locations from physicians. Learning to work together and foster physician-pharmacist relationships is vital to grow the practice," she says.



Cardiology specialty resident Erik Abel demonstrates critical care to students at the University of Pittsburgh Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research.

Extra Credit

Pharmacy residents hone skills to become advanced practitioners

Residents also learn about documentation and billing, as well as the most effective ways to advocate for both patients and their profession.

"As drug distribution takes on a more advanced role through technology, much of [the community pharmacist's practice] may be ensuring that patients are taking the drug the right way, that it's the best drug, and that it's safe," McGivney says.

Research and teaching

In addition to hands-on care, residents also produce a project suitable for either publication in a national medical journal or presentation at a national conference. Programs offer research experience in longitudinal studies as well as lab work, depending on the resident's interests, says Johnson.

According to Weber, residents choose a project related to a problem in patient care and work with mentors in completing their research. For example, a project might entail evaluating a certain drug for use in a specific patient population. The resident would develop a hypothesis and a method for collecting data to support that hypothesis, then present the data and draw a conclusion.

"We teach our residents to be able to clearly present and defend their ideas, which is important," Weber explains. "You have to be persuasive in health care in a way that's positive."

There is also a teaching element to the training, with residents putting time in the classroom and serving as preceptors for pharmacy students who are completing clinical rotations. According to McGivney, many pharmacy students appear to be more comfortable talking to residents

before approaching faculty with a problem, because the residents are closer to their experience levels.

"They get teaching experience in all sorts of areas, which we think serves them well regardless of what area they end up in," says Johnson. "Teaching is selling, making students buy into the idea and giving them a framework."

All those responsibilities can take a toll, however. Weber estimates that residents put in 50- to 70-hour workweeks, and convincing students who are in the home stretch of their education—most decisions on whether to pursue a residency are made in December of the final year of pharmacy school—to assume the debt and stress of a residency can be difficult.

"People do struggle," Weber says. "It's a difficult one or two years because of the time commitment and the amount of information you have to learn."

To help residents succeed, faculty members create individual plans focusing on strengths and areas that need improvement. Preceptors who directly supervise the resident work toward achieving the goals of the plan.

"The toughest sell is convincing the student that there is definitely a financial difference between working and doing a residency," Weber says. While residents do lose a year or two of salary in the short term, "it gives you exponentially greater earning power down the road," he says.

In addition, as practice models continue to shift, residencies may become less of a luxury and more of a requirement, he notes.

"There will be a wave requiring more postgraduate training," says Weber. "It could be required that you have a minimum three years of residency; it really depends on

Since 1990 the School of Pharmacy's residency program had a total of 183 residents representing 199 positions. This represents 97 second-year specialty residents and 61 pharmacy practice residents.

Applicants to the program are nationwide and have come as far as Australia.

The cardiology program is the second program accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP).

Research funding includes:

- ASHP Adverse Drug Analysis 2002
- Amgen Unrestricted Education Grant 2005
- ASHP Foundation Pharmacy Resident Practice-based Research Grant DTI Use in HIT 2008
- KOS Pharmaceutical HDL Analysis 2004, Acute Heart Failure Training Program 2002 and 2004

Presentations:

- Society of Critical Care Medicine
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
- American College of Clinical Pharmacy
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- American Heart Association
- International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare



Benjamin Anderson, a pharmacy management resident, conducts a patient survey with Beverly Carter at the Falk Pharmacy.

how the practice models change in pharmacy and how sophisticated they become."

For example, as discoveries in genetics continue to impact the profession, study in pharmacogenetics will require more training, he says.

Thanks to the growth of its residency programs during the past decade, the School of Pharmacy is well positioned to handle the predicted demand, says Weber. He chalks that success up to the groundwork laid by directors of the various programs, who recruited high-quality residents "who have really gone on to change what we do in pharmacy. And that's the key: making a difference."

The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy has received continued accreditation to 2010 for the following residency programs:

- Pharmacy residency
- Cardiology
- Critical care
- Ambulatory care

For more information, please visit the Web site: www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/programs/rxresidency

The Big Chill

Enzyme research seeks to answer questions about cardiac arrest, stroke

This feature is part of an ongoing series about research within the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. As a leader in research, the School of Pharmacy is not only able to advance pharmaceutical care but also can enhance its educational programs by providing students with access to up-to-the-minute information. In each article, we showcase the work of a single faculty member.

Probably nothing says as much about Samuel Poloyac's (BS '93) devotion to his research as this: To test his theories, he was willing to be injected with two liters of ice-cold saline to artificially induce a case of hypothermia.

"Your arm cramps up for a brief period of time. But you're also on a partial sedative, which helps a little bit," says Poloyac, an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

When a person suffers a cardiac arrest, the key to neurological survival sometimes lies in the big chill.

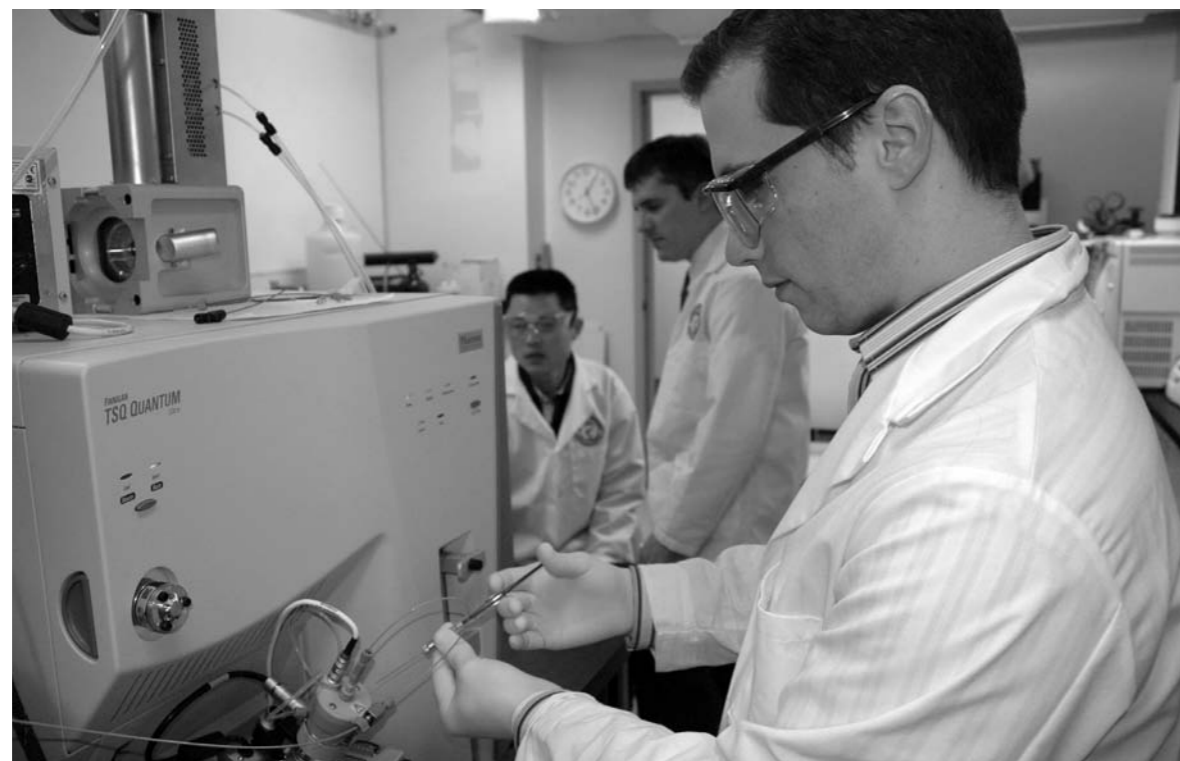
Known as therapeutic hypothermia, the technique involves lowering body temperature from 37 degrees Celsius to 34 or 33 degrees Celsius for anywhere from 12 to 72 hours, depending on the patient's age, as a means of preserving brain function.

What scientists don't know—and what Poloyac hopes to discover—is how best to administer medication to a body that has been cooled.

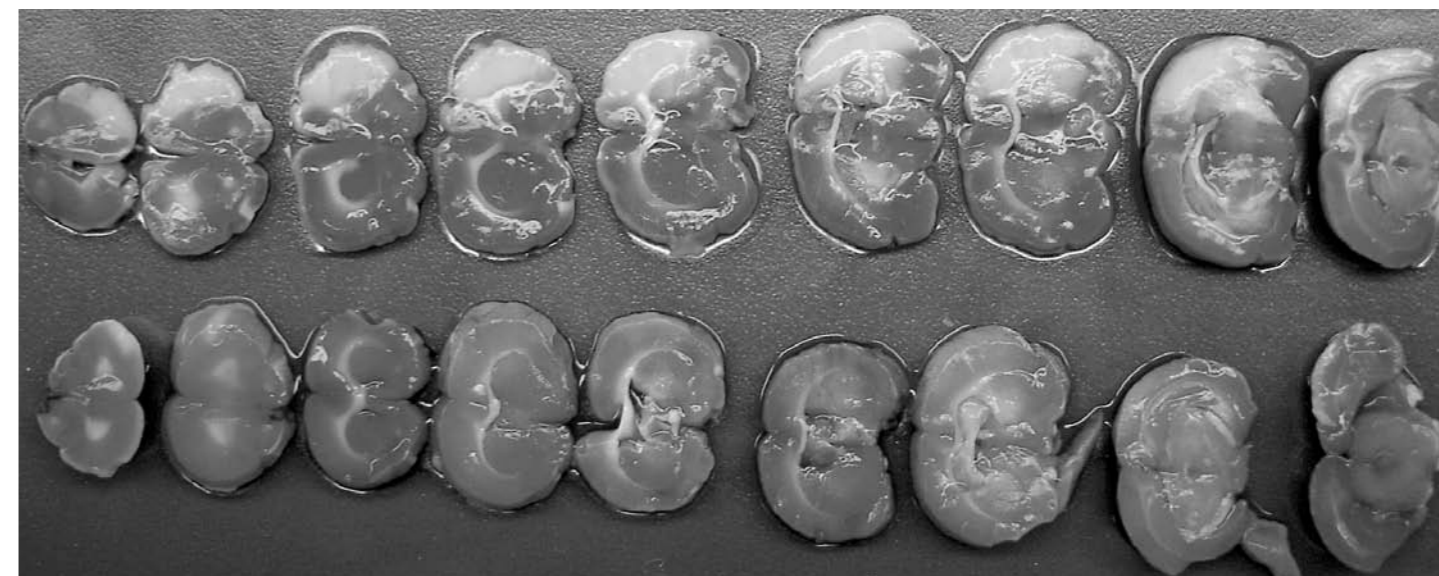
"From a clinical standpoint, we really don't know how to adjust medications during therapeutic hypothermia," says Poloyac. "We became interested in the topic and decided to take a look at how the cooling affects the body's ability to metabolize drugs."

Brain freeze

Following a stroke or cardiac arrest, doctors will typically prescribe medications dependent on the cytochrome P450 enzymes, which are involved in increasing the metabolism of drugs and allow the body to remove them efficiently.



Postdoctoral Associate Philip Empey on the UPLC triple quadrupole mass spectrometer used to analyze drug, metabolite, and fatty acid concentrations in ongoing animal and clinical studies. Background: Samuel Poloyac and Ying Mu, research assistant professor, analyze data results from a computer workstation.



White areas represent brain damage in rats from experimental stroke. The brain sections of the rats treated with an inhibitor of 20-HETE (bottom row) show less damage after experimental stroke.

"We became interested in the topic and decided to take a look at how the cooling affects the body's ability to metabolize drugs."

—Samuel Poloyac

But when the saline is injected to cool the body temperature and protect neurological function, "there is a significant reduction in the liver's ability to eliminate drugs," Poloyac explains. He believes that the dosages should be adjusted downward, but further research may determine how the colder body responds to the drug concentrations.

The project, which began in August 2006, is funded through 2010 through the National Institutes of Health. Poloyac is the principal investigator on the animal studies and a collaborator on the clinical work. He and Patrick Kochanek, director of the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research

at the School of Medicine, have developed animal models—mostly rats—to simulate cardiac arrest for evaluation of drug metabolism.

In those animals, the researchers administer probe medications to determine how the metabolism changes with hypothermia.

The problem was getting enough people to conduct a clinical study, because, as Poloyac explains, "Getting consent from someone who has just had a catastrophic event like a cardiac arrest ... is very difficult."

Enter the current phase of the project, in which normal, healthy volunteers—Poloyac among them—get chilled so researchers can examine how the probe

drugs are metabolized. Clifton Callaway, associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, has been a great colleague and collaborator on this project.

By determining how the medication differs in concentration and the body differs in response, Poloyac hopes to develop clinical guidelines. Those results will differ from drug to drug, but Poloyac believes the team is close to knowing how to adjust dosages in animal models for opiates.

Translating those results to human patients will be trickier, "but at least we'll know what we're looking for when we go into designing those studies," he says.

Anatomy of a stroke

Poloyac's interest in the P450 enzymes also carries over into other projects, including one examining what role they play in the pathogenesis of a stroke. In the brain, P450 enzymes metabo-

The Big Chill

Enzyme research seeks to answer questions about cardiac arrest, stroke



Samuel Poloyac reviews the work of Tricia Miller, senior technician, as she prepares samples for analysis.

lize an acid known as 20-HETE, which Poloyac describes as “a very potent microvascular constrictor in the brain, which decreases blood flow.”

In his experiments, he has been using a chemical inhibitor of that pathway. In animals, if the inhibitor is given prior to a stroke, brain damage can be reduced by 70 to 80 percent. The theory is that if doctors could develop a safe enough medicine, they could pretreat people with certain disease states that make them more susceptible to stroke.

But first, Poloyac would need to prove that the chemical is working through the inhibition of 20-HETE. And he readily acknowledges that it is much harder to develop a drug that would be administered on a “just in case” basis than it would be to discover one that treats an existing problem.

“I think we’ll be answering questions associated with 20-HETE throughout my career,” he says.

Calculated risk takers

Originally from Johnstown, Pa., Poloyac is one of five children born to a Bethlehem Steel engineer and a housewife. Science was an early interest.

“I had a really great chemistry teacher in high school, and I always liked chemistry and health,” he recalls.

He attended the School of Pharmacy with thoughts that it would serve as a precursor to medical school, but he abandoned that idea when he was bitten by the research bug as an undergraduate. Instead, he pursued graduate studies in pharmacy and vowed to mentor students of his own.

“(20-HETE is) a very potent microvascular constrictor in the brain, which decreases blood flow.”

—Samuel Poloyac

“You need to be able to take calculated, well-thought-out risks in order to make an impact in your research.”

—Samuel Poloyac

“I’m committed to doing that for the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists,” he says. His first graduate student finished in 2007 and now works for Pfizer; three more are now working in his lab.

Poloyac is also known in the school for his inventive teaching approach. Computer animation helps him communicate the math side of pharmacy; simulations give students the opportunity to learn concepts hands-on.

Through a grant that Professor Michael Zemaitis (BS ’69), Associate Professor Gary Stoehr (BS ’73), and Poloyac helped put together, the school also started an audience response system, which poses questions to the students in real time and gives the professor immediate feedback. Instead of relying on the students’ nodding heads or facial expressions, Poloyac can determine right away whether he has effectively conveyed a concept.

If the results are mixed, he can spark a debate by asking, “Those of you who answered ‘B,’ why?”

Poloyac is fond of posing questions without answers, another strategy for prompting discussion. The idea is to foster collaboration, a skill he wants the students to carry into their professional lives.



Graduate student Megan Klamerus prepares clinical samples for analysis. Background: Tricia Miller, senior technician.

The most important quality he looks for in his students is a sort of fearless curiosity.

“If you’re doing something that’s not risky, you’re doing something that’s done or already being done,” he says. “You need to be able to take calculated, well-thought-out risks in order to make an impact in your research. And you can’t be afraid to take the challenge.”

Preceptors of the Year 2007

Preceptor awardee helps pharmacy residents find their voice



Luis Gonzalez III

One of the first things Luis Gonzalez III (BS '81) teaches first-year pharmacy residents is to introduce themselves to their hospitalized patients and make sure the patients know what role the pharmacist will play in their plan of care.

"What we need to do a better job of is making sure that every patient you take care of knows who you are," says Gonzalez, manager of clinical pharmacy services at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center in his hometown of Johnstown, Pa. "Otherwise, you're just another white coat in the room."

That's why he establishes himself early, giving patients his business card and introducing the residents. Because while the rest of the health care team recognizes the pharmacist's role without question, the public doesn't always know what to expect, or realize how critical the pharmacist is to their treatment, he says.

Gonzalez has been serving as a preceptor since the 1990s, was honored as Preceptor of the Year for 2007. He has been supervising students in the residency program, taken the first year after graduation, since 2002. Since then, he has mentored hundreds of students.

"It's rather amazing to see the development of a student from someone who has good background knowledge from the school to make the transition phase to implement the information in a direct care setting," says Gonzalez. "That's where I think I bridge the gap."

Honored preceptor lets students, patients lead the way



Sharon Connor

When it comes to teaching, Sharon Connor believes in asking more questions than she answers.

"My philosophy is that I'm there to facilitate, and the experience is really what the student makes of it," she says. "I don't

tell them what to do. I lay out the opportunities, and let them take the initiative and go with that."

Connor, an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named Preceptor of the Year for 2007. But to her way of thinking, the patients teach the students as much as she does.

As proof, she cites a letter from a patient who received help for her asthma at a clinic for the uninsured where Connor's students complete rotations. Connor typically instructs students to have patients demonstrate how they are taking their medication.

Thanks to that approach, a student noticed that the woman was using the canister for her medica-

tion incorrectly and was able to show her a more effective way. To thank the student, the patient sent a letter of appreciation.

"For a patient to initiate a letter like that from our clinics was a big deal," Connor notes. "It was the student who did the work."

Connor arrived at the School of Pharmacy in 1999 and has served as a preceptor ever since. When new students show up in her rotation, she tells them, "I could do everything and just have you watch, but you won't learn anything that way."

Teachers of the Year 2007

APhA-ASP honors Seybert with faculty award

The executive board of the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) has honored Amy Seybert (BS '94, PharmD '96), an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, as Faculty Member of the Year for 2007.

Seybert joined the faculty in August 1997, and currently coordinates courses in the pharmacotherapy of cardiovascular disease, crucial care pharmacotherapy, and experiential learning. She also directs the cardiovascular and critical care specialty residencies at UPMC's Department of Pharmacy.



Amy Seybert

Shullo wins Stan Cohen Teacher of the Year Award

Michael Shullo (BS '95, PharmD '97), an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, has been named the Stan Cohen Teacher of the Year for 2007.

The award, which is presented by the graduating class to a faculty member for outstanding teaching during the classroom portion of the professional curriculum, is named in honor of the late Stanford Cohen (BS '57), who served on the faculty from 1979 to 1998.

Two faculty members earn awards from Rho Chi

The Rho Chi Society, an academic honor organization for pharmacy students, has honored two School of Pharmacy faculty members for their contributions in the classroom and the field.

Denise Howrie Schiff, assistant dean for academic affairs and an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, was named the Rho Chi Outstanding Teacher. The award recognizes creativity in the classroom.

Raman Venkataramanan, a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, won the Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award, which honors a professor's contributions to peer-reviewed journals, essays, textbooks, or other works.

Rho Chi chooses award recipients from nominations offered by students, faculty, alumni, and administrators. Rho Chi members then review the applications along with a panel of volunteer faculty members.



Michael Shullo



Raman Venkataramanan and Denise Howrie Schiff

Photographic Memories

Photography from the School of Pharmacy



School of Pharmacy alumni and friends at Heinz Field for Pitt Panther football. Left to right: David Steinbrink; Frank Kroboth; Dean Patricia Kroboth (MS '80, PhD '83); Clyde Jones III, vice chancellor for health sciences development; Nancy Mastrian (BS '65); Jim Mastrian (BS '65); and Katherine Krause.



A career expo held at the School of Pharmacy in October 2007 provided opportunities for students and future employers to meet and plan.



Kristine Schonder (in red), assistant professor, provides Dean Patricia Kroboth with her influenza vaccine in fall 2007 at the School of Pharmacy, as pharmacy students observe the process on another individual. UPMC Falk Pharmacy coordinated flu shot clinics at the pharmacy and at sites on the Oakland campus, providing more than 590 influenza vaccinations.



School of Pharmacy students and graduates Tegan Williams, Janelle Stiefel, Erin Lopata, Rebecca Macri (PharmD '07), and Kelly Jacobs at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists midyear meeting, Las Vegas, Nev., December 2007.



The Dean's Advisory Board, a group of student leaders, meets monthly with Dean Patricia Kroboth and Assistant Dean of Students Sharon Corey to explore issues related to the PharmD curriculum, student organizations, and student suggestions to improve the School of Pharmacy.



The American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists 2007-08 Executive Board at the annual formal held at the Hilton Hotel in Pittsburgh on February 2, 2008. Left to right: Nina Sonbolian, Greg Wolfe, Jovonne Jones, Amy Blososky, Erica Trimble, Tami Greenspan, Rob Snyder, and Shannon McLaughlin.



School of Pharmacy preceptors at the annual preceptor program and dinner, January 2008. Standing, left to right: John Kicielnski, Peter Kreckel (BS '81), Brady Lecker, and James Pschirer (BS '76), director of experiential learning. Sitting, left to right: Theresa Dostalick, Lynn Bates, Denise Kreckel (BS '81), and Tim Litman.



Pharmacy Alumni Society 2007-08 recent board meeting. Standing, left to right: Dave Maszkiewicz (BS '86); Ernie Sanchez (PharmD '02); Tanya Fabian (PharmD '98, PhD '03); James Pschirer (BS '76); Joe Gatto (BS '75); Jeff Goff (BS '92); and Samuel Poloyac (BS '93). Sitting, left to right: Joanne Bosilovic (BS '83); Iny Marks (PharmD '00); Gretchen Kreckel (student); Irene Damratoski (BS '63, MS '66); Gina Carbonara (PharmD '02); and Alexa Ray (student).



Homecoming 2007. Back row, left to right: Dan Damratoski (BS '68); Irene Damratoski (BS '63, MS '66); Jay Stragand (BS '88); and Samuel Poloyac (BS '93). Front row, left to right: Joe Gatto (BS '75); Stan Jonas (BS '51); Dean Patricia Kroboth (MS '80, PhD '83); Janet Traynor (BS '87, PharmD '95); Bill Kennedy (BS '61); and Senior Associate Dean Randall Smith. In front: Grace Traynor.

Our Students

Near right: Karleen Melody. Far right: Christopher Antypas, and Zachary Snyder



Karleen Melody (P2) was elected to the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Region 2 position of midyear regional meeting (MRM) coordinator. She was elected by the Region 2 delegates at the annual APhA-ASP MRM meeting in October 2007. MRM will be held in downtown Pittsburgh in the fall of 2008. Melody will work closely with the other host chapters from Duquesne University and LECOM.

Matthew Sapko (P3) and **Christina Mazur** (P3) were awarded two of only six national 2007 Kappa Psi Foundation scholarships. Sapko also received



Matthew Sapko and Christina Mazur



the *Pharmacy Times*/Wal-Mart RESPy Award, an award given to a student demonstrating commitment to service and community activism.

Winners of this year's patient counseling competition were **Zachary Snyder** (P1), second place, and **Christopher Antypas** (P3), first place. **Leah Stonesifer** (P2) (not pictured) placed third. Antypas will represent the school's APhA-ASP chapter at the national competition during the American Pharmacists Association annual meeting in San Diego, Calif., in March 2008.

The winners of the school's Pennsylvania Society of Health-System Pharmacists student chapter annual clinical skill competition were **Alissa Mittereder** and **Ashley Quintili** (P4s), third place; **Tegan Williams** and **Janelle Stiefel** (P4s), second place; and **Zachary Cain** and **A.J. Rivosecchi** (P3s), first place. Cain and Rivosecchi represented the school at the national competition at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists midyear clinical meeting in December 2007.



Robert Snyder (right), the BIG IDEA winner for entrepreneurial excellence, with Nickolas Kernich (P4).

Robert Snyder (P3) was one of six winners of the BIG IDEA competition, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence at the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business. The competition seeks the best business ideas to turn into competitive business plans and businesses. Winners work with dynamic teams of professional business consultants, industry experts, and entrepreneurs. Snyder will receive assistance creating a patient advocacy company focused on reducing the complexity of health care by coordinating all health care professionals involved in patient care to ensure that patients receive optimal care.

Our Students

Phi Delta Chi received a grant from LifeScan for its help in creating a spring service program aimed at promoting diabetes awareness. The project consisted of four major aspects: educating members and pharmacists on various aspects of diabetes; raising public awareness of diabetes; diabetes testing, and medications; obtaining grants for advertising and purchasing diabetes testing equipment; and providing diabetes risk assessment. The target population for this project included underprivileged patients in the Pittsburgh area.

The **School of Pharmacy Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA)** chapter won the National Chapter Projects of the Year award at this year's SNPhA

SNPhA officers **Jovonne Jones** (P3), **Jimmy Gill** (P2), **Anita Andrews** (P4), and **Amy Chang** (P3).

national conference. The chapter's many projects included Healthy Hearts Initiative, Autism Awareness, and support for Investing Now.

The **Beta Kappa chapter of Kappa Psi** received the International Collegiate Chapter of the Year Award as top chapter of the 80 collegiate chapters in the United States and Canada. The award was presented at the national convention in summer 2007. The chapter advisors are Assistant Professors **Deanne Hall** (BS '96, PharmD '98) and **Brian Potoski** (PharmD '99).

Brittany Ritchey (P4) addressed the Boy Scouts of Troop 300 in Tyrone, Pa., on the topic of teen smoking prevention on the 31st anniversary of the Great American Smokeout, while on a specialty rotation, Rural Community Pharmacy Experience, offered by Denise Kreckel (BS '81) and Peter Kreckel (BS '81).



Kappa Psi officers (left to right) Tim Kaylor (P3), Katelin Speer (P2), and Matthew Sapko (P3).

P1 = CLASS OF 2011
P2 = CLASS OF 2010
P3 = CLASS OF 2009
P4 = CLASS OF 2008



Our Faculty



Assistant Professor Scott Mark (center) with pharmacy residents (left to right) Joedell Gonzaga, Katie McMillen (PharmD '05), Benjamin Anderson, and Nicole Cerussi (PharmD '07) at the School of Pharmacy holiday luncheon in December 2007.

Sandra Kane-Gill, and **Amy Seybert** (BS '94, PharmD '96) were promoted to the rank of associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, and **Michael Vanyukov**, was promoted to associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences with tenure.

Jan Beumer, research assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was invited to speak at the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (PITTCON) in New Orleans, La., this spring. His talk is titled "Hydrophilic Interaction Chromatography in Pyrimidine Anticancer Drug Development." PITTCON is the world's premier conference and exposition devoted to laboratory science.

Kim Coley (BS '87), associate professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received a grant from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists for

"Development of a Continuity of Care Record: Bridging the Medication Use Gap from Hospital to Home." The purpose of this study is to develop a record to communicate medication-related clinical information from the time patients leave the hospital to the point where they receive pharmaceutical care in their community.

Billy Day, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, along with co-principal investigator **Jean Latimer**, assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute Center for Environmental Oncology, received a grant award from the Department of Defense for "Quantitative Proteomics of Nuclear Matrix Proteins in Novel Human Ductal Carcinoma in Situ Model Systems." Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) is the earliest identifiable breast cancer lesion. Because DCIS is a pre-invasive malignancy, the hope is to provide a better understanding of it and how it

may progress to invasive disease, when to treat patients aggressively, and when to avoid aggressive procedures.

Alexander Doemling, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, conducted the short course Multicomponent Reaction Chemistry and Its Applications to Drug Discovery at the world's oldest university, the University of Bologna in Italy. He conducted the same course at the Technical University of Vienna in Austria, where he stayed as a visiting professor, and at the University of Lund and Göteborg in Sweden.

Bonnie Falcione, **Brian Potoski** (PharmD '99), assistant professors of pharmacy and therapeutics, and **Radhika Polisetty**, infectious diseases resident, received board certification in pharmacotherapy from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy.

Our Faculty



Faculty members enjoy time together at the School of Pharmacy holiday luncheon (left to right) Colleen Culley, Shelby Corman (PharmD '02), Tara Pummer, Amy Donihi, Brian Potoski (PharmD '99), and Denise Sokos.

At the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association 2007 Awards and Leadership Dinner in September, **Stanton Jonas** (BS '51), senior lecturer, pharmaceutical sciences, was recognized as the 2007 Community Services Award winner. This award is presented to the pharmacist who, through outstanding service to the community, has enhanced the image of the profession of pharmacy.

Patricia Kroboth (MS '80, PhD '83), dean of the School of Pharmacy, has been elected as the 2008 Council of Deans chair for the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), the national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators and composed of all 105 U.S. colleges and schools of pharmacy. AACP was founded in 1900 and is committed to excellence in pharmacy education.

Yong Li, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a scientist development grant from the American Heart Association for his project "Mechanism and Specificity of Ligand Binding and Coactivator Assembly by PPARgamma." The goal of this project is to use X-ray crystallography in conjunction with cellular and biochemical assays to link structure to function for PPARgamma.

Joseph Mance (BS '68), pharmacy manager of the University's Student Health Service, retired in January 2008. Mance served as a preceptor for 30 years and taught dosage design labs for 15 years. He was an intermittent guest lecturer for the School of Pharmacy and was also a member of the school's curriculum committee.

Melissa Somma McGivney (PharmD '98), assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics and director of the Rite Aid/University of Pittsburgh Patient Care Initiative, was an invited speaker at the second national conference on medication therapy management (MTM), hosted by the American Pharmacists Association and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation in September 2007. Somma McGivney—along with colleagues **Margie Snyder** (PharmD '06), fellow, **Gladys Garcia**, and **Stephanie Harriman** (PharmD '07), residents—was featured in a cover story in the September 2007 issue of *Pharmacy Today*. The article focused on the work Somma McGivney has done with pharmacist practitioners, residents, and students in the development of MTM services in the community.

Our Faculty

Susan Meyer, associate dean for education and professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, received a grant to aid Pitt's dental, medical, nursing, and pharmacy schools in collaborating to train students in team-based approaches. The approach aims to foster healthy lifestyles in the elderly and promote the biological and psychological benefits of healthy aging. The grant comes from the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research, an inter-professional association of health promotion and disease prevention educators and researchers.

Janice Pringle, research assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was an invited clinical expert in a studio-taped roundtable debate for the program *The Physician's Role in Guiding Patients to Improved Medication Adherence*.

Ty Ridenour, research associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was elected as chair elect of the Early Career Preventionists Network (ECPN). His term as chair will begin in May 2009. ECPN is an organization to link individuals who are interested in prevention sciences and to foster the development of early career preventionists. Common outcomes for which research and prevention programs focus on are aggression, problems resulting from substance use, depression, sexually transmitted diseases, and unhealthy behavior.

Kristine Schonder, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was appointed to serve as a member of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy educational affairs committee. The committee is charged to develop a pharmacotherapy curriculum tool kit to assist in delivery of pharmacotherapy curricula in schools and colleges of pharmacy.

Margie Snyder (PharmD '06), community practice research fellow, received funding from the Community Pharmacy Foundation to complete the interviewing and data analysis portion of her "Great Partners" project. The goal of this project is to develop a conceptual framework to illustrate the processes by which pharmacists and physicians establish excellent patient-care relationships in the community.

Ralph Tarter, professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of the Center for Education and Drug Abuse Research, spoke in September 2007 at New York University School of Law's Lawyering Theory Colloquium on "Adolescence: Dynamics of Good and Bad Outcomes." This topic is a facet of Tarter's consultation with the Equal Justice Institute.

Robert Weber, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, was chosen to receive the Clifton J. Latiolais Award at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists midyear clinical meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., in December 2007. The annual award is given to a graduate of The Ohio State University Master of Science program who demonstrates exemplary career accomplishments in

hospital pharmacy. Weber was chosen because of his strong personal commitment, enthusiasm for excellence, and significant contributions to institutional pharmacy practice.

Wen Xie, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was invited to speak at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases workshop on nuclear receptors in liver and digestive diseases in Bethesda, Md., in November 2007. The title of Xie's presentation was "Nuclear Receptors in Hepatotoxicity."

Our School

Board of Visitors

Dean Patricia Kroboth and faculty members hosted the School of Pharmacy Board of Visitors on November 8–9, 2007. The board held a series of discussions with faculty members and students regarding progress made toward achieving the school's strategic goals. The visit was structured around the three academic elements of the long-range strategic plan: education, research, and patient care. Following an executive session the second day, the board met with Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences Arthur Levine, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Andrew Blair, and Dean Kroboth.



Board of Visitors members. Standing (left to right): Richard Bertz (PhD '95), John Innocenti, John Pieper, and Daniel Cobaugh (BS '87). Sitting (left to right): David Rotella (BS '81), Rosalie Sagraves, and William Bailey. Not pictured: Donald Abraham, Coleen Kayden, Patrick Quinn, and Victoria Roche.

Reports and Publications

As stated in our mission, "The School of Pharmacy is committed to improving health through excellence, innovation, and leadership in education, research, patient care, and service." It is our vision to be an outstanding school renowned for excellence in everything we do.

Several documents are online: www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/reports.

The Long-Range Strategic Plan 2006–2011, first developed in 2001 and revised five years later with new goals, also includes our mission, vision, and values statements.

The annual reports for 2005–06 and 2006–07 track our progress toward our vision and the realization of our Long-Range Strategic Plan.

The *Making Medicines Work for People* publication highlights research, education, and patient-care accomplishments and acknowledges the generosity of our alumni and friends.

Current and past issues of *PITTPharmacy* are also online.

We welcome and encourage your comments on our publications and strategic direction. Use the feedback form found on the reports and publications site.



Our School

Students get creative in anti-smoking commercial competition



A heavy dose of creativity, a dash of competition, and a generous helping of peer pressure are the ingredients pharmacy students are using in a campaign to eliminate smoking on college campuses.

Inspired by the American Legacy Foundation's "Truth" campaign, which targets a young audience, members of the school's American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter decided to make smoking cessation a campuswide effort.

Typically, members of APhA-ASP have completed a variety of patient-care projects related to disease states such as heartburn or diabetes, or awareness campaigns about vaccinations. In 2007, the Pitt chapter adopted a different tactic: to focus on one single project for the year and make it big.

"We wanted to do something that was more of interest to our students, that could make a greater

impact," says Nina Sonbolian, a third-year student and chapter president. "It's a very large issue now, especially in pharmacy. A lot of patients we work with will ask us about the patch or different products that are available."

In an effort to capitalize on the creative spirit of the campus, the group challenged other students to create 30-second anti-smoking commercials to compete for a \$1,000 prize. Entries were submitted by DVD or over the Internet through a YouTube account.

Three judges—Will Rieth, a Pitt marketing student; Timothy Cline, a pharmacist; and Joseph Mull, the University's coordinator of health education and promotion—reviewed the entries for impact, creativity, and accuracy.

In addition to soliciting entries, APhA-ASP also asked to have the contest integrated into the School of Pharmacy's curriculum as part of an experiential learning course. Sonbolian helped to create a syllabus for the course and presented it to the students.

Of the 15 entries, a simple piece by Andrew Pompelia, "Smoking Is Bad for Your Wallet," won first prize; second prize, worth \$200, went to Josh Green's depiction of two men dressed as cigarettes beating up a smoker; and third place, worth \$100, went to Tami Greenspan (P3) for "You Stink." Three other entries won restaurant gift certificates for most creative, most humorous, and best production.

"Some of them were extremely creative," says Sonbolian, who says she has received positive feedback from APhA-ASP's national committee. "We really wanted to serve as a role model to other pharmacy schools, and I think we did it."

Contest entries are still posted on YouTube and can be viewed at www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=157F9EC1B7D057BE.



Clockwise from top: Katherine Kingston (P2), APhA-ASP patient care coordinator; Nina Sonbolian, APhA-ASP president; and Tami Greenspan, third-place winner.

Our Alumni

Family pharmacy advocates for patients

The University of Pittsburgh is in the Blackburn family's blood. For three generations the Blackburn family has called the University of Pittsburgh its academic home. Charles "Chuck" Blackburn (BS '63), past president and now chairman of the Board of Directors for Blackburn's Physicians Pharmacy Inc. in Tarentum, Pa., followed in his father Charles' (BS '31) footsteps when he entered Pitt. Chuck Blackburn's son Tom (BS '93) did the same. All three have been an integral part of elevating the community pharmacy, founded by Charles Blackburn in 1936, to a leading regional provider of home health care products.

"When my father came to Tarentum, he wanted his store to be a professional pharmacy," Blackburn explains. When his father retired in the early '70s, Blackburn assumed an already successful pharmacy and began seeking additional ways to support the health care needs of the community. He had learned early in life, while volunteering with the local fire department and emergency medical service, that people needed medical supplies just as much as they needed their medication. Hospitals were beginning to discharge patients earlier than before, and patients needed many products previously found only in hospitals.

Providing hospital beds, wheelchairs, and other types of durable medical equipment became an essential part of the business. "In the beginning, I would stash a couple of wheelchairs or hospital beds anywhere I could find in the pharmacy. The health care delivery system was changing, and we needed to change with it to help our customers," Blackburn remembers. He became certified as an enterostomal therapist, then one of

only a handful in the country, and dedicated inventory and a private room in the pharmacy to helping patients care for and adjust to their ostomies.

Patient care has always been at the forefront of Blackburn's mind, and advocating on patients' behalf was a natural progression. Blackburn's pharmacy began acting as a patient advocate with the insurance industry and has continuously kept patients' needs its number one priority. Today, Blackburn and his wife Georgie are key advocates against the controversial Medicare competitive bidding program, designed to reduce the number of providers and payment for home-based patient equipment and supplies. Georgie, Blackburn's vice president of government relations and legislative affairs, recently testified before a Congressional subcommittee regarding the negative effects of this program on the thousands of small businesses that provide valuable, individualized patient care. Georgie concluded that ultimately the Medicare competitive bidding program would harm patient access to health care products and quality care by greatly diminishing the number of providers allowed to supply services.

Blackburn reminisces often about his days at Pitt's School of Pharmacy, where he worked closely with Norman R. Farnsworth (PhD '59). "That was an experience beyond imagination!" Blackburn says with a smile. He worked in the lab with Farnsworth, preparing solutions to treat herpes of the eye for the Eye and Ear Hospital and the first two drugs to treat leukemia for Eli Lilly and Company. "There was something exciting going on every day," he recalls. He remembers vividly what it was like the first time those



Congressman Jason Altmire (second from left), on a visit to Blackburn's Physicians Pharmacy, pictured with Georgie Blackburn, Kenep Shield, and Chuck Blackburn.

drugs were delivered to his store. "I get goose bumps just thinking about it. What we had done was really helping people!"

After years of making a difference in the lives of others, Blackburn hopes more and more students will enter the world of pharmacy. "This field is going to continue to have more impact on health care," he explains, "and I know Pitt alumni will be there making the difference."

Our Alumni

In Memoriam

Harvey A. Bayer ('40)
 Harry J. Frost Jr. ('58)
 Sally Theodore Huth ('56)
 James C. Meisner ('48)
 Harold M. Sherry ('59)
 Arthur J. Urbani ('43)



David Smith (BS '76) accepts the 2007 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service from Terry Talbott, last year's recipient, at the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association conference in Harrisburg, Pa.

Tim Davis (PharmD '00) was pictured on the cover of the November issue of *Pharmacy Today*. The issue features a story about the success of Davis's Beaver Health Mart pharmacy and how a community Pharmacy, providing the right patient services and care, can compete successfully in today's marketplace.

Adrienne Barnes Meck (PharmD '06) is the chief pharmacist at Davis's pharmacy.

Amit Duggal (PharmD '05) recently returned to Pittsburgh as a virology medical science liaison for Bristol-Myers Squibb. He is excited about his new role covering

the therapeutic area that he was involved with during his MPS and as a fellow at BMS (HIV/Virology) and to be back home in Pittsburgh.

Craig Johnston (BS '71) was recently designated as an expert in clinical hypertension by the American Society of Hypertension.

David Smith (BS '76) was selected as the recipient of the 2007 Bowl of Hygeia Award, presented by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) on behalf of Wyeth Pharmaceuticals at the PPA annual conference in November 2007 for his outstanding community service. Smith

owns and operates Means-Lauf Super Drug in Brookville, Pa., and Gatti Pharmacy in Indiana, Pa. He currently serves as the president of the Indiana County Pharmacists Association.

Our Alumni

Jeannine McCune

(BS '93) received a five-year, \$1.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for "Population Pharmacokinetics/ Pharmacodynamics in Nonablative Stem Cell Recipients." McCune is an associate professor at the University of Washington School of Pharmacy and is the daughter of Janie Bradish, Pitt School of Pharmacy director of space management and departmental budgets.

Max Helfand (BS '38)

has been giving back to his community by volunteering once a week at the MEND Clinic in Pacoima, Calif. MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity) is a privately funded, free clinic that offers medical care and other services to people in need. Helfand provides pharmaceutical services such as dispensing medication and advising the clinic's doctors.



Stanton Jonas (BS '51) accepts the 2007 Community Service Award presented at the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association conference in Harrisburg, Pa., from Sherrie Lee, chair of the awards committee.

Rxtravaganza 2008

The School of Pharmacy will hold its Rxtravaganza 2008, A Night on the Town, on May 31, 2008, at the Hilton Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh.

As in years past, the gala provides a perfect opportunity for friends, students, and alumni of the School of Pharmacy to spend time with old friends and get to know new ones. This year we have set up a message board on the Rxtravaganza 2008 Web site that will enable alumni to post comments and make contact with one another. You can connect to the message board: www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/board.

We encourage everyone to take full advantage of the message board and invite others to join us for what promises to be an extraordinary evening.



Connect to the message board through the following link:
www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/board

Investing in the Future

Kennedy generosity acknowledged



Bill Kennedy Sr. (BS '61) with Al Roker from NBC's Today Show.

With the success of Redex Industries, Inc., Bill Kennedy Sr. (BS '61) feels a genuine desire to give back to the communities that have supported him over the years. "It is a must," he explains. "If you can do it, it is so important to help the people who need it the most." He and Redex Industries have been donating their products to worthy organizations that ensure Udder Cream products are distributed to those most deserving, including soldiers in Iraq and recipients of NBC's *Today Show* holiday toy drive. After years of donating to the toy drive, Kennedy was contacted by representatives from the *Today Show* this year, inviting him to

appear on the program alongside weatherman Al Roker. "When I asked them why they wanted to feature us, they said it was because we have never sought any recognition for our donations," he explained.

Kennedy has made some very impressive donations to the School of Pharmacy as well. In November 2007, he presented the school with an exceptionally generous gift to the Lamsam Pharmacy Program, which provides pharmacy care to underserved populations. Kennedy and his wife Marg had the opportunity last year to meet former Director Sister Mary Grace Lamsam, and current Program Director Sharon Connor, assistant

professor of pharmacy and therapeutics. The Kennedys also toured one of the program's South Side clinics, and what they saw made them want to help.

An unassuming man, Kennedy has been married for more than fifty years to Marg, and the two have four children—two of whom are chemical engineers and share in their father's dream, working with Redex Industries. "We have it in our hearts to help others," he says. "I practice it and everyone in my family practices it. It's really the right thing to do."

Gatto Raises the Bar for Fifth Annual Alumni Golf Invitational

On Friday, June 13, 2008 the School of Pharmacy will host its Fifth Annual Golf Invitational at Quicksilver Golf Club in Midway, Pa. We invite all students, alumni, friends, and golf lovers to join us for this event to benefit pharmacy student scholarships.

Since the first golf outing was held in 2004, the event has generated more than \$76,000 for student scholarships. Last year alone, it brought in more than \$17,000 and provided scholarship funds for six students. This year Joe Gatto (BS '75), golf committee chair, has raised the bar by making it our goal to raise enough money to cross the \$100,000 threshold.

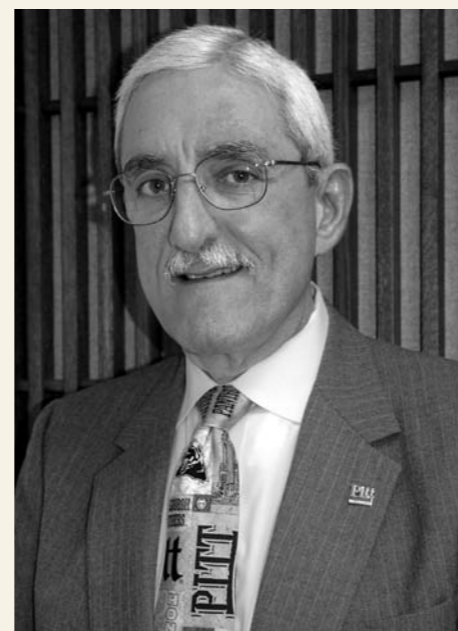
We can only accomplish this goal by getting more golfers to register as foursomes. Foursomes can consist of friends, colleagues, and

students. We especially encourage as many students as possible to come out and get involved by either playing golf or helping to run the event. The golf invitational presents a wonderful opportunity for students to become better acquainted with some of the school's most devoted friends and alumni.

Everyone who plays golf will enjoy breakfast, 18 holes of golf, lunch, door prizes, a School of Pharmacy golf shirt, and the chance to win a new car. Breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m., and tee-off will be at 8:30 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information about the golf invitational, contact Laraine Kuchma at 412-648-3304 or laraine@pitt.edu.



Joe Gatto (BS '75) has been the golf committee chair for the past five years.

Investing in the Future

Why do companies give to students?



Diana Pinchevsky (PharmD '07) received the Joseph A. Bianculli Pharmacy Award. Pinchevsky (left) is pictured with Phyllis Bianculli at the annual scholarship tea.

Over the past year, 27 students at the School of Pharmacy received \$32,000 in financial aid from scholarships established by the school's corporate partners. Year in and year out, our corporate partners have demonstrated a tremendous degree of generosity. Yet many here at the School of Pharmacy know little about what inspires companies in the pharmaceutical industry to give so readily.

Companies, in fact, provide student support for several reasons.

First and foremost, our corporate donors understand the tremendous financial burden that pharmacy students face today. Gone are the days when a student could pay the cost of a pharmacy education with money earned from a summer's hard work. Students now rely increasingly on the generosity of both corporate and private donors to help them deal with the ever-rising costs that accompany four years in pharmacy school.

Our corporate donors also understand that scholarships pro-

vide emotional support to students by letting them know that their efforts and achievements have been recognized. Students often attest to the motivating effect of winning a scholarship. Many of these students claim that this boost is what provided them with the focus necessary to complete the program and earn their pharmacy degree. By providing students with the financial and emotional support they need to be successful, these companies are making a solid investment in their own future and in the overall health of the pharmaceutical industry.

Still, some companies choose to add yet another dimension to their generosity. Following the tragic death of Jama Urbanski Key (BS '91) from cancer in 1994, Giant Eagle Pharmacy along with Key's husband, Tim Key, established the Jama Urbanski Key Memorial Scholarship. Every year, the scholarship assists one student facing a personal illness, an illness in the family, loss of family income, or other family hardship. Key was going to be an employee of Giant Eagle Pharmacy. Giant Eagle honored her as one of its own.

CVS/pharmacy Supports the Experiential Learning Program

CVS/pharmacy recently made a very generous donation to support the Experiential Learning Program through the development of the pharmacy Education Management System (EMS). EMS promises to make the administration of the Experiential Learning Program more efficient for students, preceptors, and faculty.

The EMS Web-based software automates many of the daily activities that make administering the

Experiential Learning Program so time consuming, such as matching students with experiential learning sites, making scheduling changes, and filing paperwork. Students will now be able to view their schedules, enter activity logs, and evaluate preceptors via the Internet. Students also will be assigned to preceptors and have their rotations scheduled online using EMS, which will save administrators a great deal of time and effort.

Preceptors will benefit from EMS by being able to view student site assignments, complete student evaluations, and update rotation requirements online.

Moreover, EMS will help the Experiential Learning Program meet the new Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education accreditation standards by simplifying record keeping and tracking required data.

2007-08 Company Scholarships

CVS/pharmacy
Giant Eagle
Medco Health Solutions, Inc.
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
Pharmacists Mutual Companies
Rite Aid
Spartan Pharmacy
Walgreens

Investing in the Future

Alum gives back in many ways



Irene Hilinski-Damratoski

At the School of Pharmacy, our alumni choose to give back to us in many different ways. Many of them donate their time and energy to support the school, and their impact is as vital to us as any monetary gift.

Irene Hilinski Damratoski (BS '63, MS '66) exemplifies this type of commitment and continues to be one of the School of Pharmacy's most spirited volunteers. As chair of the Farnsworth Student Award committee, she takes an active role in engaging donors to support the fund. Damratoski was Farnsworth's (PhD '59) first female graduate student, and she takes a great deal of pride in working to honor his legacy. Thanks in large part to her dedication, the Farnsworth Student Award has become one of the fastest-growing scholarship funds at the School of Pharmacy.

However, all the volunteer experience in the world didn't prepare Damratoski for her encounter with the full-size patient simulators at the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research. She had volunteered to help monitor students as they went through simulated patient care procedures, but "jumped" when she saw that the mannequins were actually breathing.

In Memory Fund

The School of Pharmacy In Memory Award was established by the school in 2005 to provide a deserving pharmacy student with an award in memory of all alumni, families, or friends whose memorial gifts have come to the School of Pharmacy. Gifts have been made to this endowment in memory of:

Name	Year Gift Established
Kim Lawren Reighard (PHARM '76)	2006
Samuel P. Conte (PHARM '41)	2006
Eilene Strauchler Liepack (EDUC '57)	2006
Margaret Madarasz Gerson (PHARM '52)	2006
Fred G. Gatto	2007
Janet Ball	2007
Carmen Muro	2007
Matthew O. Pecht	2007
Brian Haugh (PHARM '98)	2007
James C. Meisner (PHARM '48)	2008
Gerald Paulice	2008

Cachets or Konseals: A Means of Taking a Powder

SNAPSHOT FROM
PHARMACY'S PAST



Cachets by Limousin

In the mid-1800s, the Limousin Co. in Paris, France, invented the "Cachets" as an improvement over the rice flour, paper-thin wafer, upon which powdered medicines were administered. Placed in a moistened tablespoon, the sides were made to cover the powder poured in the center and then swallowed along with water.

The cachet consists of two rice flour wafers, each of a concave-convex shape, and with a flanged edge that can be fitted together. Available in different sizes, the largest can hold from 0.5 to 1.0 gram of powder. In filling, the bottom

wafer is placed upon a perforated board, and the medicine placed in it through a funnel. The dark side of the wooden stamp is moistened on the felt pad and applied to the rim of the top wafer, resting on a wooden ring. The wafers are pressed together by the lighter side of that stamp, sealing them.

"Konseals" are said to be an improved form of the cachet, and in American pharmacy, a synonymous term. The Konseal Filling and Closing Apparatus—made by the J.M. Grosvenor Co., Boston, Mass.—was the most widely used device in American drugstores for the preparation of cachets. They were, however, rarely used beyond the 1930s.

They consist of a set of three hinged metal plates, drilled with varying diameter holes for the size of cachet used. A half cachet, fitted loosely in the bottom plate, has its rim covered by the center plate to prevent powder from a funnel being deposited there. The

other half of the cachet, fitted snugly into the third plate, has its rim moistened with the roller. The center plate is removed and the two halves are brought together, and sealed.

When being taken, the cachets should immediately be placed upon a tablespoon containing a little water, and swallowed with a gulp of water.

A boxed set of each of these cachet artifacts is now on display at the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum in the School of Pharmacy. The Limousin set was donated by Mark Binus (BS '76, MS '79), the Konseal by Steven Strauss (PhD '70).

The above information came from the following sources: the Museum of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the American Pharmacy, and *The Pill Rollers*, by Lillian and Charles Richardson.

To see other items, visit the Elmer H. Grimm Sr. Pharmacy Museum and/or its Web site at museum.pharmacy.pitt.edu.



Konseal by Grosvenor

Upcoming Events

April 8, 2008

Distinguished Lecture Series
David W. Bates, MD, MSc
"Improving Medication Safety
Using Information Technology"

April 9, 2008

Scholarship Tea
Twentieth Century Club

April 13, 2008

Spring Continuing
Education Seminar
Update on Neurological
Disorders: Autism, Alzheimer's
Disease, and Seizure Disorders
Salk Hall, Room 402

April 27, 2008

2008 Graduation Dinner
and Hooding Ceremony
Sheraton Station Square Hotel

May 31, 2008

Pharmacy Gala
Rxtravaganza 2008:
A Night on the Town
Hilton Hotel,
Downtown Pittsburgh

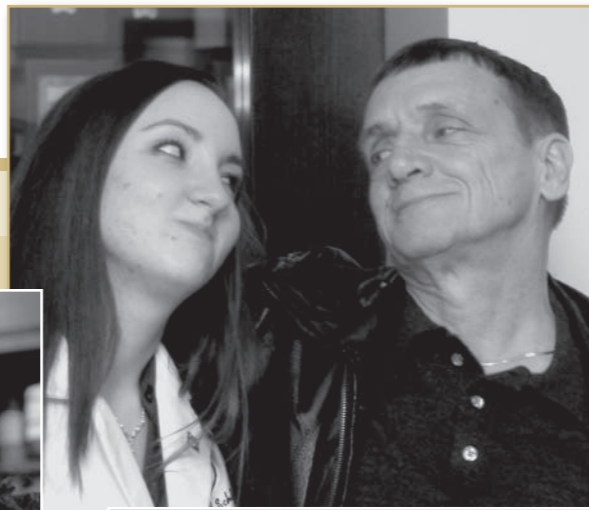
June 13, 2008

Fifth Annual Scholarship
Golf Invitational
Quicksilver Golf Club, Midway, Pa.

A full calendar of events can be found on the school's Web site:
www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/events



New white coat recipients (from left) Kendra Mueller, Akere Atte, Jaclyn Schlott, and Dan Mancini (all P1) with family, staff, and faculty at the sixth annual Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony in February 2008.



TELL US ABOUT YOU!

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. Photos are welcome. Please print clearly.

Name: _____

Degree and Year of Graduation: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone Number: _____

Position(s): _____

News: _____

Please complete and return to:
University of Pittsburgh, *PITTPharmacy*
Attn.: Laraine Kuchma
Suite 1100 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261
412-648-3304, laraine@pitt.edu

Distinguished Alumni Nomination Form

The School of Pharmacy Alumni Society invites you to nominate a fellow alumnus for the Distinguished Alumni Award. This award is presented annually to alumni based on outstanding professional achievements. All School of Pharmacy alumni are eligible and may nominate themselves or others.

Visit our Web site at www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni

The Fifth Annual School of Pharmacy Golf Invitational

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2008
QUICKSILVER GOLF CLUB, MIDWAY, PA

Proceeds Benefit Pharmacy Student Scholarships

Pre-registration is required as space is limited.
Deadline for registration is June 3, 2008.
Confirmation of your reservation and directions
to Quicksilver Golf Club will be provided.

Name: _____

Class: _____ Year: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Please list members of your foursome (please print):
(If registering as a single, you will be assigned to a foursome.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

_____ golfer(s) @ \$150 each

Total: _____

I am unable to attend but would like to contribute
to the scholarship fund.

Please make check(s) payable to the
University of Pittsburgh and return with form to:

University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy
Attn.: Laraine Kuchma
Suite 1100 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

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University of Pittsburgh

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Pittsburgh, PA 15261*

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