

PITT Pharmacy

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

SPRING 2009





Dear Friends,

As a pharmacist and educator, I was drawn to the award-winning book, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time*. The story of Greg Mortenson, mountaineer turned education advocate, and his quest to educate girls in the Taliban region of the world is titled after a Balti proverb. "The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honored guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family."

The meaning of three cups of tea figuratively describes interactions with our students and, yes, our alumni and friends. Students come to us as strangers, and we have our first cup of tea. Over the years in school and as alumni, you have interacted with me, my predecessor deans, and our faculty and staff. You have had those second and third cups of tea. You have become family.

Another analogy exists. Not only does the mountaineer, Mortenson, build schools for impoverished mountain people, but he does it in a challenging environment. As Tom Brokaw said, "Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest . . . is proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world."

The School's current environment is also challenging—both with respect to the healthcare landscape and economic realities of 2009. Greg Mortenson's story is a wonderful reminder that even in challenging times, we can each make a difference.

We have an extraordinary School with extraordinary people—our students, our faculty and staff, and our alumni and friends are changing the world every day. If only there were time and space to share more of our stories.

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P1 students make last-minute preparations and process into Scaife Hall for the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony.

Dean's Message	2
Features:	
Pharmacists boost access to health care by giving immunizations	4
Multidisciplinary research leads to promising compound in fight against cancer	6
Photographic Memories	8
News:	
Our Students	10
Our Faculty	12
Our School	14
Our Alumni	16
Investing in the Future	17
Snapshot from Pharmacy's Past	18
Calendar of Events	18
Contact Us	19

On the Cover: *Top left: Experiential learning at its finest—community of learning (left to right: Jennifer Bacci (P2), Natalie Pappas (P2), Stephanie Harriman McGrath (preceptor, PharmD 07, Residency 08), Gretchen Kreckel (P4), technician Kevin Sines, Marilyn Torch (P4), Shara Elrod (Residency 09), Tony Ferri (preceptor), Alexa Ray (P2) Michelle Bert (P2); Top right: Lindsey Ferguson (Pharm 09) will become a PhD student in the Clinical Pharmaceutical Scientist program at the School of Pharmacy; Bottom left: P1 students Daniel Dailey and George Liu reporting out their patient encounters from Silver Scripts.*

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Pharmacists boost access to health care by giving immunizations

For many people, getting a flu shot has become a rite of late autumn, as much a ritual as hauling out the snow tires and covering the lawn furniture. Immunizations have become so effective and readily available, it's hard to believe that influenza was once responsible for pandemics that killed millions of people.

Yet despite the existence of the flu shot, immunization rates can be discouragingly low, particularly in low-income or rural areas where people have less access to medical professionals.

Fortunately, many states are combating the problem by changing their laws to allow pharmacists to administer the vaccine. And thanks to a new program at the School of Pharmacy, more health care professionals are entering the work force each year with the training that will allow them to give vaccinations and protect people from potentially devastating diseases.

Improving access

Although Pennsylvania first changed its regulations in July 2006, it was relatively slow to join the trend toward pharmacist-administered immunizations, says Robert Weber, associate professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Therapeutics. In fact, such immunizations began in the early 1990s in the western United States, gradually spreading eastward. Pennsylvania was the 43rd state to adopt the practice, which applies to patients 18 or older.

"It was really designed to allow for additional access," says Weber, who points out that pharmacists are considered the most accessible providers on the health care spectrum: They require no appointments, often work right in the retail community, and are generally considered very approachable.

"It really does place us right on the team," says Weber. "It's something that's useful that we can really impact. I'm very excited about that. It provides us with a skill set that people see as valuable."

To prepare pharmacy students for the changed regulations, the school began offering an elective course and helped create flu clinics on the Pitt campus that were staffed by working pharmacists. In October and November 2008, 1,556 people were given flu shots, a slight percentage increase over the previous year—proving that increased access means more people will receive immunization.

"We wanted to make it harder for the patient to say no," says Deanne Hall, an assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics who coordinates the immunization program. Toward that end, the clinic worked with the University's benefits office as well as the UPMC Health Plan to eliminate the need for patients to pay out of pocket by directly billing the insurer.

In addition to flu shots, pharmacists also vaccinated against pneumonia, taking advantage of the clinic to screen patients who might be at risk, such as people over 65.

Once the shot is administered, pharmacists have the patient wait 10 to 15 minutes to see if the patient reacts to the vaccine. That down time is valuable because it allows the pharmacist to initiate conversations with patients and possibly educate them, says Weber.

The clinic "provides us with a venue to help patients understand their medications. We've got a captive audience, in a sense," he says. "You can talk to them about how often they take their asthma medication, and you can answer questions right on the spot."

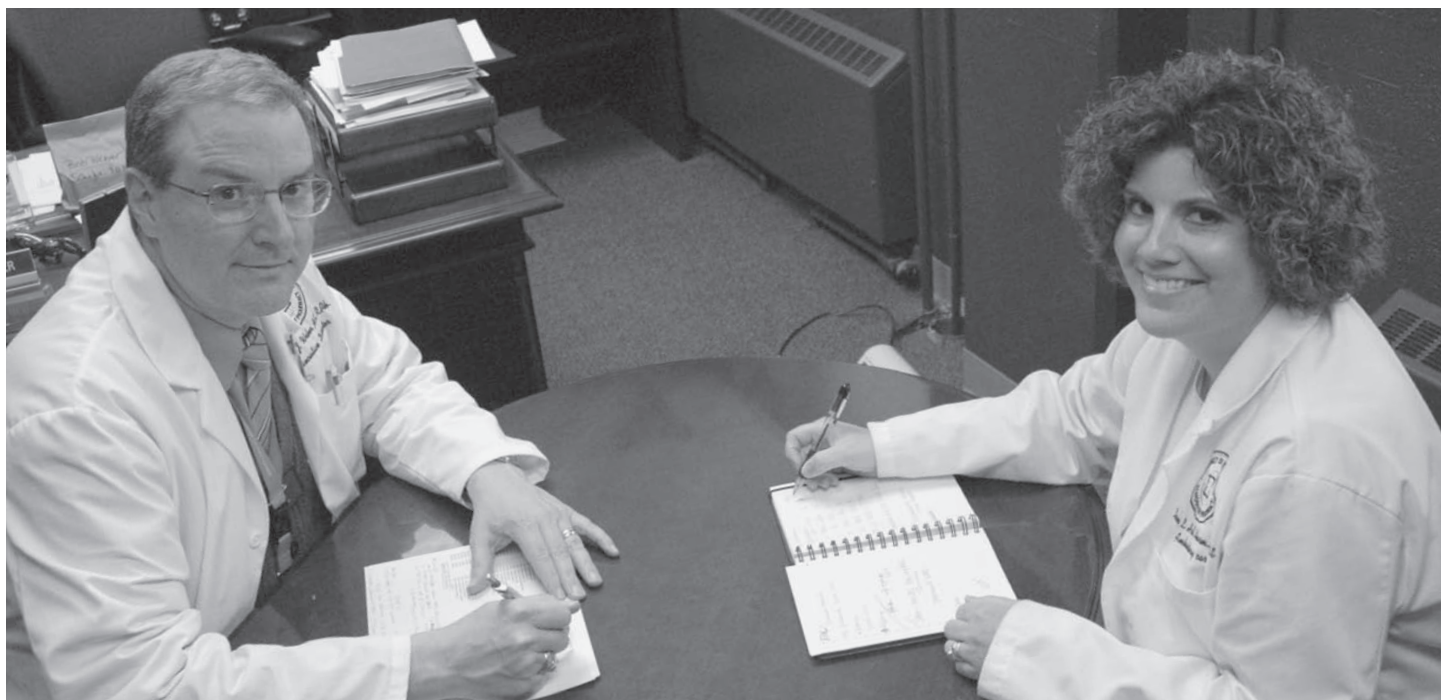
Weber hopes to help community pharmacies revise their workflow, automating some traditional medication-dispensing responsibilities to free them up for immunizations.

Many myths about immunizations persist, such as flu shots causing the illness to occur or prompting paralysis, or other vaccines causing autism, says Weber. Pharmacists can help combat the misinformation, which is in itself an important public service.

Hall says about one-third to one-half of the School of Pharmacy's students are currently taking the elective course to qualify for giving immunizations. Although state law does not permit students to actually administer the vaccinations, they do practice injections with saline and learn to develop a program. In the campus flu clinics, they practiced patient intake skills and patient care service development.

"This is the standard of practice now for pharmacists," says Hall, adding that immunization training eventually may be integrated into the curriculum instead of remaining an elective. "It's something we want our students to be prepared to do."

"I think the students are quite excited about the program," adds Weber. "It's a way they can physically do something for patients that's beneficial and tangible, plus they get a chance to talk about the immunization."



Joining together

To date, other health care professionals have been highly supportive of the changes to state law, says Hall. That could be because extra help was needed to meet the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' goal of achieving 90 percent vaccination rates for influenza and pneumonia in patients who met the accepted criteria.

"Even with all the resources at hand, the country was not meeting its immunization goals," says Hall. "Pharmacies for years have been allowing nurses and other groups to come in to immunize. ... It really seemed like the next step was for the pharmacist to be able to do it."

With so much work to go around, more qualified professionals were needed, Hall explains.

"We are not looking to take business away from anybody," she points out. "We are truly looking to be just another tool in the arsenal."

Eventually, Weber hopes to help community pharmacies revise their work flow, automating some traditional medication-dispensing

responsibilities to free them up for immunizations. One hurdle toward this goal is that pharmacists must have physicians agree to sponsor them and develop a protocol before they can give shots—something the Pitt team is working to solve.

In addition to the education factor, pharmacists can also help by combating the flu, which remains a deadly disease, killing 36,000 people in the United States each year, according to Weber.

"It's an important public health issue," he says. "Health care workers and the elderly are at the highest risk."

In addition to flu and pneumonia, which are covered by a physician-supervised protocol, pharmacists can also administer vaccines for which patients have a prescription. Efforts are under way to determine how to best expand the program and take advantage of the law to improve health-care access.

"We're now looking forward to see how we can go beyond our walls here at Presby," says Hall.

One goal is to improve access in rural areas, where people might be discouraged by driving several extra miles just to get a shot, but be willing to go to a pharmacy right around the corner.

That certainly was the case with the University clinic, she notes. While Pitt employees can get the shots at Student Health Services, they often won't bother to walk just a few blocks down Fifth Avenue. But when the clinic set up shop at the student union and several other sites, people came.

"It's very important to make things accessible to people," says Hall. "It's like anything else—if you make it easier for them to get there, they're more likely to do it."

Robert Weber and Deanne Hall (BS '96, PharmD '98) meet to discuss plans for expanding the pharmacist-administered immunization program.

Multidisciplinary research leads to promising compound in fight against cancer



Billy W. Day, PhD

During the course of a year, two graduate students spent countless hours devoted to the painstaking task of creating just 33 milligrams of a compound that originated with a sea sponge.

But the result of that work, and the research that has been made possible because of it, is one of the more promising prospects in the quest to fight cancer.

Under the supervision of a multidisciplinary team that includes Pharmaceutical Sciences Professor Billy Day as a principal investigator, the research focuses on a compound known as 6-epi-dictyostatin. Creating the compound from scratch is “a fairly arduous task,” notes Day, who estimates that more than 40 steps are required, starting with small building blocks that must be protected and assembled through chemical synthesis.

In late 2008, the team published its findings in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*.

“What that paper showed was that it was well worth the effort,” notes Day, who says 6-epi-dictyostatin works better than an agent already used in the clinic, paclitaxel, in fighting cancer.

Specifically, the new compound prevents mitosis in cancer cells, causing them to stop growing and to undergo apoptosis (programmed cell death).

“It worked much better, so that’s very promising,” says Day. “The compound was not terrifically toxic, and it caused suppression of growth of these tumors in mice better than an equal dose of paclitaxel did.”

“Now, instead of just one assistant professor with a crazy idea and a computational system, it takes four or five professors with their groups and areas of expertise, so [the project] kind of mushroomed,” Day explains. “And that’s the way science should work.”

Early origins

Day has been involved in cancer-fighting agents since his own graduate studies, when he worked on a compound for treating breast cancer. Though nontoxic, that compound was only mildly effective. However, it led Day to a new set of inquiries that would affect his later career.

“What I decided was that it was actually not working via the mechanisms by which we thought it should work,” he explains.

Rather, the compound worked through the mechanism that affected the assembly and disassembly of cells that is important in cell division.

“That makes it a very good target for cancer chemotherapy, because what you want to do is something to stop the cancer cells from dividing and convince them to kill themselves,” Day explains.

He set up a computational system to predict whether a chemical compound would share the same characteristics, and applied it to all known agents of various types: natural, synthetic, and industrial, for example.

In late 1994, one compound in particular “rang the cherries”: It was described as an immunosuppressant that originated with a sponge, and the computer model predicted it would share some of the same properties as the compound that targeted microtubules.

“It was a very rare thing, a natural product that was hard to get,” says Day. “It was amazing—it worked so well that it was stunning; it was a remarkable agent.”

Because that compound was already patented, Day’s group—in collaboration with Dennis Curran in the Department of Chemistry—made analogs of that compound, known as discodermolide. Day went back to his computational program and asked the same question he’d been asking for years: What other chemicals carry these properties? The answer was dictyostatin.

About the time that the Pitt group began synthesizing dictyostatin, the pharmaceutical company that licensed discodermolide stopped working on it, for reasons that were never fully disclosed.

What lies ahead

As of February 1, the team has asked the National Cancer Institute to assume the task of synthesizing gram quantities of 6-epi-dictyostatin. If the institute agrees, it will take the burden of that task off the Pitt researchers and likely contract preclinical toxicology studies to make sure the compound is safe.

"They have deeper pockets than we do," explains Day. "And if it looks promising for the public health, then they'll help."

Cancers that seem to respond best to the compound are solid

Billy Day's five graduate students come from four different programs; the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Molecular Pharmacology, the Department of Chemistry, and Molecular Biophysics and Structural Biology. Dr. Day's four postdoctoral fellows focus their research on a mixture of synthetic chemistry, analytical chemistry, or cell biology.

At this time, Dr. Day has four undergraduate students from the Department of Chemistry working in his lab. He teaches undergraduate courses on drug development, analytical chemistry, and high throughput screening. At the graduate level, he teaches courses in pharmaceutical analysis, chromatography, mass spectrometry, proteomics, and medicinal chemistry.

Dr. Day also supervises six fulltime staff members in the proteomics core lab.

tumors, such as breast, ovarian, and lung cancers.

Under the best-case scenario, if preclinical testing and toxicology studies are favorable, the compound could move into Phase 1 clinical trials in humans within three years.

"It's highly unlikely, but if it's really as good as we hope it is, it's a possibility," says Day.

Students and postdoctoral fellows have done much of the legwork on the project, says Day, who teaches in both the PharmD and PhD programs. In particular, he cites the efforts of postdoctoral associate Raghavan Balachandran and former pharmaceutical sciences graduate students Charitha Madiraju and Yun Fan, who contributed to the biological evaluations of the compounds and the eventual choice of 6-epi-dictyostatin.

A collegial atmosphere

Day credits the collegial atmosphere at the University of Pittsburgh with helping to advance his research.

Though multidisciplinary collaboration was less common when he first came to the University in 1991, it has been extremely cooperative at Pitt, "better than just about anyplace I've been to, worked at, or visited," he says.

In addition, the facilities have been top notch.

"Our ability to test compounds, or the rate at which we can test compounds and the depth of the information we can claim, has gone up" exponentially, he notes. "What used to take us a year to do now just takes a couple of weeks due to new technologies, and the University of Pittsburgh has them."

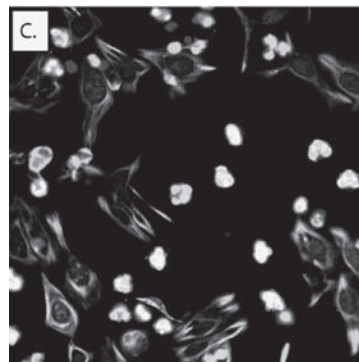
Pitt has developed new reagents, or chemicals that help researchers make compounds in very specific ways. Instruments on

the biology end allow the scientists to work up to 400 times faster than they previously could.

"The amount of information we get from these analyses is at least tenfold more dense than when we were just doing things with our hands and our eyes," says Day.

The large amounts of data they are generating is admittedly daunting at times, but the team is also getting better at analyzing its data in larger quantities, too.

"Now, instead of just one assistant professor with a crazy idea and a computational system, it takes four or five professors with their groups and areas of expertise, so [the project] kind of mushroomed," Day explains. "And that's the way science should work."



A fluorescence image of the nuclei, microtubules, and phosphohistone H3 in cervical cancer cells treated with 6-epi-dictyostatin. The photo is courtesy of Prof. Andreas Vogt (in the Department of Pharmacology & Chemical Biology at Pitt).

Photographic Memories





8



9



10

1. Steven Zona (P2), Assistant Professor Shelby Corman, Erica Trimble (P3), and Catherine Kingston (P3) plan their strategy during the Student Leadership Retreat at the Jumonville Retreat Center.
2. James Pschirer (BS '76), director of experiential learning and continuing profession development, and Denise Howrie Schiff, assistant dean for academic affairs, at the Preceptor Dinner and Program, in January.
3. Student leaders participate in a teamwork challenge during the Student Leadership Retreat.
4. Donald Stewart (BS '51) and Iny Marks (PharmD '00), Alumni Society Board president, scoop up a cool treat for a young guest at the Homecoming Banana Split Party.
5. Professor Kim Coley (BS '87), Assistant Dean Dennis Swanson, Associate Dean Susan Meyer, and Diane Ammerman (PharmD '98) at the 2008 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament.
6. Legacy families at the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony: (left to right) Charles Hoffmann (P1), Paul Hoffmann (BS '79), Nicholas Genevese '79), Jamie Genevese (P2), Phyllis Mastroianni Wytiaz ('79), Nicholas Wytiaz (P1), Julie Styche (P1), and John Styche (BS '72).
7. Preceptors Vadim Gazarov (PharmD '08), Denise Kreckel (BS '81) and Peter Kreckel (BS'81) at the 2009 Preceptor Dinner and Program.
8. Pharmacy Alumni Society Board: (seated, left to right: Diane Ammerman (PharmD '98), Irene Damratoski (BS '63, MS '66), Tanya Fabian (PharmD '98, PhD '03), Ernie Sanchez (PharmD '02), Iny Marks (PharmD '00), and Jaime Genevese (P1); standing, left to right: Jay Stragand (BS '88), James Pschirer (BS '76), Tim Davis (PharmD '00), Amit Duggal (PharmD '05), Joseph Gatto (BS '75), Nicole Butteri (PharmD '00).
9. Jimmy Gill (P4) presents the Family Feud trophy to Dean Patricia Kroboth (MS '80; PhD '83) during the Pharmacy Weeks events.
10. Lauren Fisher (P1) leads classmates, parents, and guests in the singing of the Alma Mater during the Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony.

Our Students



Amanda Simpson (P3), Katie Steward (P1), Sapna Doshi (P3), Tina Khadem (P3), Catherine Andrews (P3), Ashley Craig (P3), Matthew Felbinger (P3), Steven Zona (P2), and Dr. Laura Jonkman celebrate after the Pitt team won the OTC competition at the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association Midyear Conference in Harrisburg.



Ashley Toale (P2), Josh Clossin (P3), Alexa Ray (P2), and Cortlynn Latsha (P1) perform during the "No Talent Show" during Pharmacy Weeks.

Akere Atte (P2) was elected as the 2008 University of Pittsburgh Homecoming King.

The P3 student team of **Ashley Craig, Tina Khadem, and Catherine Andrews** took first-place honors at the third annual Self Care Championship competition held on February 7, 2009, during the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association's Midyear Conference after an exciting tie-breaker round against Duquesne University. This is the second time a team from the School of Pharmacy has achieved first-place honors.

Eric Gardner (P2) recently had his work "Differential coupling of the human cannabinoid receptors hCB₁R and hCB₂R to the G protein G α_{12} $\beta_1\gamma_2$ " published in *Neuroscience Letters*.

Nisanne Ghonem, graduate student under the supervision of Dr. Raman Venkataramanan, presented her research findings at the Joint EASL-AASLD Monothematic Conference on Nuclear Receptors and Liver Disease, held in Vienna, Austria, in late February. Ghonem was selected as a presenting author of one in the best 50 scored abstracts.

Yuyan Jin, graduate student, received a Critical Path Research Grant from the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research to conduct research on public health policy pertaining to antihypertensives use. Jin works under the supervision of Dr. Robert Bies.

Sarah Providence (P4) and **Holly Vozel** (P3) were named as 2008 NACDS scholarship recipients. Providence received the Taro Research Foundation Scholarship, awarded to exceptional students

Our Students

of the highest achievement. Of the 85 scholarship recipients, Providence was one of only four students to receive a named scholarship. Vozel was among those selected to receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

Matthew Sapko (P4) was awarded the 2008 Kappa Psi–CVS scholarship. The scholarship is based on scholastic achievement, involvement with the profession and fraternity, and efforts to advance and improve the profession. This is the second time that Sapko has received the award, which is unprecedented for the School of Pharmacy's Beta Chapter.

Sapko was also recently informed by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy that his StuNet Advisory Committee tenet document, "Tenets of Professionalism for Pharmacy Students," will be published in an upcoming issue of *Pharmacotherapy*.

Shashi Sriram, graduate student, has had his first authored review paper accepted for publication in *Chemistry and Biology*. It is titled "Multivalency-Assisted Control of Intracellular Signaling Pathways: Application for Ubiquitin-Dependent N-End Rule Pathway." Sriram works in the lab of Dr. Yong Tae Kwon.

Pharmacy Week events in January 2009 included a No Talent Show, the PLS Auction, a Family Feud type competition between students and faculty, ending with the formal dance at the Sheraton Hotel Station Square. The auction raised \$7,100 for the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program, breaking all previous records.



Graduate student Nisanne Ghonem presented her research findings at a recent conference in Vienna, Austria.



Akere Atte (P2), this year's Homecoming King embraces Homecoming Queen Sandra Abba during the halftime crowning ceremony.

Our Faculty



Faculty members have a chance to interact before a recent faculty meeting.

Several faculty members were recently promoted: **Kim Coley** (BS '87) to the rank of professor; **Sherrie Aspinall, Colleen Culley,** and **Amy Donihi** to the rank of associate professor.

Robert Bies was invited to serve as executive editor for the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*.

Colleen Culley became a member of the editorial board of the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy*. She will serve on the board from January 2009 through December 2011.

Billy Day was elected as member-at-large of the executive committee of the American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Toxicology.

Tanya Fabian (PharmD '98, PhD '03) earned the designation of Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist (BCPP). Fabian was also selected as a member of the ASHP Pharmacy Leadership Academy for 2009.

Edward Krenzelok has been named as the Gordon J. Vanscoy Endowed Chair in the School of Pharmacy. Krenzelok, director of the Pittsburgh Poison Center and Drug Information Center, was a recent guest on NPR's Science Friday, speaking about holiday hazards.

Song Li received a grant award from the National Institutes of Health for "Non-Viral Gene Therapy for Lung Injury."

Karen Pater gave a presentation focused on diabetes mellitus to a group of senior citizens at St. Ambrose Manor in Pittsburgh in December. Pater also spoke at the Health Resources and Services Administration Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative Learning Session about the School's collaborative endeavor with Broad Top Area Medical Center and two local independent pharmacies.

Ty Ridenour was named the first chair of the newly created Database Taskforce, a collaborative effort between the Society for Prevention Research and the Early Career Preventionist Network.

Ridenour was also chosen as the lead guest editor of a special issue of *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*.

Our Faculty



P1 students Ashley Hogue and Lauren Fisher discuss patient cases from their Silver Scripts experience with Assistant Professor Melissa Somma McGivney.

Randall Smith and the DM Educate® team of **Shelby Corman** (PharmD '02), **Scott Drab** (BS '89), **Janice Pringle**, and **Cheri Hill** received an unrestricted educational grant from Novo Nordisk to update and enhance the DM Educate® school/student and continuing education Web site.

The research team of **Margie Snyder** (PharmD '06) (principal investigator), **Karen Pater**, **Janice Pringle**, **Randall Smith**, and **Cheri Hill**, along with collaborators **Coleen Kayden**, **Rik Lennox**, and **Brad Langford**, received a grant from the Community Pharmacy Foundation to support their research, "Who Is at Risk?: Identifying Patients in Need of Medication Therapy Managements."

Scott Mark, assistant professor of pharmacy and therapeutics, was selected as one of five national finalists for the Advisory Board Company's 2008 *Award for Excellence in Healthcare Leadership*. The award is given annually to a Fellow of the Advisory Board Company in recognition of leadership in their organization.

Mark was selected to serve on the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Quality Improvement Initiative Expert Panel.

Michael Vanyukov was appointed to the University of Pittsburgh's Board of Trustees Academic Affairs/Libraries Committee.

Raman Venkataramanan received the 2009 Bristol-Myers

Squibb Mentorship in Clinical Pharmacology award from the American College of Clinical Pharmacology. This bi-yearly award recognizes sustained excellence in clinical pharmacology mentorship in an academic, regulatory, and/or industrial setting.

Sean Xie was invited to chair the G-Protein Coupled Receptor Drug Discovery session and to speak at the BIT's 6th International Drug Discovery Science and Technology Conference held in Beijing in October 2008.

Wen Xie is the editor and contributing author of the book *Nuclear Receptors in Drug Metabolism*. He also received the ASPET Division for Drug Metabolism's 2009 Early Career Achievement Award.

Our School

Standing, left to right: Daniel Buffington, president and CEO of Clinical Pharmacology Services Inc., and Tucci Lecturer, pictured with pharmacy students Steven Zona (P2), Joshua Clossin (P3), Erica Trimble (P3), Melinda Wingard (P3), and Dr. Victor Tucci. Tucci, son of Nicholas C. Tucci, in whose memory the lecture was established, now sponsors the lecture.

The third annual Preceptor Program and Dinner was held at The Twentieth Century Club on January 29. The School recognized P4 preceptors for their valuable contributions to the PharmD program.

Our students, headed by P3 **Karleen Melody**, co-hosted the APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting at the Pittsburgh Hilton with Duquesne University and LECOM. During this three-day event, faculty member **Lauren Jonkman** (PharmD '06) conducted a patient-counseling workshop. Fellow **Margie Snyder** (PharmD '06) dispensed valuable information to would-be residents. Over the three-day event, students had a great chance to network and learn more about opportunities in the profession of pharmacy.

The 2009 Nicholas C. Tucci Lecture featured **Daniel E. Buffington**, PharmD, MBA,

President and CEO of Tampa-based Clinical Pharmacology Services, Inc. Dr. Buffington's talk focused on the issue of reimbursement for pharmacist's services from an entrepreneurial perspective.

The seventh annual Dr. Gordon J. Vanscoy White Coat Ceremony was held on Friday, January 30, in conjunction with the School's celebration of Pharmacy Week. Each student was called forward to receive their first lab coat before an audience of more than 500 family members, friends, and faculty members. Among the highlights of this year's ceremony were eight P1 students who have family members who are either alumni of the School of Pharmacy or current students. In addition, **Dr. Nicole Ansani** (BS '95, PharmD '98), one of the 2008 preceptors of the year, affixed a lapel pin to each student's coat. Dr. Gordon Vanscoy was the featured speaker.

The Community Pharmacy Residents and pharmacy students celebrated American Pharmacists Month by bringing the Poison Prevention Program to two local elementary schools. The Poison Prevention Program is a community outreach program based on Mr. Yuk educational materials made available through the Pittsburgh Poison Center to teach children how to protect themselves, their families, and their pets from poisons inside and outside their homes.

Another milestone has been reached as the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy celebrates its 130th anniversary. Everyone from the alumni who lovingly recall the "School of the Bluff" to our current P1 class feels connected to its storied past.



Our School

Since 1887, the School has witnessed a host of momentous occasions. Three that may immediately spring to mind are **Ella P. Stewart** '16 becoming the first African American woman in the United States licensed to practice pharmacy and **George D. Beal** PhC, PhD '06, PharmD '07 and **William L. Blockstein** BS '50, MS

'53, PhD '59 being awarded the Remington Honor Medal.

However, we should always remember that our history has been primarily shaped by the thousands of alumni, faculty, and staff who, at one time or another, have called the School of Pharmacy home.



Caring Carved in Stone

The Brick Walkway at Salk Hall

Join the more than 500 individuals who have donated to the School of Pharmacy's brick walkway. In return for your \$400 tax-deductible pledge, a brick will be inscribed with your name or with the name of a family member or friend. You will receive a certificate commemorating your gift, and the brick will be added to the walkway located at the School of Pharmacy entrance to Salk Hall.

For more information: <http://www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni/giving/brickwalkway/default.html>

Top to bottom: 1. This year's White Coat Ceremony held special significance for this legacy family. Amanda Johnson (P1) celebrated the occasion with her father, William F. Johnson III (BS '85) and her grandfather, William F. Johnson Jr. (BS '49). 2. Maria Osborne, PharmD, community practice resident; Shara Elrod, PharmD, community practice resident, Sandeep Devabhakthuna (P4) and Stephanie Harriman McGrath (PharmD '07), Rite Aid clinical pharmacist, enjoyed talking to kindergarteners at the Marzolf Elementary School about poison prevention. 3. The School of Pharmacy celebrates its 130th anniversary.

Our Alumni

Top to bottom:

Edwin Lichtenstul

(BS '26), Larry J.

Merlo (BS '78),

Nick Generalovich

(BS '67), Rolland I.

Poust, PhD (BS '66,

MS '68), Larry Glass

(BS '59)



The University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy's oldest alumnus celebrated his 103rd birthday on St. Valentine's Day. **Edwin Lichtenstul** (BS '26) graduated from the School when it was called the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy.

After only two years of practicing pharmacy, he left the profession to start a company with his brother that manufactured industrial wiping rags.

Today, Lichtenstul is long retired and enjoying life in an independent living center. According to residents, if he's not busy charming the ladies, he's in his chair overlooking the Allegheny River listening to classical music on his iPod.

On October 23, 2008, School of Pharmacy alumnus **Larry J. Merlo** (BS '78) was named one of 12 Legacy Laureates by the University of Pittsburgh. Merlo's tremendous success as executive vice president of CVS Caremark and president of CVS/pharmacy has long been a great source of pride for the School of Pharmacy. Having now received the Legacy Laureate award, Merlo ranks among the University of Pittsburgh's most accomplished alumni and is recognized by the entire University community as an exceptional role model for our students.

Nick Generalovich (BS '67) was honored as one of the 2008 Awardees of Distinction by the Pitt Varsity Letter Club at its 48th annual award dinner on October 24, 2008. The award recognizes varsity letter winners "who have distinguished themselves in their professions and communities."

Generalovich has had an outstanding career in pharmacy, first with Revco and now as chief executive officer and chairman for Vanguard Advance Pharmacy Systems.

In October 2008, **Rolland I. Poust**, PhD (BS '66, MS '68) retired from his position as professor and interim division head for pharmaceuticals at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. His distinguished career at the University of Iowa spanned 17 plus years, during which time he served as director of the Division of Pharmaceutical Service before becoming interim division head two years ago.

Larry Glass (BS '59) served as regional vice president with Peoples Drug before he decided to resign in 1980 to go into Christian service. He began working with Food for the Hungry, first in Scottsdale, Ariz., then for the international arm of the organization. During this time he worked and traveled from Geneva, Switzerland as director of relief. Now retired, Glass resides in Mesa, Ariz., with his wife Jeannette.

In Memoriam

Ethel Baran Ritzman '58

What is The 1787 Society?

Pitt was founded in 1787 as the Pittsburgh Academy by Hugh Henry Brackenridge. At that time the campus was comprised of a log cabin and a handful of students. Since its founding, the University of Pittsburgh has benefited from the generosity of prominent philanthropists and the general public.

In the spirit of Pitt's beginning and in honor of its future, The 1787 Society was founded to recognize alumni and friends who have made a commitment to Pitt through planned or deferred gifts. Your future commitment to the University can provide the School of Pharmacy with professorships, research funds, student scholarships, unrestricted funds, and a higher quality of education for all students.

We hope that you will join the many alumni and friends of the School of Pharmacy who are currently members of The 1787 Society. Membership in the society allows the University to acknowledge your generosity with a certificate of honor and, if you allow, public recognition. In addition, you will receive valuable information on financial and estate planning, invitations to special events and seminars, and publications of interest to alumni and friends of Pitt.

To notify the School of your gift intention and become a member of The 1787 Society, please contact Lawney Snyder at 412-624-3545.



Peggy Hrinya's (BS '66) recent planned gift has made her one of the newest members of the 1787 society.

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 Stauchler 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
Ethel M. Ritzman, Pharm '58	2008
Tara Feroce	2008
H. Lawton Snyder	2008
Robert M. Fry	2009

Upcoming Events

April 26, 2009

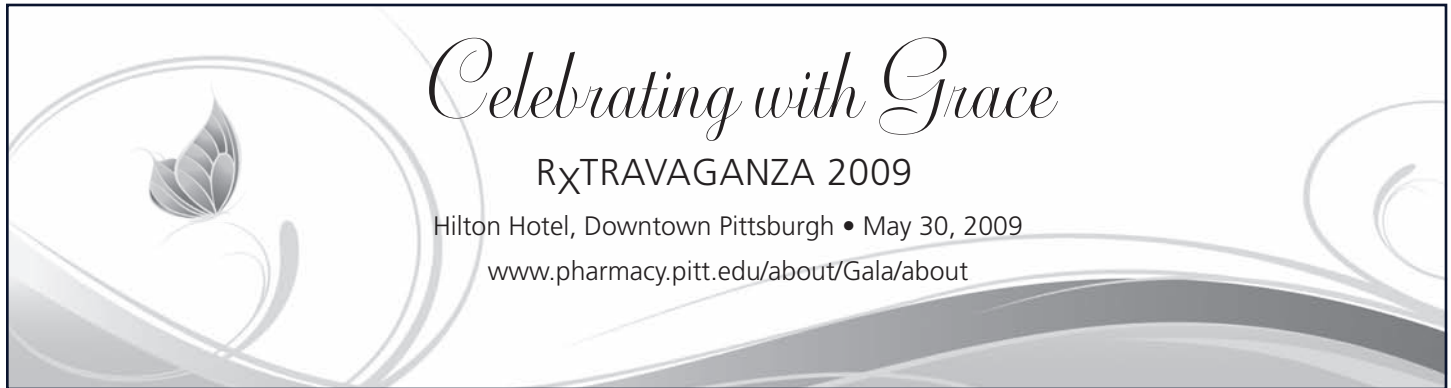
Graduation and Hooding
Ceremony

May 30, 2009

RxTravaganza 2009
Celebrating with Grace

June 12, 2009

School of Pharmacy
Scholarship Golf Invitational



All donated funds will be used to extend the impact of the Grace Lamsam Pharmacy Program for the Underserved

SNAPSHOT FROM
PHARMACY'S PAST

Largest American-Made Conical Graduate Display

You are immediately struck as you enter the School of Pharmacy by the more than 275 glistening conical glass graduates, housed in four sectional walnut cabinets with overhead and side lighting.

"My life's work," says Bernard Levy, RPh, describing his collection, which he donated to Pitt in March 2008. A 1951 graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy in Madison, his interest in graduates prompted a professor to challenge him to study and assemble an in-depth collection.

In part because of the School's offer to accept his entire collection of more than 650 pieces as part of the Grimm Museum, we were able to obtain this monument to pharmacy's history. Varying in size from a 50 minim graduate to one of 32 ounces, the oldest one is marked on the bottom, "HODGSONS PATENT FEB.18,1862".



The Largest Collection of
American-Made Conical Graduates
Dating from 1862
Donated by Bernard Levy, RPh
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Stanton Jonas, the School's museum curator, encourages you to see this magnificent addition in its fully illuminated state, as well as to tour the interior of the Grimm Museum. An advance telephone call to Laraine Kuchma at 412-648-3304, will give you the opportunity to see both at once. Or, just walk in!

The School of Pharmacy Web site is a wonderful way of keeping in touch with all that is happening at the School.
We invite you to visit the Web site at **www.pharmacy.pitt.edu**.

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 Telephone: _____

Position(s): _____

News: _____

Let us know if you belonged to any of the following student organizations. Please check all that apply.

- Kappa Psi Lambda Kappa Sigma-LKS
 Phi Delta Chi-PDC Phi Lambda Sigma-PLS
 Rho Chi-Alfa Omicron Chapter

Please complete and return to:
University of Pittsburgh, PITTPharmacy News
Attn: Laraine Kuchma
Suite 1100 Salk Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15261
Phone: 412-648-3304 E-mail: laraine@pitt.edu

THE SIXTH ANNUAL SCHOOL OF PHARMACY GOLF INVITATIONAL

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009 • RSVP MAY 1, 2009
QUICKSILVER GOLF CLUB, MIDWAY, PA
Proceeds Benefit Pharmacy Student Scholarships

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

Phone: 412-648-3304 E-mail: laraine@pitt.edu
www.pharmacy.pitt.edu

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished alumni are chosen on the basis of their educational, professional, and University-affiliated achievements. They are individuals who are renowned for their integrity and have exhibited the highest degree of passion, commitment, and diligence in their contributions to the profession of pharmacy.

To nominate a distinguished alumnus, please visit our Web site: **www.pharmacy.pitt.edu/alumni**.
All School of Pharmacy alumni are eligible. You are welcome to nominate yourself or others.



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The Sixth Annual School of Pharmacy Golf Invitational

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009 • RSVP MAY 1, 2009

QUICKSILVER GOLF CLUB • MIDWAY, PA

Proceeds Benefit Pharmacy Student Scholarships

