Faculty, students attend AACP

Several members of the faculty and students from the Texas A&M Health Science Center Ima Lerna Rangel College of Pharmacy participated July 11-14 in the 2015 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting in National Harbor, Md.

Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy third-year professional student pharmacist Jason Chau of Pluvicure, Texas, and Bree Watzak, Pharm.D., BCPS, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, and third-year professional student pharmacist Chelsea Krueger of Plano, Texas, and Charles Douglas, Ph.D., MBA, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, were two of the 85 student and faculty mentor pairs chosen from across the nation for the Walmart Scholars Program. Each student and professor team received $1,000 travel scholarships to attend the AACP Annual Meeting and the AACP Teachers Seminar.

In addition, Watzak facilitated the round table discussion topic of “Interprofessional Education (IPE) in advance pharmacy practice experiences for the Experiential Education.” Douglas facilitated the round table discussion topic of “Preparing the Student Pharmacist to Provide Care to Underserved Populations” for the public health special interest group Caring for the Underserved Committee.

Grants


Presentations


Watzak, B. (2015). In APEX Round Table Discussion, Experiential Education Section at AACP Annual Meeting National Harbor, Md.


Publications


Srinath Palakurthi, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences and director of graduate studies, completed the AACP Academic Research Fellows Program. Palakurthi participated in the year-long program designed to expand the leadership capabilities of established faculty research scientists and administrators to cultivate collaborative team research and graduate education across institutions.

Fodi Alkhateeb, Ph.D., (pictured at far right in bottom photo) associate professor and director of assessment, began his AACP Academic Leaders Fellowship Program at the annual meeting; he was also invited to serve on the 2015-2016 AACP Institutional Research and Assessment Committee. Alkhateeb co-authored a poster “Assessment of pharmacists’ attitude, behaviors and preferences related to continuing pharmacy education” with Rabaa Al-Rousan, Ph.D., R.Ph., assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, who presented at the conference.

Victoria B. Pho, Pharm.D., C.GP, (pictured at center in bottom photo) associate professor of pharmacy practice and clinical pharmacist II for Harris County Hospital District, served on the 2015-2016 AACP Program Committee.
SNPhA receives national award for park project, scholarships

The Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) chapter received the Overall National Walmart/Sam’s Club Prescription for Service Award for Project PATH, which stands for Pharmacy Actively Transforming Health. The team members were Bryan Donald, Kevin Ferrall, Jennifer Tran and Heaven Carrejo who each received $2,500 scholarships. The SNPhA chapter was also recognized for their participation and outstanding efforts in four national initiatives: “Remember the Ribbon” HIV/AIDS, Fighting Diabetes, Power to Pass the PAR and Project PATH.

Students, faculty member serve in medical mission to Ecuador

A team from the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy served on the Medical Mission to Ecuador this summer. The team included Bree Watrak, Pharm.D., assistant professor of pharmacy practice, fourth-year professional student pharmacists Jason Chau and Adam Villarreal, third-year professional student pharmacist Ililana Rangel and second-year professional student pharmacist Valerie Guerra.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

AACP honor Pho’s contributions as geriatric SIG chair

Victoria B. Pho, Pharm.D., CGP, assistant professor of pharmacy practice and clinical pharmacist II for Harris County Hospital District, was recognized for her contributions as chair for AACP Geriatric Special Interest Group (SIG) at the 2015 AACP & APIC Annual Meeting in National Harbor, Md., and was installed as the immediate past chair. Her leadership has increased the engagement among the SIG members and fostered great leadership within the committees. During her term, the Geriatric Pharmacy SIG standing rules of procedure were adopted with a clear vision and mission to make a difference in both geriatric education and care. With great motivation, she also spearheaded and achieved the goals to increase the visibility of her SIG task force and to provide a platform to share teaching ideas, best practices and valuable resources among faculty through the Geriatric SIG webinars available online at the SIG’s AACP webpage.

SnPha elects Texas A&M P4 as national recording secretary

Fourth-year professional student pharmacist Bryan Donald is the newly elected national recording secretary of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association for the 2015-2016 term. Pictured in bottom left photo is Donald, immediate past SNPhA chapter president, and April Henson, Pharm.D., (right) who served as the SNPhA national recording secretary for 2014-2015.

Professor selected as AACP Academic Leadership Fellow

Fadi Alkhateeb, Ph.D., director of assessment and associate professor of pharmacy practice, was one of 30 pharmacy educators nationwide selected for the next cohort of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s (AACP) Academic Leadership Fellows Program. The program is a year-long experience with four intensive sessions in residence spread throughout the year, along with an ongoing mentoring program and introduction to leadership roles at the home institution by the dean. The four-session program includes in-depth leadership development; team building; exploration of legislative and public policy issues critical to pharmacy and higher education; practical management responsibilities; and advocacy for the profession. In addition, the fellows participate in collaborative group projects and present their findings at the AACP interim meeting in Tampa. The program ends with a graduation ceremony at the AACP annual meeting in Anaheim, California.

Alkhateeb appointed to AACP assessment committee

Fadi Alkhateeb, Ph.D., director of assessment and associate professor of pharmacy practice, was appointed into the 2015-2016 AACP Institutional Research and Assessment Committee. Committee members are appointed for a term of one year. The committee’s work is increasingly central to AACP’s priority of assisting members build strong programs of assessment. Specifically, the main duties for this year’s committee include: Discuss the development of an Institutional Effectiveness model for colleges/schools and develop key performance indicators; Discuss recommendations to additions to surveys and/or additional surveys to be added to AACP Institutional Research.

H-E-B supports diabetes research initiative

H-E-B is providing $1,500 in gift cards in support of assistant professor of pharmaceutical science Mahua Choudhury’s prevent diabetes in South Texas Children. Choudhury is collaborating with the Morris L. Lichtenstein Jr. Medical Research Foundation and Driscoll Children’s Hospital in Corpus Christi in an effort to stop diabetes before it starts. The project seeks to predict the early onset of diabetes and could make a noticeable difference in preventive treatment protocols for the disease. Elaine B. Chow, Pharm.D., BCACP, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, was appointed to the ASHP Section of Ambulatory Care Practitioners’ Educational Steering Committee for 2015-2016.

Charles Douglas, Ph.D., M.B.A., assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is a member of the Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) Academic Affairs Committee. PQA develops performance metrics related to medication use and safety, and establishes the standard of quality across the nation. PQA is a nonprofit alliance of academic institutions, government agencies and health care organizations.

Jayshree Mishra, Ph.D., research assistant professor, serves as an editorial board member of the Journal of Drug Research and Development and as the lead guest editor for the Cancer Research Journal. Victoria B. Pho, Pharm.D., CGP, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, was invited to serve on the 2015-2016 AACP Program Committee. The Program Committee is responsible for assisting the Board of Directors and staffing the planning of the 2016 AACP Annual Meeting in National Harbor, Md.

Pho was nominated and elected to serve on the iForumRx Advisory Board a two-year appointment (July 2015 to June 2017). As part of the advisory board member, Pho is charge with the following tasks: (1) exerting a positive influence on patient drug therapy outcomes, (2) disseminating evidence-based drug therapy knowledge, and (3) producing an interactive web-based resource for ambulatory care pharmacy practitioners of the highest quality.


Lin Zhu, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, serves as the member of editorial board of the journal “OpenNano: Cutting Edge Research in Nanopharmaceutics and Nanopharmacology” (Elsevier).

Zhu also serves as the editor of the book "Stimuli-Responsive Nanomedicine" (2017) (Pan Stanford Publishing Pte. Ltd.).