UT NO. 3 PHARMACY SCHOOL IN THE NATION

*U.S. News & World Report* recently released its 2018 rankings for colleges, universities, and higher education programs across the nation. The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy remains the third best pharmacy school in the United States, solidifying its place as one of the top pharmacy schools in the country.

The rankings are determined solely on the results of peer assessment surveys sent to deans, other administrators and/or faculty at accredited degree programs or schools in each discipline. UT Austin earned a stellar 4.4 score on a 1 to 5 scale. “As the link between patients and medicine,” says *U.S. News & World Report*, “pharmacists must be experts on prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications, understanding use, side effects and mixtures of medicine.” As the UT College of Pharmacy continues to grow, evolve, and adapt to changes and innovations in the world of pharmacy, it continually strives to serve its students through challenging course work, accomplished faculty, and continual administrative support.

Since the ranking is determined by the overall reputation of the college by experts in the field, it represents a badge of honor for all students, faculty, alumni, and staff who work hard to provide the best pharmacy education experience available.

RESEARCH DAY 2018

The 14th Annual Louis C. Littlefield Celebrating Pharmacy Research Excellence Day kicked off the morning of April 17, 2018 during The University of Texas at Austin's Research Week. Undergraduates, Pharm.D. students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and residents presented their research in abstracts and poster presentations to see who would take the top prizes. The event was hosted by the College of Pharmacy's Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.

The festivities began with the Keynote Scientific Lecture from Kenneth S. Ramos, M.D., Ph.R., Pharm.B., who serves as Vice President for Precision Health Sciences and a professor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. His talk focused on shifting paradigms in healthcare and the bench to bedside translation in genomic medicine, particularly in how new advancements in genomic screening and care can become more accessible to patients from a wider range of income levels.

Dr. Ramos's presentation preceded the Distinguished Faculty Lecture from John G. Kuhn, RPh, Pharm.D., FCCP, FHOPA, professor emeritus of pharmacology from UT’s College of Pharmacy. Kuhn talked of repurposing FDA approved drugs for cancer therapy.

During the lunch break, select students, postdocs, and residents presented their winning research abstracts and were awarded by Dean M. Lynn Crismon and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies and Research Day Chair John H. Richburg, Ph.D.

The floor then opened up for attendees and colleagues to walk the floor to investigate poster presentations and talk to researchers about their work. The day concluded with announcements for the poster presentation winners in all categories.
SINFONÍARX AND UT PHARMACY CELEBRATE AUSTIN OPENING

On May 1, 2018, faculty, students, and staff of the UT College of Pharmacy met alongside representatives from SinfoniaRx Inc., the Austin Chamber of Commerce, the State of Texas, and other constituents to celebrate the grand opening of SinfoniaRx’s new office in northeast Austin. The college recently announced a groundbreaking partnership with the company to provide hands-on instruction in Medication Therapy Management to UT Austin’s student pharmacists.

With the college’s new partnership, student pharmacists will train on SinfoniaRx’s suite of medication management services, including its proprietary

UT LAUNCHES CENTER TO ADVANCE HEALTH INTERPROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin continues its outstanding leadership in interprofessional education. The Center for Health Interprofessional Practice and Education (Center for Health IPE) was launched with approval and start-up funds from the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost. The Center for Health IPE joins other state and national IPE centers to prepare health professionals with the expertise to become collaborative health care leaders advancing person-centered care and collaborative practice.

The Center for Health IPE serves as UT’s central body to promote innovative learning experiences, disseminate best practices, convene key health and education stakeholders, and champion impact-driven scholarship to transform health professions education through collaborative interprofessional practice.

Dr. Veronica Young was named inaugural director of the Center for Health IPE and is supported by Lauren El-Assad, LCSW, who serves as program manager. They are establishing key foundational steps for the center to promote resources, consultation, programming, and services to connect health interprofessional efforts across campus and advance collaborative practice and education.

STUDENT WINS USPHS AWARD

Third-year student pharmacist Lubna Mazin was selected by the U.S. Public Health Service Pharmacists for its Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Award for her tireless work as Student Director of Operation Naloxone.

UT STUDENTS NAMED ASHP LEADERS

Third-year student pharmacists Laura Roccograndi and Austin Green were selected for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Student Leadership Award. The program recognizes and celebrates the contributions of students who represent the very best attributes and accomplishments of ASHP student members. ASHP offers up to twelve awards annually.
UT STUDENTS WINNERS AT TSHP COMPETITION

The Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists held its annual seminar in The Woodlands, Texas on April 6–8, 2018. Its poster competition provided an opportunity for seminar registrants to submit and display original scholarly work in poster format.

Third-year student pharmacist Lindsey Groff won in the student category with her poster presentation “Operation Naloxone: Interprofessional Overdose Prevention Service Learning.” Elijah Martin received the honorable mention in the student category with his presentation “The Microbiome of Diabetic Foot Infections: Implications for Antimicrobial Stewardship.”

UT College of Pharmacy student pharmacists Cathleen McCormack, Victoria Vaughan, and Sydney Yogi earned the top prize for the competition’s inaugural leadership challenge.

PHARMACY STUDENTS AND FACULTY WIN AT 11TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING CONFERENCE

Students and faculty presented their research on February 3, 2018 during the 11th Annual Community Service Learning Conference in San Antonio.

Their research, titled “Operation Naloxone: Interprofessional Overdose Prevention Service Learning” featuring an abstract and poster authored by fourth-year student pharmacist Khine Tun and Thuy Nguyen, third-years Lindsey Groff and Kimberly Nguyen, and Pharm.D. faculty members Kirk Evoy and Lucas Hill. In the research, pharmacy faculty and students taught healthcare student and community members about opioid overdose, naloxone access laws, and how to train others in the use of naloxone for acute opioid overdose rescue.

Their research was selected for the 2nd Annual Judges Choice Award based on the poster, oral presentation, and quality of the community service learning project experience.

STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT UTHEALTH SAN ANTONIO STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CEREMONY

UT College of Pharmacy student took home big prizes from UTHealth San Antonio’s Student Government Association Ceremony, held on April 26, 2018.

- Community Service Learning Award: Thuy Nguyen, P4
- Student Leadership Award: SoJung Uhm, P3
- Student Clinical Skills Award: Amber Taylor, P4
- Student Research/Scholarship Award and Community Service Learning Award: Khine Tun, P4

LAM CHOSEN AS A 2018 PIPER PROFESSOR

Congratulations to Dr. Francis Lam who was chosen as a 2018 Piper Professor by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. Only ten faculty members from higher education institutions across Texas are chosen for this award.

Organized in 1950, the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation is a non-profit, charitable corporation focused on postsecondary education in Texas. Each year, the foundation selects ten Piper Professors from across Texas for their superior teaching at the college level.
THERAPY DOGS IN THE COURTYARD

Pursuing a pharmacy degree can be daunting and stressful. Luckily for students at the College of Pharmacy, there are plenty of staff, faculty, and organizations finding new ways for students to perform self-care. Thanks to the college’s Mental Health Awareness & Education Committee led by Sarah Piccuirro and Waverly Yang, the second floor courtyard saw a visit from some four-legged friends.

Divine Canines is a group that shares the unconditional love of dogs with people in special needs facilities in Central Texas. Four of its therapy dogs and their pet parents paid a visit to the College of Pharmacy on March 29, 2018 to accept some love from student pharmacists.

NACDS FOUNDATION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO UT PHARMACY

The National Association of Chain Drug Stores Foundation awarded $20,000 to UT’s College of Pharmacy to create an interprofessional learning experience for community pharmacy residents in pain management to help patients avoid substance abuse and misuse, and will assist patients through related transitions of care.

The NACDS Foundation distributed $220,000 in scholarships and grants for an ongoing commitment to advancing patient care through pharmacy education as part of the 23rd Annual NACDS Foundation Scholarship Program. The recipients were presented with their awards at an NACDS Foundation event during the NACDS Annual Meeting.

PH.D. STUDENT AWARDED FELLOWSHIP

Pallavi Kompella, a Ph.D. student and graduate research assistant in the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology, recently earned a renewal of her pre-doctoral fellowship from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE). The fellowship contract will renew on July 2018. Kompella’s research investigates the impact of diet-induced obesity on DNA structure induced genetic instability in mice.

GRADUATING STUDENT PHARMACIST ENTERS FRIAR SOCIETY

Graduating Pharm.D. candidate S. Andrea Laguado was recently selected for membership to the prestigious Texas Friar Society, UT’s oldest honor society. Since 1911, the Friar Society and its members have served the university, state, and nation well over the last 90 years as governors, ambassadors, university chancellors, faculty members and presidents, regents, congressmen and congresswomen, judges, and state legislators. Andrea will graduate from the College of Pharmacy with honors and is the founding student director of Operation Naloxone. She will enter a post-graduate residency at Banner – University Medical Center South at the University of Arizona.

STUDENTS PLACE IN COMPOUNDING COMPETITION

Melissa Weller, Johnny Alexander, and Hannah Adair placed fourth in the National Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition, held March 17-18 in Aventura, Florida.

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