



School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

>>Dean's eNotes



March 2014

SCHOOL NEWS

[Tsuji Receives Five Year \\$4.4M RO1 Grant: UB Is the Only US Pharmacy School to Receive Funding](#)

Congratulations to Brian Tsuji, associate professor, pharmacy practice for his receipt of National Institute of Health NIAID RO1 grant entitled "Novel PK/PD Strategies for Polymyxin Combinations against Gram-negative Superbugs". This \$4.4M five year grant is a highly interdisciplinary, collaborative, multicenter project involving world leaders in anti-bacterial pharmacology including physician scientists at Cornell University School of Medicine (led by subcontract PI Thomas Walsh and Co-I Vidmantas Petraitis), PhD pharmaceutical scientists at Monash University, Australia (led by Co-PI Jian Li, Co-Is Roger Nation, John Boyce and Juergen Bulitta, a former UB SoPPS post-doc) along with Co-I Alan Forrest, UB SoPPS research professor and Dr. Tsuji as PI.

Initial seed dollars from UB 2020 Interdisciplinary Research Development Fund (IRDF) provided funding to Tsuji and the New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences to build the core infrastructure needed to secure this grant. Tsuji's lab, within the Translation Pharmacology Research Core, was instrumental in generating preliminary data to leverage receipt of this grant.



[Welcome to the March edition of eNotes](#)

Welcome to our March eNotes. We are in the midst of preparing for end of semester activities: awards ceremonies, recognition events and other celebratory activities in preparation for commencement later this semester.

This edition of eNotes gives you many examples of the robust scholarly, research and service activities our faculty, staff, students and alumni engage in. These accomplishments are the

reasons we celebrate to recognize the outstanding work of all members of our school.

Please stay in touch. Send us updates on your personal and professional accomplishments to phm-alumni@buffalo.edu.

*Warm regards,
James M. O'Donnell, PhD
Professor and Dean*

SOCIAL MEDIA



This grant will allow the school to develop one of the strongest clinical and translational antibacterial PK/PD groups in the United States. It is anticipated new drug regimens will be developed which will save patient lives in the fight against resistant bacterial infections.

Faculty and Students Organize 2nd Trip to the Dominican Republic

In January, two groups of faculty, students and alumni traveled to the Dominican Republic on a medical mission trip sponsored by SCORE International. The group worked with other health care practitioners providing needed medical treatment via compounding, dispensing and dosing medications as well as counseling patients via translators and assisting with drug information questions. Students gained real life exposure working in the local home based pharmacy, participating an interdisciplinary health care team with access to few resources, all while working with patients who still maintain sincere joy for life and hope for the future.

SoPPS Faculty, Student and Alumni Members:

Faculty: Drs. Gina Prescott and Carolyn Hempel

Students: Dustin Anderson, ManTing Chan, Jenna Covelli, Christopher DeFedele, Alyssa Droopad, Eric Field, Erica Ho, Emily Hull, Heng Xin Lin, Michael Mauri, Tyler Mullen, Cassandra Nicolia, Kendra Nielsen, Ming Ngyuen Do, Ciera Patzke, Jacob Reaser, Amy Shaver, Ciara Trosin, Bredna Yu, Zhi Yuan Zheng, and Yip-Kee Zou

Alumni: Emily Obrist '10 and Michelle Ingalsbe '13



Kathleen Boje, PhD Accepts New Role as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Kathy Boje, associate professor, pharmaceutical sciences recently accepted the position of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs here at the school. Kathy has been a member of the faculty since 1992, directed the pharmaceutical sciences undergraduate program since 1996 and was most recently, the vice-chair of the pharmaceutical sciences department.



Kayla Maxwell '14 Recipient of SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Congratulations to Kayla Maxwell '14 for her receipt of the *2014 State University of New York Student Excellence Award*. This award honors SUNY students who have best demonstrated and been recognized for academic excellence, leadership, athletics, career achievement, community service or creative and performing arts. Kayla will be recognized in Albany on April 2nd.

Rochester Drug Cooperative Sets Up Award in Honor of Associate Dean, Karl Fiebelkorn

Rochester Drug Cooperative has established an award to support UB PharmD students interested in independent community practice. *The Professor Karl D. Fiebelkorn Award in Independent Pharmacy*, was named to honor Karl Fiebelkorn, associate dean for student affairs and professional relations, for his for his tireless

pursuit in support of community pharmacists. Lindsey Feuz '14 and Samantha Mattison '14 are the first recipients of this award and both students are grateful to RDC and Professor Fiebelkorn for helping them achieve their goal of becoming community pharmacists.



(l-r, Brennan, O'Donnell, Feuz, Doud, Fiebelkorn, Doud Mattison not present due to an away rotation)

ALUMNI NOTES

Reunion Celebration Weekend, September 11-13, 2014

All alumni and invited to join us for our 2014 Reunion Celebration activities:

Thursday, September 11: Continuing Education Program

Friday, September 12: Tours of Kapoor Hall, History of Pharmacy in Buffalo Workshop and All Alumni Gala Cocktail Party

Saturday, September 13: Class specific lunches, dinners and social gatherings

Special Recognition will be given to the classes of 1954, 1959, 1964, 1979, 1984, 1989 and 2004.

Please contact of the Office of External Affairs with questions or to begin planning your class event: 716-645-3340 or p hm-alumni@buffalo.edu.

Thomas A. Marks '73 published: STRAYS (Xlibris, 2012).

Linda Ghobrial-Elnazir '06: currently working at the Walker Family Cancer Center, St. Catherines, Ontario within their oncology practice.

Michael Ghobrial '09: currently Associate Director of Health Policy for the American Pharmacists Association was recently featured in an APhA Pharmacy Today article highlighting the practical implications regarding the new federal Drug Quality and Security law. [Read More:](#)

James DiNicolantonio '10: cited in a January 2014 APhA Pharmacy Today article discussing the success of a blood pressure screening through Wegmans Wellness and Clinical Services. [Read More:](#)

In Memoriam:

Gloria Mulloy '49

Michael Di Vincenzo '54

Donald Millham '56

William Ackley '62

Jack Kareff '77

FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

[Awards and Recognitions](#)

[Marilyn Morris, Vice Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences](#)

Congratulations to Marilyn Morris, professor, pharmaceutical sciences, for accepting the role of Vice Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In her new role, Marilyn will be involved with the academic, administrative, research and financial issues of the department.

[Gene Morse Co-PI on SUNY 4E Planning Grant](#)

Dr. Jack DeHovitz (PI), SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and Dr. Gene Morse (Co-PI), professor of pharmacy practice, have been awarded a SUNY 4E Planning Grant for their proposal, "Conference to lay groundwork for SUNY Global Health Institute." This award

will support a two-day forum for developing integration, a long-term vision and a business plan to mobilize and synergize faculty for highly competitive applications that will foster technology innovation and promote regional and global economic opportunities. [Read More:](#)

[UB and SoPPS Researchers Visit Zimbabwe](#)

A team of researchers from UB recently visited Zimbabwe to work with collaborating researchers at the University of Zimbabwe and met with adult and adolescent community support groups. The UB team was led by Gene Morse, professor, pharmacy practice and Associate Director of UB's New State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences and included Venu Govindaraju, a SUNY Distinguished Professor of Computer Sciences, Robin DiFrancesco, research assistant professor and CPQA program manager, Kelly Tooley, senior research support specialist and CPQA AITRP program administrator, and Samantha Sithole, a current HIV implementation research fellow in the Translational Pharmacology Research Core at the New State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

[Kathleen Tornatore Selected ASCPT Vice Chair Organ Dysfunction Scientific Group](#)

Congratulations to Kathleen Tornatore, associate professor, pharmacy practice, for being selected as Vice-Chair of the Organ Dysfunction Scientific Group within American Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

[Ashely Woodruff Receives 2013 NYS ACCP Educator of the Year Award](#)

Congratulations to Ashley Woodruff, clinical assistant professor, recipient of the 2013 Educator/Preceptor of the Year New York State Chapter of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. The award was presented to Ashley at the Chapter's annual conference.

STUDENT NOTES

[UB SoPPS Mourns the Passing of P1 Student, Michael Munella](#)

The entire school community was saddened to learn of the passing of Michael Munella, P1 Student in January. Our thoughts go out to his family, friends and to all who knew Michael. A fund in memory of Michael has been established; for further information please visit [The Michael Munella Memorial Fund](#).

LKS News

[Lambda Kappa Sigma & American Pharmaceutical Association Academy of Students of Pharmacy Operation Diabetes Promote Awareness](#)

November marked American Diabetes Association's Diabetes Awareness Month. Students provided diabetes patient education wellness clinics at a North Buffalo Target store where they explained the signs and symptoms of diabetes as well as the complications that result from uncontrolled diabetes. In addition, emphasis was placed on the importance of diet and exercise for diabetic patients. These clinics were a collaborative effort between APhA-ASP Operation Diabetes Chair, Valerie Cooper '15 and Lambda Kappa Sigma Service Chair, Jovin Panthapattu '16 and was precepted by alumnus, Jesse Imes '10.

[Viva La Casa Fundraiser](#)

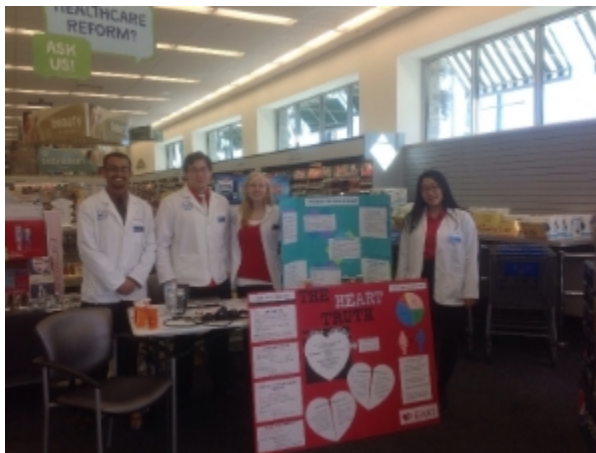
The LKS Service Committee raised more than \$170.00 through "Change Wars" and "Pie-A-Lamb" events. The goal was to raise the highest amount of funds in coin change to avoid getting pie-ed! This month-long friendly competition raised funds to support Christmas activities for the children of Viva La Casa, a refugee shelter in Downtown Buffalo.

[LKS & SSHP Bring Valentine's Day Cheer](#)

Lambda Kappa Sigma's Service Committee members Jeffrey Obciana '17, Ha-Uyen (Cecilia) Pham '17 and Francine Yung '17 along with LKS Service Chair, Jovin Panthapattu '16 worked with the Student Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists to deliver handmade valentines cards and toys to children at the Women's and Children's Hospital of Buffalo. A special thanks goes out to all those who stopped by the student lounge to make a card.

[LKS & SNPhA Goes Red for Women](#)

Lambda Kappa Sigma Service Chair, Jovin Panthapattu '16 collaborated with Project Co-Chairs, John Diep '15, Jacob Reaser '15 and Joseph Sperber '15 of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, Power to End Stroke Committee, to set up a series of Wellness Clinics at Walgreens in Hamburg, NY. Students educated guests about stroke prevention and awareness including risk factors and constitutional symptoms while doing blood pressure screenings and promoting the VIAL of LIFE Program. The clinic was precepted by alumnus, Joe Khan '12.



[LKS Supports National Kidney Month in March](#)

Lambda Kappa Sigma's Service Committee members Ha-Uyen (Cecilia) Pham '17 and Courtney Safir '17 under guidance from LKS Service Chair, Jovin Panthapattu '16, worked with Parth Shah '15 to promote Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) education at a local Walgreens. Students educated guests about preventing the progression of CKD through pharmacological/non-pharmacological measures and emphasized that uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes causes approximately two-thirds of CKD cases. The clinic was precepted by alumni, John Belz '05 and Melanie Berent '01.

[APhA-ASP News](#)

[American Pharmaceutical Association Academy of Students of Pharmacy Student Faculty Auction](#)

The APhA-ASP Auction, held in February, was a huge success. Faculty, staff and students donated basket raffle items to raise money for APhA-ASP programs. Caitlin Frohnapple '15, event

organizer, would like to thank Tyler Mullen '16, Laura Bielecki '17, Phil Yeung '15, Becca Campbell '15, and Matt Haintz '15 for their help and support of the auction.

Tara Castleman '14 selected to serve as the Chair of the APhA-ASP New Business Review Committee at the APhA Annual Meeting held in Orlando, March 2014.

[Sara DiTursi '16 Elected to American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists, International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation \(IPSF\) Pan American Office Subcommittee](#)

Congratulations to Sara DiTursi '16 for her election to the IPSF Pan American Office Subcommittee. As an affiliate of the APhA-ASP, the IPSF is the leading international advocacy organization for pharmacy students worldwide. Sara will be promoting communication, membership and pharmacy related campaigns among the nations of North, South and Central America.

[UB Local 2014 Student Pharmacist Compounding Competition.](#)

Congratulations to: Christina Wang '15, Colleen Gardon '15, Sophia Min '15, Nicholas Filk '14 (alternate) for winning the local 2014 Student Pharmacists Competition. They will be competing at the 4th Annual MEDISCA Student Pharmacists Competition at the University Of Florida College Of Pharmacy in late March. This competition exposes students to the highest standards in compounding pharmacy practice to strengthen the profession.

[SNPhA Clinical Skills Competition Winners](#)

Congratulations to Jacob Reaser '15 and Joseph Sperber '15 for winning second place in the Clinical Skills Competition at the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) regional conference in Richmond, Virginia. The meeting involved students from more than 40 schools of pharmacy. [Read More:](#)

[Nisha Vijay Presents at AAPS Graduate Student Symposium](#)

Nisha Vijay, pharmaceutical sciences graduate student, was selected to participate in the American Association of Pharmaceutical

Scientists Graduate Student Symposium in Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacokinetics, and Drug Metabolism and Clinical Pharmacology and Translational Research sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company, held at the AAPS Annual Meeting in November. Vaishali, along with UB graduate student, Vaishali Chudusama, were two of only six student members to receive this competitive award given annually by this organization.

[Robert Dingman, Pharmaceutical Sciences Senior, Presents Abstracts at Association for Research Otolaryngology Midwinter Meeting and UB Audiology Research Day](#)

Congratulations to Robert Dingman, senior in the department of pharmaceutical sciences, for presentation of his abstracts at the 2014 Association for Research in Otolaryngology Midwinter Meeting.

Abstracts:

Acoustic Trauma Upregulates Pain Associated Proteins in Rat Cochlear Nucleus, S. Manohar, F. Yoshie Russo, R. Dingman, R. Salvii, 9/2013.

Acute and Chronic Changes in Synaptic Plasticity Gene Expression in Rat Inferior Colliculus following Unilateral Noise Induced Hearing Loss, F. Yoshie Russo, S. Manohar, R. Dingman, R. Salvi, 9/2013.

Dingman also presented at the University at Buffalo Audiology Spring Research Day: *Microglia Activation Following Noise Blast and Continuous Noise Exposure*.

[PharmD Students and Dr. Robert Wahler Assist with Allegany County Fall Prevention Collaborative](#)

A group of P3 Students (Wesley Kufel, Kristin Hart, Megan Gee, Cristina Kowalczyk and Ryan O'Laughlin) led by Robert Wahler, clinical assistant professor, pharmacy practice, were invited to present and assist with the *Growing Stronger Gala* in Belmont, N.Y. sponsored by the Allegany County Fall Prevention Collaborative. Dr. Wahler gave the keynote presentation on medication and fall prevention to over 100 local elders. Students had the opportunity to assess attendees for medication induced risk of falls using an approved tool. Under Dr. Wahler's supervision, the

students wrote notes to the seniors' physicians alerting them to their patients' fall risk level. This is the first time this type of IPPE experience has been offered and it was well received by all those who attended as well as a great learning experience for the students. Two similar IPPE experiences are planned this spring.



[Mahsa Salsabili '14 Presents Poster at ASHP Mid-Year.](#)

Congratulations to Mahsa Salsabili '14 for her poster presentation *PharmD Student Awareness of Managed Care Pharmacy: a Single Site Survey of Professional Preparedness*, at the 2013 ASHP Mid-Year Clinical Meeting.

[Parth Shah '15 Participates in the Henry A. Panasci, Jr Technology Competition](#)

Congratulations to Parth Shah for successfully completing the 3rd round of the Henry A. Panasci Jr. Technology Entrepreneurship Competition being offered by the UB School of Management and the UB Office of Science, Technology Transfer and Economic Outreach. The program is designed to bring UB students together to maximize their potential to bring viable businesses to Western New York. The winning team will receive \$25,000 in seed funding, as well as in-kind awards valued at more than \$27,000, for a total of more than \$52,000. The second-place team will receive \$10,000 in seed funding. This is the first time that a pharmacy student has entered the competition! Parth is one of 10 teams to enter the semifinals in the hopes of being one of the best 5 teams to compete live on April 2nd.

[AMCP Student Chapter Attend National P&T Competition](#)

Congratulations to: Minh Nguyen '16, Bryant Lai '16, Alexandra Markus '16 and Nahid Zamen '16 for winning the local Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition and for their attendance at the National Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy P&T competition this spring at the AMCP national meeting. The team was not one of the top eight teams chosen to compete but they did prepare and submit all required competition materials including a drug monograph, evaluation of an e-dossier and clinical trials, two comparative effectiveness research evaluations, and a PowerPoint presentation. The students will have the opportunity to view the national competition and prepare for next year. Alice Ceacareanu, assistant professor, pharmacy practice is the AMCP Student Chapter faculty advisor.

[SPSA Spring Alumni Event](#)

The School of Pharmacy Student Association held another successful alumni-career networking event on February 12th at the Lafayette Hotel. Approximately 150 students and alumni attended this event. Great food, great networking and a great basket raffle topped off the event. SPSA would like to thank everyone who supported the event as well as donated baskets. Look for the date of the Fall 2014 event to be announced soon.

[Halfway Gala and Masquerade Ball](#)

The Class of 2016 hosted this year's Halfway Gala with the theme of a 'Masquerade Ball'. This year's charity organization was Ronald McDonald House and \$1500.00 was raised to support their efforts in providing housing and care for seriously ill or injured children. Breanna Pugh, Ronald McDonald Board Member, attended the gala and expressed her appreciation for the donation and thanked the students for their efforts. Over 220 students, faculty and staff attended the event. The P2 Class Gala Planning Committee (Tyler Mullen, Carly Poccia and Jennifer Rafferty) would like to thank the members of the Decorating Committee: Bhumi Patel, Meghan Logue, Victoria Nachur and Andy Mocny for their outstanding support of the gala.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Annual Awards Ceremony: Thursday, April 10, 2014, UB Center for Tomorrow

Commencement: Saturday, May 17, 2014, UB Center for the Arts

PK/PD Modeling and Pharmacometrics Buffalo

Workshops: June 5-14, 2014 Niagara Falls Convention Center. [Registration and Information:](#)

Student Scholarship Golf Tournament: Monday, June 9, 2014 Lockport Town and Country Club

Buffalo Pharmaceuticals Symposium: July 31- August 2, 2014

2014 Pharmacy Reunion Celebration Weekend: September 11-13, 2014

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SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Office of External Affairs · 160 Kapoor Hall · Buffalo, NY 14214-8033
716-645-3340 phm-alumni@buffalo.edu