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Cover
Second-year student pharmacists toured the Blanton Museum of Art in their Nonprescription Pharmacotherapeutics and Self-Care II Lab as part of its Art and Self-Care lesson.

Editor: Nick Nobel
Editorial Advisor: Susan Brown

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A letter from the dean

Dear alumni and friends,

As we end 2018, the year of The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy’s 125th anniversary, and enter 2019, it is appropriate to reflect on the past year and thank those who have helped us get here.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as dean at one of the world’s leading colleges of pharmacy. Our college did not achieve this status by luck. Our reputation is based upon 125 years of hard work and outstanding accomplishments by our faculty, students, and alumni. Whether it be promoting student pharmacist learning and skills development, faculty and graduate students pursuing cutting edge research, or our alumni achieving recognition through their career achievements, this issue of the Longhorn Focus once again features such accomplishments.

We are excited about the college’s development of new collaborations and programs to advance education, practice, and research. During 2018, we celebrated the beginning of our new collaboration with SinfoníaRx, a new collaborative pharmacy practice residency program with Tarrytown Pharmacy, and the hiring of the first executive director for the Texas Center for Health Outcomes Research and Education (TxCORE). The Center for Health Interprofessional Practice and Education celebrated its first anniversary and is actively planning to expand and incorporate additional academic programs across the UT Austin campus and in the community. Operation Naloxone received the ASHP Courageous Service Award for naloxone education, service, and outreach following Hurricane Harvey in Houston.

Several faculty were recognized for research achievements. Dr. John DiGiovanni received The University’s Career Research Award, Dr. Ben Liu received a career achievement award from the American Chemical Society for outstanding carbohydrate research, and Dr. Karen Vasquez was featured for a noteworthy new research article published in the journal, Nature.

2018 represented an outstanding year for faculty recruitment. Ten new faculty joined our college during 2018, two start in January 2019, one in March 2019, and six other recruitments are in process. These hires represent important depth and breadth in teaching for both our Pharm.D. and graduate programs, and to advance important research discoveries to cure disease and improve human health. Increasingly, our college partners with healthcare organizations for collaborative clinical faculty hires that provide valuable role models in patient care settings for our Pharm.D. students, while providing patient care services.

We thank each of you for your support during 2018. Your generosity helps make the difference between our college being a good college of pharmacy or an outstanding one. We pursue excellence in everything that we do, so thanks for helping make the difference!

Best wishes for 2019, and Hook ‘em!

M. Lynn Crismon, Pharm.D.
Dean
Congratulations
Class of 2018

The student pharmacists of The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy finally got to remove the “student” from their title as the Class of 2018 graduated from the Doctor of Pharmacy program during the college’s commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 18, 2018 in the university’s beautiful Bass Concert Hall.

The student commencement remarks were led by Class of 2018 President and graduating pharmacist Baneen Zehra Noorali, and the keynote speaker was former College of Pharmacy dean Steven W. Leslie, Ph.D., who serves as Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at The University of Texas System, and is the James E. Bauerle Centennial Professorship in Drug Dynamics. The festivities also featured remarks from Dean M. Lynn Crismon, announcement of college awards, the hooding of degree candidates, the recitation of the Oath of a Pharmacist, and a rousing rendition of “The Eyes of Texas.”

The newly-hooded pharmacists poured out into the plaza and greenery around Bass Concert Hall to celebrate with friends, family, and well-wishers, and ponder high hopes for their future after graduating from one of the most prestigious pharmacy programs in the world.

Congratulations to the College of Pharmacy Class of 2018. The college knows you’ll go on to do tremendous things and truly change the world.

2018 Class Officers

President, Baneen Zehra Noorali – During her time in pharmacy school, Baneen was involved in multiple organizations. She served as Kappa Epsilon’s Project Collaborate representative for two years, Kappa Epsilon president, and Pharmacy Council senate representative. She is also a member of Rho Chi Academic Honor Society and Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society. Baneen also served as an Academic Assistant in the inaugural inter-professional education courses for P1 and P2 students. She hopes to continue her involvement with inter-professional education throughout her career. In preparation for such a role, Baneen will complete a PGY1 residency at Scott & White Medical Center in Temple, Texas.

Vice President, Christopher G. Medlin – Chris is a Cooperative Pharmacy Program student from El Paso, Texas. During his time as a student pharmacist, Chris has served in numerous leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels. He served as president of Pharmacy Council, as well as national member-at-large for Phi Lambda Sigma. After serving as president of the Hispanic Association of Pharmacists, Chris developed a strong passion for serving the under-served Hispanic population. He served on an ideation team at CVS Headquarters to create a national organization dedicated to Hispanic health priorities. Chris conducted his honors research project on increasing Hispanic representation in the pharmacy profession. Chris will be completing a two-year pharmacotherapy residency at the University of Maryland, and hopes to secure a clinical-track faculty position to pursue his passion for teaching and research.

Secretary/Treasurer, Mohammad Adel Abphetamine – Mo Abotence served as a class representative for Pharmacy Council during the majority of his time at the College of Pharmacy. In addition to leading his classmates, he was elected secretary (WKRS) and president (WCC) of Phi Delta Chi. During his presidency, he led the UT chapter to rank in the top three in the nation. Due to his academic achievements and prominent co-curricular involvement, Mo is a member of both Rho Chi and Phi Lambda Sigma. He will become a PGY1 resident at the Michael E DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas.
Assistant Dean for Student Success Bryson Duhon in the processional with graduating student pharmacists.
Doctor of Pharmacy
2018 Graduates

Mohammad Adel Abotteen
Mohammad Qasim Adil
Kaylee Samirah Al-Saigh
Chibuokem G. Amuneke-Nze
Wuraola Animashaun
Daniel Armando Arreola
Cesar Orlando Banuelos
Julia Rochelle Barber
Lauren Elizabeth Baskett
Ashley Ann Beatty
Ismail Becho Jr.
Maya Bhakta-Patel
Neelam Dipak Bhatt
Taylor Brianna Blevins
Allison Dahye Choi
Teddyy Mearl Christian Jr.
Cara Marie Clayton
Jessie Cruz
Norma Leticia Cruz
Sandra De Anda
Allison Leigh Dietert
Rowena Kristina Fadullon
Jade Elisse Fitzsimmons
Maream Fosshat
Zae Garrott Gibson
Anndee Shaunessy Gritte
Ashley M. Groke
Suzanne Michelle Haenn
Karen Emily Hartwig
Cedric Keith Henson
Celina Hernandez
Diem Phung Ho
Christine Diem-Hang Hoang
Nhi Y. Hoang
Aaron Jinyung Hong
Jane Hong
Yunle Huang
Fiona Iyore Imarhia
Anna Ivanova
Ryan Bayan Izadi

Tania Joakim
Emily R. Kirkpatrick
Sonia Andrea Laguado
Jennifer Huyen Tran Le
Autumn Rae Lee
Belachew Lemma
Chuxi Li
Kelley Kuan-Shyuan Lu
Joseph Maa
Simone Catherine Mack
Ashley Ann Magro
Joshua Michael Maldonado
Saaïqa Maredia
Lorin Ashley Martin
Perry Math
Lauren McClure
Anna Cathleen McCormack
Siena Lindsey Meador
Jordan Douglas Meckel
Christopher G. Medlin
Michael Andrew Mirdjani
Amanda M. Moore
Kimia Naderi
Kevin Michael Nat
Carolin Diem Tien Nguyen
Huy Quang Nguyen
Thuy Thu Nguyen
Tristan Chi Nguyen
Rebecca Lynn Nitschmann
Baneen Zehra Noorali
Trevor Quentin Norman
Samuel James Palka
Christine Hayeun Park
Yeon Joon Park
Ronak Satish Patel
Henry Phe
Haley Page Quinlan
Caitlin Marie Reedholm
Brandon Anthony Rodahl
Brandi Rhea Rodriguez

Chelsey Adrianna Roscoe
John Patrick Giron Sanchez
John Paul Sanchez
John Zachary Seibel
Kaylee Danielle Self
Emily Ann Siegrist
Sarah Kimiko Snowden
Melissa Rebecca Soto
Shandi Lynn Spruill
Lauren Kathleen Stanz
Leah Plemmons Stevenson
Rock Suddhi
Jordan Jun Suh
Victoria A. Tackett
Amber Nichole Taylor
Jocelyne Noella Tientcheu Mamvou
Khine Aye Mya Tun
Victoria Vaughan
Clarisa Anjelica Vela
Justin Bao Vinh
Chen-Ching Wang
Nicole William
Caitlin Marie Wise
Melanie Yabs
Jessica Yi-Chen Yang
Stephanie Lin Yin
Sydney Kiana Yogi
Eric Hwa Young
Samir Zaki Yusuf
Connor L. Zheng

Summer Graduates
August 20, 2018

Bianca Brittany Perez
Jinglin Peng
Soon-to-be pharmacists throwing up the horns.

Family members celebrating graduation.

Dean M. Lynn Crismon, commencement speaker Steve W. Leslie, and Pat Davis.

Graduating student pharmacists wait backstage at Bass Concert Hall.

Bryson Duhan and James Karbocki.

Family, friends, and well-wishers congregate outside to congratulate the graduates.
The College of Pharmacy made another significant stride in providing groundbreaking educational opportunities for students. On January 19, 2018, President Gregory L. Fenves approved a partnership between the College of Pharmacy and SinfoníaRx Inc. to offer advanced experiential education in medication therapy management and comprehensive medication review services. SinfoníaRx was established in 2006 at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy and is now a subsidiary of Tabula Rasa HealthCare Inc.

Dean M. Lynn Crismon said he is excited about the educational opportunities this partnership will provide. “Pharmacists are increasingly engaged in clinical roles where they have responsibility for helping manage patients’ medication therapy. This collaboration with SinfoníaRx will allow UT student pharmacists to develop skills performing telephonic medication therapy management utilizing SinfoníaRx’s innovative software.”

Medication therapy management (MTM) is patient care provided by pharmacists whose aim is to optimize medication treatment and improve therapeutic outcomes for patients. MTM is performed in all settings in which patients receive medications, and different practice settings, such as hospitals, community pharmacies and clinics, may administer MTM services differently. The primary goal is to ensure medication is right for the patient and his or her health conditions, thus achieving the best possible health outcomes. All UT Austin College of Pharmacy Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) candidates currently obtain MTM certification during their third year of study.

With the college’s new partnership, student pharmacists will train on SinfoníaRx’s suite of medication manage-
College of Pharmacy partners with SinfoníaRx

medication services, including its proprietary software, RxCompanion™, a customizable and scalable platform designed to identify and resolve medication and other health-related problems. Through a population management approach, potential problems are triaged based on urgency and complexity, then resolved through telephonic consultations, face-to-face consultations, or video-based consultations with MTM providers.

“We are eager to collaborate with the great faculty and students at The University of Texas,” said Kevin Boesen, Pharm.D., CEO of SinfoníaRx. “This collaboration will allow us to continue to provide innovative medication management through new technologies and service offerings.”

SinfoníaRx held a grand opening reception to celebrate its partnership with the College of Pharmacy and herald the opening of their new offices in north Austin. College of Pharmacy faculty, staff, and students were present, as well as local industry leaders and supporters.

Through professional partnerships with companies and organizations such as SinfoníaRx, the College of Pharmacy continues its practice of offering the highest quality education for future pharmacists at one of the top pharmacy schools in the country. It looks forward to the education and research opportunities this partnership will provide to student pharmacists, graduate students and faculty members.
Karen M. Vasquez, Ph.D., who serves as the College of Pharmacy’s James T. Doluisio Regents Professor and Head of the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology, recently collaborated on a research paper exploring the mechanisms involved in DNA structure-induced genetic instability in human disease. “Mechanisms of genetic instability caused by (CGG)n repeats in an experimental mammalian system” recently published in *Nature*, and includes co-authors Artem V. Kononenko, Thomas Ebersole, and Sergei M. Mirkin from Tufts University.

Dr. Vasquez’s group has frequently worked with Dr. Sergei Mirkin’s group from Tufts University, as both laboratories are interested in understanding the mechanisms involved in DNA structure-induced genetic instability in human disease. The paper describes both labs studying a triplet repeat forming sequence that is capable of forming alternative DNA structures and is implicated in Fragile X syndrome. Dr. Mirkin and Dr. Vasquez had a collaborative APRC supplement grant several years ago, and this study is a result of that collaboration.

The labs created the first genetically-tractable system to study repeat-expansions in cultured mammalian cells. Specifically, they studied the instability of fragile X (CGG)n repeats that were placed upstream a reporter HyTK gene, which would be inactivated upon repeat expansions.

Capitalizing on this genetic system, they discovered a unique mutational signature associated with repeat instability: a change in repeat length concurrent with mutagenesis in the adjacent reporter gene. Their candidate gene analysis using the RNA interference (siRNA) approach for gene inactivation revealed that this mutational signature occurs in the process of break-induced replication, which among other things, is responsible for the repair of collapsed replication forks. They propose that replication fork collapse at (CGG)n repeats triggers break-induced replication that leads to simultaneous repeat length changes and mutagenesis at a distance.

The research, and its publication in *Nature*, marks an excellent example of The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy’s far-reaching collaborative work with other institutions, labs, and areas of research.

The Vasquez Lab’s research efforts are focused in three general areas within an overall theme of genome instability, DNA damage and mechanisms of repair. A unique feature of its approach is an emphasis on the role of DNA structure, including non-canonical structures such as triplex DNA, as recognition sites for repair machinery, sources of genomic instability, and as a basis for technology to target DNA damage to specific genomic sites.
White Coat Ceremony

Incoming first year student pharmacists gathered in the LBJ Auditorium on August 25 for the annual College of Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony. P1s were cloaked by faculty and pharmacist family members.

The keynote address came from alumna Dr. Phuoc Anne Nguyen, who was scheduled to speak last year but was unable to do so due to Hurricane Harvey. She finally got her chance to speak to the incoming Pharm.D. students, and offered sage and practical advice for the student pharmacist.

This year marked a change in venue and day for the event. Normally a weekday evening in the Texas Union Ballroom, the 2018 ceremony was rescheduled and relocated to a Saturday morning into the much larger LBJ Auditorium. This allowed more well-wishers and family members to attend the hallowed event.

The Class of 2022 gathered on the steps near the fountain for a group photo (see above).
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.

Prior to launch, faculty champions spearheaded innovative interprofessional learning opportunities in health programs across campus. These efforts were strengthened through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) program grants and bolstered by Dell Medical School’s emphasis on IPE as a part of its vision. The four deans of UT’s health professions schools—M. Lynn Crismon, Pharm.D. (College of Pharmacy), Clay Johnston, M.D., Ph.D. (Dell Medical School), Alexa Stuifbergen, Ph.D., RN (School of Nursing), and Luis Zayas, Ph.D. (Steve Hicks School of Social Work)—stressed the need for a central IPE body on campus. They worked collaboratively with faculty advocates at each school to see the Center for Health IPE come to fruition.

“The Center for Health IPE aligns with UT Austin’s core purpose of transforming lives for the benefit of society by creating a collaborative health care culture that is focused on providing person-centered, interprofessional team-based care,” said Dean Crismon.
These deans continue to provide executive oversight for the center, with Dean Crismon serving as the administrative dean on behalf of the four health professions schools. The primary faculty who championed the creation of the Center for Health IPE are Barbara Jones, Ph.D., MSW (Social Work), John Luk, M.D. (Dell Medical School), Gayle Timmerman, Ph.D., RN (School of Nursing), and Veronica Young, Pharm.D., M.P.H. (College of Pharmacy). These faculty serve as the core members of the Center for Health IPE’s Steering Committee where they advise on center priorities.

Dr. 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.

On Monday, October 15, 2018, the Center for Health IPE held a celebration and mixer in UT Austin’s School of Nursing, where the center offices. Attendees engaged in conversation with leadership, and shared expertises about the future of health care education and practice.

Leadership from UT, including Deans Crismon, Johnston, Stuifbergen, and Zayas, kicked off the event before participants broke into facilitated discussion groups about interprofessional practice and education. Topics included Clinical Practice, Community Engagement, Curriculum, Faculty Development, and Student Initiatives. Sponsoring deans participated in discussion as well, providing key insights and listening to guests and they shared their experience.

For more information about the Center for Health IPE, visit https://healthipe.utexas.edu.

Courtesy of Lauren El-Assad.
The 14th Annual Louis C. Littlefield Celebrating Pharmacy Research Excellence Day kicked off on 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 presented with their awards 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 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.

A special thank you to all of the faculty, staff, and participants who all made Research Day possible, including its namesake Dr. Louis Littlefield, who continues to attend and walk the floor discussing research with the participants.
Abstract Winners

Undergraduate Program
Rodan Devega
“Alpha-Ketoglutarate-Dependent Dioxygenase (ALKB) Homolog 6 Protects Pancreatic Cancer Cells from Alkylating DNA Damage Cytotoxicity”
Mentor: Dawit Kidane

Professional Program
Kailee Gaines
“Hmgb3 As A Novel Molecular Target to Induce Cisplatin Sensitivity In Chemoresistant Ovarian Cancer Cells”
Mentor: Karen Vasquez

Graduate Program
Hannah O'Mary
“An Approach to Targeting Anti-Inflammatory Agents to Chronic Inflammation Sites”
Mentor: Zhengrong Cui

Postdoctoral Program
Nicolas Blazanin
“Solar Ultraviolet (SUV) Irradiation-Dependent Activation of IFNy/Stat1 Pathway in the Epidermis is Required for Keratinocyte Proliferation and Inflammation”
Mentor: John DiGiovanni

Resident Program
Daria Zaygorodnyaya
“A Comparison of Injectable Diazepam and Lorazepam in the Goal-Directed Management of Severe Alcohol Withdrawal”
Affiliation: Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas
Poster Presentation Winners

Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation
Erin Vasquez
“TRANS-GENERATIONAL PRENATAL ENDOCRINE DISRUPTING CHEMICAL EXPOSURE ON BEHAVIOR AND TIMING OF ADOLESCENCE”
Mentor: Andrea Gore

Best Pharm.D. Poster Presentation
Samantha Le
“METFORMIN TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES IN OLDER ADULTS”
Mentor: Grace Lee

Best Graduate Student Presentation
Fernando Eguiarte-Solomon
“DELETION OF TWIST1 INHIBITS UV-B INDUCED HYPERPROLIFERATION IN MOUSE EPIDERMIS”
Mentor: John DiGiovanni

Best Postdoctoral Fellow Presentation
Clara Luisa Dominguez Delgado
“NANOTECHNOLOGICAL APPROACHES INTENDED TO TREAT SKIN CANCER”
Mentor: Hugh Smyth

Best Resident Presentation
Amy Carr
“IMPACT OF MATRIX-ASSISTED LASER DESORPTION/IONIZATION TIME-OF-FLIGHT MASS SPECTROMETRY (MALDI-TOF MS) ON MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH GRAM POSITIVE BLOOD CULTURES IN A MULTICENTER HEALTHCARE SYSTEM”
Supervisor: Dusten Rose
DiGiovanni earns Research Excellence Award

On October 30, 2018, the University Co-operative Society and The University of Texas at Austin Office of the Vice President for Research honored the winners of the Robert W. Hamilton Book Awards and the University Co-operative Society’s Research Excellence Awards. One of the top winners of the evening was College of Pharmacy professor and researcher Dr. John DiGiovanni, who earned 2018’s Career Research Excellence Award.

Guests met at the Blanton Museum of Art to honor the evening’s winners. The Career Research Excellence Award recognizes sustained outstanding research achievement by a faculty member or permanently employed staff researcher over many years. Nominees should have received national and/or international recognition for excellence in their area of specialization, or in interdisciplinary or hybrid areas that include their specialties, and those accomplishments should be well documented. The grand prize winner receives $10,000.

John DiGiovanni, Ph.D. is Professor in the College of Pharmacy’s Pharmacology and Toxicology Division, holder of the Coulter R. Sublett Chair in Pharmacy, Professor of Pediatrics in the Dell Medical School, Director of the Center for Molecular Carcinogenesis and Toxicology (CMCT), and Associate Director for Basic Research in the Livestrong Cancer Institutes. Dr. DiGiovanni has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for 37 years for his innovative research on mechanisms of producing and preventing cancer, and has over 350 publications to his credit.

Congratulations to Dr. DiGiovanni and all of the 2018 award winners.
Michael Johnsrud, Ph.D., the new executive director of TxCORE.
The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy's Texas Center for Health Outcomes Research and Education (TxCORE) assumed new leadership to support its and the university’s mission to transform healthcare. On September 17, Michael Johnsrud, Ph.D. became TxCORE's executive director, bringing his professional experience working across multiple stakeholders within the healthcare marketplace to provide leadership and execute goals focused on building partnerships and developing funding to support the center’s work in innovation focused on health outcomes research and education.

TxCORE's mission is to lead the field to address population and individual patient health through innovative, high-quality research and education, and serve the community by responding to critical healthcare issues that impact patients’ daily lives. Its interdisciplinary team of researchers has expertise in health outcomes research, pharmacoeconomics, epidemiology, public health, and patient health behavior. As executive director, Dr. Johnsrud will collaborate with leading experts in health outcomes research in the college and across the UT campus, as well as with external stakeholders and experts.

“It's a privilege to return to the university to lead TxCORE in its research and educational mission that keep the patient at the center of our focus,” says Dr. Johnsrud. “We will seek innovative collaborations across campus and externally to drive differentiation in our research, which will ultimately benefit patients in improving their outcomes and optimizing value across healthcare delivery systems here in Texas and elsewhere.”

Dr. Johnsrud will also work with TxCORE leadership to develop strategies and infrastructure to support development in innovative methods and approaches to outcomes research through the center's work to better guide how care is delivered to patients to improve outcomes and derive increased value from interventions and technologies applied where the care is delivered.

“We are excited about Dr. Michael Johnsrud returning to The University of Texas College of Pharmacy to assume the role as executive director of TxCORE,” says Dean M. Lynn Crismon. “Johnsrud brings with him a wealth of leadership experience in his executive role in the private sector. He will lead our initiatives to expand health outcomes research efforts in the college, including synergistic collaborations with other academic units on campus.”

Dr. Johnsrud comes to TxCORE with nine years of experience at Avalere Health, a leading research and policy advisory services firm known for its integrated approach to providing healthcare solutions and impacting national and international policy. As a senior vice president at Avalere, Dr. Johnsrud led the health economics and advanced analytics team comprised of health service researchers and data scientists in designing and executing scientific research and translating findings for various stakeholders in the healthcare marketplace. He will bring his vast experience in research, leadership, and strategic planning to TxCORE, specifically with regard to innovation in health outcomes research and data analytic methods and applications.

“We had a wish list of characteristics the ideal TxCORE executive director would have, and we found all of those qualities in Dr. Johnsrud,” says College of Pharmacy professor, head of the Division of Health Outcomes, and TxCORE co-director Dr. Jamie Barner. “I have followed Mike's illustrious career for years and am convinced there is no better candidate to lead TxCORE into the future. His expertise spans wide and deep, and I am excited to work with him as he leads TxCORE through the ever-changing healthcare landscape.”

Dr. Johnsrud received his B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Iowa in 1991 and his Ph.D. from The University of Texas College of Pharmacy in 1998, and previously served as a researcher and associate director for the college’s Center for Pharmacoeconomic Studies for eleven years, through 2009. He has been a registered pharmacist in Texas since 1991 and served as a member of the UT College of Pharmacy’s Advisory Council.
New faculty

The College of Pharmacy had a robust collection of talented new faculty for the 2018-2019 academic school year.

Laura Fonken, Ph.D. arrived before the spring 2018 semester as an assistant professor for the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Rebecca Moote, Pharm.D., MSc, BCPS joins the Division of Pharmacotherapy at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio.

Ashley Castleberry, Pharm.D., MEd comes in as a clinical associate professor in the Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice.

Kristin Janzen, Pharm.D. serves as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice and is a 2015 graduate of the college’s Pharm.D. program.

K. Ashley Garling, Pharm.D. entered the fall semester as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice.

Claire Latiolais, Pharm.D., MS serves as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice.

Justina Lipscomb, Pharm.D. arrived at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Pharmacotherapy.

Kim Nixon, Ph.D. came to the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology as an associate professor.

Young named Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice in Pharmacy

Dr. Veronica Young, Director of the Center for Health IPE and Director of Interprofessional Education and Community Engagement at the College of Pharmacy, has been named a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academies of Practice (NAP) in Pharmacy.

This nomination process is highly-selective and requires nomination by colleagues for consideration. Dr. Young’s election as a Distinguished Fellow demonstrates her contributions and commitment to interprofessional practice.

Dr. Young will be formally inducted at the 2019 NAP Annual Meeting & Forum titled, “Interprofessional Collaborative Practice: Advocacy for Population Health” on March 7-9 in Pentagon City, Virginia.

Courtesy of Lauren El-Assad.
On September 29, 2018, College of Pharmacy alumni, faculty, students, staff, and well-wishers met at Dover’s Dining Room at the DoubleTree Austin to honor accomplished alumni at the annual Alumni Reception and Awards Ceremony. Formerly part of the college’s homecoming festivities, the Alumni Reception and Award Ceremony was presented this year in conjunction with the 66th Annual Pharmacy Practice Seminar (PPS).

After a welcome and remarks from Assistant Dean for Development & Alumni Relations Susan Brown and Dean M. Lynn Crismon, Alumni Association President-Elect Andrew Hwang (Pharm.D. ’15) introduced the first speaker to honor the winners.

Outgoing Alumni Association President Steven Knight (Pharm.D. ’09) was awarded the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award. Connie Gelineau (Pharm.D. ’07), 2017’s recipient, presented the award to Knight.

Dennis Wiesner (B.S. ’70) presented the Legend of Pharmacy Award to College of Pharmacy Professor Salomon Stavchansky, Ph.D. Dennis Wiesner (B.S. ’70) presented the Legend of Pharmacy Award to College of Pharmacy Professor Salomon Stavchansky, Ph.D. (left) accepts the Legend of Pharmacy Award from Dennis Wiesner (right).

Salomon Stavchansky, Ph.D. (left) accepts the Legend of Pharmacy Award from Dennis Wiesner (right).

Jeanne Waggener (center) presents the William J. Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award to Sandra Guckian (left) and Donna Montemayor (right).

Jeanne Waggener (center) presents the William J. Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award to Sandra Guckian (left) and Donna Montemayor (right).

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Jeanne Waggener (center) presents the William J. Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award to Sandra Guckian (left) and Donna Montemayor (right).

Outstanding alumna: Sandra Guckian (B.S. ’89, M.S. ’97) and Donna Montemayor (B.S. ’88). Jeanne Waggener (B.S. ’72) presented the award.

Sandra Guckian (B.S. ’89, M.S. ’97) and Donna Montemayor (B.S. ’88).

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The Sheffield Outstanding Alumnus Award went to two outstanding alumni: Sandra Guckian (B.S. ’89, M.S. ’97) and Donna Montemayor (B.S. ’88). Jeanne Waggener (B.S. ’72) presented the award.

The evening wouldn’t have been complete without a rousing rendition of “The Eyes of Texas” led by current College of Pharmacy students in attendance.

Steven Knight joins in during a rendition of “The Eyes of Texas.”

Congratulations to all of the deserving winners, and many thanks to everyone who made this special event possible.
UT Pharmacy wins big at TPA

UT College of Pharmacy alumni, faculty, and partners took home top prizes and appointments at this year’s Texas Pharmacy Association Conference & Expo, held July 13-15 in The Woodlands.

College of Pharmacy partner H-E-B Pharmacy earned the Excellence in Patient Outcomes Award. Mark Comfort (Pharm.D. ’03) took the oath of office as Texas Pharmacy Association’s President for the upcoming term. Clinical Associate Professor Lucas Hill earned the conference’s Generations Rx award, due in no small part to his tireless work as director for Operation Naloxone.

Taking home top prizes included Adam Chesler (Pharm.D. ’08) with the Distinguished Young Pharmacist award, Charlotte Weller (B.S. Pharmacy ‘95, Pharm.D. ’01) earned Pharmacist of the Year, and Carol Reagan (B.S. Pharmacy ’94, Pharm.D. ’00) won the distinguished Bowl of Hygeia.

Congratulations to all the winners and the ongoing accomplishments of the College of Pharmacy’s alumni, faculty, and partners.

Student pharmacists make their mark on SNPhA

UT Pharm.D. candidates Anke Poon and Jennifer Lim were national winners for the Prescription for Service competition at the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) annual meeting from July 27-30 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Prescription for Service is a national competition to grant SNPhA students the funds needed to make an impact in underserved communities. The 2017-2018 project prompt was to identify a need in the community and implement a sustainable project while promoting SNPhA’s missions and advocating for the pharmacy profession. Five regional finalists were selected from the pool of applicants to implement their service programs. One team was declared the national winner.

Professor and grad student win ISPOR Award

Karen L. Rascati, Ph.D., professor in the Division of Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice, and HOPP graduate student Ji Haeng Heo, MS coauthored an article that was selected by the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research’s (ISPOR) Value in Health Regional Issues Editorial Board (Asia) as the recipient of the 2018 ISPOR “Value in Health Regional Issues Excellent Article Award.”

The winning article “Prediction of Change in Prescription Ingredient Costs and Co-payment Rates under a Reference Pricing System in South Korea,” was coauthored by Dr. Rascati, Mr. Heo, and Eui-Kyung Lee, Ph.D. from South Korea’s Sungkyunkwan University.

Student pharmacists elected to SNPhA leadership

Three College of Pharmacy students were elected to important national leadership positions in the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA).

Robyn James will serve as Legislative/Membership Benefits National Initiative (LMBI) Secretary.

Teresa Nguyen will serve as Legislative/Membership Benefits National Initiative Advocacy Chair.

David Giang will serve as Mental Health Chair.
Ben Liu earns ACS award

Division of Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry Professor Hung-wen (Ben) Liu, Ph.D. was recently awarded the American Chemical Society’s Claude S. Hudson Award for outstanding contributions to carbohydrate chemistry. The Claude S. Hudson Award was established by the Division in 1946 to recognize outstanding contributions to carbohydrate chemistry in education, research, or applications. The award presentation will be held at the 2019 Spring ACS National Meeting.

The Liu Lab’s research focuses primarily on enzyme mechanism and inhibitor design, metabolic pathway engineering, and protein function regulation.

Student pharmacist shines in AMCP internship

Through the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Foundation, ten student pharmacists work around the country in four highly competitive internships, embedding future leaders within managed care organizations, industry companies, and non-profits. One of those eager students was Pharm.D. candidate at the College of Pharmacy Mandy Renfro, who interned this summer at the AMCP Foundation in Alexandria, Virginia.

Mandy worked closely with preceptors Paula Eichenbrenner, MBA, CAE and Annesha White, Ph.D., Pharm.D., MS, Pfizer Medical Outcomes Specialist John Spain, MA, Pharm.D., BCPS and Pfizer Senior Director Field Based Medical Linh Terriet, Pharm.D., BCPS, CPHIMS.

The AMCP Foundation/Pfizer, Inc. Managed Care Research and Nonprofit Leadership Internship supports the foundation’s mission to advance medication-related research, and educates the intern about non-profit management and personal leadership.

HOPP grad students win SPAC awards

Congratulations to all of the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice graduate students who earned top honors at this year’s Southern Pharmacy Administration Conference (SPAC), hosted by the Auburn University Harrison School of Pharmacy.

Winners include (from left to right): Hyeun Ah Kang (first place Podium Presentation and Poster Presentation co-winner), Matt Hill (second place Podium Presentation), and Sabina Nduaguba (first place Poster Presentation co-winner).

Texas Health Catalyst provides grant support

College of Pharmacy students and faculty will receive grant support and legal consultation from the Texas Health Catalyst program to support the development of their intellectual property.

Texas Health Catalyst supports researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs in accelerating the translation of innovations to health products, and is a collaborative initiative of the Cockrell School of Engineering, College of Natural Sciences, College of Pharmacy and Office of Technology Commercialization at The University of Texas at Austin.


Assistant Professor Tyler Gums, Pharm.D., student Valerie Yuenger, and Dell Medical School collaborators Bill Tierney and Rick Peters will receive grant funding for their project: Predictive Model & Clinical Decision Support for Medication Non-Adherence.
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Pharmacy staff member honored

Congratulations to College of Pharmacy Senior Grants and Contracts Specialist Dr. Cory Davis (left), who was named Outstanding Research Administrator by the Association of Research Administrators (ARA) at The University of Texas at Austin.

Pictured with Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies John Richburg, Ph.D. (right).

Pharmacotherapy faculty earn Kleberg Grant

Division of Pharmacotherapy professors Dr. Kirk Evoy and Dr. Rebecca Moote are faculty mentors for a $23,000 grant to provide Stop the Bleed trainings and conduct bleeding response knowledge and self-efficacy research in South Texas.

P3 students host mental health first aid training

On October 21, 2018, one of the Division of Pharmacotherapy’s IPPE Community Project teams hosted a Mental Health First Aid training at the McDermott Building at UT Health San Antonio. During this lengthy training, students and other trainees learned about how to navigate and help with mental health crisis situations in the adult population that involve depressive, manic, and psychotic events.

The community project is targeted toward providing students at the UT Health San Antonio and UT Austin campuses with additional resources for mental health. In the future, the project team hopes to see a majority of incoming P1 students trained in mental health first aid to gain relevant clinical skills they can utilize early on and throughout the rest of their professional careers.

Operation Naloxone distributes overdose antidote throughout Texas

Operation Naloxone is a collaboration between The University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, and Texas Overdose Naloxone Initiative.

In 2017, the Texas Health & Human Services Commission awarded Operation Naloxone a grant for $2.3 million to provide overdose prevention education and distribute naloxone. So far, Operation Naloxone has trained 3,000 healthcare professionals and community members, distributed 19,000 doses of naloxone, and saved the lives of at least 100 Texans.

With funding from the Texas Targeted Opioid Response, Operation Naloxone distributed $750,000 of the opioid antidote throughout Texas, saving lives and providing essential resources and training to combat the opioid crisis in the state.
Arthur (Art) Mills Stranz was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on July 5, 1924. At the age of 94, he passed peacefully on the morning of November 10, 2018.

Art received his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy at the University of Texas in 1955 and became co-owner of Harrington’s Pharmacy in downtown Plano with Betty’s father, Charles E. Harrington. As a family-owned business, Art and Mr. Charlie worked as pharmacists, while Betty and her mother, Elizabeth Stovall Harrington, handled bookkeeping responsibilities and occasionally helped out as soda jerks serving customers ice cream at the front counter.

Art received an appointment to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration in 1963. Art’s career in the pharmaceutical industry began in 1964 with S.E. Massengill Company in Bristol, Tennessee, where he also earned his law degree, specializing in Food and Drug Administrative Law.

Upon “retirement,” Art joined the Texas Board of Pharmacy in Austin, Texas in 1980 as a Compliance Officer, and eventually returned home to Plano to help open the Board’s new Dallas office. Later, with assistance and in partnership with his friend and former colleague, Bennett Brooke, Art enjoyed sharing his industry expertise as a food and drug regulatory consultant for the next two decades.

Celia Delgado passed away on Sunday, July 29, 2018. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Jaime N. Delgado. Celia was born in San Antonio, Texas.

She was a graduate of Fox Tech High School and remained connected to her roots on the west side of San Antonio throughout her life. She attended the University of Texas at Austin and graduated in 1953 with a Bachelor of Science from the College of Pharmacy. It was at UT that she met her future husband.

Celia started her career as a Pharmacist at Rexall drugs. She then earned a Pharmacy Director position at Holy Cross Hospital. Holy Cross was the first hospital located in the East side of Austin.

Celia’s love of education and the profession of pharmacy were driving forces in her life. She was a member of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Austin. She helped many members of her family, and other students by providing encouragement and other help along the way.
Homecoming Tailgate

On November 3, College of Pharmacy alumni, students, staff, faculty, and well-wishers gathered during a temperate but blustery Saturday afternoon during the annual Homecoming Tailgate.

This year featured a change of venue from the pharmacy building to the official tailgate area around the Darrell K Royal – Texas Memorial Stadium. The College of Pharmacy’s spot was a large tent in the plaza in front of the LBJ Library. Guests ate brisket and sausage, enjoyed refreshments, and prepared for the Texas Longhorns’ brawl with the West Virginia Mountaineers.

Special recognition went to alumni from the Classes of 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998, and 2008. The lively event was at capacity and made possible with generous sponsorship from H-E-B.

The College of Pharmacy Alumni Association met before the start of the event to pass the torch for Alumni Association President. Andrew Hwang (Pharm.D. ’15) assumed the new role as president, and the association honored outgoing president Steven Knight (Pharm.D. ’09) for his tireless service.
## Calendar

**December 2018**

- 2-6  ASHP mid-year meeting
- 10  Last class day
- 20  Winter break begins

### January 2018

- 2  Winter break ends
- 21  Martin Luther King Jr. Day (University Holiday)
- 22  Spring classes begin

### February 2018

- 2  Pharm.D. Interviews
- 26-27  International Conference on Drug Development, Austin

### March 2018

- 2  Explore UT
- 18-23  Spring Break

### April 2018

- 4-5  Teaching Excellence Awards
- 13  Honors Day

### May 2018

- 4  Last class day
- 24  Commencement
- 25  University commencement

### June 2018

- 14  CE Pharmacy Leadership Symposium
- 14-15  CE Hospital Practice Seminar

## Giving to the College

If you wish to learn more about giving back to the college, honoring a loved one with a gift, or establishing an endowment, contact **Susan Brown**, Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations at skbrown@austin.utexas.edu or go to https://sites.utexas.edu/phralumni/giving to learn more.

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