

# COLLEGE of PHARMACY

WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD

**Volume 3: Issue 1 Fall 2013**  
**The University of Texas at Austin**  
**UT-ISPOR**  
**Alumni Newsletter**

## Inside this issue:

Alumni Updates	2
Students Updates	3 - 5
ISPOR activities - in pictures	6

## Greetings, UT ISPOR Alumni

We are excited to bring to you our fourth edition of UT-ISPOR newsletter! The UT-ISPOR chapter has been around for 15 years and would like to thank all the contributors who help keep the tradition alive.

The University of Texas at Austin ISPOR student chapter (UT-ISPOR) started the fall 2013 session with much enthusiasm. Our primary goals for this year are to facilitate fellowship and professional development, to serve the community, and to promote ISPOR in and around our University. We also collaborated with other professional organizations (International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology & Pharmacy Graduate Student Association) to expand and draw students from other sections of the pharmacy school into UT-ISPOR. We had speakers from Impera Consulting, Truven Health Analytics, Alcon Labs and Amgen.

Summer & Fall 2013 PhD graduates include Dr. Haesuk Park who accepted a faculty position at the University of Florida, Dr. Abiola Oladapo who joined Baxter Pharmaceuticals, and Dr. Anandroop Dasgupta who joined LA-SER Analytica.

Dr. Jamie Barner received the UTCOP Educator of the Year award. Dr. Abiola Odalapo was chosen as the Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant of the Year. Dawn Kim-Romo was awarded the PhRMA grant for the year 2013—2014.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Southern PharmAD conference :  
June 20—22, 2014 (Oklahoma  
University Health Sciences Center  
Campus, Oklahoma City)
- ISPOR Annual Meeting: May 18—  
22, 2014 Montreal, Canada



**UT-ISPOR Members, 2013 - 2014**

**Dr. Wallace Marsh, Associate Professor, Shenandoah University Bernard J. Dunn  
School of Pharmacy**



**Dr. Wallace Marsh, PhD 2012**

Wallace Marsh, a 1999 PhD graduate of the Pharmacy Administration Graduate school program, is currently serving as the Interim Assistant Dean for Assessment. The previous year he stepped in and served as Interim Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs after the sudden departure of the previous academic dean. In his current position, he is in charge of coordinating the assessment activities of the school. This includes overseeing the collection and analysis of results of the overall Shenandoah University School of Pharmacy Evaluation Plan, evaluating the achievement of the mission and goals of the school, and assessing achievement of the Desired Student Learning Outcomes for the school.

As chair of the Assessment Committee, he is currently leading the process of revising the Desired Student Learning Outcomes for the school due to the recently released updated Center for Advancement of Pharmaceutical Education (CAPE) outcomes. Other duties for the position entail analyzing the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) curricular quality annual survey results, gathering and summarizing department and committee annual reports, and administering satisfaction surveys and critical thinking tests to students, and arranging for the administration of the Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment (PCOA) exam.

On the personal side, he recently celebrated in August his 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with his wife Laura. He has two children. Caitlyn is 6 years old and in first grade and Jason is 5 years old and in pre-school.

## PhRMA Grant Recipient — Dawn Kim-Romo



**Dawn Kim-Romo**

In the spring of 2013, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation (PhRMA) chose Dawn Kim-Romo as a recipient of a Pre Doctoral Fellowship in Health Outcomes. This fellowship award provides \$25,000 per year for up to two years.

This fellowship has provided Dawn with the opportunity to fully dedicate her time to her research projects, manuscript writing, and the completion of her dissertation. The focus of her dissertation is on major depressive disorder in relation to medication adherence and persistence, health care utilization, and health care cost outcomes.

Overall, Dawn is extremely appreciative of the PhRMA Foundation Pre Doctoral Fellowship award as it has allowed her to completely focus on her research and training during her final years at The University of Texas at Austin, as well as set the foundation toward obtaining a career in health outcomes research.

## Summer Internship at Degge Group By Shan Jiang, MS



**Shan Jiang, Washington DC**

I had the opportunity to work in the Degge Group as an intern during the summer in 2013. I learned a great deal from the internship and was able to work with some really smart and experienced researchers in the company, who have diverse research backgrounds. By working with them, I gained insight into what it is like to work for a healthcare consulting company. I had the opportunity to get involved with several projects that looked at drug safety and went to a FDA hearing. In addition, this internship helped me gain skills in data analysis and the use of the safety report system. Our graduate program has equipped us with knowledge and skills needed to be successful.

Overall, this is a very memorable and rewarding experience.



## Summer Internship at Amgen By Pooja Desai, MS



**Pooja Desai, Thousand Oaks, CA**

This summer, I went on an internship to Amgen Inc. in Thousand Oaks, California. I was in the Global Health Economics (GHE) department and worked with the Nephrology team on two of their anemia products for end stage renal disease (ESRD patients. Under the guidance of Dr. Carly Paoli, I worked on the protocol development for a couple of retrospective database analyses and a patient reported outcomes (PRO) development study. It was an extremely educational and enriching experience. I was included on various calls to vendors and was also involved in cross-functional meetings with the medical and marketing teams as well as publication planning meetings. My supervisor also ex-

posed me to the rigorous internal review process followed by Amgen prior to conducting studies and getting them published. The internship enabled me to use various concepts from my training here in the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice (HOPP) Division at UT.

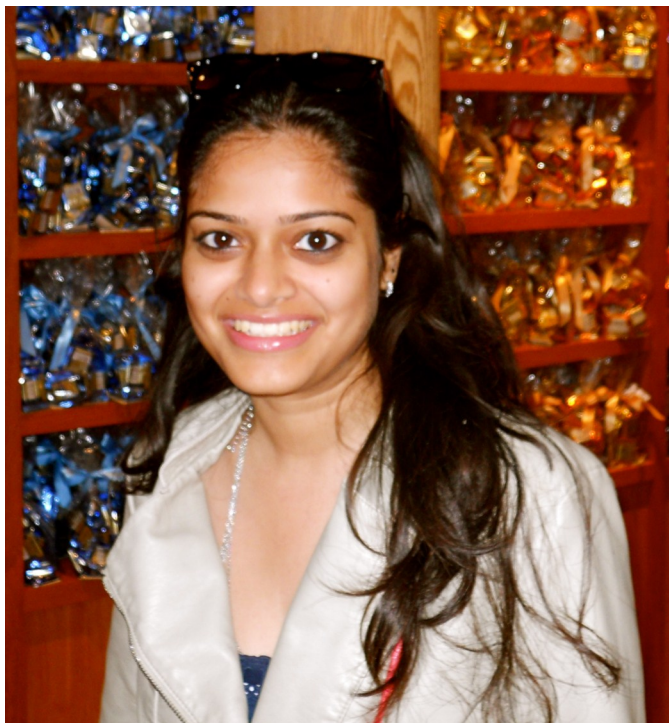
I utilized my knowledge of study design, epidemiology, statistics, and the working of the US health care system in my various projects and this training help me understand and execute my responsibilities smoothly. Having presented at seminar over the years made me confident and comfortable while I presented my work to the various teams.

All in all it was a wonderful experience and the beautiful California summer made it even better. I would highly recommend an internship to everyone as it is a great way to determine whether you like and fit into any particular work environment.

**Newsletter Editor : Rakesh Singh**

**Newsletter Faculty Advisor: Dr. Karen Rascati**

## Summer Internship at Amgen By Komal Gupte, MS



**Komal Gupte, Thousand Oaks, CA**

Last summer (2013), I had the pleasure of working as a Global Health Economics (GHE) intern at Amgen in Thousand Oaks, California. Over a 12-week period, I had the opportunity to work with the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) team, which was an enriching experience. I worked on providing a comprehensive review of the Global value dossiers, Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy dossiers, and HTA submissions for Amgen's products across 13 countries. The knowledge that I acquired as a graduate student in pharmacoepidemiology, health economics, clinical trials and statistics helped me immensely during the internship.

Overall, the internship provided me an inside look into the collective efforts of multiple stakeholders in getting market access and reimbursement for pharmaceuticals. I will highly recommend the summer intern program at Amgen!

**Dear Alumni, if your company or institution is offering a summer internship position, please send a note to Dr. Karen Rascati at**

**[krascati@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:krascati@mail.utexas.edu)**

**Newsletter Editor : Rakesh Singh**

**Newsletter Faculty Advisor: Dr. Karen Rascati**

## UT-ISPOR— In Pictures



### Pharmacy Administration/Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice Endowment

Dear UT-ISPOR alumni, this is reminder to contribute to our endowment fund if you have not had a chance to do so yet. This endowment creates enduring financial support that is specifically designated for graduate students in the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice (previously, Pharmacy Administration) Division at The University of Texas at Austin. We ask you to be a part of this initiative by considering the benefits you have received and making a contribution to the endowment for the next generation of alumni. Monies will be used to support the needs of Master's and Doctoral students in the form of stipends, travel funds, and other financial assistance. You may contribute a one-time gift to the endowment or make a pledge that is payable over five years. <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/nlogin/vip/ogp.WBX> (choose College of Pharmacy– Pharmacy Administration Endowment) or contact Dr. Karen Rascati (krascati@mail.utexas.edu) for a gift form.

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