

**Inside this issue:**

Alumni Updates	2
Students' Updates	3-6
UT-ISPOR Activities in Pictures	6

**Alumni Newsletter**

Greetings, UT ISPOR Alumni

With utmost brio, we bring to you our fifth edition of UT-ISPOR newsletter! The UT-ISPOR chapter has been around for 16 years and would like to thank all the contributors who help keep the tradition alive. To kick off the Fall semester, we had a bowling and dinner social event to welcome new and returning members. We also hosted a luncheon with guest speaker Dr. Haesuk Park, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. Dr. Park shared her research with us regarding the cost-effectiveness of Sofosbuvir. Just recently, we volunteered at a community service event for prostate cancer. We have a wide variety of other events planned for the rest of the semester, including an internship/job hunt workshop, end-of-the-year social event, and luncheons with guest speakers from industry and consulting.

Keeping with our theme and mission code for this year (Collaborate. Communicate. Grow), we have expanded our chapter to include PharmD students from the UT Austin College of Pharmacy and graduate students from our affiliate school, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. We also implemented a new regional vice-president position to help us facilitate communication with ISPOR members in San Antonio. Komal Gupte, a current graduate student, was selected as a recipient of an ISPOR Research Presentation Poster Award at the ISPOR 19th Annual International Meeting in Montreal, Canada. Her presentation focused on assessing "The Economic Burden of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Among Children In The United States Using The 2011 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)"

Dr. Kentya Ford received a R21 grant to identify the social networks of African-American students and examine the flow of health-related behavior as they relate to diabetes prevention. The grant was jointly awarded to her and Dr. Jayne Dave at the Baylor College of Medicine.



**Special points of interest:**

- Annual ISPOR International meeting Accomplishments
- Faculty Accomplishments
- ISPOR Annual International Meeting: May 16-20, 2015 Philadelphia, PA, USA
- Internship Blitz
- **Save the Date:** UT-ISPOR Reception, May 18, 2015, Philadelphia PA, Venue TBA



**UT-ISPOR Members, 2014—2015**



## As Told by Dr. Dan Malone, Professor at The University of Arizona



At the University of Arizona I began to study the issue of clinical decision support and how to prevent drug interactions. For the past 12 years our team has been awarded support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the National Library of Medicine. Over the course of my career I have been actively involved in training and mentoring PharmD and PhD students. While I don't have as many graduate students as some faculty, I am very proud of the students I have had the pleasure to mentor.

Currently I teach an applied healthcare technology course that focuses on decision modeling, Bayesian methods, and evidence synthesis. In 2005-2006 I did a sabbatical with Kaiser Permanente and also the University of York. This was a fantastic experience and allowed me to update my research skills with new techniques. I would highly encourage any faculty member to take advantage of the sabbatical opportunities afforded by their institution. My involvement in professional societies has been a key component of my career as well. While a pharmacy student at the University of Colorado I was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates for the Academy of Students of Pharmacy. I have served on numerous committees for various academic and professional societies, working with other leaders in the profession of pharmacy and outcomes research. I have been active in leadership within ISPOR and the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (earning fellow status in 2013). The crowning achievement of my service activities to date is being elected president-elect of ISPOR. Volunteer your time and talents to professional societies – it will pay numerous dividends! It goes without saying that to achieve your goals will require dedication and commitment. I will always take a graduate student who is a “hard worker” over one with “intellect” because so much of scientific progress is attributed to the former. Also, don't underestimate the effort required to complete your dissertation and to publish it! I see many great projects that are kept secret because graduate students move, take new positions with responsibilities, and are often tired of their dissertation work. The two most important attributes you carry through your career are your degrees and publications. Publish your research so that others can learn from your efforts!

While I try not to consider myself as old, stating that I finished my PhD in 1993 does make me wonder where all the years have gone. After completing my dissertation at the University of Texas under Dr. Karen Rascati's supervision (with wonderful advice and help also from Dr. Lawson and other faculty), I moved to Seattle and began a post-doctoral fellowship with Sean Sullivan (who completed MS degree at the University of Texas). This fellowship was sponsored in part by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. From the University of Washington I moved to the University of Colorado (the same university where I completed my BS in pharmacy). After 5 years at the University of Colorado I moved to the University of Arizona. I have risen through the ranks at Arizona, going from Assistant to Associate to full Professor.

## Summer Internship at Alkermes Pharmaceuticals By Rakesh Singh, B.Pharm, MS



I am a third year doctoral student in the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice division at The University of Texas at Austin. During the spring semester of 2014, I had an opportunity to work as a new product planning intern for Alkermes Pharmaceuticals Inc. located in Waltham, Massachusetts. During my stint at Alkermes, I was working under the direct supervision of Carole Gleeson as part of the commercial team under the Schizophrenia franchise.

I had a unique opportunity to work on multiple secondary projects related to marketing along with a primary HEOR related project. This unique role gave me an opportunity to assess both sides of the same coin. I assisted the market research team, which helped the commercial team in building their product strategy. I was also asked to assist with micro-surveys to assess the market needs and the current practices. I was assigned one main project in which we assessed the treatment pattern using the Truven Market Scan Medicaid dataset. We teamed up with the HEOR group, within the organization, to work towards the completion of the project.

Over the course of my internship, I had one-on-one meetings with managers from other departments where I learned more about working in a pharmaceutical industry. During my internship experience, I was able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills that I have gained as a student at UT. My prior training in systematic reviews, database analysis, research methods, epidemiology, statistics and policy were very helpful during the course of my internship.

I was able to communicate the findings to other departments within the organization. Overall, I enjoyed my experience at Alkermes and would definitely recommend and encourage others to join as well.

## Summer Internship at Biogen Idec By Chanhyun Park, B.Pharm, MS



Last summer, I worked as a Global Market Access (GMAx) Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR) intern at Biogen Idec in Cambridge, MA. For twelve weeks, I had a chance to get involved in multiple projects in the following areas: an excel-based economic modeling project, a systematic review project on patient-reported outcomes (PRO), and a retrospective database analysis project.

Throughout my internship with Biogen Idec, I learned the importance of understanding business perspectives and impacts of my projects, communicating technical information concisely and clearly to various people from different backgrounds, and working together cross-functionally as a team. The technical skills that I learned during the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice (HOPP) program were helpful for working with multiple projects in Biogen Idec. I realized that coming from the UT HOPP program I already had great technical skills, including economic modeling techniques, psychometric techniques and statistics techniques, to work in industry. Overall, I can say that my internship at Biogen Idec was an invaluable experience.



## Summer Internship at Amgen By Tatiana Makhinova, B.Pharm, MS



I was fortunate to spend the summer of 2014 with Amgen Global Health Economics Department at the company's headquarters in the scenic Thousand Oaks, California. I was genuinely interested in applying the knowledge and skills that I have acquired at UT to the industry environment. The summer experience at Amgen has enriched my understanding of health outcomes research development, delivery, and application. I worked in the Inflammation team supporting Amgen's marketed in-line product. I was part of several projects including claims database analyses, survey data analyses, and patient reported outcomes assessment.

A number of important outcomes research questions were explored during my stay with the company, such as discordance between patients' and physicians' perceptions regarding the therapy effectiveness and symptom control, as well potential underdiagnoses, and under-treatment of patients with arthritis. I also contributed to the studies comparing dosing regimens of different biologics and treatment outcomes, diagnostic and treatment patterns, and treatment costs. These projects not only significantly improved my technical skills, but also enhanced my communication abilities and strategic thinking. In addition, I appreciated the teamwork both within my group as well as cross-functionally (company-wide meetings and vendor outreach). Collaboration is paramount in today's workplace regardless of setting. In my opinion, UT graduate program is outstanding in arming students with essential technical and communication skills while the internship experience helps nurture teamwork skills and future collaborations. My advice to current students is to apply for an internship and use this enriching opportunity to grow, understand oneself professionally, and meet outstanding people.

## Summer Internship at Shire Pharmaceuticals By YouLi Ling, B.Pharm, MS



I worked as a Global Health Economics, Outcomes Research and Epidemiology (GHEORE) intern this past summer at Shire Pharmaceuticals in Wayne, Pennsylvania. The past few months have been an amazing learning opportunity for me. It was a really great experience to work with a team of smart and motivated individuals. I also gained valuable insight in strategic thinking and project execution through working with the team. During this 12-week internship, I assisted with literature review for different diseases and medications; research proposal review and editing; internal training materials preparation; and a project on retrospective data analysis. Having meetings with different departments also helped me learn more about cross-functional teamwork and how GHEORE fits into Shire's structure and contributes to business operations.

I truly benefit from the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice (HOPP) program at UT. During my internship, I got the chance to apply and leverage lessons I learned in the classroom. This internship was a great learning experience to integrate all the knowledge I learned in epidemiology, statistics, healthcare policy/systems, research method/design, and health economics with practical application. Overall, it was an amazing internship experience and it helped in enriching my understanding of health outcomes research in industry.



## Summer Internship at Biogen Idec By Motolani Ogunsanya, B.Pharm, MS



In the Fall of 2011, I began my journey toward obtaining a PhD degree in Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice at UT. The diverse coursework and dynamic team within and outside the division armed me with different skills to conduct research in the area of health outcomes. My thesis work, supervised by Dr. Carolyn Brown, examined the factors related to young black men's intention to screen for prostate cancer as well as their engagement in prostate cancer risk-reduction behaviors. I aim to use these findings to highlight issues that need to be addressed when educating and/or

counseling young black men about prostate cancer screening and examinations. The findings will also contribute to the development of targeted educational efforts and tailored counseling in prostate cancer screening for young black males early on.

The internship at Biogen Idec enabled me to understand why it is important to ask about and know the "why's" (business impact), in addition to the how's (methodology). I also learned how to work in a cross-functional in a team, with people from different backgrounds. I was able to leverage my technical skills as a graduate student to maximize my opportunity to gain the most during my internship. I worked on different projects; which included: capturing disease burden, looking at measures of quality of life and understanding MCID (minimal clinically important difference) in patients with rare diseases like myotonic dystrophy, multiple sclerosis and cutaneous lupus erythematosus using Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) measures. I was under the wonderful mentorship of Dr. Danny Yeh.

The experience garnered from my internship was very valuable in terms of increasing my knowledge and broadening my mind, as well as providing me with a deeper understanding of how the biotech industry works. All these would help to create a strong and rich foundation about health outcomes before I start my professional career as a health outcomes researcher. Overall, interning at Biogen Idec was a very memorable and rewarding experience and the Cambridge summer made it even more beautiful. I strongly recommend and encourage everyone to tease out the culture at prospective workplaces to see if it is a better fit for them.

## Summer Internship at AbbVie By Komal Gupte, B.Pharm, MS



I am a third year doctoral student in the Health Outcomes and Pharmacy Practice division at UT. This past summer, I had the opportunity to intern as a Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR) intern in the Immunology group at AbbVie, Waukegan, IL. During the course of the internship, I worked on systematic reviews, observational studies, feasibility studies, and policy analysis for evidence generation of Humira for multiple indications. Specifically, I developed protocols, slide decks, analysis plans, conducted analyses of registry and administrative claims datasets and disseminated results on implementation of health technology assessment, clinical efficacy and treatment patterns, patient reported outcomes and economic outcomes.

Also, I gained experience in managing vendors and interacting with key opinion leaders, which exposed me to the job expectations after graduation. The knowledge that I attained in epidemiology, statistics, research methods, and the hands on experience in working on datasets, as a graduate student at UT, helped me immensely during the internship. Overall, it was a great experience and I highly recommend doing an internship as a graduate student.



## UT-ISPOR—Activities In Pictures



Current UT-ISPOR Officers: From Left (L) to Right (R)  
Top Row - Andrew Thach (VP), Sanket Shah (Treasurer), Komal Gupte (ISPE President). Lower Bottom—Onyinye Nduaguba (Pharmacy Council Rep), Benita Bamgbade (Secretary) and Motolani Ogunsanya (President)



September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014: Dr. Haesuk Park's presentation on the Cost-effectiveness analysis of Sofosbuvir



October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014: Volunteered for six hours at the ZERO prostate cancer run in Austin, TX



UT-ISPOR (San-Antonio) Current Members

## 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. You may give online at <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/nlogon/vip/ogp.WBX> (choose College of Pharmacy– Pharmacy Administration Endowment) or contact Dr. Karen Rascati ([krascati@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:krascati@mail.utexas.edu)) for a gift form.