



UHCOP-Vecino FQHC Alliance Advances with Protocols OK, Start of IPE/APPE Rotations

The collaboration between Vecino Health Centers, a Houston-based Federally Qualified Health Center, and UH College of Pharmacy is gaining steam with several recent developments.

Clinical Assistant Professors **Bernadette Asias-Dinh**, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE, and **Katie Smith**, Pharm.D., BCACP, have received Texas State Board of Pharmacy prescriptive authority under protocol for diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, smoking cessation and anticoagulation therapies.

In addition, the first wave of Pharm.D. students began their inter-professional education (IPE) sessions at Denver Harbor, which serves as the Family Medicine Residency Program site for Houston Methodist Hospital. In addition, the first P4 students working under Asias-Dinh and Smith will begin their Ambulatory Care Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences at the site.



UHCOP Clinical Assistant Professor Katie Smith, Pharm.D., BCACP, counsels a patient in Spanish at the Denver Harbor Clinic while Pharm.D. student Edwin Ng observes as part of his interprofessional education experience prior. During their IPE activity at the clinic, students also interact with and observe family medicine residents and staff nurses.

ACC Singles Out Birtcher with Distinguished Associate Award for Advancing Cardiology Care

UH College of Pharmacy Clinical Professor **Kimberly K. Birtcher**, Pharm.D., M.S., BCPS, CDE, CLS, AACC, was awarded the 2017 Distinguished Associate Award by the American College of Cardiology March 19 during the ACC's 66th Annual Scientific Session (ACC.17) in Washington, D.C.

The award is presented to a non-physician member of ACC whose outstanding contributions to College initiatives and the field of cardiology have encouraged and nurtured the ACC's team approach to cardiovascular care. Birtcher's work in ACC includes serving on the CV Team Section Leadership Council and as co-chair of the CV Team Section Pharmacists Workgroup, as well as on several clinical quality committees, including Co-Chair of the LDL: Address the Risk Initiative and the Anticoagulation Consortium.



Birtcher

She also served on the team that developed the ACC Statin Intolerance App and the 2016 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway on the Role of Non-statin Therapies. Birtcher currently serves on the ACC/AHA Task Force for Clinical Practice Guidelines and was recently appointed to a three-year term on the ACC Geriatric Cardiology Section Leadership Council.



Asthma, Naloxone Outreach

In separate initiatives, UH College of Pharmacy Pharm.D. students provided asthma education to elementary students at two Houston elementary schools and opioid abuse/naloxone education to Houston-area high school students.

Texas Southern University Pharm.D. students also participated in the asthma project, which utilized the American Lung Association's Open Airways program to help students with uncontrolled asthma identify and avoid triggers and better manage their symptoms. The opioid abuse and naloxone education was presented to nearly 250 high school students during the Spring semester.

Student News

The team of Pharm.D. students **Diane Drecean**, **Erica Morales** and **Sarah Theriault**



Drecean



Morales



Theriault

advanced to the third and final round of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's 2017 Clinical Research Challenge. Launched in 2016, the competition offers teams of three pharmacy students to participate in an online journal club and the opportunity to submit a letter of intent and a clinical research proposal. Winners will be announced in June.

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Pharmaceutics Ph.D. candidate **Guncha Taneja** received a Graduate Student Travel Award from the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) to present her project, "Expression and regulation of drug metabolizing enzymes," at the ASPET Annual Meeting during the Experimental Biology 2017 Meeting April 22-26 in Chicago, Ill.



Taneja

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The P2 team of **Stephanie Crowley** and **Diane Drecean** and the P3 team of **Rebecca Kessinger** and **Jaekyu Lee** earned Honorable Mentions in their respective divisions in the Clinical Skills Competition at the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists 2017 Annual Seminar April 28-30 in Galveston.



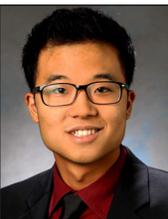
Crowley



Drecean



Kessinger



Lee

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UHCOP's Kappa Psi Wins 2nd Regional Chapter of Year Title

UH College of Pharmacy's **Delta Delta Chapter of the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity** brought back **Chapter of the Year** honors for the second year in row – along with several additional awards and member honors – at this year's Spring Southwest Province meeting Feb. 24-26 in San Antonio.

The UHCOP chapter also was recognized with the **99 Hands Award** for providing screenings and wellness education at the City of Houston Mayor's Back 2 School Fest, which brought several thousand elementary students and their parents/guardians to the UH campus in August 2016, and the **Man Mile Award**, which is bestowed to the chapter with the most attendees and the most distance traveled to the meeting.

Among Delta Delta's student members who received individual honors at the meeting were: **Edwin Ng**, who earned the "One for All"

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The Houston Program's **Amanda Beck**, Pharm.D., PGY1/PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administrative resident at Houston Methodist Hospital and M.S. in Pharmacy Leadership and Administration student at UHCOP, received the Leo F. and Ann Godley Residency Fellowship Award at the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists 2017 Annual Seminar April 28-30 in Galveston.



Beck

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Pharm.D. student **Stephanie Crowley** has been selected for the 2017-18 Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Houston Galveston program. Crowley's project will involve working within Houston's homeless community to develop a self-reported perceived definition of addiction by homeless individuals as well as increase health literacy and awareness of addiction resources and support services. In April, Pharm.D. candidate **Eric Kao** earned the Schweitzer Fellow for Life designation after completing his project aimed at increasing awareness within the male African-American homosexual community of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and identifying perceived barriers to utilization of PrEP and other healthcare services within the community.

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Pharm.D. student **Sarah Theriault** has been selected to participate in the 2017 Cardinal Health Student Leadership Conference May 18-20 in Houston.

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Amanda Grego, Pharm.D., who is concurrently completing her M.S. in Pharmacy Leadership & Administration and PGY1-PGY2 Health-System Pharmacy Administration residency program at Harris Health System as part of The Houston Program, has been selected for the 2017 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Walmart Scholars Program. Grego and her advisor, Divya A. Varkey, Pharm.D., M.S., UHCOP Houston Program director and clinical associate professor, will attend the 2017 AACP Meeting and Teachers Seminar July 15-19 in Nashville, Tenn.



Grego

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Award in recognition of "good deeds and involvement"; **Rohan Dwivedi**, who was elected Southwest Province



Dwivedi



Gracia



Ng

Secretary; and **Serenity Gracia**, who was elected Southwest Province Treasurer. In addition, recent UHCOP alumna and Walgreens pharmacist **Erin Chartier**, Pharm.D. ('15) was elected Southwest Province Satrap (President).

Joy Alonzo, M.E., Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor, has been appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Pharmacology.

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Bernadette Asias-Dinh, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE, clinical assistant professor, has received a one-year, \$6,000 UH New Faculty Grants Program award for her project entitled "Pharmacy student-lead community health screening for chronic disease identification: impact on public health and pharmacy student professional growth."

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Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., FNAI, professor, has received a \$57,768 grant from La Jolla Pharmaceutical Co. for her project entitled "Pharmacokinetics and Biodistribution Evaluations of Polymyxin B Liposome in Mouse Model"; a \$24,305 grant from Real-Time Analyzers for her project entitled "Degradation Analysis of Medications from ISS Using LC-MS/MS Assays - In Support of NASA Phase IIX Program"; and a \$82,974 grant from Wings for Life for her project entitled "Translational Assessment of Combined Riluzole and Minocycline in a Pre-Clinical Model of Rat Spinal Contusion Injury."

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Greg D. Cuny, Ph.D., assistant professor, has received a three-year, \$195,000 grant from the Welch Foundation for his project entitled, "Synthesis of Conformational Restricted Natural Products."

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Julianna M. Fernandez, Pharm.D., BCPS, CGP, clinical assistant professor, has been appointed Assistant Department Chair in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research.

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Song Gao, Ph.D., research assistant professor, has received a two-year, \$152,167 R03 grant from the National Cancer Institute for his project entitled "Developing Recycled Colon Bioavailable (r-CB) COXIBs for the Treatment of Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)."

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Tahir Hussain, Ph.D., professor, has been inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society.

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Samina Salim, Ph.D., has been inducted into the Phi Beta Delta Honorary Society for International Scholars.

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Katie Smith, Pharm.D., BCACP, clinical assistant professor, has received a one-year, \$6,000 UH New Faculty Grants Program award for her project entitled "Effect of interprofessional healthcare exposure on students' perceptions of interprofessional care."

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Alexander Statsyuk, Ph.D., assistant professor, has received a one-year, \$100,000 grant from the William & Ella Owens Medical Research Foundation for his project entitled "Autophagy inhibitors to prevent nutrient supply and organelle and proteome quality control in K-Ras and B-Raf driven cancers."

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D. Gomika Udugamasooriya, Ph.D., associate professor, has received a one-year, \$100,000 grant from the William & Ella Owens Medical Research Foundation for his project "Discovery of 'true' early biomarkers for early cancer diagnosis and therapy developments."

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Divya Varkey, Pharm.D., M.S., clinical associate professor, has received a one-year, \$6,000 UH New Faculty Grants Program award for her project entitled "Impact of graduate training on emotional intelligence."

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David A. Wallace, Pharm.D., has been appointed Director of Co-Curriculum for the Pharm.D. program.

UHCOP, UTHealth Event Focuses on Opioids, High-risk Meds

UH College of Pharmacy's Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy (PHOP) and UTHealth McGovern Medical School co-hosted the inaugural Houston Medication Safety Symposium focusing on the U.S. opioid epidemic and high-risk medications in the older adult population April 28 in Houston.

Co-chaired by UHCOP's **Rajender Aparasu**, Ph.D., FAPhA, and UTHealth McGovern Medical School's **Holly M. Holmes**, M.D., M.S., AGSF, the event featured such speakers as **Grant Baldwin**, Ph.D., MPH, of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; **Steven Passik**, Ph.D., Collegium Pharmaceutical Inc.; **Zachary Marcum**, Pharm.D., Ph.D., of the University of Washington (UW); and **Michael Steinman**, M.D., of the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine. In addition, the symposium presented awards to the top podium and poster presentations among the 30 accepted abstracts.

The top podium presentations were:

- "The Association between Payments Made by the Pharmaceutical Industry and Prescriptions for Drugs of Uncertain Medical Benefits to Medicare Part D Beneficiaries" by PHOP Ph.D.

candidate **Manvi Sharma**, M.S. ('08), MBA, R.Ph.

- "Anti-Dementia and Anti-Hyperlipidemic Medication Use at End of Life in Elderly Lung Cancer Patients" by The University of Texas-MD Anderson Cancer Center's **Min Ji Kim**, M.D.

The top poster presentation recognized at the meeting were:

- "Antimuscarinic Medication Utilization among Older Dementia Patients" by PHOP Ph.D. candidate **Nandita Kachru**, BPharm, M.S. ('13);
- "Improving Safety of Opioid Prescription in UTMB Geriatric Population" by The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston's **Jose A. Mendoza**, M.D.;
- "Characteristics of Psychotropic Polypharmacy in the Management of Pediatric Mental Disorders" by PHOP alumnus **Rohan Medhekar**, Ph.D. ('16), now with Amgen; and
- "Predictors of Antipsychotic Initiation among Short-Stay Nursing Home Dementia Patients" by PHOP Ph.D. candidate **Sneha D. Sura**, M.S. ('12).

- Association between health literacy and 30-day healthcare use after hospital discharge in the heart failure population. **Cox SR**, Liebl MG, McComb MN, Chau JQ, Wilson AA, Achi M, **Garey KW**, **Wallace D**. Res Social Adm Pharm. 2016 Oct 14. pii: S1551-7411(16)30410-7. doi: 10.1016/j.sapharm.2016.09.003. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28277275
- Nanomedicine as a non-invasive strategy for drug delivery across the blood brain barrier. **Tam VH**, Sosa C, Liu R, Yao N, Priestley RD. Int J Pharm. 2016 Dec 30;515(1-2):331-342. doi: 10.1016/j.ijpharm.2016.10.031. Epub 2016 Oct 18. Review. PMID: 27769885
- Oxidative Stress and the Central Nervous System. **Salim S**. J Pharmacol Exp Ther. 2017 Jan;360(1):201-205. Epub 2016 Oct 17. PMID: 27754930
- Sphingolipids in obesity and related complications. **Boini KM**, Xia M, **Koka S**, Gehr TW, Li PL. Front Biosci (Landmark Ed). 2017 Jan 1;22:96-116. PMID: 27814604
- Implication of CD38 gene in autophagic degradation of collagen I in mouse coronary arterial myocytes. Bao JX, Zhang QF, Wang M, Xia M, **Boini KM**, Gulbins E, **Zhang Y**, Li PL. Front Biosci (Landmark Ed). 2017 Jan 1;22:558-569. PMID: 27814632
- Determining β -lactam exposure threshold to suppress resistance development in Gram-negative bacteria. **Tam VH**, **Chang KT**, **Zhou J**, **Ledesma KR**, **Phe K**, **Gao S**, Van Bambeke F, Sánchez-Díaz AM, Zamorano L, Oliver A, Cantón R. J Antimicrob Chemother. 2017 Jan 31. doi: 10.1093/jac/dkx001. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28158470
- Risk of Cognitive Decline Associated With Paroxetine Use in Elderly Nursing Home Patients With Depression. **Bali V**, **Chatterjee S**, **Johnson ML**, **Chen H**, Carnahan RM, **Aparasu RR**. Am J Alzheimers Dis Other Demen. 2016 Dec;31(8):678-686. Epub 2016 Oct 20. PMID: 27765867
- Dosing and Pharmacokinetics of Polymyxin B in Patients with Renal Insufficiency. Thamlikitkul V, Dubrovskaya Y, **Manchandani P**, Ngamprasertchai T, Boonyasiri A, **Babic JT**, **Tam VH**. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2016 Dec 27;61(1). pii: e01337-16. doi: 10.1128/AAC.01337-16. Print 2017 Jan. PMID 27799209
- Novel antibiotics in development to treat Clostridium difficile infection. **Bassères E**, **Endres BT**, Dotson KM, **Alam MJ**, **Garey KW**. Curr Opin Gastroenterol. 2017 Jan;33(1):1-7. doi: 10.1097/MOG.0000000000000332. PMID: 28134686
- Mechanisms for floor surfaces or environmental ground contamination to cause human infection: a systematic review. Rashid T, Vonville H, Hasan I, **Garey KW**. Epidemiol Infect. 2017 Jan;145(2):347-357. PMID: 27780492
- The key residue within the second extracellular loop of human EP3 involved in selectively turning down PGE2- and retaining PGE1-mediated signaling in live cells. **Akasaka H**, **Thaliachery N**, **Zheng X**, **Blumenthal M**, **Nikhar S**, **Murdoch EE**, **Ling Q**, **Ruan KH**. Arch Biochem Biophys. 2017 Feb 15;616:20-29. doi: 10.1016/j.abb.2016.12.001. Epub 2017 Jan 5. PMID: 28065721
- Inosine-5'-monophosphate dehydrogenase (IMPDH) inhibitors: a patent and scientific literature review (2002-2016). **Cuny GD**, **Suebsuwong C**, Ray SS. Expert Opin Ther Pat. 2017 Jan 27:1-14. doi: 10.1080/13543776.2017.1280463. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28074661
- Comparison of Suicide Attempts/Behaviors Following Smoking Cessation Treatments Among Schizophrenic Smokers. **Wu IH**, **Chen H**, Bordnick P, **Essien EJ**, **Johnson M**, Peters RJ, Wang X, **Abughosh SM**. Arch Psychiatr Nurs. 2017 Feb;31(1):62-67. doi: 10.1016/j.apnu.2016.08.001. Epub 2016 Aug 10. PMID: 28104060
- Predictors of hypertension in an urban HIV-infected population at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Calabar, Nigeria. Okpa HO, Bisong EM, Enang OE, Monjok E, **Essien EJ**. HIV AIDS (Auckl). 2017 Feb 14;9:19-24. doi: 10.2147/HIV.S126374. eCollection 2017. PMID: 28243150
- Association Between Parenting Stress and Functional Impairment Among Children Diagnosed with Neurodevelopmental Disorders. **Almogbel YS**, **Goyal R**, **Sansgiry SS**. Community Ment Health J. 2017 May;53(4):405-414. doi: 10.1007/s10597-017-0096-9. Epub 2017 Feb 8. PMID: 28176211
- Care Provision and Prescribing Practices of Physicians Treating Children and Adolescents With ADHD. Psychiatr Serv. **Patel A**, **Medhekar R**, Ochoa-Perez M, **Aparasu RR**, Chan W, **Sherer JT**, **Alonzo J**, **Chen H**. 2017 Feb 15;appips201600130. doi: 10.1176/appi.ps.201600130. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28196459
- On-bead combinatorial synthesis and imaging of europium(III)-based paraCEST agents aids in identification of chemical features that enhance CEST sensitivity. **Singh J**, **Rustagi V**, Zhang S, Sherry AD, **Udugamasooriya DG**. Magn Reson Chem. 2017 Feb 21. doi: 10.1002/mrc.4588. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28220538
- Modulating Oxidative Stress Relieves Stress-Induced Behavioral and Cognitive Impairments in Rats. **Solanki N**, **Salvi A**, **Patki G**, **Salim S**. Int J Neuropsychopharmacol. 2017 Feb 24. doi: 10.1093/ijnp/pyx017. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28339814
- The complexity of minocycline serum protein binding. **Zhou J**, **Tran BT**, **Tam VH**. J Antimicrob Chemother. 2017 Feb 25. doi: 10.1093/jac/dkx039. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28333250
- Role of Toll-like receptor 4 in drug-drug interaction between paclitaxel and irinotecan in vitro. **Mallick P**, **Basu S**, **Moorthy B**, **Ghose R**. Toxicol In Vitro. 2017 Feb 27;41:75-82. doi: 10.1016/j.tiv.2017.02.019. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28242239
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- Risk of Mortality in Elderly Nursing Home Patients with Depression Using Paroxetine. **Bali V**, **Chatterjee S**, **Johnson ML**, **Chen H**, Carnahan RM, **Aparasu RR**. Pharmacotherapy. 2017 Mar;37(3):287-296. doi: 10.1002/phar.1898. Epub 2017 Feb 22. PMID: 28079266
- Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of minocycline against Acinetobacter baumannii in a neutropenic murine pneumonia model. **Zhou J**, **Ledesma KR**, **Chang KT**, **Abodakpi H**, **Gao S**, **Tam VH**. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2017 Mar 6. pii: AAC.02371-16. doi: 10.1128/AAC.02371-16. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28264853
- Glucuronidation: Driving Factors and Their Impact on Glucuronide Disposition. Yang G, **Ge S**, **Singh R**, **Basu S**, **Shatzer K**, Zen M, Liu J, **Tu Y**, Zhang C, Wei J, Shi J, Zhu L, Liu Z, Wang Y, **Gao S**, **Hu M**. Drug Metab Rev. 2017 Mar 7:1-78. doi: 10.1080/03602532.2017.1293682. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28266877
- A retrospective evaluation of furosemide and mannitol for prevention of cisplatin-induced nephrotoxicity. **Mach CM**, **Kha C**, **Nguyen D**, Shumway J, Meaders KM, Ludwig M, Williams-Brown MY, Anderson ML. J Clin Pharm Ther. 2017 Mar 9. doi: 10.1111/jcpt.12509. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28276070
- Efficacy of Telavancin Alone and in Combination with Ampicillin in a Rat Model of Enterococcus faecalis Endocarditis. **Tran TT**, **Tam VH**, Murray BE, Arias CA, **Singh KV**. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. 2017 Mar 20. pii: AAC.02489-16. doi: 10.1128/AAC.02489-16. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28320712
- The Impact of Pharmacotherapy on Substance Use in Adolescents With Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Variations Across Subtypes. **Upadhyay N**, **Chen H**, Mgbere O, Bhatara VS, **Aparasu RR**. Subst Use Misuse. 2017 Mar 21:1-9. doi: 10.1080/10826084.2016.1273955. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28323525