



Report to the Texas Pharmacy Congress — August 7-8, 2019

UHCOP WINS SNPhA AWARDS FOR LARGE CHAPTER, BUSINESS PLAN AND CAMPAIGNS ON STROKE, MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

The UHCOP Chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association captured its third consecutive national Large Chapter of the Year title along with several other awards at the 2019 SNPhA National Conference July 26-29 in Houston.

A team comprising three SN-PhA members from UHCOP and one SNPhA member from Texas Tech University advanced past 15 other teams from to win the inaugural LEAP at LILLY™ Business Competition. Sponsored by Eli Lilly & Co., the Leverage, Engage, and Advance Pharmacists (LEAP) at Lilly™ event resulted in a \$5,000 prize and



UHCOP SNPhA's current and past members and faculty advisor celebrate their many awards and honors earned at the 2019 National Conference July 26-29 in Houston.

a paid trip for the team to present its plan at Lilly's headquarters.

The UHCOP chapter's Mental Health Initiative and the Smoking Cessation/Power to End Stroke Initiative won "Initiative of the Year" awards in their respective categories. In addition, the chapter's Operation Immunization, Project Keepsake, Fighting Diabetes, and Remember the Ribbon initiatives each received honorable mention recognition, and the chapter's legislative delegate secured passage of two resolutions.

UHCOP's Darian Allen was not only installed as 2019-20 National President, but she also earned a NPhA Foundation Endowed Scholarship.

ACADEMIC FELLOW, PHD CANDIDATE EARN AACP, ISPOR AWARDS

A Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy (PHOP) Ph.D. candidate and a member of the inaugural class of Academic Pharmacy Fellows recently received presentation awards at the ISPOR 2019 International Meeting and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Pharmacy Education 2019 meeting.

Doctoral candidate Jagadesh Rao Earla, Pharm.D., MBA, earned one of three Best Podium-Student Poster Research Presentation awards at the ISPOR meeting May 18-22 in New Orleans. His project, "Factors Associated with Prescribing of Oral Disease Modifying Agents in Multiple Sclerosis," was coauthored by Baylor College of Medicine neurologist George J. Hutton, M.D., and UHCOP faculty members Douglas Thornton, Ph.D., Pharm.D., BCPS, and Rajender Aparasu, Ph.D., FAPhA. Earla was one of four PHOP students to receive ISPOR travel awards to present at the meeting.

Academic Pharmacy Fellow and UHCOP alumna Tyler Kiles, Pharm.D., BC-ADM, was honored with the top presentation award by a resident, fellow or postdoc at AACP's Trainee Poster Competition. Her project, "Comparison of Knowledge Gained in a Community Pharmacy Lab Course Between Students with and Without Prior Community Pharmacy Technician Work Experience," was coauthored by UHCOP faculty members Alexa Zhou, Pharm.D., AAHIV-P, Matthew Wanat, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCCCP, FCCM, Kevin Garey, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP, and Catherine Hatfield, Pharm.D.

UHCOP HONORS TOP PRECEPTORS OF 2018-19 YEAR

UHCOP recently honored several pharmacy practitioners and an institutional site for excellence in experiential education during the 2018-19 academic year:

Health System Pharmacy of the Year – DHR Health in Edinburg;

Hospital Preceptor of the Year – Rebecca Koch, Pharm.D., BCCCP, CHI St. Luke's Health – Sugar Land Hospital;

Institutional Patient Care Preceptor – Scott Ferren, Pharm.D., University of Texas Medical Branch;

Community Preceptor – Reyo Ordanza, Pharm.D., Walgreens;

Ambulatory Care Preceptor of the Year – Bernadette Asias-Dinh, Pharm.D., BCACP, BCPS, CDE, UHCOP and Vecino Health Centers; and

Faculty Preceptor of the Year – Kim K. Birtcher, Pharm.D., M.S., BCPS (AQ Cardiology), CDE, FNLA, UHCOP and Kelsey-Seybold Clinic.

UHCOP PART OF NEW MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL, HRSA-FUNDED SE TEXAS GERIATRICS WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

A collaboration of academic institutions, government entities, primary care networks and community-based health/social organizations has been awarded a federal grant to support training a healthcare workforce that is able to maximize patient and family engagement through an integrated geriatrics and primary care model and ultimately improve health outcomes for older adults.

The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration-funded Southeast Texas Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (SETx-GWEP) has six core initiatives, with an emphasis on interprofessional education:

- Educating interprofessional primary care trainees and caregivers on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;
- Recognizing and appropriately treating of geriatric mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety and delirium;
- Training to identify patient priorities and align care with those priorities within routine appointments, including education on

advanced care planning and palliative care;

- Introducing multilevel strategies in participating primary care networks to help maintain patient function and mobility through transitions of care;
- Interprofessional training in geriatric dental health; and
- Training for community organization personnel and interprofessional trainees in recognizing and reducing elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

With a subaward of \$396,702 over five years, UHCOP's involvement will be coordinated by faculty members **Julianna Fernandez**, Pharm.D., BCPS, CGP, **Catherine Hatfield**, Pharm.D., and **Nancy Ordonez**, Pharm.D., BCPS.

In addition to the colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Social Work at UH, academic partners in the program are the schools of Medicine and Health Professions at Baylor College of Medicine, schools of Nursing and

Dentistry at UTHealth, College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences at Texas Southern University, and the School of Occupational Health at Texas Woman's University.

Serving as governmental partners are the Veterans Affairs' South Central Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center and the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness, and Safety, a collaboration of BCM and the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The academic primary care networks comprise Baylor St. Lukes' Primary Care Network and the DeBakey VAMC Interprofessional Primary Care Center of Excellence.

Community-based primary care sites are HOPE Clinic Community Health Center, VA Outpatient Clinics of Southeast Texas, Lone Star Family Health Center and the Harris Health House Calls and Palliative Care Program.

Community partners participating in the network are BakerRipley Senior Services, Meals on Wheels and the Montrose Center.

PEDIATRICS SPECIALIST MARTINEZ, PK-PD WHIZ WU JOIN FACULTY

UH College of Pharmacy recently welcomed back alumna Briget R. Martinez, Pharm.D. ('07), as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research and a member of the Rio Grande Valley Pharm.D. Satellite Program.

Martinez joins UHCOP from DHR Health based in Edinburg, where she maintains a practice in general pediatrics and pediatric/neonatal intensive care. Martinez also will serve as residency program director for a newly affiliated ambulatory care-focused DHR Health/UHCOP PGY1 residency program.

Her research has been published in the *International Journal of Pharmacovigilance*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, and *Cancer Detection & Prevention*. Bilingual in English/Spanish and a volunteer pharmacist on medical mission trips to Guatemala, Martinez has been a pharmacy preceptor since 2008.

Martinez's previous experience includes positions at Kelsey Seybold Clinic (where she was named the clinic's Cancer Services Pharmacist of the Year in 2015), Methodist Texusan ICU Pharmacy in San Antonio, Woman's Hospital of Texas Pharmacy in Houston, and Target Corp. in McAllen as well as a previous position at the DHR Women's Hospital/Cancer Center.

Another UHCOP alumna Lei Wu, Ph.D., recently was appointed as a research assistant professor in the college's Department of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences. Wu had been working as a postdoctoral researcher in the lab of her graduate advisor, UHCOP Pharmaceutics Professor Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., FNAI, since her



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graduation from the Pharmaceutics doctoral degree program in 2014.

Her dissertation involved a NASA project on the clinical pharmacokinetics (PK) of intranasal scopolamine under microgravity condition. Wu developed a PK co-modeling for describing and predicting the multiple compartments of intranasal scopolamine in plasma, saliva and urine, with the goal of developing a more effective delivery mode

with reduced side effects for personnel in space suffering from motion sickness.

During her Ph.D. studies, Wu earned three consecutive student/trainee awards from the American College of Clinical Pharmacology.

As a postdoctoral researcher, Wu received fellowship funding from the National Space Biomedical Research Institute for the development and validation of predictive degradation models for International Space Station medical kits, and performed bioequivalence studies in a small animal model.

Wu is currently serving as co-investigator with Chow on a five-year, \$541,623 subaward from Texas Southern University for development of its Gulf Coast Consortia Center for Comprehensive PK/PD and Formulation awarded in 2018.

Wu has authored or coauthored nearly a dozen publications in such journals as *PLOS One* and the *British Journal of Pharmacology*, and is co-inventor of a pending patent for novel clinically applicable intravenous dosage formulations of the antifungal agent itraconazole.

COLLEGE BIDS FAREWELL TO EIKENBURG, SCHWARZ

UHCOP recently wished two longtime faculty members — Douglas C. Eikenburg, Ph.D., and Lindsay A. Schwarz, Ph.D. — happy retirements after a combined 60-plus years of teaching, research and service to the college.

Schwarz most recently served as an instructional associate professor and director of Faculty Development. As co-chair of the Pharm.D. Curriculum Committee, she played a major role in the overhaul of the curriculum that was implemented in fall 2018.

She also is credited for her contributions to the design/planning for the college's practice skills training and classroom spaces in Health 2 as well as many years of service on such committees as Assessment, Admissions & Progression, and Student Affairs. Her career teaching and service awards at the university, college and student organization level.

Eikenburg, who has been awarded Professor Emeritus status by the UH System Board of Regents, retired after more than 40 years at the college. His service also included two decades leading the college's



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Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

He was a recipient of National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, and the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation grants. He authored or coauthored nearly 50 papers in such publications as the *British Journal of Pharmacology (BJP)*, for which he'd also served as an editor; *Hypertension*, and the *Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*.

Eikenburg served on or chaired UH and UHCOP bodies tasked with such duties as faculty searches, graduate education, curriculum, environmental/physical safety, and animal care. He played a major role in not only the design/planning for the Health 2 building, but also coordinated the move of his department's equipment, faculty, staff and students into the new building.

Elected fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA) High Blood Pressure Council, Eikenburg earned teaching/faculty excellence awards from UH, UHCOP and the Rho Chi Society.

"Munc13 is a Molecular Target of Bryostatin 1," a paper authored by 2017 UH Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences B.S. graduate **Francisco Blanco** under the mentorship of UHCOP Professor **Joydip Das**, Ph.D., was selected as an Editor's Choice manuscript in the June 2019 issue of *Biochemistry*. UHCOP Pharmacology/Medicinal Chemistry Ph.D. student **Youngki You** was among the coauthors on the paper.

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Faculty members **Richard A. Bond**, Ph.D., **Aditi Marwaha**, Ph.D., and **Douglas Thornton**, Ph.D., Pharm.D., BCPS, have been honored with the college's 2018-19 Faculty Excellence Awards in Service, Teaching and Research, respectively.

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Joydip Das, Ph.D., professor, has been appointed to serve on the Publication Committee of the International Society of Biomedical Research in Alcoholism, which produces *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research* (Wiley) in collaboration with the Research Society on Alcoholism.

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Catherine L. Hatfield, Pharm.D., clinical associate professor, has been appointed to the American Interprofessional Health Collaborative (AIHC) Programming Committee for the 2019-2022 term.

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Tahir Hussain, Ph.D., Joseph P. and Shirley S. Buckley Endowed Professor, has been appointed interim chair of the Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences (PPS). **Greg D. Cuny**, Ph.D., associate professor, has been appointed interim assistant department chair.

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Samina Salim, Ph.D., associate professor, was honored by the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority during its recent Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrations.

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MariV. Tejada-Simon, Ph.D., associate professor, has been appointed Director of Faculty Development for the college.

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Youngki You, a Pharmacology/Medicinal Chemistry Ph.D. student working under UHCOP Professor **Joydip Das**, Ph.D., received a Biophysical Society travel award to present his project, "Lipid Membrane

Influences Interaction Between the C1 Domain of Munc13-1 and the Activator" at the BPS19 63rd Annual Meeting March 2-6 in Baltimore, Md.

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Kaitlin Rascon and **Abigail Wright**, Pharm.D. candidates, were awarded the 2019 Larry "Neal" McClagherty Scholarship and a 2019 Texas Pharmacy Foundation General Scholarship, respectively, at the Texas Pharmacy Association Conference & Expo Aug. 2-4 in Irving.

GIACOMINI TO SERVE AS SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

UHCOP welcomes undergraduate alumna and world-renowned pharmacologist **Kathy Giacomini**, Ph.D., as the Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences' 2019 PPS Research Symposium Scholar-in-Residence Aug. 8-9.

Giacomini will present the symposium's keynote address, "Pharmacogenomic Studies in Ethnically Diverse Populations," at 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, in the Rockwell Pavilion at the MD Anderson Library on the UH campus.

Her research focuses on the role of influx transporters involved in drug disposition and targeting. In the early 2000s, Giacomini and her research group began a comprehensive research program focused on the pharmacogenomics of membrane transporters. For over a decade, her NIH-funded Pharmacogenomics of Membrane Transporters Center, part of the NIH Pharmacogenomics Research Network, was widely recognized as the leading research unit in the world for the discovery, functional characterization and clinical relevance of polymorphisms in drug transporters.

Giacomini is considered an expert in the field of human genetic studies focused on the anti-diabetic drug metformin. She is the Co-Principal Investigator of the FDA-funded UCSF-Stanford Center of Excellence in Regulatory Sciences and Innovation (CERSI).

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