Practicing Pharmacy in Alaska

Partnership Aids County’s Health

Peptides Inhibit Cancer Spread
At the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) meeting in San Diego this fall we were given a glimpse of the future of health care, and the future is now and it is both exciting and scary.

The excitement revolves around the relentless goal of miniaturization, improvement in computing power and advances in biology and understanding of diseases. Just think where we are today. With one drop of blood we are able to carry out all of the clinical tests that currently require several ounces. And soon we will be able to measure not only standard lab chemistries but also disease markers including cancer markers.

Attachments for smart phones are now in the process of being approved to be used as inexpensive devices for measuring blood pressure, EKG, temperature, and oxygen saturation, which can then be easily shared with your health care providers. In addition, we have blue tooth connected scales, smart phones that track your physical activities and sleep patterns. The ability to do whole genome scanning at low cost will allow us to know the probability for developing chronic disease, which medication will be effective and which may cause side effects.

Together with progress in system biology, we are on the verge of democratizing diagnosis and treatment where the goal will be to treat and reverse abnormalities of the biological system rather than trying to find a specific target that only fixes one problem but often causes other disturbances of the biologic system.

The ability to monitor one’s own health and then develop the appropriate life style changes promises the potential to help an individual to achieve his or her optimal health.

The scary side is that these advances could easily disrupt our current health care system and turn it upside down. This in and of itself is needed if we are to move from managing disease to managing health. However, we must remain mindful of two critical components in the current development of the new future— the psychological needs of humans and a serious discussion of the ethical considerations that the new technology raises.

If we truly wish to be progressive, we must aim for a holistic approach that includes an emotional feeling of well-being. One of the most serious fallacies with our current health care system is that it has become a business that relies on efficiency with an assembly line approach that values volume over human connectivity. Making our new health care more affordable and self-directed is laudable and important but it will fail if we do not address the psychological needs of individuals as well. As health care providers providing empathy and addressing the emotional needs of patients must be as high a priority as treating the underlying condition.

The new future will also generate a massive amount of data that may characterize every single person, including one’s likelihood for disease, routines for maintaining health, the likelihood for addiction problems, emotional stability, etc. People will be tested as newborns, be characterized and expected to behave in certain ways from cradle to grave.

Who owns the data, who can share and be privileged to access the data and who can take action on the information? How will the data be protected? If people are prejudged based upon the data, will the expectation stifle personal development and improvement? Will it affect developmental and job opportunities? These issues need to be addressed now and be resolved before we live in the new future that will create more problems than it promises to solve.

Svein Øie, Dean
Renee Fedyk Robinson: North to Alaska

by Sheila Roberson

Most mornings by 7:40 a.m., Renee Fedyk Robinson (’97, Pharm.D. ’98) has finished her Pilates or yoga class and is reading her e-mail while sipping a cup of coffee. Her routine might not seem so unusual, except that Robinson is a Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps who has lived and worked in Anchorage, Alaska, for the past six years. Her life there is anything but routine. As one of only seven alumni pharmacists working in the 49th state, she is experiencing what most people only dream about.

Alaska is greater in size than the combined areas of Texas, California and Montana; Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska, has more than 730,000 residents, half the population of the state. Much of the interior is uninhabited wilderness with access primarily by boat or plane rather than automobile.

“Alaska is a unique practice site since both provider availability and access to care remain a concern”, noted Robinson, whose practice provides services to individuals from more than 50 villages. “Many of the things we take for granted, such as pharmacies down the road, are not available, so more planning and preparation are often required.”

Robinson said she had no intention of joining the USPHS when she finished her Pharm.D.; she was focused on a career in academia. She had already undertaken several research projects during pharmacy school with former clinical faculty member Marie Chisholm (’93 Pharm.D.) and had volunteered at a pediatric muscular dystrophy camp during the summer. Both experiences directed her early career plans. Her goal was to educate herself in pediatric care and teach others along the way.

She completed a residency program at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, followed by two back-to-back fellowships at Ohio State University; the first was a three-year pediatric pharmacotherapy fellowship, then a two-year patient-based, clinical research fellowship, all while earning her master’s in Public Health (Epidemiology) at The Ohio State University. By 2002 she was hired as an Assistant Professor at Ohio State’s Department of Pediatrics and given adjunct faculty status at Ohio Northern College of Pharmacy. Two years later she was appointed Director of Clinical Research for the Division of Pediatric Nephrology.

“I especially enjoyed my work in pediatric nephrology and appreciated becoming very close to the patients’ families”, said Robinson. She worked with patients with renal insufficiency undergoing dialysis or transplantation, and children with growth hormone deficiencies and metabolic bone disease. She added that she still misses the contact with the children and pharmacy school students from her work at Children’s.
After a time, however, she felt she needed a change. A job posting in Pharmacy Week for USPHS pharmacists prompted her to reevaluate her career goals. She remembered her three-month rotation with the Indian Health Service (IHS) during pharmacy school in Dillingham, Alaska.

“Dillingham was one of many off-the-road-system communities accessible only by airplane or boat. There I spent the summer working in a 10-bed hospital,” said the adventurous pharmacist who enjoys hiking, fishing, camping, skiing, biking, and exploring the Alaskan wilderness. “It was one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life.”

After much thought and research, Robinson applied to the USPHS with hopes of working as a Pediatric Outpatient Pharmacist at the Southcentral Foundation (SCF), a tribally owned and operated healthcare system located in Anchorage. The opportunity of working with Alaska Native cultures in underserved areas of health care had a strong appeal. SCF’s relationship-based Nuka System of Care, she noted, is world renowned for its value-driven system engaging healthcare users to improve health and well-being of the community.

“Some call the USPHS the best kept secret in pharmacy,” she said, noting that the USPHS has more than 6,000 full-time, highly skilled commissioned pharmacists who have the same benefits of salary, medical care, and retirement as those in the military services. Duty assignments include the IHS, Centers for Disease Control, U.S Coast Guard, Federal Bureau of Prisons, National Institutes of Health, and Food and Drug Administration. All USPHS pharmacists, she added, are dedicated to promoting public health and disease prevention programs by ensuring that pharmacists drive clinical practice and patient management.

In 2008 Robinson left the “Lower 48” and headed north to Alaska. Her first assignment at SCF was establishing a satellite pediatric pharmacy. After two years as a clinical pharmacist, however, she was overcome by the “research bug” and wanted answers to some of the questions that arose in the pharmacy; she
became a senior researcher within SCF, serving people of Alaska Native and American Indian (AN/AI) heritage in southcentral Alaska.

She now designs studies and seeks national funding for research initiatives relevant to improving overall health in the Alaska Native populations. One of her first projects studied pharmacogenomic effects on the breakdown of certain medications, such as warfarin; another involved developing an Ipad application that helps patients take a more active role in their depression therapy management by facilitating discussions with providers regarding individualized treatment through therapy and medication.

“So often people are unwilling to admit to depression, are unfamiliar with the signs and symptoms of depression and don’t know what their options are. So this Ipad application helps all parties start on a level playing field to personalize therapy,” she said, noting that successful treatment of adult depression will ultimately benefit children and families.

Her focus on pediatric populations has led her, more recently, to develop two projects, both funded by the National Institutes of Health, that have become really important to her -- a tobacco pharmacogenomics study to develop smoking cessation programs for different population groups around Alaska, and one to develop a Traditional Healing and Learning Garden in conjunction with the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School. She is also hoping to receive funding for an asthma management project to support adolescents with asthma.

“For the tobacco study we know that people are more likely to continue a health care program if they experience success early in the treatment process,” said Robinson, who uses nicotine patches and Zyban to develop smoking cessation programs for those who smoke or chew tobacco. “We are focusing on genetic makeup as a means of determining the best medical mode of treatment.”

In Alaska Native populations, she added, smoking has more of a negative impact on health than in other populations. For example, a one-pack-a-day habit may actually have the physiological effect of three packs per day. Moreover, Alaska Native people tend to start smoking or chewing tobacco at a very early age, even as pre-adolescents, and that behavior perpetuates itself within the populations.

“We want to stop the cycle of quitting, taking up the habit again, quitting, etc. If we can discover how smoking habits are impacted by the genetics of the populations then we can better determine which treatment will provide the best results,” noted Robinson.

The Traditional Healing and Learning Garden project involves development of educational modules for elementary school children to promote science and the Alaska Native culture by planting a garden of subsistence plants and medicinal herbs. Gardening teams cleared and planted plots of land where the children could learn about planting, mapping, and composting, along with making balms and lotions. The five-year project serves to instruct the children in grades K–8 about nutrition and increase their exposure to health and science, which could ultimately encourage new career possibilities for them, noted Robinson.

“I am most excited about this project. The earlier we teach children about the connection between nutrition and health the healthier they will be,” she said. “By planting traditional herbal medicines and asking the elders to share their knowledge with us, we encourage community support and cultural awareness. The garden project is a good example of partnering with the community, not doing it for them but with them.”

“If I can help one person talk about depression or nicotine addiction, or improve the nutritional health of just one child, then I’ve been successful,” she said about her work with the various health and wellness programs. “If I touch a few lives and make a few changes that really matter then all has been worthwhile.”

Working with the Alaska Native populations along with facing the challenges of living in Alaska has been a unique and rewarding experience for Robinson, far beyond her expectations. Her future plans include more maternal/child health initiatives that will “make a difference” in the lives of others. She is also currently enrolled in a joint Master of Science in Pharmacy/MBA program with the University of Florida.

“My desire has always been to make people healthier through research that answers questions and meets the needs of a community,” said Robinson, who won the Federal Employee of the Year Award, Category V, in 2013 and the IHS Junior Pharmacist of the Year award in 2011.
Henry Young was hired last year as the Kroger Associate Professor of Pharmacy at the College of Pharmacy to develop programs that will improve the role of pharmacists in the community. His career goals emphasize “helping people use their medications better,” particularly underserved and minority populations in rural communities. By partnering with the University of Georgia’s Archway Partnership, he is developing a plan to do just that for residents of Pulaski County, an agricultural community in central Georgia.

“The Archway Partnership is a program that meshes the needs and interests of certain counties with the resources of the university for mutual benefit,” he explained, noting that currently eight counties and communities in Georgia are working with the university in a community-driven process that utilizes university resources to address such issues as education, leadership development, community health, workforce housing, government service delivery, and economic development.

According to the Archway Partnership guidelines, the program changes the structure of traditional university-community interaction, with the institution responding to issues at the local level as it seeks the involvement and feedback of the community, forming a partnership of equals, driven from the ground up in an approach that is grassroots in its conception and implementation.

“I’m working with representatives of Pulaski County to help them address the problem of readmissions to the hospital due to transition of care issues,” said Young whose background has focused on rural and socioeconomic issues in regard to healthcare.

Transitions of care, he said, refers to the movement of patients from one care setting, such as hospitals and primary care practice, to the next. Medication regimens can vary across this continuum of care. For example, patients can have a certain medication regimen when they enter the hospital, be switched to other medications while they’re in the hospital and then be prescribed new medications when they leave the hospital.

“All three medication regimens may be different,” he pointed out. “A positive transition of care from the hospital to the community setting relies heavily on the coordination of medications and the patients’ own abilities to manage their medications once they return home from hospital stays. Problems with the use of medications during this critical period of care can cause negative outcomes, such as readmission to the hospital and worsening of medical conditions.”

Since the interest in Pulaski County is reducing hospital readmissions, they’ve partnered with Young to identify methods to improve the transition of care process, as well as patient self-management, in an effort to improve health outcomes.
Designing peptides to inhibit spread of cancers

by Sheila Roberson
Last year Eileen Kennedy applied for patents on two peptide compounds that she hopes will become instrumental in studying and ultimately curbing the growth of certain types of cancer. Her 2014 publication in ACS Chemical Biology, entitled “Isoform-selective disruption of AKAP-localize PKA using hydrocarbon stapled peptides,” details some of her work.

Designing peptides that can interact with kinase enzymes within cells to inhibit the critical scaffolding interactions in cells, she said, has gained her international attention among scientists who specialize in studying the role of kinase proteins in various disease states including cancer development. Not only has she successfully applied for patents to protect her work, she also has received numerous international invitations to address scientific meetings about her novel strategies, including the prestigious European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) meeting in Heidelberg in August and the 8th International Conference on Inhibitors of Protein Kinases in Warsaw in September.

Her lab at the College of Pharmacy is looking at how kinases move between active and inactive states and how newly designed peptides, or amino acid chains, might take advantage of these motions. She hopes to keep a kinase of interest in an inactive state by developing peptide-based scaffolding to mimic structural elements that are required for activity. This strategy can take advantage of targeting new sites on these proteins that haven’t previously been targeted and can open the door to new classes of kinase inhibitors that may still have activity in patients with acquired resistance, she said.

“Developing kinase inhibitors against tumor development is a rapidly growing field in cancer research,” said the assistant professor of pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences, whose work is being supported by a $570,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

“A vast pharmaceutical effort is focused on developing new ways to inhibit kinase activity as cancer patients are developing resistance to current treatments,” added Kennedy, who is working to develop new strategies that use larger, peptide-based compounds that target protein interfaces rather than the standard approach of using small molecules.

One aspect of her work centers on the role of A-kinase anchoring proteins (AKAPs) as a regulator of protein kinase A (PKA), which is involved in diverse cellular processes. AKAPs build scaffolds within cells that tether PKA, along with other proteins and enzymes, so as to integrate PKA activity into distinct signaling complexes. These complexes are critical for synchronizing PKA activity with other events in the cell. However, many of these signaling events are still unknown.

Kennedy explained that during normal cell activity, some kinase enzymes need to be scaffolded to properly activate signaling cascades within cells to regulate a variety of things that cells need to do; they become global regulators of essential cell processes. When signaling within the cells goes awry, certain disease states, such as tumors or other types of cancer, can develop.

“The significance of AKAP regulation on PKA activity is underscored by its correlation with various disease phenotypes,” said Kennedy. “Altered AKAP activity caused by misregulation is implicated in many pathological processes including cardiovascular disorders, immune diseases and multiple cancers.”

“Since we scientists don’t fully understand the biology of AKAP regulation on PKA, we are trying to develop peptide compounds as a new class of inhibitors to block PKA from interacting with AKAP complexes. These modified peptides are an invaluable tool to unravel these signaling complexes so that we can begin to understand what exactly is happening in these complexes. We are also designing different peptide inhibitors for use against different AKAP scaffold targets,” she added.

“We disrupt interactions between PKA and AKAP by using chemically modified peptides that look like the anchoring site of AKAPs,” she said. “By blocking the signaling activity that arises from these scaffolded complexes, we hope to ultimately identify and stop disease-related events such as self-proliferation in cancer. So far our efforts have been very successful.”

Eileen Kennedy designs peptides that might inhibit the chemical processes that could lead to cancer.
New Assistant Dean Hired to Develop 2+2 Program in Savannah

Ray Maddox (B.S. ’72) has been named assistant dean at the College of Pharmacy and clinical professor in the College’s Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy. Maddox had been the director of clinical pharmacy, research and pulmonary medicine at St. Joseph’s/Candler Health System in Savannah since 2002.

As assistant dean, Maddox will oversee the development of the College’s new Southeast Georgia campus in Savannah, as an expansion of the College’s 2+2 program.

Currently students take courses in Athens for the first two years of pharmacy school and finish their degree requirements with two years of training in one of three geographic areas, either by remaining in Athens, or going to satellite campuses in Augusta or Albany. Savannah would become the third satellite option for the College’s 2+2 program.

Students make their site selections at the time of admission to pharmacy school, assured of guaranteed placement in the same area for their third and fourth years of pharmacy practice experiences.

An advantage for students is the ability to plan their housing needs in advance for the final two years of pharmacy school. In addition the 2+2 program decentralizes students in their third year giving them more and easier access to patients, more individual time with faculty, and more interactions with other health profession students.

“Since Dr. Maddox has been affiliated with other academic institutions, he is the perfect person to meld the didactic curriculum with the clinical training of our students in Savannah,” said George Francisco, the College’s associate dean for academic affairs.

Maddox has directed several clinical pharmacy programs at St. Joseph’s and Candler hospitals since 1995, including Director of Clinical Pharmacy Services and Research from 1997 to 2002. In addition he was Chair and Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences at Idaho State University (1987-1993) and Director the Drug Information Services at Idaho State University from 1991-93. Prior to this he was the Director of Pharmaceutical Services at Emory University Hospital from 1984-87.

Maddox earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in conjunction with a clinical pharmacy residency at University of Kentucky in 1977, following a hospital pharmacy residency at the Medical University of South Carolina in 1973 and a B.S. in pharmacy at UGA in 1972.

Phillips Participates in Obesity Symposium

Bradley Phillips, Millikan-Reeve professor and head of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy at the College of Pharmacy, participated in the 2014 Southeastern Conference Symposium as a member of UGA’s Obesity Initiative. The symposium brought together faculty, administrators and students from all 14 member universities for an academic symposium on “Prevention of Obesity: Overcoming a 21st Century Public Health Challenge. Discussions focused on the development and implementation of an effective national effort to reduce obesity rates and promote better health.

Obesity prevention and treatment have gained attention during the past decade, but the U.S. has not seen a significant reduction in population-level obesity rates over the same 10-year span. Researchers at the SEC Symposium hope to identify ways to markedly reduce America’s obesity and overweight populations through prevention.

This year’s topics ranged from genetics to technology and media to environmental influences.

Categories included community and environmental influences on weight status; genetics and physiology of obesity prevention; early life and family influences on obesity prevention; intervention targeting children and youth; school, worksite, community and technology interventions to prevent obesity; and obesity prevention policies.

Established by SEC presidents and chancellors, the annual SEC Symposium is led by an SEC university and focuses on an issue of global interest. It also showcases academic excellence and underscores the educational and economic contributions of the SEC’s members to the vitality of the Southeast region, nation and world.
Chu Receives Montgomery Award

David Chu, distinguished research professor emeritus of the College of Pharmacy, recently received the prestigious John A. Montgomery award at the XXI International Round Table Society Meeting in Poznan, Poland. The John A. Montgomery Award is given biannually to an outstanding scientist in recognition of scientific contribution in the area of nucleosides, nucleotides and nucleic acids that results in significant advances in chemotherapy.

John Montgomery was a legendary medicinal chemist at Southern Research Institute, who contributed to the discovery and development of anticancer and antiviral agents with significant clinical efficacy. He received the Hall of Fame Award of the Medicinal Chemistry Division of American Chemical Society in 1986. At least five Food and Drug Administration-approved anticancer drugs are in his credits.

Chu has been a member of College faculty since 1982 where he established a vigorous drug discovery program. He officially retired from the University of Georgia in 2008, but has still maintained an active research program in drug discovery of antiviral agents for HIV, hepatitis B and C virus, Varicella zoster (shingle) virus, etc. His research program in antancer and antiviral agents, which is mainly supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as well as by several pharmaceutical firms, has resulted in at least six clinical candidates, in which Clevudine has been used clinically in the treatment of chronic hepatitis B virus infections.

Since 1987, Chu has been a principal investigator for research programs that have been continuously supported by the NIH. During this period, he has trained 22 graduate students and 112 postdoctoral fellows at the University. He has published 314 peer-reviewed scientific papers and has held 53 U.S. patents so far.

Chu has also received numerous recognitions from the University as well as from outside agencies: University of Georgia Distinguished Research Professorship, University of Georgia Creative Research Medal (UGA), Inventor of the Year Award (UGA), Millikan-Reeve Professor of Pharmacy, American Chemical Society (Northeast Georgia Section) Chemist of the Year, NIH Advisory Committee Member, Marquis Who’s Who in the World, NIH Merit Award, and Elected Fellow of American Association of Advancement of Science.

He has also served in various pharmaceutical firms as well as academic institutions, including Co-founder and Chair, Scientific Advisory Board, Pharmasset; Co-Founder and Scientific Advisory Board, ATEA Pharmaceuticals; National Board member of Florida A & M University College of Pharmacy; and Idaho State University College of Pharmacy Dean’s Advisory Council member.

Ansel Symposium focused on advances in cardiovascular health

The College of Pharmacy held the 11th Annual Howard C. Ansel Symposium in October, focusing on developments in the management of hyperlipidemia.

Patients with hyperlipidemia are at high risk of cardiovascular episodes, and pharmacists play a vital role in medication management of lipid therapy. The program was open to pharmacists who offer lipid therapy management or pharmacy technicians who wanted to learn more about it.

The symposium featured a morning session in “Advances in the Management of Hyperlipidemia,” a networking lunch and an afternoon session in the “Best Practices in the Management of Hyperlipidemia.”

The keynote address was given by Jonathan Murrow, a cardiologist and assistant professor of medicine with the Georgia Regents University/UGA Medical Partnership. Trained as an invasive cardiologist, he teaches clinical medicine and cardiovascular physiology and conducts patient-oriented research on mechanisms of atherosclerosis, novel cell-based regenerative therapies for cardiovascular disease and measurement of vascular function in peripheral arterial disease.

The Ansel Symposium was established to honor Dean Emeritus Howard C. Ansel for his notable contributions to pharmacy education and his ongoing support of the pharmacy profession. Ansel was dean of the College of Pharmacy from 1977 to 1991 and the College’s first Panoz Professor of Pharmacy. He joined the faculty in 1962 in the College’s former department of pharmaceutics after three years on the faculty of the University of Toledo, where he received his bachelor’s degree in pharmacy. He earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in pharmaceutics from the University of Florida.
New Faculty Hired for 2014-15

Ten new faculty have joined the College of Pharmacy for the 2014-15 academic year – six in the Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy (CAP), two in the Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences (PBS), one in the Division of Experience Programs and one in the Division of Non-Traditional Education and Outreach (NTEO).

New CAP faculty are: Trisha Branan (’06), clinical assistant professor, was formerly a critical care clinical pharmacy specialist at Georgia Regents Medical Center and a clinical assistant pharmacist without salary at the College’s Pharmacy and Therapeutics program in Augusta. She completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency at the Medical College of Georgia in 2007 and a PGY2 critical care pharmacy residency at the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, VA, in 2008.

Assistant Professor Ewan Cobran completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Cancer Health Disparities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2014. He earned his Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science at Howard University College of Pharmacy in 2012 and a B.S. in health science at the University of Florida College Health and Human Performance in 2006. He has experience as a management and program analyst with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs, Workforce Health Protection & Medical Support in Washington, D.C.

Anthony Hawkins (’12), a clinical assistant professor on the Albany campus, earned his Doctor of Pharmacy at UGA in 2012, followed by a PGY1 pharmacy practice residency and PGY2 critical care specialty residency at Emory University. He has worked as an adjunct clinical instructor at Mercer University College of Pharmacy and as a clinical/staff pharmacist at Emory University Hospital.

Ray Maddox (B.S. ’72) is a new assistant dean hired to develop the Southeast Georgia campus in Savannah. See page 8 for more information.

Elisabeth Lilian Pia Sattler is an assistant professor in the new interdisciplinary program with the colleges of Pharmacy and Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) that focuses on education and delivery of care that improves patient outcomes and wellness of Georgians. She has been an instructor and a research assistant in the FACS Department of Foods and Nutrition where she earned a Ph.D. in 2013 studying food insecurity, medication utilization, and medication adherence among low-income older adults. She received a B.S. degree in pharmacy at the University of Bonn in Germany in 2005.

Michael Thiman (’12) is a clinical assistant professor who completed a PGY1 residency in pharmacy at the Durham VA Medical Center and a PGY2 in ambulatory care pharmacy from UGA/Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center/Mercy Health Center. He has a UGA graduate certificate in clinical pharmacy and a teaching certificate from the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy at Chapel Hill.

New to PBS is associate professor Scott Pegan, who earned his Ph.D. and M.S. in chemistry and biochemistry at University of California, San Diego, in 2006 and 2002, respectively, and a B.S. in biochemistry and molecular biology at University of California, Santa Barbara, in 2000. He was previously an assistant professor at the University of Denver, a research assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago and at the Salk Institute for Biological Sciences.

Russell Mumper is UGA vice provost and a part-time professor in PBS. He was previously vice dean and McNeill Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy. Mumper earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry and his doctorate in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Kentucky, where he began his academic career in 1999. He joined UNC-Chapel Hill in 2007. Prior to his academic career, he spent nearly a decade working in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries.

Andrew Darley (’12), a new faculty in Experience Programs, is the new coordinator of the third-year Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience (IPPE) program. He was previously a clinical pharmacist at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah where he also completed a PGY1 pharmacy residency. He earned an associate’s degree at East Georgia College in Swainsboro in 2008 and a Doctor of Pharmacy at UGA in 2012.

Robert Geiger is an academic professional in the NTEO Regulatory Affairs program. He had been employed at Ambiopharma, Inc., in North Augusta, South Carolina, as co-founder and Global Vice President of Quality and Regulatory since 2007. He worked as a sales manager at American Peptide Company in Vista, CA, from 2005 to 2007 and at UCB, Inc., in Smyrna from 1998-2005. He earned a B.S. in chemistry at Hampden-Sydney College in 1994, a Ph.D. at Georgia Institute of Technology in 1998, and an M.B.A. at Kennesaw State University in 2003.
Homecoming 2014

Naming of Rite Aid Courtyard at Pharmacy South

Rite Aid has created three new endowments for the College: the Rite Aid Endowment for Alumni Affairs Fund; Rite Aid Endowment for Experiential Training, Wellness Initiatives, and Leadership Initiatives Fund; and the Rite Aid Endowment for Continuing Education and Outreach Fund. The company continues to fund the Rite Aid Endowed Student Scholarship, the Endowed Professorship and the Pinning Ceremony.

Pharmacy South Courtyard Dedication

Homecoming 2014 festivities included the naming of the Pharmacy South courtyard after the Rite Aid Corporation, based on the company’s generous donations to the College. Rite Aid Divisional Pharmacy Vice President Dennis Yoney was present at the naming ceremony.

R.C. Wilson Building Anniversary

The 50th anniversary of the building of the R.C. Wilson pharmacy building was celebrated with a commemorative plaque that will hang on the building. Georgia State Representative Larry “Butch” Parrish ('64), who was Distinguished Alumnus for 1987, presented the plaque at the anniversary ceremony. Hugh Chancy ('88), chairman of the College’s Comprehensive Campaign Board and Distinguished Alumnus for 2006, also participated in the program.

Built in 1964, the 100,000-square-foot pharmacy building was a modern structure with ample space for teaching, research and offices. In 1978 the building was dedicated to Dean Robert C. Wilson on his 100th birthday; Wilson had been the dean of the College from 1914 to 1948. UGA had to obtain special permission to name a state building after a living person.
New Pharmacy Students Undergo Professionalism Training

The 138 students entering the College of Pharmacy this fall underwent a day of professionalism training in conjunction with their customary orientation schedule.

The new program, called Rx DAWGS Boot Camp, was designed to introduce students to the professional attitudes, behaviors, and dispositions that are necessary for success in the study and practice of Pharmacy. A professional etiquette dinner, sponsored by CVS Caremark, kicked off the Boot Camp; the event also featured a presentation on dining etiquette by UGA Career Services and a fashion show of professional attire, sponsored by Macy’s.

“The Rx DAWGS Boot Camp is the first step in responding to the demand for increased professionalism among student pharmacists,” said Joan Watson, assistant dean for Strategic and Academic Initiatives, who plans to expand the Boot Camp to five days for 2015-16. “Thanks to the hard work of the Professionalism Task Force, we were able to build upon the Rx DAWGS acronym to structure an enriching program for our incoming Pharmacy students.”

Joining Watson in the planning and implementation of the Rx DAWGS Boot Camp was Lindsey Welch, director of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences in the College. Among the activities planned for the Boot Camp were the exploration of professionalism case studies, which provided examples and anti-examples of professional behaviors and attitudes; a presentation entitled, “Technology, Multitasking and How People Learn,” given by C. Edward Watson, director of the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning; a learning strategies session on how to be successful in pharmacy school; and a presentation by the Dean’s Student Advisory Council (DSAC) on the importance of being involved in student and professional organizations. The Boot Camp concluded with a mixer where first-year students were able to meet faculty and staff from the College in an informal environment.

The White Coat ceremony, at which all first-year students receive their professional white coats, was the capstone of the orientation events. At the conclusion of the White Coat ceremony, students recited the Rx DAWGS Pledge of Professional Behavior [at right] to show their commitment to professionalism in the study and practice of pharmacy.

In addition to the Rx DAWGS Boot Camp for incoming first-year students, activities designed to reinforce professional attitudes and behaviors across all years of the Pharm.D. program are being developed with the combined efforts of College administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

Rx DAWGS Pledge of Professional Behavior

“As a student pharmacist in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Georgia,

I am Respectful. I hold my patients, colleagues, and collaborators in esteem and value their knowledge and experiences regardless of their culture, ethnicity, geographical location, or income. I recognize and heed the authority of my professors and preceptors.

I exceed expectations in all that I do in the classroom, the laboratory, and in the professional arena. I am self-aware and committed to self-improvement, exhibiting leadership through my motivation and work ethic.

I am Dependable, virtuous, and discerning. I hold myself to the highest principles of ethical and legal conduct. I exercise sound judgment regarding my own self-image, and I protect the privacy of my patients.

I am an Agent of change. Through my flexibility and adaptability, I accept and promote innovations that improve patient care.

I am Wise and reflective. I consider the ways in which my skills, knowledge, and experience impact my colleagues and patients. I seek to apply my learning in authentic contexts and adjust my practice according to the diverse needs of those I serve.

I am Genuine in conversation and correspondence with faculty, staff, patients, and other healthcare professionals. My communication is effective because it is clear, honest, respectful, and considers the diversity of those I serve.

I am Service-oriented. The welfare of others is my utmost concern. I am compassionate and empathetic; I promote and practice volunteerism to better serve my community and constituency.

Together, we are Rx DAWGS, and we accept our obligation to continually improve our professional knowledge and competence in order to provide the best possible care for all our patients and to make positive contributions to our communities and our healthcare system.”
Scholarships Aid Students

Ten new scholarships were presented at this year’s scholarship ceremony. All were funded by College of Pharmacy faculty, alumni and friends. A total of 144 students received 76 scholarships and awards for the 2014-15 academic year, totaling more than $218,100, the highest amount ever awarded.

The new scholarships and recipients were:

- Donald E. and Cecelia V. Cadwallader Endowed Scholarship: Rachel Schnorr of Carrollton;
- Senator Buddy Carter Distinguished Leadership Endowment: Lindsey Sellers of Midland and Shane Sneed of Lawrenceville;
- Joseph T. and Cecily R. DiPiro Pharmacy Care Scholarship: Andrea Clarke of Chickamauga;
- Hansford Specialty Pharmacy Endowment: Katherine Smith of Macon;
- Rob and Courtnee Russ Endowed Student Scholarship: Danette Sipper of Braselton;
- Solomons Endowed Student Scholarship: James Spence of Kathleen;
- Rick and Robbin St. John Endowed Scholarship: Payal Kakadiya of Lilburn;
- John H. Taylor Jr Student Scholarship: Sarah Clements of Rome;
- Robert L. and Angela M. Thompson Endowed Student Scholarship: Thuan Tran of Augusta; and
- Grace Waters Endowed Student Scholarship: Raybun Spelts of Leesburg.

Walmart Sponsors Back-to-School Picnic

Students at the College of Pharmacy were welcomed back to school with a picnic hosted by Walmart. The major retailer, which was founded in 1962, has sponsored the event since 2007.

Pictured are Walmart representatives Jabari James, market director Northwest Atlanta; Amy Kessler, market director Florence, SC; Allison Heinen, market director Athens; Deb Rogers, market director, Atlanta; Dan Bucciarelli, regional talent manager Georgia and South Carolina; and Neil Wohlford (’95), market director, Augusta. All are pharmacists.
Leslie Dotson and Rondell C. Jaggers Fund Endowed Student Scholarship

Leslie Dotson Jaggers ’85, ’87 and Rondell C. Jaggers (’85 Univ of KY) have invested in the College of Pharmacy through the Leslie Dotson and Rondell C. Jaggers Endowed Student Scholarship. Dana E. Strickland, executive director of External Affairs, shared, “Leslie is a dedicated pharmacist, preceptor, Pharmacy Advisory Board member, and dear friend. On top of that, she always seeks to make sure her Alma Mater is the very best that it can be.”

Both Leslie and Rondell felt it was a very easy decision to commit specifically to the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. Rondell is also a preceptor for the College and the quality of education received by the students he encounters is quite evident. Additionally, both are very thankful for the profession in which they work. Leslie commented, “The deep sense of community in pharmacy actually makes the profession resemble a family more than a group of colleagues.” That atmosphere was certainly one they are willing to sow into.

The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy is grateful for the Leslie Dotson and Rondell C. Jaggers Endowed Student Scholarship.

Whipple Family Supports Students

Oliver C. Whipple ’67 has been an unwavering supporter of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy for decades. His philanthropic model was certainly one that impacted his children, Sarah Ellen Guthrie ’93, ’94, Oliver Christian “Whip” Whipple, and daughter-in-law, Ronda Whipple ’97, ’98, each of whom have made personal contributions to the College. When asked how a culture of giving was fostered within his family, Mr. Whipple, comments, “I am a firm believer that God gives to the giver and takes from the taker and I’d like to think that my children saw that in my actions.” Being a consistent donor to the College comes nearly as second nature to Mr. Whipple as sending in his tithe on Sundays.

Mr. Whipple says that he is motivated to support the College of Pharmacy in response to his gratitude for the quality of education he received and the profession it allowed him to enter. After becoming a licensed pharmacist, Mr. Whipple was drafted into the army. It was there that he had his first interactions with pharmacists trained from various institutions all over the nation. The skillset he gained from the UGA College of Pharmacy had prepared him just as well, if not better, than anyone he encountered. Similar sentiments are expressed by his children. Ronda Whipple shared, “I loved the camaraderie within pharmacy school. The work was hard, but we overcame the obstacles like a close-knit family. I know that my degree from UGA College of Pharmacy puts me step ahead.”

The current owner of City Drug in Vidalia, GA, Mr. Whipple has worked in retail pharmacy for nearly 50 years—a figure even surprising to himself. Ellen Whipple shared, “It’s not just to Church and the College that my dad is faithful. He is an investor in his community as a whole. Never once has a child left the doors of his pharmacy without a necessary medication due to a financial problem.” All the while, his children comment on how humble their father is about contributions he has made. Much of what he has done is behind the scenes and he is perfectly content on keeping it that way.

Nevertheless, Mr. Whipple’s contributions exceed far beyond the monetary realm. A former preceptor for the College of Pharmacy, he has mentored upwards of 60 students throughout his career. Current UGA pre-pharmacy undergraduate Sarah Payne shared, “Oliver took time out of his busy schedule to teach me about pharmacy and tell me about all the options I would have if I entered the field. He generously gave me a summer job so I could get some experience, and I loved it. He’s the reason I decided to pursue pharmacy and continues to be a source of encouragement and support along the way.” Her story is not unique. While in school, Ellen, Whip, and Ronda reflect on classmates who shared similar stories.

The UGA College of Pharmacy is made better by alumni such as those represented by the Whipple family. Dana Strickland, executive director of external affairs, said, “Oliver has been a dear friend to me for over 30 years. I am forever impacted by the Whipple family and their dedication to our College and our profession.”
A Word From Jim Holley (’95, ’96)
Alumni Association President

For several years I have been listening to the Andy Stanley Leadership Podcast. There was a podcast a few years ago that struck me as especially poignant for me as I thought about my own professional life. The podcast relays a story from the boardroom of Chick-fil-a. A little background on the story --

In the 90’s, Boston Market, the first major competition in the same market, was emerging. Boston Market had announced huge expansion plans and a goal of having a billion dollars in sales by year 2000. With the pressure of this competition executives of Chick-fil-a started looking at ways they could grow bigger and how they could grow faster. This culminated in a meeting with the business and marketing executives of Chick-fil-a going around the table discussing how to develop major expansion plans of their own. How they could get bigger faster.

The story goes that Truett Cathy, founder and chairman of Chick-fil-a, was quiet and did not even seem to be paying attention. But as the discussion droned on, Cathy started banging his fists on the table to get everyone’s attention. After all eyes were on Cathy, he said, “Gentlemen, I am sick and tired of hearing you talk about us getting bigger. What we need to be talking about is getting better. If we get better, our customers will demand that we get bigger.” This one statement shifted the conversation and strategy for Chick-fil-a. To complete the story, in the year 2000, Boston Market filed for bankruptcy and Chick-fil-a hit 1 billion dollars in sales.

The one statement – If we get better, our customers will demand that we get bigger – can be used in several different areas from business to professional life. But I would like to look at the statement as it could be relevant to the profession of pharmacy. As we move from a period of time with a shortage of pharmacists to getting to a point where there may be a surplus, we definitely need to grow pharmacy as a profession.

I would recommend that we work to get better as a profession. As pharmacists, we are the experts in all things medication. Pharmacists work in all types of jobs across the healthcare continuum. We each need to work to get better as pharmacists. We can all work to improve our knowledge and increase our service to our customers which include patients, physicians, nurses and others. We need other professions championing that they need pharmacists to fill positions, not asking if a pharmacy technician, a nurse or automation can fill that position. Look to how you can make pharmacy better so that our profession is demanded to get bigger.

Sincerely,

Jim Holley
Pharmacy Informatics Systems Consultant for HealthcareIS
Monroe
Mary Compher Stevenson (’53) of Smyrna retired in 2010 from Emory Adventist Hospital. She is the widow of William Stevenson (’53); they had three sons. She enjoys reading, teaching and swimming.

William Hitt M.D. (’55) of St. Simons Island is retired after a long career in pharmacy and medicine. He practiced retail pharmacy in Augusta from 1955-59 except for six months active duty in the US Army; then part time from 1959-64 while he was enrolled in the Medical College of Georgia where he graduated from medical school in 1963. He practiced family medicine in Jesup for 11 years, followed by family medicine practice in St. Simons Island and Glynn County for 35 years. He was named a Fellow in the American Association of Family Practice. He and his wife Mary Barton have four sons. One has a finance degree from UGA. Their daughter is an RN; they have nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He is interested in doing whatever his impaired health allows, due to pulmonary fibrosis secondary to bronchiolitis obliterans with obstructive pneumonia.

Dewey Arnan Bedingfield (’56) of Cumming retired in 1993 after 37 years as a pharmacist in Atlanta area, first with Walgreen Drugs, then with Treasury Drugs for 26 years. His wife Martha, a 2nd grade teacher, attended college in Milledgeville. He enjoys teaching piano and was a Liberace impersonator in Atlanta for 10 years, after being in a Liberace contest in Las Vegas in 1994.

B. Joel Massey (’58) of Macon owned Massey’s Pharmacy for 22 years and retired from Eckerd Drugs in 2008 after 50 years of practice. His wife Jeanette passed away in 2012. His son, Joel Michael, is a research biochemist now taking care of his “old man.” He has been a member of Rho Chi since 1957 and loves to hear about the great honors of his alma mater. He enjoys reading about science, particularly pharmacy and other health-related subjects, and working puzzles to keep the “bean” from going stale.

1960s

Charles Logan Roberts (’69) of Griffin retired from Rite Aid Pharmacy on October 5. He and his wife Vicki have two children, Ben and Kimberly, and three grandchildren. He enjoys golf.

1970s

Sharon Zerillo (’75) of Newnan is assistant manager of Publix Pharmacy and preceptor for UGA, Mercer, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and Creighton. She has a certificate in diabetes education and is a Publix trainer for diabetes nutrition programs. She has won the Academy of Employee Pharmacists (AEP) Employee of the Year award twice and was past chair of AEP for two years. Her husband John has a masters in history from Boston College. She has a daughter, Stephanie, who lives in Savannah with a finance degree from Georgia Southern. She enjoys tennis, reading, and promoting the profession of pharmacy through the Georgia Pharmacy Association.

1980s

Barry Bryant (’81), owner of Barney’s Pharmacy in Augusta, was recipient of the Ken Wurster Community Leadership Award at the 24th annual Cardinal Health Retail Business Conference. The award honors retail independent pharmacists who promote the ideals of community pharmacy and demonstrate the important role of retail pharmacists in quality patient care. He was also named a Next-Generation Pharmacist™ for his entrepreneurial work at Barney’s Pharmacy. The national award program was co-founded by Parata and Pharmacy Times to honor pharmacists, technicians, students and industry advocates who are defining the future of pharmacy.

Earl “Buddy” Carter (’80) of Pooler won the U.S. Congressional District I Republican runoff with 53 percent of the votes. He will face the Democratic candidate in the upcoming November election. He was first elected as a Georgia State Senator in the 2009 general election.

2000s

Jaime Payne Wynn (’02) of Thompson’s Station, Tenn., is manager of Farmuet Pharmacy in Franklin. She and her husband Michael have a daughter, Cannon, 3. She enjoys spending time with her family and her horses.

Alumni Chosen for Awards at GPhA Convention

- Named President – Bobby Moody (’93)
- Named 1st Vice President – Lance Boles (’99)
- Recipient of the National Association of State Pharmacy Associations/Upsher-Smith Innovative Pharmacy Practice award – Jake Galdo (’11)
- Recipient of Cardinal Health Generation Rx Champion award – Richard Smith (’66) who works in the area of drug abuse
- Recipient of National Association of State Pharmacy Associations/Boehringer Ingelheim Bowl of Hygeia, given for community service activities by a pharmacist – Robert Bowles (’70)

In Memoriam

Retired clinical professor William Wade (’85 PharmD.) died of a heart attack on October 13. Wade, the College’s first Kroger Professor of Pharmacy, retired in 2010. During his 33-year career he emphasized improvement in patient care through community practice initiatives. In the 1990s Wade helped develop the Clinical Outcomes Research Group to conduct pharmaceutically related research in community pharmacies, in diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, pulmonary diseases, psychological disorders, and infectious diseases. In 2002 he collaborated on a cancer awareness certificate course for community pharmacists in order to help them identify patients at high risk for developing common cancers and to refer these patients for appropriate screening.

He also was active in the development, implementation and completion of the community pharmacy practice residency program. He earned his bachelor of pharmacy degree at UGA in 1975, took a job in Macon in a retail pharmacy and then moved to Springfield to work in a hospital. He accepted a temporary position as an instructor in the College of Pharmacy in 1978 and became a permanent faculty member after two years.

Andrea Sikora (’13) and Robert Newsome (’13) were married on May 10. Robert is completing a community residency at Barney’s Pharmacy in Augusta and Andrea is completing a PGY-1 residency at University of North Carolina Hospitals, to be followed by a PGY-2 residency in critical care at UNC.

Wedding Bells
Fred Sharpe ('74), Distinguished Alumnus 2014

Fred Sharpe has been named the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus at the College of Pharmacy. He began practicing pharmacy in Dublin, Georgia, after graduation and in 1979, after working for others for five years, purchased U-Save-It Pharmacy in Albany; he is now a multi-store owner with pharmacies in five states. Along with overseeing those who run the day-to-day operations of the businesses and working at times behind the counter as a pharmacist, Sharpe spends most of his time evaluating prospective locations for pharmacies – either purchasing existing stores or establishing new ones.

Sharpe currently serves on the College of Pharmacy Comprehensive Campaign Board as well as the Pharmacy Advisory Board. He is an unwavering supporter of our students, our College, and our Profession. The contributions of Sharpe and his wife, Bonnie, have placed them in the Apothecary Society on the Wall of Honor at the College.

Dana Strickland, executive director of External Affairs, commented, “The entire Sharpe family is outstanding. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to work with Fred on our board and to get to know him and his family in a personal way!”

In addition Sharpe is active in the Georgia Pharmacy Association. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Academy of Independent Pharmacists and has served on the Board of Directors of a buying co-op based in Alabama.

In the community, Sharpe is on the Board of Directors of Heritage Bank of the South, The Anchorage (a facility for men with addiction problems), The Albany Symphony, and the Vestry of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Albany. He has also served on the Chamber of Commerce Board, the Albany/Dougherty Inner City Authority Board, and the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church in Dublin. He is a Rotarian and works with various youth sports teams.

The Sharpes have three adult sons and three grandchildren. When leisure time surfaces, Sharpe enjoys reading, history, sports, and traveling.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Please take a minute to fill out this questionnaire and mail it to the Editor, College of Pharmacy, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, or FAX it to Sheila Roberson at 706-542-5269 or email it as an attachment to roberson@rx.uga.edu. Many of our alumni have inquired about former classmates, so we are trying to keep current information available.

NAME ____________________________ DEGREE and YEAR ____________________________
ADDRESS ______________________________________________________ CITY, STATE, ZIP ____________________________
HOME PHONE ______________________ E-MAIL ______________________
BUSINESS PHONE ____________________ FAX ______________________

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION (Employer Name and Address, Job Title. Duties...)
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AWARDS AND HONORS
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___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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FAMILY INFORMATION (Spouse’s Name. Is Spouse a UGA Grad? Is Spouse also a Pharmacist? Any Children?)
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INTERESTS AND HOBBIES
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Dean Svein Øie, left, with Fred Sharpe.
Print/Online

Beginning with the Fall 2014 issue of UGARx, we will only be printing and mailing the magazine to those alumni donors and friends who have contributed more than $500 to the College of Pharmacy.

All issues of UGARx will continue to be posted on our website (www.rx.uga.edu) for alumni to download and print. We will send emails and online notices to everyone about the quarterly postings of UGARx.

If any alumni would prefer to continue receiving a printed copy, please contact Sheila Roberson, director of publications, at 706-542-5303 or roberson@rx.uga.edu.

Fax your Facts

Everyone wants to know what’s happening with their classmates but few take the time to mail in the alumni questionnaire at the back of the UGARx. Now you can take the quick and easy way! Just FAX your information to Editor, UGARx, 706-542-5269, or email it as an attachment to Sheila Roberson at roberson@rx.uga.edu. Mail still works too: Editor, UGARx, College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. See you in print!

Upcoming CE Programs

— Coming This Winter —

2014 Continuing Education Finale Symposium
UGA Gwinnett Campus, Lawrenceville, GA
December 5-6, 2014
Earn up to 12 hours of CE!

Mental Health Symposium
Holiday Inn Express, Athens, GA
February 3-4, 2015
Earn up to 15 hours of CE!

The Future of Patient Safety
UGA College of Pharmacy, Athens, GA
February 17, 2015
Earn 4 hours of CE!

Contact the Office of Continuing Education and Outreach by email, pharmce@uga.edu, or call 706-542-6232.

For the latest information on College events and activities, check out our website at:

www.rx.uga.edu

For up-to-the-minute news, log on to Facebook at The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy