As I sat down to write this letter, I received my University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Magazine, which is dedicated to celebrating the 150th anniversary of UCSF. Several of the articles resonated with what we as pharmacists are all about and what I believe needs to be included as part of our future, so I decided to share the essence of some of the articles with you.

First and foremost, it is important to remember that if you have seen one patient, you have seen one patient. Each one is unique and needs to be treated as the unique person he or she is. The focus should be on what goals the patient has for treatment, with our job being to use our expertise to do what is best for the patient to reach those goals. Additionally, it is important to determine what the best treatment is for the patient based upon his/her physical and psychological conditions. For instance, overly aggressive treatment for someone who is becoming frail may do more harm than good, and an approach to treatment in someone with psychological disorders or cognitive decline may require a very different approach. One statement really resonates: “We’re learning that what’s right for the individual disease is often not right for the patient.”

A comment focused on what we all have seen more than once and that is the Medication Deluge. For patients having more than one condition, the medications often pile up. One drug creates side effects that are treated with a second drug that begets a second problem that is treated with yet a third drug, etc. As pharmacists, this is an all-too-familiar problem. Certainly this is an opportunity for pharmacists to get involved and where we can make a real difference.

Another article discussed the evolving understanding of the importance of our bacterial communities for health and welfare. Although we for a long time have understood the importance of a healthy gut bacterial environment, the emergent understanding of the ecosystem of the gut bacteria is critical for protecting us from pathogens and for regulating the immune system. The production by the gut bacteria of antibiotics, release of vitamins, regulation of the immune system that suppresses asthma and various allergies places them in the category of drug factories that we as pharmacists need to understand and utilize to its full advantage in the overall treatment plan of a patient.

Assurance of a diet that promotes the best possible environment for our protective microflora is an area we need to incorporate into our treatment plans. For instance, many drugs affect our microflora and we need to incorporate that variable into our assessment so that we may be able to maintain the flora even when drugs that are harmful to their survival are our only choice. To begin to explore this relationship, I am pleased to announce that our Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy together with the Department of Foods and Nutrition has moved forward in hiring a joint faculty member who has a pharmacy background and a doctorate in nutrition.

The overarching theme is one of treating the whole patient in a way that maximizes a positive sustainable outcome. This is critical and will in the long run lead to better therapy outcomes and definitely better quality of life for our patients. To do so will allow our patients to attain their treatment goals – and that, after all, would also be our goal.

I am wishing you a happy and healthy summer.
in this issue

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For the past 13 years Tom Heard (’83) of Grayson has worked as a medical outcomes specialist (MOS) with Pfizer, one of the world’s premier innovative biopharmaceutical companies. His job is described on the Pfizer website as providing objective and scientifically sound medical information regarding Pfizer’s portfolio and the disease states they treat through use of pharmacoeconomic models and outcomes tools in order to develop innovative and targeted solutions that advance the quality of patient care. Heard, however, just describes it as his dream job.
As one of three medical outcomes specialists in the state of Georgia, Heard calls on pharmacy directors at commercial and government insurance companies and at hospitals to increase their understanding of Pfizer’s medicines. These insurance companies operate managed care systems whereby pharmacists analyze medication cost, drug effectiveness and outcomes data to develop medication formularies or preferred drug lists (PDL).

“These medications would then be accessible to patients through their health plans,” said Heard.

Patients, as end users, would present their prescriptions to a pharmacy that would refer to the health plan’s PDL to determine drug accessibility and availability, need for prior approval authorization, and co-payment tiers for generics, preferred or non-preferred brands, and specialty products, such as biologics for rheumatoid arthritis.

“Periodically, insurance companies and hospitals evaluate their medications and decide whether to continue including them in their formulary and at what tier,” said Heard, who takes advantage of these opportunities to present new, approved product information and updated pharmacoeconomic and clinical outcomes data to formulary decision makers.

He also works with hospitals and medical groups on project evaluations measuring outcomes of clinical interventions and/or utilization of various treatment options in disease states of interest, such as diabetic peripheral neuropathy, overactive bladder and rheumatoid arthritis.

“We have to make sure formulary decision makers are aware of what the drug can do for the symptoms of disease and potential safety concerns but also the impact on lives through outcomes,” he said, noting a drug, for example, may cost more than another in the formulary, but that cost may be offset by greater therapeutic benefit, fewer side effects, shorter hospital stay and improved quality of life.

“I have had the best of both worlds – geriatric/long-term care pharmacy and industry. I combined my pharmacy background and my interest in technology toward improving patients’ lives and have been rewarded for my efforts.”
Heard is also well trained in technology, an interest that developed during a 10-year stint back in the ’90s when he worked as a geriatric consultant pharmacist for a number of different nursing homes with PharMerica, a long-term care pharmacy. There, he conducted drug regimen reviews of geriatric and long-term care patients to evaluate drug interactions, duplications, and adverse events. His IT interest would lead to significant career opportunities later.

“My main focus at that time was on the appropriate use of psychoactive medications, such as antipsychotics, antianxiety, sleep/hypnotics, including appropriate indication, dose, and monitoring for adverse events,” he said, adding that his consultant pharmacist team routinely completed drug utilization analyses and trends on these types of medication therapies and then presented to the healthcare team at the skilled nursing facility. “We also assessed renal function on patients by reviewing their creatinine clearance and recommending changes in dosing for different renally cleared therapies as appropriate.”

His team published an article, “Gastrointestinal disease control after histamine2-receptor antagonist dose modification for renal impairment in frail chronically ill elderly patients,” in the Journal of the American Geriatric Society in 2003,” he noted.

His geriatric consultant experiences highlighted a growing need to develop software tools for clinical pharmacy assessments.

“I worked on a team with other PharMerica consultant pharmacists and software developers to develop a proprietary software program called ConsultWare®. This program was designed for consultant pharmacists to document and provide patient drug regimen review recommendations to physicians and nurses to improve medication management and meet federal guidelines for the skilled nursing home patients,” he said. “We also developed IT tools that helped us evaluate patients with specific disease states and drug therapy classes, such as osteoporosis and anti-psychotic therapy.”

Eventually, Heard progressed from geriatric consultant pharmacy to become Regional Director of Consulting for a nine-state area and then National Director of Clinical Program Development for PharMerica. In that capacity, he implemented and developed formulary programs which were designed to ensure the utilization of appropriate therapy for the geriatric patient, patient disease management and clinical programs for 300,000+ long-term care residents, and led in the development of therapeutic recommendations used by 350 consultant pharmacists. He also helped develop program enhancements to PharMerica’s ConsultWare® software.

Both his IT and geriatric experiences helped lay the groundwork for a job with Pharmacia, which later merged with Pfizer, as an account manager selling to long-term care facilities, he said.

“After two years, I became a medical outcomes specialist at Pfizer, the culmination of years spent developing the skills that have helped me experience a satisfying career.”

“I have had the best of both worlds – geriatric/long-term care pharmacy and industry. I combined my pharmacy background and my interest in technology toward improving patients’ lives and have been rewarded for my efforts,” said Heard.

Like most pharmacy graduates, Heard’s career started as a retail pharmacist. For seven years he enjoyed customer interaction and patient care as he learned about drugs and insurance benefits programs. But the long hours and weekend work weren’t compatible with raising a family, he said, so he and his wife Beth (’85, BS Pharm) agreed that he should explore a different career path. Working in long-term care offered job variety; industry allowed him flexibility with time for his wife and three children and yielded greater financial rewards for his hard work.

“My initial goal out of pharmacy school was not a position in the industry, but it has been good to me,” said Heard, who has won awards for top performance, teamwork, and, customer service. “As I’ve progressed throughout my career I’ve tried to leverage my skillsets. Along with developing good people skills, I have good clinical skills and great IT skills.”

The flexible hours afforded in industry, he noted, have also allowed him time to continue his education through a working professional Pharm.D. program, offered by the University of Florida, which he expects to complete in 2016.

“Advanced degrees are preferred by industry and I have time to devote to the program now that my kids are out of the house,” he said, adding that he has also spent the last three years serving as a mentor for the College’s Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Student Chapter, advising them about career opportunities in managed care and assisting them in networking with managed care professionals.

“I tell them that the profession is changing and they have to practice at the top of their license, which means doing all they can to utilize their medication management skills, knowledge and training to their fullest capacity.”
Oncology Residency Benefits All

By Sheila Roberson

The two things David DeRemer enjoys most about being Director of the Georgia Regents University (GRU) – University of Georgia (UGA) College of Pharmacy’s Oncology Pharmacy Residency program are “the ability to learn something new every day,” both from the residents he mentors and the patients he sees at GRU Cancer Center in Augusta, and “the opportunity to improve patient care.”

DeRemer has a broad-based interest in the science of cancer and immunology. As a board-certified oncology pharmacist, he has directed four PGY-2 oncology pharmacy residents since the oncology pharmacy residency program began in 2011. Last year the program received a six-year accreditation term by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Commission on Credentialing.

Clinical practice sites for the oncology program include the 478-bed Georgia Regents Medical Center, the Children’s Hospital of Georgia, and the GRU Outpatient Cancer Center. The GRU Cancer Center program provides multidisciplinary comprehensive care specializing in bone marrow transplantation, gynecological malignancies, hematology, pediatric oncology, and surgical oncology.

There has been a movement towards personalization of cancer care, said DeRemer, and oncology clinical pharmacists are at the forefront of the opportunity to optimize patient outcomes.

“Our expertise in designing, implementing, monitoring, and modifying drug therapy is an integral component of interdisciplinary care,” said DeRemer, adding that the value of having oncology pharmacists on the cancer team is their ability to look at the “larger picture” as it relates to adverse event minimization, drug efficacy, and the financial burden of patient care in individuals with cancer.

DeRemer and his residents focus on inpatient hematology patients with blood cancers, who are waiting for bone marrow transplants, and oncology patients with solid tumors, who have been admitted to the hospital due to complications of treatment.

Residents also rotate through outpatient services including medication reconciliation, assessing adherence, recommending drug therapy changes, and providing needed supportive care for pain, depression, and nausea and vomiting due to chemotherapy.

Megan Hartranft, the current GRU-UGA PGY2 oncology resident, is already a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist who completed her PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at University of Michigan last year.

This spring Hartranft joined pharmacy residents from nine southern states and Puerto Rico to present her research findings at the Southeastern Residency conference (SERC), now in its 45th year and held annually in Athens. The event is designed to showcase professional presentations and give attendees the opportunity to exchange information and ideas with fellow residents and preceptors, with emphasis placed on cutting-edge developments within the field of pharmacy practice.

Hartranft’s work on "Differential DNA methylation patterns in acute myeloid leukemia patients with obesity" evaluated obesity and its role in changing gene expression in leukemia. Previous PGY2 oncology residents had presented research at SERC on potential novel treatments for prostate cancer and on improving supportive care strategies for bone marrow transplant recipients.

“Our resident graduates are prepared to enter the field of oncology pharmacy practice as clinical specialists and/or as academicians,” said DeRemer, noting that the residency experience offers a teaching component as well as research.

At the conclusion of her PGY2 residency, Hartranft will assume a faculty position as a clinical assistant professor at Rosalind Franklin College of Pharmacy in Chicago, IL. Her clinical practice site will be at the Rush University Cancer Center where she intends to focus on orally administered oncology drugs.

“It is estimated that oral agents represent more than 30 percent of a very active chemotherapy drug development pipeline,” she noted, adding that with so many patients suffering from various types of cancers in their lifetimes, it’s becoming more important than ever to educate pharmacists and other healthcare providers about the disease and its treatments.
Taxol, generically called paclitaxel, is a widely used drug in chemotherapy treatments. Taxol is used to treat cancer in the lungs, ovaries and breast, but it can also cause severe neuropathic pain and sensory dysfunction. University of Georgia researchers found that lithium reduces the unwanted pain accompanying the use of Taxol.

“Neuropathic pain caused by the chemotherapy drug Taxol is a clinical challenger both to the doctor and the patient with the cancer, because currently there is no effective treatment for this type of pain,” said Han-Rong Weng, an assistant professor of pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences in the UGA College of Pharmacy.

Weng and his team are the first group of researchers to discover that lithium, which is commonly used to treat depression and other mental illnesses, can reduce and prevent Taxol-induced neuropathic pain.

Using a rat model, Weng tested the effects of treating patients with lithium before administering Taxol, to reduce nerve pain. After 10 days, rats were tested for their mechanical and thermal sensitivity to determine the presence of allodynia, a type of sensory nerve pain that can be caused by touch.

Rats pre-treated with lithium experienced less pain and ultimately no pain, according to the results, which are available in the online version of Neuroscience.

Weng and his team also discovered one way lithium prevents nerve pain caused by Taxol. Taxol increases the spinal nerve activities of a kinase called glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta, which contributes to nerve inflammation. This inflammation is usually an early response to protect the body from further tissue damage or infection. However, uncontrolled inflammation on the spinal cord nerves can lead to pathological pain.

Lithium blocks that activity, thus preventing that pain. Knowing this pathway is important because it tells researchers what biological processes are being affected when lithium is used.

Weng said this is just the beginning of their exploration with lithium. Next, the researchers must determine how effective lithium treatment will be in cancer patients and whether it will produce additional, conflicting side effects.

“The (next) step we want to do here is see what is the significant mechanism underlying this effect,” Weng said, “and what significant pathway is used by lithium to regulate this kind of activity.”

The National Cancer Institute estimates that 30 to 40 percent of cancer patients treated with chemotherapy experience nerve pain. This pain can last for years and affect a patient’s ability to walk and write.

Identifying lithium as a potential drug puts researchers one step closer to developing a treatment. Weng said he and his team hope to find a treatment that still allows for the use of Taxol but frees patients from the dilemma of choosing between survival and long-term nerve pain.

Contributing authors on this paper include Mei Gao and Xisheng Yan, both of whom are postdoctoral associates in the College of Pharmacy.

This research was funded by the National Institutes of Health. An online version of the paper is available at http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306452213008051

For an online version of this release, see http://news.uga.edu/releases/article/uga-researchers-use-lithium-to-ease-pain-caused-by-anti-cancer-drug/. 

UGA researchers use lithium to ease pain caused by anti-cancer drug

by April Bailey, UGA Science Writer
The shared position is instrumental in addressing new educational and practice demands for pharmacists and dietitians, who are expected to work more closely together upon graduation to deliver interdisciplinary care in hospital and community settings.

Proper medications, diet and nutrition are critical in preventing diseases and treating many of the conditions facing Georgians and the nation, including heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke and obesity. Creation of this interdisciplinary faculty position will catalyze state-of-the-art instruction and research between the colleges so graduates are well prepared and trained to make a significant difference in the health and wellness of individuals.

The new interdisciplinary faculty member will begin the joint appointment in the fall of 2014. To address the major curricular and accreditation challenges facing the College of Pharmacy and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, the new faculty hire will allow the creation of a new interdisciplinary Master's degree program with an emphasis in either Pharmacy or Foods and Nutrition as well as expand required interprofessional education in the Doctor of Pharmacy Program.

Based on the strengths and expertise that exist in both colleges, it is expected that the new hire will have the depth of mentors and collaborators to successfully build an independently funded, national recognized program of research and education in pharmacy and nutrition.

This new position is mission critical to both Pharmacy and Family and Consumer Sciences, and was made possible by key support provided by the President’s 2014 Hiring Initiative.

Dennis Liotta, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Emory Institute of Drug Development at Emory University, gave the 2014 annual Chu Lectureship at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. His lecture was “Nucleoside Analogs as RNA-Dependent RNA Polymerase Inhibitors of Single Stranded RNA Viruses.”

Liotta is a leader in the field of medicinal chemistry. In the mid-1980s he initiated a research program in HIV therapeutics. The program led to the break-through drug Emtriva, which Liotta discovered with colleagues Raymond Schinazi and Woo-Baeg Choi. The FDA approved Emtriva for the treatment of HIV infection in 2003.

The Chu Lectureship was established to bring internationally recognized leaders in drug discovery to the University and to honor the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of Distinguished Research Scientist Emeritus David C. K. Chu in the College’s Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences.

Emory Professor Presents Chu Lecture

The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy and College of Family and Consumer Sciences are pleased to announce Presidential funding for the creation of a new interdisciplinary faculty position between the two colleges that will focus on education and delivery of care that improves patient outcomes and wellness of Georgians.

Pharmacy and Family and Consumer Sciences To Share Joint Faculty Position Under President’s 2014 Hiring Initiative
believe that good teachers make difficult things seem simple,” said Michael Neville (’92), 2014 recipient of the Teacher of the Year award at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, about his teaching philosophy. “I get students to explain difficult topics in their own words and I try to do the same thing when I teach them.”

“Whether I’m teaching in a large lecture hall or in small groups in the skills lab I want students to be able to think on their feet, and sometimes I put them on the spot. I’m less concerned about them always getting the right answer and more concerned about their ability to think through the problem critically. I intentionally set students up to struggle with some exercises so that they can flounder, feel unsure, and learn from their mistakes,” added the clinical associate professor.

He went on to explain that he was not a great student himself so he can better understand and relate to students who also struggle with academics.

Neville’s first experience as a teacher began in 1996 when he held a joint appointment teaching undergraduate and graduate nursing pharmacology at Emory School of Nursing where he taught in large classroom settings of 100+ students. He also directed the PGy-1 pharmacy residency program at Emory HealthCare.

“I was so ill prepared for teaching that I attended many teaching conferences, read lots of books and learned from more experienced faculty members,” he said, noting that after graduation from pharmacy school in 1992, he completed a one-year clinical pharmacy residency, followed by three years as a clinical pharmacist at Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta.

In 2008 he joined the College faculty and began coordinating the pharmacy care laboratory portion of the skills lab courses. He teaches important skills, such as patient counseling, use of drug information resources, aseptic compounding, medical record evaluation, and inter-professional communication, that are commonly used by community and hospital pharmacists. In the classroom he likes to give students the opportunity to practice and use their skills in simulated practice environments.

His students have applauded him for his enthusiasm and humor, his helpfulness and his ability to incorporate practical knowledge and experiences with patient care, and his use of innovative active learning strategies.

Neville also serves as a preceptor and pharmacy team leader at Mercy Health Center, which he describes as “a unique training ground where we care for under-served patients. Students get to see how privileged they are. We work with patients who have no food, no shelter, no transportation, and no insurance. In that setting supporting patients to achieve health goals and adhere to medication presents unique challenges.”

“I enjoy teaching and inspiring learners to develop confidence in their abilities. It’s so much fun for me to see the ‘lights come on’ when students grasp concepts and begin to develop confidence in their abilities,” he said, adding that he’s also interested in curriculum development and the possibility of a career change into academic administration someday. He is currently a Fellow of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and immediate past chair of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Laboratory’s Special Interest Group.

As Teacher of the Year he will receive a $1,000 salary adjustment, pending approval by the Board of Regents, recognition at University Honors Day and a trip to the American Association of College of Pharmacy (AACP) annual meeting to be recognized as Teacher of the Year.
Sanford receives prestigious public service award

Jeff Sanford, director of entrepreneurial studies at the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center and senior public service associate at the College of Pharmacy, is recipient of UGA’s Walter Barnard Hill Distinguished Public Service Fellow award. UGA’s highest honor for public service and outreach, the award recognizes sustained, distinguished and superb achievement in university public service that improves the quality of life. It is named for the chancellor who led UGA from 1889 until his death in 1905.

In addition to his SBDC position Sanford has a joint faculty position in the College of Pharmacy where he teaches community pharmacy management, manages independent pharmacy rotations and coordinates the National Community Pharmacists Association’s Business Plan Competition.

He also teaches practice management at the College of Veterinary Medicine and consults with veterinarians in Georgia and across the country.

Wilson chosen 2013 Employee of the Year

Joy Wilson has been named the 2013 Employee of the Year at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. She is an administrative manager I in the Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences. Wilson received the same award in 1998, the only staff person to win more than once.

Wilson, who started work at the College in 1990, also recently received the quarterly STAR award for demonstrated STAR qualities – service, teamwork, attitude and reliability.

Wilson’s recommendation stated that she “works with passion, dedication, efficiency and full effort to ensure that the department runs smoothly.... This year’s winner plays an integral role in all aspects of the department, including day-to-day responsibilities, faculty searches, and interactions with students, faculty and staff, both within the College and the University as a whole. In many ways she is responsible for the department’s positive culture and is an enthusiastic team player.”

The awards ceremony also recognized staff for service: five years – Jeremy Headrick, associate director of development, External Affairs, and Lynn Parham, program coordinator II, Experience Programs; 10 years – Kimberly Smith, data management specialist, Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy, Augusta; 20 years – Jeanne Prine, web developer principal, Dean’s Office; and 25 years – Ken Schroder, facilities manager I, Dean’s Office.
Patents Awarded for Glucosamine Cream, Other Chemical Compounds

Faculty and Ph.D. graduate students in the Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences at the College of Pharmacy were among those recognized for patents awarded in 2013 at the University of Georgia Inventor’s Lunch, sponsored by the UGA Technology Commercialization Office.

Anthony Capomacchia and Warren Beach, along with Solomon Garner, Jr., (Ph.D. ’01) received a patent for glucosamine and glucosamine/anti-inflammatory mutual prodrugs, compositions, and methods. Based on the patent approval, Garner’s company, Nutraceutical Company of America, LLC, developed and launched Revalife TM, a topical cream that promotes joint health.

Arthritis has been cited as the Number One cause of disability in the United States, said Capomacchia, affecting more people than cancer, diabetes or heart disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate 27 million Americans suffer from osteoarthritis (OA), the most common type of arthritis.

Common treatment for pain and inflammation of OA includes over-the-counter non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen, and prescription drugs. But these only treat the symptoms, not the underlying causes, he said, and long-term use may even increase joint deterioration. Many studies have shown that glucosamine can reduce OA joint pain and inflammation, prevent further joint space narrowing and even regenerate cartilage growth to cushion the joints. However only a trace amount of orally administered doses actually reaches the diseased joints, with the rest either absorbed or excreted, or widely distributed throughout the body.

“Clearly a drug was needed that could combine the pain-relieving benefits of glucosamine with the anti-inflammatory and pain-reducing properties of NSAIDs,” said Capomacchia.

“Our research aimed to do just that and more – by synthesizing a combination salve that can be applied with optimum pharmaceutical effect directly to the skin at the site of the diseased joint.”

Another faculty, Chung Chu, professor emeritus and distinguished research scientist, received recognition for his patent work with anti-viral agents, 5-(E)-bromovinyl uracil analogues and related pyrimidine nucleosides anti-varicella zoster virus agents and methods of use.

Former faculty member Timothy Long and graduate student Sravan Kumar Patel were awarded a patent for preparation of alkenes by mild thermolysis of sulfoxides.

These patents were among 36 awarded to the UGA Research Foundation during 2013, as announced by the UGA Office of the Vice President for Research.

Recognized as CTL Teacher of the Week

George Francisco, the College of Pharmacy’s associate dean and professor of pharmacy, is the second UGA faculty member to receive the new Teacher of the Week award, sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning’s (CTL).

Francisco compares teaching to coaching a sports team. Like coaches, teachers employ a plethora of strategies to maximize their students’ potential to achieve both individual and group goals. Consequently, the successes a teacher experiences, Francisco feels, are directly related to the quality of the “recruits,” according to the announcement of his award.

While Francisco acknowledges that not all of his innovative instructional approaches would be heralded as successes, his experiences in the classroom have enabled him to see that each class possesses different strengths and desires. Thus, Francisco constantly assesses student needs to determine what will be the most effective techniques to help them learn.

Pharmacy Faculty Receive Innovative Instruction Grants

Catherine A. Bourg and Virginia Fleming, clinical assistant professors in the College of Pharmacy, were among 17 UGA faculty to receive funded grants through the University of Georgia Office of the Vice President for Instruction for projects designed to improve teaching. Their project is entitled, “The Use of Turning Point Technology to Integrate Case-Based Instruction into Disease State Management, a Second-Year Course in the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Curriculum.”

Each of the Summer 2014 Innovative Instruction Faculty Grants provides $5,000 for faculty to improve teaching and learning through innovative instructional projects, such as re-design of course curricula and materials, integration of new techniques or pedagogical strategies for a course, or exploration of a new instructional technique. The projects also focus on faculty improving instruction in high-demand courses (large lecture classes, courses involving multiple sections, general education courses, etc.), as well as those that integrate instructional technology.
The works of scientists in the College of Pharmacy’s Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics program have been featured articles in two prestigious journals.

The first article, including the cover photo of a retina, was printed in the December 2013 issue of the Antioxidants & Redox Signaling (ARD) journal. Research for “Thioredoxin-interacting protein (TXNIP) expression is required for VEGF-mediated angiogenic signal in endothelial cells” was conducted by Associate Professor Azza El-Remessy, Ph.D. graduate student Mohammed Abdelsaid, as part of his dissertation, and research associate Surapron Matragoon.

Antioxidants & Redox Signaling is the leading journal dedicated to the understanding of redox principles of cellular oxidation and reduction that govern health and disease, according to El-Remessy, whose research specialty is redox signaling and diabetic retinopathy.

“This article was the first to show that shifting the redox balance toward reductive stress by having extremely high antioxidant defense is also damaging for endothelial cells and can also impair the ability of blood vessels to repair, specifically in response to the known angiogenic vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF).”

The second article was an invited review printed in the April 2014 issue of the Journal of Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism, as a collaboration between UGA Distinguished Research Professor Susan Fagan and Georgia Regents University Professor of Physiology Adviye Ergul, also adjunct associate professor in the College of Pharmacy.

The two long-time collaborators, along with GRU postdoctoral fellow Mohamed Abdelsaid and UGA Ph.D. candidate Abdelrahman Y. Fouda, reviewed the literature on the cerebrovascular consequences of diabetes, particularly as it relates to stroke recovery. In the figure selected for the cover of the journal issue (created with the help of medical illustrator Colby Polanski), the authors presented a pictorial summary of why diabetic patients may have worse outcomes after stroke. From their published work on experimental animals, they have shown that diabetes causes dysfunctional blood vessel formation, which prevents the normal reparative angiogenic response to ischemic stroke and leads to loss of functional blood vessels in the chronic phase. This process will limit recovery after stroke.

Pharmacy Research Featured In Prestigious Journals

GMP Conference Held

The 38th International Good Manufacturing Practices Conference took place in March at the University of Georgia Hotel and Conference Center. Over 270 attendees participated in the event, which is co-sponsored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the College of Pharmacy. Attendees came from 11 different countries and across the United States.

Featured speakers included Howard Sklamberg, deputy commissioner of FDA, who delivered the keynote address, and Steve Solomon, deputy Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs at FDA. Noted industry and foreign government speakers included Martin VanTrieve, senior vice president of Amgen, and Tor Graberg, chief pharmaceutical inspector, Medical Products Agency, Sweden.

Topics at the four-day conference included Critical Role of the Quality Unit, Counterfeit Drugs, Refusal of Inspection Guidance, Field Alert Reporting, Foreign Inspection Outcomes and Top 10 GMP Violations.
At the annual Southern Translational and Research (STaR) conference, 62 abstracts were presented and 92 people attended. Graduate student Dorothy Rodenbeck won second place in the graduate poster contest. Fei Gao won the best postdoctoral poster and Ninu Poulose won second for best postdoctoral poster.

Graduate student Palek Patel took third place during the best poster competition at the Southeastern Society of Toxicology meeting for her work entitled, “Oncologic/Toxicity Outcomes Associated with Active Surveillance Compared with Immediate Treatments in Low-Risk Localized Prostate Cancer”.

Raybun Spelts, a third-year student who is jointly enrolled with UGA’s Master of Health program through the College of Public Health, received the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia Foundation MPH Scholarship as an exceptional MPH student.

Fourth-year students Stephanie Hoge and Katelyn Hood represented the College at the national Clinical Skills Competition, held in conjunction with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacy Midyear Clinical meeting.

The local chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) has been selected to host the Region 1 & 2 regional meeting for 2015.

Ninety-four third-year students attended the annual Senior Legacy Committee 3rd Year Challenge, with the goal of having 50 students donate $50 each toward supporting an annual scholarship and College activities. By the end of April 53 students had donated $2675.

Pharmacy student selected for US Navy Medical Service Corps

Avery Gardner of Suwanee, a second-year student at the College of Pharmacy, is one of only five pharmacy students from across the country to be selected for the U.S. Navy’s Health Services Collegiate Program Medical Service Corps; last year two pharmacy students were accepted.

Gardner will be sworn in as a petty officer on May 7 and will begin receiving pay according to her rank. She will also be able to enjoy the benefits offered by the Navy, such as medical care and commissary shopping, while completing her third and fourth years of school. Once she graduates in 2016 and passes the licensing exam, she will be commissioned as a lieutenant and ordered to Officer Development School in Newport, Rhode Island, for five weeks of training, before being sent to her first duty station. She will be obligated to a three-year commitment after graduation.

“My mother was an Air Force nurse so I’ve always been open to the possibility of a military career,” she said, adding that discussing the program with last year’s pharmacy winners also increased her interest. “I don’t know yet to what area of pharmacy I’ll be assigned but I’m honored to have been chosen and look forward to the experience.”

Class of Pharmacy Holds Pinning Ceremony for Class of 2015

Parents, friends, faculty and staff of the College of Pharmacy attended the annual pinning ceremony for the 136 members of the Class of 2015. The ceremony, which was sponsored by Rite Aid, marked the students’ transition from classroom instruction to the clinical training that occurs during the fourth year of the pharmacy curriculum. Each class member received a pin to commemorate the event.

Local columnist, author and radio host Loran Smith was the keynote speaker. Class president Cary Anne Smith was master of ceremonies, with Chioma Eyinnah, vice president, presenting the invocation and secretary Kyley Makanani introducing the speaker.
Awards Banquet Honors Excellence

At the 67th annual Senior Awards banquet 15 exemplary students received 12 separate awards for special achievement, academic excellence and professionalism.

Earning top awards were: Tara Fogleman Hall of Snellville – the Robert C. Wilson Award for professional integrity, personality, positive attitude and intelligence; Michelle Mullis of Albany – the Kenneth L. Waters Award, which recognizes academic excellence, leadership qualities, professional attitude and service; and Emily Whitney of Alpharetta – the Durward N. Entrekin Pharmacy Student Leadership Award.

Sarah Smith of Albany received the Lilly Achievement Award for ethics, scholarship and leadership. Francisco Marrero of Columbus, Tate Mock of Atlanta, and Shweta Woodsmall of Flowery Branch were recipients of the Merck Award for academic excellence.

The APHA-ASP Senior Recognition Certificate went to David Bray of Eatonton, recognizing professionalism, excellence in patient care, exceptional service and commitment to the profession.

The Facts and Comparisons Award of Excellence in Clinical Communications went to Katelyn Hood of Chula for high academic achievement and outstanding clinical communication skills.

The McKesson Award, based on exemplary performance during clinical rotation, was presented to Charles Durham of Athens.

The Mylan Pharmaceuticals Inc. Excellence in Pharmacy Award for high academic achievement and professional motivation and proficiency in drug information services was awarded to Sarah Hinton of Savannah.

The Pharmdawg Award for service to the profession, college and community was presented to Ami Patel of Lawrenceville and Spencer Scarvey of Savannah.

Samantha Burke of Augusta received the Redfearn Award for professionalism and community service.

Lauren Willis of Augusta received the TEVA Pharmaceuticals USA Outstanding Student Award for excellence in pharmacy study.

Class of 2014 graduates

The College of Pharmacy graduated 142 Doctor of Pharmacy students in ceremonies on May 3. Of those students, 87 graduated with honors: 13 summa cum laude, 31 magna cum laude and 43 cum laude.

Twenty-seven graduates were selected to attend postgraduate residency programs, 17 in Georgia and the remaining 10 in other states.
Fred and Bonnie Sharpe Establish Leadership Endowment

Fred ('74) and Bonnie Sharpe find great importance in family and in pharmacy. Through their consistent giving to the College and active involvement in its viability, especially through Fred's position on the Pharmacy Advisory Board and Comprehensive Campaign Board, they work to make sure that the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy stays one of the premier schools to attend.

Additionally, the Sharpe family finds immense gratitude in the pharmacy profession and endeavors to support future pharmacists on their way to the finish. They extend encouragement to students by saying, “Sometimes the goal feels distant, and when you start to hang your head, I would just like to say that we believe in you.”

The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy is thankful to the Sharpe family for their message to our students – one of unity and loyalty.

Shive Endowment Established

Danny ’75 and Lanie Shive have invested in the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy through the Danny and Lanie Shive Endowment. Mr. Shive attended the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy after a tour in Vietnam as a US Army Signal Corps Officer. He looks back at his years of pharmacy school with fondness, especially in regards to the relationships he was able to build there.

Grateful for where pharmacy has taken their family, Mr. and Mrs. Shive have found an importance in giving back to the College. Working in the pharmaceutical industry for over 35 years has been a very personalized route for Mr. Shive as he worked in industry before going to Vietnam. To be able to find a place to work that included pharmacy and industry was a perfect match for him. He encourages students to explore all of the options available to them with a pharmacy degree as well by commenting, “You don’t have to automatically land on what the public expects out of a pharmacy degree, find something your heart loves and go all in without looking back.”

The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy is thankful for this investment.

Trina von Waldner Creates Academic Support Fund

As a symbol of her own gratitude for the education she received from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, Dr. Trina von Waldner ('86, ’01) has established the Trina von Waldner Academic Support Fund and has become a member of the Heritage Society through estate planning. In light of the evolving position pharmacy has been given as protectors of public health, this endowment will support a student who is pursuing a degree in public health pharmacy.

Von Waldner commented, “This is an exciting time to be in pharmacy. I look forward to working with the College, state and national associations, and the Board of Pharmacy on recognizing pharmacists as providers. When pharmacists receive provider status, the profession will advance well beyond dispensing and be able to provide the services our patients need and deserve.”

Her training at UGA has allowed her to pursue many avenues in her career including health-system pharmacy, public health pharmacy and now academic pharmacy. In 2013 she was awarded the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists Community Service Award for her work with the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Von Waldner finds importance in being able to find your niche in pharmacy and she encourages students to seek that.

“Anything is possible in the profession of pharmacy! It is up to you to decide how you will use your education and where it will take you. Our profession is full of pioneers and entrepreneurs. The future of pharmacy depends on you; never be afraid to ask what if and always pursue career of your dreams.”

The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy is grateful for the support of Dr. Trina von Waldner.

Publix Super Market Charities Support College

The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy is thankful for its partnership with Publix Super Market Charities. Mr. George Jenkins founded Publix with the vision of “improving life in communities.” This mission is seen in action through its unwavering support of students at the College, not only through donations to the Pharmacy Scholarship Fund and scholarship program, but also by being a matching gift corporation, doubling an employee’s personal contribution to the College.

Trent Leonard ('14), previous scholarship recipient, commented, “I have a deep appreciation for the Publix Scholarship, the charitable work of Publix, and the experience I have gained being employed by Publix.”
A Word From Jim Holley (’95, ’96)
Alumni Association President

The College of Pharmacy had a very special visitor in early June. Ninety-seven-year-old Lounell Waugh (’39), our oldest living alumna and the only remaining member of the Class of 1939, paid a visit to the College for the second time in a decade and 75 years after her graduation. She was returning home to Florida with her family after attending the wedding of her grandson in Charlotte. That same weekend she had also attended her great granddaughter’s high school graduation. The only outward sign of her advancing age is her use of a walker, which didn’t prevent her from dancing at the wedding!

Mrs. Waugh, pictured below with Dean Svein Øie, lives in her own home in Dunnellon, Florida, and regularly plays bridge. She has five children, one of whom is a pharmacist, and a total of 54 family members. To say that she is an active senior is an understatement. In fact she fully intends to visit the College again in three years when she turns 100.

Mrs. Waugh no longer practices pharmacy but only retired at the age of 82 after many years working in independent pharmacies and doing relief work near her home in Florida. Her father had been a pharmacist and she thought continuing in that profession would be unique for a woman. She noted that many customers visited the pharmacies where she worked just to see a woman pharmacist! Her pharmacy class only had 12 graduates, including just two women. She has many good memories of her college days including remembering Dean Robert C. Wilson as being a fair but serious instructor.

Mrs. Waugh’s visit was unique primarily because of her age but also because it didn’t involve attending any College event, just a curiosity on her part to see what was happening at her alma mater. How many of us can say that?

Speaking of College events, the College will be holding a celebration on October 4, in conjunction with Homecoming, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Robert C. Wilson building. On May 13, 1964, the new 96,000-square-foot pharmacy building was dedicated with the support of national and state dignitaries, including former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and former Governor Carl Sanders. Also that year the College graduated its first 5-year Bachelor of Pharmacy students. The next year witnessed an expanded enrollment of 365 students under Kenneth L. Waters as Dean.

Please mark your calendar so you can share in this noteworthy event. More information will be available on our website at www.rx.uga.edu.

Sincerely,
Jim Holley
Pharmacy Informatics Systems Consultant for HealthcareIS
Monroe

Kim Hamby, Alumni Affairs Director  •  kihamby@uga.edu  •  706-542-4536
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

The College of Pharmacy Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Award. Nominees should:

1. Be distinguished in his/her business, profession, or life work,
2. Be of such integrity, stature, demonstrated ability, or renown that the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the College will take pride in, and be inspired by, his/her recognition,
3. Have demonstrated a continuing interest in the College;
4. Be a person who recognizes and reflects the importance of his/her education at the College of Pharmacy, who demonstrates pride in his/her alma mater, and whose interest and loyalty are evident, and
5. Be a person who manifests an attitude of respect and compassion for mankind.

NOMINATION FORM

Name of Nominee: ___________________________ Graduation Date: ____________

Address: ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________

City, State, Zip: ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________

Name and Address of organization or person making nomination:

__________________________________________ __________________________________________

__________________________________________ __________________________________________

__________________________________________ __________________________________________

A resume or a letter of nomination stating the outstanding qualities of the nominee should be submitted along with this form. All nominations are due September 1, 2014. Mail the nomination form to: College of Pharmacy Alumni Association, c/o Kim Hamby, Director, Alumni Affairs, College of Pharmacy, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-2351 or FAX to (706) 542-5269.

1960s

Harold William Vang ('65) of Columbus is a retired pharmacist. He and his wife Susan have three children. He enjoys hiking, kayaking, hunting, gardening, and hand loading shooting.

Alex L. Quarterman ('66) of Pooler has worked as a hospital pharmacist at Winn Army Community Hospital at Fort Stewart since 2000. Previously he worked as a retail pharmacist at Elliotts Drugs in Savannah and Kroger Pharmacy in Statesboro from 1966-1972; owned and operated one to three pharmacies in the Savannah area from 1972 to 1988, and sold to Rite Aid stores in Pooler and Garden City in 1987; and worked for Memorial Medical Center as a hospital pharmacy from 1988 to 2000. He and his wife Alice have three children and three grandchildren. He enjoys gardening, golf, fishing and travel.

1970s

Bobby Walden ('74) of Duluth is retired but still doing relief work. He owned a pharmacy in the 1980s, and worked for Rite Aid stores in Eckerd and Ingles before retiring in 2007. He and his wife Vicki (UGA '75 Journalism) have a daughter Amber (UGA '05 BFA and MFA Ohio University '08). He enjoys gardening, traveling, fishing and being happy.

Hazel Kirkland Patton ('76) of Perry is a retired pharmacist. Her husband Jack is deceased; they have a daughter, Tonya Haskins Gibson ('89), and son, Stewart, a UGA grad and Mercer law grad. She keeps up with UGA sport teams, plays bridge and reads.

1980s

Earl “Buddy” Carter ('80) of Pooler received the Hubert H. Humphrey Award of the American Pharmacy Association for working as a community pharmacist and mayor of Pooler; and eight years of major contributions as Georgia State Representative and State Senator, where he is chairman of the Public Service Committee and member of the Appropriations, Health and Human Services, and Higher Education committees.

Becky Miller Powell ('84) of Buena Vista owns Becky's Drugstore in Buena Vista. She and her husband Alton have a son Clint and a daughter Kinsey.

Hugh Chancy ('88) and Bert Chancy (BBA '91) of Chancy Drugs in Hahira were named Entrepreneurs of the Year at the 2014 Pharmacy Development Services Independent Pharmacy Business Growth Conference in Orlando.

1990s

Marie Chisholm-Burns ('92, PharmD '93) is dean and professor at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy. She was recently named recipient of the American Pharmacy Association’s Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science’s Research Achievement Award. This year’s award recognizes outstanding meritorious contributions in the clinical sciences. Chisholm-Burns has contributed notable research aimed at improving solid-organ transplant recipient’s medication adherence, implementing pharmaceutical care services, and increasing access to medication. One of her most prominent research achievements was her 2010 investigation of the value of pharmacist-provided services published in Medical Care, which demonstrated the positive outcomes associated with pharmacist care. This award-winning study achieved mainstream notice in U.S. News & World Report and BusinessWeek.

2000s

Christy Norman ('06) of Grovetown has been appointed administrative director of pharmacy at Georgia Regents Medical Center in Augusta. She was employed there in 2008 as pharmacy operations manager and was promoted to pharmacist manager for clinical services and medication safety officer in 2001. She had served as interim pharmacy director for several months. She has a master’s degree in Health-System Pharmacy Administration from The Ohio State University and completed a two-year residency at The Ohio State's Wexford Medical Center.

In Memoriam

Durward Neal Entrekin ('50), former Associate Dean, passed away on March 20 at the age of 87. He was born in Sand Hill, GA, on November 25, 1926, and served in the U.S. Navy from 1944-1946. He earned his B.S. in Pharmacy from the UGA and his Ph. D. in Pharmacy from the University of Florida. He worked as a research assistant for E.R. Squibb & Sons in New Jersey before returning to teach at the School of Pharmacy in 1957. He became Professor in 1965, and Associate Dean in 1968, a position he held until his retirement in 1988. At that time, the College established the Pharmacy Student Leadership Award in his name. After retirement he enjoyed travel, spending time with his grandchildren and becoming an avid square dancer with his wife Marilyn.

William Nathaniel ('55) of Macon is deceased.
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...) ________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

AWARDS AND HONORS _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

FAMILY INFORMATION (Spouse’s Name. Is Spouse a UGA Grad? Is Spouse also a Pharmacist? Any Children?) _________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES _____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Golf Classic Celebrates 23nd Year

Some 61 golfers participated in this year’s Albert W. Jowdy Memorial Golf Classic at the University of Georgia Golf Course, with an estimated $4,060 available for student scholarships.

Hole sponsorships were provided as follows: $1,000 each by Bloodworth Wholesale and Walmart; $500 by Susan Fagan and Bill Anderton and by Flynn and Bonnie Warren; and $250 by Sam Hunt, Lake Country Pharmacy and Compounding, Lon and Michael Lewis at Altama Pharmacy and Russ Rainwater. Beverages were provided by Terrell Wiggins, Walmart and Kappa Psi alumni.

First place winners of the First Flight were David Key, David King, Ronnie Owens and John Pittard; second place winners were Cassie Ross, Matt Vaughn, Dan Zeitang, and Vong Zeitang. First place winners in the Second Flight were Keith Enterkin, David Stancil, Chris Tripodis and Terrell Wiggins; second place winners in that flight were Ken DeLay, Stacey Herrmann, Richard Stansell and Dana Strickland. First place winners in the Third Flight were Nick Mattia, Nirmal Patel, Zack Tomberline and Neil Wohlford; second place winners were Michael Dent, Eric Durham, Mike Smith and Carey Vaughan.

Pro Shop gift certificates in the amounts of $50 and $35 were given to first and second place winners, respectively.

Closest to the pin winners were Paul Smith, Bobby Harrell, Russ Rainwater and Ken DeLay. Matt Vaughn made the longest drive and Nick Dupree won the putting contest.
Upcoming Programs and Events

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 annually 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.

ALUMNI EVENTS and STUDENT PROGRAMS

50th Anniversary Celebration for R. C. Wilson Building, October 4 in conjunction with Homecoming
Contact Kim Hamby, Director, Alumni Affairs, 706-542-5278 for more information.

White Coat Day, August 16
10:30 am
UGA Performing Arts Center

Visitor’s Day, September 6
9 am-noon
College of Pharmacy

Career Day and Scholarship Ceremony, October 2

Look on the College website at www.rx.uga.edu for more information.

Continuing Education
LIVE FALL PROGRAMS

Patient Safety Seminar – 4 hours
August 19; 12 noon-4 pm
Athens, GA

Homecoming CE – 2 hours
October 4; 8-10 am
Athens, GA

Substances of Abuse Seminar – 6 hours
November 7; 9 am-4 pm
Athens, GA

UGA CPE Finale – 12 hours
December 5-6, UGA Gwinnett, Lawrenceville, GA

Trina von Waldner, Director, Continuing Education and Outreach, Division of Nontraditional Education and Outreach, 706-542-4539, tvonwald@uga.edu

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

For the latest information on College events and activities, check out our website at: www.rx.uga.edu