



UH SNPhA Claims Top Chapter Awards, 4th Regional Post

The UHCOP Chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association brought home not only the **2015 Chauncey I. Cooper Chapter of the Year Award**, but the chapter also accumulated the most points to win the top chapter award in the **Large Chapter Category**.

The awards were presented at the 2015 SNPhA Annual Meeting July 24-27 in Orlando, Fla. Prior to this year's win, the UHCOP chapter had been among the top three finalists in four of the past five years.

Among the individual honors, third-year student **Marc Tran** became the fourth consecutive UHCOP student to be appointed to the Regional Facilitator for Region 4 post on the SNPhA National Executive Committee. In addition, **Tracey Thomas** won the Walmart Health and Wellness Endowed Scholarship and **Chiemeka Ike** won the Jonathan and Carmita Mills Book Award.



UH SNPhA Chapter members celebrate winning the Overall Chapter of the Year and Large Category Chapter of the Year awards in Orlando.

New VA Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education Teams DeBakey VA, Baylor and UHCOP

UH College of Pharmacy is among the institutional collaborators in the newly established Houston Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education at The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC).

Funded by the VA Office of Academic Affiliations, the Houston Center is one of two new sites competitively selected to join the five existing Centers of Excellence nationwide. The center proposal was led by MEDVAMC, Baylor College of Medicine, and the Center for Innovations in Quality, Safety, and Effectiveness.

The goal of this program is to educate interprofessional trainees from medicine, mental health, undergraduate nursing, advanced practice nursing, pharmacy, and other health professions to deliver high quality, patient-centered, team-based primary care. Also part of the project are The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Texas Women's University and Texas Southern University.

UHCOP's role will be spearheaded by **Cathy Hatfield**, Pharm.D., clinical associate professor, director of Interprofessional Education, co-director of Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences. The center will be led by director Dr. LeChauncy Woodard, assistant professor of medicine-health services research at BCM, and co-director Dr. Jane Anderson, assistant professor of neurology at BCM and nurse practitioner at the DeBakey VA.

UHCOP Team Secures Victory in TPA Self-Care Competition

Fourth-year Pharm.D. **Ryan May**, **Heather Harrison**, **Katie Williams** and **Ciara Will**, pictured below, comprised the winning UHCOP team in the Self-Care Competition at the TPA 2015 Conference & Expo July 10-12 in The Woodlands.

UHCOP students **Eric Kao** and **Allison Phuc Nguyen** were awarded a TPF General Fund Scholarship and the TPF Larry "Neal" McClaugherty Scholarship, respectively, and **Pari Wafayee** was one of three third-place finalists in the Patient Counseling Competition.



\$2.69M in New NIH Support Aids Work in Alcohol Abuse, Heart Disease and Anxiety

UHCOP faculty members **Joydip Das**, Ph.D., **Bradley K. McConnell**, Ph.D., FAHA, FAPS, and **Samina Salim**, Ph.D., have been awarded new multiyear funding totaling \$2.69 million from the National Institutes of Health.

Das has received a five-year, \$1.79 million R01 award for his project, "Role of Munc13 as a Presynaptic Effector of Alcohol Action," which will utilize atomic level resolution, in vitro biochemistry, and in vivo behavior and physiology, to understand the function of an ethanol-effector interaction. His project seeks to elucidate the importance of a general mechanism by which ethanol impacts presynaptic function, and how this mechanism is critical in the process required for alcohol dependence.



McConnell has been awarded a three-year, \$451,500 R15 grant from the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute for his project, "Scaffolding Protein Interaction Network REgulates Cardiac Cell Signaling." In this study, McConnell is working to characterize mAKAP scaffolding protein-protein interactions to improve understanding for this central regulator of kinase, phosphodiesterase and phosphatase cardiac intracellular signaling.



Salim has received a three-year, \$451,500 R15 award from the National Institute of Mental Health for her project entitled "Oxidative Stress: A Recipe for Anxiety and Cognitive Impairment." Salim's lab will further explore the role of chronic

Mount Sinai Neuroscientist Hurd Headlines Aug. 13-14 Symposium Showcasing Latest PPS Research

Internationally renowned neuroscientist **Yasmin Hurd**, Ph.D., whose translational research examines the neurobiology of drug abuse and related psychiatric disorders, will serve as the Scholar-in-Residence for the 3rd Annual PPS Research Symposium Aug. 13-14 at UH.

Hurd is director of the Center for Addictive Disorders in the Mount Sinai Behavioral Health System and professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience and Pharmacology & Systems Therapeutics and Ward-Coleman Chair in Translational Neuroscience at the Icahn School of Medicine in New York. Hurd is scheduled to present "The Vulnerable Brain: Insights into the Neurobiology of Addiction" on Aug. 13 and "The Path Traveled: Forget the Stats" on Aug. 14.



The symposium will feature poster and oral presentations by graduate students and post-doctoral research associates working in the college's Department of Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

psychological stress in increasing oxidative stress, compromising mitochondrial function and integrity, leading to activation of proteolytic and apoptotic pathways. This contributes to degradation of antioxidant enzymes, reducing antioxidant defense, impairing detoxification and resulting in behavioral and cognitive deficits.



College @ Student News

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has approved the **Hispanic Healthcare Certificate Program** for Pharm.D. students. The program involves advanced instruction in Hispanic culture and Spanish language, with an emphasis on Medical Spanish, and the completion of at least two Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences at sites serving predominately Spanish-speaking patients.

.....

The **UH Chapter of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association** has received its fourth consecutive \$2,000 grant from Target Pharmacy in support of the chapter's annual spring community wellness event.

Pharm.D. student **Holly Ryan** attended the 16th Annual Cardinal Health Student Leadership Conference May 14-16 in Houston. The conference presentations focus on personal and professional leadership, workshops and introductions to health-system pharmacy.

.....

Allison Phuc Nguyen and UHCOP alumnus **Ryan Hudson**, Pharm.D., who recently completed the Walgreens-UHCOP PGY1 Community Pharmacy Residency, were panelists at the "Students as Pharmacist Extenders: Making Precepting a Win-Win for You and You" CE session at the TPA 2015 Conference & Expo July 10-12 in The Woodlands.

Bondesson, Li Join College's Pharmacology & Pharmaceuticals Faculty

UHCOP recently welcomed two new faculty members into the Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences: **Maria Bondesson**, Ph.D., and **Xiang Li**, M.D., Ph.D.

Bondesson joins the department as a clinical assistant professor of Pharmacology from UH's Department of Biology and Biochemistry and the Center for Nuclear Receptors and Cell Signaling, where she has worked since 2009. Bondesson earned her B.S. in Microbiology/Molecular Biology, Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden.

Her current research projects include studying how endocrine disrupting chemical bisphenol A in combination with phytoestrogens affect signaling of the estrogen receptors; the applicability of zebrafish as a model system to detect chemical pollutants that perturb embryonic development; and the use of zebrafish screening methods for detection of chemicals that cause obesity and diabetes. Bondesson has authored/coauthored

more than 30 papers in such peer-reviewed journals as *PLoS One*, *Reproductive Toxicology* and *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA) - Gene Regulatory Mechanisms*, as well as more than 40 published abstracts.

A Research Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, Li joins the college from Virginia Commonwealth University. Li earned her M.D. from Peking University in Beijing, her M.S. in Pharmacology & Toxicology from the Medical College of Wisconsin and her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the University of Duisburg-Essen School of Medicine in Germany.

Li's research interests include mechanisms of cardiovascular diseases and hypertension associated with aging, chronic kidney disease, autoimmune disease and infectious diseases, with a focus on the roles of exosome, microparticles, and non-coding RNA in these diseases. Her work has been published in *PLoS One*, *the Journal of Molecular Medicine*, *the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*, and *Cellular Physiology and Biochemistry*.

A paper entitled "Transcriptional Regulation of Renal Dopamine D1 Receptor Function During Oxidative Stress" by UHCOP faculty members **Anees A. Bandy**, Ph.D., and **Mustafa F. Lokhandwala**, Ph.D., FAHA, FASN, which was originally published in the journal *Hypertension* in June, was featured in the June issue of *Nature Reviews-Nephrology*.

.....

E. James Essien, M.D., DrPH, FRSHP, professor, recently served on grant review panels for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Special Emphasis Panel for the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research Centers Special Interest Project Competitive Supplements) in May and the National Institutes of Health's Center for Scientific Review (Special Emphasis Panel [Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in Low and Middle Income Countries] Study Section and the Behavioral and Social Consequences of HIV/AIDS Study Section for the AIDS and Related Research Integrated Review Group) in June and July, respectively.

.....

Julianna Fernandez, Pharm.D., BCPS, CGP, clinical assistant professor, **Samina Salim**, Ph.D., assistant professor, and **Bradley McConnell**, Ph.D., FAHA, FAPS, associate professor, received the UHCOP Faculty Excellence Awards for Teaching, Research and Service, respectively.

.....

Julianna Fernandez, Pharm.D., BCPS, CGP, clinical assistant professor, and **Anne Tucker**, Pharm.D., BCNSP, clinical associate professor, have received a \$24,588 UH Teaching Innovation Program grant for their project, "Incorporating Simulation to Create Practice-Ready Pharmacists."

.....

Ming Hu, Ph.D., professor, has received \$152,758 subcontract award on a National Institutes of Health-funded R15 project entitled "UGT Engineering for Detoxifying Anticancer Drug SN-38," which is being led by Xiaoqiang Wang, Ph.D., at the University of North Texas.

.....

Bradley K. McConnell, Ph.D., FAHA, FAPS, associate professor, has received a \$62,657 subcontract award on a National Institutes of Health-funded project, entitled "Effects of Chronic Catecholamine Exposure on Post-Burn Wound Healing and Scarring," awarded to University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston's Celeste Finnerty, Ph.D.

.....

Ke-He Ruan, M.D., Ph.D., professor, has been appointed editor-in-chief of the *British Journal of Pharmaceutical Research*; associate editor for *BMC Biochemistry*; and associate editor of *Future Medical Chemistry*. A paper by UHCOP pharmacology doctoral student Hironari Akasaka, research associate Shui-Ping So and professor Ke-He Ruan, M.D., Ph.D., entitled "The relationship of the topological distances and activities between mPGES-1 and COX-2 verses COX-1: Implication of the different posttranslational ER organizations of COX-1 and COX-2," was featured on the homepage of the Biochemistry journal website.

.....

Maria V. Tejada-Simon, M.Ed., Ph.D., associate professor, was invited to participate as an organizer and speaker in the 4th International Conference on Neurology and Therapeutics - 2015 Neuro in July in Rome, Italy.

.....

Matthew Wanat, Pharm.D., BCPS, has been appointed consulting editor on the *Journal of Vascular Health and Risk Management*.

Recent Publications

Practical Management of Anticoagulation in Patients With Atrial Fibrillation. RJ Kovacs, GC Flaker, SJ Saxonhouse, JU Doherty, **KK Birtcher**, A Cuker, BL Davidson, RP Giugliano, CB Granger, AK Jaffer, BH Mehta, E Nutescu, KA Williams. *Am Coll Cardiol* 2015 Apr 7;65(13):1340-1360. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2015.01.049. Review. PMID: 25835447

Angiotensin AT2 receptor agonist prevents salt-sensitive hypertension in obese Zucker rats. **Ali Q**, Patel SN, **Hussain T**. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol*. 2015 Apr 8;ajprenal.00002.2015. doi: 10.1152/ajprenal.00002.2015. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25855512

Identification of toxemia in patients with *Clostridium difficile* infection. H Yu, K Chen, J Wu, Z Yang, L Shi, LL Barlow, DM Aronoff, **KW Garey**, TC Savidge, EC von Rosenvinge, CP Kelly, and H Feng. *PLoS One*. 2015 Apr 17;10(4):e0124235. .PMID: 25885671

A multi-center prospective derivation and validation of a clinical prediction tool for severe *Clostridium difficile* infection. X Na, AJ Martin, S Sethi, L Kyne, **KW Garey**, SW Flores, M Hu, **DN Shah**, K Shields, DA Leffler, CP Kelly. *PLoS One*. 2015 Apr 23;10(4):e0123405.PMID: 25906284

Anticholinergic drugs and health-related quality of life in older adults with dementia. Sura SD, Carnahan RM, Chen H, Aparasu RR. *J Am Pharm Assoc* (2003). 2015 May-Jun;55(3):282-7. doi: 10.1331/JAPhA.2015.14068. PMID: 25909488

Epidemiology of meningitis with a negative CSF Gram stain: under-utilization of available diagnostic tests. Neshar L, Hadi CM, Salazar L, Wootton SH, **Garey KW**, Lasco T, Luce AM, Hasbun R. *Epidemiol Infect*. 2015 May 20;1-9. PMID: 25989841

2015 ACC Health Policy Statement on Cardiovascular Team-Based Care and the Role of Advanced Practice Providers. JE Brush Jr, EM Handberg, C Biga, **KK Birtcher**, AA Bove, PN Casale, MG Clark, A Garson Jr, JL Hines, JA Linderbaum, GP Rodgers, RA Shor, VH Thourani, JF Wyman. *Am Coll Cardiol* 2015;65:2119-36.

Modulation of actin dynamics by Rac 1 to target cognitive function (invited review). **Tejada-Simon, M.V.** *J. Neurochemistry*, 133 (6):767-779.

Real-world performance of a microarray-based rapid diagnostic for Gram-positive bloodstream infections and potential utility for antimicrobial stewardship. **Aitken SL**, Hemmige VS, Koo HL, **Vuong NN**, Lasco TM, **Garey KW**. *Diagn Microbiol Infect Dis* 2015;81(1):4-8 PMID:25445120

T2 Magnetic Resonance Assay for the Rapid Diagnosis of Candidemia in Whole Blood: A Clinical Trial. E Mylonakis, CJ Clancy, L Ostrosky-Zeichner, **KW Garey**, GJ Alangaden, JA Vazquez, JS Groeger, MA Judson, YM Vinagre, SO Heard, FN

Zervou, IM Zacharioudakis, DP Kontoyiannis PG Pappas. *Clin Infect Dis* 2015;81(1):4-8. PMID: 25586686

Evaluation of portability and cost of a fluorescent PCR ribotyping protocol for *Clostridium difficile* epidemiology. J Martinson, S Broadaway, E Lohman, C Johnson, **MJ Alam**, M Khaleduzzuman, **KW Garey**, J Schlackman, V Young, K Santhosh, K Rao, R Lyons, and S Walk. *J Clin Microbiol* 2015;53(4): 1192-7 PMID: 25631804

Blee J, Roux RK, Gautreaux S, **Sherer JT**, **Garey KW**. Dispensing inhalers to patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease on hospital discharge: Effects on prescription filling and readmission. *Amer J Health Syst Pharm* 2015;72:1204-8. PMID 26150571

Multiplex Real-Time PCR Method for Simultaneous Identification and Toxigenic Type Characterization of *Clostridium difficile* From Stool Samples. A Kilic, **MJ Alam**, NL Tisdell, **DN Shah**, M Yapar, TM Lasco, and **KW Garey**. *Ann Lab Med* 2015;35(3): 306-13. PMID: 25932438

Grape powder treatment prevents anxiety-like behavior in a rat model of aging. **Patki G**, **Ali Q**, **Pokkunuri I**, **Asghar M**, **Salim S**. *Nutr Res*. 2015 Jun;35(6):504-11. doi: 10.1016/j.nutres.2015.05.005. Epub 2015 May 15. PMID: 26022140

A Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative taskforce to increase hospital self-assessment survey response rates and improve the understanding of pharmacy practice in Texas. **Philip A**, **Gessner-Wharton M**, **Birney P**, **Blee J**, **Desai A**, **Gorbach C**, **Karralli R**, **Lorimer D**, **Munch K**, **Nweke G**, Parekh S, Puebla M, **Cox R**, **Pitman E**, **Garey KW**. *Am J Health Syst Pharm* 2015 Jun 15;72(12):1053-7. PMID: 26025997

Innate inflammatory response and immunopharmacologic activity of micafungin, caspofungin, and voriconazole against wild-type and FKS mutant *Candida glabrata*. **ND Beyda**, G Liao, BT Endres, RE Lewis, **KW Garey**. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2015 Jun 22. pii: AAC.00624-15. PMID:26100700

Predictors of concomitant use of antipsychotics and stimulants and its impact on stimulant persistence in pediatric attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. **Bali V**, **Kamble PS**, **Aparasu RR**. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm*. 2015 Jun;21(6):486-98. PMID: 26011550

Alcohol binding in the C1 (C1A + C1B) domain of protein kinase C epsilon. **Pany S**, **Das J**. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2015 Jul 22. pii: S0304-4165(15)00191-9. doi: 10.1016/j.bbagen.2015.07.005. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26210390

Witnessing traumatic events and post-traumatic stress disorder: Insights from an animal model. **Patki G**, **Salvi A**, **Liu H**, **Salim S**. *Neurosci Lett*. 2015 Jul 23;600:28-32. doi: 10.1016/j.neulet.2015.05.060. Epub 2015 Jun 1. PMID: 26044989