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School of Pharmacy
Office of Experiential Education
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Rewards for Preceptors

Do you have the right stuff?

We often hear from preceptors that they find it very rewarding to participate in the experiential programs...

Many schools of pharmacy are currently facing the challenge of sustaining and finding sufficient experiential education offerings. This increased demand for good quality rotations has placed an increased need for pharmacy mentors in a variety of practice settings.

Sharing your pharmacy practice setting with students can be a very rewarding and fulfilling experience in your professional career. Students can provide enthusiasm, interest, and eagerness to learn to your practice site. We often hear from preceptors that they find it very rewarding to participate in the experiential programs and that they feel good about shaping the future of the profession of pharmacy.

If you know of any pharmacists or other health care providers interested in participating in our experiential programs please have them contact our Office of Experiential Education. We can discuss with them our program objectives and expectations for our experiential rotations.



School of Pharmacy



PRECEPTOR News

Spring 2005 Experiential Education Newsletter

University of Connecticut

Message from the Director

I find it hard to believe that we are finishing another semester at the UConn School of Pharmacy and that a new class of P4 students will soon be starting their first Advanced Practice Experiences (APE) in June. The past two semesters have been exciting, and very busy, for everyone. As the spring semester draws to a close, preparation are underway for the move to our new building.

I am happy to announce that we recently welcomed Peter Tyczkowski to the School of Pharmacy as our new Coordinator of Educational Outreach. He joins our Office of Experiential Education which includes Mary Ann Phaneuf, Mary Petruzzi, and Andre LaCombe. Pete was previously the Vice President and Director of Pharmacy Operations at Pelton's Pharmacy. He brings a vast array of experiences and leadership qualities to this position and we are proud to have him as a member of our UConn family.

We held our 3rd Annual Preceptor Appreciation Dinner this past October. The Roche Preceptor of the Year Award was presented to community pharmacists Henry Pelletier and Paul



Gabriele, both from Rite Aid Pharmacy, located in Stafford Springs, Connecticut. Dr. Craig Coleman, who has a practice site at Hartford Hospital, was honored as the faculty Preceptor of the Year. These individuals were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the educational development of future pharmacists by demonstrating high standards of professionalism, ethics and clinical practice. *Continued on Page 3* ■

"The new Experiential Education Advisory Board is helping shape the future of our program."

Tom Buckley and Dr. Craig Coleman at the School of Pharmacy's Dessert Reception at ASHP Mid-Year Meeting.



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A Letter from the Dean



As I sit at my desk preparing this message, I can't help but think that this will be the last time I write to you from this location. When I prepare my message for the fall 2005 newsletter, it will be from my new office overlooking cemetery hill. I was in my new office just yesterday while giving a tour of our new building to alumnus Charlie Grannick of Greenwich. It had been a few

years since Charlie had been on campus and he was amazed at the transformation. It's a privilege to tour our campus and new building with folks like Charlie and feel the pride they have in their *alma mater*. We begin moving into the new Pharmacy/Biology Building on June 15th; move-in should take about three weeks. I hope you have already marked your calendar for the weekend of Friday-Saturday, October 21-22 when the new building will be dedicated and we will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the School of Pharmacy.

Besides our impending move, much else has been happening in what has been a rapidly-moving academic year. In January, Peter Tyczkowski joined us as the first Coordinator of Educational Outreach. Peter will work with both continuing and experiential education (focusing on preceptor development) and lead our community outreach activities, including supporting student initiatives such as ASP's Operation Diabetes.

In February, several new staff joined the School "family" including Liz Anderson, who will oversee communications and special events, Mark Armati, who joins our Business Office, and Doug Willour, who will develop and manage School databases.

I am very pleased that Experiential Director Phil Hritcko has re-established the Experiential Education Advisory Committee. This group, first developed by former Director Pat Toce, is comprised of preceptors from several areas of practice who bring their expertise and ideas to the Office of Experiential Education. I'm sure you would all agree that Phil, Mary Ann Phaneuf, Mary Petruzzi, and Andy LaCombe have done an excellent job. We are grateful for their insight and appreciate their willingness to give so freely of their time to assist us.

A new curriculum, which has been under development for several years, was adopted in February and will be phased in over the next several years. The new curriculum is highlighted by a longitudinal patient case and the integration of pharmacology, therapeutics, and several other subjects into organ system based modules.

Our third annual White Coat Ceremony was a rousing success with large numbers of parents joining our students, faculty, and alumni. Pharmacy Commissioner Bob Guynn gave an inspiring talk on what professionalism means to him.

Continued on Page 4 ■

Service Projects ~ A Valuable Learning Experience

By Mary Petruzzi, Field Coordinator

The completion of a service project is an important component of each rotation. It is a chance for the students to extend their knowledge of a particular area and to give preceptors and staff a chance to learn from the student. Some projects fill a need for a site, such as preparation of material for a Pharmacy and Therapeutics meeting, while others may help a hospital prepare for Joint Commission On Accreditation Of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) visit. Below are examples of projects completed by our students this past year. These provide some ideas for ways preceptors can challenge our students and maximize the experience for both parties.

In community settings, students are required to do an outreach project. Some students prepare patient information leaflets. Instead of patient information leaflets, some students choose to perform a health screening in the community. These may be a brown bag program at the pharmacy or in another location, a diabetes informational day with screening, cholesterol screening and information as well as blood pressure screening with information on hypertension.

Our hospital rotation students have been busy as well. Some have provided counseling to patients regarding their medication as part of cardiac rehabilitation classes. Others students have run clinics for new diabetics and special workshops to teach children about asthma. Another group gave a first grade class a tour of the pharmacy. On one hospital rotation, students reviewed and updated protocols on hospital policies including protocols on extravascularization in chemotherapy. One student's special project evaluated hospital compliance with USP-NF Chapter 797, the new clean room standards from JCAHO, and suggested how the hospital should move to compliance with the regulation. Students also have completed chart audits to ensure compliance with the need of a diagnosis for each medication received by a patient. Another student project was a review of the accuracy of the pharmacy medication profile versus the MAR to try to quantify the type of errors that occur and to look for trends in order to identify and prevent these types of errors.

Overall, these projects are a valuable component of the rotation experience. Both the students and the sites benefit from the in-depth knowledge gained and the services provided.

Sample Patient Information Leaflet Topics

Sunburn Prevention and Treatment
Poisonous Plants
Otitis Externa and the Swimming Pool
Treatment of Seasonal Allergies
Ear Infections
Prevention of Falls
Holiday Tips for Visiting Grandparents

Sample Community Presentations

Using Medication Wisely
Osteoporosis ~ Causes and Treatment
Prevention of Falls
Hypertension
Medicare Drug Program

Diseases and their Therapy Topics

Ulcerative Colitis
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
Cox 2s
Urinary Track Infections
Breast Cancer
Campral in the Prevention of Relapse of Alcoholics
Beers Criteria for Elderly Medication Use
Titration of Opioids for Oncology Patients
Nicotine Use and Smoking Cessation
Osteoporosis
Medications that Alter Blood Glucose Levels



Pictured Above:
Susan Sakowski with a
patient at the William W.
Backus Hospital
Anticoagulation Clinic.

We Are Moving!

The Office of Experiential Education will be moving into the University of Connecticut's new Pharmacy/Biology Building in June 2005. Our new address will be School of Pharmacy, Office of Experiential Education, 69 North Eagleville Road, Unit 3092, Storrs, CT 06269-3092.

PRECEPTOR News, the Experiential Education newsletter for the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut, is published semiannually, in the fall and spring. Please send comments to: Dr. Phil Hritcko, Director, Office of Experiential Education, at philip.hritcko@uconn.edu; (860) 486-1592.

Students & Preceptors Enjoy the Mid-Year Reception



Students Conduct Research During Pediatric Rotation

Rachel Sykes (pictured at right) and Jasmine Sahni (pictured below left) worked diligently under the direction of Dr. Jennifer M. Ellis and Dr. Joseph L. Kuti (Center for Anti-Infective Research and Development, Hartford Hospital) during their pediatric clinical research rotations to complete a retrospective comparison of lipid amphotericin B complex and liposomal amphotericin B in the pediatric population. They not only learned the difficulties of retrospective data collection, but also how to analyze the data and prepare both an abstract and poster. The preliminary results of the study were presented at the 2004 Connecticut Society for Health System Pharmacists "Catch the Wave" and the Eastern States Pharmacy Student Research Conference in West Virginia. The final results of the evaluation were presented at the 2005 American College of Clinical Pharmacy Spring Practice and Research meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.



Continuing Education Update

School of Pharmacy Adjunct Faculty are eligible for a 50 percent discount on continuing education programs offered through the School of Pharmacy Office of Continuing Education. In order to receive the discount you must send your registration form to Henry Palmer or Mary Ann Phaneuf at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, Office of Continuing Education. Check out the School of Pharmacy website <http://pharmacy.uconn.edu> under continuing education for upcoming programs and registration information.

Our most recent program was the 28th Annual Arthur E. Schwarting Pharmacy Practice Symposium held on May 18, 2005 which focused on topics relating to Cardiovascular Disease. ■

Top Left: Students enjoy the dessert reception at the ASHP Mid-Year meeting. Center: Patricia Strilbyckij, Kristina Pascuzzi, and Lydia Borysiuk. Bottom: Karen Wroblewski, Jasmine Sahni, and Tiriza Saziru.

Message from the Director ~ continued from front cover

I recently convened the Experiential Education Advisory Board back in December to assist our Office in achieving our vision to provide educationally sound experience opportunities in all areas of pharmacy practice. We plan on meeting twice a year to discuss current projects and the future direction of our program. I would like to thank all the members of this board for their dedication and commitment to our School of Pharmacy.



Pictured Above: The Experiential Education Advisory Board, from left to right, Philip Hritcko, Mary Ann Phaneuf, Dr. Gina Morrow, Darlene Able, Dr. Barbara Moehring, Dr. Karen Scinto, and Dr. Raafat Seifeldin.

In December 2004, I attended the ASHP Mid-Year meeting in Orlando, Florida. This meeting provides a great opportunity for our students to explore and interview for various residencies throughout the United States. We assisted our students in their preparations for this event and provided support and guidance while at the meetings.

Preceptor Deborah Saine, Pharmacy Manager Medication Safety at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, together with P4 pharmacy student Soukaina Ayoub, presented a poster at the ASHP meeting regarding the accuracy of medication profile documentation systems. Soukaina completed one of her APE rotations this past year while at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in the area of Medication Safety.



Students actively participate in community service programs

The Introductory Practice Experiences (IPE) in our Pharmaceutical Care class involved all members of our P1, P2 and P3 classes. We utilized a number of community practice sites throughout Connecticut to help our students participate in "Brown Bag" and "Poison Prevention Awareness" sessions. The major objectives of this course is to have the students actively participate in community service programs and to communicate more effectively with patients and other health care professionals. I would like to thank all the pharmacists who participated in the IPE program and especially poison control specialists Iris Barko, Amy Hanoian-Fontana, and Dr. Cheryl Webster from the Connecticut Poison Control Center for all their assistance during the spring semester.

In closing I would like to thank you, the preceptor, for your dedication and time throughout this past year. We could not have accomplished our goals without your participation in all our programs. You are the reason for the successes at the UConn School of Pharmacy. Through your participation in our experiential programs you are helping to shape the future of the profession of pharmacy by teaching and inspiring our students.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Hritcko

Pictured at Left: Soukaina Ayoub and her preceptor, Deborah Saine. ■

Student Research Recognized at National Meeting

Michael Kardas and Katelin Zaslow, two University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy fourth year professional students, have had their research selected as finalists in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's (ACCP) Best Student, Resident, Fellow Poster Competition.

As part of their last year of clinical rotations both students opted to take a clinical research rotation at Hartford Hospital. With the help of their preceptor, Dr. Craig Coleman, each was able to conduct and submit the results of a meta-analysis to help shed some light on important clinical questions potentially relevant to a pharmacist's daily practice.

Michael's meta-analysis entitled, "Use of an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor (ACEI) or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) for the prevention of diabetes mellitus" encompassed 10 trials evaluating 60,982 patients. It demonstrated that the utilization of an ACEI or ARB could potentially reduce the risk of developing new-onset of diabetes by 20% (95%CI 14% to 24%) compared with placebo or conventional antihypertensive therapy. The benefit was found to be similar regardless of either ACEI or ARB use or indication for use (hypertension, coronary artery disease or heart failure).

Katelin examined 9 trials looking at *Echinacea* for the prevention or treatment of the common cold. In her meta-analysis, *Echinacea* was found to potentially reduce both the incidence by 60% (95%CI 24% to 79%) and duration of a cold by ~1.5 days (95%CI 0.82 to 1.92 days); however, the results of this meta-analysis need to be viewed cautiously due to concerns regarding some of the herbal preparations and study methodologies utilized in included clinical trials.

Rotations such as Dr. Coleman's is just one of a number of opportunities UConn students have to participate in clinical or pharmaceutical sciences research during their time at the School of Pharmacy. It allows students to develop their drug information, writing and communications skills. It also gives them a taste of what is involved in being a researcher and hopefully stimulates some to pursue fellowships or graduate work.

Michael and Katelin traveled to ACCP's 2005 Spring Practice and Research Forum in Myrtle Beach, SC in April 2005 to present their research in the final stage of the competition. Their abstracts can be found in an upcoming edition of the journal *Pharmacotherapy*.

Dean's Letter, *continued from Page 2*

In January and again this month, we were pleased to host two alumni and friends receptions prior to a men's basketball game against Rutgers University and Georgetown University. It was great to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones.

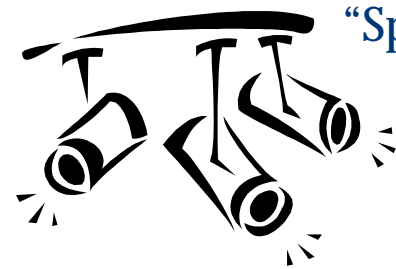
On March 1st, Dr. Peter Nicholls joined the University of Connecticut as our new Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Nicholls, a Ph.D. mathematician, comes to us from Colorado State University, where he also served as Provost.

As I move toward the completion of my third year in the Dean's Office, I look back with pride on the accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. We continue to be blessed by an active (and increasingly nationally-recognized) student body, faculty who are dedicated teachers and scholars, a superb staff, an unequalled group of alumni, and dedicated preceptors who ensure our students an outstanding experiential program. Thank you for your continued support of this most vital component of our pharmacy program.

With warm regards,



Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D.
Dean



"Spotlight" on Professional Experience Sites

The Hebrew Home and Hospital

By Associate Professor Dennis Chapron

The School of Pharmacy offers to its 4th year professional students an elective experiential rotation in Geriatrics (Phrm 271). This rotation tends to be popular among students because medication use is highest in the elderly, providing numerous opportunities for students to augment or strengthen their skills in several therapeutic arenas including: medication assessment, drug safety monitoring, adverse drug effect analysis, dosage regimen design, drug-drug interaction abatement, serum chemistries correlations, and interviewing skills. The Hebrew Home and Hospital, a 330 bed long-term care facility, has been a steadfast site of geriatric training for our students, with an involvement that extends over nearly 25 years. The Hebrew Home has a full time medical staff, all trained in the area of geriatric medicine. This institution also serves as a training site for the University's School of Medicine first-year medical residents and geriatric fellows, thus allowing our students the opportunity for interaction with these medical trainees. Associate Professor, Dennis Chapron, serves as the preceptor for pharmacy students at this site.

A substantial component of the experiential rotation at the Hebrew Home has been designed as a consultative service to the attending physicians and nurse practitioners. Elderly patients challenge health care practitioners with their complex milieu of polymorbidities, nonspecific symptomology, and heavy polypharmacies. The availability of pharmacy students provides an investigative team with a laser beam focus on drug therapy issues. The morning report, a meeting of the medical staff where problematic patients are discussed, provides a continuous source of patients needing consultative services by the pharmacy students and their preceptor. At other times, the team is personally consulted by a physician or nurse practitioner. Typical patient problems requiring investigation include: hypotension, poorly controlled hypertension, electrolyte disturbances, elevated liver or renal function tests, progressive or poorly responsive anemia, abnormal drug concentrations, continuous weight loss, falls, failing mentation, delirium, incontinence, weakness, extrapyramidal dysfunction, rashes, endocrine disturbances, depression, and paranoid behavior. In addition to the in-patient activities at the Hebrew Home, students also participate in a medication assessment session at the Home's affiliated assisted living facility, Summerwood. On occasion students have also been involved in outreach programs to the community that the Home has organized. This geriatrics rotation also emphasizes to students the importance of getting involved in



Pictured Above:
Shirra Duncan and a patient
during a counseling session.

professional organizations. Students are invited to attend the evening monthly Board of Director meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists where diverse issues are discussed such as design and implementation of the Foxwoods Senior Symposium, legislative strategies to secure adequate payment for pharmacy services, and new regulations on pharmacy consulting in nursing homes.



Pictured at Left:
Dr. Tom Lachapelle, D'Shana
Dorsey, Shirra Duncan, and
Associate Professor
Dennis Chapron.

Save the Date !

October 21, 2005

Dedication of the Pharmacy/Biology Building

October 22, 2005

80th Anniversary Gala and 35th Annual
Alumni Awards