Special Thanks to all of those who contributed their time and talents to the publication of this annual report:

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  Assistant Professor
- Dennis L. Wright, Ph.D.
  Associate Professor

## School of Pharmacy Faculty & Staff Members at the PSG Fun Run sponsored by our friends at Walgreens.
Dear Friends:

During the 2006-2007 academic year, the University of Connecticut marked its 125th anniversary. Starting in the fall of 1881, as a school of agriculture, the university has grown into one of the pre-eminent public research institutions in the United States. The School of Pharmacy shares the pride we all have in our great institution of higher learning. The university-wide celebrations reminded us of our heritage, our accomplishments, and our future potential.

As our top students know, one of the most exciting, yet nerve-wracking, moments in academia is waiting for the grades to be posted. You've worked hard, made a great deal of progress, presented your best work, and now you will be judged on your accomplishments. The school’s Accreditation Steering Committee could relate to our students, as they hosted the re-accreditation team from Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education [ACPE.] I am happy to report that the school was re-accredited for a full, six-year term. As ACPE continues to focus on goal-setting and assessment, the school has strengthened its commitment in these areas. Dr. Lauren Schlosselman, director of assessment and chair of the Assessment Committee has spearheaded the development of a plan to help us meet our objectives.

The school also continues to refine its curriculum and develop new offerings. Several exciting professional electives, including courses on pharmacy entrepreneurship and e-health, were introduced. These follow several new electives last year focused on diabetes care and pediatric pharmacotherapy. The school, led by Study Abroad Committee Chair Dr. Diane Burgess and Experiential Director Dr. Philip Hritcko, is working to develop advanced pharmacy practice experiences for pharmacy students in both France [University of Rennes] and Spain [University of Barcelona.] In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Peking University in Beijing and a Traditional Chinese Medicine course is in development. Pharm.D. students will also have the opportunity to complete advanced pharmacy practice experiences there.

The school continues to make strides promoting a culture of inclusion and exposing our students to issues of diversity. The Provost’s Office has given their preliminary approval of the school’s Diversity Plan and our Diversity Committee is developing a full, three-year plan. Our faculty, staff, and students are fully engaged in these efforts. Graduate student Sarah Barnes was selected as a graduate student mentor for the 2007 Northeast Alliance Summer Research Program for Minority Students. The program paired Sarah with an undergraduate student who worked with her in the laboratory. Educational Outreach Coordinator Peter Tyczkowski, Associate Dean Andrea Hubbard, Larry Beninati [Walgreens], and Michelle Benish [Yale-New Haven Hospital] participated in a session entitled “Partnering to Improve Diversity Within the Profession of Pharmacy,” focusing on our partnership with the New Haven Public Schools, as part of the 2007 Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education (CALAHE) Annual Conference on the Storrs campus.

The school saw the addition of five new faculty members. Drs. Sneha Baxi, Megan Ehret, and Effie Kuti joined us in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. In the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. Bodhi Chaudhuri joined the pharmaceutics faculty, and Dr. Urs Boelsterli became the first Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology — our second chair. We are continuing our fundraising efforts to establish our third chair, the Henry A. Palmer Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy Practice. As of this writing, approximately $400,000 in gifts and pledges have been received. Significant gifts are still vitally needed if we are to reach our $1.5 million goal.

The accomplishments of our faculty, as well as those of our graduate and professional students, are far too numerous to mention here. They continue to be among the elite in their field and we regularly announce national and international awards.

For the first time in memory, the School of Pharmacy held its own Commencement Ceremony in May. The success of this event, as well as two other pilot ceremonies held by the Schools of Education and Fine Arts, has led the university to decentralize commencement ceremonies in 2008. We were pleased to be able to personalize the ceremony for our students and their families. It was a wonderful way to wrap up the academic year and provide us renewed energy for the year to come. We look forward to hosting the families of our students in the coming months and hope to see our alumni and friends at our upcoming events. Join us…

Warmly,

Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D.
Dean & Professor
When Dean Robert L. McCarthy first convened the Dean’s Advisory Board in 2002, it was just good business. As the leader of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Connecticut, it was his responsibility to chart a course for steady growth for the school over the next five years and beyond. His ultimate goal was for the school to become among the premiere schools of pharmacy in the country. He knew the road to excellence would be marked with difficult strategic decisions regarding programs, faculty and students, and he knew he would face these decisions with tight fiscal constraints. It was important to leverage every dollar available to move the school forward and that meant making sound business decisions.

With the support and guidance of Brian Lachapelle, the director of development at the time, the dean set out to establish an advisory board that could not only provide him with the advice and counsel he sought, but who would advocate for the school, as well. Together Lachapelle and McCarthy put together a list that read like a Who’s Who of pharmacy — individuals who represented a cross section of every aspect of professional pharmacy — from hospital pharmacy practice to community pharmacy, from manufacturing to state and national pharmacy organizations and specialty pharmacies. Individuals from the highest ranks of these organizations have stepped up, when asked to serve.

The Advisory Board has provided input on a myriad of topics ranging from admission criteria for the Pharm.D. Program to the school’s strategic plan. The format of the semi-annual meetings includes presentations by administrators, faculty, and staff in the morning, followed by small working groups tackling pertinent topics currently faced by the school. The entire board reconvenes at day’s end to hear and react to working group reports. “The School of Pharmacy Advisory Board has served a critical function since its inception as a sounding board for the opportunities and challenges facing the school,” says McCarthy.

Input from the board is taken to heart by the dean and his executive team. One of the earliest concerns voiced by the board was the level of professionalism displayed by students. A committee was formed to recommend ways to infuse professionalism across the curriculum. Acting on suggestions from this Professionalism Coordinating Committee, the school now offers a specific ceremony to each professional class to renew their focus on professionalism — The P1 class writes their own “Oath of a Student Pharmacist” and recites it during a ceremony in November, the P2 class receives pins at a breakfast during the spring semester and the P3 class, of course, celebrates professionalism with the receipt of their white coats. Suggestions from the board addressing a variety of topics have been folded into the strategic plan of the school. The dean and his executive committee review the master plan monthly to gauge progress. Additionally, board members have been instrumental in the school’s fundraising efforts. In addition to being donors themselves, many board members have facilitated efforts with other potential donors. These dedicated friends of the school have hosted receptions for alumni in their home states. They chair fundraising drives for specific purposes, such as establishing the Henry A. Palmer Chair in Community Pharmacy Practice, or to fund the establishment and maintenance of the schools’ medicinal garden, and many assist the development team with identifying potential donors.

While the Advisory Board works hard on behalf of the school, it is not all work. Each meeting begins with warm greetings between colleagues and former classmates. While all the proceedings are courteous and respectful, there is an undercurrent of the playful chiding and teasing that happens only between old friends. Many members extend their stay to participate in one or more activities at the school, such as the tailgate party and the homecoming football game in the fall. Following the spring meeting, many stay for the Scholarship Convocation and Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet.

In light of the demands that service on the board place on members, one might beg the question, “Why serve at all?” Emeritus Advisory Board Member Sam Kalmanowitz offers a glimpse into his experience on the board. “Serving on the Pharmacy Advisory Board was a very rewarding experience for me. I have found that in this world you receive tremendous personal satisfaction when you give of yourself and interact with a group of your peers. The quality of the members was so awesome that it elevated my thinking to a higher level. I enjoyed every moment, met new people and aroused my sense of academic and business appreciation because of the makeup of that group.”
Endowed chairs are one hallmark of a great university. They are an important tradition in education, harking back to 1502, when Margaret of Richmond, mother of Henry VII, established the Lady Margaret Professorship of Divinity at Oxford, England. More than 200 years later the first endowed chair was established in America, the Hollis Professorship of Divinity, created in 1721 at Harvard College. Sir Isaac Newton held the Lucasian chair of mathematics at Cambridge beginning in 1669; currently that chair is held by the celebrated physicist Stephen Hawking. These chairs are still endowed today, and still supporting the work of distinguished professors.

Endowed chairs offer many benefits to the university, the donor, honored scholars and, most of all, students. With the support of individual and corporate partners, the School of Pharmacy’s endowed chairs serve to attract and retain internationally renowned researchers, ensuring that UConn students learn from the very best in the world. They enable UConn to offer a more diverse curriculum that is not subject to budgetary constraints or dependent on other income sources such as tuition, and they provide long-term financial stability.

Donors who generously endow chairs know that they are not only ensuring academic excellence in teaching and research today, but that theirs is truly a gift to the future. Endowed chairs are living memorials, perpetuating the donor’s name, signifying a permanent commitment to quality education. Additionally, corporate donors see the endowment as an investment in the future of their workforce and their profession, ensuring scores of graduates who have trained under the tutelage of a world class scholar.

In June of 2004, Pfizer Global Research and Development donated $2 million to the School of Pharmacy to create its first chair — the Pfizer Distinguished Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Technology. Dr. Michael J. Pikal was installed as the chair in an investiture ceremony in October 2005. In his acceptance speech, the internationally-renowned Pikal stated, “Pfizer’s strategic decision to promote this field of research at the University of Connecticut is of enormous national significance, as it will allow the School of Pharmacy to meet increasing demands for highly-qualified workers in pharmaceutical technology.” Additionally, the endowment provides support for bringing experts to the university for lecture series as well as funds to attend scientific conferences and colloquia.

Following on the heels of the historic installation of the Pfizer Chair, the School of Pharmacy announced a $1.25 million gift to establish the Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology, believed to be the first such chair in the nation. The gift allowed the school to attract an internationally recognized scholar who has made significant contributions to the field of mechanistic toxicology — the study of the processes and mechanisms underlying the toxicity of chemicals. Following an intensive, international search, Dr. Urs A. Boelsterli was selected for this position. Dr. Boelsterli joined the school in June 2007 and was officially installed as the chair holder in October 2007. Boehringer Ingelheim selected the School of Pharmacy as the recipient for this investment in the field of mechanistic toxicology because of the strong national reputation of its toxicology program and also because of the existing collaborations between the company’s
McCarthy has announced a special fundraising campaign to establish an endowed faculty position in honor of Dr. Henry A. Palmer. A group of alumni, in conjunction with Associate Director of Development Anne-Margaret Gaffney, are spearheading the fundraising campaign. Their goal is to raise $1.5 million to establish the Henry A. Palmer Endowed Chair in Community Pharmacy Practice.

Dr. Palmer’s career encompasses a wide range of pharmacy practice experience including community, hospital, and long-term care, in addition to teaching and research. He retired from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in January 2000 and became a clinical professor emeritus, serving on a part-time basis as the director of continuing education. He recently retired from that post. Over the years, Henry has received awards and honors on a local, statewide, and national level for his teaching, his service, and his dedication to the profession. In many ways, he exemplifies the ideal of the caring pharmacist, nurturing teacher, and good neighbor. He shares his multifaceted talents with all and gains equal enjoyment out of teaching and learning — both in the classroom and out.

The creation of this endowed chair in community pharmacy practice through the generosity of the pharmacy community is a unique appeal attempted by very few institutions. Dean McCarthy notes, “That our alumni wish to honor Hank in this way is a true testament to his great success as a pharmacist, professor, and colleague.” The dean continues, “It is also an indicator of the collegial strength of the profession of pharmacy in the State of Connecticut.” Whatever the challenges that await the individual who is eventually named to this position, their most difficult job will be to live up to the legacy of Henry A. Palmer.

As the pharmacy program grows along side the dream of additional chairs, scholarships and fellowships, it comes as no surprise that the school continues to make the appropriate plans for advancement. As John F. Kennedy once said, “…our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource.” The establishment of these chairs is fundamental to the rise of the school’s growing national, and now international, reputation.

Dana Asaro  
Geriatric Specialty - Resident  
VA Connecticut Healthcare System  
Preceptor - S. Jeffery

William Baker  
Cardiovascular - Fellow  
Hartford Hospital  
Preceptor - C.M. White

Krista Dale  
Cardiovascular - Fellow  
Hartford Hospital  
Preceptor - C.M. White

Suzanne Florczyk  
Pharmacy Practice - Resident  
St. Francis Hospital  
Preceptor - M. Summa

Michelle Flynn  
Pharmacy Practice - Resident  
St. Francis Hospital  
Preceptor - D. Dang, M. Summa

James Gugger  
Psychiatric - Resident  
Institute of Living  
Preceptor - C. Caley

Cindy Kim  
Geriatric Specialty - Resident  
VA Connecticut Healthcare System  
Preceptor - S. Jeffery

Juliette Kim  
Oncology Pharmacy - Resident  
Yale-New Haven Hospital  
Preceptor - T. Pham

Annette Lipinski  
Pharmacy Practice - Resident  
VA Connecticut Healthcare System  
Preceptor - S. Jeffery

Diana Lucek  
Ambulatory Care - Resident  
Hartford Hospital  
Preceptor - F. Wang

Aarti Patel  
Pharmacoconomics - Fellow  
Hartford Hospital  
Preceptor - C. Coleman

Mike Rinaldi  
Infectious Disease - Fellow  
UConn Health Center  
Preceptor - J. Aeschlimann

Sachin Shah  
Cardiovascular - Fellow  
Hartford Hospital  
Preceptor - C. M. White

Renée St. Germain  
Pediatric Infectious Disease - Fellow  
Connecticut Children’s Medical Center  
Preceptor - J. Ellis

Charlie Waters  
Pharmacy Practice - Resident  
VA Connecticut Healthcare System  
Preceptor - S. Jeffery
We gratefully acknowledge the alumni, corporations, foundations, friends, and parents who made gifts to the School between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Your continued commitment provides very important resources to our students and faculty.

### Honor Roll of Donors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Donors</th>
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Lois A. Reynolds ’74  
Ronald G. Serafino ’74  
John H. Sharawara ’74  
Mary-Elizabeth Stanton ’81  
Frederick C. Vegliante ’52 and  
Elizabeth Vegliante  
Steven ’87 and Rosemary Vegliante  
Robert N. Witt ’57 |
We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. ~ Sir Winston Churchill
We cannot hold a torch to light another’s path without brightening our own.  ~ Ben Sweetland

Honor Roll of Donors ~ Continued

We have prepared the 2006-2007 Honor Roll of Donors with great care. If, however, we have omitted, misprinted or listed your name incorrectly, please notify the UConn Foundation at (860) 486-9342. In some cases, the school may not yet have been notified of matching gifts.
When the University of Connecticut began to consider decentralizing commencement exercises in 2006, it was decided to first conduct a pilot program with three schools. In May 2007, the School of Pharmacy, along with the Neag School of Education and the School of Fine Arts each held a commencement ceremony.

On May 5th, nearly 90 Pharm.D. students graduated in the Lewis B. Rome Commons Ballroom. The smaller ceremony allowed the school to combine personal touches with the formalities of commencement. “The best of both worlds,” is how Doctor of Pharmacy graduate Alison Smith described her experience in the School of Pharmacy. “What I like best about the school is that in a huge university, it’s a very small community,” she said. “You know everyone in your class, and the faculty know you by name.” That sense of community translated into commencement.

With tables set for brunch and live music provided by three fine arts students, close to 650 family members and friends mingled with students, faculty, and staff of the pharmacy school. Eleven M.S. and Ph.D. candidates were also recognized during the ceremony.

In previous years, the school offered an awards brunch and hooding ceremony in the morning. Students then proceeded to Gampel Pavilion for graduation. This year, the graduates also received their actual diplomas. Dr. Robert L. McCarthy, dean of the School of Pharmacy, said that only about a third of the school’s graduates participated in the event in Gampel, compared with about ninety-eight percent taking part this year.

Along with the traditional words of wisdom heard at commencement ceremonies across the country, Dean McCarthy reminded the class of their accomplishments and of the impression that they made on the School of Pharmacy. With his typical ebullience and a tear in his eye, McCarthy announced, “This is the class that stepped forward to lead fundraising efforts for Xavier School of Pharmacy in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. This is the class that re-energized SNPhA — the Student National Pharmaceutical Association which is dedicated to promoting diversity in pharmacy and the other healthcare professions. This is the class that took the fledgling Pharmacy Student Government and institutionalized the organization into an effective powerhouse for coordination of social, professional, and service activities for all pharmacy student organizations. This is the class that represented the school at the dedication of the Pharmacy-Biology Building.

This is the class that took a leadership role in aiding over 23,000 Connecticut residents in choosing a Medicare Part D drug plan. We expect great things from this class. We expect you to remain active leaders for the school, the profession, and the community.”

Keynote speaker Dr. Robin H. Bogner, an associate professor of pharmacy and the School of Pharmacy 2007 Teacher of the Year, urged the graduates to be teachers. “The best way for you to treat your patients is to teach them,” she said, “so they can become participants in their own health care. Don’t just provide information, go above and beyond,” she added. “Focus not just on patients and families, but on caregivers, technicians and support staff, and other pharmacists and health professionals. You will affect the lives of people you will never meet,” she said.

Students also heard words of wisdom from Eang Lao and Nandita Dinu, the class valedictorian and salutatorian. Pharmacy Librarian Sharon Giovenale was presented with the faculty service award for her service to the school and to the profession of pharmacy. Giovenale thanked the dean for allowing her to “have the best job in the world.”

The Pharm.D. students were the only ones this year to receive a genuine diploma on graduation day, rather than a diploma case. Since the Doctor of Pharmacy students complete their last experiential rotation on April 30th, there is no delay waiting for final exam grades. The School of Pharmacy’s Office of the Associate Dean worked with the University of Connecticut registrar and bursar to clear students for graduation and print the actual documents. “It’s kind of cool,” said graduating student Richard Meinking, “after six years to actually get what we went to school for.” The separate ceremonies were so successful that the entire University of Connecticut, including the pharmacy students receiving their Bachelor of Science degrees, will celebrate with individualized commencement ceremonies in 2008.

Many thanks to Elizabeth Omara-Otunnu and the UConn Advance for contributing portions of this article.
Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Studies
Class of 2007

Lisa Acampora
Susan Antar
Chinenye Anyanwu
Amelia Arnold
Amber Au
Kevin Awugah
Jagjit Bains
Michael Baker
Kristen Bielik
Christina Biondo
Scott Bonczek
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Matthew Cantin
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Maryam Yamamoto
Enny Yoo
Jason Young
Jennifer Young
Michael Zemaitis
Andy Zhang

The Waltzer family with Associate Dean Andrea Hubbard (second from left) at the Bachelor of Science Commencement Reception.

Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2007

Jeffrey C. Aberle - Walgreens
Ketsya M. Amboise - fellowship
Nicole C. Barone - CVS
Diane M. Bassett
Puja Bhalodi - Walgreens
Crystal L. Bissonnette - Rite Aid
Robert J. Boulier III - USAF
Stephen L. Burke - Walgreens
Gurbhej S. Cheema - Wal-Mart
Evelyn Soo Yi Cho
Bindee B. Chokshi - CVS
Andrea A. Ciliberto - CVS
Mark E. Cottle
Katie A. Davezac
Siminka J. Davis - Walgreens
Allison B. DeCollibus
Jonathan M. Delaney - Cardinal
Wennis D. Demetrios-Wilson
Jennifer J. DeNardis - CVS
Aaron P. Hussey - residency
Nwaka A. Ifudu - Walgreens
Lilit A. Karayan - Walgreens
Amy K. Kelder - Waltz Pharmacy
David Kell - Rite Aid
Mona Khan - CVS
Christopher Konecny - residency
Tadeusz Kowalczyk - Norwalk Hosp
Parvathi Kumar
Laura Landry - WW Backus Hosp
Eang Lao - Walgreens
Jill T. Loser
Heather A. Lucey - residency
Sandy Ma - Walgreens
Omeed J. Manabat - Walgreens
Giancarlo Maranzano - Bordonaros
Alexander Medunitza - Rite Aid
Richard Meinking - Wentworth
Neil R. Mills - Rite Aid
Jennifer A. Mitranos - Cubist
Caitlin E. Moniz - residency
Ona L. Morehouse - Walgreens
Jennifer L. Morrone - fellowship
Bartosz P. Muskus - OSCO
Kathryn E. Myers - residency
Rebecca J. Neville - residency
Lisa M. Olsen - Sav-on Albertsons
Vanessa J. Palma
Ryan R. Parenteau - Walgreens
Jillian E. Patemus
Maitri J. Patel - CVS
Nima B. Patel - St. Joseph Hosp
Rupal M. Patel
Deepak Bahl  
Master of Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics

Ahmad M. Abdul-Fattah  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics  
Major Advisor: Dr. Michael J. Pikal

Lauren M. Aleksunes  
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology/Toxicology  
Dissertation: Regulation of Hepatic Transporters during Drug-Induced Liver Injury  
Major Advisor: Dr. José E. Manautou

Bakul Bhatnagar  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics  
Dissertation: Critical Process and Formulation Factors in the Freezing of Lactate Dehydrogenase  
Major Advisor: Dr. Robin H. Bogner

Chandan Bhugra  
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics  
Dissertation: Stability of amorphous pharmaceuticals - Prediction of Onset of Crystallization using Experimental Relaxation Times  
Major Advisor: Dr. Michael J. Pikal

Anthony M. Flores  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology/Toxicology  
Dissertation: Isolation and Characterization of PPA Coregulators From Epidermal Keratinocytes  
Major Advisor: Dr. Brian J. Aneskievich

Sumit Luthra  
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics  
Dissertation: Investigation of drying stresses on the physical stability of proteins using the mini-freeze-dryer, controlled hydration calorimetry and spectroscopy  
Major Advisor: Dr. Michael J. Pikal

Timothy M. Nicholas  
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics  
Dissertation: An Investigation of CYP2E1 Phenotype Determination Utilizing Modeling and Simulation Studies  
Major Advisor: Dr. Kevin R. Sweeney

Sokhom S. Pin  
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology/Toxicology  
Dissertation: Functional Desensitization of Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) Receptors  
Major Advisor: Dr. Ben A. Bahr

Atul Saluja  
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics  
Dissertation: Characterization of Protein Protein Interactions for Optimizing Formulation and Physical Stability of High Protein Concentration Solutions  
Major Advisor: Dr. Devendra S. Kalonia

Wei Xu  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences: Medicinal Chemistry  
Dissertation: CB1 Cannabinoid Receptor: Structural Studies using Receptor Purification and Covalent Ligands  
Major Advisor: Dr. Alexandros Makriyannis

Faculty Service Award  
Sharon Giovenale, MLS

Teacher of the Year  
Dr. Robin H. Bogner
The 2006-2007 academic year welcomed Pharmacy Student Government back for its third year as the umbrella organization of the School of Pharmacy. The academic year was very productive for PSG and its members, as our entire group participated in and promoted multiple social, professional, and philanthropic projects and events for the pharmacy and university community.

Veteran’s Day weekend of 2006 was celebrated with our favorite annual social event, the student-faculty formal. The formal was held at the Crowne Plaza hotel in downtown Hartford, Connecticut and brought out the “fun” and “young” in all the students and faculty. The end of the academic year was celebrated with our holiday party, which allows the entire pharmacy school to take a break before finals and enjoy pizza and refreshments before hitting the books.

Our spring semester activities began before the term started with PSG members participating in the Connecticut Pharmacy Leadership Group’s Legislative Breakfast and brown bag medication counseling event at the State Capitol. PSG representatives got to display educational posters and speak with avid politicians and workers at the Capitol regarding pharmacy practice, Medicare Part D, and e-prescribing.

PSG members also began working on a project to show the importance of health literacy and the problems health care providers face with patients who are health illiterate. A committee, formed by P2 representatives Andrew Bzowyckyj and Jennifer Scholle, designed a presentation that can eventually be given to health care providers on the importance of health literacy.

PSG also held a large philanthropic event that got the entire local community involved. The first 4K Pharmacy Fun Run raised over $2000 to support the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The Fun Run was held on the Storrs campus on March 31, 2007 and had over 130 participants running or walking in the event.

The 2006-2007 year ended with our second annual Open Forum. The forum was created as a venue for students, faculty, and staff to discuss issues, voice concerns, and formulate new ideas to help the school of pharmacy function better for all parties. New suggestions and policies were implemented after the forum regarding class cancellations, tardiness, and respect for fellow classmates and faculty.

The UConn Student Chapter of AAPS planned and participated in several activities throughout the 2006-2007 school year. In September 2006, we had a change of chair to Adora Padilla and a change of vice chair to Kristyn Greco. Shortly after, AAPS planned a welcome lunch for new post-docs and graduate students in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department.

We assisted in the set-up of the Annual School of Pharmacy Research Symposium. Additionally, we were fortunate enough to have two distinguished guest speakers, Dr. Tim Kelly of KBI BioPharma and Dr. Sheri Shamblin of Pfizer, Inc.

The chapter adopted and sponsored a family for the holidays through a local Adopt-A-Family program. Several coffee hours were held to maintain a healthy social balance with the everyday academic life, and were successful in establishing good communication throughout the pharmaceutics program.

Pharm.D. students present information at the annual School of Pharmacy Health Fair, held each April in the Morosko Student Lounge.
APhA

APhA-ASP had a very eventful 2006-2007 academic year. We participated in Operation Immunization, attended the Midyear Regional Meeting in Long Island, provided blood pressure screening at the Husky Women’s basketball games, held our annual auction, and attended the APhA Annual meeting in Atlanta.

Operation Immunization was a program where we advocated getting immunized against the flu. That year was the first time ever that pharmacists were allowed to immunize, and are still allowed to do so. This was very important for the public to know.

The MRM is a gathering of all the pharmacy schools in the region, and policy making is discussed. Our chapter developed some pharmacy-related policies that we wished to be passed. These policies were then discussed and voted on at the meeting. Those that passed were then scheduled to be discussed at the annual meeting later on that year.

The blood pressure screening was a great success. At two of the women’s basketball games we manned tables where, in addition to blood pressure checks, Husky fans were asked to write down any medications they were taking, and some of the older student pharmacists counseled them and answered any questions they might have regarding their medications.

Our annual auction was the most successful ever. Proceeds from this event assist students in attending the annual meeting. There was a tremendous turnout by faculty, and we are especially grateful for their support. A special mention should be made to Dean McCarthy, who donated his house in Maine for two weekends, and to Dr. Bogner, who donated her house for a week. It could not have been done without such fantastic support by faculty, staff, students, and friends of pharmacy.

The annual meeting, held in Atlanta, was a great experience for many students. We had the opportunity to vote on the final policies that had been passed at the regional meetings. Our faculty advisor, Dr. José Manautou, took time out of his busy schedule to attend the meeting with us. It was also a great opportunity to network with many pharmacy companies that came to showcase at the convention. The dean sponsored a dinner for all of the attendees from UConn, which we deeply appreciated.

ASHP

This past year, the recently rekindled CT-ASCP student chapter has accomplished some great things. Twelve students attended the annual meeting in Phoenix, AZ. This was the first year that students were invited to the meeting and UConn was one of a few chapters that attended. Our chapter had the most students present! As a result of this meeting, two students inquired about taking elective rotations at ASCP’s National Headquarters in Alexandria, VA. The P4 students had a great experience and hope to attract more students to do the same.

One of CT-ASCP student chapter’s missions is to expose students to consultant pharmacy and geriatric care. This year Sandy Wojciechowski, a past CT-ASCP chapter president and current board member, spoke to students about her job and what it is like to be a consultant pharmacist. Current CT-ASCP chapter members have volunteered their time to host pharmacy students in a shadowing program. This is a great opportunity because hands-on experience with consultant pharmacy can teach students far more than just listening to a speaker.

Several students attended the state’s monthly board meetings and also the annual Senior Symposium. The 2007 Senior Symposium was a great opportunity for the students to learn more about geriatric care. The students gladly helped the state chapter with announcing speakers, monitoring rooms, and even ran the 5:45 AM registration booth. Also, this year the national chapter has expressed interest in hosting a similar event to “What NOT to Wear” at the annual meeting. The future seems filled with enthusiastic pharmacy students becoming more involved with the student chapter and UConn hopes to lead the way for other student chapters across the nation to become more involved with ASCP at all levels!
The 2006 – 2007 year proved to be business as usual, as many of our members remained active within the school and profession of pharmacy. We started off by helping the School of Pharmacy lay the groundwork on a new school garden by transporting bricks from the old school to the new building. In an event planned by the School of Pharmacy, brothers had lunch and spoke to students from the New Haven high schools on the importance of school and the many opportunities that a career in pharmacy could provide. While attending the APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting one of our brothers, Andrew Bzowyckyj, was elected to a regional officer position. We are extremely proud of Andrew’s accomplishment. The end of the semester finished with the initiation of eight new brothers, one of largest pledge classes in recent memory.

CSHP participated in the Clinical Skills Competition, with Katie Myers and Becky Neville being the ultimate winners, winning a free trip to the ASHP midyear meeting. Also during this time period, our Co-President Jenn Tan and Vice President Crystal Bissonnette organized a CV critique workshop at CPA for all of the P4 students. October also meant breast and testicular awareness month. CSHP partnered up with the Health Services Office and we had displays at three different dining halls and sold pink ribbons. The money that we raised was donated to the Partnership for Breast Cancer and Hartford Hospital, which gives free mammograms to those in need. Our parent chapter also held their annual meeting at UConn and student members were able to attend and sit in on the meeting. The chapter hosted financial consultant Dan Dagata from Ameriprise Financial to address the school about what to do with their finances after graduation. During the month of November we sponsored a toy drive for the patients at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. We wound up getting two full boxes of toys to give to the patients.

Kicking off the spring semester, we held a brown bag contest. Participants were provided with a patient case and the top entries in each class received a gift certificate to a restaurant of their choice. The most important project of the spring semester was a poison prevention presentation given to 1st and 2nd graders at Southeast Elementary School in Mansfield, CT. This event took a great deal of planning and was a lot of fun. The children seemed to learn a lot from our presentation. Rounding out the spring semester, CSHP rewrote its constitution to account for recent growth. We also created a slideshow chronicling the history of pharmacy for SNPhA’s Unity Week. To celebrate the completion of the year we all went out to lunch during finals week.
Lambda Kappa Sigma has been extremely active in the past year on the UConn campus and in the community. LKS has reached out with community service projects and has helped with career enhancement through professional projects. Within our chapter, we have run successful fundraisers, as well as strengthened our bonds between our members and networked with our alumni members.

LKS has contributed much to our philanthropy, Project HOPE. Project HOPE is a non-profit organization with the mission to achieve sustainable advances in health care around the world by implementing health education programs, conducting health policy research, and providing humanitarian assistance in areas of need. In the past, Project HOPE was known for the first peacetime hospital ship, the S.S. HOPE, and recently, it was one of the first responders to Hurricane Katrina.

October is a particularly important month for LKS as we recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our chapter sold over 200 pink ribbons and pink bracelets to raise $245 that was donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. We also collected over 200 pink Yoplait lids, in which Yoplait donates 10 cents for every lid collected. We also had a mother and daughter speak to us about their personal battle with breast cancer, and the event was open to the School of Pharmacy.

Locally, our chapter volunteers each semester at the Mansfield Rehab Center, where we assist with game time. Sisters have had the opportunity to play cards games and board games, as well as bake cookies with the patients. Members also participated in the Pharmacy Student Government 4K for the Komen Foundation.

Members participated in “Medications in my Home,” a presentation developed by the FDA on the safe and effective use of OTC medicines in children. The presentation was given at Hampton Elementary School.

Professionally, our chapter has hosted presentations by P4 students about rotations and by alumni members on residencies. Annually, we host a CV/interviewing workshop and we held a business etiquette presentation. We hosted a lecture and workshop on assertiveness in women last spring. We also donated $50 to the LKS Educational Trust.

The Alpha Beta chapter currently has 71 active members and 20 new members joined in the fall. We attended our regional meeting and sent a record-setting 20 women to this event in Philadelphia!
More Student News

NCPA

National Community Pharmacists Association
Amelia Arnold
President

This past year has been an exciting one for NCPA! Still in its early years at UConn, NCPA has seen its membership grow rapidly. Once again this year NCPA sold personalized engraved pens to graduating P4s and their parents as a way to mark the end of their UConn career and their entry into the profession of pharmacy. This is the second year that this has been done and it will be continuing in the future!

Just in the past year, the advisor of the NCPA UConn Chapter, Peter Tyczkowski, started co-teaching an elective - “The Entrepreneurial Pharmacist.” Through this class, UConn students are exposed to the business world and can gain valuable insight into the challenges and rewards of owning your own business. Through Mr. Tyczkowski’s work on the national level with NCPA, all students taking the class were able to gain a free one year membership into both the NCPA UConn and national chapters when they purchased the interactive CD-Rom for the class. Through this class there is hope that for the first time UConn will have a team enter the NCPA national competition of creating a business plan for a company!

Phi Delta Chi

Alpha Lambda Chapter
Jen Prushko
President

Phi Delta Chi is a co-ed professional pharmaceutical fraternity with the objective of developing leaders to advance the profession of pharmacy. This past year was a busy one for the Alpha Lambda chapter!

The chapter supported and participated in the Diabetes Walk. We sent huge care packages to the troops in Iraq for both Christmas and Valentine’s Day. The chapter also raised money to send to our philanthropy, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital by selling School of Pharmacy water bottles and having numerous bake sales. We are currently fundraising to try to double the money we sent last year. We attended the 65th Grand Council Meeting in West Palm Beach, Florida. Our chapter won the Dale W. Doerr 100% Achievement Award trophy for our accomplishments the past year.

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Alumna Cynthia Huge poses in front of the Class of 1975 Patient Counseling Room in the Pharmacy-Biology Building. The school dedicated its Donor Wall in the atrium and hosted a reception for major donors who helped to name spaces in the new facility. Plaques in honor of Dr. Henry A. Palmer and Dr. Ronald Langner were also unveiled at the event. Dr. Palmer’s plaque honors his years of service and commitment to the School of Pharmacy. Dr. Langner’s plaque recognizes his service as chair of the building committee that spearheaded the new facility. Specialty signage was also viewed in the Oscar & Julia Roth Classroom and the Milton & Rose Kalmanowitz Classroom. A bench and tree, on the Arrow Pharmacy Terrace were dedicated in honor of Yale Laites and his brothers Morris and Samuel.

PLS recognizes excellence in leadership within the school of pharmacy. This past spring we welcomed 12 new students into the group, one of the largest inductions in recent years! This came as no surprise as the number of qualified students distinguishing themselves in the School of Pharmacy continues to grow. Dr. Jennifer Lee joined us as our new advisor. With Dr. Lee came new ideas and goals for the organization.

Induction into PLS is the greatest honor which can be bestowed upon someone. At induction, Dr. Michael Gerald spoke giving the call for those individuals being inducted to rise up to the challenge. With new inductees many new projects for the organization are in the works. PLS has great potential this year to co-sponsor and run different patient care and service projects.
During the 2006-2007 school year Rho Chi participated in the school-wide health fair and presented and distributed information about Plan B to college students. We also inducted 20 new members – 10 from the class of 2009, 5 from the class of 2008, and 5 from the class of 2007. The induction banquet was held in Rome Ballroom and Dean McCarthy spoke to the group on the topic of leadership. We then had four of our members attend the national meeting in Atlanta, Georgia which was held in conjunction with the APhA national meeting. Here we met other chapters and discussed projects and ideas. We also have two members attending the regional meeting in Albany, NY in October of 2007.

The School of Pharmacy has intensified efforts at promoting diversity within its student body and the curriculum. The school has begun plans to participate in First Year Experience (FYE) courses at the regional campuses with the intent of keeping prospective students connected to the school. In addition, the school is increasing its fundraising efforts for needs-based scholarships, such as the “Giving Back Scholarship,” which was established by alumnus Marlon Fuller.

Recognizing that culturally diverse students must be encouraged and supported for years prior to college, pharmacy faculty and students are participating in the “Gear Up” program, whereby pre-college teenagers visit the Storrs campus, observe research labs and speak with faculty. While this program is currently running in one school district, the Diversity Committee has identified magnet schools in urban centers with the intent of reaching out to make contact with these schools.

As part of the professional program, Pharm.D. students are being given increased opportunities to work with ethnically diverse populations and underserved patients in the Willimantic Soup Kitchen, at Migrant Farm Workers Health Clinics and in the South Park Clinic in Hartford. These experiences serve to heighten cultural awareness and develop health care competencies.
Jennifer E. Girotto, Pharm.D., BCPS is an assistant clinical professor of pharmacy practice at the School of Pharmacy and clinical instructor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine. At Dr. Girotto’s practice site, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center (CCMC) she focuses her efforts on improving pharmacotherapy management for children with infectious diseases at both clinical and research venues. Her clinical pharmacist services include pharmacotherapy evaluation for inpatients during infectious disease rounds, as well as outpatient consults especially in areas of HIV, primary immunodeficiency therapy, and immunizations. Additionally, she provides infectious disease updates and reviews to the pharmacists, physicians and nurses at CCMC. Her research activities have included modeling antimicrobial therapy outcomes in the pediatric population.

Dr. Girotto’s philosophy has been to teach through mentoring. She has incorporated this style at her site through both clinical and research experiences, as well as via “real-life” cases during didactics. Under the direction of Dr. Girotto, pharmacy students on clinical rotation quickly learn the unique aspects pertaining to pharmacist care of the pediatric patient. First, the students appreciate different pediatric populations (neonate, infant, child, and adolescent), disease states, pediatric specific resources, as well as the calculations that accompany every medication. Next, the students realize their role as the medication experts and they begin to discover how to adapt to the limitations in pediatric specific data and drug formulations. Dr. Girotto finds the students’ realization of their role as part of the healthcare team to be one of the greatest experiences of rotational teaching.

Dr. Girotto has also been a research project advisor for pharmacy fellows and residents, as well as honors and independent research students. She chooses projects that can easily be seen as clinically relevant by the trainees so that they can see the relationship of their work to practice. Further, she teaches them the importance of contributing their work to the sparse pediatric pharmaceutical knowledge, by having them present or publish their findings. Examples of recent projects have included “Improved use of antibiotics resulting from implementation of febrile neutropenia order set” and “Impact of appropriate antibiotic utilization on clinical outcomes in complicated skin and soft tissue infections in children.”

In addition to her didactic and clinical teaching, Dr. Girotto has also had an active service role in the Connecticut Society of Health System Pharmacists. She has been a board member for the past five years, with her most recent role as immediate past president. Additionally, she was recipient of CSHP’s “Pharmacist of the Year” award in 2005.

Jeffrey R. Aeschlimann


Charles F. Caley


Kevin W. Chamberlin


Denis J. Chapron


Hensky NN, White CM, Gillespie E, Coleman CI*, Kluger J. The Impact of Gender on Survival Among Patients With Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillators for Primary Prevention Against Sudden Cardiac Death. Journal of Internal Medicine 2006;260:467-73.

Coleman CI, McKay RG, Boden WE, Mather JF, White CM. Efficacy and Cost-Effectiveness of Facilitated Percutaneous Coronary Intervention Compared with Primary Percutaneous Coronary Intervention in Patients With ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction Transferred to Community Hospitals. Clinical Therapeutics 2006;28:504-62.


against hepatic and gastrointestinal disease. Tox. Role of Nrf2 in protecting
expression in mouse liver, kidney, and intestine
Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) Spectroscopy, Structure of Lyophilized Proteins as Measured by
JOHN B. MORRIS

MICHAEL J. PIKAL
OLGA Y. VINOGRADOVA
DENNIS L. WRIGHT

Dr. Wright earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Ohio University and received post-doctoral training at Stanford University. Dr. Wright’s research program is focused on the development of small molecules with important biological or therapeutic function. Through the use of key skills in the realm of organic synthesis, the relationship between a molecule’s structure and its specific biological activity can be studied and probed.

Much of the inspiration for this work comes from contexts where highly active and structurally complex natural products provide the point of departure for these studies. Often while developing routes to synthesize these types of compounds, it is possible to probe the mechanism of action of the natural products and also improve upon the pharmacological properties. In cases where the structure of the target is known, the structural information is used to aid in the design of analogs. Of specific interest are molecules that could impact key therapeutic areas such as cancer, infectious disease and neurodegeneration. Additional areas of interest include medicinal chemistry and parallel synthesis.

New Staff
Barbara Murawska has returned to the School of Pharmacy as an administrative services specialist in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Barbara formerly served the school in the Office of the Associate Dean and returns to us from her position as an academic advisor in the Department of Family Studies.
Urban Service
Dr. Devra Dang
Assistant Clinical Professor

Advancing pharmacy practice in outpatient settings and care of underserved patients are two professional passions for Dr. Devra Dang, Pharm.D., BCPS, CDE. For the past several years, she has been developing a model for interprofessional collaboration for patient care and education at the Burgdorf Primary Care Clinic. This is a teaching clinic in Hartford’s north end dedicated to providing primary care to underserved patients. Dr. Dang provides comprehensive clinical pharmacy services to the health care professionals and patients at this site, including providing pharmacotherapy management of a wide variety of chronic disease states, most commonly diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, respiratory disorders, and pain management. She also precepts pharmacy students and residents on their primary care, family medicine, and clinical research rotations and teaches medical students and residents at the clinic. A unique aspect of the ambulatory care rotation for pharmacy students is their participation in direct patient care in conjunction with medical students in various clinic sessions. This enables not only improved patient care and mutual learning but also allows pharmacy students to teach medical students about the value of pharmacy interventions. Pharmacy and medical students also collaborate on a longitudinal quality improvement project and lead interprofessional case conferences that involve the entire clinic staff. Pharmacy students and residents are fully incorporated into the activities at the Burgdorf Clinic and their contributions are welcomed and appreciated by the health care professionals who practice there.

Dr. Dang is also co-directing the School of Pharmacy’s Urban Service Track curriculum. The Urban Service Track is an innovative collaboration between the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, and Dental Medicine and community practitioners to develop an interprofessional educational track for selected students in each professional program who are interested in providing care to underserved patient populations in urban areas. These Urban Health Scholars work as a team to learn to solve challenging issues of health care in urban areas, including providing direct patient care in free clinics at soup kitchens and migrant farms, promoting health literacy and cultural competency, and participating in community education and outreach, quality improvement initiatives, and community-based research. In addition, Urban Health Scholars participate in conferences focusing on health policy and advocacy activities affecting underserved populations. Two additional major components of the program include mentoring by faculty and community-based practitioners and a strong connection with community partners such as community health centers.

The Pharmacy Alumni Association honored three distinguished alumni, two honorary alumni and the Distinguished Emeritus Professor Award at its 37th Annual Pharmacy Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet.

Dr. Albert Belmonte, awardee in the field of academia, received his B.S. and M.S. in pharmacy from Northeastern University. He obtained his Ph.D. [1972] in pharmaceutics from the University of Connecticut. His career included service at Auburn University, St. John’s University, and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy [MCP]. Dr. Belmonte’s career included a 7-month term as interim president and 2 years as provost at MCP. He returned to the full-time faculty and also served as interim dean of pharmacy. He was awarded the College Medal in 2003 for his service to Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and was appointed professor emeritus upon his retirement.

Dr. Belmonte’s research interests included membrane model systems, dosage form design and biopharmaceutics. His educational interests include publications dealing with curriculum, student interests, and trends in pharmacy education. Dr. Belmonte is a member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. He has served in both elected and appointed offices for these organizations and is a past member of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy including two years as chair of the Council of Deans. He is a past national president of Rho Chi, the pharmacy honor society.

Mary Inguanti, the awardee in the field of pharmacy practice, received her Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy in 1984 and later, a Master’s degree in public health from the University of Connecticut. Pharmacist Inguanti is the vice president of operations and quality at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. She most recently served as the director of pharmacy for Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. This system includes the Mount Sinai Campus, the Rehabilitation Hospital of Connecticut, Saint
Francis Care Behavioral Health, Alcohol Drug and Recovery Centers and Saint Francis Care at Enfield. A fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, she served as chair for the Connecticut Hospital Association Pharmacy Directors work group. She was appointed to the Committee on Patient Care Quality of the Connecticut Hospital Association Board of Trustees. She was selected as a 2006 finalist for the Women of Innovation Awards Program developed by the Connecticut Technology Council. Ms. Inguinti was most recently named to the Board of Trustees for the P&T Society. She is also on the Editorial Advisory Board of Drug Topics and was named 1999 Pharmacist of the Year by the Connecticut Society of Health Systems Pharmacy for her outstanding contribution in the area of medication safety. She was recognized in 2002 as an honored member of the Who’s Who of Professionals Society. She is a fellow of the Wharton School and the University of Pennsylvania’s Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics executive pharmacy leadership program.

Pharmacy in 1982, and his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

Prior to his work as a Clinical Education Consultant for Pfizer, Pharmacist Buckley was a clinical pharmacist at New Britain General Hospital and at St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, Washington. In both positions, he served on various hospital committees including Pharmacy and Therapeutics, Patient Education, and Cardiac Rehabilitation, and authored numerous disease management protocols and patient education materials.

As a Clinical Education Consultant, he worked with health care professionals in a variety of practice settings to assist with patient outcomes research, professional and patient education needs and other clinical projects. He has authored or co-authored numerous journal articles in a diverse number of disease states and practice issues.

Pharmacist Buckley has been very active with professional pharmacy organizations, serving as chair of the legislative committee for the Connecticut Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists, championing collaborative practice legislation and numerous other pharmacy legislative initiatives. He is the recipient of the CSHP Paul Pierpoli Lecture Award, CSHP’s Pharmacist of the Year Award, the Connecticut Pharmacists Association Daniel C. Leone Pharmacist of the Year Award, CPA’s Professional Pharmacy Performance Award, CT-ASCP’s Pharmacist of the Year Award, and ASHP’s Literature Award for Innovation in Pharmacy Practice in Health Systems. He served as a Global Health Fellow for Pfizer and the International Rescue Committee at the Mae Tao Clinic in Thailand, improving pharmacy and medical services for the Burmese migrant community along the Thai/Burma border.

Brian Lachapelle, former director of development for the Schools of Allied Health, Nursing, Pharmacy and Family Studies, and Roy Katz, registered pharmacist and owner of The Medicine Shoppe in Manchester, Connecticut, were named as honorary alumni for their service to the school.

Dr. Steven D. Cohen was named as a Distinguished Emeritus Professor. Dr. Cohen received his B.S. in pharmacy and M.S. in pharmacology from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and his D.Sc. in toxicology from Harvard University. He joined the University of Connecticut in 1972. He founded the Center for Biochemical Toxicology and the Intra-departmental Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Training Program in Environmental Toxicology.

Development of new therapeutics effective in fighting infectious diseases remains critical in this age of multiple drug resistance, bioterrorism and the introduction of evolving infectious organisms. Research in Dr. Anderson’s lab focuses on the design of new drugs for infectious diseases. Current projects include the design of anti-protozoal, antibacterial, and antifungal compounds that will be effective against Cryptosporidium, Bacillus anthracis, Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Candida albicans and Candida glabrata infections. Work in the laboratory is multi-disciplinary and incorporates many of the processes of early-stage drug development: researchers focus on protein structure determination by various techniques, computational modeling of protein:inhibitor interactions, enzyme inhibition and cell growth inhibition. Postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and pharmacy students work together with Dr. Anderson to determine the atomic structures of drug targets and to computationally model new, potentially potent compounds. After the compounds are synthesized, they are evaluated in several assays to determine efficacy before they are slated to progress to evaluation in animal models of infection.

Thomas Buckley, the awardee in the field of industry, received his Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from the School of Pharmacology.
New Faculty

Pharmacy Practice
Dr. Sneha Baxi
Assistant Clinical Professor

Sneha Baxi, Pharm.D. is an assistant clinical professor of pharmacy practice at the School of Pharmacy. She joined the school after completing an Ambulatory Care Specialty Residency and Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is onsite at the Adult Primary Care Clinic at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven.

At the school, she is the co-coordinator of the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience I, II, and III and will be starting a Medication Safety elective with another faculty member. She also teaches in Nonprescription Medications, Patient Assessment, a diabetes elective, prescription processing lab, and neuropsych therapeutics. In her ambulatory care clinic, she provides tobacco cessation, diabetes, asthma, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and medication education and management to patients referred by the medical team.

Dr. Baxi usually precepts two, fourth-year pharmacy students each month for advanced experiential rotations. Her interests include disease state management, diabetes education, smoking cessation, and outreach. Dr. Baxi holds certificates in Antithrombosis Therapy Management, Tobacco Treatment, and Immunization Delivery.

Dr. Boelsterli received his Ph.D. from the University of Zurich, Switzerland. After a postdoctoral education in the research laboratories of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Washington, DC, he joined the Institute of Toxicology at the ETH Zurich, where he became associate professor of toxicology. Subsequently he spent some years in the Safety Assessment Departments of Sandoz Ltd and later at Roche Pharma, Basel, Switzerland, where he was head of molecular toxicology. He then became professor of toxicology at the University of Basel. Next, he moved to the National University of Singapore where he was directing the Toxicology Program as joint faculty in the Departments of Pharmacology and Pharmacy.

Dr. Boelsterli’s major research focus is in the elucidation of the molecular mechanisms of drug-induced liver injury, with particular emphasis on mitochondria as both targets and mediators of injury. He has published over 80 peer-reviewed original articles and reviews as well as a sole-author best-selling textbook on mechanistic toxicology. He also consults for a number of pharmaceutical companies and has founded a consulting company focusing on idiosyncratic drug-induced liver injury.

Dr. Boelsterli was formally invested in his position as the Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology on October 25, 2007.

Toxicology
Dr. Urs A. Boelsterli
Professor & Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology

Dr. Bodhi Chaudhuri joined the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy as an assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences in the spring 2007 semester. Trained as an engineer, Dr. Chaudhuri is an expert in the field of powder technology, the engineering aspect of manufacturing medications. He states that the most common ingredient besides water in all processing industries is powder. The engineer’s job is to know how to transform the powder into tablets or capsules. The importance of powder technology is especially evident in the field of pharmacy. It is vital to know about the interactions between various medications. Dr. Chaudhuri’s expertise in powder technology includes granular, as well as fluid mechanics.
Dr. Bodhisattwa Chaudhuri received his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering at Jadavpur University in India and his master’s degree in chemical engineering at the Indian Institute of Science. Dr. Chaudhuri then earned his doctorate in mechanical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in 2000. He was a research associate for four years at Rutgers University where he focused on pharmaceutical engineering, specifically interactions between medications. Dr. Chaudhuri’s extensive knowledge and research in the field of engineering, complements the research and teaching specialities of his colleagues in the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department and will be of great value to his pharmacy students.

Megan Jo Ehret, Pharm.D. joined the faculty as an assistant professor in pharmacy practice/clinical specialist in inpatient psychiatry, upon completion of a Clinical Psychopharmacology and Pharmacogenomics Fellowship at Nova Southeastern University. Her teaching and research experience has focused on Alzheimer’s disease, bipolar disorder, ADHD, and serotonin receptor pharmacogenomics. During her fellowship at Nova Southeastern, Dr. Ehret investigated the influence of venlafaxine on p-glycoprotein, a project which lead to a National Institute of Mental Health New Investigators Award in 2006. During this time, Dr. Ehret also developed a research protocol involving the treatment response to Cholinesterase Inhibitors in patients with Alzheimer’s disease, a research project that she continues to pursue at the School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Ehret received a Doctor of Pharmacy and Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences degrees from the University of Toledo College of Pharmacy. She completed a Psychiatric Practice Residency at the VA Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio where she conducted research on the use of a single antipsychotic course of treatment for schizophrenia as opposed to two antipsychotics. She practices on site at the Institute of Living in Hartford, Connecticut.

Effie L. Kuti, Pharm.D. joined the School of Pharmacy as an assistant professor of pharmacy practice. Her clinical site is located at Yale-New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut. She provides pharmacy students with one-month rotations on internal medicine floors within the hospital. She also holds a position as a member of the Human Investigation Committee for Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Kuti received her Bachelor of Science in biology from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Virginia Commonwealth University Medical College of Virginia Campus School of Pharmacy in Richmond. She completed a postgraduate residency in general pharmacy practice followed by a fellowship in pharmacoconomics and Outcomes Research at Hartford Hospital.

Dr. Kuti had the esteemed pleasure to study and conduct research with Craig I. Coleman, Pharm.D., an assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, during her fellowship program. Dr. Kuti’s primary area of research and teaching interest included pharmacoconomics and health outcomes. To-date her research experience has focused on pharmacoconomics of a medication assistance program, internal medicine/cardiovascular pharmacotherapy, and cardiovascular clinical and economic outcomes. Dr. Kuti’s research has been published in original research articles and reviews.
For more information about the School of Pharmacy, visit our website at: www.pharmacy.uconn.edu