School of Pharmacy Advisory Board members gather at their semi-annual meeting. Pictured: [front row left to right] Greg Gousse, Jennifer Osowiecki, Erica Peitler, Carmen Nobre, Darlene Able, Rachelle Goto, Margaret Weaver, Jeannette Wick, Elliott Tertes, Mark Brackett, Deb Faucette, [back row left to right] Suresh Babu, Roger Stoll, Bill Hatt, Sarah Kelly, Barbara Deplecta, Peter Farina, Jose Manautou, Joe Palo, David Rosen, Jim Baxter, and Marion Ehrich.

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A Message from the Dean

Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D.

The School of Pharmacy continues to be blessed by an exceptional group of students, faculty, and staff, who each day uphold the tradition of excellence in teaching, research, and service that has been our hallmark for 85 years.

The school continued to make excellent progress in implementing our assessment plan, completing the phased implementation of our assessment software. Fourth professional year students are now sending their RxPortfolios to preceptors as a form of introduction prior to starting rotations.

The new Pharm.D./M.P.H. program was approved allowing professional students to complete both degrees in seven years.

The school continued to expand its outreach efforts to the UConn regional campuses at Avery Point, Waterbury, and Hartford, critical because these campuses feature a more culturally-diverse student body and present an excellent opportunity to form strong bonds with pre-pharmacy students.

The school also built upon a tradition of service through its growing effort to engage our students in learning opportunities in a number of culturally diverse environments. Several students are active in the university’s Urban Service Track program, augmenting their professional education by helping to meet the medical needs of patients experiencing health disparities through team work with students in other health disciplines. Our students have increasingly been active in soup kitchens, homeless shelters, migrant farm camps, other culturally rich environments, and programs such as the Louis Stokes Alliance Minority Participation 2010 Symposium, the UConn GEAR UP program, and serving as “mentors” in the Stratford High School electronic mentoring program.

We also continued the work of the Connecticut Pharmacy Diversity Partnership, which includes Walgreens and Boehringer Ingelheim, to operate a summer mini-camp designed to engage students of the Waterbury YMCA leadership program in a three-day activity that included an introduction to bench research and the preparation of medication dosage forms.

The school hosted a dozen young adults with autism for a half-day program about pharmacy. Two dozen professional and graduate students led a program that included an introduction to pharmacy, a lively question and answer session, lunch, and an opportunity to learn the basics of compounding. The day was a tremendous success for all involved, including our students who learned first-hand about the daily challenges facing individuals with autism and their families.

The school’s graduate program in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences was designated as one of the strongest graduate programs in the university by the CEGaPP committee, providing confirmation of our excellence. As evidence, for the second time this decade, two of our graduate students were selected as USP Fellows. Kristyn Greco, from Dr. Robin Bogner’s lab, and Archana Rawat, from Dr. Diane Burgess’s lab, were selected as a 2009-2010 USP Fellow. Selection as one of only six USP Fellows nationwide is a very high honor. In the last six years, we have had significantly more USP fellows than any other university in the nation. Another graduate student, Sudhir Verma, was one of five winners of the Excipient Graduate Student Award presented by the International Pharmaceutical Excipients Council (IPEC) at the AAPS Annual Meeting.

Our professional students also continue to shine. Last year our American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists chapter was awarded a Project CHANCE grant to provide MTM services to patients with hypertension. The student-faculty teams achieved a statistically-significant improvement in blood pressure control. A poster of their work was presented at the APhA Annual Meeting in March. Student Danielle Voisine was appointed to the Geriatric Academic Roundtable, a national committee within the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists. She is the first student representative to ever be appointed to this national committee.

In June 2010, we signed a memorandum of understanding with our colleagues from the University of Bridgeport that will enable pre-pharmacy students from UB to apply to our pharmacy program beginning with the class entering fall 2012. UB’s pre-pharmacy curriculum mirrors our own. This MOU is the first of its kind signed between our school and another institution.

Both departments continued their impressive growth in scholarly productivity. Approximately $7.2 million in extramural support was attracted compared to $4.3 million in Ay 2008-2009, an astounding 67% increase. The Department of Pharmacy Practice attracted approximately $3.5 million (a 129% increase compared to Ay 2008-2009). It is particularly noteworthy that departmental faculty grant/external funding support has steadily risen over the last seven academic years. Faculty in the Department of Pharmacy Practice published 77 full-length articles in refereed journals, had 38 abstracts and posters accepted at various professional meetings, conducted 139 ad hoc reviews, and 13 faculty members delivered 68 invited presentations at national, regional, state meetings.

The Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences garnered grants totaling approximately $3.7 million, a significant increase over the previous year’s $2.4 million. Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty published 64 full-length articles, presented 49 short papers, abstracts and poster, and garnered two patents.

Our faculty members continue to garner national and international recognition and eight members of the Department of Pharmacy Practice held major officer/board positions in state and national organizations.

The American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists named Dr. Michael Pikal the 2009 AAPS Distinguished Scientist, the highest award presented by the AAPS. Dr. Pikal is widely regarded as the world’s leading expert in the lyophilization of drugs.

Dr. Robin Bogner was awarded the Ralph Shangraw Memorial Prize given for excellence in research focused on excipients by the International Pharmaceutical Excipients Council (IPEC).

Dr. Marie Smith was elected to the National Academies of Practice by her peers in pharmacy and other health professions as well as selected as one of four individuals to represent the American...
I want to express my sincere thanks to our exceptional leadership team for their wise counsel, professionalism, and dedication. In particular, I want to recognize the contributions of Dr. John Morris, who over 8 years led the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and has chosen to return to the faculty in the 2010-2011 academic year. His vision, creativity, and commitment to both faculty and students have resulted in a department that boasts exceptional faculty, highlighted by two endowed chairs and a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, nationally-recognized graduate programs, and an enviable research portfolio. Although his formal leadership will be greatly missed, I am confident of his continued wise counsel as a senior member of our faculty and assistant dean for research.

Warmly,

Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D.
Dean & Professor

On Wednesday, November 4, 2009 the School of Pharmacy Class of 2013 stood in the Great Hall in the Alumni House amongst beaming peers, faculty, and parents to take the Oath of a Student Pharmacist at the Class of 2013 Professionalism Ceremony, which was generously sponsored by CVS. The purpose of the ceremony, according to Professionalism Committee member and pharmacy student, Carmen Nobre, is to help guide the first year School of Pharmacy students through their transition into professionals. “As a pharmacist it is not enough to know the mechanisms of medications and their interactions. A pharmacist must be able to show compassion, have patience, and effectively communicate, among other things in order to truly have a positive impact in a patient’s health care,” said Nobre.

Dean Robert McCarthy, Associate Dean Andrea Hubbard, and CVS Pharmacy Supervisor Chris Cretella opened the ceremony with welcoming remarks, as well as reassuring words of wisdom.

Brian Bachyrycz, P4 student, followed the opening remarks with an inspirational speech on professionalism from a student perspective. After introducing himself and welcoming students he began. “As many of us know the profession of pharmacy has changed a great deal over a very short period of time. Now in a world where there are hundreds of commonly used medications, often treating the patient with the right one can become a daunting task. With so many options, the drug interactions and possible adverse effects, it is easy for health care professionals to become overwhelmed and frustrated in choosing the best means of care. It is for this very reason that professionalism amongst pharmacists and all health care professionals takes on even greater importance than ever.”

Bachyrycz went on to discuss what professionalism means to him, and the expectations and challenges the students will face as they enter the field. “As we enter into pharmacy, we must accept the responsibility and opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives. And as you say the words of your oath today, promise to yourself that you will work towards becoming the best professional you can be.”

Dr. Devra Dang, associate clinical professor, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Dr. Dang spoke about the Urban Service Track program and described to the students about the projects Urban Service Track students participate in, as well as her passion for the program. In doing so, she reached students with the message that they should be passionate about whatever path they pursue.

Dr. Hubbard administered the Oath of a Student Pharmacist to 101 new pharmacy students. The highlight of the event, recalled PI student Daniel Ventricelli, “was when we all stood up and turned around to face the parents and teachers and read the oath to them.” Nobre also noted this moment, explaining that the ceremony “is the first time that parents have the opportunity to see for themselves the welcoming and friendly environment in which their child is growing.”

Weeks prior to the ceremony, the Class of 2013 and students from the Professionalism Committee got together to compose the oath. By doing so, the students created something personal and made this a meaningful passage into the school. “It made finally being in the pharmacy school seem real,” said Ventricelli who was also on the committee. “It gave me a feeling of importance and also brought the entire class together to read an oath that we will stand by for the remainder of our years in pharmacy school.”
If you’ve ever met Mark Brackett, you would immediately understand why, during the Scholarship Convocation on April 9, 2010, Associate Dean Andrea Hubbard, Ph.D., introduced the keynote speaker as a man who “for the members of the Class of ’78, probably does not need any form of introduction.”

Mark L. Brackett, R.Ph., graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1978. To hear him speak with such passion for this institution both at the convocation as well as earlier that day at the School of Pharmacy Advisory Board meeting [where he serves alongside former 1978 classmates David Rosen and Barbara Deptula and many other esteemed alumni and pharmacy professionals] makes one think he never left. It is evident that his connection to the School of Pharmacy is enduring, and that he has a great desire to give back to the place that “helped him set the foundation for his goals and helped him to achieve those goals.” “I strongly believe in giving back to the community that helped me get to where I am. This a very good institution and I am really interested in the progress that the School of Pharmacy is making,” Brackett said.

Despite the difficult financial environment, the School of Pharmacy awarded more than $170,000 in scholarships this spring, a greater than $30,000 increase over last year, thanks to a number of new scholarship sponsors.

In fact, Brackett gave back by honoring two high achieving pharmacy students with a Kinney Drug Employee Owners Scholarship, which was established in 2008 through the generosity of Kinney Drug Employee Owners. Brackett encouraged the students in his keynote address “to give back to those who gave to you, but at the right time. You’ll know when, probably not tomorrow but sometime in the future. It’s a very good thing to give back and it makes you feel good.” He further advised them to “focus on achieving your goals, and work hard to do so.”

Brackett knows the value of hard work and what it takes to reach the position he is in today. He joined Kinney Drugs Corporation in 1971, and after receiving his degree from UConn held various managerial positions including: assistant store manager (1979), store manager (1980), director of nursing homes services (1982), pharmacy district manager (1985), and regional manager (1993). His career did not stop there: he became the president of ProAct Pharmacy Services and the vice president of human resources for Kinney Corporation in 2004. Now retired, Brackett still sits on the Board of Directors and is currently the vice president of the Kinney Foundation.

Aside from his involvement in Kinney Drugs and the School of Pharmacy Advisory Board, Brackett is also president and CEO of NeuroRedox Corporation, a research firm working with neuroprotective agents for diseases like multiple sclerosis and Lou Gehrig’s disease. “Our ultimate goal is to take the products we are working with and put them into a line that can be used to benefit human beings,” Brackett said.

He then consulted with two other Advisory Board members, Rosen and Peter Farina, who encouraged him to pursue the venture. “Sitting down with fellow advisory board members and presenting the idea encouraged me to move ahead with it. Without their counsel I may have been hesitant,” he recalled. “The biggest thing is to always recognize the fact that many people touch your life, and it is important to appreciate what everyone you meet can offer you as far as networking.”

Brackett’s connection with fellow classmates through the Advisory Board has also sparked a potential new scholarship, the Pharmacy Garden Scholarship Class of 1978. The idea to organize a new award came to Rosen and Brackett as they talked before the meeting and they “are very excited” about this opportunity. “We’re still working on it. We have committed to supporting the School of Pharmacy garden, which contributes to drug production developed from vegetation, and in conjunction with that, we want to procure as much money as possible to secure a scholarship,” Brackett said.

While Brackett has gone on to have a successful career since his days as an undergraduate at UConn, he has also had time to lead a fulfilling family life. He joked during his keynote address that besides an education, what else he took away from UConn was his wife, then
girlfriend, Nancy. They now have two children: Ben, 27, is an account executive at Ignited, an advertising firm in Los Angeles, California, and Emma, 25, is finishing her master’s degree in social work at the University of Vermont. Brackett completed his first term on the Advisory Board in October 2010, and will assume the post of vice-chair at the April 2011 board meeting. “UConn’s School of Pharmacy Advisory Board is not like other boards that rubber stamp.” When we meet in October, I often find that what we talked about in April is already in place. The dean uses our ideas,” Brackett stated.

Brackett’s desire to serve the School of Pharmacy for another term is truly illustrative of his continued connection to the university after so many years. His ongoing involvement with the Kinney Corporation and the progressive firm NeuroRedox Corporation, along with his generosity to the current student body through scholarships demonstrate his pride in this institution and passion to raise a future generation of pharmacists to follow in his footsteps and give back to the community that helped them reach their goals.
We gratefully acknowledge the alumni, corporations, foundations, friends, and parents who made gifts to the School between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Your continued commitment provides very important resources to our students and faculty.

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It is every man’s obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it.”

~ Albert Einstein

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Elsa Sepe
Sandra P. Sexton ’56
James ’81 and Sung-Sook ’81 Smith
Harold B. Spurr
Anthony Spasiano III ’67 and
Janet Spasiano
Danielle M. St. Onge
Verna M. Stanek
Edward T. Stango, Sr. ’71
Sheldon Steinhaus ’50
Thomas D. ’64 and
Alexandra ’65 Tallarini
Donald R. Tishler ’57*
William F. Tote ’66
M. Denise Trelmalgia ’79
Jeanette E. Vail ’44
Mark B. Zonenshine ’70 and
Kim M. Ventere-Zonenshine ’81
Ralph A. and Sheri L. Ventricelli
Marcel L. Vigneault ’55, ’67
The Vineault Family Trust
Robyn J. Wahl ’89
William P. Ward ’66
Diane C. Wehrly
Barbara G. Weisenfeld ’61
Bruce A. Weitzman
Kathleen D. White ’80
William A. Wieler ’52*
Maureen E. Zeiner ’88
William ’81 and Muriel W. Zeldis

We have prepared the 2009-2010 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.

Scholarship Recipients

Graduate Students

Gerald Jackson Award in Pharmaceuticals
Archana Rawat
Richardsonian-Vick/A. Francis Summa Award in Pharmaceutical Science
Jennifer Beierlein

Doctor of Pharmacy Students

Arrow Pharmacy Endowed Scholarship
Melissa Yanurian ’11 and Haley Morril ’11
Harold M. Beal Memorial Scholarship
Jessica Gale ’10 and Kataryna Kozubal ’10
Felix Blanc Memorial Scholarship
Katherine Richardson ’13
The Capuano Fund Scholarship
Kelly Cabral ’13
Cardinal Health Scholarship
James Rico ’10
Chase Memorial Scholarship
M. Hye Kim ’12
Class of ’71 Scholarship
Amina Ramic ’13
Abraham D. Cohen & Sandra Cohen Fagan Memorial Scholarship
Linda Zhang ’10
Amelia Aridztone Comer Memorial Scholarship
Habiba Ghafoor ’10
CVS Pharmacy Scholarship
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Raymond L. Dunn Scholarship
Ahsa Naka ’10
John T. Drubinski Memorial Scholarship
Tricia Lemieux ’11, Joanna Rhieu ’10, David Rozdzylski ’10, and Huaweng Zheng ’11
James Faucette Memorial Scholarship
Nicole Miller ’11 and Elizabeth Zhu ’11
Nicholas W. Fenney Memorial Scholarship
Samantha Affili ’10
Abraham Freeman Memorial Scholarship
Steven Thai ’11

Continued on Page 12
Personal Interview Required for Pharm.D. Admission

Every year the School of Pharmacy evaluates approximately 200 highly qualified pre-pharmacy applicants in order to determine the top 100 candidates for admittance into the program. In years past, applicants were granted guaranteed admission into the program based on successful completion of a series of rigorous pre-requisites with a specific grade point average. The class of 2013 was the first to be admitted using a new set of competitive admissions criteria, including grades in math and science courses, scores on the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), a personal statement, health related experience, letters of recommendation and a personal interview.

In the spring of 2009, around 180 applicants applied to the School of Pharmacy, and approximately 130 were selected to be interviewed. The interviews were conducted in 45 minutes, in which three applicants faced three interviewers: a faculty member, a pharmacy practitioner, and a current P4 student. Questions went back and forth between the interviewers and the interviewees, giving the applicants a chance to explain their answers, ask a few questions to the interviewers, and interact with their fellow students.

The primary goal of this interview component is to evaluate the applicants’ communication skills in a practical setting. Thomas Buckley, one of the faculty interviewers, said “this is our first snapshot of how well these folks are going to be able to communicate.” Observing the applicants’ interactions not only with the interviewers but also with the other applicants can give a sense of who they are and how they might interact with others in medical professions. At the end of the interview, the panelists have about 15 minutes to score the applicants independently before they start the next interview.

Kimberly Widmann applied to the pharmacy program as a transfer student. She had already been in the industry as a research scientist for seven years. Now a P2 student, she looks back at the interview and recalls that it was too short and would have appreciated more time to talk to the interviewers and ask questions. She said she “hoped I had enough time to talk.” As a non-UConn student applying to the program, Widmann would have preferred a segment of the interview that was geared towards transfer students, allowing them to ask more questions about the school, and perhaps receiving a tour of the building. Overall, Widmann thought the panel was a good addition to the process. She liked how each panelist had an area to focus on, and that the evaluation was not based on one person’s opinion.

Dr. Buckley, as a faculty member and an interviewer, “enjoyed the process” and thought that it was something that should have happened years ago. “One of the benefits [to the interview] is it allows you to get a little more personality of the student and understand their communication skills,” he said.

Dr. Buckley also saw that a few components of the interview process could be improved. He felt the interviews were too short, and he “felt a little rushed in the process.” Some of the interview questions did not get the responses that were expected, so Dr. Buckley mentioned a desire to rework them. In the long run, being able to judge potential candidates through an interview component will help the admissions committee accept students with a high potential to succeed in the field. “We always have to keep in mind we are training people here to become pharmacists,” Dr. Buckley said.
Mobolaji Adio
Shamsul Arif
Natalia Banaszczyk-Wicik
Bijan Bandani
Vishal Barochia
Daniel Baxter
Jon Blazawski
Ian Booker
Megan Bourne
Melanie Brunner
Alicia Caccavelli
Brian Calamari
Jonathan Caranfa
Christopher Carnaroli
Yeonsun Choi
Michael Chupka
Agata Dabek
Danielle D’Alfonso
Aimee Dietle
Jennifer Dolecki
Alex Dozier
Jeffrey Endicott
Diana Finlayson
Daniel Fox
Darrell Fuller
Daniel Garofoli
Eric Gloede
Ashley Greene
Gina Guinta
Eric Halpern
James Finlayson
Casey Hayden
Kelly Hughes
Charles Jones
Hyejin Kim
Mi Hye Kim
Matthew King
Christine Kohn
Steven Krasnowski
Melissa Kuhn
Peter Kwon
Sarah Kwon
SangWoo Lee
SungHee Lee
Erica Lepkowski
Sarah Livings
Jacquelyn Lloyd
Ramonita Maldonado
Sarah Martinson
Christina Matsis
Kristopher McDonnell
Marian Merced
Emily Merrick
Gina Mozzicato
Rachel Mullin
Michelle Nadeau
Sadie Nazer
Dien Nguyen
Jennifer Nguyen
Minh-Tue Nguyen
Christopher O lender
Rosana Oliveira
Matthew Papa
Monique Paquette
Han-Sol Park
Katelyn Parsons
Usha Patel
Robert Pawlik
Andrew Perugini
Amanda Prashad
Benjamin Pratt
Karolina Prytulo
Jason Quint
Stephen Rainey
Muamer Ramic
Tara Raymaekers
Gabrielle Richterman
Albert Saito
Lisa Semancik
Rayhan Shaikh
Pamela Shieh
Ruta Shinkevich
Vadim Shinkevich
Aylin Sivri
Matthew St. Onge
Justine Surh
Mehak Talwar
Rachel Tatulis
Cristina Tavormina
Sandy Teng
Sweta Vachhani
Quy Vinh
Danielle Wojtaszek
Ermir Xhimitiku
Christina Zaccheo
Katarzyna Zlotnik

Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Studies Class of 2010

Students Today Huskies Forever

Doctor of Pharmacy Class of 2010

Danyel Adams - resident St. Francis
Salma Afifi - resident VACT
Jillian Asselin - WW Backus Hospital
Brian Bachyrycz - resident Monti fore
Katherine Banker - Rite Aid
Meredith Barone - Walgreens
Amanda Barrett - Walgreens
Jamie Beever - US Navy
Adrian Bobriwnyk
Whitney Boudreau
Sarah Bourgoin - Walgreens
Christopher Cardoni - Rite Aid
Andrew Chiu - Vassor Bros. Hosp.
John Conley - Walgreens
Jason Corbo - resident Durham VA
Sarah Culbreth - resident St. Raphael’s
Erica Cywar - CVS
Katherine Davoren - medical school
Christopher DeLucia - hospital
Rachel Dicker - VA
Kelly Dinsmore - resident Togus VA
Lam Du - Rite Aid
Brandon Dubos
Nicholas Dumont
Diane Duncheskie - CVS
Kevin Embree - Walgreens
Abraham Feshazion - CVS
Craig Freyer - resident Henry Ford
Joshua Friedman - hospital
Natasha Froonjian - Walgreens
Jessica Gale - resident Tufts
Ahmad Ghafoor - Walgreens
Nicole Giannotto
Marta Gola
Alexei Goshdigian
Timothy Haberern - Rite Aid
Kathryn Hanson

Daniele Henry - resident Hartford Hospital
Whitney Hollands - resident Waterbury Hospital
Sharon Hwang - Rite Aid
Ryan Isacsson - CVS
Sara Izzo - Walgreens
Adam Jankowski - Target
Nicole Jordan - Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Daniel Kilcoyne - resident St. Raphael’s
Richard Kiley - CVS
Anna Kolodziejczak - CVS
Katarzyna Kozubal - Target
Anne Krzystofik - CVS
Brendan LaPorte - CVS
Alice Lee - Walgreens
Michael Li - resident University of Washington
Brennan Luke - CCMC
Darrell Machir - US Navy
James Malaney*
Adam Mannes
Thomas Marottolo - CVS
Ana Martinez
Christy Mathew - resident Waterbury Hospital
John McCarthy
Brenna McDonald - CVS
Jillian McEnery - CVS
Andrew Medwid
Megan Mooers - CVS
Alexandra Mooney
Christopher Morales - CVS
Anisa Naka - resident Hartford
Master of Science & Doctor of Philosophy Class of 2010

Rohini Kashimshetty
Master of Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology & Toxicology
Thesis: Exploring the Mechanisms of Idiosyncratic Drug-induced Liver Injury (I-DILI) Induced by the Nitroaromatic Drugs Flutamide and Tolcapone Using the Heterozygous Superoxide Dismutase 2 Knockout (Spd2=/-) Mouse Model
Major Advisor: Dr. Urs A. Boelsterli

Kunal Bakshi
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Medicinal & Natural Products Chemistry
Doctoral Dissertation: Exploring Structural Mechanisms for the Regulation of Cannabinoid Receptor 1 Desensitization and Internalization
Major Advisor: Dr. Spiro Pavlopoulos

Igor Gurevich
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology & Toxicology
Doctoral Dissertation: Functional Analysis of Interaction between Nuclear Retinoid Receptors and a Novel Keratinocyte Derived Coregulator TNIP1
Major Advisor: Dr. Brian J. Aneskievich

Shumet Hailu
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics
Doctoral Dissertation: Chemical Stability of Amorphous Pharmaceuticals Prepared with Silicates
Major Advisor: Dr. Robin H. Bogner

Tzipporah Michelle Kertesz
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmacology & Toxicology
Doctoral Dissertation: Development of Metabonomics Tools for Biomarker Identification in Multiple Sclerosis
Major Advisor: David F. Grant

Sudhir Verma
Doctor of Philosophy, Pharmaceutical Sciences: Pharmaceutics
Doctoral Dissertation: Effect of Process Parameters and the Role of Stabilizer in Nanosuspension Stability
Major Advisor: Dr. Diane J. Burgess
Pharmacy Student Government (PSG) had a great 2009-2010. The fall formal held at the Holiday Inn in Norwich, CT was a huge success. Almost 200 students and faculty attended the formal and had a great time with food, music, and friends! PSG also held a Halloween event, selling Candy-grams, decorating cookies, and a costume contest judged by faculty members.

In the spring, PSG held its annual 5K Fun Run, with all proceeds given to the James Malaney Memorial Scholarship. James Malaney was awarded his Pharm.D. posthumously in May 2010 after losing his battle with cancer. About $4000 was raised in honor of James and other people who have fought cancer. Almost 200 people ran the race, doubling the amount of participants in previous years.

Later in the spring, PSG held a new event. The School of Pharmacy partnered with the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program from the UCHC. Twelve high-functioning students with autism, accompanied by their parents, came to UConn and learned about pharmacy. PSG members gave a presentation to the families, explaining to them what pharmacists do and how we can help them. With the help of Dr. Bogner, PSG members were able to compound orange troches with the students. PSG also provided each student with a famous “Connecticut Pharmacy” t-shirt. The pharmacy students really enjoyed working with the LEND program, and it was a great example of reaching out to the community.

In addition to these events, PSG also produced the 2010 Capsule, the yearbook that is finished before graduation each May.
APhA members participated in the audience of the Early Show to promote American Pharmacists’ Month. Members were given the opportunity to promote the slogan “Know your medicine, know your pharmacist.”

The chapter served as host for the Region 1 Midyear Regional Meeting in Hartford, CT. One member, Sabina Alikanov, was the coordinator for the entire event and did a fantastic job with some help from fellow members.

Another student, Kelly Sullivan, was elected as the Regional Delegate. Many members attended the meeting, participating in the policy process and various workshops.

With the outbreak of H1N1, the chapter had the opportunity not only to participate in the seasonal flu clinics on campus, but also the HINI clinics that were held a few weeks later in the semester. The chair of Operation Immunization was interviewed about the importance of being vaccinated by the school paper.

Members also participated in the Red Dress Campaign. We set up a table at one of the women’s basketball games to educate about heart health and take blood pressures.

For Operation Diabetes, members went to an elderly community in the area to educate about the disease itself, treatments, how to test your blood glucose and what it means, and provided attendees with recipes that were diabetes friendly.

About 15 members attended the annual exposition in Washington D.C. In addition to attending workshops, meetings, and the policy forums, the chapter was the first ever winner of the APhA-ASP Pharmflic competition for which we made a promotional video around the slogan “Being a pharmacist means being a member of APhA.” We also had the privilege of watching Dean McCarthy win the “Dean of the Year” Award.

This year, we had a very proactive executive board. The chairs of each committee are excited about expanding events for each project in the future.

The UCONN student chapter American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP) attended the ASCP annual meeting in Anaheim, CA. The chapter is also visited the Mansfield Senior Center to interact and socialize with the elderly community. The students of ASCP assisted the Connecticut chapter of ASCP plan Senior Symposium, an annual event that takes place at Foxwoods Resort and Casino each spring.

“Patients deserve a caring pharmacist. Accept that responsibility, reach out to them, and you will be fulfilled like never before.”

~ C. Michael White ~

Teacher of the Year at the School of Pharmacy Awards Banquet
The 2009-2010 year was a very successful one for the Nu Chapter of Alpha Zeta Omega. We started off the year with only seventeen fraters, but more than doubled our size with a pledge class of nineteen students in the fall. Throughout the year we held many brother events such as dinners at Willington Pizza and Wood-N-Tap, our annual scavenger hunt, an iron chef competition, and roller skating at Ron-A-Roll. We also got more involved nationally and with other undergraduate chapters by attending the National Winter Convention and visiting other chapters. In addition, we started to reconnect with many of our alumni by having a few joint events with the Connecticut Alumni Chapter.

Throughout the year, we were also very busy with various community service and professional pharmacy events. Our biggest community service project was a Raffle for Haiti, through which we raised over $300 for the Children of Promise International Orphanage in Leogane, Haiti. We also participated in the Relay for Life walk at UConn, through which our team raised over $1000 for the American Cancer Society. Many of us also ran in the annual Pharmacy School Fun Run in memory of Jim Malaney. For professional events, we hosted a stress management speaker and joined forces with Phi Delta Chi to put on Rotations Night. We also gave presentations at local senior centers on various topics such as Diabetes and Lipid Management and Questions for your Doctor or Pharmacist. Overall, the Nu Chapter of Alpha Zeta Omega had a very successful and productive year in 2009-2010, and we are looking forward to another great year.

The 2009-2010 year has been a productive and expansive year for the UCONN chapter of CSHP. Not only have we increased our membership, we have developed more of our programs and a closer relationship with the state chapter. This year, we have broadened our site visit and speaker programs, including residents, fellows, and a residency director from Hartford Hospital and Yale New Haven Hospital. We hosted various shadowing opportunities with different pharmacists and held CV as well as interview workshops.

Through our successful pharmacy mug fundraiser, we have continued our tradition of funding our P4 students to the ASHP annual midyear, where our past president, Jason Corbo showcased a poster presentation about our poison prevention education program. With the help of poison control, we’ve created a fun and interactive program for the 1st and 2nd graders in the local elementary schools.

We also participated in the UConn School of Pharmacy Unity Week with our submitted art piece highlighting health disparities within Connecticut. We continued our community involvement in Breast and Testicular Awareness Week and the CCMC Toy Drive. This year, we’ve also had students participate in state CSHP events, such as “Catch the Wave,” other CE programs, and chapter meetings.

We hope to continue to evolve and expand in both our contributions to the community and our contributions to pharmacy in the upcoming years.

Kappa Psi has had a very productive year. During the fall semester Kappa Psi brothers participated in intramural sports on campus. The fraternity fielded teams in the flag football and volleyball divisions. Brothers were also sporting new “Kappa Psi Sportswear” which undoubtedly contributed to some of our success in the playoffs.

In more serious matters, Kappa Psi sold “School of Pharmacy” pint glasses to raise money for the fraternity’s national philanthropic mission, the prevention and cure pediatric AIDS. Kappa Psi also contributed back to the community with monthly visits to the Mansfield Rehabilitation Center where many residents were able to enjoy some intense games of bingo. A few brothers also participated in weekly trips to the Mansfield Middle
Lambda Kappa Sigma has already started off the semester by hosting a very successful regional meeting in Hartford, CT. At this meeting our chapter, along with others, donated to Gray Lodge Women’s Shelter located in Hartford. We are planning on continuing this partnership with the shelter by giving health awareness presentations to the women and donating items around the holidays. One of our main focuses this semester will be Breast Cancer Awareness. We are participating in the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk in Hartford in October, as well as collecting Yoplait Lids, and selling pink ribbons- all of which will benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation to fight Breast Cancer. We will also be putting on ‘Pharmacy Night Out’ in November. Proceeds from this event will raise money for Project HOPE and guarantee for an enjoyable environment for Pharmacy students to socialize.

Our Professional Committee will be putting on many presentations for the School of Pharmacy and also for the Pre-pharmacy students. We will have a pre-pharmacy seminar, a learning proper etiquette seminar, and also a program dedicated to professional dress for interviews. Within the chapter we will be keeping in touch with our alumni by hosting events for them, and will invite P4 students back to give talk about their experiences on rotations. Within the next month we will be inducting 21 new members to participate in the many projects of our chapter.

This year has been a particularly successful year for Phi Lambda Sigma. During the fall semester our chapter worked with Lambda Kappa Sigma on a service project to collect school supplies and toiletries for The Shelter of Women in Hartford, CT. During the spring semester Phi Lambda Sigma coordinated a course for the development of Future Pharmacy Leaders. As part of the class, the students traveled to the capital to help lobby for pharmacy legislation along-side the Connecticut Pharmacist Association.

In March, we recognized and inducted 19 new members into our chapter, Alpha Gamma. Of these new inductees 13 were students, 5 faculty, and 1 honorary member.

Our chapter kept busy over the summer with a new initiative, creating a survey that was sent out to all P2s and P3s regarding the pharmacy program. We had an overwhelming 50% response rate! With the responses we built a video orientation titled, “Prescription for Success” that was debuted to the incoming P1 class. The video encompassed details such as what to bring to class, where to study, and how to plan your time appropriately.

Phi Lambda Sigma is working with Dr. Bogner to host UConn’s first Student Compounding Competition. In the competition teams of 3 students work together in a three part competition that encompasses clinical practice, regulation standards, and formulation development. The winning team of 3 students will then travel to the University of Florida in March 2010 to compete on a national level, and of course win in the name of the University of Connecticut School Of Pharmacy!
Phi Delta Chi is very active within the School of Pharmacy and the surrounding community. We participated in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, a breast cancer walk in Hartford, raising over $1,600 for the cause. Also during the fall, we conducted our annual letter writing campaign to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, a cause that we proudly support each year. We also sent out a care package to the troops overseas for the holidays.

In addition to service projects, Phi Delta Chi participates in a variety of brotherly activities which both enhance teamwork and leadership skills. Last year, we had 16 brothers attend the Phi Delta Chi Eastern Regional Conference in Boston, MA.

Brothers also attended our Grand Council Meeting in Buffalo, NY.

We are looking forward to organizing the annual rotations night for the P3 students, in order to familiarize them with what is to come. We have also formed a team and are raising money for the UConn Relay for Life. We have several exciting events in the works for the upcoming year.

This year, Rho Chi continued to offer tutoring services free of charge to pharmacy students. Students contact the associate dean to request tutoring, and the students are paired with a member of Rho Chi for tutoring services. We have provided tutoring for several students throughout the year and hope to continue to expand our program in the future.

In addition, Rho Chi took part in the campus-wide health fair hosted by Student Health Services. Rho Chi members met to design an educational poster about prescription drug abuse, an ever increasing problem on college campuses. The day of the health fair, members of Rho Chi educated students on the consequences of, and how to identify, someone abusing prescription drugs.

Early in 2010, we lost our fellow Rho Chi member, Jim Malaney. To honor Jim, Rho Chi and Phi Delta Chi joined forces to host a fundraiser night at Ted’s Bar and Grill. This was a fundraising idea that Jim had during his time in these two organizations, so it was a great way to honor his memory. Students, faculty and Jim’s friends all came out to celebrate his life. In total, $1200 was raised from the event and put toward the scholarship fund in Jim’s name.

In March, we inducted 23 new members into Rho Chi. Former UConn faculty member, Dennis Chapron, was our keynote speaker. He inspired our current and new members by speaking about science and the art of pharmacy practice. We hope to implement some new projects in 2011, and look forward to involving our new inductees.

The 2009-2010 academic year marked the beginning of a new organization in the School of Pharmacy, Society of Pharmacy Research (SPR). The mission of SPR is to promote research for students in the Doctor of Pharmacy program.

As the profession of pharmacy advances, the research opportunities for Pharm.D. students grow, and the importance of understanding research going on in the field of pharmacy is of increasing significance. Thus, a portion of each meeting has been dedicated to a discussion session about innovations that are of interest to those in the pharmacy profession.

Guest speakers have shared their path into the research field, as well as their experiences in graduate school and in industry. Last year, SPR was fortunate to host faculty members and...
industry speakers, including two research pharmacists at Pfizer’s Clinical Research Unit, who came from New Haven to discuss drug development with SPR members.

The creation of a faculty binder is perhaps the biggest accomplishment of the Society of Pharmacy Research last year. It has both a Pharmacy Practice and Pharmaceutical Science section and details the research opportunities offered by each professor.

We believe this new organization is an excellent opportunity for all Pharm.D. students. SPR has tremendous potential for enhancing pharmacy education, giving an application for classroom learning, and opening up greater possibilities in the pharmacy profession.

Last academic year, UConn’s Student National Pharmaceutical Association [SNPhA] chapter participated in a variety of events focused on serving the under-served populations of Connecticut. We held blood pressure screenings in local urban Willimantic community pharmacies, helped out at on-campus flu clinics and off-campus primary care clinics, promoted awareness of chronic kidney disease in minorities, and mentored Stamford area high school students. Our biggest event, as always, was Unity Week. This year’s theme was “Expanding the Pharmacy Profession: How Pharmacists Address Health Disparities,” in which we held a week-long series of events including speakers, a pot luck dinner, dancing performance, and art show.

“The greatest healing therapy is friendship and love.” These words were spoken by Hubert Humphrey, former vice president of the United States, but first, he was a pharmacist!

~ Joseph D. Palo ’73 ~
from his keynote address to the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Studies Class of 2010
Dr. C. Michael White teaches cardiovascular therapeutics topics and drug literature evaluation skills and has led several prominent cardiovascular clinical trials in an attempt to reduce the risks associated with drugs, devices, procedures, and nutriceuticals. The Atrial Fibrillation Suppression Trials I-IV have led to reductions in the incidence of post-cardiac surgery atrial fibrillation and stroke. In his magnesium research line he has found that magnesium attenuates QTc interval prolongation associated with class III antiarrhythmic drugs and provides blood pressure reduction and direct antiarrhythmic efficacy. Over the years, he has probed the hemodynamic and electrophysiologic safety of commonly used nutriceuticals including a notable study showing that the ephedra-containing Metabolife 356 markedly increased blood pressure and the QTc interval. Notable systematic reviews include evaluations of the liver and muscle toxicity associated with high intensity statins and the impact of cardiovascular drug efficacy, specifically in women. His research, for instance, found that implantable cardioverter defibrillators do not reduce mortality to the same degree in women as they do in men and while statins reduce combined cardiovascular events in men and women to the same degree, women have less reduction in mortality and stroke. In another systematic review, he found that while beta-blockers reduce non-cardiac surgery myocardial infarctions, a known effect, they increase the risk of stroke and the strokes are more likely to be debilitating which makes the risk benefit balance negative. In all, he has over 180 publications in peer reviewed journals including JAMA, Lancet, Annals of Internal Medicine, Circulation, and the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. He is on the editorial board of the Annals of Pharmacotherapy and Pharmacy Practice News and was twice named a “Reviewer of the Year” by the Annals of Internal Medicine.

As director of one of only fourteen Evidence-Based Practice Centers in North America designated by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, he works with key healthcare stakeholders across the country to craft key questions vital to making healthcare decisions and devises methodology to answer them.

Dr. C. Michael White is on stage and suddenly the room erupts with laughter. The students, attention rapt, are engaged in the lecture and suddenly the room erupts with laughter. The students, attention rapt, are engaged in the lecture and was awarded the Teacher of the Year three times by the Doctor of Pharmacy graduating class.

Dr. C. Michael White
Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Dr. White teaches cardiovascular therapeutics topics and drug literature evaluation skills and has led several prominent cardiovascular clinical trials in an attempt to reduce the risks associated with drugs, devices, procedures, and nutriceuticals. The Atrial Fibrillation Suppression Trials I-IV have led to reductions in the incidence of post-cardiac surgery atrial fibrillation and stroke. In his magnesium research line he has found that magnesium attenuates QTc interval prolongation associated with class III antiarrhythmic drugs and provides blood pressure reduction and direct antiarrhythmic efficacy. Over the years, he has probed the hemodynamic and electrophysiologic safety of commonly used nutriceuticals including a notable study showing that the ephedra-containing Metabolife 356 markedly increased blood pressure and the QTc interval. Notable systematic reviews include evaluations of the liver and muscle toxicity associated with high intensity statins and the impact of cardiovascular drug efficacy, specifically in women. His research, for instance, found that implantable cardioverter defibrillators do not reduce mortality to the same degree in women as they do in men and while statins reduce combined cardiovascular events in men and women to the same degree, women have less reduction in mortality and stroke. In another systematic review, he found that while beta-blockers reduce non-cardiac surgery myocardial infarctions, a known effect, they increase the risk of stroke and the strokes are more likely to be debilitating which makes the risk benefit balance negative. In all, he has over 180 publications in peer reviewed journals including JAMA, Lancet, Annals of Internal Medicine, Circulation, and the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. He is on the editorial board of the Annals of Pharmacotherapy and Pharmacy Practice News and was twice named a “Reviewer of the Year” by the Annals of Internal Medicine.

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Continued from Page 5


Continued from Page 21
Dr. Marie Smith published a seminal article in the prestigious journal, Health Affairs; the paper focused on the pharmacist's role in the medical home. Just prior to publication, Dr. Smith was asked to present her paper at the National Press Club.

JOSE F. MANAUTOU


JOHN B. MORRIS


Lanos, Wills, Jordi and Morris. Role of metabolic activation and the TRPA1 receptor in the sensory irritation response to naphthalene. Toxicol Sci, in press.

MICHAEL J. PIKAL


Devendra S. Kalonia, Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, in press

Theodore Rasimus


OLGA Y. VINODGRAVODA


Oleg Y. Vinogradova


Devendra S. Kalonia, Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, in press

Theodore Rasimus


OLGA Y. VINODGRAVODA

Continued from Page 18

those questions. Dr White has led projects showing that ACE inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers can reduce morbidity and mortality in patients with ischemic heart disease and preserved left ventricular function; human growth hormone supplementation can reduce hospitalizations and increase bone mineralization in children with cystic fibrosis; innovator and generic anti-epileptic medications are equally effective in treating seizures but may or may not be interchangeable; and that transfusions may sensitize some patients, among those receiving renal transplantation, do not appear to worsen, and may help, reduce graft rejection.

Dr White has been awarded fellowship status from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and American College of Clinical Pharmacologists, was named “Young Investigator of the Year” by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, a Lyman Award Winner from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and a five time winner of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Drug Therapy Research Award.

Hockey great, Bobby Orr, forever changed how defensemen played the game. His aggressive play turned the defense into an offensive weapon, setting a new standard for all who came after him. In much the same way, research conducted in the lab of hockey fan, and professor of pharmaceutical sciences, Dr. John Morris, has set the standard of how pollutants trapped in nasal-tissue are modeled and measured.

In the early 1990s, Dr. Morris developed the first physiologically-based pharmacokinetic mathematical modeling approach to predict and extrapolate respiratory tract upper airway tissue concentrations during hazardous air pollutant exposures. This publication provided the conceptual framework for all subsequent physiologically based model efforts. Modeling efforts, such as these, must be validated with specific animal data, and much of his work has focused on measuring the amount of inhaled pollutant that enters nasal tissues. National Institutes of Health (NIH) supported this research for thirteen consecutive years; the data collected from his research has been used to derive “safe” exposure levels by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Morris and his team used this approach to understand the regional airway injury to diacetyl, the toxic compound in butter flavoring vapors used in the production of many food products including microwave popcorn, candy and some wines. This compound produces bronchiolitis obliterans, a scarring of the lung tissue, in workers, but in animal models produces nasal and tracheal damage. Research conducted on rodents, therefore, tended to be discounted as being irrelevant. The team showed that the site of injury in the rodent was simply a matter of high delivered doses to these airways in the rodent and that this would not be the case in the humans. The model showed that greater delivery to the small airways would occur in humans, thus explaining the small airway injury in man. The day after the results were published, the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health [NIOSH] moved forward to initiate specific regulation of diacetyl concentrations in the workplace.

Dr. Morris also investigates reflex responses of the respiratory tract to irritant air pollutants, again with a focus on the airways, including how airborne inhalants affect asthma. He is currently investigating “counter irritants” — molecules that diminish the irritation response. Dr. Morris and Dr. Sven Jordt from Yale, received a $1.7 million grant from the NIH to look at the counterirritant effects of menthol. The research showed that menthol blocks the irritation response to irritants in cigarette smoke, making it easier to smoke by blocking reactions such as coughing. This suppression makes it easier for new smokers to become addicted to nicotine, and easier for long time smokers to inhale large “doses” of nicotine. Contrary to the tobacco company stance that menthol is
William L. Baker, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ Cardiology) has joined the School of Pharmacy as an assistant clinical coordinator. He will be precepting students on an adult internal medicine advanced pharmacy practice experience and teaching in various courses through the pharmacy curriculum. In addition, he will work as a clinical pharmacy specialist in adult internal medicine at John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington, CT. He then moved to Milford, DE where he worked as a clinical pharmacist at Bayhealth Medical Center. In June 2006, Dr. Baker moved back to Connecticut and completed a 2-year cardiovascular pharmacology and outcomes fellowship at Hartford Hospital where he stayed working as a Senior Research Scientist in their Evidence-based Practice Center until joining the faculty at UConn in the fall of 2009.

His research interests include improving the evidence-based care of patients with cardiovascular disease using various research techniques including systematic review and meta-analysis. He has published over 50 articles in various high-quality medical journals including Annals of Internal Medicine, Circulation, Diabetes Care, Journal of Hypertension and Heart Rhythm. Dr. Baker has received research funding from federal (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality), industrial (Boehringer Ingelheim, Pfizer Inc) and local (Hartford Hospital) sources.

Lisa Bragaw, R.Ph., joined the School of Pharmacy’s Office of Experiential Education in the spring 2010 semester as a field coordinator. Ms. Bragaw graduated from Northeastern University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, and is currently pursuing her Pharm.D. through a distance learning program at the University of Florida, which she expects to complete in 2011.

In her position as field coordinator, Ms. Bragaw will review students at their clinical rotation sites, offering advice and support. She will also meet with the preceptors at all sites to ensure that things stay on track and go smoothly. Her insight in this area will be exceptionally valuable, as she herself served as a preceptor for UConn students during her time at Brooks Pharmacy.

Prior to her job at the University of Connecticut, Ms. Bragaw worked at Brooks Pharmacy and Rite Aid Corporation as a clinical pharmacist and medication therapy management (MTM) specialist. Her concentration in community pharmacy has also led to her continuing involvement in the Connecticut Pharmacists Association (CPA) where she has various roles, including co-chair of the Continuing Education Committee. Ms. Bragaw also teaches a pharmacy technician training course at Three Rivers Community College.

Mina Boone has joined the School of Pharmacy as an assistant to the associate dean and administrative services specialist in the Office of the Associate Dean. Ms. Boone will provide assistance in pharmacy student support and academic services including academic records monitoring, curricular progression, and completion, graduation eligibility, verification of degrees, record management, assisting with pharmacy licensing applications, serving as liaison with the Registrar’s office, processing of scholarship applications, and serving as liaison with the university’s Office of Institutional Research in processing student evaluation of teaching and courses.

Lisa Bragaw, R.Ph.
Field Coordinator

Experiential Education

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Field Coordinator

Office

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Stefanie Nigro has joined the School of Pharmacy as an assistant clinical professor. She will be co-coordinating both the non-prescription medications course and the Introduction to Pharmacy Practice lab, while also setting up a pharmacy practice site at the Community Health Center of New Britain, Inc.

Dr. Nigro graduated with a Pharm.D. from Northeastern University in 2006. After graduation, she decided to pursue a full time community pharmacy position at CVS in New York. “A residency was always part of my long term plan, but due to financial reasons, I decided to push it back almost two years,” she said. After her time at CVS, she completed postgraduate training at Northeastern in affiliation with Harbor Health Services, Inc.

Her interests include promoting patient self-advocacy through health behavioral change/education, diabetes care and management, and delivering medication therapy management to under-served populations. “I am passionate about promoting patient self-advocacy for their own health care,” she said, “I feel that this comes from being a caring pharmacist who has the ability to educate patients to give them the tools and knowledge to become their own health care advocates.”

Already, Dr. Nigro has won multiple awards. As a student in 2006 she won the APhA One-to-One Patient Counseling Award, which is given to 20 pharmacists and five student pharmacists who demonstrate excellence in patient counseling and care. She also won the 2009 AACP/Walmart Scholarship. This allowed Dr. Nigro and her faculty mentor to attend the AACP Annual Meeting and AACP Teacher’s Seminar in Boston. Within the next few years Dr. Nigro hopes to be fully integrated at her practice site, and hopes to “prove how valuable a pharmacist can be.”

Theodore P. Rasmussen, Ph.D., has joined the School of Pharmacy to further his work with stem cells. Dr. Rasmussen received his B.S. in biology from the University of Washington. He then attended the University of Wisconsin where he earned his Ph.D. in genetics followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the Whitehead Institute at MIT. For six years he worked as an assistant and associate professor at the University of Connecticut in the Department of Animal Science and the Department of Molecular Science. He is currently an associate professor teaching an undergraduate course in animal genetics, as well as a graduate course in epigenetics.

Dr. Rasmussen is one of the founding members of the University of Connecticut Stem Cell Institute and the University of Connecticut’s Center for Regenerative Biology, and has received numerous grants and awards for his outstanding work with stem-cells. His current grants are from the Connecticut State Stem Cell Research Program, and include $499,956 support for “Prevention of Spontaneous Differentiation and Epigenetic Compromise of Human iPS Cells” and $634,880 support for “Production and validation of patient-matched pluripotent cells for improved cutaneous repair.” The overall focus of Rasmussen’s research is directed towards the use of stem cells for cell-based therapeutics, the personalization of medicine, and the study of disease mechanisms with emphasis on the use of induced pluripotent cells (iPS) and embryonic stem cells.

Dr. Rasmussen has recently been asked to serve as a grant funding reviewer for the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), which he regards as “an honor since it recognizes the expertise in stem cell research,” and is soon to be appointed on a grant review panel at the National Institutes of Health as a permanent member.
Alumni Association Awardees 2010

The Pharmacy Alumni Association honored three alumni in academia, industry and pharmacy practice who have distinguished themselves in our profession. The awards were presented at the 40th Annual Pharmacy Alumni Awards and Reunion Banquet.

Susan M. Cady, awardee in the field of industry received her M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1977. In December 1977, she accepted a position as a chemist at the American Cyanamid Company’s Resin Products, Chemical R&D Division at Stamford CT. In 1982, she joined the company’s Animal Health, Agricultural R&D Division in Princeton NJ as a formulation chemist and rose to the position of Senior Group Leader. In 1995, she joined Hoechst Roussel Vet as Manager of Pharmaceutical Development and remained with the company when it was purchased by Intervet Inc. in 1999. She was senior manager, Pharmaceutical Development and Analytics from 1999 to 2004 and Director, Pharmaceutical Development and Analytics 2004 to 2008. In 2008, she joined Merial LTD as senior scientist III, Formulation Development and Analytics where she leads and provides technical guidance and oversight to a group of senior and junior scientists.

Ms. Cady has published numerous articles and is co-inventor on more than 20 patents, which have resulted in several commercial veterinary products. She has been actively involved in the Controlled Release Society (CRS), serving on the Board of Directors and as treasurer, vice president, president and immediate past president. She participated in the CRS Ag/Vet Committee, serving as its chairperson in 1994, and was a member of the CRS Strategic Planning Committee, and chairperson of the Strategic Planning Team for Veterinary Applications. She was the organizer and co-chairperson of the CRS Controlled Release Technology for Veterinary Products Workshop in Boston and organizer and co-chairperson of the CRS Protein and Peptide Controlled Release Delivery Workshop in Baltimore. She has received the 1989 Pennwalt Award presented by CRS for the Best Agrichemical paper at the 1988 meeting and received the 2009 CRS Distinguished Service Award.

She has been active in contributing to various Animal Health Institute initiatives and is a reviewer for American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists article and abstracts.

Marion F. Ehrich, awardee in the field of academia, received her Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy in 1975. She then did post-doctoral studies at the University of Massachusetts in biochemistry and at the Virginia Tech University in microbiology and toxicology. From 1980-1983, she was an assistant professor at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, was promoted to associate professor and in 1990 to full professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology. She is the co-director of the Laboratory for Neurotoxicity Studies at the college where she has done extensive research on the acute metabolic and toxic effects of pesticides and mycotoxins.

Ehrich is a diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology and served on its Board of Directors from 1985-1989 and as treasurer from 1986-1987. She was elected to membership in the Society of Toxicology in 1980 and has served on many committees and in various officerships culminating with her election as president in 2003.

She currently serves on the Editorial Board of NeuroToxicology, Journal of Applied Toxicology, and is associate editor of the International Journal of Toxicology. She served on the editorial board of the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health from 1993-2004. She has served on many advisory committees to the National Institutes of Health, the National Academy of Science, and the National Research Council.

She has received 8 teaching awards from the college and the National SAVMA award in 2006. Dr. Ehrich is the author and co-author of many articles and research papers on neurotoxicology.

Dr. Ehrich is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Academy of Toxicological Scientists and the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Karol G. Wollenburg, awardee in the field of pharmacy practice, received her B.S. in Pharmacy cum laude from the University of Connecticut in 1975. She completed a residency in hospital pharmacy administration at Lenox Hill Hospital, New York NY in 1976 and received a M.S. in Clinical Pharmacy from St. John’s University, New York NY in 1998. She joined the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in 1976 as supervisor, Centralized Inpatient Pharmacy and held various leadership positions in the Pharmacy Department until she became apothecary-in-chief and corporate director of pharmacy in 1998. In 2000, she became vice president and apothecary-in-chief at New York-Presbyterian Hospital where she is responsible for drug utilization policies and pharmacy services at seven sites including the Cornell, Columbia, Morgan Stanley, Rockefeller and Gracie Square hospitals.

She is active in several professional societies including the American Society of Health System...
Pharmacists, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the New York Council of Health Systems Pharmacists, and the New York City Society of Health Systems Pharmacists (NYCSHP). She is currently a member of the Section of Pharmacy Practice Leadership Development Advisory Group of ASHP. She was formerly on the ASHP Council on Administrative Affairs where she was vice chair in 2004 and chair in 2005. She is a member of the Novation Executive Pharmacy Council and the Financial Performance Committee of the University Health System Consortium.

Pharmacist Wollenburg has received many honors including the 2004 Joel Yellin Award of Merit from the NYCSHP and the St. John’s University School of Pharmacy Alumni Association Distinguished Alumna Award 2005.

Sherman R. Gershman, recipient of the Exceptional Service Award, received his B.S. in Pharmacy from the University of Connecticut in 1951. While a student, he was a member of the Mortar and Pestle Society and president of Rho Chi. He was the owner of Forster Heights Pharmacy in Hartford, Connecticut for thirty years. He then was affiliated with the John Dempsey Hospital and the WWII Memorial Hospital in Meriden, Connecticut. He has served as a consultant to the Hebrew Home and Hospital and to the Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation. He has been the pharmacy captain of the West Hartford Health Department Committee on Bioterrorism for more than six years.

Pharmacist Gershman’s service to the School of Pharmacy and its students has been exceptional. He served as a mentor to students during Professor Facchinetti’s Patient Counseling class for 11 years and has served as a mentor in Dean McCarthy’s Pharmacy Communications class and Dr. Fitzgerald’s Pharmacy Practice class for the past two years. When alumni were asked to work with students at the Migrant Farm Worker Health Clinics, he was the first alum to volunteer. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the UConn Pharmacy Alumni Association for eight years and a member of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association Student Liaison Committee for six years.

Department of Pharmacy Practice Residents and Fellows Academic Year 2009 - 2010

Wendy Chen, Outcomes - Fellow Hartford Hospital Preceptor - Craig Coleman

Jennifer Colby, Outcomes - Fellow Hartford Hospital Preceptor - C. Michael White

Olivia Phung, Outcomes - Fellow Hartford Hospital Preceptor - C. Michael White

Jennifer Scholle, Outcomes - Fellow Hartford Hospital Preceptor - C. Michael White

Atula Vachhani, Primary Care Fellow, Pharmacy Practice PGY2-Resident Burgdorf Primary Care Clinic Preceptor - Devra Dang

Dr. Morris serves on several panels and committees that recommend acceptable exposure levels for air pollutants. He chaired the Connecticut Hazardous Air Pollutant Advisory Panel, and was a member of both the Vermont Toxic Advisory Committee and the Virginia Inhalation Toxicology Advisory Group. He has twice served on the U.S. EPA RFC External Review Panel and served on the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Committee on Emergency and Continuous Exposure Guidance Levels for Selected Submarine Contaminants. He served on the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering Study Committee on Asbestos and Schools and numerous EPA review panels on specific air pollutants including naphthalene and chloroprene. His work in the field has helped set new safety standards both in the workplace and for the general population.

John Morris
Continued from Page 21

merely a flavoring additive Drs. Morris’ and Jordt’s studies provide evidence that menthol is actually pharmacologically active, blunting the sensory nerve’s gag response to cigarette smoke. The FDA is currently holding hearings on whether or not to ban menthol as a cigarette additive.

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Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Postdoctoral Fellows

Pharmacology

Norman Chiang
Advisor - Michael Pikal

Jacqueline Morais
Advisor - Diane Burgess

Puneet Sharma
Advisor - Michael Pikal

Shubhadra Singh
Advisor - Devendra Kalonia

Pharmacology/Toxicology

Gareth Corry
Advisor - Ted Rasmussen

Xinsheng Gu
Advisor - José Manautou

Chin-ju Hsiao
Advisor - Urs Boelsterli

Eugene Fung
Advisor - José Manautou

John Hsu
Advisor - Michael Pikal

Applications for the 2011-12 Postdoctoral Fellowships are being accepted by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Department seeks postdoctoral fellows with expertise in areas of research that are of interest to the Department or the Mailman School of Public Health, such as disease prevention, clinical therapeutics, or health services research. Fellows are expected to perform research projects that will enhance the Department’s existing programs and/or initiate new ones. Fellows are expected to publish their work and present it at academic meetings. Fellows will also have the opportunity to participate in the Department’s Health Policy Research Initiative (HPR) and to teach courses, assist in the training of graduate students, and be involved in public service activities. Fellows are expected to participate in seminars and workshops that are coordinated by the Department. Fellows will be provided with a minimum of $45,000 per year and an additional $15,000 for travel, supplies, and other research activities. Fellows are expected to have a minimum of two years of postdoctoral experience.

Applications should be submitted to the Director of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 348 Milk Street, Room 520, Boston, MA 02210, and should include a curriculum vitae, a statement of research plans, and three letters of recommendation. Applications should be submitted by September 1, 2010. The selection process will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled. For more information, please contact the Director of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at 617-432-7234 or pharmaceutical@bu.edu.