



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Irma Lerma Rangel
College of Pharmacy



The Fight
Against
COVID-19

5

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The annual report is created by the Office of the Dean in collaboration with all departments.

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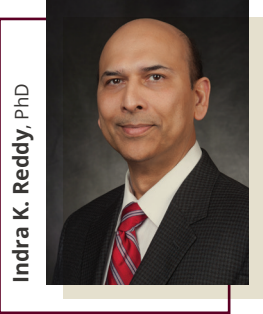
OUR MISSION

Our mission is to develop and inspire a diverse group of future leaders in pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical sciences through transformational education, innovative research, holistic care, and effective outreach and service.

OUR VISION

Preeminent leader in transformational education, impactful scientific discovery and development, and optimal use of medications to improve health and well-being.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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Founding Dean



Mansoor A. Khan, PhD

Vice Dean, Director, Formulations & Drug Delivery Core Lab



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Associate Dean for Clinical and Professional Affairs



Kim Tanzer, PharmD

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



Chendil Damodaran, PhD

Interim Associate Dean of Research & Innovation



Amanda Galindo, EdD

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs



Fadi Khasawneh, PhD

Department Head of Pharmaceutical Sciences



George Udeani, PharmD

Department Head of Pharmacy Practice

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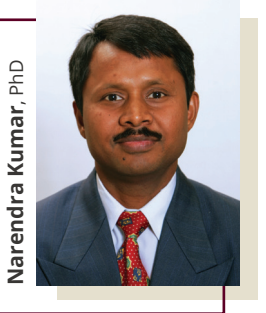
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Director of Assessment



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Interim Director of Graduate Studies



Carolynn Mathews, RPh

Director of Experiential Education



Mohammad Nutan, PhD

Interim Director of Program Development



Shelby Purdy, BA

Director of Marketing & Communications



Gilbert Reyna, MS

Associate Director, Instructional Technology Services

HOWDY!

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy for the Academic Year 2020-21.

Our vibrant student body, together with our dedicated faculty and staff, look to advance pharmacy education and training and enhance the quality of lives in the border region, the state of Texas and beyond. Our former students and practice partners (preceptors) help meet the needs of our communities, particularly medically underrepresented areas, for better access to health care professionals.

As we continue in the fight against COVID-19, I am continually impressed with the many ways our students, faculty, and staff are living their Aggie Core Values and stepping up to fight this challenge. Students and faculty continue to play a vital role in the state's vaccination efforts, early on in clinics at our college and throughout the pandemic at various other clinics, pharmacies, hospitals and nursing homes. It's clear through situations like these, our students are gaining invaluable firsthand experiences that will stay with them for years to come.

We are committed to helping the future health care professionals of tomorrow build confidence in themselves and their personal abilities, welcoming them into our Aggie Pharmily, and providing the resources and support needed to be successful in their endeavors.

I invite you to take a closer look at who we are, what we do and where we are heading.

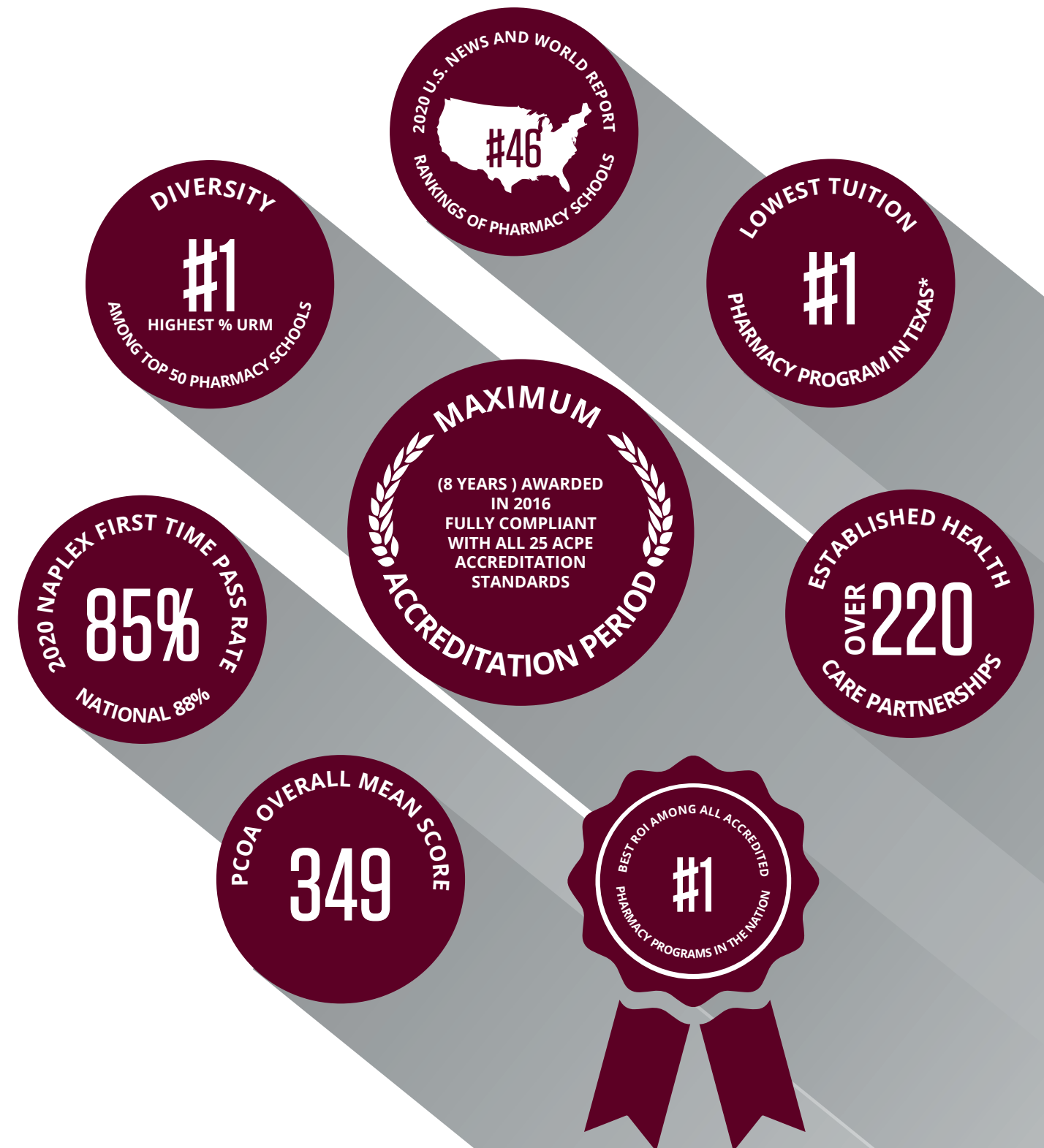


Indra K. Reddy, PhD, FAAPS, FAPhA
Professor and Founding Dean

Gig 'em!



1st PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM LOCATED SOUTH OF SAN ANTONIO



*AACP Institutional Data

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PANDEMIC

Selfless service is at the heart of Texas A&M University. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, selfless service takes on an even greater meaning, and the faculty and students at the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy are living out one of the university's Core Values.



The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way health care is delivered, and it's pharmacists who are taking a lead role in meeting patient needs across various practice settings. As a profession, pharmacists have had to be flexible and innovative, and they have taken on a significant role when it comes to fighting this pandemic.

Aggie pharmacists have had to reimagine pharmacy, and they have most certainly transformed lives.

Our preceptors tell us that hospital pharmacists have led efforts by managing numerous drug shortages that have emerged during the pandemic. They have evaluated and used novel therapies for hospitalized patients with COVID-19 and have adjusted workflow practices to maximize the preservation of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Community pharmacists have also continued to serve patients throughout the pandemic by increasing the accessibility of medications, increasing the use of telehealth to provide continuous care, and taking a lead on COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts.

Early Efforts

From making personal protection equipment (PPE) to making hand sanitizer, the Rangel College of Pharmacy has found ways to help health care workers, health care facilities and The Texas A&M University System as the country

fights to overcome the coronavirus.

Early in the pandemic, Aggies jumped swiftly into action. To help address the shortage of PPE for health care facilities, a group of students started a project which saw them making cloth face masks.

Another student, Humberto Ramos, took it upon himself to use his personal 3-D printer to make face shields, which he donated to Valley Baptist



Medical Center in Harlingen, Texas, where his brother is a doctor, as well as South Texas Rehabilitation Hospital in Brownsville, Texas.

Another group, led by Mansoor A. Khan, PhD, RPh, vice dean of the College Station campus, made hand sanitizer and provided it to all administrative offices at Texas A&M University.

In any way they could, Aggie Pharmacists were ready to help fight COVID-19.

Task Force Assembled

In response to the developing COVID-19 outbreak in the United States and abroad, the Rangel College of Pharmacy convened a COVID-19 Task Force that includes the members from throughout the college.

The COVID-19 Task Force is charged with preparing for and managing any possible campus impacts related to the coronavirus outbreak. They worked to protect and support the health and safety of faculty, staff and students while maintaining the College's commitment to providing instruction and selfless service.

The task force was engaged in frequent planning and discussion to share important updates, review the university's pandemic protocols and provide guidance and communication to members of the campus community. As part of its work, the task force examined best practices in regard to screening, contact tracing, preventative measures and vaccinations.

Task Force Members:

Asim Abu-Baker, PharmD, Associate Dean for Clinical and Professional Affairs
Andrea Mora, PharmD, Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Juan Castro, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice
Eugene Martinez, Facilities Worker II
Tomas Garza, BS, Program Coordinator I

Charles Suarez, MBA, Business Administrator II
Lynde Buras, RPh, Experiential Education Coordinator
Gilbert Reyna, MS, Associate Director, Instructional Technology Services
Joy Alonzo, PharmD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice
Amanda Galindo, EdD, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
Denise Hornsy, Administrative Associate V

Vaccinating Texas

Across the College of Pharmacy, when the news that promising vaccines were approved for use in the fight against COVID-19, students and faculty were prepared to answer the call to make distribution a reality. By their first-year, our students are certified immunizers, meaning they were ready and willing to vaccinate Texas.

In an address to pharmacists, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said that never before in the history of our state have we been able to vaccinate so many people in such a short period of time.

“As our state responds to the global pandemic, our pharmacists play a vital role on the frontlines to keep Texans safe. Whether its providing vaccines, testing or meeting the other healthcare needs of Texas,” Abbott said.

A key group in vaccinating Texas has been professional pharmacy students.

The Rangel College Pharmacy applied to be a distributor of COVID-19 vaccines in December 2020. Once approved in January 2021, the College of Pharmacy initially received shipments of Moderna vaccines to the Kingsville campus, and Pfizer vaccines to the College Station campus.

With tremendous coordination and spirited volunteer efforts, the College was able to organize clinics for vaccine distribution in College Station, Kingsville and Dallas to vaccinate faculty, staff and students involved in direct patient care across Texas A&M Health.

Along with frontline workers, our students, faculty and staff volunteered their time to battle COVID-19 at various clinics, pharmacies, nursing homes, and hospitals across Texas. Aggie Pharmacists led the charge in immunizing our communities.

Rio Grande Valley

In December 2020, a group of Aggie Pharmacists helped vaccinate frontline workers in the Rio Grande Valley, a region that had been one of the hardest hit during the pandemic. They participated in the DHR Health vaccination clinic at the DHR Edinburg Conference Center in Edinburg, Texas.

“This was the greatest honor of my career. The Rio Grande Valley was one of the hardest hit regions during this pandemic. The strain that this pandemic put on our community, hospital and surrounding areas was felt for months and still felt today. I was just so honored to be able to give hope. The hope that we have better days ahead of us and that the light at the end of the tunnel could be near,” Dr. Rene Verduzco, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice said.

He said the excitement in the room was palpable, and he felt fortunate to be able to distribute the vaccines, and hope, to frontline workers who had so desperately needed it.

Dr. Daniela Bazan, Clinical Assistant Professor echoed his statements about this historic event and said that they couldn't have done it without the help of dedicated students.

“We really could not have survived this incredibly successful event without the help of our students. They hung in there with us during these 14-16 hour days and jumped in to help in any way they could. They really went above and beyond the call of duty. I am so grateful for their dedication in helping our community,” she said.

Jacob Colbath, Daniel Garza, Leanna Garza, Julio Guerra, Alyssa Jimenez, Alberto Matamoros, Rebecca Mendez-Rodriguez, Shinwin Ambebi Numfor, Brenda Ortiz, Andrea Rios, Luisa Sanchez, Ashley Thatcher, and Rahinatu Timbilla, from the class of 2021, helped deliver over 100,000 vaccines at the Doctors Hospital at Renaissance or DHR, in the Rio Grande Valley. These extraordinary efforts were made as part of their advanced clinical practice rotations and included many hours of personal time at nights and on weekends.

In recognition of their efforts, students were provided a lapel pin, sponsored by DHR, which they proudly display on their white coats as they provide counsel to their pharmacy patients. These pins signify the sacrifices they have made to ensure that approximately 10 percent of that county's community was immunized against COVID-19.

In another area of the Rio Grande Valley, in the city of San Benito, an Aggie Pharmacist earned the annual award for service to the city of San Benito. Thomas Garza, PharmD, class of 2012 was named 2021 San Benito News Citizen of the Year for his continued service to his community.

Milam County

The COVID-19 pandemic has overextended the health care system. Now more than ever, the role of pharmacists as vital members of the interprofessional healthcare team is evident.

In underserved areas of Texas, like Milam county, Aggie Pharmacists were on hand to help vaccinate. Milam County is relatively small and rural, and the health department said it wouldn't have had enough manpower without volunteers like Rashid Abdoh, class of 2021. He was one of many Texas A&M PharmD students who assisted the Milam county health department in administering immunizations.

“Just being on the front line for that really one-showed what pharmacists can do, how much of an impact they can make within the community and how much students can make a very similar impact,” Abdoh said.

Abdoh didn't stop there. He volunteered his time in clinics across Texas, from Milam county all the way to NRG Stadium. In his last year of pharmacy school, Abdoh administered roughly 3000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccines.

“You know you helped someone. You helped save a life. You helped prevent the spread of disease and that was a lot of why I kept going,” Abdoh said.

Overall, students and faculty members, administered more than 230,000 vaccines, and the number continues to grow. Students also contributed to testing, tracing, and prevention efforts while balancing their educational and organizational duties and responsibilities.





RESEARCH

The Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy is pleased to announce the appointment of Chendil Damodaran, PhD Interim Associate Dean of Research & Innovation

Chendil Damodaran, PhD, joined the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences as a tenured professor and also serves as Interim Associate Dean of Research & Innovation. His laboratory is located on the College Station campus.

Dr. Damodaran has dedicated the last 16 years of his independent research career to understand the etiology and develop preventive/treatment strategies for urogenital cancers. His laboratory currently focuses on identifying minimally toxic natural compounds such as dietary supplements with potent anticancer activities and translating them to the clinic for cancer prevention and individualized treatment for cancer patients. Specifically, the Damodaran lab has identified several natural compounds and synthesized their next-generation analogs that target AR, AKT, and Notch-1 signaling in genitourinary and gastrointestinal carcinomas.

Dr. Damodaran’s research has been supported by continuous extramural funding for the last 18 years from several funding agencies, including the Early Investigator

Award from the American Cancer Society, the Susan Komen Research Foundation, and the National Institute of Health (NIH). His current awards include three R1 federal research grants, which he brings with him to Texas A&M.

He has authored and co-authored more than 75 peer-reviewed original scientific articles and over 150 published abstracts in national and international meetings. He is a reviewer for national and international granting agencies, including the NIH, Department of Defense, and private foundations.

He comes to us from the University of Louisville, where he served as Professor and Director of Urologic Research.

Dr. Damodaran earned a BS in Zoology and an MS in Environmental Toxicology from the University of Madras, India. He received his PhD degree in Environmental Toxicology and Cancer Biology from the University of Madras, India.



TEXAS A&M TAKING PART IN NATIONAL STUDY TO DETERMINE IF VACCINATED PEOPLE CAN STILL SPREAD COVID-19

Researchers from the Texas A&M College of Pharmacy and School of Public Health aim to answer the question of whether vaccinated individuals can still pass the virus on to unvaccinated people.

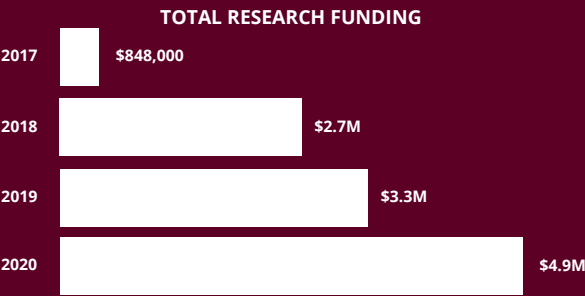
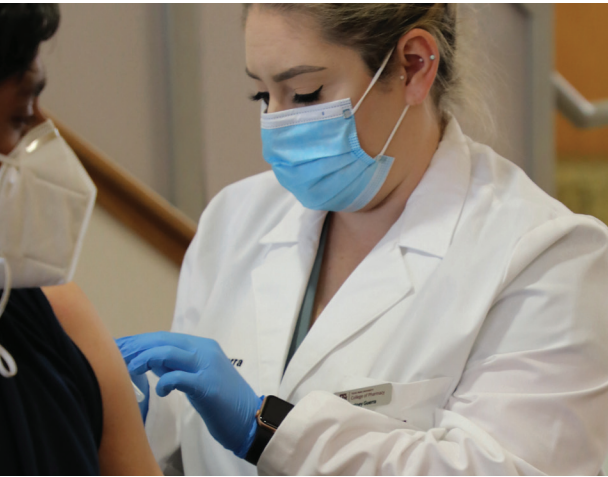
“The researchers in this study want to learn if the vaccine protects people from getting infected with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, and if the vaccine prevents individuals from transmitting SARS-CoV-2 to others,” said George Udeani, PharmD, DSc, FCP, FCCP, a principal investigator for the NIH-funded research study and professor at the College of Pharmacy. “Answers to these questions will help foster discussions towards science-based policies regarding mask use and physical distancing.”

The COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN), headquartered at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, launched the Prevent COVID U study in March 2021 following an announcement from the White House. Researchers from the College of Pharmacy have been involved in enrolling participants and collecting data for the study. They have been recruiting in Bryan-College Station, Kingsville and Corpus Christi since the study launched and hope that by

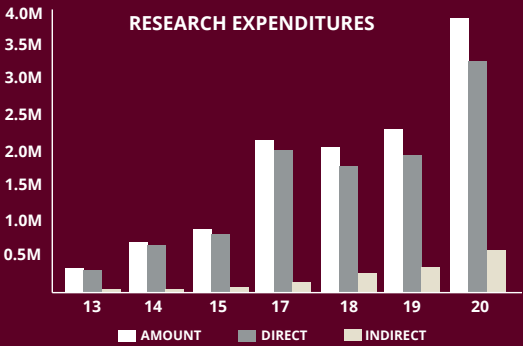
expanding to Houston they will reach or exceed their goal of enrolling at least 2000 young adults in Texas ages 18-29.

This is the first study of this kind to thoroughly evaluate the effectiveness of the vaccine on SARS-CoV-2 infection, how infectious a person with the virus may be, and transmission of the virus to others.

Texas A&M University is the largest of the 20 participating U.S. colleges. Texas A&M is also the only institution in Texas participating in this national study, and Texas is leading the nation in participation, which means young adults who enroll play a vital role in representing their peers across the state.



55 GRANTS SUBMITTED
21 GRANTS FUNDED



#49
FY2020 FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANT RANKING



Early Career Faculty Research Award

Fatima Alshbool, PharmD, PhD



Mid-To-Senior Career Faculty Research Award

Ziyaur Rahman, PhD

ADDITIONAL FUNDING ALLOWS MORE STUDENTS TO ASPIR²E

Becoming a pharmacist is no easy feat. Ask any first-year pharmacy student, they will tell you that the journey to obtaining a PharmD can be very arduous and challenging.

Through the launch of a unique initiative at the Rangel College of Pharmacy, resources are secured and made available to students to help them transition into the professional pharmacy program and to keep them engaged and successful throughout their educational journey as a student-pharmacist.

In 2018 an assessment determined that the number of first-year students who had remediated or were dismissed had steadily increased. In addition, the data indicated that a large portion of students who had to remediate were underrepresented minority (URM) students.



In an effort to mitigate this trend and improve overall retention of all students, particularly URM students, Aggie Student Pharmacists Initiative for Recruitment|Retention and Education (ASPIR²E) was

created. In 2018, Dr. Amanda Galindo, EdD, assistant dean of student affairs alongside Dr. Elaine Demps, PhD, former director of instructional design and support services, applied for funding from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program (THECB MHGP). Their proposal was accepted and was awarded approximately \$160,000 to build and support the initiative for three years.

"The original trend was concerning, and we made a concerted effort to reverse that trend as attrition of URM students hampers the societal need for more URM pharmacists in the pharmacy workforce," Galindo said. "Specifically, pharmacists who can deliver patient care with racial/ethnic concordance and help bring about improved patient care outcomes."

Racial concordance in this case, refers to having a shared identity between a pharmacist and a patient regarding their race. According to the American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, literature has shown that minority doctors are more likely to treat minority patients, who often live in underserved areas.

"By focusing on retention of our URM students, we are affirming our commitment to Texas, and following in the vision of our namesake, District 35 State Representative Irma Lerma Rangel who was committed to improving health care access to our communities here in South Texas," said Indra Reddy, PhD, founding dean of the College of Pharmacy.

According to Galindo, ASPIR²E has two main goals: recruitment and retention.

"Specifically, recruitment of non-traditional, URM and first-generation students with the aim of preparing and supporting them on their journey to becoming Aggie Pharmacists," Galindo said. "Once accepted in the program, the purpose of ASPIR²E is to continue to provide holistic support to ensure the students are retained and complete their PharmD degree to go on to serve their communities and meet the mission of the College."

There are four "tracks" to ASPIR²E. Tracks one and two aim to help undergraduate pre-pharmacy students ultimately become a competitive pharmacy school applicant. Tracks three and four will help admitted Rangel College of Pharmacy students successfully transition to the rigors of the PharmD education and become a competent practicing pharmacist.

"We mentor participants from their undergraduate studies to admissions and continue to provide student success guidance once they matriculate to the PharmD program and until they graduate. Everyone involved in this project are genuinely here to support these students both academically and professionally," Galindo said.

From the beginning, the project embraced a team approach and the cooperative spirit among all participants helped synergize the teamwork. The collaborative effort and commitment by so many college members and student peer mentors in implementing the program is clearly evident by the sheer number of members who have contributed to this initiative so far.



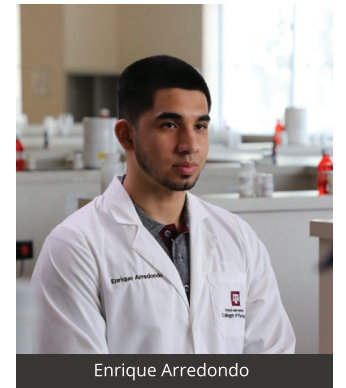
Cynthia Sadera

Take Cynthia Sadera for example, the third-year professional pharmacy student said that her ASPIR²E community helped her tremendously in the transition from Houston, to Kingsville, Texas.

"I was able to find somewhere to live and meet my professors. This was important to me because I had never left my

hometown, and now I was moving four hours away. This program has definitely helped me, because before classes started, I had already established a relationship with my professors and classmates," she said.

Forming crucial relationships and feeling as if part of a "pharmily" were sentiments echoed by fellow third-year professional pharmacy student, Enrique Arredondo.



Enrique Arredondo

"The in-person experience was so impactful when transitioning into the first year of pharmacy school," he said. "I got to experience the educational classroom experience, a typical day in pharmacy school, meet professors, and make long lasting friendships. I was aware of certain professors teaching styles, familiar with introductory material for certain courses, had the endurance to last a 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. day, and had friendships to rely on from the start."

In its first three years, ASPIR²E touched the lives of 282 total participants. Of those students, 71 percent were considered URM.

While the original THECB MHGP grant for ASPIR²E is complete, students will still be able to participate and aspire to be future Aggie Pharmacists thanks to additional funding provided by the Texas A&M University Provost Office. Interim Provost and Executive Vice President, Mark Weichold has awarded the college \$70,000 in funding to support all tracks of the ASPIR²E program, sustaining the program for an additional two years.

"We are incredibly grateful to Interim Provost Weichold for his support of ASPIR²E. His generous support will allow the College to continue programs and services offered through this initiative to our deserving students for two additional years, which in turn will help bolster our mission and strengthen our commitment to improving access to healthcare to our communities," Reddy said.

STUDENT NEWS & AWARDS

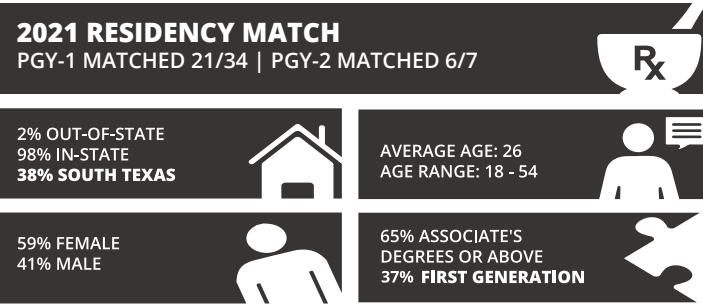
Aggies Take 1st at CLARION Case Competition

First year pharmacy student Katlyn Kuruda, along with students Blanca Brosig (School of Public Health), Kathleen Koenig (College of Nursing), and Teja Veerati (College of Medicine) placed first at the National CLARION Interprofessional Case Competition in April hosted by the University of Minnesota.



patient health outcomes. It's important that everyone in the healthcare team is respected and appreciated so they can do their job to the best of their abilities. Most importantly, it's crucial that you understand the roles other healthcare professionals play so that you know when you can utilize them to maximize patient health," Kuruda said.

"This is an incredible win by a dynamic and talented Aggie team, and this achievement reflects the tremendous amount of time, effort and practice these team members have invested in this feat. I am proud of Katlyn and the entire A&M team," Dean Indra Reddy, PhD said.



2021 Awards

Doctors Hospital At Renaissance (DHR) Immunization Advocacy Recognition
Jacob Colbath, Daniel Garza, Leanna Garza, Julio Guerra, Alyssa Jimenez, Alberto Matamoros, Rebecca Mendez-Rodriguez, Shinwin Ambebi Numfor, Brenda Ortiz, Andrea Rios, Luisa Sanchez, Ashley Thatcher, Rahinatu Timbilla

United States Public Health Service Excellence Award
Joel A. Gardeá-Beltran

Academy Of Student Of Pharmacists Mortar & Pestle Professionalism Award
Sarah Edwards

ASHP-SSHP Student Leadership Award
Chidinma Ahiahar

Kappa Psi Legacy Award
Marium Jafri

National Community Pharmacists Association Award
Julian Lopez

Phi Delta Chi Leadership Award
Chidinma Ahiahar

Phi Lambda Sigma Graduate Leadership Award
Chidinma Ahiahar

The Rho Chi Excellence Award
Jacob Sellers

SNPhA Leadership And Outreach Award
Meghan Beltran

American Institute Of The History Of Pharmacy (AIHP) Student Certificate Of Recognition
Fatema Bodalbhai

Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Payton Hightower, Li Liu, Alexandra Ritenour, Jacob Sellers

H-E-B Guiding Principles Award
Andrea Rios

Irma Lerma Rangel Leadership Award
Patrick Funderburk

Kleberg Bank Community Service Award
Alberto Matamoros

Moore's Pharmacy Incorporated Outstanding Student Award
Alyssa Jimenez

Dr. James Robertson, Jr Excellence Award
Julio Guerra

Viatrix Excellence In Pharmacy Award
Jacob Sellers

Wolters Kluwer Award Of Excellence In Clinical Communications
Emily Pena

RESIDENCY SPOTLIGHT



Ashmal Ali, PharmD, PGY1
Corpus Christi Medical Center, Corpus Christi, Texas

"As a student at the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy, I was exposed to a variety of opportunities to better understand the roles and responsibilities pharmacists play in a modern healthcare team. By pairing the college's didactic curriculum with opportunities provided through professional organizations, leadership roles, and networking opportunities, I was able to grow not only academically, but also as a professional. Having my mentors, faculty, and staff support me through this strenuous transition was vital in ensuring I was a competitive applicant and prepared for what the future had in store."



Jennifer Meza, PharmD, PGY1 - Community
Holyoke Health Center Pharmacy, Holyoke, Massachusetts

"Throughout my time at Texas A&M, I have gained valuable clinical and leadership skills via the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and resources provided by the college. My involvement in student organizations on campus provided me numerous opportunities to participate in direct patient care activities and lead health screening events in my community, which developed into a passion that I wanted to continue pursuing as a pharmacist. I was further encouraged by my advisors, faculty, and preceptors during my didactic years and as an APPE student. Their guidance and support played an essential role in my success during the residency process, and I feel prepared to continue building on my personal and professional skills as a future PGY-1 resident."



Shannon Walter, PharmD, PGY2 - Ambulatory Care
Harris Health System, Houston, Texas

"When I first started pharmacy school, I had only been exposed to retail and independent pharmacy settings. I no idea about all of the different career path options available to pharmacists. Through student organizations, didactic lectures, and the experiential education offered at Texas A&M, I quickly discovered my passion for clinical pharmacy, but struggled with parting ways with the direct patient interaction driven by my strong retail pharmacy background. For PGY1, I matched with the program at Harris Health System in Houston, Texas, which offered a variety of inpatient and outpatient experiences. Within the first few months of my PGY1 year, I discovered my love for ambulatory care. This pharmacy specialty combines my two passions, clinical pharmacy and direct patient interaction, making the decision to apply for early commitment simple. I am excited to continue my journey with Harris Health System as an Ambulatory Care PGY2 resident this upcoming year."

For more residency testimonials, visit: pharmacy.tamu.edu/residency/placements.html

ACHIEVEMENTS



New Program Welcomes First Students

In January 2021, the Rangel College of Pharmacy enrolled its inaugural cohort of six students in the new innovative PhD program in Pharmaceutical Sciences. The PhD program in Pharmaceutical Sciences strives to train scientists in cutting edge technologies and concepts to understand current and emerging diseases, discover next generation

drugs, make advanced formulation for targeted delivery, and understand the frontiers of biotechnology and pharmaceutical manufacturing to ensure quality controls.



White Coat Ceremony

On Saturday, March 27, the Class of 2024 donned their White Coats for the first time. The virtual ceremony was streamed via Zoom and Facebook for guests to watch.

The White Coat Ceremony is a meaningful tradition that signifies a student's transition into the clinical years of the pharmacy program. During

the ceremony, students who have completed the first year of the program are donned a white coat; a recognized symbol of clinical serve and patient care. Students also recite the Pledge of Professionalism to publicly acknowledge their willingness to meet the professional expectations established by the pharmacy community.

Jennifer L. Adams, PharmD, EdD, FAPhA, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Director of Interprofessional Education, Clinical Associate Professor at the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy delivered the keynote address during the ceremony.



Commencement Ceremony

During the 2021 commencement ceremony, an amazing 27 percent of our graduates distinguished themselves academically with highly esteemed Latin honors designations. In an historic moment for our young college, four of our graduates completed the professional pharmacy program coursework with an incredible and perfect 4.0 cumulative grade-point average. All four members of the Class of 2021 are summa cum laude top

graduates and are the recipients of the Dean's Academic Achievement Award. The top four graduates were, Dr. Payton Hightower, Dr. Li Liu, Dr. Alexandra Ritenour, and Dr. Jacob Sellers.

During the ceremony we also welcomed members of the Class of 2020 to walk the stage who had been unable to do so the previous year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both classes listened intently as the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Eric Barker, Dean and Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology in the Purdue University College of Pharmacy. He is a renowned neuro-pharmacologist, award-winning teacher, outstanding academic leader, and a caring pharmacist. During his address he encouraged students to have a "heart to help" and to go about their pharmacy career always asking themselves "How can I help?"

NEW ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy is pleased to announce the appointment of Kim Tanzer, PharmD, RPh Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Kim Tanzer, PharmD, RPh, will be responsible for providing visionary and energetic leadership in the development of policies and procedures that affect the overall academic professional program at the College of Pharmacy. She will support faculty in achieving excellence in teaching, scholarship, and clinical engagement; provide leadership in the continued development and ongoing assessment of the curriculum for the PharmD program; and assist Department Heads in determining teaching responsibilities of the faculty to optimize faculty credentials and skills in order to meet the needs of the curriculum.

She will oversee priorities in the academic affairs of the College of Pharmacy, including course scheduling and delivery, accreditation matters, maintaining high academic standards, development of new academic programs, and assisting in hiring, developing, and retaining faculty members.

Dr. Tanzer brings a wealth of administrative experience to the position. She comes from the Western New England University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences where she served as Assistant Dean for Experiential Affairs, leading her team to establish excellence in experiential programming. In 2017, she was appointed to



the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy where she served as President of the Board in 2020.

Her expertise in assessment and curricular development will help strengthen the academic offerings of the Rangel College of Pharmacy and ensure excellence in teaching and curriculum.

Dr. Tanzer earned her bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. She earned a post BSP PharmD from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She is a member of numerous professional pharmacy groups including the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS



Faculty Preceptor of the Year

Heather Hay, PharmD, Clinical Assistant Professor



Preceptor of the Year

Laura Sample, Emergency Medicine Pharmacist



Distinguished Achievement Award from the Association of Former Students

Juan F. Castro, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor



Teachers of the Year

Pictured left to right: P1 - Jose Hernandez-Munoz, PhD, P2 - Hamed Aly-Ismael, PhD, P3 - Andrea Mora, PharmD



Teaching Team of the Year IPT I: Electrolytes, Acid-Base, Anemia, and Kidney Diseases

Pictured left to right: Course Coordinator: Charlotte Farris, PharmD, BCPS
Instructor: Merlyn Joseph, PharmD



Pharmacy Graduate Resident Award

Katherine Jacome-Cluff Raines, PharmD, PGY1



Staff Members of the Year

Pictured left to right: Lynde Buras, RPh, Denise Hornsby, Lace Jaramillo, Gilbert Reyna, MS



Teaching Team of the Year IPT VII: Infectious Diseases

Pictured left to right: Course Coordinators: Andrea Mora, PharmD and Simi Gunaseelan, PhD
Instructors: Hamed Aly-Ismael, PhD, Michael Horseman, PharmD, Ladan Panahi, PharmD and Jaye Weston, PharmD, MS



Jaramillo Earns Presidential Service Award

Maria Jaramillo, MS, Executive Assistant to the Dean was selected as a recipient of the President's Meritorious Service Award. The President's Meritorious Service Awards recognize and reward staff for their commendable service to our great university. Recipients of this highly prestigious award have demonstrated their commitment to the Aggie Core Values of excellence, integrity, leadership, loyalty, respect and selfless service.

"In addition to displaying the Aggie Core Values, Maria Jaramillo exemplifies the 5C's of the college – care, competence, compassion, community and collaboration. She is most deserving of this honor," Dean Reddy said.

"To each of them, I extend my most sincere congratulations and deep appreciation for their tremendous efforts that make Texas A&M such a great place to live and work," Interim President John L. Junkins said.

Each individual recipient will receive a \$1,000 award, a commemorative plaque and a lapel pin.

Read more at <https://today.tamu.edu/2021/03/31/2021-presidents-meritorious-service-award-recipients-announced>.



Gunaseelan Selected For Provost APT Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Simi Gunaseelan, PhD, Instructional Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Director of Assessment is one of ten Texas A&M University faculty who were selected for the 2021 Provost Academic Professional Track Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

This award encourages, recognizes, and rewards faculty who provide students with meaningful learning experiences, embrace effective teaching approaches, and value student-centered learning.

"We are proud of her continued commitment and contributions to creating meaningful learning experiences for our students," Dean Indra Reddy, PhD, said. "I also applaud her ongoing efforts to advance a strong culture of assessment in the College, including her efforts in promoting a student-centered learning environment."

Recipients of this award will receive a \$5,000 cash stipend and will retain the right to use the title for life, as long as they remain in good standing.

Read more at <https://cte.tamu.edu/Teaching-Awards/Provost-APT-Faculty-Teaching-Excellence/2020-2021-Provost-APT-Faculty-Teaching-Excellence>.

TELEHEALTH STATION OFFICIALLY OPEN

PROJECT BRINGS PHARMACEUTICAL CARE TO RURAL COMMUNITY



The Texas A&M/OnMed Healthcare Station formally opened for patient care on October 1, 2020. The Healthcare Station is located in Milam County, Texas, an area which has very poor access to same day, urgent, and after-hours care.

The Healthcare Station is the part of the Texas A&M Health Moonshot Project, a research initiative funded by Blue Cross Blue of Shield Texas. The project Principal Investigator is Joy Alonzo, M. Engineering, PharmD, a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy.



"Milam County is the perfect location for this technology due to the recent loss of critical rural hospitals," said Alonzo. "Texas A&M is committed to the improvement of health care and health outcomes in rural Texas. This unit is the embodiment of technical innovations designed specifically to improve rural access to care and enhance the patient experience."

The Healthcare station provides immediate access for patients to clinicians and is monitored

constantly at its location at the county seat Sheriff's Office. The healthcare station's very high-quality video and integrated peripherals gives the patient the experience that the clinician is right in the room with them during the patient encounter.

Integrated equipment to assist in the diagnosis and evaluation of the patient includes: FDA approved IR thermographic full body camera, scale integrated into flooring, Blood pressure cuff, high-definition camera wand, stethoscope, pulse-oximeter, and otoscope with more devices planned.

In addition to the integrated diagnostic devices, the healthcare station features a pharmacy robot, giving the capability to dispense a limited formulary of urgently needed medications on the spot. This is a critical capability as pharmaceutical care is not available after 7 p.m. in most of the county.



OPERATION HEALTH & WELLNESS

INITIATIVE BRINGS MEDICAL SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES



Students and faculty volunteered their time and efforts to provide medical services to residents of the Coastal Bend during Operation Health and Wellness, a Texas A&M Colonias initiative.

The Operation Health and Wellness program was brought to fruition by the Texas A&M Colonias program, Nueces County Commissioner Joe Gonzalez and the Department of Defense. The program provides hands-on experience for troops, while providing needed medical services to the community at no cost.

The Rangel College of Pharmacy served as a community partner, offering support and expertise to the military in the planning and implementation of the operation.

For two weeks in June, pharmacy students worked alongside faculty and military service personnel to deliver services to these medically underserved communities. Students and faculty counseled patients, helped distribute medication, worked to connect patients with resources like medication assistance programs, and also performed screenings for blood pressure and diabetes.

"Reaching out to people that are typically underserved, or harder to access, I love it- that's why I'm here," said Gerald Soliz, a fourth-year professional pharmacy student.

Medical services were offered in Robstown, Banquete, Petronila and Bishop, Texas. Faculty from the College of Pharmacy participated on a voluntary basis, with some making hours-long commutes to the south Texas communities.

"I think that whenever there's an opportunity to serve the underserved or a community that is overlooked, or doesn't have access to services and to care, that it's important to be active and accessible to those individuals," said Frank North, PharmD, MPA, Instructional Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, one of the faculty who made the drive multiple times over a two-week period.

According to George Udeani, PharmD, Clinical Professor and Department Head of Pharmacy Practice, the pharmacy served around 2500 patients, all at no-cost.

"To see what the public needs, what people need, individually, their circumstances really bring to light what areas we can help in or what areas might need more attention," Solis said. "Coming to these events gives me more insight and another opportunity to learn how I can be of service to the people."



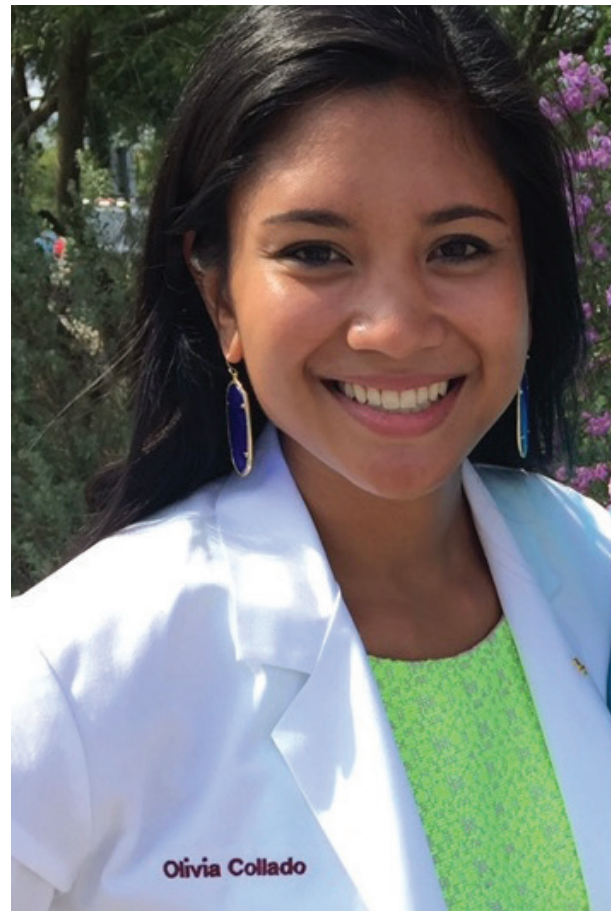
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Olivia Collado

PHARMD, BCACP, CLASS OF 2018

What is your current job position? Tell us about your role in that position.

Board certified clinical ambulatory care pharmacy specialist at the Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System. I provide chronic disease state management with a limited scope of practice to improve health outcomes. I also assist other members of the primary care team to answer clinical questions, ranging from drug interactions to choosing the best choice of antibiotic. I love my job because every day is always different, continuously learning new things each and every day.



Why did you choose to study at the Texas A&M College of Pharmacy?

I chose Texas A&M College of Pharmacy because of the great things I heard from other graduates about the quality of education despite it being a relatively new school. I was very impressed during my on-site interview to see multiple established school organizations, the NAPLEX passing statistics, and the overall professionalism of the entirety of the school.

How has your professional pharmacy education impacted where you are today?

I would not have been where I am today without the pharmacy education that Texas A&M has provided me. My pharmacy education continues to build each and every day on the strong foundation I started with when I started pharmacy school. I have learned the essential skills and tools from Texas A&M, so that I can provide the best patient care.

What advice would you give to current students in regard to finding the right job after graduation?

Research all jobs; there is not only retail and hospital jobs! Find a mentor or someone that works in the same area that you are interested in and ask questions early to see if it fits with what you want. Another option is also seeing if there are any summer internships or rotations at places you would be interested in; I believe hands-on experiences provide the best opportunities. Use conferences to your advantage and do not feel discouraged if you still do not know what you want to do after graduation; some people start down one path and end up at another.

What is your role on the alumni association?

I am a member of the board of directors serving as the secretary. This is my first year and I am so excited to help grow this alumni association.

IN THE NEWS



Aggie Pharmacist Jane Swanson, class of 2019 spoke with Katie Couric about how pharmacists were key in the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines.

KATIECOURIC.COM

<https://katiecouric.com/video/katie-talks-to/covid-vaccines-at-walmart/>



connect with the official alumni association on facebook at
Texas A&M College of Pharmacy Alumni (Private group)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/828714913979602>

2020 RECENT CLASS STATS

87%

PERCENTAGE
OF STUDENTS
ENROLLED
GRADUATING
ON TIME

93%

PERCENTAGE
OF GRADUATES
LICENSED
TO PRACTICE
PHARMACY IN
THE STATE OF
TEXAS

77%

PERCENTAGE
OF GRADUATES
EMPLOYED IN
PHARMACY IN
TEXAS OR IN
A PHARMACY
RESIDENCY
PROGRAM

19%

PERCENTAGE
OF GRADUATES
PRACTICING
PHARMACY IN
SOUTH TEXAS

THANK YOU

Your support is greatly appreciated



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College of Pharmacy