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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy

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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

Our vision is to be a preeminent leader in transformational education, impactful scientific discovery and development, and optimal use of medications to improve health and well-being.

CORE VALUES

Care	Excellence
Collaboration	Innovation
Community	Integrity
Compassion	Leadership
Competence	Respect

HOWDY!

In this issue, you will read about our advances in many areas, particularly the realm of research enterprise. Twenty-first century care demands collaboration and innovation, something our faculty are sincerely dedicated to. You will also see examples of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, and a snapshot into the many activities of our students who continue to pursue excellence on all fronts.



I would also like to take this opportunity to personally inform you about my new dual role with Texas A&M Health. I now serve as the new senior associate vice president for academic affairs for Texas A&M Health. I continue to serve as dean of the Irma Lerma Rangel School, something I have been passionately doing since the unit opened its doors in 2006. However, I now work to transform lives across all of Texas A&M Health.

In this role, I focus on providing strategic oversight and collaboration across Texas A&M Health in the development of new and interdisciplinary academic programs, implementing student success initiatives across our schools, establishing faculty development and leadership opportunities and focusing on elevating our faculty recognition. In addition to student and faculty success initiatives, I will also work to elevate our collective academic strengths through teaching excellence and pedagogy initiatives, assessment of accreditation matters and continued development of strategic academic partnerships.

I remain committed to our pharmacy family or *pharmily* as we call ourselves here, and to continuing our mission of graduating competent, caring pharmacists. It is truly an honor to lead this School and to see the phenomenal work that our faculty, staff and students are doing every day to enhance the wellbeing of others. I invite you to take a closer look at who we are, what we do, and where we are heading.

Gig 'em!

Xan X

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

BEST PHARMACY SCHOOL IN TEXAS

Per Best Value Schools



School established health care partnerships

TWO CAMPUSES. ONE PHARMILY.



HOME OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH FACILITY



HOME OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY

REIMAGINING PHARMACY -TRANSFORMING LIVES





*AACP Institutional Data

RESIDENCY MATCH RATE 74%



PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM



Percent of graduates employed in pharmacy in Texas or in a pharmacy residency program after graduation as of August 2022:



Office of **STUDENT SUCCESS** Offering academic and career coaching





INSIGHT INTO DIVERSITY **HEALER PROVIDENTIAL HEALER PROVIDENTIAL HEALER PROVIDENTIAL HEALER PROVIDENTIAL HEALER PROVIDENTIAL**



INNAUGURAL DEAN'S CARE INTERNS



The Dean's CARE (Committed to Anti-Racism Efforts) Internship was launched by the Council of Deans to actively support Texas A&M University's steady progress towards creating a vibrant climate for diversity, equity, and inclusion.



U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKINGS OF PHARMACY SCHOOLS



*College Affordability Guide Include Cost of Education

CLINICAL ROTATIONS IN SIX REGIONS ACCROSS TEXAS



ACCREDITATION PERIOD VERIOD VERIOD VITH ALL 25 ACPE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS







EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Founding Dean



Vice Dean, Regents Professor



Associate Dean for Clinical and Professional Affairs



Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



Associate Dean for Research & Innovation



Assistant Dean for Student Affairs



Department Head of Pharmaceutical Sciences



Department Head of Pharmacy Practice



Assistant Dean for Finance & Administration

DIRECTORS



Director of Recruitment, Diversity & Inclusion



Director of Student Success



Director of Assessment



Interim Director of Graduate Studies



Director of Experiential Education



Interim Director of Program Development



Director of Marketing & Communications



Associate Director, Instructional Technology Services



Director of Business Operations & Support Services

Reimagining Pharmacy - Transforming Lives

SCHOOL UPDATES

NAME CHANGE:

In 2022, Texas A&M President Katherine Banks, PhD, implemented university-wide realignment that involved several changes to academic unit names and branding. Several academic units underwent a change in name from 'college' to 'school.' Effective September 1, 2022 the Texas A&M pharmacy unit was renamed the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy.

MEMORIAL WALL:

In February 2022, the School unveiled its Memorial Wall in front of a crowd of esteemed guests, colleagues, family and friends. The School of Pharmacy Memorial Wall stands as a symbol to honor and recognize those who dutifully lived their Aggie core values, exemplified compassionate care, served others and strove to follow the mission of the school. This memorial is dedicated to those who have passed, to honor their professionalism, sacrifice and duty. It recognizes those in pursuit of becoming an Aggie pharmacist, those who left a lasting impact on the School, and those who served their communities selflessly. The memorial wall commemorates students and members of the college community that are not here today but who are forever present in our Pharmily.

TOP SCHOOL FOR DIVERSITY:

The Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy has been recognized by INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine for its outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. A first-time HEED Award recipient, the School of Pharmacy seeks to provide a rich learning environment for individuals from all backgrounds to learn, grow and thrive through a strategic plan that includes an emphasis on well-being, diversity and inclusion. The School of Pharmacy is one of only three pharmacy colleges in the nation to be selected to receive a 2021 HEED award.

The School was selected for its multitude of resources, events, training and varied efforts, including, but not limited to, matriculation agreements with Hispanic-serving institutions; its Aggie Student Pharmacists Initiative for Recruitment | Retention and Education (ASPIR²E) program, geared toward recruiting under-represented minority (URM) students and first-generation students; committees focused on well-being, student success and diversity; a number of strategic partnerships and community initiatives; an ongoing diversity grant awarded by Walgreens to increase diversity among pharmacists; and awards from the Texas A&M University Offices for Diversity and the Provost.





TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy

RESEARCH

Just as the School of Pharmacy works to cultivate young minds one student at a time it also plants seeds to change the world, one research project at a time. The Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy aspires to be one of the best programs in the nation and a school of choice for transformational education, impactful research, and compassionate care.

Since opening its doors in 2006, the Rangel School of Pharmacy has worked to reimagine pharmacy. One of the ways that happens is through pharmaceutical research. At Texas A&M Pharmacy, research is flourishing.

"As a member of Texas A&M University, a Tier 1 research institution, the Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy has the opportunity to positively impact the health and wellbeing of the communities it serves," said Indra Reddy, dean of the School of Pharmacy.

Faculty researchers are dedicated to finding ways to treat diseases such as cancer and diabetes through innovative therapies and optimized drug delivery systems for safer, more effective medication and disease state management.

"In the initial stages of the School, we focused on establishing a sound educational program with robust clinical experiences in a variety of settings," Reddy said. In recent years advancing the reseach enterprise has also become a priority for faculty along with the evidence-based patient care and clinical trials.

Cutting-edge reseach in a variety of focus areas received state, non-profit and federal funding. This includes NIHfunded R01, R21, R03, and R56 projects.

"A top goal for the Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy is to be among the top ten programs in the nation, according to *US News & World Report*, and to be among the top federally-funded research pharmacy schools in the nation, according to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy," Reddy said.

Beyond the five-year mark, the School aims to establish a Center of Excellence for research, clinical studies, and interprofessional education and practice.

We seek and attract researchers who are well aligned with our research mission, goals, and aspirations. We strive for excellence in all aspect of research through focus on innovation and team science, and with our continued commitment to enhance research infrastructure. We are excited and thrilled with recent advances of our researchers and we look forward to growing our research enterprise.



AREAS OF FOCUS

Every new challenge presents an opportunity for Aggies to blaze a trail, and in health care and research, those opportunities are vast. Our researchers are forging paths to discovery with a common goal in mind: improving human health.

World class faculty pursue projects with passion. They seek to understand, discover, evaluate, transfigure and create change in the following areas:

> Drug Design & Discovery Formulations & Development Bioavailability & Bioequivalence Pharmacokinetics & Pharmacodynamics Cardiovascular Diseases Neurosciences Cancer Infectious Disease Third-hand Smoke & Thrombosis COVID-19 Antiretroviral Drug Abuse – Opioid Epidemic

> > Health Disparities & Biomarkers

Women's Health

CARNEGIE CLASSIFICATION R2

\$1,932,439 Total Research Funding Awards From Non-Federal Sources

\$3,157,929 Total Research Funding Awards From All Federal Sources

\$5,090,368 Total Extramural Research Funding

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AWARDS \$1 MILLION TO TEXAS A&M SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

AWARD WILL SUPPORT THE ADVANCEMENT OF UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN COVID-19 CLINICAL TRIALS AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONTINUED EVALUATION OF FDA-APPROVED PRODUCTS

Researchers from the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) have been awarded \$1 million from the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) Innovation award: COVID-19 and Health Equity. Through this collaboration with FDA OMHHE, Texas A&M and AACP aim to advance enrollment of underrepresented minorities (URM) in clinical trials, highlighting the unique role community pharmacies and pharmacists have as clinical researchers in recruiting URM populations as clinical trial participants.

The project "Pharmacy Advances Clinical Trials (PACT) Network to Achieve Diversity in COVID Clinical Trials: A Strategic Framework," will work to achieve two main aims. The first aim, led by Texas A&M, will be to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to enable environmental scans in communities to optimize URM participation in COVID-19 clinical trials. The second aim, led by the AACP, will be to create and train a network of community-based investigators, pharmacists, and other partners to directly increase clinical trials participation among URM populations. The PACT Network will be able to utilize the results of these innovative AI and machine learning tools to help identify and recruit clinical trial participants.

The Texas A&M School of Pharmacy efforts are being led by principal investigator George Udeani, PharmD, DSC, FCP, FCCP, clinical professor and head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Udeani has been passionate about this scope of work since pursuing a sixyear postdoctoral training in drug development with the National Cancer Institute-National Institutes of Health, where one of his goals was to gain the trust of URMs, improve their access to care, and increase participation in the drug development process. He feels participation in clinical trials will decrease URM morbidity and mortality and offer improved quality of life. He has spent three decades of his career in education, patient care and research at URM communities, working to achieve these objectives. Udeani also has first-hand experience in COVID-19 clinical trials.

"What we've seen is a lack of trust. There is a hesitancy, and we want to change the narrative," Udeani said. This collaborative effort will also include investigators from Texas A&M University Health Science Center (Texas A&M Health), School of Public Health and the Coastal Bend Health Education Center. AACP will work on bringing a culture of PACT awareness to pharmacy schools, survey schools for clinical trial research, and design and develop training materials. They will involve accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy, and the Community Pharmacy Enhanced Services Network (CPESN), to



identify community pharmacies to engage in the PACT network. AACP also will enroll, train and educate PACT investigators and community pharmacists. AACP and its members have a rich history of developing networks to improve public health, including a partnership with APhA's Vaccine Confidence Campaign to increase vaccination confidence and combat vaccine misinformation, as well as with the CDC to educate the public on smoking cessation.

"AACP is so pleased to collaborate with our Texas A&M colleagues to expand the capacity to engage with URM candidates for clinical trials", said Lucinda L. Maine, RPh, PhD, AACP executive vice president and CEO. "We know that many of our members have experience in the conduct of such research and the PACT network offers a unique opportunity to coalesce the insights from across the country in a manner that creates a collective force for good."

"The School of Pharmacy's commitment of transforming lives through reimagining pharmacy resonates well with AACP's vision of a world of healthy people through the transformation of health professions education. Both organizations are passionate about advancing pharmacy education and improving health for all. This first of its kind model of institutional member-AACP partnership is not only a worthy endeavor but also can model the way for many such impactful partnerships in the future," said Indra Reddy, PhD, professor and dean of the School of Pharmacy.

"OMHHE strives to eliminate health disparities through strategic communication, community outreach, and innovative collaborative research. OMHHE knows we cannot achieve our mission alone. Through partnerships, collaborations, multi-stakeholder engagement, and fostering a collaborative learning environment we aim to achieve sustainable health equity and generate impact across diverse communities. Today and every day, we pledge to continue this important work in support of diverse communities across the country, with the goal of achieving health equity for all," said RADM Richardae Araojo PharmD, MS, FDA Associate Commissioner of Minority Health and Director of Minority Health.

> The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by FDA/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



PHD

The School of Pharmacy now has multiple cohorts of PhD students in our pharmaceutical sciences graduate program. Students work at either the College Station campus or the Kingsville campus. There are now 18 students currently in the program.

FOCUS ON FIRST GENERATION

42% OF OUR PHARMD STUDENTS ARE FIRST-GENERATION

The Texas A&M School of Pharmacy extends an invitation annually for all first-gen students, faculty, and staff to join the Texas A&M First-Gen Celebration. As a First-Forward Institution, Texas A&M commits to advancing educational outcomes for first-gen students.

The National First-Generation College Celebration Day takes place annually on November 8. During the weeklong celebration, November 8-12, the school celebrated first-gen Aggies with an event focused on sharing candid conversations about what it means to be a first-generation student. Hosted by the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Student Success, esteemed guests, who were fellow first-generation students, spoke to students on both campuses. Students also had the opportunity to share their stories.

First-generation college students are defined as students who are the first in their immediate family (excluding siblings) to attend college to pursue a fouryear or advanced degree.



LAPEL PIN

For a first-generation college student, graduation can mean a shift in the trajectory for an entire family. This pin is an indication of the academic and professional accomplishments in your life that can set an example for those who will follow.





STUDENT AWARDS

TEXAS A&M HEALTH STUDENTS FINISH IN TOP 5 AT NATIONAL HEALTH CARE COMPETITION

An interprofessional team of students from the Texas A&M University Health Science Center finished in the top five at the 2022 CLARION National Interprofessional Case Competition hosted virtually by the University of Minnesota on April 8-9, 2022. Members of the team include Jacquita Johnson and Julian Laude from the School of Public Health, Alexander Le from the School of Medicine, and Bianca Rodriguez from the Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy.

The competition involves interprofessional teams of four students from at least two different health disciplines who are given a case and charged with creating a root cause analysis and devising an innovative solution. They have less than a month to prepare before presenting a 20-minute proposal to a panel of senior-level health executives that evaluates their analysis in the context of real-world standards of practice. This year's case was called "System of Belonging – Healthcare organizations & teams during the COVID-19 Pandemic." It asked teams to address overwhelming stress and burnout experienced by health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionally affected those who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). The Texas A&M team went to the final round for their solution to health care worker burnout.



American Institute of the History of Pharmacy Certificate of Student Recognition Khyati Amin

Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information Award of Excellence in Clinical Communication Anthony Wilks

Dean's Academic Achievement Award Payton Hightower Li Liu Alexandra Ritenour Jacob Sellers **Dr. James Robertson Jr. Excellence Award** Sreya Varghese

H-E-B Guiding Principles Award Elizabeth Marie Block

Irma Lerma Rangel Leadership Award Sergio Alex Vigil

Kleberg Bank Community Service Award Matthew Austin Smith Moore's Pharmacy Incorporated Outstanding Student Award Koren Marie Dunn

Walgreens Innovative Community Practice Award Zachary Alaric Shenkir

Viatris Excellence in Pharmacy Award Jose V. Elizalde Jr.

United States Public Health Service Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award Alexis Speer

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

MY CDC ROTATION EMILY WONG | FOURTH YEAR PHARMACY STUDENT, CLASS OF 2023 ATLANTA, GA JULY 5 – AUGUST 12, 2022

What types of work did you do while on this rotation?

- Distributed special biologic agents to the public under the FDA expanded access Investigational New Drug (IND) program and to quarantine centers
- Researched drug information questions and questions from medical and laboratory staff regarding the JYNNEOS vaccine.
- Maintained drug supply for lab animals, which included completing a quarterly inventory check of controlled substances
- Created a system to automate emails sent to individuals to complete inventory control
- Presented to current staff of smallpox vaccine protocol, which resulted in change in previous protocol.

What have you learned from this experience?



I learned that there are many pathways that a pharmacist can take their career and it's not one linear path. It is never too late to change your trajectory if you are passionate about what you're doing. I've met pharmacists coming from retail, hospital, and industry who work at the CDC and from them I learned there is no wrong or right way to do something. Don't be scared to go out of your comfort zone because you never know if you don't try.

Who did you work with?

Dr. Julian Jolly, Dr. Chris Allen and other pharmacists at the CDC

Has this impacted what type of jobs you hope to pursue after graduation?

This rotation has given me a different perspective in the roles that pharmacists can do especially in the world of public health. I learned that I could find roles that can integrate both public health and patient care.

In September 2022, Wong will begin a rotation with the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She was selected in the office of Surveillance and Epidemiology at the FDA with Division of Mitigation Assessment and Medication Error Surveillance Pharmacy Experiential Program for one of her APPE rotations. The Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology (OSE) monitors and evaluates the safety profiles of drugs available to American consumers using a variety of tools and disciplines throughout the life cycle of the drugs. OSE maintains a system of post marketing surveillance and risk assessment programs to identify adverse events that did not appear during the drug development process.

FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS



Pharmacy Graduate Resident Award Dr. Alexandra Ritenour



Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award Dr. Nephy Samuel



Early and Mid-to-Senior Career Faculty Research Award Dr. Joy Alonzo



Mid-to-Senior Career Faculty Research Award Dr. Mahua Choudhury



Preceptor of the Year Award Dr. Niaz Deyhim



Teacher of the Year Award P1 - Dr. Fadi Khasawneh; P2 - Charlotte Farris; P3 - Dr. Trager Hintze





Staff Member of the Year Award Mr. Steven Deanda, Mrs. Ashley Ochoa, Ms. Karlie Stehle, Mr. Robert Rice



2022 AFS University Level Distinguished Award for Teaching Dr. Mohammad Nutan



Teaching Team of the Year Award: Electrolytes & Fluids, Renal Disorders, Acid-Base, and Anemias Course Course Coordinator: Dr. Charlotte Farris Instructors: Dr. Fatima Alshbool, Dr. Trager Hintze, Dr. Merlyn Joseph, Dr. Dai Lu



2021 AFS College Level Distinguished Award for Teaching Dr. Simi Gunaseelan



Teaching Team of the Year Award: **Infectious Diseases Course** Course Coordinators: Dr. Andrea Mora, Dr. Simi Gunaseelan Instructors: Dr. Hamed Ali, Dr. Michael Horseman, Dr. Ladan Panahi, Dr. Jaye Weston



REGENTS PROFESSOR Mansoor A. Khan, PhD, RPh, vice dean and professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy, has been named a 2020-2021 Regents Professor Award winner by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

Khan is one of 12 Texas A&M faculty members honored with this distinction this year. Established in 1996, the Regents Professor Award is bestowed annually by the Board of Regents in recognition of awardees' exemplary contributions to their university or agency and to the people of Texas. The award is specifically for faculty within the 11 A&M System institutions, the Health Science Center (Texas A&M Health), and the Agricultural and Engineering Programs.



PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD Agatha Alonso, executive assistant to the vice dean, has been named a recipient of the 2022 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. Each individual recipient received a \$1,000 award,

a commemorative plaque, and a lapel pin. Alonso joined the School of Pharmacy in 2014 and is a Texas A&M University alumnus from the class of 1992.



Alonso (right) pictured with Texas A&M President M. Katherine Banks (left)



ASPET EARLY CAREER AWARD The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) Division for Cardiovascular Pharmacology awarded Fatima Alshbool, PhD, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, the 2022 Division for Cardiovascular Pharmacology Early Career Award.

This award recognizes and honors early career, independent investigators working in cardiovascular science. Alshbool received this award in recognition of her pioneering research to establish the impact of novel tobacco products including E-cigarette exposure on platelet function and thrombosis, and her quest to facilitate new therapeutic approaches to manage occlusive disorders.

She is currently funded by the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health. She has been a member of ASPET since 2015.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT Christine Hong

PHARMD, CLASS OF 2018

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

I'm the Pharmacist-In-Charge (PIC) of a H-E-B Pharmacy in Waco, Texas. My responsibilities include managing all operations within the pharmacy, from staff supervision and

training, payroll, scheduling, quality assurance, to overseeing all productivity measures in order to maintain an efficient workflow. Also, in addition to being the PIC, I've been appointed as the incoming American Pharmacists Association (APhA) New Practitioner Officer, serving on the national Executive Committee for the pharmacy practice division. I've also been selected to serve my second term as the co-chair of the APhA-APPM Immunizing Pharmacists Special Interest Group's Advocacy Committee, in addition to being appointed to serve on the APhA-APPM Policy Standing Committee Ad-Hoc Workgroup.

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

I chose to attend the Texas A&M School of Pharmacy (SOP) because of how involved the SOP was within the community and in medically underserved areas. I remember how much focus the SOP placed in overcoming health care disparities in these communities, and knew this was the program I wanted to receive my professional pharmacy education from.

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

Obtaining my doctorate in pharmacy has definitely impacted where I am today. It provided me with the framework of not only on how to be a pharmacist serving my patients and community, but also on the importance of advocacy and involvement in the profession, whether it's through professional organizations, state legislators, or community outreach.



2021 Outstanding Early Career Alumni Award Dr. Bryan J. Donald, Class of 2016, Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Louisiana Monroe College of Pharmacy in Monroe, Louisiana.



2021 RECENT CLASS STATS

93% PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED GRADUATING ON TIME

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

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

2795 PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES PRACTICING PHARMACY IN SOUTH TEXAS

THANK VOU

Your support is greatly appreciated



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy