

WHEATON



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy

# MESSAGE FROM The dean

### Howdy!

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy for the Academic Year 2019-20.



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. Our student-pharmacists serve their communities through co-curricular activities and wellness initiatives, such as immunizations, blood pressure and glucose screenings, and health education programs.

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 Pharmacy Family, 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.

Gig 'em!

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

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#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Indra K. Reddy** Professor and Founding Dean, College of Pharmacy

Mansoor A. Khan Vice Dean, College Station Campus Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Asim Abu-Baker Associate Dean for Clinical and Professional Affairs Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

**Amanda Galindo** Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

Fadi Khasawneh Associate Professor and Department Head of Pharmaceutical Sciences

**George Udeani** Clinical Professor and Department Head of Pharmacy Practice

Ramey Benfield Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration

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Juan J. Bustamante Instructional Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Interim Director of Admissions

**Carolynn Mathews** Director of Experiential Education

**Amanda M. Galvan** Director of Student Success

Simi Gunaseelan Director of Assessment Instructional Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

#### Gilbert Reyna

Manager and Interim Director of Instructional Design & Support Services

Narendra Kumar Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Interim Director of Graduate Studies

#### Mohammad Nutan

Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences Interim Director of Program Development

### **STAFF RETREAT**

The Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy held its first off-campus staff retreat at Tapatio Springs Hill Country Resort in Boerne, Texas, in March. A total of 25 staff members attended the retreat for a relaxing time of team building, learning, and strengthening the bond between our two campuses. The retreat topics included Enhancing Team Engagement: Employee Engagement (by Dr. Christine Gravelle), My Inner Drive (by Dr. Simi Gunaseelan) and Mental Toughness (Mr. Ramey Benfield). Following the lecture sessions, the staff participated in various activities to promote camaraderie.







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On the cover...

Dr. Hamideh Afrooz, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, performing non-destructive characterization of drug delivery system by Near Infrared hyperspectroscopy (chemical imaging).





### Ranking **Tuition Cost**

*Tuition as per College Affordability Guide (and AACP among* accredited Texas programs)



(8 years) Awarded in 2016 **Fully Compliant** with all 25 ACPE Accreditation Standards





### FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

#### USING 3-D PRINTING TO DEVELOP DOSE-FLEXIBLE PEDIATRIC FORMULATIONS

Getting children to take their medicine can sometimes be a challenge. From difficulty swallowing pills, to disliking the taste of the prescribed medicine, the task of medicating youngsters,



Most medications are produced for adults as capsules and tablets, which are often not suitable for children. As a result, the drugs are manipulated in a pharmacy to adjust the dose to make them appropriate for children because of the unavailability of a lower strength formulation.

This, however, has raised concerns from physicians and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about dose accuracy, stability, sterility, bioavailability, efficacy and safety as well as consistency of extemporaneous preparations.

In an effort to overcome such obstacles, a research team led by Mansoor A. Khan, PhD, RPh, is studying the use of 3-D printing methods to develop dose-flexible pediatric formulations.

Khan, who is Vice Dean of the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy's College Station campus and serves as the Director of the Formulations and Drug Delivery Core Laboratory, is focused on pre-market formulation science and drug development and post-marketing product failures to explain therapeutic non- or substandard performance of approved products.

"Dr. Khan brings a wealth of experience from FDA, where he served as a division director in the Center for Drugs Evaluation and Research," said Indra K. Reddy, PhD, professor and founding dean of the Rangel College of Pharmacy. "We are excited about the tremendous potential that Dr. Khan and his team members bring to integrate various disciplines at Texas A&M for translational research leading to drug product development "

The use of 3-D printing, which is a manufacturing process where a 3-D printer creates three-dimensional objects by depositing materials layer by layer in accordance to the object's 3-D digital model, has become popular in numerous applications because of



the benefits it offers. Among the biggest benefits of the process are speed, cost, flexibility and consistency.

With pediatric drug products, one of the ideal traits is dose flexibility, allowing a wide age group of children to be covered by a single product that is easy to swallow and palatable. This is where Khan's research and the use of 3-D printing come into play.

The use of the technology would be used for dose-tailored or flexible solid-dosage forms that could be manufactured in a pharmacy setting where resources may be limited. Additionally, the 3-D printed solid-dosage forms would be highly porous and would dissolve on the tongue or be dispersed in a liquid just before being administered to the child.

"I believe that 3-D printing will revolutionize personalized medicine and enhance consistency. in clinical outcome and pediatric compliance," said Khan.

Currently, however, commercial 3-D printers are not tailored for pharmaceutical applications. To help remedy this, Khan and his research team are working with faculty members from the Texas A&M Dwight Look College of Engineering as well as industry partners to develop 3-D printers for pharma applications.

"Collaborative effort between the university and industry will lead to the printer that can be deployed in a hospital or pharmacy," noted Khan.

Khan and his research team has published multiple research papers and review articles in peer-reviewed journals including New England Journal of Medicine to indicate that marketed product failures can be uncovered by scientists.

Khan's work has been published in over 300 peer-reviewed publications, and his team is currently performing a pharmacokinetic evaluation of commercial products to link quality failures with clinical non-performance.

#### CURBING THE ABUSE OF OPIOIDS FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT

In an effort to help prevent opioid abuse, Ziyaur Rahman, PhD, associate professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, is working on abuse-deterrent formulations (ADFs) science.



Opioids for pain management include prescription pain relievers, heroin and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. These can be abused in a number of ways including being swallowed whole, crushed and swallowed, snorted or smoked, and through injection.

Abuse of opioids has reached epidemic levels in the United State which consumes almost 80 percent of the global supply of opioid As a result of opioid-related overdoses, more than 128 people di every day.

In addition to the loss of lives, opioid abuse has a significant economic impact of \$78.5 billion per year. The economic number include health care lost productivity, addiction treatment and criminal justice involvement.

One approach to deter abuse is through the use of ADFs with properties that may be seen as barriers to abuse of the opioids. The ADFs are expected to provide barrier to abuse or make abus more difficult or less rewarding for the abuser.

Unlike extended release formulations, assessment of ADFs is challenging due to the dynamic nature of product development and the availability of a variety of formulation designs. With limited prior history or literature information, and lack of compendial standards, evaluation and regulatory approval of these novel drug products become increasingly difficult.

#### TO GIVE TO THE COLLEGE, PLEASE VISIT

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	understand effect of formulation and process variables, develop novel assessment methods to evaluate the potential of abuse by various routes, and develop quality metrics for comparing among different ADFs.
	"ADF research will help in understanding the science of ADFs," said Rahman. "Eventually it will help the agency in making regulatory decision including generics approval"
	For the development of newer generation of ADFs to further reduce potential of abuse of opioids, Rahman and his research team are investigating the use of sucrose acetate isobutyrate (SAIB). He has received industry funding for this work.
es, ds.	SAIB is an emulsifier and is categorized as generally recognized as safe by the FDA. It is used as a food additive in cocktail mixers, beer, malt beverages or wine coolers and is a potential replacement for brominated vegetable oil.
e ers	It was hypothesized that the addition of SAIB to Polyox-based formulations would increase elasticity and reduce drug extraction in various solvents.
	Rahman and his team found that the addition of SAIB to the formulation decreased the drug extraction in various solvents which has the potential to decrease the abuse of opioids including other class of CNS drugs.
se	"SAIB-based ADF formulation will be far superior in terms of abuse potential deterrence, and thus, reduce abuse by various route," said Rahman.
	Rahman's research in this area was published in AAPS PharmSciTech and the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Rahman has received three research grants from the Food

and Drug Administration through the National Institute

for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education (NIPTE), to

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### COMMENCEMENT 2019 - CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS







#### THE RANGEL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY GRADUATES ITS 10TH COHORT

One-hundred ten (110) student pharmacists from the Class of 2019 received their Doctor of Pharmacy degrees on May 25, at the Rudder Auditorium on the Campus of Texas A&M, College Station. Dr. Don Letendre, Dean and Professor of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Iowa in Iowa City was keynote speaker for the event. After the degrees were conferred by Texas A&M's Vice President for Enrollment and Academic Services, Mr. Joseph Pettibon II, diplomas were handed out by Dr. Indra K. Reddy, Professor and Founding Dean at Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy. Dr. Mansoor Khan, Vice Dean, College of Pharmacy College Station campus, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Dr. Asim Abu-Baker, Associate Dean for Clinical & Professional Affairs and Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs bestowed the doctoral hoods. After this, students took the Oath of a Pharmacist. Afterwards, family, friends and well-wishers gathered back in the foyer for a reception.

Recent Class Stats Licensed to Practice in Texas.....93% Practicing in Texas......80% Practicing in South Texas......39% Residency Programs......13%









# AGGIES PARTNERING TO BUILD

# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### **PROJECT REACH HEALTH FAIR**

The REACH Project Health Fair – a partnership between the College of Pharmacy Classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022, and the REACH Project – took place March 1 in College Station. The event kicked off The REACH Project's first round of High Impact Service Opportunities offered to Texas A&M Students and in the benefit of the Aggie family. This event enabled student volunteers from all levels to apply their skills in a way that provided interdisciplinary field-based application, as well as a philanthropic impact within our Aggie community.







#### OPERATION LONE STAR AIDS HEALTH CARE ACROSS SOUTH TEXAS

Students from across the Texas A&M University Health Science Center participated in one of the nation's largest humanitarian efforts, Operation Lone Star. More than 9,000 patients received more than 43,000 services including immunizations, dental services, hearing and vision screenings, eye exams, sports physicals, diabetes screenings and mental health screenings across six cities in South Texas.

Operation Lone Star provides civilian and military emergency responders with an opportunity to work together to practice operating temporary emergency clinics similar to what may be used in a public health emergency. In addition to serving as a training exercise, the event brings free health care to areas of South Texas where access to care can be difficult. Among students participating from the College of Pharmacy were Alexis Speer (P2), Lorena Pena (P3), Joel Gardea Beltran (P2) and Cameron Piccirilli (P2).



#### 11TH ANNUAL DISASTER DAY INTERPROFESSIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SIMULATION

On Friday, February 15, students, faculty, and staff of the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy participated in the Texas A&M Health Science Center Disaster Day, an annual, day-long mock mass casualty simulation in College Station to prepare students with critical life-saving skills required in disaster situations.

This year, students reacted to mass "injuries" resulting from a chemical explosion at a biocontainment facility, engaging in triage at the disaster site, patient care at a mock field hospital and disaster management and oversite in Disaster City's Emergency Operations Training Center where nearly 600

start to cry because she stated that no one has cared about her health like the way I constructed my consultation that was specific towards her. Full of emotions, she



### PROJECT SHINE HELPS BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY

During the past several years, Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy with the American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) Chapter, gives students the opportunity to serve the people of South Texas by providing free health screenings. Project SHINE is an interactive health clinic designed to meet the College of Pharmacy's mission to serve the people of South Texas. The students were able to offer blood pressure checks, glucose, A1c testing, lipid panels, BMI readings and medication counseling. Students were able to treat more than 130 patients in March in Brownsville. The knowledge the students provided to patients is valuable; it goes beyond the results they give them. "It was a truly rewarding experience. I had a patient

students from the Texas A&M Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, and the School of Public Health engaged in triage at the disaster site. Read more about this event in The Eagle.



gave me a hug, and was just truly grateful for our services that we offer." - Meghan Beltran (P2).



### **COLLEGE NEWS**

#### THE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT **OF TWO ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT HEADS**



Fadi Khasawneh, B.Pharm., Ph.D., is an Associate Professor and Department Head of Pharmaceutical Sciences, at the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy. Dr. Khasawneh most recently served as the founding Chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, at The University of Texas at El Paso's School of Pharmacy. He had also served as a faculty member in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Western University of Health Sciences (Pomona, CA), College of Pharmacy. Dr. Khasawneh received a bachelor's degree in Pharmacy (B.Pharm) from Jordan University of Science and Technology (Irbid, Jordan) in 1999 and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in 2007.

Dr. Khasawneh's teaching interests are in the areas of pharmacology and principles of drug action. While at UTEP, he taught in the Principles of Drug Action, as well as in the Integrated Systems-Based Pharmacotherapy courses. He had also taught in the Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics Courses at

Western University of Health Sciences, as well as in their Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences program.

Dr. Khasawneh's laboratory research is focused on the study of thrombosis and platelet biology. The primary goal is to delineate signaling pathways involved in platelet activation and to investigate their role in the pathogenesis of thrombotic diseases. They employ a host of molecular, biochemical and pharmacological approaches, as well as thrombosis models in their studies. Their ultimate goal is to identify novel therapeutic agents and/or targets for the management of thromboembolic disorders, such as heart attacks and stroke. His research program is currently funded by an R01 from the NIH's NHLBI, an R21 from the NIEHS and a grant-in-aid from the American Heart Association (AHA).

Dr. Khasawneh is the chair elect for the Division of Cardiovascular Pharmacology, The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), and had previously served as secretary/treasurer. He also served on ASPET's programming and nominating committees. Dr. Khasawneh also served as Chair of the Biological Sciences section of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). He served as Secretary of the Faculty Senate at The University of Texas at El Paso, and Chair of the Academic Senate at Western University of Health Sciences. He has served/is a reviewer for the NIH, Veterans Affairs, AACP, AHA, amongst others and is a reviewer for a host of scientific journals.

Dr. Khasawneh and his wife, who is also a pharmacist, have three children. His hobbies include playing soccer, which he has played all his life. While in pharmacy school at Jordan University of Science and Technology, he represented the school in several intramural tournaments. He also enjoys watching pro football, especially his favorite team, the Chicago Bears.

George Udeani, PharmD, DSC, FCP, FCCP, is the Department medical students, residents and fellows. He founded and co-Head of Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Professor George developed various postdoctoral training residency and research Udeani came to the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy training programs. Dr. Udeani has held various positions in the from the Corpus Christi Medical Center. Dr. Udeani comes to practice of pharmacy, over a thirty-year period. us with more than 25 years of clinical pharmacy experience and expertise. He most recently served as the Director of the PGY-1 Dr. Udeani's research interests are in the areas of cancer Pharmacy Residency Program and as Clinical Pharmacy Manager research, drug discovery and development, pharmacokinetics for HealthTrust. Dr. Udeani is a Fellow of the American College and pharmacodynamics and pharmaceutical care. His research of Clinical Pharmacology and the American College of Chest experience has ranged from National Cancer Institute - National Physicians. He was an active preceptor for the Irma Lerma Rangel Institutes of Health funded research, which resulted in the College of Pharmacy from 2010 to 2019 and was named the discovery and development of four anticancer agents (betulinic Preceptor of the Year for 2019. Dr. Udeani earned his PharmD acid, deguelin, resveratrol, and tephrosin), to clinical trials. from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Udeani comes to us with more than 25 years of clinical pharmacy experience and expertise.

Over the last three decades, he has contributed in the development of a variety of ambulatory and hospital-based clinical pharmacy services, regulatory preparedness for hospitals, continuing education programs, pharmacy curricula, postgraduate residency and fellowship programs, pharmacy societies, and research programs. Additionally, he has held

#### **FACULTY STATS -21 FULL TIME FACULTY**

**Pharmaceutical Sciences Research areas:** 

Formulations and Drug Design Drug Discovery and Repurposing

Autoimmune, Inflammatory, Infectious, and Vascular Disease conditions Drug Abuse and Addiction Crohn's Disease and Colitis Pancreatic and Ovarian Cancers Chemotherapeutics

#### **FACULTY STATS -23 FULL TIME FACULTY 2 ADJUNCT FACULTY**

**Pharmacy Practice Specialty areas:** 

Ambulatory Care

Disease State Management



numerous administrative positions within pharmacy, These positions have included pharmacist, clinical pharmacist, clinical pharmacy specialist, clinical pharmacy coordinator, assistant director of pharmacy, clinical pharmacy manager, residency program director, director of pharmacy, as well as president. In clinical practice, he developed several clinical pharmacy programs, at community and university teaching hospitals, managing budgets from approximately \$100,000 to 200 million dollars. He has also served as chapter president for Coastal Bend Society of Health-System Pharmacists, and Board of Directors, Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists, for three years.

Dr. Udeani's teaching interests are in the area of Hematology-Oncology, critical care, infectious disease and Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. He has approximately thirty years experience in the training and education of pharmacy, and

Dr. George Udeani was born in the West African county of Cameroon. His hobbies include soccer and tennis. He is married to Christine Udeani, a lawyer who stays home to raise their seven children (three boys and four girls).

Medication Therapy Management Antibiotic Utilization and Administration Diabetes Management and Education Critical Care Medicine Chronic Disease State Management

### **COLLEGE NEWS**

#### SIXTH ANNUAL TIES AND **TENNIS SHOES MEMORIAL FUN RUN**

Hundreds of community members, faculty, staff and students gathered for the sixth annual Ties and Tennis Shoes Memorial Fun Run held February 22 at the College of Pharmacy in Kingsville. Proceeds from the student-led tradition benefit the Dr. James Robertson Jr. Make a Difference Scholarship and the endowed Dr. James Robertson Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy students, faculty and guests gathered for the first Pharmacy Public Health Symposium on March 2. Presenters shared their research on topics ranging from vaccination rates in dairy workers, Texas colonias outreach programs, rural health, disaster preparedness and the pharmacist role in these and other types of public health initiatives. The Pharmacy Public Health Committee hopes to follow up on these initiatives and more in the next academic year with the help of our pharmacy students and colleagues. Speakers included Jose Gutierrez (TAMU Colonias Program), Anabel Rodriguez (UT Health Science Center Public Health) and Dr. Michael Miller and Dr. Bree Watzak of the Rangel College of Pharmacy.

#### CAREER EXPO AND RESIDENCY SHOWCASE **OFFERS CAREER LEARNING**

The Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy hosted its 2019 Fall Career Expo and Annual Residency Showcase on October 15-16. It included student interviews for fourth-year students to interact and network with corporate sponsors for possible post-graduation employment while the Residency Showcase provides the students an opportunity to learn more about available PGY-1 residencies.

#### **Career Expo Stats** Total Students in Class of 2020......110 Total Participating......53 of 110 = 48% Total Interviews......131 Average No. Interviews......2.5 per student

This year's event helped raise more than \$20,000 in net proceeds that will help students utilize these funds to further their pharmacy education. The family-



friendly festival featured a 5K, 10K, Kids' 1-mile run, kid zone, live music, wellness education, pet zone and refreshments.









#### **RANGEL COLLEGE OF PHARMACY CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2022** WHITE COAT CEREMONIES

The Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy recognized pharmacy students entering their second year of studies who have earned their Texas Pharmacy Intern Licenses in a White Coat

respectively.

The Class of 2022 donned their white coats, a symbol of clinical service and patient care, and pledged a personal commitment to work to ensure the welfare of individual patients and the welfare



keynote speaker at the Kingsville event. Dr. Rodriguez de Bittner is associate dean for clinical services and practice transformation and executive director at the Center for Innovative Pharmacy Solutions at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore.



**Kingsville** Ceremony

14

Ceremony for the Class of 2022 for the campuses of Kingsville and College Station that were held August 17 and August 24,

of the South Texas and College Station communities. A reception followed each ceremony.







#### Dr. Mary Klein

Dr. Mary Klein was keynote speaker at the College Station event. Dr. Klein is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Pharmacy and the Director of Practice Labs and Simulation for the school's Abilene campus.

### **STUDENTS AND ALUMNI**

#### **COLLEGE CELEBRATES FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS**

The Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy celebrated National First-Generation Celebration Day on November 8 by honoring first-generation college students, faculty and staff. Firstgeneration students — those who are the first of their immediate family (excluding siblings) to pursue a four-year or advanced degree — comprise 27% of the student body at the College.

#### SARAH BERMUDEZ



When Sarah Bermudez first broached the idea of attending Texas A&M University with her parents, they told her it was out of her league. It wasn't that they thought she would not be able to handle the rigors of college, rather financially they felt it was out of reach.

As immigrants from Costa Rica, who came to the United States with only one suitcase, college was not something Bermudez's parents planned for their children. Bermudez did not share their view.

Growing up in a low-income neighborhood in Pasadena, Texas, Bermudez was intent on furthering her education beyond high school and being the first in her family to attend a four-year university.

"It was not really heard of to go to college in my neighborhood," she said. "Whenever I would mention my aspirations, most people were shocked. They didn't think it was possible."

Bermudez pressed on, not letting the doubters change her course. During her senior year she asked her father to take her to Aggieland Saturday, an open house on the Texas A&M campus for potential students to learn more about the university.

Bermudez still tears up as she recounts the conversation with her dad about making the nearly two-hour drive to College Station. While her father felt financially Texas A&M would be out of her reach, he did not want to stifle his daughter's dream.

"He took me because I made an argument about how it was going to be possible," she said. "He took me and I remember he said when we were there he felt bad because he didn't think it was something that would be a possibility. Although he didn't think it was possible because of the financial aspect, he wanted to be supportive.

"He says he looks back on that day and realizes that what made him drive me to College Station was he noticed the amount of perseverance and determination that I had."

His support, and that trip to College Station both played a part in Bermudez becoming the first in her family to attend college.

Bermudez searched for and applied for every scholarship she could find. Much like the perseverance she showed when trying to get her father to take her to Aggieland Saturday, that same drive was paramount to her finding a way financially to fulfill her dream.

Having accomplished her goal of getting to Texas A&M, and earning her undergraduate degree in nutrition, Bermudez still felt there was more to accomplish.

"In my neighborhood we have a physician and his clinic was always full of patients because they trusted him and he was the only one that was close by," Bermudez said. "Seeing how overwhelmed he was I wanted to get a degree in pharmacy so I could help with the load."

Bermudez applied for admission to the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, another path her parents weren't sure she would be able to travel.

"I told them that I knew I really wanted to serve the underserved people from the community I was raised in," Bermudez said. "They realize I was just trying to go toward my purpose, which is serving the people in our community. They are really proud of that."

In addition to seeing the struggles of the underserved population of her hometown, Bermudez saw similar struggles in her own home, pointing to her father and the difficulty he had when trying to get information on the medicines he takes.

"He has 20 medications on his list and seeing how he was not able to receive clear communication on what each one was due to how busy that physician was, I wanted to step in and help alleviate that among other people in the community," she said.

Bermudez, who is a PGY-1, is taking on a new challenge, moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to be a pharmacy resident at the University of New Mexico Hospitals, which is in close proximity to many Indian reservations.

"It is really rooted in that passion of mine

to serve the underserved," she said. "I am just really trying to fulfill my purpose and I just want to make my parents proud."

#### **KEVIN CHAN**



When Kevin Chan was young, the ingredients were there for academic failure. As one of six children growing up in Houston's Fifth Ward, strong academics were not the norm, and obstacles seemed to be in his path no matter which direction he decided to head.

Chan, however, was determined to overcome the barriers to being a successful student and be the first in his family to attend college. Driven by the desire to help his parents, particularly his mother, Chan buckled down so he could make his way to the head of the class.

"Growing up in a family where I was the only person who did have a chance to go to college and to succeed in college, it was very challenging," Chan said. "I didn't really have anyone to guide me academically to get through school.

"I was motivated by my mother because I know she went through a lot. Hearing her story and the struggle she went through motivated me to want to succeed so I could help out my mom and she can have the life she deserves."

The motivation was there for Chan, the academic opportunities were as well, just not at the level he felt was necessary to accomplish his desired goal. The elementary school and middle school Chan attended were low-performing and both were eventually shut down by the state.

academic journey.

"I graduated as Valedictorian, but I felt that I didn't really learn a lot, I didn't feel like they were preparing me for college," Chan said. "I did a lot of self-teaching during high school to allow me to get a decent score on my SAT so I could go to a highacademic performing college."

through.

"It was a hard transition for me and I ended up dropping three classes during my first year," Chan said. "I told her I was considering transferring to the University of Houston or somewhere closer to home because I was struggling and I didn't think I was going to make it.

give up."

The high school environment was not much different and Chan felt the teachers did not do everything they could to help the students be successful. Knowing this, Chan did he put in the extra effort to make sure he would be able to continue his

Chan accomplished his goal, and attended The University of Texas at Austin for his undergraduate degree, but again, it wasn't an easy task and he struggled. Once again, it was his mother who helped him pull

"My mom told me that I needed to keep studying and continue to work hard and I would eventually get through it. She said that everybody goes through some type of hardship their first year of college. My mother helped me get through college and inspired me to keep on pushing and never

After obtaining his undergraduate degree, Chan turned his sights to the next step in his journey — pharmacy school. Again it was a desire to help his parents — this time his father — that helped set him on his course.

When Chan was in high school, his father was diagnosed with diabetes and hypertension dyslipidemia, which required him to take multiple medicines to control them. Seeing his father struggle with the medications and frustrated by his own inability to help, Chan decided then and there that he was meant to pursue a career in pharmacy.

"I felt helpless because I didn't understand how the medication worked in his body or how it was helping him with his health," Chan said. "I was very curious about how the medicine worked in his body."

Where to attend pharmacy school was never in doubt for Chan. Having grown up in a low-income and underserved community, he wanted somewhere similar so that he could make a difference.

"I knew that the Texas A&M pharmacy school was located in South Texas, which is an underserved community," Chan said. "That was the main reason I chose to attend Texas A&M, to help the underserve community."

Chan is currently in his first year of the master's program at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and is specializing in Health-System Pharmacy Administration.

Class Stats	
Class of 2023	41 Students
Class of 2022	26 Students
Class of 2021	31 Students

# **STUDENT NEWS**

Steven Nim (P4) was named 2019 TSHP **Research & Education** Foundation Student Poster Competition Winner for his poster entitled "Medication Use Evaluation of Vaginal



Misoprostol vs. Intravaginal Dinoprostone Insert for Labor Induction" at the TSHP Annual Seminar on April 12 in Frisco.

Andrew Ramirez (P3) was installed as Vice Chair of the TSHP Student Section Executive Committee for the 2019-2020 academic year at the TSHP Annual Seminar on April 13 in Frisco.

Eleven pharmacy students have been admitted into the Drug and Alcohol Institute: Christina Moller (P2), Wan Sun Kim (P2), Madison Dibble (P2), Shireen Rasheed (P2), Sarah Edwards (P2), Zaynab Abidogun (P2), Arizel Ortiz (P3), Joel Gardea Beltran (P1), Christiana Winters (P1), Khyati Amin (P1) and Chandni Kamdar (P1).

Dr. Paul Holder (from left) along with pharmacy students Blaire Lankford, Sarah Schmidt, Jordan Hampton, Aron Gebremicael, Zachary Shenkir and Faith Boone attended the Texas State Board of



Students participated in the annual lobby of the legislature in Austin

Pharmacy Quarterly Business Meeting in February in Austin.



Dean, nine pharmacy students accompanied by thousands of other students from more than 100 pharmacy schools across the nation attend American Pharmacists Association meeting Dean Indra Reddy and College of Pharmacy students attended the annual American Pharmacists Association (APhA) meeting on March 21-25 in Seattle. The event brings together the nation's leading pharmacy professionals, clinicians, researchers, educators and student

pharmacists, with four full days of innovative education, interactive debates and discussions.

Jose Chapa (P2), Anaissa Leal (P2) and Gregory Wickwire (P2) advanced to Round 3 of the ACCP Clinical Research Challenge. The Challenge allows students to critically evaluate and apply primary literature. This innovative and unique competition offers teams of three pharmacy students to participate in an online journal club, and the opportunity to submit a letter of intent and a clinical research proposal.





# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

#### **RHO CHI RECOGNIZED AT APHA CONFERENCE**

The college's own Gamma Omega Chapter of the Rho Chi Society was recognized as a finalist for the Chapter Achievement Award at the Annual Meeting of the Rho Chi Society on March 24 in Seattle during the APhA Annual Meeting. In its 10-year history, the Gamma Omega chapter received the Most Improved Chapter Award in 2014, the Chapter Excellence Award in 2016, and the Chapter Achievement Award for Region 6 in 2017.

#### **GAMMA EPSILON CHAPTER EARNS GRAND COUNCIL** HONORS

The Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy Gamma Epsilon chapter won two awards at the Grand Council Convention in August in Anaheim, California. The 100% Achievement Award was presented to the Gamma Epsilon chapter of Phi Delta Chi for maintaining 100% of its chapter report requirements, and is based on the leadership, scholarship, philanthropy and professional service role. In addition, the Gamma Epsilon chapter was fifth among the entire leadership. The chapter was awarded a monetary scholarship, and the leadership report was featured on the Phi



Delta Chi website. Members in attendance were: Kevin Ferrall, Class of 2016 Scott Volosen, Class of 2015 Pam Bosse, Class of 2015 Shreeya Upadhyay, Class of 2021 Mahnoor Khan, Class of 2022 Mekenna Mortensen, Class of 2021.

### **NEW STUDENT CHAPTER ESTABLISHED**

The Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy has formally approved and established the Student College of Clinical Pharmacy, a student chapter originating from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy National Chapter. This organization seeks to familiarize students with the field of clinical pharmacy by providing information about careers and opportunities within clinical pharmacy. President: Anaissa Leal President-Elect: Payton Hightower Treasurer: Toney Duong Secretary: Gregory Wickwire Student Liaison: Alex Ritenour Faculty Advisor: Dr. Charlotte Farris



#### **PHI LAMBDA SIGMA GAMMA MU CHAPTER INDUCTEES**

Class of 2021 - Rashid Abdoh, Chidinma Ahiarah, Bailey Dendy, Sarah Edwards, Paul Felts, Patrick Funderburk, Cody Kibbee, Julian Lopez, Heather McCann, Jennifer Meza, Jacqueline Seldenrust, Shreeya Upadhyay Class of 2020 -Katherine Bennett, Lee Dunn, Brianna Garza, Lorena Gonzalez, Tzuchen Jou, Jesna Kurian, Lyna Le, Sarah Mendez, Robynne Monsevalles, Hannah Poquiz, Sheila Prabhu, Ruben Rocha, Domingo Rodriguez, Ryan Spencer, Jennifer Strickland, Taylor Tomasino, Shannon Walter

### **RHO CHI SOCIETY GAMMA OMEGA CHAPTER INDUCTEES**

Class of 2021 - Rashid Abdoh, Chidinma Ahiarah, Clinton Barnes, Fatema Bodalbhai, Cole Cadena, Dasha Cathey, Jacob Colbath, Toney Duong, Paul Felts, Brandon Garza, Julio Guerra, Payton Hightower, Marium afri, Li Liu, Vy Nguyen, Chris Omoregie, Emily Pena, Phuong Phan, Shireen Rasheed, Alexandra Ritenour, Jacob Sellers, Heting Zhang

# **STUDENT SUCCESS**

Dean's Academic Achievement Award Recognizes the student who exhibits superior academic excellence by earning the highest cumulative grade point average in the graduating class. Kallen Vann Perkins

American Institute of the History of Pharmacy Certificate of Student Recognition

Recognizes the student who best carries out some type of pharmaco-historical activity (e.g. historical essay, collecting books or artifacts, historical photography, historical hobbies, etc.). **Alexandra Perouty** 

#### Award of Excellence In Clinical Communications Facts and Comparisons and Lexicomp

Recognizes high academic achievement (top 25%) and superior verbal and written clinical communication skills. Zachary Bridges

H-E-B Guiding Principles Award Embodies and exhibits through practice the College's Guiding Principles of Care, Compassion, Competence, Community, and Collaboration Morgan Osborn

Kleberg Bank Community Service Award Outstanding and unselfish civic, community, or church volunteer service, provided outside the scope of regular pharmacy practice. **Bright Yorka** 

Moore's Pharmacy Incorporated **Outstanding Student Award** Recognizes the student who displays a commitment to patient care and who excels in the study of pharmacy. Andy Wong

Mylan Excellence In Pharmacy Award Academic excellence (top 25%) and intent to enter practice upon graduation; and demonstrates high personal motivation and possesses a unique ability to communicate drug information. Kallen Vann Perkins

Dr. James Robertson Jr. Excellence Award Recognizes outstanding professionalism and communication skills as demonstrated in conduct and attitude with an emphasis on community, campus and student organization involvement. Lois Kim

Walgreens Innovative Community Practice <u>Award</u>

Graduating student who strives to implement disease state management programs in a community practice. Priscilia Onabhakere

Sarah Bermudez (P3) won the U.S. Public Health Service Award. The award was established to recognize pharmacy students that make significant contributions to public health.





#### **IPE EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

Student Leadership Award for Interprofessional Excellence Juian "Lex" Lopez, (P3) Brooke Spann, (P2)

#### **IPER SYMPOSIUM POSTER AWARDS**

#### OUTSTANDING **INTERPROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY- STUDENT**

Serving an Indigent Population through Interprofessionalism: A Student Run Clinic Dr. Delaney Ivy Sarah Bermudez (P4) Brianna Garza (P4)

Three students were awarded scholarships as part of the Texas Pharmacy Foundation Scholarships. Bryan Sigoloff (P4) (from left) was awarded the TPF General Scholarship, while Sarah Edwards (P3) and Christiana Winters (P2) were awarded TPF/Professional Recovery Network Scholarships.

Nancy Limon (P4) received award for best H-E-B Intern in the Coastal Bend & Rio Grande Valley

Brianna Garza (P4) received a scholarship from the National Hispanic Health Foundation

### LEADERSHIP

#### **COLLEGE HOSTS PHARMACY STUDENT COUNCIL** LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Indra K. Reddy, Ph.D., professor and founding dean of the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy, and Amanda Galvan, LPC, Director of Student Success at Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy, hosted the annual Pharmacy Student Council Leadership Retreat on September 14 at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi. The Pharmacy Student Council Leadership Retreat is a full-day event that offered workshops designed to help students gain the skills and confidence to become effective, collaborative leaders. The retreat brought dynamic speakers who covered topics including mental toughness, conflict resolution, improving well-being through coproduction of the service experience and leading and managing diverse teams.

#### SSHP HOSTS THE ASHP LEADERSHIP SERIES SEMINAR

The Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy Student Society of Health-System Pharmacists (SSHP) chapter was chosen to host the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Anaissa Leal (P4) has been appointed as student liaison to serve in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Practice and Research Network (PRN) of Women's Health (WH). As a student liaison, she will work with WH officers to coordinate student/resident activities for this PRN as well as assemble a database of potential rotation opportunities specific to women's health for students/residents.









Leadership Series seminar on April 15 in Kingsville. Dr. Tyffani Wingfield, Director of Organizational Management - Strategic Planning and Communications of ASHP in Bethesda, Md., led a discussion on leadership in clinical pharmacy with the





Congratulations to Rashid Abdoh (P3) for being accepted as Ambassador to the APhA Institute on Substance Use Disorders in Utah. This is a significant honor, as only five Ambassadors are accepted each year.



### **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

#### **OVERCOMING LIFE'S** HARDSHIPS TO MAKE A **DIFFERENCE FOR OTHERS**

Written by Cheri Shipman, Ph.D. First published in the College of Pharmacy *Special Graduation Issue 2015* 

Helen Keller once said: "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and success achieved." Allison Bryce, is the perfect example. Life's hardships do not define ones destiny just as the quote noted by one of the leading educators and humanitarians. For any typical high school student a diagnosis of cancer and need for amputation is debilitating news and often not easy to overcome emotionally or physically. Her leg was amputated and she was fitted for a prosthetic in high school, but she did not let that deter her from her dreams.

"Through her passion to make a difference for herself and for others through the study of pharmacy, as a cancer survivor Allison always shined through," said Victoria Pho, PharmD, assistant professor of pharmacy practice at the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy. "She had the heart of a lion and mind of a warrior that would never give up. Her life has been colored with inspiring stories of pain and triumph."

She graduated summa cum laude with distinction attaining the perfect 4.0 in her professional college journey. The college awarded Bryce with the Dean's Academic Achievement Award, recognizing the student in the graduating class with the highest grade point average.

Bryce said her parents were role models of strength, integrity and perseverance. Their



support helped her make it through life's ups and downs.

Bryce said the rigorous coursework enhanced her study habits and critical thinking skills. "That will continue to help me prosper for the longevity of my career as a pharmacist," she said. "Being a student at the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy has been a stimulating and challenging experience," Bryce said. "The culture of the college revolves around teamwork, fostering

lifelong learning and mutual success." In summer 2014, Bryce served at the Michael DeBakey Veterans Affairs Hospital in Houston in the Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunity Residency (VALOR) program that is designed to attract academically successful students of doctorate of pharmacy programs to work at a Veterans Affairs (VA) facility as registered pharmacists. This prestigious and competitive internship gave her the chance to gain hands-on experience in a clinical setting.

During her fourth year, Pho was her

clinical preceptor for her ambulatory care rotation at Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital's Coumadin and Medicine clinics. Her rotations in clinics included extensive training in the areas of anticoagulation, diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia and outpatient internal medicine. "Moving into my fourth year Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE), I was apprehensive, but after my first week the apprehension faded and excitement took its place," Bryce said. "APPE rotations allowed me to fully explore the clinical perspective of pharmacy and have an impact on patient care which is extremely rewarding."

Participating in multidisciplinary patient rounds during her rotations opened doors to share information she learned as well as learn new information from fellow health care professionals.

Bryce worked on a team with Pho to produce a manuscript, "Anticoagulation in Obese Population," that was submitted to the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists' Journal. She compiled patient instructions in Spanish for hematology patients, made an English to Spanish script for interviewing Spanish-speaking warfarin patients, and completed teaching assignments on antidepressants in pregnancy.

"These positions improved my communication skills, leadership ability and led me to feel more connected with the pharmacy community as a whole," Bryce said.

Bryce currently works as an emergency department pharmacist at Baylor Scott and White Medical Center in Temple, Texas. She and her husband have one daughter.

### FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

#### FACULTY AWARDS AND **FELLOWSHIPS**

Dr. Hamed Aly Ismail - The Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement College Level Teaching Award (pictured left)

Dr. Simi Gunaseelan - American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Academic Leadership Fellows Program (pictured right)

#### **IPE EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**Teaching Award for Interprofessional Excellence - Individual** Dr. Jaye Weston

#### **IPER SYMPOSIUM POSTER AWARDS**

**Outstanding Interprofessional Activity -Student Serving an Indigent Population** through Interprofessionalism: A Student Run Clinic

Dr. Delaney Ivy Sarah Bermudez (P4) Brianna Garza (P4)

**Innovative Research – Faculty** Impact of Tele-RX Activitiy on Students **Perceptions of IPE Training** Dr. Sandy Diec Dr. Jose Hernandez Dr. Merlyn Joseph

**Teaching Award for Interprofessional Excellence** - Individual Dr. Jaye Weston

**Teaching Award for Interprofessional Excellence** - Team Dr. Asim Abu Baker Dr. Joy Alonzo Dr. Juan Bustamante



In May, three faculty members were recognized for excellence in teaching as recognized by the students. Sandy Diec, Pharm.D. (Voted by the P1 students), Charlotte Farris, Pharm.D. (Voted by the P2 students), Simi Gunaseelan, Ph.D. (Voted by the P3 students) (pictured left to right)



### **STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

In May, four staff members were recognized for excellence in service recognized by the faculty and their peers. Eva Bennett, Elaine Demps, Ph.D., Lindsey Edrington, Charles Suarez, M.B.A (pictured left to right)



**Interprofessional Education Faculty** Fellow - Dr. Zakaria Elmageed

#### ALUMNI - Stay Connected!

As graduates of the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, we encourage you to stay connected with your College. 22 Visit us at pharmacy.tamu.edu and click on the Facebook and Twitter icons to connect with our social media pages!

**TEACHING TEAM AWARDS** 





Team Of The Year Award For 'The Infectious Diseases Course'.

Charlotte Farris, Pharm.D Merlyn Joseph, Pharm.D. were awarded the Teaching Team Of The Year Award For The 'Electrolytes, Acid-Base, Anemia & Kidney Diseases Course'.

### **TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**





# PRECEPTOR FOCUS

#### PHARMACY NAMES PRECEPTORS **OF THE YEAR 2018-2019**

The Rangel College of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Education places pharmacy students in actual practice settings in Texas communities. The technology-driven program provides these future practitioners with opportunities to interact with real patients and other health care professionals and has earned high marks from both students and preceptors. Each year, the Office of Experiential Education and the Rangel College of Pharmacy's third- and fourth- year students honor one faculty member and one adjunct faculty member from either campus with a Preceptor of the Year Award.

On May 24 the College of Pharmacy recognized two outstanding preceptors at the awards banquet. For the 2018-2019 academic year, Sandy Diec, Pharm.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice was selected as the Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy Faculty Preceptor of the Year winner for demonstrating high standards of professionalism and mentorship of students and clinical practice. George Udeani, Pharm.D., the Director of the PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency Program at the Corpus Christi Medical Center and Clinical Pharmacy Manager for HealthTrust was selected as the Preceptor of the Year in recognition of his ability to enthusiastically relate information, promote critical thinking, and inspire students to achieve extraordinary accomplishments in the pharmacy profession.





#### WHAT DOES A PRECEPTOR **MEAN TO YOU?**

The role and importance of preceptors has been greatly highlighted during my APPE rotations and I have been lucky to have had several preceptors that



professionally. Often times as students we are unable to see ourselves objectively and our preceptors are able to point out areas of strength and opportunities of growth as we learn and interact with them. Each of my preceptors have had a positive and lasting influence on me and encouraged me to pursue my passions within pharmacy and believed that I have the capabilities to achieve my goals.

- Chidinma Ahiarah

I've come to realize that a preceptor is much more than an instructor. A preceptor is someone who advances the future of pharmacy by guiding students to a successful

future in this profession. They instruct,

build and most of all support us on our journey to becoming a pharmacist.

-Emily Rose Pena

A preceptor is someone who is enthusiastic about the pharmacy profession. They not only help apply theory to practice, but do so by creating a positive environment for teaching



and learning. A preceptor cares enough to want to guide and support a student's professional career.

-Jose Chapa