



## OPERATION HEALTH & WELLNESS & LONESTAR



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 program provides hands-on experience for troops, while providing needed medical services to the community at no cost.

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.



In July, the college participated in Operation Lone Star, an effort by the Texas State Guard, Texas A&M University, and various local partners. College of Pharmacy faculty and students assisted in providing primary care health services to over 500 patients and worked alongside an interprofessional team of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, nutritionists and social workers.

## NEW RESIDENCY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

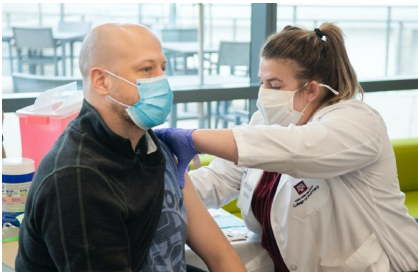


After 18 months of collaboration, the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy and St. Joseph Health have developed a new Pharmacy Residency Program at St. Joseph Regional Hospital in Bryan, Texas. The Postgraduate Year 1 (PGY1) Pharmacy Practice Residency program will promote clinical advancement of pharmacy practice and patient care.

The PGY1 pharmacy residency program at St. Joseph Hospital has been awarded a candidate accreditation status by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). The program currently offers three 12-month resident positions that provide training opportunities to strengthen skills in patient care; advancing pharmacy practice and improving patient outcomes; leadership and management; and teaching, education and dissemination of knowledge.

“St. Joseph Health has always been focused on service to our community, and with the support of world-renowned educators and research leaders at Texas A&M University, we are able to combine our strengths to positively impact our community by providing world-class health care services,” said Jessica Jones, PharmD, clinical pharmacy manager and residency program director at St. Joseph Health.

## TEXAS A&M COVID-19 TRANSMISSION STUDY EXPANDS TO ADULTS AGES 18-29



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 [COVID-19 Prevention Network \(CoVPN\)](#), headquartered at [Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center](#), launched the Prevent COVID U study in March 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 and Kingsville 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.

## TAMU FUNDING ALLOWS MORE STUDENTS TO ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E TO BE AGGIE PHARMACISTS



The Aggie Student Pharmacists Initiative for Recruitment | Retention and Education (ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E) was created in 2018 after it was determined that retention of minority students in the PharmD program was a top priority. The original funding for the program came from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program (THECB MHGP). The college was awarded approximately \$160,000 to build and support the project for three years.

With various “tracks,” ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E works toward two main goals: recruitment and retention. In

its first three years, ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E touched the lives of 282 total participants. Of those students, 71 percent were considered URM.

While the original THECB MHGP grant for ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E 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 ASPIR<sup>2</sup>E program, sustaining the program for an additional two years.

## DEAN REDDY ELECTED TO NATIONAL BOARD



Indra Reddy, PhD, dean of the Texas A&M College of Pharmacy was elected to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors, a three-year term on the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology & Education (NIPTE). “The NIPTE scientific community can play an important role in solving problems through innovative research, utilization of prior and creation of new knowledge, and transformational education of the next generations of pharmaceutical scientists and engineers. In my role as the Chair of the NIPTE Board, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Board and NIPTE staff in advancing the mission and goal of the Institute,” Reddy said.

As Chair of the Board, Reddy will be responsible for coordinating and overseeing all Board activities, presiding/managing Board meetings, representing the institute in all appropriate activities at the national and international level pertaining improving quality of pharmaceutical manufacturing, and facilitating advocacy opportunities for the institute.

## PUBLICATIONS

E. Jeong , C. Wang, L. Wilson, **L. Zhong\*** Cost-Effectiveness of Adding Ribociclib to Endocrine Therapy for Patients With HR-Positive, HER2-Negative Advanced Breast Cancer Among Premenopausal or Perimenopausal Women. *Front Oncol.* 2021 May 7;11:658054. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2021.658054 \* corresponding author

Silva P, Jacobs D, Kriak J, Abu-Baker A, **Udeani G**, Neal G, Ramos K. Implementation of Pharmacogenomics and Artificial Intelligence Tools for Chronic Disease Management in Primary Care Setting. *Journal of Personalized Medicine.* 2021 Jun;11(6):443.

Kumar N, Surani S, **Udeani G**, Mathew S, John S, Sajan S, Mishra J. Drug-induced liver injury and prospect of cytokine based therapy; A focus on IL-2 based therapies. *Life Sciences.* 2021 May 1:119544.

Panahi L, Surani SS, **Udeani G**, Patel NP, Sellers J. Hepatotoxicity Secondary to Levofloxacin Use. *Cureus*. 2021 Jun 27;13(6).

Kumar N, Kuang L, Villa R, Kumar P, **Mishra J**. Mucosal Epithelial Jak Kinases in Health and Diseases Mediators Inflammation. 2021 Mar 16;2021:6618924

Wei W, Rasu RS, Hernández-Muñoz JJ, Flores RJ, Rianon NJ, Hernández-Vizcarrondo GA, Brown AT. Impact of Fall Risk and Direct Oral Anticoagulant Treatment on Quality-Adjusted Life-Years in Older Adults with Atrial Fibrillation: A Markov Decision Analysis. *Drugs Aging*. 2021 Jul 8. doi: 10.1007/s40266-021-00870-6. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34235644.

**Zhu L\*** (Editor) "Stimuli-Responsive Nanomedicine" 1st Edition, Jenny Stanford Publishing, published on 03/25/2021 (ISBN 9789814800709).

## PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS:

Zhang J, Goel A, Zhu L, Identification of Novel Alternative Splicing Events Associated With Tumorigenesis, Protein Modification, and Immune Microenvironment in Early-Onset Gastric Cancer, *Frontiers in Oncology*, 2021, 11, Article 640272.

Munir MT, Kay MK, Kang MH, Rahman MM, Al-Harrasi A, **Choudhury M**, Moustaid-Moussa N, Hussain F, Rahman SM. , *Int J Mol Sci*. 2021 Jun 18;22(12):6526. doi: 10.3390/ijms22126526. PMID: 34207035 Free PMC article. Review.

Zahid MK, Sufian HB, **Choudhury M**, Yamasaki M, Al-Harrasi A, Moustaid-Moussa N, Rahman SM. *Biochem J*. Role of macrophage autophagy in atherosclerosis: modulation by bioactive compounds.2021 Apr 16;478(7):1359-1375. doi: 10.1042/BCJ20200894. PMID: 33861844

Kay MK, Zhang J, **Choudhury M**. Screening for alternative splicing of lncRNA Dleu2 in the mouse liver cell line AML-12, *Biomed Rep*. 2021 Jun;14(6):50. doi: 10.3892/br.2021.1426. Epub 2021 Apr 1. PMID: 33859821 Free PMC article.

## GRANTS

**Dr. Joy Alonzo** has been awarded the NIH SBIR Grant Award: OLERA Team – 2.2M for a 2 year SBIR grant (awarded 7/29) TAMU Presidential Clinical Research Partnership (PCRP) Grant See below: Co-Lead with Dr. Mary Meagher and Dr. Shereece Fields (awarded 8/5) Kick Off Presentation.pptx.pdf NIH SBIR: Award Description: NIH Small Business Innovation Research, Award is 2.297 million for 3 years, Goal is to form Academic and Admin/Operational Team

(Business which is named Olera), to develop a commercial product aimed at provided support to care givers seeking elder care services that meet specific needs. Team is interprofessional including COP, COM, SPH, May's Business School, COE.

**Dr. Joy Alonzo**, awarded the President's Excellence Fund: President's Clinical Research Partnership Grant (PCRP): 200,000 K over 2 years: Interdisciplinary research to improve health/health equity in Texas, Co-leads are Dr. Meagher and Dr. Fields. Preventing Opioid Relapse: Integrating Behavioral and Medication Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Jails.

**Udeani, G** is the Principal Investigator for the grant titled: A randomized controlled study to assess SARS CoV-2 infection, viral shedding, and subsequent potential transmission in individuals immunized with Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (Funded by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases – National Institutes of Health)

Theresa Morris, **Mahua Choudhury**, Samiran Sinha and Robin Page awarded an X-Grant (\$325,000) Saving Babies Born with Birth Defects: Crafting Epigenetic Risk Scores to Reduce Racial Disparity in Mortality. The purpose of this support is to identify microRNA biomarkers in birth defects.

Role: Multi-Lead

**Dr. Fatima Z. Alshbool** - Role : Co-I ; A randomized controlled study to assess SARS CoV-2 infection, viral shedding, and subsequent potential transmission in university students immunized with Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.

**Dr. Chendil Damodaran** received the following NIH grants:

- 1R01ES028102-01 DAMODARAN, CHENDIL (PI) FREEDMAN, JONATHAN (MPI); 02/01-2017-11/30/2022, The role of autophagy in cadmium induced prostate carcinogenesis. Funds: (Direct +Indirect): \$1,934,966.00.
- 1R01ES027778-01A1 Christopher states (PI); Mechanism for arsenic induced carcinogenesis 08/01/2017- 07/31/2022. Co-Investigator (Effort:0.6 calendar Months).
- R01ES0300019-01A1 (PI: Chendil Damodaran): 07/01/2019 - 16/30/2025, Cell Survival Advantage in Cadmium Induced Carcinogenesis.
- 1 R01 CA257370-01 Damodaran Chendil (PI) Arun Sharma (MPI): 01/015/2021 - 12/15/2026 Targeting AR and AR-Variants in Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer.

## POSTER & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Udeani, G** - Medicine – Nursing – Pharmacy CE Quarterly, (Conference Director, Moderator & Faculty), Corpus Christi, Texas, June 24, 2021 Presentation: *Venous Thromboembolism: Interdisciplinary anticoagulation management in acute care.*

**Simi Gunaseelan, Amanda Galindo, Amanda Galvan and Indra K. Reddy** presented "*A Programmatic Evaluation Of Longitudinal Academic Targets To Improve The North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX) Pass Rates Of Underrepresented Minority (URM) Pharmacy Graduates*" at the 33rd Annual National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE), Poster Presentation, Virtual, June 7-11, 2021.

**Mishra, J** presented "*Identification of molecular switch regulating tyrosine phosphorylation of Intestinal breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP) mediated mucosal wound repair and barrier functions in obesity*" (authored by Jayshree Mishra Khayati Amin) and Narendra Kumar for Live oral presentation at Experimental Biology 2021 April 28, 2021.

## RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Gunaseelan S, Galindo A, Galvan A, Reddy I** presented "*A Programmatic Evaluation to Improve the NAPLEX Pass Rates of Underrepresented Minority Pharmacy Graduates*" at the AACP Annual Meeting, Virtual Pharmacy Education 2021, July 2021 virtual conference.

**Gunaseelan S, Galindo A, Galvan A, Reddy I** presented "*Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Pharmacy Pre-Matriculation Program through Multi-Year Comparative Baseline Performances*" at the AACP Annual Meeting, Virtual Pharmacy Education 2021, July 2021 virtual conference.

**Gunaseelan S, Galindo A, Galvan A, Reddy I.** presented a research poster titled: "*A Programmatic Evaluation of Longitudinal Academic Targets to Improve the NAPLEX (North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination) Pass Rates of Underrepresented Minority Pharmacy Graduates*, 2021 NCORE Annual National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education Meeting, June 11, 2021 virtual conference.

**Galindo A.** presented Inspire to ASPIR2E: Improving Student Success Recruitment and Retention at a Professional Health Science Program, at the 2021 NASPA Virtual First Generation Student Success Conference on Student Success in Higher Education, June 28, 2021 virtual conference.

Alarabi A.B., Ali H.E.A., Karim Z.A., Rodriguez, V., Hernandez K.R., Lozano, P.A., Alshbool F.Z., and **Khasawneh F.T.**, "*Investigation of the Mechanistic Impact of Prenatal Exposure to Thirdhand Smoke on Platelet Activation*", Experimental Biology (Virtual) Annual Meeting, April 27-30 2021.

Lozano, P.A., Boakye, E.T., Garcia, S.E., Kingbong, H.T., Naddour, E., Alarabi A.B., **Khasawneh F.T.**, Alshbool F.Z., "*The Antidepressant Duloxetine Inhibits Platelet Function and Protects against Thrombosis*", Experimental Biology (Virtual) Annual Meeting, April 27-30 2021.

Alarabi A.B., Ali H.E.A., Karim Z.A., Rodriguez, V., Hernandez K.R., Lozano, P.A., **Alshbool F.Z.**, and Khasawneh F.T., "*Investigation of the Mechanistic Impact of Prenatal Exposure to Thirdhand Smoke on Platelet Activation*", Experimental Biology (Virtual) Annual Meeting, April 27-30 2021.

Lozano, P.A., Boakye, E.T., Garcia, S.E., Kingbong, H.T., Naddour, E., Alarabi A.B., Khasawneh F.T., **Alshbool F.Z.**, "*The Antidepressant Duloxetine Inhibits Platelet Function and Protects against Thrombosis*", Experimental Biology (Virtual) Annual Meeting, April 27-30 2021.

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**Dr. Indra Reddy**, dean of the Texas A&M College of Pharmacy was elected to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors, a three-year term on the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology & Education (NIPTE).

**Dr. Fadi Khasawneh** was appointed by the AACP President to serve as member of the AACP Volwiler Research Achievement Award Committee, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, for the 2021-2022 year.

**Dr. Jaysree Mishra** has been re-elected to the Council of Principal Investigators as the representative for the College of Pharmacy for this coming September 1, 2021 term. Her term as a re-elected member will begin on September 1, 2021 and will expire August 31, 2024. The Council's role in enhancing the research environment to optimize PI success is important for ensuring a healthy and robust research enterprise at Texas A&M.

**Dr. Simi Gunaseelan** (Director of Assessment and Instructional Associate Professor), Dr. Delaney Ivy (Clinical Assistant Professor) and **Dr. Sandy Diec** (Clinical Assistant Professor) have been Selected to the Inaugural Year-long (CY 2021) '*2021 Texas A&M Inclusive Teaching Faculty Fellows Program (Professional Programs)*' sponsored by the Texas A&M University's *The Dean of Faculties (DOF)* and *The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE)*.

**Dr. Mahua Choudhury** Mentor for Fulbright Scholar Winner.

**Dr. Mahua Choudhury** was selected as Chair of Translational Biomarkers Focus Group, National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology & Education (NIPTE).

**Udeani, G** was elected as President of the Coastal Bend Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

**Udeani, G** was elected to the Board of Directors of the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

## AWARDS

**Dr. Fatima Alshbool** received the 2020-2021 RCOP Early Career Faculty Research Achievement Award.

**Dr. Andrea Mora** (Course Coordinator), **Dr. Simi Gunaseelan** (Course Co-Coordinator), **Dr. Hamed Ismail Ali**, **Dr. Michael Horseman**, **Dr. Ladan Panahi** and **Dr. Jaye Weston** were awarded the 2020-2021 Teaching Team of the Year, *IPT VII: Infectious Diseases* at the virtual awards ceremony for the College on May 27, 2021.

**Dr. Simi Gunaseelan**, Director of Assessment and Instructional Associate Professor has been the Recipient of the '2021 Texas A&M Provost Academic Professional Track Faculty Teaching Excellence Award' (<https://provost.tamu.edu/Menu/News/2021-Provost-Academic-Professional-Track-Faculty-T>).

Each year the College of Pharmacy hosts an awards ceremony to recognize the outstanding individuals within the College. This year, the ceremony was held virtually and awards were mailed directly to the recipients. Please click [here](#) to view student, faculty and staff awards from the College of Pharmacy for 2021.

## NEW EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION



**The Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Chendil Damodaran, Ph.D. as Interim Associate Dean of Research and Innovation.**

Dr. Damodaran will join the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy as a Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences as a tenured professor of pharmaceutical sciences and will also serve as Interim Associate Dean of Research and Innovation.

Dr. Damodaran has dedicated the last 16 years of his illustrious 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. Damodaran and his research team have 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 comes to us from the University of Louisville, where he served as Professor and Director of Urologic Research.



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

Dr. Tanzer 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.

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.

## **NEW FACULTY**

Trager Darin Hintze, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice (pictured left to right)

Andrew Scott Tenpas, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

Frank North, Instructional Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice

## **NEW STAFF**

Maggie Abrigo, Administrative Associate IV

Debbie Branstetter, Business Coordinator II

Elaine L. Demps, Lead Data Analyst

Beth Johnson, Administrative Associate V

Chelsie McMillon, Executive Assistant I

## **NEW POSTDOCTORAL AND RESEARCH STAFF**

Nitya Shree, Postdoctoral Research Associate

Daniel Villalobos, Postdoctoral Research Associate

Nitin Bharat Charbe, Postdoctoral Research Associate

Renuka Khatik, Postdoctoral Research Associate

Tamizhselvi Ramasamy, Research Scientist

Vaishnave Sundar, Research Associate

Ashish Tyagi, Associate Research Scientist

Uttara Saran, Associate Research Scientist

## **NEW RESIDENTS**

Noah Christophe Cahill, Resident I

Andrew A. Ramirez, Resident I