



AFPC COMMUNICATION

Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada

Association des Facultés de Pharmacie du Canada

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the AFPC executive and council, I would like to extend the warmest of greetings to everyone in this joyous New Year. Now at the half-way point of my presidential year, AFPC has been actively engaged in several exciting academic activities that continue to foster education, practice, and research collaborations amongst the various pharmacy programs across Canada.

Many of these will be showcased at our annual general meeting and conference in Richmond, BC June 2nd to 5th, 2010. The main theme of the conference is "Bringing the Blueprint to Life", that will feature plenary sessions, workshops, breakout sessions and research symposia to engage conference delegates in critical issues appropriate to the "Blueprint" era. AFPC is pleased to announce that the conference will be held jointly with CSPS, to deliver an expanded scope of venues to the membership. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the conference organizing committee, chaired by Simon Albon, who has worked tirelessly to prepare an educational program that is timely, informative, and engaging. During this conference, AFPC will be celebrating the recognized excellence of award winners in academic research, teaching and graduate studies. I am also pleased to announce that Manitoba has been designated to host the upcoming 2011 AFPC conference. Dr Silvia Alessi-Severini, AFPC councilor from the University of Manitoba, has commenced the planning of an exciting conference program to be delivered in Winnipeg.

Since the 2009 AGM, AFPC has been actively involved in several key areas. Specifically, AFPC is in the midst of searching for a new executive director to replace Dr. Frank Abbott who has announced his retirement as of

June 2010. In addition, at the 2010 February midyear meeting in Toronto, Dr Roy Dobson (Past President) will be facilitating a strategic planning session to assist AFPC in setting key priorities for current and future initiatives that AFPC will embrace. The ability to identify key initiatives through this strategic planning session represents the foundational framework by which AFPC continues to contribute to the graduation of highly qualified professionals from the various Faculties, Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy across Canada.

At present, AFPC continues its commitment to work with various stakeholders in academia to develop a comprehensive summary of key educational outcomes for pharmacy programs across Canada. Other duties include: advanced website development; structured practical experiential programs; program evaluation; as well as the development of a comprehensive teaching and research database on the AFPC website of all academic staff across the country to promote advanced access to the leaders of our profession.

In closing, I would like to once again express my sincere appreciation for the contributions and exemplary efforts of the entire AFPC council for the many milestone achievements that were undertaken and accomplished. On behalf of AFPC executive and council, I would like to extend our best wishes to Dr. Abbott on his official retirement as Executive Director of our organization. A celebration for Dr. Abbott will be held during the AFPC conference in Vancouver in June of 2010. I would encourage your attendance at the conference to acknowledge his contributions and his leadership to the profession of pharmacy. I look forward to meeting many of you at the Vancouver conference.

I would like to leave you with a quote from Henry Ford: "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success".

Warmest regards,
Michael Peter Namaka
AFPC President, 2009-2010

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

My very best wishes to colleagues and friends for 2010 and I hope that you had a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year's break. Even though you are now busy in classes and research, I hope you take some time to cheer on our Olympic athletes. AFPC and ADPC continue to make significant progress in many areas that influence the academic enterprise. I will be updating you on these projects, later on, following the midyear meetings to occur in early February of this year.

AFPC Awards

There are a good number of applications for the AstraZeneca New Investigator Award, the Pfizer Research Career Award, the Bristol-Myers Squibb National Education Award, and the Merck Frosst Graduate Fellowship Award. Except for the recent loss of the Wal-Mart Canada Future Academic Leader Award, AFPC has been most fortunate to retain many quality awards. In future, we hope to add to our list of awards in order to recognize the excellent talent that we have in academic pharmacy in Canada.

Award deadlines coming up soon include the GlaxoSmithKline Graduate Student Research Award and the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy Graduate Student Research Award in Pharmacy Practice

Conference 2010

The first annual Canadian Pharmacy Education and Research Conference (CPERC) and the 67th AFPC Annual General Meeting will be held in Richmond (Vancouver), British Columbia on June 2-4, 2010 in the River Rock Casino Resort, Richmond BC. The theme of the 2010 conference is *Bringing the Blueprint to Life*.

This year the AFPC Conference is being held jointly with the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences (CSPS). For the draft schedule of the conference see [http://afpc.info/downloads/Draft%20Program Jan 27 2010.pdf](http://afpc.info/downloads/Draft%20Program%20Jan%2027%202010.pdf)

The conference opens on Wednesday evening June 2 with a joint reception with CSPS followed by the AFPC opening dinner that will feature presentations of the 2010 major faculty award winners. The CPERC program begins on Thursday, June 3 and involves a plenary session, workshops, breakout sessions and research symposia to engage conference delegates in critical issues for pharmacy education and practice in the "Blueprint" era. The Pharmacy Technician Educators Association and PEP Canada will be making

Research. Nominations for these best paper awards must be submitted to the Executive Director by March 1, 2010.

Students intending to compete in the AFPC-Whit Matthews Graduate Student Poster Award and the AFPC Pharmacy Student Research Poster Award competitions should submit their abstracts to the Executive Director by March 15, 2010. March 15 is also the deadline for nominations for the Rx & D visitation program, Honored Life Membership, and for AFPC President. Please refer to the awards booklet in English and French on the web page for details of the awards and procedures for submitting nominations <http://afpc.info/content.php?SectionID=5&ContentID=157&Language=en>

Call for Abstracts: The call for abstracts and the on-line submission process to accept abstracts for the 2010 AFPC - Canadian Pharmacy Education and Research Conference in Vancouver is now up and active. <http://afpc.info/content.php?SectionID=3&ContentID=138&Language=en>. We are looking forward to having a record number of poster presentations as AFPC is meeting jointly with CSPS in Vancouver.

special presentations. All in all, expect a very engaging program.

All breaks and poster sessions are combined with CSPS. Posters will be presented on both days of the conference with extensive poster viewing and judging occurring on the Friday. The AFPC Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 12:30 PM on June 3 with lunch being served. All conference registrants are invited to attend. This year, AFPC is proposing a graduate student session that will parallel the AGM. Lunch will also be served.

To wind up the conference AFPC delegates with tickets will bus to downtown Vancouver for the Awards Banquet. The banquet is an excellent opportunity to celebrate all of our award winners and to experience some genuine West Coast hospitality and fun. This year, the awards banquet will occur on a paddle wheeler boat during an evening cruise of Coal Harbour, Stanley Park and False Creek. See the sights, take some pictures, enjoy the food and the company of your colleagues. Get your tickets!

Registration is now available on-line. Full early registration of \$500 will include the opening reception and dinner on June 2 and the AGM lunch on June 3. Please confirm your attendance at these events on your registration form. For those attending the awards banquet on Friday evening June 4, there will be an additional charge of \$75 to offset food and beverage costs.

Hotel: The conference hotel is the **River Rock Casino Resort**, 8811 River Road, Richmond, BC V6X 3P8. The hotel is nicely situated on the bank of the Fraser River only a short distance from the Vancouver International airport (\$10 or less by taxi or transit). Being conveniently located on the new Canada Line, built for the Olympics, access from the hotel to Richmond shopping, downtown Vancouver, or the airport is just minutes away. For those driving, parking is free or at most \$2 per day.

Hotel Reservations: Daily room rates at the River Rock Hotel are \$179.00 plus taxes for single or double occupancy, if reserved before **May 5, 2010**. To reserve a room by phone (1-866-748-3178 or 604-247-8900) or email reservations@riverrock.com , identify the group

as **AFPC/CSPS** and secure your reservation with a credit card. The hotel website is www.riverrock.com

Other hotels within walking distance of the River Rock Casino Resort Hotel are the following: Best Western Abercorn (604-270-7576), Comfort Inn Vancouver Airport (604-278-5161), Days Inn Vancouver Airport (604-207-8000), Executive Inn Express Vancouver Airport (604-270-6030), Hampton Inn Vancouver Airport (604-232-5506) and Holiday Inn Express Vancouver Airport (604-273-8080. There are other hotels in Richmond close to the Canada Line that might also be an option.

PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR 2010: Simon Albon (Chair), Frank Abbott, Ingrid Price, David Fielding, Bob Sindelar, Marion Pearson, Wayne Riggs, Stelvio Bandiera, Adam Frankel, Lynda Eccott, Tessa Nicholl, Carlo Marra, Larry Lynd, Colleen Brady, Tamiz Kanji, Suzana Topic and Sam Gilchrist.

For more information, please contact members of the planning committee or Dr. Frank Abbott, Executive Director, AFPC, at fabbott@telus.net.

AFPC wishes to recognize the contributions from pharmacy organizations that choose to help make a difference in academic pharmacy in Canada.

**ASSOCIATION OF FACULTIES OF PHARMACY OF CANADA/
ASSOCIATION DES FACULTÉS DE PHARMACIE DU CANADA
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Frank Abbott
Executive Director

Use of the Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) as an Assessment Tool for Pharmacy Skills Lab Courses

Prepared by Kim Sponagle, Skills Lab III Coordinator and Heidi Deal, Skills Lab IV Coordinator (Kim.Sponagle@dal.ca) (Heidi.Deal@dal.ca)

The Skills Lab Program at the Dalhousie University College of Pharmacy consists of a skills lab course in each of the 4 years of the curriculum. Each course has a coordinator who is responsible for creating and implementing the course content. Coordinators work closely with other faculty members to ensure connectivity between all components of the curriculum (i.e., problem-based learning courses, critical appraisal series and the practice experience program). An OSCE is used as the final exam in the 3rd and 4th year skills lab courses.

History

When a formal OSCE was first implemented in 2001, it was conducted in the 4th year skills lab course. In 2004 the exam was moved to the final academic term of the 3rd year. This change was made to allow for remediation during the 4th year of the curriculum for students experiencing difficulty. In 2006 a re-allocation of resources provided for an additional exam allowing an OSCE to be administered at the end of the 3rd and 4th year Skills Lab courses. Both 3rd and 4th year OSCEs are reviewed annually to ensure case content is reflective of current practice environments.

Objectives of the Exam: In addition to evaluating therapeutic knowledge, the OSCE is designed to assess

Logistics of the Exam: Successful planning of this exam requires the coordination of 90 students, 16 assessors, 12 standardized patients, and 6 support staff. The exam is held at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC), Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University. This facility contains four distinct examination areas (tracks), each of which contains six examination rooms. Each room is connected to a common buzzer system ensuring students will start and finish stations at the same time. Cases are provided to the LRC one month prior to the exam for standardized patient recruitment and training. Completed cases include the following: competencies to be tested; standardized patient history and scripted statements; case introductory page for student; standardized assessor evaluation forms; and required references and props.

the students' communication and problem solving skills, time-management capabilities, and ability to practice in a safe and effective manner. Skills and cumulative knowledge are assessed during the exam through the use of cases written by the skills lab faculty. A case bank has been developed to which 2 to 4 new cases are added each year.

Exam Content: The students are provided with an orientation lecture reviewing the general exam format approximately one month prior to the exam. No specific case content is discussed; however, the students are informed of the general competencies being evaluated. Each exam includes six stations: three patient assessment and/or education stations; one physician interaction station; one pharmaceutical calculations station; and one technical prescription checking station. The patient assessment/education stations may include OTC assessment and recommendation/referral, assessment and education regarding prescription medication, and ethical situations. Exam stations last for seven minutes with a two minute interval between stations. During this interval students move between stations and read the case introductory page prior to commencing the next station. Written feedback provided by the assessors is available at a later date for student review.

In the week before the exam, significant time and resources are dedicated to assembling exam content. These tasks include printing and organizing assessor folders, assembling props and references, and final training of standardized patients through role-play with the exam coordinator. Exam set-up takes place the evening before the exam.

Approximately 90 students are evaluated in each OSCE. The students are organized into three large groups examined in succession. The groups waiting to be examined are sequestered in separate rooms. For the active exam, each large group is subdivided into four smaller groups corresponding to the four distinct examination tracks. Total exam time including sequestering can last between two to three hours, with the active examination lasting approximately one hour.

Every effort is made to ensure no communication occurs between the groups and this includes collection of electronic devices that could be used for this purpose.

Assessors and standardized patients attend the exam day for six hours and are provided with a nutrition break and light lunch between successive examinations. Practicing pharmacists are recruited as standardized physicians and assessors and are given an orientation to the exam process and the particular case they are assessing on exam day. The assessors and standardized patients have the opportunity to role-play their case prior to the first group of students being examined to ensure comfort with the case portrayal and evaluation form.

Final Thoughts

Students value and appreciate the OSCE experience and describe it as a fair assessment of the skills lab courses. Exam limitations include the inability to test a broad area of therapeutic knowledge and inability to test complex case scenarios due to time constraints. The OSCE provides a means to evaluate the verbal and

nonverbal communication skills of the students whereas the students are traditionally evaluated by written format in other areas of the curriculum.



The College of Pharmacy (George A. Burbidge Pharmacy Building), Dalhousie University

A New Graduate Program for the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy!

Prepared by Neil MacKinnon (neil.mackinnon@dal.ca)

We are pleased to announce that a new graduate program in the College of Pharmacy in the pharmaceutical sciences has been officially approved by the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University. This Master's degree program will accept its first students for a September 2010 start. The goal of this program is to educate students to become high quality research-based scientists who can contribute to drug discovery and development in academia and the pharmaceutical industry.

As some of you may recall, in the past there was a graduate program at the College of Pharmacy. However, this program was suspended as we transitioned to a problem-based learning curriculum. In recent years, with our transition complete and with the recruitment of new faculty members in the area of pharmaceutical sciences, we felt the time was right to begin anew with our program. The process of developing a new program took approximately three years so we are very excited to be at this stage.

Dr. Neil MacKinnon will serve as the graduate coordinator of this new program as part of his role of Associate Director for Research. The five core faculty who will be supervising students and teaching classes in this area are Dr. Remi Agu, Dr. Kerry Goralski, Dr. David Jakeman, Dr. Tannis Jurgens, and Dr. Pollen Yeung. These faculty have, in the past, or currently, supervise graduate students. Other cross-appointed and adjunct faculty will also play a prominent role.



All graduate students admitted into the program are required to carry out novel, original research. In addition, all graduate students are required, as part of their training, to present and participate in graduate student seminars, and to attend invited speaker seminars. The learning outcomes of this program are as follows:

- a) Students will be competent in performing general laboratory techniques as well as techniques specific to their chosen area of research.
- b) Students will be able to develop and execute a research project.
- c) Students will develop scientific writing skills through the writing of a thesis and scientific paper(s) that result from their research.
- d) Students will develop oral presentation skills through their participation in the seminar series and thesis committee meetings.
- e) Students will develop the ability and confidence to clearly and succinctly communicate the results of their research to the scientific community.
- f) Students will develop clinical thinking skills required of a researcher.

Students can complete the program in full-time or part-time status. If enrolled as a full-time student, it is anticipated that most students should be able to complete the program in two years. The program will

be structured using a combination of courses and thesis-based research, with a supervisor and supervisory committee overseeing progress. There is also an optional internship with the pharmaceutical industry. Also, of interest to potential candidates, there is financial support available for students who have a strong academic background.

It likely goes without saying that we would love to have you recommend our program to your students interested in graduate work in the pharmaceutical sciences. All inquiries can be sent to Dr. Neil MacKinnon at neil.mackinnon@dal.ca or 902-494-6379.



Drug Information Resources: A Guide for Pharmacists (DIR)

Prepared by Mary MacCara (Mary.MacCara@dal.ca)

Drug Information Resources: A Guide for Pharmacists (DIR) is a portal providing a launching point for locating resources for over 60 categories of drug, health and professional information. It was created at the College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University and is located on our website with the direct link (<http://dir.pharmacy.dal.ca/>). We use it as a means of introducing pharmacy students to reputable and useful information resources for a wide variety of topics. It is also recognized as a useful resource for pharmacists and is linked from the websites of several professional pharmacy organizations in Canada and the United States. You really have to browse the categories to determine what's there for you, but some of our most frequently used categories include Compounding, Drug Identification, Drug Interactions, Canadian Content and Renal Disease/Drug Dosing. Other categories particularly helpful for pharmacy students or faculty members include: Natural Health Products, Pharmaceutical Policy, Drug Use Evaluation, Pharmacokinetics, Patient Counselling, Cardiology, and Pharmacy Stats and Facts. A recently added

category, Tools for Pharmacists, contains links to tools (e.g., calculators, reference tables, guides and score predictors) for use in critical appraisal or when treating patients with osteoporosis, renal or cardiovascular diseases, etc. Links provided within DIR are not limited to websites, but also include links to texts, journal articles and dynamic searches (pre-formulated PubMed searches). Besides those selected by the authors, sources are included after being recommended by faculty members, pharmacists and other health professionals.

DIR was developed and has been maintained over the past thirteen years by two College of Pharmacy faculty members, Elizabeth Foy, Professional Information Officer and Mary MacCara, Pharm D, Associate Professor. Fourth year pharmacy student, Ryan Savary, also currently works on this project as have eleven other pharmacy students over the years. We are grateful for the funding awarded annually by the Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund.

During the fall of 2009 DIR averaged 7000 hits per month. The majority of users are from Canada and the United States, but we have users from over 100 countries around the world. DIR has been chosen by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) as its single entry for “Bibliographies and Literature Guides – Websites” within its *Basic Resources for Pharmaceutical Education*.¹ The 3rd edition of the text, *Drug Information: A Guide to Current Resources*, considered by library experts to be the ultimate listing of drug information resources, describes DIR as a “five-star guide to Internet sites”.²

Please become acquainted with DIR. We think you and your students will find it useful. Should you have any resource or format suggestions, please be sure to let us know.

¹Bowman LA, Nanstiel B. American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Basic Resources for Pharmaceutical Education, March 2009 Edition. <http://www.aacp.org/governance/SECTIONS/libraryeducationalresources/Documents/2008%20Basic%20Resources.pdf> Accessed January 12, 2010.

² Snow B. *Drug Information: A Guide to Current Resources*, 3rd ed. Chicago IL: Medical Library Association; 2008.



Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building, Dalhousie University

Faculty News

The University and College are continuing to address ways to achieve budget adjustment efficiencies that will not compromise the quality of our programs. We are also in the process of determining tuition levels for 2010-11, taking into consideration comparability with tuition at peer programs in Canada, quality, access and affordability. We worked hard in the fall to prepare for the second wave of the H1N1 flu. Although there were significant impacts to individuals and families, the incidence rate in the overall population and to the University was less than anticipated. However, we will continue to be vigilant.

Individual Faculty and Staff News

A special College event was held in the fall to honour retiring faculty Drs. John Hubbard and Gord McKay. In November, colleagues from the University and the profession joined faculty and staff to honour Dr. Dennis Gorecki for the excellent leadership he brought to the College as Dean, and to thank both he and Lynn Gorecki for their generous hospitality over so many years.

In January, with funding support from the University and the College, we recruited a new faculty member in

Grants and Research

Drs. Anas El-Aneed, Ildiko Badea and Jane Alcorn have received funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation Leaders Opportunity Fund to “Evaluate the Safety and Biological Fate of New Pharmaceuticals, Specifically Nanoparticles Used in Gene Therapy, as Well as Medications Used by Pregnant Women and Nursing Mothers.” The project is also funded by the Government of Saskatchewan Innovation and Science Fund, the University and our College.

Drs. Adil Nazarali and Carol Henry have received a grant through the President’s SSHRC Research Fund to study “Barriers to HIV Testing in AIDS-Orphaned Children in Rural Uganda.”

Dr. Phyllis Paterson has received funding as part of a team grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada to investigate synchrotron imaging techniques to study stroke.

social and administrative pharmacy, and welcomed Dr. Jason Perepelkin to this position. Jason recently completed a Ph.D. at the U of S, under the supervision of Dr. Roy Dobson.

Ashala Jacobson is our new College Development Officer, and she will focus on major gift fundraising. Heather Dawson has joined the College as Advancement Officer, a new position made possible through a University Advancement grant to enhance our institution’s profile through communication strategies; support alumni relations activities; develop and support student fundraising activities; and coordinate special events.

Recruitment will begin soon for an endowed *Chair in Rational Drug Design* to lead efforts to establish our University as a centre of excellence in drug development. The College has also received approval to proceed with recruitment of a *Canada Research Chair in Natural Health Products*, and we will be pursuing this, in consultation with the College of Arts and Science and the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

Dr. Gord Zello is working with colleagues on a number of studies: pre- and probiotics in the prevention and treatment of diarrhea; parenteral nutrition contaminated with aluminium and markers of cholestasis; and diet approaches to increase lentil consumption in youth. The projects are funded by the Government of Canada, Janeway Research Foundation and the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, respectively. Dr. Wendy Dahl, University of Florida, and Adjunct Professor of Nutrition with our College, is working with Dr. Zello and colleague Dr. B. Langkamp-Henken on a project, funded by the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers, to investigate pulse fibre fermentation and nitrogen excretion in patients with chronic renal failure.

Dr. Hassan Vatanparast has been awarded a grant through the President’s SSHRC Research Fund to study the impact of socio-economic factors on household food security of immigrant families. Hassan has also received funding through the Prairie Metropolis Centre to investigate nutrition and health issues among newcomer children in Saskatchewan.

Undergraduate News

The *Pharmacy Class of 2013* was officially welcomed to the College and the profession at the annual *White Coat Ceremony* held in November. Vice-Provost Dr. Ernie Barber brought greetings from the University and Dr. Dennis Gorecki delivered the *Welcoming Address*. The event was generously sponsored again this year by the Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan, Wyeth Consumer Healthcare and the Bank of Nova Scotia. We appreciated the participation of student and professional leaders, who presented white coats to our new students.

We are pleased to report that our Pharmacy students are proud recipients of two national awards, presented at the recent CAPSI PDW conference in Toronto. They received the *2009 Award of Professionalism*, an annual recognition to the school which holds the best organized and most well received *Pharmacy Awareness Week* in their city. This award is extremely competitive

amongst Canadian schools. Our students will utilize the money from this award to fund this year's PAW in March 2010. Pharmacy students also took home the *2009 International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation Health Campaign Award* for hosting the most organized and well received *AIDS Awareness Week* across Canada.

The College was well represented at *PDW 2010*, with sixty-two of our students taking part. The U of S will host *PDW 2011*, and student organizers are working hard to plan this exciting event.

Pharmacy and Nutrition students recently met with Dean David Hill to learn more about his role and vision as Dean, and to address any questions or issues they have. The *Blueprint for Pharmacy* and the upcoming program redesign were key topics for the Pharmacy students.

Graduate News

Dr. Susan Whiting is this year's recipient of the University's *Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award*. Susan received the award at *Fall 2009 Convocation*. The impetus for her nomination came from former and current graduate students. In their letter of nomination, former Dean Dennis Gorecki and Associate Dean Fred Rémillard wrote "Susan has significantly contributed to the success of her students, through her conscientious, innovative and generous mentorship, and her example of excellence in scholarship and striving for the highest standards."

Erica Ling has begun Postdoctoral studies with Dr. Gord Zello to determine the cause of neurological dysfunction in metabolic acidosis. Erica will receive her PhD (Pharmaceutical Sciences; Supervisor Dr. Jane Alcorn) at *Spring 2010 Convocation*. She was one of this year's four *Saskatchewan Health Research*

Foundation Top Researcher Award winners from the University of Saskatchewan. Erica was also presented with the *Top Postdoctoral Fellowship Award (Biomedical)* for research excellence at the *Santé! Awards Dinner* held in early December.

Alumni News

The College was saddened to hear of the passing Lt. Justin Boyes, who was killed in combat while serving in Afghanistan in October 2009. Justin was the husband of Alanna (Gibbs) Boyes, Nutrition Graduate 2006. Pharmacy and Nutrition faculty and staff contributed to a trust fund, established for Justin and Alanna's son James.

The University's Alumni Honoured Years Reunion will take place in June 2010 to honour graduates of the Classes of 1950 and earlier, 1955, 1960, 1965 and 1970.

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

Individual Faculty News

Dr. Chantal Guillemette was awarded the 2009 North American ISSX (*International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics*) New Investigator Award in honor of James R. Gillette at the 16th North American ISSX Meeting-Baltimore, Maryland– October 18-22, 2009.

A study conducted by Dr. Renee Bazin Héma-Québec and Dr. Frédéric Calon from our faculty has received financial support of more than 230 000 \$ from the Talents program of Talecris Biotherapeutics Inc. The goal of both researchers and their PhD student Isabelle St-Amour is to determine the mechanisms of action of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) in an animal model of Alzheimer's disease. Indeed, using IVIg to treat a prevalent disease such as Alzheimer will inevitably lead to a shortage of IVIg. It is therefore imperative to use an animal model to better understand the therapeutic effects of IVIg and find alternatives to help the 450 000 Canadians suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

General Faculty News

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, the Faculty of Pharmacy celebrated the academic excellence of its students. This event is an important milestone in our academic year as we unveil the names of students who,

in 2008-2009, have achieved outstanding academic results and distinguished themselves by their faculty involvement.

Friday 16 October, the Faculty of Pharmacy, in collaboration with the Brunet banner, presented the 12th Annual Symposium Brunet entitled: "Refer or not refer? That is the question!"

The Faculty's *Chair on adherence to drug treatments* held a second symposium on adherence to treatment titled "Another step toward a strategy for a better adherence". This symposium was held last November 11, 2009 at Le Château Laurier Hotel in Quebec City. Around 100 health professionals, decision makers, researchers and representatives from patient advocacy groups and industry attended the Symposium. They heard speakers presenting interventions being conducted in the province of Québec. The keynote speaker was Br Bernard Vrijens who presented current initiatives in Europe. In the afternoon, a workshop was conducted to gain stakeholders input on the upcoming provincial strategy on adherence to treatments. For more information, see: <http://www.adhesiontraitement.org>

Students News

On October 4, 17 undergraduate pharmacy students participated in the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure, the largest single day, volunteer-led fundraising event dedicated to raising funds for breast cancer research, education and awareness programs.

We are proud to announce that Melanie Rouleau, an MSc student, who joined the research group of Dr. Chantal Guillemette, received a 17 500\$/y studentship from the NSERC.

The 2010 January 8th issue of the Journal of Biological Chemistry publishes an article authored by J. Trottier, a Ph.D student at the faculty of pharmacy working under the supervision of Pr. O. Barbier in the Laboratory of Molecular Pharmacology at the CHUQ research centre.

Among the naturally occurring variants for the UDP-glucuronosyltransferase (UGT)1A3 enzyme, Mr. Trottier and his collaborators established 3 phenotypes with low, intermediate and high activity for the conjugation of norursodeoxycholic acid, a novel anti-cholestatic molecule. These observations are just in time for helping the interpretation of a phase I clinical trial, which will be started in spring 2010. Jocelyn Trottier is holder of a PhD fellowship from CIHR.

Upcoming event

The Soirée des vins à l'honneur will be back in April 2010! Celebrated for the quality of its fine cuisine, this fundraising event is a must for lovers of premium wines. The theme of the evening will be "Soyez du voyage!" which is particularly appropriate since the participants will get the chance to win a trip to Tuscany.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Academic Appointments

Danica Lister joined the Faculty as a nil salary Lecturer on November 1, 2009.

Dr. Mike Namaka, Associate Professor was recently appointed as a nil-salaried Associate Professor in the Department of Human Anatomy and Cell Science, Faculty of Medicine.

Effective January 1, 2010 Dr. Lavern Vercaigne was appointed as Associate Dean (Academic), and Dr. Yuewen Gong, as Associate Dean (Research).

General Faculty News

Congratulations to former Pharmacy graduate Ashley Lam who recently was accepted to the Order of Canada Mentorship Program.

Awards

Dr. Hope Anderson, Assistant Professor, received the 2009 New Investigator Award from the Canadian Hypertension Society in recognition of excellence in the field of hypertension research by a new investigator.

Grants

Dr. Mike Namaka, Associate Professor and Dr. Emma Frost, Professional Associate were awarded a MMSF grant for \$25,000 over 1 year (with the potential to renew in the second year). Title of project: Mutations in the MECP2 gene result in white matter defects that occur in childhood disorders of the brain.

Student News (Undergraduate)

On September 28, 2009 fifty two first-year pharmacy students at the University of Manitoba took their first steps toward becoming pharmacists during a tradition-honoured White Coat Ceremony.

Guest speakers at the ceremony included: Randy Stephanchew, President, Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association; Shawn Bugden, President-Elect, Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association; and Dr. Ruby Grymonpre, Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy.

The White Coat Ceremony is a highly symbolic event that culminates with each student receiving a new white lab coat that symbolizes entry into the pharmacy profession. During the ceremony, new students stand and recite the "Oath of a Pharmacist" in which they promise to show compassion and respect throughout their careers and to set worthy examples in the application of humanistic principles.

The Award was presented at the 2009 Canadian Cardiovascular Congress in Edmonton, where findings from Dr. Anderson's laboratory were recently reported, including presentations entitled "Blood pressure-independent correction of resistance artery structure but not intrinsic wall stiffness by resveratrol in the spontaneously hypertensive rat" and "Suppression of cardiac myocyte hypertrophy by PPAR-DGK signaling". You can learn more about the Canadian Hypertension Society at www.hypertension.ca.

Individual Faculty News – Noteworthy contribution

Dr. Silvia Alessi-Severini, Assistant Professor has been reappointed as a member of the Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee (3-year term).

2009 Undergraduate Teaching Awards (as voted by the students);

Dr. Dennis Cote – Outstanding Teacher, 1st year

Ms Kristine Petrasko – Outstanding Teacher, 2nd year

Dr. Lavern Vercaigne – Outstanding Teacher, 3rd year

Dr. Colleen Metge – Outstanding Teacher, 4th year



At the event, pharmacy students, professors, instructors and preceptors were also recognized with awards from the 2008-2009 academic year.

Pharmacy students lend time to seasonal influenza clinic: Last fall, fourth year pharmacy students volunteered at the Louis Riel School Division seasonal influenza clinic to assist with preparing vaccine for administration and providing other support as required. The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority holds these seasonal influenza immunization clinics for those at greatest risk for complications.

The following students won awards at Professional Development Week 2010 in Toronto

Patient Interview Competition - Jacinte Bosc (4th year student) received 1st place

Student Literary Challenge - Ashley Walus (3rd year student) received 2nd place

Compounding competition - 3rd year students Thanh Nguyen, Hidy Girgis, Komal Kaler and Ralph Quejada received 2nd place

CSHP Hospital Pharmacy award was awarded to Christine Leong (4th year)

1st place in the Pharmafacts Bowl were: Justin Ling (4th year), Hidy Girgis (3rd year), Kristina Jandavs (2nd year), Cody Hotel (1st year)

Student News (Graduate)

Graduate Student, Dana Turcotte and Undergraduate Student, Josee-Anne Le Dorze (Dr. Michael Namaka, Advisor), were involved in writing an article that was recently published and now featured worldwide in MDLinx. Turcotte D et al. – As efficacy and tolerability of these agents remain questionable, it is important that cannabinoids not be considered ‘first-line’ therapies for conditions for which there are more supported and better-tolerated agents. Instead, these agents could be considered in a situation of treatment failure with standard therapies or as adjunctive agents where appropriate.

Graduate Student, Ahmed Abdelmoneim (Dr. Lavern Vercaigne, Advisor), received a student scholarship from the Kidney Foundation of Canada (Manitoba Branch) for \$25,000 for the study titled “Optimizing the management of catheter occlusions in hemodialysis patients”.

The fourth annual Pharmacy Graduate Awards Reception was held on October 26, 2009 in the Apotex Centre to recognize award donors and recipients and welcome new graduate students.

Student Award Recipients:

Pfizer Canada Inc. Centennial Pharmacy Research Award: Parvez Vora (Dr. Mike Namaka, Advisor)

Leslie F. Buggie Graduate Scholarship in Pharmacy: Tao Wang (Dr. Xiaochen Gu, Advisor)

MPhA/William G. Eamer Graduate Scholarship in Pharmacy: Michelle Nelson (Dr. Ruby Grymonpre, Advisor)

University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship (renewals): Michelle Nelson (Dr. Ruby Grymonpre, Advisor) and Dana Turcotte (Dr. Mike Namaka, Advisor)

Manitoba Health Research Council: Irina Vasilyeva (Dr. Silvia Alessi-Severini, Advisor) and Ahmed Abdelmoneim (Dr. Lavern Vercaigne, Advisor)

Manitoba Health Research Council/Manitoba Institute of Child Health (renewals): Ousama Rachid (Dr. Keith Simons, Advisor) and Parvez Vora (Dr. Mike Namaka, Advisor)

Graduate Scholarship for the Manitoba Branch of the Kidney Foundation of Canada: Ahmed Abdelmoneim (Dr. Lavern Vercaigne, Advisor)

Major Visitors

Members of the Winnipeg chapter of the World President’s Organization (WPO) met at the Apotex Centre on October 15, 2009. As part of their visit, they toured the new home of the Faculty with Dr. David Collins, Dean and were given presentations by researchers including Dr. Michael Namaka and Dr. Lavern Vercaigne. The Faculty of Pharmacy thanks Anna and Lyle Silverman, WPO Day Chairs, for bringing this event to the Bannatyne Campus.

In Memoriam

JACK EDWARD DAVIS

October 16, 1929 - October 26, 2009

We sadly announce the passing of Jack Davis (B.Sc. (Pharm)/53) at home. He was born in Morris, Manitoba and lived and worked in Winnipeg. He was predeceased by Louise, his wife of 55 years. He leaves many family and friends to cherish his memory. Jack’s career in pharmacy was very rewarding to him. He graduated with a B.Sc. in Pharmacy from the University of Manitoba in 1953. Over the course of his career he owned and operated Davis Pharmacy in the 1960s and 1970s, was the executive director of the Manitoba Society of Professional Pharmacists, and taught pharmacy technician courses at Robertson College. His rewarding career in Pharmacy lasted over 50 years, an achievement of which he was very proud. Over the years Jack and Louise had the good fortune to travel to many places and enjoyed every adventure. He will be missed. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba, 750 McDermot Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 0T5. Contributions will go towards furthering student education in Pharmacy and are tax deductible.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Awards

Dean Emeritus Wayne Hindmarsh was recognized by the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy as the 2009 recipient of the Pillar of Pharmacy Award. This award is presented annually at a gala dinner to an individual who has demonstrated a life-long commitment to the pharmacy profession. The program featured a number of speakers representing all of the groups Dr. Hindmarsh had touched over the course of his career. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Hindmarsh remarked how this award is a reminder not only of his commitment to the profession, but also a reminder of the need “to continue to raise the bar for those who have chosen pharmacy as a career for the ultimate well being of those whom we serve - the public.” He ended his remarks by thanking those in the room and all those who had helped him along the way but could not attend that evening “for your support of my vision, the future of our profession and most importantly your friendship. I share this award with all of those who have supported me along the journey.”

Dr. Hindmarsh was also recognized by *Pharmacy Practice* with their Commitment to Care and Service Awards Lifetime Achievement Award. In the profile included in the November issue of *Pharmacy Practice*,

Dr. Hindmarsh’s efforts to advance the role of the pharmacist were noted. “For too long,” noted Dr. Hindmarsh, “pharmacists have been ... in the background and not seen as leaders. I have been preaching this philosophy for years, and I believe that governments are beginning to realize that we can do more and are offering us opportunities that we must accept.”

Dean Henry Mann received the 2009 Paul F. Parker Award from the University of Kentucky at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition, held in Las Vegas December, 2009. The Paul F. Parker Award is given annually to an individual of high personal and professional ideals who has made significant contributions to pharmacy practice. This individual will have demonstrated throughout his/her career the personal commitment, leadership and enthusiasm to the profession which Dr. Parker sought to develop in his residents. Dean Mann was selected to receive this award for his many contributions to pharmacy practice and scholarly pursuits.

New Grants

Professor Ping Lee, GlaxoSmithKline Chair in Pharmaceuticals and Drug Delivery, recently signed an agreement with MaRS Innovation and the University of Toronto to commercialize a novel sustained release formulation of nitric oxide (NO) for applications in wound healing, including diabetic ulcers. This disruptive technology facilitates the therapeutic release of NO over a two-week period, dramatically improving its effectiveness in wound healing applications. This wound healing technology is an important discovery and one that stands to benefit 45 million diabetics worldwide.

In the drive to improve the early detection and treatment of cancer, Associate Professor Christine Allen from the Faculty, in partnership with Dr. David Jaffray of Radiation Oncology and Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto, have developed a unique technology that combines contrast agents with targeted, long-lasting nano-particles for use in multiple medical imaging platforms. This technology combines more

than one contrast agent into a nano-particle for use in multiple types of imaging, resulting in lower doses of contrast agents (with lower toxicity) and enabling targeted delivery to, and retention by, specific tumors. The use of nano-particle technology allows the contrast agent to be routed differently in the body, making it circulate longer and target disease processes for detection and characterization. Recognizing the broad application and flexibility of this technology, MaRS Innovation and the University Health Network have entered into an agreement to jointly commercialize this promising technology.

Professor David Hampson has entered into an agreement with Lundbeck Research USA, Inc. to conduct a preliminary study on the effects of metabotropic glutamate receptor allosteric modulators in fragile X syndrome knockout mice.

Dr. Hampson is also leading a group of 14 researchers including Co-Investigators Associate Professor Christine Allen, Professor Reina Bendayan, Professor Jean Gariépy, Professor K. Sandy Pang, and Professor Raymond Reilly who recently received a training grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for the study and development of macromolecule-based drugs as a source for new drug entities. The objective of this strategic training program is to bring together leaders in the fields of biological drug development to train young scientists in the design, development, and delivery of biologically-based medicines.

Professor Reina Bendayan has received approval of operating (3 years) and equipment grants from the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, Ministry of Health of Ontario, for the project entitled “Role of Drug Transporters in Permeability and Efficacy of Microbicides at Human Genital Barrier Sites”. This project aims at investigating the role that membrane-associated drug transporters play in the disposition of microbicides at genital and rectal mucosa barriers and will guide novel therapeutic strategies that could optimize genital drug bioavailability and reduce the potential for failure of microbicide therapy for the prevention of HIV.

Student News

PDW 2010: The student-organized Professional Development Week (PDW) returned to Toronto after nearly a decade to welcome 800 pharmacy student delegates from across Canada. The 13 member *PDW 2010: Meeting in the Middle* planning committee chaired by 4th year students Hayley Fleming and Stacy Yeh worked tirelessly for two years recruiting informative and inspirational speakers and sponsors, developing educational sessions and competitions, and planning unforgettable social events. The theme for this event – Meeting in the Middle – emphasized the need for pharmacists and other health care professionals to collaborate on the many challenging issues to improve the delivery of health services for the provision of optimal patient-centred care. It was a fitting theme for this extraordinary conference that brought together speakers from a variety of health professional backgrounds in an effort to inspire students to work together for the best interests of their patients and communities they will serve.

Student Award Ceremonies: 1) In December, students in the Master’s and Doctoral programs at the Faculty

General Faculty News

Introducing Multiple Mini Interviews

Beginning with the 2010 admissions cycle, the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy will include a personal interview process in its selection criteria for admission to the Undergraduate Pharmacy program. The admissions interviews will assess personal qualities such as oral communication, problem solving, and ethical reasoning skills that were deemed to be among key attributes for a pharmacist. Following a detailed study of the literature related to admissions interviews in health professional schools, and the success of a pilot interview session in September 2009, the Faculty has approved the implementation the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) as part of the admissions process in 2010. The MMI is similar in format to the objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). Applicants rotate through a circuit of 8-10 ‘stations’, each designed as a brief (6-10 minute) interview with a trained interviewer who assesses one or more non-cognitive characteristics. The MMI was developed at McMaster University’s Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine and U of T is a licensed user of their ProFITHR model. For further information, contact Andrea Cameron.

were celebrated at the Faculty’s first Graduate Student Award Reception. The event took place at the Faculty Club, and recognized student excellence in the graduate programs. Graduate students, faculty and staff members attended this event, where 38 outstanding graduate students were recognized with internal and external awards. 2) Earlier this Fall, a ceremony for students in the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy programs was held at the Faculty Club. 69 students received awards for academic achievements during 2008-2009. Congratulations to all the deserving students who received awards this year.

Student Breakout Event: In November, 240 students in the undergraduate program participated in a breakout event organized by the Division of Pharmacy Practice. Designed to show students the opportunities that await them as pharmacists, this event invited recent graduates, pharmacists with unique roles, and leaders from the pharmacy profession to speak with students about their experiences in the pharmacy field. Students were able to attend two sessions to learn from different pharmacists about their roles and the opportunities that they have had in the field. This successful event was organized by Vinita Arora, Michael Heffer, Annie Lee and Marie Rocchi.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Individual Faculty News

Neil MacKinnon was the recipient of the best oral presentation award, Canadian Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting, research session, May 31, 2009, for "Self-Reported Medical Errors in Seven Countries: Implications for Pharmacy"

Ingrid Sketris has been elected as a Board Member of Research Canada. Research Canada is an Alliance for Health Discovery whose mission is to improve the health and prosperity of Canadians by championing Canada's global leadership in health research. Research

Canada is a not-for-profit, voluntary organization. The organization engages all sectors, including government, and works collaboratively to build support for health research nationwide.

Anne Marie Whelan was recognized as a Fellow of CSHP at the 41st Annual Professional Practice Conference in Toronto on February 1, 2010.

Pollen Yeung was elected as a Board Member of CSPS for a 3-year term beginning 2010.

Grants

2009-2015 - \$1.8 million - Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Institute for Infection and Immunity. "Universities with Walls" Training Grant - CIHR Centre for Interdisciplinary Training and Research in HIV/AIDS (CITRHA). Sean B. Rourke, Lead PI and Director, CITRHA (OHTN: CRICH, St. Michaels' Hospital); University of Toronto. Dalhousie University Team: Co-Principal Investigator: Susan Kirkland. Co-investigators: Ingrid Sketris, Krentz Hart, Jeff Karabanow, Lynn Johnston, Lois Jackson

2009-2015 - \$2.5 million - Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Institute for Infection and Immunity. CIHR "Centre for REACH (Research Evidence into Action for Community Health) in HIV/AIDS". Sean B. Rourke, Lead PI, University of Toronto. Dalhousie University Team: Co-Principal Investigator: Susan Kirkland. Co-investigators: Ingrid Sketris, Krentz Hart, Jeff Karabanow, Lynn Johnston, Lois Jackson.

Neil MacKinnon is Co-Principal Investigator with Todd Boyle for the new study: "Reporting quality-related events in community pharmacy in Nova Scotia." The grant was funded by the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation for \$125,000.

Anne Marie Whelan and Tannis Jurgens have been awarded funding from the Dalhousie Pharmacy Endowment Fund (\$11,759.15) for their project, "Bioidentical hormone therapy for menopause related vasomotor symptoms: What is the evidence for safety and efficacy?"

Peter Zed was awarded a 2009 Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation Health Research Project Grant (\$99,510) for the study "Medication-Related Emergency Department Visits in Pediatrics: A Prospective Observational Study". Co-Investigators include Stacy Ackroyd-Stolarz, Karen Black, Janet Curran, Eleanor Fitzpatrick, Neil MacKinnon, Nancy Murphy and Doug Sinclair.

Peter Zed and Dawn Dalen (Co-PIs) were awarded a 2009 Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Grant (\$15,000) for the study "Intravenous cefazolin plus oral probenecid vs. oral cephalixin for the treatment of cellulitis: a randomized controlled trial". Co-Investigators include Samuel Campbell, Jeffrey Eppler and Denise Sprague.

Publications

Green RS, Zed PJ, MacIntyre L. Pentastarch resuscitation in severe sepsis and septic shock. *Can J Emerg Med* 2010;12:58-61.

Ackroyd-Stolarz S, Read Guernsey J, MacKinnon NJ, Kovacs G. Adverse events in older patients admitted to acute care: A preliminary cost description. *Healthcare Management FORUM* 2009; 22(4): 32-6.

MacKinnon NJ, Kaiser RM, Griswold P, Bonner A. Medication Reconciliation and Seamless Care in the Long-Term Care Setting. *Annals of Long-Term Care* 2009;17(11):36-40.

Whelan AM, Jurgens TM, Naylor H. Herbs, vitamins and minerals in the treatment of premenstrual syndrome: a systematic review. *Can J Clin Pharmacol* 2009 Fall;16(3):e407-29. Epub 2009 Oct 29.

Invited Presentations

T. Jurgens. Natural Health Products and Menopause. University of Toronto, CE Natural Products Symposium, Toronto, ON, November 29, 2009.

Pollen Yeung. Bioavailability and Bioequivalence: Concept and Applications. Seminar presented at Inspectorate, Health Canada, Ottawa, ON, Canada, November, 27, 2009.

Peter Zed. Non-Inferiority Trials. Canadian Cardiovascular Pharmacists Network (CCPN) 4th Annual Atlantic Canada Fall Symposium, Contemporary Therapeutic Issues in Cardiovascular Disease, Halifax, NS, October 17, 2009.

Peter Zed. Advanced Cardiac Life Support. Canadian Cardiovascular Pharmacists Network (CCPN) 4th Annual Atlantic Canada Fall Symposium, Contemporary Therapeutic Issues in Cardiovascular Disease, Halifax, NS, October 17, 2009.

Peter Zed. Leadership Pearls. Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, 41st Annual Professional Practice Conference, Toronto, ON, February 1, 2010.

Peter Zed. Hot Topics in Emergency Medicine. Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, 41st Annual Professional Practice Conference, Toronto, ON, February 3, 2010.

Student News

Andrea Scobie has received a graduate student stipend for her PhD thesis project, Engaging Patients in Patient Safety, from the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation. Neil MacKinnon is her thesis supervisor.

Education Corner

Neil MacKinnon has had a long-standing group project in his 4th year course, Advanced Patient Health Management, where the student group creates a TV news program about the profession of pharmacy. The goals of this assignment are to: (1) provide the students with an opportunity to think about how they might promote the profession of pharmacy via the medium of television, (2) consider how the students might counter

negative publicity about the profession of pharmacy, and (3) carefully consider what aspects of the profession might be of interest to the public.

In the assignment, the students are asked to create a TV program based on the regional CTV news program in the Maritimes, "Live at 5". This year, the news program sent a cameraman and reporter to the classroom to film the students' show and to interview some of the students playing the roles of the various TV anchors and reporters. The segment aired on the real "Live at 5" TV news program on October 7, 2009. Please contact Neil (neil.mackinnon@dal.ca) if you would like a copy of the assignment guidelines.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Appointments/Leaves

Dr. Rebecca Law has received a cross-appointment to the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University, in the Discipline of Family Medicine, commencing September 1, 2009.

Dr. Debbie Kelly will be starting a sabbatical in May 2010. She is hoping to focus her research on conducting a review of our admissions process, but also assessing patient perspectives on the role of the community pharmacist.

General Faculty News

As indicated in the previous AFPC Newsletter, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has provided funding to expand the School of Pharmacy to 60 students per year. As a result we have engaged a consulting company to assist in identifying the space needs a student body of 240 (up from 160) would

require. The faculty/staff and student representatives have had extensive input with the consultant group. Once this work is complete we will present our plans to Government and advocate for a new building to house the expanded program. In the meantime we are investigating the availability of leased space off campus to house the growing program.

The School will be recruiting two tenure track positions in Pharmacy Practice and one tenure track position in the Pharmaceutical Sciences within the coming months. In terms of administrative positions the School is in the process of hiring a Communications Coordinator.

The MUN Relay for Life 2010, which raised over \$70,000 in the fight against cancer, had 7 teams from the School of Pharmacy. Sarah Alteen (Chair, MUN Relay for Life 2010) said our School's support "contributed greatly to the success of this year's Relay."

Grants

Dr. Laurie Twells received a travel grant to attend the CIHR-Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health 2nd Annual Symposium for New Investigators in Perinatal Research in Conjunction with the Eastern Perinatal Investigator Annual Meeting.

Dr. Laurie Twells and Dr. Leeanne Newhook had an article accepted for publication by the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* in October, 2009 entitled "Can Exclusive Breastfeeding Reduce the Likelihood of Childhood Obesity in Some Regions of Canada?"

Publications

Dr. Rebecca Law has two recent collaborative research studies published on the web. One study is entitled "Attracting and Retaining Immigrants to Newfoundland and Labrador: Voices from the Newcomers and International Students", by Drs. Lan Gien and Rebecca Law. The report is available at the MUN Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development website: http://www.mun.ca/harriscentre/research/funding/immigration/IRF_Gien_2009_08_31.pdf and there is a Lay Summary recently published on Yaffle at: <http://www.yaffle.ca/a/viewProject/id/1112>

Dr. John Hawboldt and Dr. Curtis Harder had an article published in the *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*, Vol 62, No 6 (2009) titled: "Survey of Canadian Pharmacists' Responses to Warnings of Potential Interactions Between Ceftriaxone and Calcium in IV Solutions"

Dr. John Hawboldt, Dr. Cory Cowan and Dr. Mazen Bader published an article in the *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*, Vol 62, No 6 (2009) titled: "Pulmonary Infection Due to Mycobacterium malmoense in a Patient with Crohn's Disease"

Dr. Rebecca Law has a second collaborative research study published on the web entitled "Program Evaluation for Interprofessional Initiatives: Evaluation Instruments / Methods of the 20 IECPCP Projects", by Rebecca Law, Laura Macdonald, Lynda Weaver, Jana Lait, and Enette Pauze. The report is available at the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative website:

http://www.cihc.ca/files/CIHC_EvalMethods_Final.pdf

Dr. Stephanie Young had an article based on her MSc thesis published in the *Canadian Pharmacists Journal*, Volume 142, Issue 6 (November-December 2009) titled: "Current work locations and reasons for job choice of graduates of Memorial University School of Pharmacy"

Invited Presentations

Dr. Laurie Twells gave an oral presentation at the 33rd Annual Perinatal Investigators meeting in Kingston, ON, on November 12-13, 2009 entitled "Is Vitamin D Deficiency or Insufficiency in Early Pregnancy Associated with Maternal Adverse Health Outcomes."

Dr. Carla Dillon and Ms. Amy Conway has an abstract entitled "Enhancing Patient Safety Through Undergraduate Interprofessional Education" accepted for presentation at the Altogether Better Health 5: International Interprofessional Conference in Sydney, Australia, April, 6 – 9, 2010.

Dr. Mohsen Daneshtalab received a formal invitation from the Faculty of Science, Osaka Prefectural

University, Japan, to visit them as a "Guest Professor" for one month during May 2010. In this visit, Mohsen will present some lectures (Chemistry) for undergraduate and graduate students, in addition to research seminars at the Department of Synthetic Organic Chemistry (for faculty members and graduate students in this dept.). Lectures (research lectures) regarding Dr. Daneshtalab's research activities and accomplishments for all faculty members, undergraduate and graduate students at the Faculty of Science will also be provided. This university invites Professors from North American Universities during spring-summer semesters in order to familiarize their faculty and students with North American teaching styles and research. Dr. Daneshtalab is the first Canadian Professor to be invited by this university.

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

School News

Dr. Jake Thiessen, founding Hallman Director of the School of Pharmacy, has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2010. A hiring committee has been struck, chaired by the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Dr. Terry McMahon, and is launching the search process. Dr. Thiessen has been the guiding visionary behind the new School and the Health Sciences Campus, and his achievements here are a source of pride to the entire community.

In November 2009, we were deeply flattered when Christopher Hume, architecture columnist for the *Toronto Star*, named the Waterloo Pharmacy building as one of the "10 most important structures of the last decade" in the Greater Toronto Area. He described the building as being "simultaneously an educational facility, an act of civic regeneration and an urban icon."

Appointments

The School of Pharmacy is pleased to announce the appointment of Anson Tang both as a Clinical Lecturer and as the new Assistant Director, Experiential Learning. Anson completed his undergraduate pharmacy degree at the University of Toronto, and he also holds a BA in French from York University and an MBA from York's Schulich School of Business. Anson completed an MBA Exchange with the China Europe International Business School in Shanghai. His employment has included community pharmacy, positions in the pharmaceutical industry, and with a healthcare solutions company. He will spearhead the experiential component of our program, both nationally and internationally, including co-op placements, community service learning initiatives, and clinical placements in the final year. His scholarship promises to be equally integrating, and positioned at the interface of experiential education and professional competence.

Faculty News

Dr. Andrea Edginton has been named to the editorial board of the journal *Therapeutic Drug Monitoring*.

Dr. Michael Beazely has been appointed to the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy (WRIDS) Task Force, established by the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council. The task force's mandate is to create a comprehensive drug strategy using the 4 pillars approach (Prevention and Education, Harm Reduction, Recovery and Rehabilitation, Enforcement and Justice) by December, 2010.

Luis Viana, Adjunct Assistant Professor, is the 2009 winner of the Novopharm Award of Excellence in Senior Care Pharmacy, conferred by the Canadian Society of Consultant Pharmacists. The award recognizes a senior care pharmacist who consistently uses his/her skills to improve the care and quality of life of the senior population and who demonstrates leadership in advancing pharmaceutical care to this population. Sally Ebsary, who is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor with Waterloo, received the award in 2002.

Dr. Nancy Waite was the keynote speaker at a meeting of the Canadian Health Care Anti-Fraud Association on November 12, 2009. Members of the association include major insurance companies, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Dr. Waite spoke on unique aspects of the Waterloo curriculum, and addressed the expanding scope of practice for pharmacists and possible implications of these changes.

Student News

The University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy team was the proud winner of the Medisca National Compounding Competition, held at CAPSI's

Professional Development Week in Toronto January 14 – 17. The team consisted of four second-year students: Jenny Seguin, Catherine Prochazka, Will Shannon and Saurabh Patel. Congratulations!

Sheri Howard, Class of 2011, has been awarded a CIHR Health Professional Student Research Award of \$4,251. Sheri is currently completing a co-op work term as a Research Assistant with Dr. Nancy Waite in the School of Pharmacy. Her research involves several themes, including understanding interprofessional practice, measuring learning outcomes in experiential education, and embedding measurement tools for patient safety teaching.

Grants

The University of Waterloo is expected to play a large role in \$30 million worth of research into treatments for juvenile diabetes that was announced in November, 2009. The project is a two-year partnership between the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Canada. The funding will support the launch of a Clinical Trial Network in southern Ontario, expand diabetes research, and help bring new technologies to the marketplace, including support for initiatives such as the Foundation's Artificial Pancreas Project and Regenerative Medicine Technology Program. McMaster University is also part of the project, as well as other southern Ontario institutions. Both the School of Computer Science and the School of Pharmacy will play a significant role in collecting and assessing the associated clinical data.

Certina Ho, Adjunct Assistant Professor, and collaborators at the Institute for Safe Medication Practice (ISMP), were awarded the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Ontario Branch Pharmaceutical Care Grant for 2009. They received funding of \$1,725

to develop and deliver a training program for staff of the ISMP on the interface of pharmaceutical care and drug therapy problem management.

Abstracts/Presentations/Publications

Dr. Andrea Edginton and collaborator Jane Hollbrook have authored a paper entitled "Assessment of student attitudes to learning basic pharmacokinetics through a blended approach and the significance of face-to-face interaction". It has been accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*.

Dr. Michael Beazely gave an invited lecture entitled "Direct and Indirect Serotonergic Regulation of N-Methyl-D-Aspartate Receptor Signalling" to the Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Waterloo January 2010

Certina Ho and collaborators presented a poster entitled "Analysis Of Medication Incidents In Ontario" at the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists' Professional Practice Conference, Toronto, ON January 2010.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Grants

Dr Paul Jurasz: primary investigator for a Canadian Foundation for Innovation grant in support of his research on "Platelet-Angiogenesis Research Infrastructure for Development of Novel Angiogenesis Regulating Pharmaceuticals"; \$197,275.

General Faculty News

White Coat Ceremony – Class of 2013:

Over 325 first year students, family and friends experienced the White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2013 on Thursday January 7. Dean James Kehrer, Sgt Ian Sanderson of the RCMP and Sara Houlihan, pharmacy graduate, delivered messages on professionalism and the role of the pharmacist in illicit prescription drug distribution. The 1st year students were

presented with their lab coats by members of the Pharmacists' Association of Alberta, the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, the Alberta College of Pharmacists and the Pharmacy Alumni Association.



Faculty Research and Development Day

The faculty had a very successful Research Days on November 20, 2009 with nearly 80 abstracts submitted. The keynote speaker was Dr Raj Padwal who presented on "Present and Emerging Treatments for Obesity". The purpose of research days is to provide a forum for staff and students to:

1. showcase the faculty's dynamic research and scholarly activities to the others in the Faculty, University and Community
2. gain experience and insight to effectively communicate their research and scholarly activities.
3. reflect on current accomplishments in research and scholarly activities at the Faculty.

The faculty would like to congratulate the following 2009 Research Day Award Recipients:

Haitham EL-Sikhry: Best Overall Podium Presentation (sponsored by Astra Zeneca)

Mona Aboutabl: PGSA Best Graduate Student Podium Presentation

Dalia El Sayad: 1st Place Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation (Wu Hong Memorial Poster Prize) and AFPC Travel Award to present poster & attend the AFPC Annual Conference

Beshay Zordoky: 2nd Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation, Dr. L. Chatten Award

Sherif Mahmoud: 3rd Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation, Dr. L. Chatten Award

Mohammad Abukhasim: 4th Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation, Dr. L. Chatten Award

Zivad Binkhathlan: 5th Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation, Dr. L. Chatten Award

Dr. Samar Hamdy: Best Postgraduate Trainee (postdoc/resident) poster presentation (non-moderated), Faculty of Pharmacy Award

Homun Yee: Best Non-Pharmacy Student Poster Award, Faculty of Pharmacy Award

Corey Ramer: Best Pharmacy Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation (non-moderated), National Summer Student Research Program Award (sponsored by the Merck Company Foundation)

Graduate Student News

Sherif Hanafy Mahmoud is the recipient of the 2009 Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award administered by University Teaching Services.

Undergraduate Student News

Joanna Cheung, currently in her final year of studies at the faculty, has been awarded "Student of the Year" in Walmart Pharmacy Summer Student Program within Alberta.

Katrina Albert, currently in her final year of studies at the faculty, is one of four recipients in Canada to split a \$3,000.00 Walmart Student Scholarship.

Travis Featherstone, a recent graduate from the Faculty of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, was recognized for attaining First Class standing in his program at the Academic All-Canadian (AAC) breakfast held at Lister Hall on November 3, 2009. Travis played for the Golden Bears Hockey team throughout his studies all while maintaining a high standard in his studies. Travis was able to achieve All-Canadian Academic for the third time, for years 2, 3 and 4 of pharmacy school.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of **Dr Dario Alberton** on November 12, 2009. Dario completed his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from UBC, then a Pharmacy Practice Residency, followed by a Critical Care Residency in Washington, USA in 2004. In 2006, he received his PharmD at UBC. Dario was a Clinical Practice Leader practicing in ICU with Alberta Health Services, Edmonton, and taught a number of lectures for our faculty, as well as mentored numerous students and residents.

It is with deep sympathies that we share the passing of **Andy Troszok**, a former faculty member, who was killed in a skiing accident on January 4, 2010. Andy worked with the faculty's experiential group several years ago and was based out of Calgary. Andy was also a graduate of the Faculty of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Alberta in 1995. He was the co-owner of Extended Care Pharmacy in Calgary, and a founder of the Canadian International Pharmacy Association.

Contributors

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