



AFPC COMMUNICATION

Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada

Association des Facultés de Pharmacie du Canada

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and a belated Happy New Year from UBC and Vancouver! Out here on the West Coast we are experiencing a winter...and I don't like it!! All the snow and cold makes it seem too much like the rest of the country. Like most of you I am sure, I am impatiently waiting for spring!

This first edition of the AFPC Newsletter for 2008 spotlights the Honours Co-operative Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (BScPhm) program at the University of Waterloo, School of Pharmacy, the 10th and youngest pharmacy school in Canada. This new BScPhm program, along with the Entry Level PharmD program at the University of Montreal initiated in September 2007, add to the shifting landscape of pharmacy education in the country. Take a few minutes to read the "Faculty Spotlight" outlining this new program and Waterloo's contemporary approach to pharmacy education.

Building on last year's momentum, 2008 is once again looking busy for AFPC. In addition to representing the organization on numerous national and international initiatives affecting pharmacy education, the profession and Canadian health care, your AFPC Council will continue to focus its efforts on program evaluation over the next year. Under the leadership of Dr. Ingrid Price from UBC and with the on-going support of the Association of Deans of Pharmacy of Canada, AFPC's

Task Force on Program Evaluation has made significant progress to date on the development of an AFPC Guide for Program Evaluation for Canadian Faculties of Pharmacy. The Task Force hopes to have a draft of the Guide ready for our Annual General Meeting in Chicago in July. I would like to thank Ingrid as well as her enthusiastic and dedicated working group representing all 10 Canadian pharmacy schools for their tremendous commitment of time and energy to moving this important project forward. For information on the many other important AFPC activities currently underway be sure to read the Executive Director's Corner that follows as well as the AFPC Updates circulated regularly to the membership. If there is an issue or project that is of particular interest to you please feel free to contact me or your local councilor for further information. Better yet, get involved in one of these issues. We would welcome your ideas and energy!!

As you will likely know, AFPC's Annual General Meeting will be held jointly this year with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in the windy city of Chicago, July 19-23, 2008. Planning for the meeting has been underway for over a year now and the integrated program is shaping up to be both exciting and timely. The AFPC portion of the conference, "Education Advancing Practice", will showcase and explore performance based teaching, learning, and assessment, interprofessional education, and informing the classroom through research in the Canadian context. OSCEology 101, IPE in Action, and Canadian Patient Safety Initiatives and Curricular Reform represent a sampling of the diverse sessions that make up the program. This joint meeting, the first in many years, will afford members of both organizations an opportunity to share and learn from each other as we try to adapt and thrive in a constantly changing environment of educational, professional and health care change. Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing a large Canadian contingent in Chicago. See you there!

Simon Albon

AFPC President, 2007-2008

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

A belated best wishes to colleagues and friends for 2008! Having sent a fairly lengthy update in December of 2007 I intend to keep this part of the Newsletter relatively short. Nevertheless, there are still a number of significant items on which to report.

The Council and Executive of AFPC held their midyear meeting, February 2-3 in the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy building in Toronto. The weather in the East just prior to the meeting was quite severe and unfortunately, our Atlantic colleagues from Halifax were not able to attend.

AFPC Awards

The report from awards committee chair, Mary MacCara of Dalhousie noted that there has been a healthy number of applications for the AstraZeneca New Investigator Award, the Pfizer Research Career Award, the Bristol-Myers Squibb National Education Award, the new Wal-Mart Canada Future Academic Leader Award, and the Merck Frosst Graduate Fellowship Award. This was the first year that electronic

submissions of applications were used and except for the odd hitch the e-application process appears to be working out fairly well.

Further award deadlines include the GlaxoSmithKline Graduate Student Research Award nominations that must be submitted to the Executive Director by March 1, 2008. 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, 2008. 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 abstract booklet on the web page for details of the awards and procedures for submitting nominations <http://afpc.info/content.php?SectionID=5&Language=en> and <http://afpc.info/content.php?SectionID=5&Language=fr>

Conference 2008

Conference chair Lalitha Raman-Wilms of the University of Toronto reported that the AFPC section of the program for the joint AACP/AFPC Conference in Chicago, July 19-22, is nearing completion. Details will soon be posted on the AFPC web site. For those planning to attend the conference, the Chicago Sheraton Hotel and Towers (1-877-242-2588) is now taking reservations for the AACP Conference. **Conference 2009:** The AFPC Conference will occur in Halifax at the Lord Nelson Hotel, June 3-6, 2009. This date is immediately following the CPhA conference in Halifax. **Conference 2010:** AFPC is intent on meeting jointly with CSPS in Vancouver at the end of May or early June 2010.

Communications

Committee chair and President Simon Albon indicated that AFPC needed to engage in a serious revitalization of the web site. The French version is frequently out of date and other components of the site are not as user-friendly as they might be. The directory of pharmacy researchers needs to be updated on a regular basis and to be made more visible to potential users. A major task

this year is to create a directory of teaching expertise in Faculties of Pharmacy in Canada. This task has been facilitated by a generous grant from Rx & D Canada who will be recognized as sponsors of the teaching directory.

PEP Canada

Pharmacy Experiential Programs of Canada (**PEP Canada**) presented an extensive report of recent activities. Cheryl Cox of the University of Alberta and Kelly Brink of the University of Manitoba are the current co-chairs. PEP Canada has provided CCAPP with feedback on the draft of the new accreditation standards. A Web CT site has been created at the University of Alberta for purposes of information sharing and communication. PEP Canada will be making a presentation on patient safety as part of the AFPC program for the joint AACP/AFPC Conference in Chicago and will be participating with their AACP colleagues in a session on Early Experiential Education Programs. A poster for the Chicago conference is also being planned. Council was very pleased with the progress being made by this special interest group.

Ingrid Price of the University of British Columbia reported on the progress of the **Program Evaluation Working Group**. Members of the group include Ingrid Price (Chair), Anne Marie Whelan (AFPC representative), Linda Hensman (ADPC representative), David Hill (CCAPP), John Hawboldt (MUN), Mary MacCara (Dalhousie), Céline Brunelle (Laval), Claude Mailhot (Montreal), Lalitha Raman-Wilms (Toronto), Nancy Waite (Waterloo), Silvia Alessi-Severini and Colleen Metge (Manitoba), Roy Dobson (Saskatchewan), and Sheila Kelcher (Alberta).

The task of the group is: To develop “An AFPC Guide for Program Evaluation for Canadian Faculties of Pharmacy”. A face to face meeting of the group was held November 17 – 18 in Toronto and subgroups were assigned specific areas of the guide to develop. A web site for the group was created in January 2008 to facilitate this task. A further workshop is likely in the Spring with the intent to present the work of this committee at the joint AACP/AFPC Conference in Chicago in July.

Other news

The Association of Deans of Pharmacy of Canada (ADPC) held a teleconference on January 28, 2008 in lieu of a midyear meeting. The main item for discussion

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

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ASSOCIATION DES FACULTÉS DE PHARMACIE DU CANADA
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Frank Abbott
Executive Director

was the draft CCAPP standards. The Deans will meet later this month in Vancouver with CCAPP Executive Director David Hill to provide feedback from their faculties.

Director Linda Hensman of the School of Pharmacy at Memorial University began administrative leave as of January 1, 2008 and Associate Professor Dr. Deborah Kelly is currently the Acting Director: "Kelly, Deborah" dvkelly@mun.ca

Health Canada recently called for nominations of individuals to serve on the Expert Advisory Committee on the Vigilance of Health Products. Dr. Colleen Metge of the University of Manitoba was nominated by AFPC and I am pleased to report that Colleen has been selected to serve on this important advisory committee for a three year term.

The AFPC history book, “Celebrating our Heritage: A History of the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada, The First Fifty Years 1944 - 1994”, has now been posted on the web site as an AFPC publication. The book can be accessed at http://afpc.info/downloads/1/AFPC_History_Book.pdf

The First New Canadian School of Pharmacy in More Than 20 Years

The University of Waterloo (UW) has welcomed its first 92 students to Canada's newest pharmacy program! They have arrived with unbridled enthusiasm, many questions, and a passion for the profession. The School of Pharmacy forms the anchor of UW's new Health Sciences Campus (HSC), located in the heart of the City of Kitchener. This development brings UW's entrepreneurial, outwardly-focused and dynamic culture to the health sector, promoting discovery and innovation, encouraging bold steps and breakthrough innovation.

In the first phases of the Health Sciences Campus, three professional programs are coming together to share learning opportunities and collaborative training that will position graduates to both understand and function effectively in the current health care environment. The HSC will be home to a new regional program of McMaster University's Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine, and a teaching and service clinic from UW's School of Optometry. This unique collaboration positions UW at the forefront of inter-professional education.

The Facility

For the first semester, the vanguard class is studying on the main UW campus. The intention is to have partial occupancy of the new Pharmacy facility for May, with the building fully completed by the end of 2008. This first building comprises 120,000 sq. ft., and will house lecture halls, the Professional Practice Laboratory, the Pharmaceuticals Laboratory, faculty and staff offices, a student lounge, etc. It is wrapped in a glass curtain wall featuring images of medicinal plants, reflecting the School's intention to bring the history and tradition of Pharmacy to a cutting-edge, urban site.

Ground will be broken for the second building on the campus within weeks. This 77,000 sq. ft. space will be key to UW's initiatives in inter-professional education. The ground floor will house a full-service family health clinic, which will provide experiential opportunities for pharmacy, medicine and optometry students. Optometry will also establish a satellite of its teaching clinic here. The upper floors will be home to the regional McMaster medical program, which has already begun instruction at a temporary Kitchener site, with a class of 15 students.



Photo by Chris Hughes

The New Class

The pharmacy students, who began studying on Jan. 7, come from eight different provinces, and include 12 students from Northern Ontario. Women make up about 60 per cent of enrolment and 40 per cent of all students hold at least one degree. UW is committed to identifying and encouraging students with interests in a range of professional career paths, and the program supports breadth and flexibility in learning.

UW's student selection process has multiple stages. Selection criteria focus as much on interpersonal skills, leadership abilities, and creativity as on academic

excellence. Applicants are required to complete an on-line application, submit a Pharmacy Admission Profile, and provide a letter of reference from a Pharmacist. Candidates are screened based on academic and non-academic criteria and a select group is then invited to attend a personal interview. This provides an opportunity for applicants to distinguish themselves and demonstrate their interests and experiences. Once applicants reach the interview stage, their academic history is no longer considered. Final selection is based on performance in the interview combined with a reading comprehension/writing test. The ongoing enrolment target is 120 students.

Undergraduate Curriculum

UW is offering one of only two pharmacy programs in North America that base experiential learning on co-operative education. The other is found at Northeastern University in Boston. The UW students will gain real-world familiarity with the many facets of the pharmacy profession through 16 months of practical experience, extending throughout their four years of study. Co-op is an educational model that promotes continuous learning through integration of classroom and applied work-based experience. In a co-op environment the onus is on the student to direct his/her own learning, and make valuable contributions in the workplace. Graduates of co-op programs are recognized for their ability to adapt, solve real-life problems, and demonstrate strong discipline-specific skills. They understand their career opportunities and the realities of the workplace. The first co-op experience for the vanguard class begins in September 2008, following two terms (eight months) of academic study.

Co-op work terms will cover not only community, primary care and institutional pharmacy practice, but may also include pharmaceutical industry, regulatory, government or professional association experiences. International experiences are encouraged. More than 700 potential employers have already expressed interest in partnering with this innovative generation of pharmacy professionals by hiring students. At least one work term must be completed in an underserved area.

Applicants are required to have an extensive set of prerequisite courses, which comprise at least two years of university study. This creates room for required studies

in such areas as business/entrepreneurship, patient safety, compounding and health informatics. It also allows professional practice courses to move into the first year, and enables students to pursue electives in areas of personal interest.

The Waterloo curriculum directly incorporates Community Service Learning (CSL) throughout the professional program. CSL provides a different type of experiential opportunity that engages students in meeting human and community needs, together with structured activities that encourage reflection and growth from the experience. It is designed to contribute to the breadth of the student experience and enhance professionalism, ethics, diversity competency and communication skills. 21 different community agencies, ranging from the K-W Multicultural Society to the Kitchener Public Library to the Alzheimer Society will be working with teams of students during the first semester.

This is just one reflection of the many ways in which Kitchener-Waterloo has embraced the School of Pharmacy. Linkages with the community extend to the LHIN, local pharmacists, and distinctive partnerships such as the Waterloo Regional Children's Museum. The Museum has just introduced a novel exhibit - Discovering Chimpanzees: The Remarkable World of Jane Goodall. One feature of this display is entitled "Not All Pharmacists Are Human". The School of Pharmacy and two practicing pharmacists partnered to create this feature on the ways in which chimpanzees self-medicate through plant selection.

Research News

Dr. Marianna Foldvari has been appointed Associate Director, Research and Graduate Studies. In this position she will provide academic and administrative leadership to establish an internationally-recognized graduate program at the School of Pharmacy. The formal development of the graduate program is underway, with the intention of enrolling students in 2009. Graduate studies will encompass research-based degrees at both the Master's and Doctoral levels, as well as residency and fellowship opportunities.

Recent grant announcements:

Dr. Foldvari; Dr. Shawn Wettig, Assistant Professor and collaborators at the University of Saskatchewan (Drs. I. Badea, R. Verrall) were awarded a CIHR Proof of Principle Program, Phase I grant titled "Development of gemini nanoparticles for non-viral gene delivery" for \$150,000 over 2008-2009.

Dr. Jamie Joseph, Assistant Professor, and his collaborator Dr. Patrick MacDonald of the University of Alberta, have been awarded a \$100,000 USD grant by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Their project is entitled "Non-adenoviral Peptide Modulator Expression to Improve Islet Graft Function". The study will examine the use of a new gene transfer technology called Ultrasound Targeted Microbubble Destruction in the improvement of islet graft functioning and increased successful outcomes.

Dr. Joseph has also been awarded \$85,512 for three years from CIHR, for a study entitled "Novel pathways in the metabolic regulation of insulin release from pancreatic beta-cells". The project will apply newly-developed tools to the study of relevant pathways involved in sensing sugar levels in the blood by insulin-secreting beta-cells, and will have important applications for therapy of both major forms of diabetes.

White Coat Ceremony

Jan. 9, 2008, marked a historic occasion as the first class was welcomed to the profession with a White Coat Ceremony. Speakers included representatives from UW, the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, the Ontario College of Pharmacists, and the Region of Waterloo Pharmacists' Association. The students jointly took a UW-crafted pledge of professionalism. Their white coats were presented by practicing pharmacists who had served as team leaders in the applicant interview process.



Photo by Neil Trotter

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Academic Appointments

Ms. Kristine Petrasko joined the Faculty of Pharmacy on June 20, 2007 as a part-time Instructor.

Dr. Dennis Cote joined the Faculty of Pharmacy on July 2, 2007 as a part-time Instructor.

Ms Joanna Ayotte and Ms Nancy Kleiman were appointed to full-time term positions at the rank of Instructor II in the Faculty of Pharmacy beginning July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010.

Ms Kelly Brink was re-appointed for another 3-year term beginning August 1, 2007 at the rank of Instructor II.

Ms Britt Kural joined the Faculty of Pharmacy on November 19, 2007 as a part-time term Instructor.

General Faculty News

The Faculty is pleased to announce that *“The Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) program of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba has been awarded the status of Full Accreditation by the Canadian Council for Accreditation of*

Pharmacy Programs for the six year term 2007-2013.”

Dr. Namaka was appointed on April 12, 2007 to a National Advisory Committee by Valeant Canada to join their "Needs Assessment/Practice Insights in Community Pharmacy Practice Team" to address advanced involvement of pharmacists in the health care team and to look at advance practice roles that pharmacists are involved with in regard to the provision of "Patient Focused Care".

Dr. Payal Patel has taken over the position of “presiding officer” for the PEBC exams from Dr. Alan McIntosh who held this role for many years.

Dr. Colleen Metge was appointed to the Expert Advisory Committee on Vigilance of Health Products. This is an AFPC nomination. The committee consists of several consumers, patients, academics, practitioners and a veterinarian. They will meet approximately 4 times a year.

Research Grants & Awards

Dr. Michael Namaka received a grant for \$25,000 from Biogen Idec Canada Inc. for continued support of his Neuropathic Pain project.

Dr. Michael Namaka received a grant for \$7,000 from Valeant Canada Inc. to “Design a Treatment Algorithm for Neuropathic Pain”

Dr. Michael Namaka received a grant from Action for \$5,000 for his project, “A Comparative Single Centre, Randomized Study Involving Patients with Multiple Sclerosis Induced Neuropathic Pain Receiving Treatment with Either Pregabalin (Lyrica) or Paroxetine (Paxil).”

Dr. Michael Namaka received an unrestricted grant of \$8000 from Pfizer Canada Inc. to support neuroscience research.

Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj, HayGlass KT, MacNeil B, Becker, AB received bridge-funding of \$5000 from AllerGen NCE Inc for their project titled “Maternal Stress and the Development of Childhood Asthma”.

Dr. Hope Anderson was awarded an MHRC Establishment grant in the amount of \$100,000 over 3 years.

The Manitoba Health Research Council awarded Dr. Kimberley O'Hara, Dr. Brian Hasinoff's postdoctoral student, with a Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in the amount of \$36,750 for an initial one year, with a second year subject to Council receiving funding.

Dr. Brian Hasinoff was awarded a Canada Research Chair renewal for a 7-year term.

The Manitoba Health Research Council has awarded Dr. Kimberley O'Hara, Dr. Brian Hasinoff's postdoctoral fellow, with a Postdoctoral Fellowship Award in the amount of \$36,750 for an initial one year, with a second year subject to Council receiving funding.

Ms Kristine Petrasko passed the Certified Respiratory Educator exam. She is now officially certified in asthma and COPD education.

Dr. Mike Namaka received a grant in the amount of \$4000 from Pfizer for his Neuropathic pain research.

Dr. Hope Anderson received a 2-year grant from the Dairy Farmers of Canada for her research project entitled "Effect of Conjugated Linoleic Acid on Cardiac Hypertrophy." Year 1 = \$45000, and Year 2 = \$51000.

Student News

Graduate student Dana Turcotte was awarded a UMGF Graduate Scholarship that can be renewed for up to 4 years. Advisor: Dr. Mike Namaka.

Yu Gong successfully defended her final MSc oral examination on June 22, 2007. Thesis title: "CYOPROTECTIVE ROLE OF L-FABP IN ACETAMINOPHEN INDUCED HEPATOTOXICITY". Dr. Frank Burczynski, Advisor. Committee: Dr. Yuewen Gong, Dr. Donald Miller, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine, Chair: Dr. S. Alessi-Severini.

Jianghong Fan successfully defended her final PhD oral examination on June 18, 2007. Thesis title: "ROLES OF BONE MORPHOGENETIC PROTEIN 4 IN LIVER FIBROGENESIS". Dr. Yuewen Gong, Advisor. Committee: Dr. Frank Burczynski, Dr. Gerald Minuk, Dr. Patrick Choy, and External Examiner: Dr. Aziz Ghahary, University of British Columbia, Department of Surgery.

Teresa Takla successfully defended her thesis on August 21, 2007. The Examining Committee consisted of Dr. Lavern Vercaigne, Advisor, Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr. Sheryl Zelenitsky, Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr. Michelle Alfa, Medical Microbiology, Chair: Dr. Frank Burczynski.

Thesis title: EFFECT OF A NOVEL CATHETER LOCKING SOLUTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF HEMODIALYSIS CATHETER-RELATED INFECTIONS

PDW - CAPSI:

The University of Manitoba did extremely well competitively at this year's PDW competitions in Edmonton, Alberta. Nine pharmacy schools from across Canada attended this year's PDW.

The U of M school placed 1st in PharmaFacts, which consisted of the following team members: 1st year: Robi Messinbird, 2nd year: Colin Langedock, 3rd year: Margo McCrae, 4th year: Lavtej Sekhon.

Bobby Currie from 4th year was the 1st place national winner of the CAPSI Student Literary Challenge. She will have her article published in the CPJ.

The Manitoba Compounding Team placed 3rd nationally in the CAPSI Compounding Competition. The team consisted of Jacinte Bosc, Alexander Cooper, Stacy Galas and Pavi Gill.

Advit Shah, 2nd year won the Guy Genest award. This award is given to one student from every pharmacy school chosen because of their passion for pharmacy.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Appointments

David White is the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy's new Assistant Dean, Advancement, responsible for overseeing all fundraising activities, alumni affairs, marketing and communications. David joins us from the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation where he was the Senior Director, Campaign & Foundation Operations responsible for the Foundation's major gift fundraising program, finance, human resources and Board relations and led the implementation and execution of the Hospital's multi-million dollar capital campaign.

Jef Ekins is the Faculty's new Marketing and Communications Officer responsible for managing and enhancing the Faculty's image and visibility and communicating and developing relationships

with key internal and external stakeholders. Jef has a strong background in the communications field and joins us from Thomson Carswell, where he has held increasingly senior communications positions over the past 10 years.

Miriam Stephan, the Faculty's new Alumni Affairs Officer, manages all matters pertaining to alumni including the planning and organizing of all alumni-related events, developing and implementing alumni programs, and preparing a variety of communications materials to enhance the Faculty's relationship with its alumni. Prior to joining the Faculty, Miriam was a Development Associate at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. In this position, Miriam was responsible for planning, developing and implementing advancement and alumni activities at the Faculty.

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Individual Faculty News

Dr. Murray Krahn is the Director and Co-Principal Investigator (along with Dr. Louise Lemieux-Charles) of THETA, the Toronto Health Economics and Technology Assessment Collaborative. This is a provincially funded project for \$7 million over 5 years. This funding will support the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in decision making around new drugs and technologies, develop capacity, and develop training programs in Health Technology assessment in conjunction with other faculties, departments and research units at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Sharon Yamashita received the *William McLean Clinical Pharmacist Award*. This award recognizes an active member of the Ontario Branch, CSHP, for their outstanding skills in clinical practice and education. Dr. Yamashita is a coordinator of a Therapeutics course in the undergraduate program.

Student News

Graduate Program

Our graduate enrollment is at an all time high with 148 students in the program as of January 2008.

Major Visitors

Dr. Linda Strand

The Division of Pharmacy Practice had invited Dr. Linda Strand, a Distinguished Professor in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Minnesota, to engage in curricular discussions with faculty teaching in Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Strand is a pharmacist and an educator whose work is internationally recognized. During her visit, Dr. Strand also provided a workshop to practitioners on: *How to establish Pharmaceutical Care Practice at your site: making Pharmaceutical Care a reality for your patients!* This session was provided in conjunction with the Office of Continuous Professional Development.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Individual Faculty News

Dr. Susan Bowles has received the CSHP Pfizer award in Long-Term Care for her paper-Longitudinal Analysis of the Relationship Between Concomitant Anticholinergic Drug Use and Response to Donepezil in Mild-Moderate Alzheimer's Disease. This award was presented at the Annual Professional Practice Conference in Toronto, Sunday January 27.

Dr. Susan Bowles has been elected Vice-Chair of the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion. CCIAP is a coalition of national organizations committed to promotion and education on immunization, contributing to the control, elimination and eradication of vaccine-preventable disease in Canada.

Ingrid Sketris received the Canadian Progress Club - Women of Excellence Award for Education and Research. This award was presented at the Awards Dinner held on November 22, 2007.

A paper that was part of a study funded by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (Neil MacKinnon, PI) is the recipient of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists 2007/08 Innovation in Safe Medication Practices Award. The paper is entitled

“Development of Canadian Safety Indicators for Medication Use”. Dr. MacKinnon’s co-authors on the paper are Rita Nigam, David U, Nicole Hartnell, Adrian Levy, Mary Ellen Gurnham and Tiffany Nguyen. The award will be presented in Toronto in January 2008.

Neil MacKinnon is the pharmacist on the Ascentum team which is completing the next stage of the Blueprint for Pharmacy initiative, “Inter-professional consultations on the Blueprint for Pharmacy.”

Neil MacKinnon and Emily Musing are the co-chairs of the pharmacy working group on the national educational competencies for patient safety, a joint initiative of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute & Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. This is a national initiative to determine the educational competencies of current and future health professionals, including pharmacists, in the area of patient safety. If anyone would like to contribute to this effort, you can email Neil at neil.mackinnon@dal.ca or learn more about this project at: <http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/education/safetycompetencies.html>

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Presentations

Kisely S, Smith A, Cooke C, Tett S, Sketris I, Gardner G. 2007. Is there an Association between the Range of Benzodiazepines available and the Quality of Prescribing? An International Comparison. *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*; 16(S2): 185.

Neil MacKinnon gave the keynote address, “Integration of Research into Practice” at the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Federal Conference in Sydney, Australia in November 2007.

Publications

Caro J, Getsios D, Möller J. 2007. Regarding Probabilistic Analysis and Computationally

Expensive Models: Necessary and Required? *Value Health*; 10(4):317-8. doi 10.1111/j.1524-4733.2007.00176.x.

Grants

Neil MacKinnon is the PI of a new study funded by Pfizer Canada, “Utilization of prescription drugs for hypertension and cholesterol management among enrollees in the Nova Scotia Pharmacare program”.

Dr. Pollen Yeung has been awarded an operating grant from CIHR through the Nova Scotia Regional Partnership Program (CIHR/NSHRF/PEF) to study, “Pharmacokinetic, hemodynamic and neurohormone effects of calcium antagonists in sympathetic activation”.

UNIVERSITÉ LAVAL

White Coat Ceremony

To welcome first-year Bachelor Degree students in Pharmacy at Laval University, the "*Soirée de remise des sarraus*" (*Induction to the Pharmacy Profession – "The White Coat Ceremony"*) was held on Tuesday September 18, 2007. Near 160 students, along with their friends and parents gathered at the University City Theatre, Pavillon Palasis-Prince, where the event took place.

The audience was addressed by a number of distinguished speakers including Mr. Bernard Garnier, Laval University vice-rector for studies and international activities, Mrs. Monique Richer, the university secretary general, and Mr. Jean-Pierre Grégoire, dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Brunet Symposium

Jointly organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Brunet Pharmacies, the annual Brunet Symposium was held on November 2nd 2007. A total of 290 health care professionals and students in pharmacy, medicine and nursing attended the conferences given by 6 experts in the field of infectiology.

Among topics covered during the day were bacterial resistance, *Clostridium difficile* infection, the use of probiotics, and the role of the pharmacist in pandemic influenza.

Symposium on Drug Adhesion

The Symposium on Drug Adhesion was held by the Faculty of Pharmacy in conjunction with the Quebec Drug Utilization Research Network (*Réseau québécois de recherche sur l'usage des médicaments*) on November 13, 2007. The event was a real success with more than 100 participants from various sectors such as universities, hospitals and clinics, governments and agencies, drug industries, and public/private insurance companies. The final seminar of the day gathered representatives of Diabète Québec, Rx&D, Laval University, Pharmacists Board of Quebec, Physicians College of Quebec, and Quebec Drug Council. Mr. Marc Desmarais, director of the Quebec Drug Council, served as president of honour.

General Faculty News

Congratulations to:

Dr. Chantal Guillemette, who was renewed as chairholder of the Canada Research Chair in Pharmacogenomics by the Laval University Vice-Rector of Research and Creation.

Mr. Yves Gariépy, Mr. Jean-Yves Julien, and Mr. Jean-François Bussièrès, all teachers at the Faculty of Pharmacy, who received CPhA Centennial Award. Mr. Bussièrès was also recognized as the Canadian Pharmacist of the Year.

Dr. Jacques Turgeon, former professor at the Laval University Faculty of Pharmacy, who was nominated director of the Research Center of CHUM in Montréal. Dr. Turgeon is the first pharmacist to serve in this position.

Pharmacists Georges-Émile Bourgault, Marie-Aimée Krönstrom and Jenny Lower, who were elected regional representatives of the Quebec Board of Pharmacists for a 4-year term.

Mrs. Anne Dionne (category Teaching), Mrs. Jacinthe Leblanc (category Hospital pharmacist), Charles Milliard (category Pharmacist of Tomorrow), and Dominique Boivin (category Pharmacy Student) who were recipients of the Pharmacist of Heart and Action Prize (*Prix du pharmacien de coeur et d'action*) awarded by the journal L'Actualité Pharmaceutique.

Mrs Marie-Claude Boivin, experiential learning coordinator, who received the Laval University Teaching Excellency Award for her course "Pharmacotherapy in Ambulatory Paediatrics".

Grants

Dr. Olivier Barbier has received 2-year funding from Pfizer Canada for his project entitled “*Do cholesterol-lowering drugs profit of the antioxidant properties of bilirubin ?*”. Dr Barbier has also received 4-year funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for his research “*Hepatic glucuronidation: an efficient way to eliminate and detoxify bile acids ?*”. Dr. Barbier is researcher at the Research Center of CHUL and assistant professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Dr. Frédéric Calon has received funding from 3 different societies for his works in the field of neuroscience. A first grant has been received from the Alzheimer Society of Canada for a project entitled “*A synergistic treatment approach in an Alzheimer’s disease mouse model*”. The International Essential Tremor Foundation (IETF) has also support Dr. Calon’s research with a 2-year-term grant for a research project named: “*Post-mortem neurochemical alterations in essential tremor patients: a clinicopathologic study*”. This project will be conducted in conjunction with Dr. Alex Rajput from University of Saskatchewan. Thirdly, Dr. Calon has received 5-year funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for his

Student News

Congratulations to our students recently named to the Laval University Higher Education Recognition List:

Jocelyn Trottier, M. Sc. Program, for his works supervised by Dr. Olivier Barbier, on hepatic glucuronidation: an efficient way to detoxify and eliminate bile acids. Mr. Trottier is recipient of a grant from Le Fonds de Recherche en Santé du Québec (FRSQ) to pursue his Ph. D. degree.

Marie-Eve Bélanger, Marie-Hélène Bergeron-Boies, Annie Meunier, Amélie Poirier, Geneviève Préfontaine, and Francis Lachance, for excellence in academic achievement during their hospital residency program (M. Sc.).

Congratulations to students for successful achievements:

Jenny Kaeding, Ph. D. student under the supervision of Dr. Olivier Barbier, who was the recipient of the Trainee Research Award during the 16th International Symposium on drugs affecting lipid metabolism, held in October 2007 in New York.

Mélanie Bourque, M. Sc. student under the supervision of Dr. Thérèse DiPaolo, for her abstract

research “*Non-invasive brain gene therapy using PEG-stabilized immunoliposomes*”.

Two additional grants have been approved to Dr. Chantal Guillemette by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Funding will be used for a project on endometrium cancer in collaboration with Dr. Immacula de Vivo from Harvard Medical School and Dr. Alain Bélanger from CHUL Research Center. The second project covered by the funding will evaluate the role in drug metabolism of a new set of proteins discovered in Dr. Guillemette’s laboratory. Dr. Guillemette will be the principal investigator of the 2 projects.

Dr. Frédéric Picard has received a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for a collaborative project with Dr. Zengyi Chang of the University of Pekin, China. The study subject will be on molecular pathways involved in aging.

Dr. Matthieu Guitton has received a grant from the Banting Foundation for a research project entitled: “*Analysis of the Long-Term Involvement of Synaptic Plasticity in Tinnitus: Toward New Therapeutic Strategies*”.

selected for the Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, held in San Diego in November. Mrs. Bourque’s abstract was one of the 700 abstracts accepted amongst more than 16 000 submitted. Her scientific works relate to estrogenic drugs for neuroprotection and neuromodulation.

Julie Méthot, Ph. D., who received a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for her post-doctoral training on the role of genetic variants on the metabolic syndrome and on the myotoxicity of statins.

Marie-Odile Benoit-Biancamano, Judith Bellemare and Anne-Sophie Bélanger, Ph.D. students under the supervision of Dr. Chantal Guillemette, for their outstanding potential for research which has been recognized by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research with individual 3-year period grants.

Dany Arsenault, Ph. D. student and Mélanie Bousquet, M. Sc. student under the supervision of Dr. Frédéric Calon, who received grants to pursue their respective study program.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Academic Appointments

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition welcomed Dr. Anas El-Aneed to the College, effective January 1, 2008. Dr. El-Aneed has a PhD in Biochemistry from Memorial University and was most recently a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Newfoundland and Labrador Center for Health Information. The scope of his expertise ranges from the development of targeted liposomal drug delivery systems to biomedical analysis by mass spectrometric spectrometry. Dr. Adil Nazarali will serve as Head of the Division of Pharmacy, for a three-year period, effective July 1, 2007. Dr. Jeff Taylor returned from Sabbatical Leave in September. During his

absence, Dr. Kerry Mansell served as Assistant Professor and will continue his involvement for another year during Dr. Shannan Neubauer's leave.

Recruitment is underway for three new faculty positions in Clinical Pharmacology/Pharmacy Practice, in the areas of Pediatrics, Neurology and Endocrinology (Diabetes). The University has agreed to co-fund another new position linked to a designated Dean position. A shared faculty position in Community Nutrition has been created, in partnership with the University's new School of Public Health. Recruitment for these positions will begin soon.

General Faculty News

The University is preparing its *Second Integrated Plan*, for the period 2008/09 to 2011/12. As part of this process, the Colleges' Strategic Plan was finalized in October, following faculty planning sessions and consultation with students, staff and leaders in our respective professions. Our new Plan focuses on four strategic directions: To Deliver High Quality, Widely Recognized Undergraduate and Graduate Programs; To Develop and Support Leaders and Agents of Change in Practice, Research and Education; To Build Excellence and Productivity in Scholarship and Leading-edge Research; To Ensure Sustainability through Acquisition and Effective Management of Resources. In addition, we have submitted a proposal for University-wide consideration. Our "*Proposal for a Health Quality Improvement Focus in the Health Sciences*" involves partnering with health science colleges, healthcare colleagues and the Saskatchewan Health Quality Council to expand HQI content and expertise in practice, research and education.

Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Michigan, and College faculty Drs. Ildiko Badea, Gord McKay and Yvonne Shevchuk.

The 16th Annual Pharmacy Professional Enhancement Day took place earlier this fall and featured an excellent presentation by Dr. Michael Namaka from the University of Manitoba. The *Nutrition PED* will take place in March and focus on dietitians in private practice. At the College's annual *White Coat Ceremony*, we had the pleasure of having Professor Emeritus and Former Dean Jim Blackburn deliver the address to the Year 1 Pharmacy students.

In January 2008, senior 4th year pharmacy students Jill Angus and Kyle Wilby undertook an international specialty structured practice experience in Ghana. Involving health promotion and community development, their rotation included working with children and teenagers to educate them about AIDS and also other safety practices, such as hand washing and insect safety. The major objectives for the rotation were:

The BSc in Nutrition program has received Full Accreditation from Dietitians of Canada for the maximum seven year period.

The College hosted a new research event this fall – the *GSK Seminars in Pharmaceuticals and Clinical Pharmacokinetics Professional Development Day*. Speakers included Dr. Gordon Amidon, Walgreen Professor of Pharmacy and Professor of

- 1) To assess the role a Canadian trained pharmacist can have in developing health promotion and prevention programs in the current African AIDS epidemic.
- 2) To identify areas that Canadian pharmaceutical companies can carry out social responsibility initiatives within the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

Individual Faculty News

The *University of Saskatchewan's Distinguished Researcher Award* is presented semi-annually to a faculty member who has made a major contribution to knowledge or artistic creativity in their area of expertise. Dr. Jane Alcorn received this prestigious award at the University's Fall Convocation, in recognition of her outstanding research skills in pharmacokinetics and her commitment to graduate education.

Mr. Ray Joubert, Registrar of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists, and a long time lecturer in law and ethics at the College, was selected to receive the *Canadian Pillar of Pharmacy Award*, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Pharmacy profession.

Mr. Bev Allen, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy, was elected AFPC Councillor and is looking forward to representing the College at the national level. Professor Allen is currently presiding as President of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists, the licensing body for the province.

Grants

Dr. Susan Whiting, Canadian Institutes of Health Research Grant entitled, *?'Beverage Consumption of Canadians in Relation to Chronic Disease Prevention: An Analysis of the Canadian*

Community Health Survey, Cycle 2.2 Nutrition Data?.

Dr. Wendy Dahl, Pulse Canada and Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Grants entitled, *?' The Prebiotic Effects of Chickpeas in Health Human Subjects?.*

Dr. Carol Henry, Patient Centered Interprofessional Team Experiences, *?'Integrating Cultural Competency in Pharmacy and Nutrition Curriculum?.*

The Saskatchewan Drug Information Service (SDIS), managed by Karen Jensen, is pilot testing extended hours of service for the general public. Since December 17th, SDIS Drug Information Consultants have been on-call 5:00 P.M. to 12:00 midnight, 7 days a week, to provide answers and advice on drug-related questions from consumers. Calls are referred from the Saskatchewan HealthLine or consumers can call SDIS directly. The pilot will last until the end of March 2008. The on-call service is answering an average of seven questions per evening and we are hopeful that funding will be provided to continue the extended hours as part of the regular service provided by SDIS.

New Graduate Students and Areas of Research

Christine Bennett, M.Sc. Student (Nutrition and Dietetics) - Supervisor Dr. Gordon Zello

Thesis Project - Development of a Lentil-based, Low Glycemic Index Pre-exercise Meal for Metabolism Studies in intermittent High Intensity Exercise

Swagatika Das, M.Sc. Student (Pharmacy) - Supervisors Drs. Jonathan Dimmock and Dennis Gorecki

Thesis Project - Cytotoxic Thiol Alkylators Containing the 1,5-Diaryl-3-oxo-1,4-pentadienyl Pharmacophore

Valeriya Kotlyarova, M.Sc. Student (Pharmacy) - Supervisor Dr. Jane Alcorn

Thesis Project - Pharmacokinetics or Flaxseed Lignans in Rats

Samantha Mitchell, M.Sc. Student (Nutrition) - Supervisor Dr. Carol Henry

Thesis Project – Nutrition Education (TBD)

Fei Peng, M.Sc. Student (Nutrition and Dietetics) - Supervisor Dr. Brian Bandy

Thesis Project - Biomedical Effects of Berry Anthocyanins

Shari Smith, M.Sc. Student (Nutrition and Dietetics) - Supervisor Dr. Phyllis Paterson

Thesis Project - The Effects of Protein energy Malnutrition on Expression Levels of Pro-inflammatory Mediators and Functional Outcome Following Global Ischemia in Rats

Timothy West, M.Sc. Student (Pharmacy) - Supervisor Dr. Roy Dobson

Thesis Project - Corporate Social Responsibility in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Graduate Students

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition recognizes the following Graduate Students who have been successful in the graduate degree programs:

October 2007 Fall Convocation

Erin Margaret Boyd, M.Sc. Student (Toxicology),
?Phase I and II Enzyme Induction and Inhibition by Secoisolariciresinol Diglucoside and its Aglycone? - Supervisors Drs. Ed Krol and Jane Alcorn.

Aaron Michael Jaeck, M.Sc. Student (Pharmacy),
?Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of the Cannabinoid Content of Combusted Cannable Plant Tissue? - Supervisors Dr. Gord McKay and Mr. John Hudson.

Ester Mi Sun Kang, M.Sc. Student (Nutrition),
?Dietary Flavonoids as Protectors from Ascorbate-induced Oxidative Stress *In Vivo*? - Supervisor Dr. Brian Bandy.

Danette Jacine Nicolay, Ph.D. Student (Pharmacy),
?The Role of Hoxa2 Gene in Oligodendrocyte Development? - Supervisor - Dr. Adil Nazarali.

Juan (Monica) Wang, M.Sc. Student (Pharmacy),
?Conditional Regulation of Hoxa2 Gene Expression in CG4 Cells? - Supervisors Drs. Adil Nazarali and Ron Doucette.

Major Visitors

Trevor Wilson, Global Human Equity Strategist and author, visited the College in January to facilitate a program on “Integration of Cultural Competence into the Pharmacy and Nutrition Curricula.” The project aims to develop “understanding of how diverse people, places, economics and environments are connected” and “best practice initiatives related to culturally sensitive health care delivery.” Sessions were provided to students, faculty and staff in January and Trevor will return in March to provide follow-up and a public lecture.

Dr. E. De Clercq, Professor from Leuven University Medical School will visit the College this month to meet with faculty and present a research seminar. He is a research collaborator with Professor Emeritus Dr. Jonathan Dimmock in his CIHR funded work on antiviral and antitumour activities of acyclic nucleoside phosphonates

Fundraising Success

Through the support of GSK, SaskTel, the Province, University and College, funding is in place for an endowed Chair in Rational Drug Design. New undergraduate awards have been established through the generosity of donors – the *Jack Kay President Apotex Scholarship* and two London Drugs Bursaries. The 2007 Golden Suppository Golf Classic, organized by Bev Allen, generated over \$32,000 this year, through contributions and sponsorship from industry friends and practitioners. Funds from this annual event and other contributions are used to provide seven internal research grants: two *College Research Trust Grants*, the *Golden Suppository Golf Classic Research Grant*; the *Rexall Drug Design and Discovery Research Grant*; the *United Pharmacists’ Grant for Pharmacy Practice Research*; and the *Apotex Pharmacy Research Grant*. We were pleased to install an attractive donor wall last month, adjacent to the College Office, to recognize major donors.

Alumni Honours

Celebrations for the University’s 100th Birthday were capped off this fall with a ceremony that honoured 100 outstanding “*Alumni of Influence*.” This prestigious group included two BSP graduates

of our College – internationally acclaimed scientist in biological psychiatry and neuropsychopharmacology, Dr. Glen Baker, currently Canada Research Chair at the University of Alberta; and internationally recognized author, patient advocate, and expert in patient compliance with medications, Dr. Dorothy Smith. Dr. Baker was also recently honored with the University’s *Alumni Award of Achievement*.

Facilities

Interprofessional health sciences education and research will be facilitated by the new Academic Health Sciences Centre, for which the sod was turned in July 2007. Faculty and staff are active in all aspects of planning. The floor plan of the Apotex Pharmacy Professional Practice Centre, which will be part of an interdisciplinary Clinical Learning and Resources Centre, has been finalized. The new facility is slated to open in stages, from 2010-2013.

September marked the opening of an excellent new facility in the College, which provides new study space for 32 of our graduate students. The facility provides large new, wired study carrels, printers and general use computer.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Academic Appointments/Leaves

The School welcomed a new staff member, Ron Reddy, who has been appointed as a part-time pharmacy skills lab coordinator. He will assist the other pharmacy skills instructors/coordinators in the pharmacy skills stream of the curriculum.

Dr. Linda Hensman is on administrative leave from January 1 – December 31, 2008. Dr. Debbie Kelly is the acting director.

General School News

We had our second annual white coat ceremony at the school. As with last year it was a great success.

Individual Faculty News

Dr. John Weber had an article accepted for publication in *Current Medicinal Chemistry* entitled "Antioxidants and free radical scavengers for the treatment of stroke, traumatic brain injury and aging". The co-authors are Slemmer JE, Shacka JJ, and Sweeney MI.

Dr. Debbie Kelly co-authored an article accepted for publication in *The Annals of Pharmacotherapy* entitled "Abacavir Hypersensitivity Reaction: An Update". This paper was an initiative of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Pharmacists Network, of which Dr. Kelly is a member.

Dr. Rebecca Law gave an oral presentation entitled "The use of self-directed learning and peer-to-peer teaching in a natural health products course" at the 31st McGraw-Hill Ryerson Teaching, Learning & Technology Conference held in Toronto in November 2007. The acceptance rate for submitted abstracts to this conference was 36%.

Dr. Marcel Musteata had three papers accepted for publication. They are:

"Quantitative In Vivo Micro-sampling for Pharmacokinetic Studies Based on an Integrated Solid-Phase Microextraction System", *Analytical Chemistry* (co-authors Xu Zhang, Ali Es-haghi, Gangfeng Ouyang, and Janusz Pawliszyn);

"Evaluation of bio-compatible poly (ethylene glycol)-based solid-phase microextraction fiber for in vivo pharmacokinetic studies of diazepam in dogs", *Analyst* (co-authors Ali Es-haghi, Xu Zhang, F. M. Musteata, Habib Bagheri, and Janusz Pawliszyn); and

"Biocompatible Solid Phase Microextraction Coatings Based on Polyacrylonitrile and SPE Phases", *Analytical Chemistry* (co-authors Musteata, M.L., and Pawliszyn J.).

Grants / Patents / Awards

Dr. Marcel Musteata had a patent awarded for the following: Pawliszyn, J., Lord, H.L., Musteata, F.M. (awarded in 2007): "Multiple sampling device and method for investigating biological systems"; US patent #7,259,019.

Dr. John Weber will receive a grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (\$172,647). The provincial government's Newfoundland and Labrador Industrial Research and Innovation Fund will match funding from the Foundation (\$172,647).

Dr. Rebecca Law has received funding from the Wellness Coalition for a multicultural youth project for the Newfoundland and Labrador - Health in Pluralistic Societies (NL-HIPS). She is the President of NL-HIPS.

Mr. McMeekin will be attending the 45th International Association of Fundraising Professionals on behalf of Newfoundland. He was selected as this year's Chamberlain Scholarship recipient. One Chamberlain Scholar is selected from each chapter to attend.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

It is with profound sadness that the faculty acknowledges the passing of **Dr. John Samuel** on April 17, 2007. Dr Samuel joined the faculty in the fall of 1992 as an Assistant Professor, and rapidly progressed through the ranks to full Professor in 2001. Over the years he established and outstanding research program that received international recognition and made contributions at the leading edge of cancer immunotherapy. His friendship, collegiality and generosity of time and spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Appointments

Dr Mark Makowsky recently joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor. He graduated from the U of S with a Bachelor of Pharmacy with great distinction in 1998, completed a hospital pharmacy residency at the Health Sciences Center in Winnipeg in 2000, and received his PharmD from the University of British Columbia. He recently completed a 2-year postdoctoral research fellowship under the supervision of Dr. Ross Tsuyuki at the Epidemiology Coordinating and Research (EPICORE) Centre/Centre for Community Pharmacy Research and Interdisciplinary Strategies (COMPRIS). Dr Makowsky's practice and research focuses on interdisciplinary collaboration to improve medication management and outcomes in ambulatory patients with chronic conditions.

Cathy Biggs and Teri Charrois have joined the faculty as sessional lecturers. Both Cathy and Teri are currently project coordinators with Epidemiology Coordinating and Research (EPICORE) Centre/Centre for Community

Pharmacy Research and Interdisciplinary Strategies (COMPRIS).

Retirement

The faculty would also like to announce the retirement of Shirley Heschuk in July 2007. Shirley Heschuk joined the faculty in 1986 initially as a sessional lecturer, and then moving onto Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Associate Professor. Her major areas of teaching included: law, ethics, communication, OTCs, nutrition and complementary/alternative medicine (CAM). Nationally she has helped to develop CAM curriculum modules for medical schools across Canada. She has published articles in journals and written chapters in books on topics such as ethics, nutrition, and natural health products. Shirley is retiring to pursue her interests: family, friends, golf, bridge and more learning. We will miss her at the faculty.

General Faculty News

C. Cox, M. Gukert and M. Tachuk: received approval from Alberta Health & Wellness for continuation of support and training of our students with regard to their utilization of the Alberta NETCARE Portal. "Hands on" training will be provided through the Alberta Netcare Deployment Team to the 1st year students as part of the activities in PHARM 342 - Drug Use and Patient Care. Cheryl and Marlene will continue to pursue student access to the "Live" version of NETCARE, when students go out on years 2 and 4 rotations.

The Professional Development Week (PDW) was recently held in Edmonton from January 16 – 19, 2008. The theme of this year's PDW was "Empowering Our Patients" and there were over

700 delegates in attendance from across Canada. Congratulations to the organizing committee for the successful conference!

Awards

Dr. John Seubert: New Investigator Award from Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada. This is the senior Award offered by the HSFC and recognizes individuals who have clearly demonstrated excellence during their pre-doctoral and post-doctoral training in cardiovascular or cerebrovascular research.

Dr. Afsaneh Lavasanifar: recognized by the Elsevier's Journal of Controlled Releases as the "Top 10 most cited articles" in 2005.

Dr. Christine Hughes received the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists 2006/2007 Specialties in Pharmacy Practice Award, for the research project entitled "*The Safety and Effectiveness of Antiretroviral Drugs in Pregnancy*", along with colleagues, Dalcyce Zuk and Dr. Michelle Foisy. This study was designed to evaluate the frequency and severity of adverse effects experienced by pregnant HIV-infected women receiving antiretroviral therapy, as well as the effectiveness of therapy in preventing vertical transmission in our patient population.

Dr. Christine Hughes, along with colleague Dr. Michelle Foisy: received the 2008 Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists National Rationale Drug Use Award for their submission entitled: *Perinatal Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Care: The Role of the Pharmacist*.

Grants

Dr. Mavanur Suresh [co-applicants Drs. John Samuel and John Smit (U British Columbia)] for a Collaborative Health Research Award jointly funded by CIHR-NSERC: "Cancer therapy employing the tumor suppressing bacterium *Caulobacter crescentus*"; \$430,000; 2007 to 2010.

Dr. Mavanur Suresh: from CIHR, \$150,000, over 2 years, for research entitled: "*Targeted Dendritic Cell Vaccines for Influenza: Providing a Vaccine to all 33M Canadians*".

Dr. Mavanur Suresh, with N. Kav and D. Westaway: awarded a 4 year, ~\$536,000 grant from PrionNet Canada for a proposal entitled, "*Antibody core in the Centre for Prions and Protein Folding Diseases*", to establish a monoclonal antibody core platform. This was the only proposal funded by PrionNet. Dr. Kav is with the Department of Agricultural Food and Nutritional Sciences, Dr. Westaway with the Center for Prions and Protein Folding Diseases.

Dr Ayman El-Kadi: awarded NSERC Discovery Grant, \$150 000, over 5 years, for research entitled: Effect of heavy metals on aryl hydrocarbon receptor-regulated genes. Also awarded NSERC Research Tools and Instruments (RTI) Grant , \$53 438, entitled: Real-time PCR for measuring gene expression.

Dr. Afsaneh Lavasanifar: GlaxoSmithKline/ Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences Early Career Award. This Award recognizes outstanding research achievements and contributions of pharmaceutical scientists, working in Canadian academia, industry, government or research institutes, in their first seven years following their graduation from a doctorate program.

Jeff Turchinsky was recognized by the Alberta Pharmacy Students Association (APSA) with the "Dr John Bachynsky Award 2007" for student involvement.

Cathy Biggs was one of the recipients of the University of Alberta Alumni Horizon Award 2007. This Award recognizes the outstanding achievements of University of Alberta alumni early in their careers.

Dr. Raimar Löbenberg: awarded from the Alberta Cancer Board Grant (\$290,739 over 2 years; Inhalable Nanoparticles – a New Non-invasive Way to Treat Lung Cancer).

Dr. John Seubert: received AHFMR Scholar Award as well as CFI Grant (\$157,922; Establishment of a Facility for Molecular and Cellular Analysis in Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences).

Terri Schindel and Dr. Nese Yuksel: awarded a \$160,000 unrestricted educational grant from Wyeth Canada for the development, delivery and evaluation of a women's health program for practicing pharmacists. The program will build on their experiences and successes with two other new programs - Laboratory Values and Anticoagulation. These new programs focus on building patient care skills and confidence and will position pharmacists to succeed in a new era of health care delivery.

Dr. Ed Knaus: approval from CIHR for a proposal entitled, "*The design and evaluation of non-ulcerogenic COX-2 and/or 5-LOX antiarthritic agents and nitric oxide donor prodrug derivatives thereof*." Ranked 1st of 41 applications; recommended term of 3 yrs, \$172,802/yr. The primary objectives involve the design, biological and computational evaluation of novel classes of anti-arthritis drugs that do not elevate blood pressure or increase the incidence of blood clot formation.

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