



College of Pharmacy
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Report to the
Texas Pharmacy Congress
November 16-17, 2023

IPhO Chapter Earns National Title, Best Practices Honors for Social Media, Fundraising

The UHCOP Chapter of the Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) earned the "Top Overall Chapter" title for the 2022-23 academic year at the national organization's 2023 Annual Meeting Sept. 8-10.

In addition to its dominating chapter win with 21 out of a possible 22 points in the IPhO Recognition of Chapter Activity Programs, the chapter also earned "Best Practices" honors for its fundraising and social media programs.

During the year, the chapter hosted networking, mock interview and summer internship workshops as well as talks with



industry professionals and current interns/fellows from such organizations as Amgen, Eli Lilly, EMD Serono, GSK, Ipsen, Novartis/TJU, Novo Nordisk and Precision-VALUE.

Chapter members also traveled to Fort Worth to tour the facilities of Alcon and sent Valentine's Day cards to residents of a Houston senior center.

The chapter's "Social Media Best Practices" included high-quantity, high-quality posts about chapter activities, industry insights and job openings as well as sharing posts from the national accounts. Among its "Fundraising Best Practices" were selling chapter T-shirts – at a net profit of 85% – to help fund activities and guest speaker honoraria and hosting international food sales that also promoted cultural awareness.

Pritchard Presents Chow, Spier with College's Top Awards

UHCOP Dean F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D., R.Ph., presented the college's 2023 Pharmacist Alumnus of the Year Award to **Julie Spier**, R.Ph. ('86), and the 2023 Meritorious Achievement Award to **Diana S-L. Chow**, Ph.D., FNAI, during the 2023 Mading Society Induction & Dinner Oct. 6.

Spier is director of pharmacy operations for the Southern Division of Albertsons-Randalls-Tom Thumb chain of grocery store-based community pharmacies. Appointed to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy in 2018, Spier currently serves as board president. She also has held several officer positions in the Texas Federation of Drug Stores since joining the organization in 2006.

A UHCOP faculty member since 1981, Chow is an internationally recognized expert in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics with more than 10 U.S. and international patents. She is a co-recipient of the Houston Intellectual Property Law Association Inventor of the Year, and a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. Most recently, Chow was recognized with the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools' Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award in 2022.



Diana S-L. Chow (left) and Julie Spier.

C diff. Foundation Recognizes Garey with Innovator Award for Quality of Life Tool

Kevin W. Garey, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP, FIDSA, FCCP, was honored with the Peggy Lillis Foundation for C. diff Education & Advocacy (PLF) 2023 Innovator Award at the organization's 14th Annual Changing the Odds Gala Nov. 3 in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Garey was recognized for the development of the "Cdiff32" health care quality of life instrument spanning physical, mental and social factors to assess changes over time for patients with C diff. infection (CDI). The Cdiff32 instrument was first published by Garey and his collaborators in the September 2016 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology*, and has since been utilized in five additional articles appearing in such journals as *JAMA Network Open* and *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.



Founded in response to the April 2010 death of a 56-year-old kindergarten teacher, PLF is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to combating CDI through educating the public, empowering advocates, and shaping policy.



Pharmacy Month Extravaganza

In celebration of American Pharmacists Month and National Pharmacy Week, members of multiple UHCOP organizations showcased the skills and knowledge pharmacists bring to the community during the Pharmacy Extravaganza on the UH campus Friday, Oct. 20. Organizations' members educated over 300 fellow UH students on health topics such as HPV, medication safety, smoking cessation, and kidney and heart health. In addition, Pharm.D. students distributed Narcan, administered seasonal flu immunizations, and conducted blood pressure and blood glucose screenings.

Jacob McPherson, Pharm.D. ('21), Ph.D. candidate, has been selected as the 2023-24 fellow of the Gulf Coast Consortia T32 Texas Medical Center Post-Doctoral Program in Antimicrobial Resistance. Professor **Kevin Garey**, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP, FIDSA, FCCP, serves as McPherson's graduate advisor.

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ThanhPhuong Le, Pharm.D. ('17), Ph.D. student, has been awarded a one-year, \$76,727 Postdoctoral Biomedical Informatics and Data Science Fellowship from National Library of Medicine (NLM) for her project, "Resistance Development to C. difficile RNA

College Appoints First Assistant Dean for Assessment and Accreditation

Brian Dzwonek, Ed.D., has been appointed as college's first assistant dean for assessment and accreditation.

His responsibilities include the design, development and implementation of strategies, tools, and processes to assess student academic performance, faculty teaching effectiveness, course effectiveness, and overall effectiveness of the Pharm.D. program in compliance with the college's Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education accreditation.



Dzwonek earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He earned a Master of Education degree from South Dakota State University, followed by a Doctor of Education degree from the University of South Dakota. Before joining UHCOP, he served as the assistant dean for assessment and quality improvement at the University of Houston Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine.

Polymerase Antibiotics." Le is working under the mentorship of UHCOP Professor **Kevin Garey** and Rice University Professor **Todd Treangen**, Ph.D.

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The UHCOP Rho Chi Society Beta Omicron Chapter welcomed Sarah Lake-Wallace, Pharm.D., M.S., FTSHP, director of medication safety at Memorial Hermann Health System, as the 2023 Robert L. Boblitt Lecturer Oct. 23. Lake-Wallace presented "Accidents and Inspirations Lead You to Your Destination – Creating Pharmacy Care through Creativity and Humility."

Faculty @ Research News

Nine faculty members have received promotions, effective Sept. 1: **Bernadette Asias-Dinh**, Pharm.D., clinical associate professor; **Krishna Boini**, Ph.D., associate professor with tenure; **Austin De La Cruz**, Pharm.D., clinical associate professor; **Kimberly Nguyen**, Pharm.D., clinical associate professor; **Alexander Stasyuk**, Ph.D., associate professor with tenure; **Meghna Trivedi**, Pharm.D., Ph.D., professor with tenure; **Gomika Udugamasooriya**, Ph.D., professor with tenure; **Matthew Wanat**, Pharm.D., clinical professor; and **Yang Zhang**, Ph.D., professor with tenure.

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Austin De La Cruz, Pharm.D., BCPP, clinical associate professor, has been recognized by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy's Series Editors of the Ambulatory Care Self-Assessment Program for his work as a contributing author on the series.

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Julianna Fernandez, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP, clinical associate professor, presented "Incorporating Social Services for a Holistic

Approach to Pain Management in the Older Adult," in the Geriatric Practice Research Network sessions at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy 2023 Annual Meeting Nov. 11-14 in Dallas.

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Natalie Rosario, Pharm.D., MPH, BCACP, clinical assistant professor, has been appointed to the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research's Healthy People Curriculum Task Force (HPCTF) Clinical Prevention and Population Health Curriculum Framework Workgroup. She also has been appointed scholarship co-chair of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Health Disparities and Cultural Competency Committee.

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Meghna Trivedi, Pharm.D., Ph.D., BCOP, professor, presented her poster, "Designing an immunofluorescence-based biomarker assay for detecting Rb and Phospho-Rb expression in HR+/HER2-breast cancer," during CPRIT's Innovations in Cancer Prevention and Research Conference Oct. 2-3 in Galveston.

College Appoints 9 New Faculty Members Across 3 Departments

Department of Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research

Aayna Shamsi, Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor, is a 2017 alumna of UHCOP's Pharm.D. program as well as its 2022-23 Fellowship in Academic Pharmacy. As a fellow, she was engaged in didactic, skills-based and experiential teaching capacities, in-patient and outpatient care settings, and research in the scholarship of teaching and learning. Shamsi worked in the community pharmacy setting for five years where she pursued several leadership and teaching roles within her company. She is now conducting research on the role of emotional intelligence on student outcomes.



Cole Wilder, Pharm.D., M.Ed., BCPS, BCCCP, clinical assistant professor, earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Carson-

Newman University (College) in Jefferson City, Tenn., a Pharm.D. degree from Appalachian College of Pharmacy in Oakwood, Va.; and a master of education degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Texas at Tyler. He also completed a PGY1 Pharmacy Residency at Ballad Health (formerly Wellmont) Bristol Regional Medical Center in Bristol, Tenn., and additional post-graduate training in emergency medicine at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, Fla.



Wilder's clinical research interests include health disparities, with a particular focus on mitigating barriers to care experienced by rural populations, developing pharmacist-driven interventions to address STIs and substance use disorder in medically underserved rural areas.

Department of Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Tasneem Bawa-Khalfe, Ph.D., associate professor, is a joint appointee with the Center for Nuclear Receptors & Cell Signaling at UH's College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics. She earned her Ph.D. in pharmacology from UHCOP. Focused on studying how cancer cells exploit select post-translational modification (PTM) systems to drive cancer progression, Bawa-Khalfe's research is supported by a five-year, \$1.8 million R01 grant from the National Cancer Institute as well as a mentored training grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

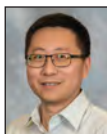


Radbod Darabi, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor, earned his M.D. from Zahedan University of Medical Sciences in Zahedan, Iran, and a Ph.D. of Pharmacology from Iran University of Medical Sciences in Tehran, Iran. He completed postdoctoral fellowships at Lillehei Heart Institute at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.



The main interest of Darabi's lab is to use pluripotent stem cells for skeletal muscle regeneration in muscular dystrophies and muscle injuries. Darabi serves as investigator or co-investigator on grants totaling over \$3.1 million from the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health, with an additional \$2.1 million in past support from the NIH and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Lianjie Miao, Ph.D., research assistant professor, earned his Ph.D. degree from Nanchang University in China and studied at Albany Medical College in Albany, N.Y., as a visiting student, where he also completed a postdoctoral fellowship. Miao is studying the function and formation of the Tunneling



Nanotube-Like microstructure between cardiomyocytes and endocardial cells in the heart during early cardiac morphogenesis as well as the heterogeneity of the pro-epicardium and the origin of pacemaker progenitor cells by single-cell sequencing and cell lineage tracing.

Ravi Singh, Ph.D., assistant professor, earned his Ph.D. degree in molecular, cellular and developmental biology from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. His postdoctoral training was at Baylor College of Medicine, and he served as an assistant professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin before joining UHCOP. His current research investigation, "Identify a new non-canonical role of MEF2D α 2 protein isoform in skeletal muscle metabolism," is supported by a two-year R21 grant from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.



Rongjin Sun, Ph.D., research assistant professor, earned a master's degree in pharmacy from Jiangxi University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Jiangxi, China, and a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology from Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine in Guangzhou, China. He recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of UHCOP Professor Ming Hu, Ph.D.



Sun's research interests are focused in three areas: mechanisms, biomarkers and prevention of drug-induced liver/intestinal toxicity; manipulating the local bioavailability of drug candidates or drugs for improved efficacy and reduced side effects via regulation of the transporters and enzymes; and studying the PK characterization of drugs and deploying PK/PD modeling analysis and biostatistics services for potential anti-cancer drugs.

Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy

Dipali Rinker, Ph.D., LPC, research assistant professor, earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Trinity University in San Antonio, a master's degree in clinical psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and a Ph.D. in public health from the University of Texas Health Science Center.



Her research projects have focused on alcohol use and problem gambling among college students, colon cancer screening in veterans, nicotine dependence, and eating disorders. Rinker has served as coordinator, co-investigator and principal investigator on grants funded by such organizations as the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Center for Responsible Gaming.

Moosa Tatar, Ph.D., assistant professor, earned a master's degree in

economics, planning and analysis of economic systems from Azad University, Science and Research Branch, in Tehran, Iran; a Ph.D. in public sector economics at the University of Mazandaran in Babolsar, Iran; and a Ph.D. in health services research, administration and policy from University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Neb.



In addition, he completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Center for Value-Based Care Research at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. He also served as a visiting scholar at the University of Utah and the University of Missouri-Columbia.

His research focuses on the use of large-scale empirical datasets to explore public health issues and evaluate health policies. The goal of his research is to achieve health equity, eliminate disparities and improve health.

Recent Publications

- Optimization of Opioid Discharge Prescriptions Following Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery. Rizk E, Yuan F, Zheng F, Fink E, Kaur N, Tran AT, Iso T, Mohyuddin NG, Thekdi AA, Jackson GL, **Wanat MA, Thornton JD, Swan JT.** Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2023 Jul;169(1):176-184. doi: 10.1177/01945998221121626. Epub 2023 Jan 29. PMID: 36040827
- Evaluation of student emotional intelligence at various points in a pharmacy curriculum. **Biju A, Wanat MA, El-Desoky R, Vu C, Varkey D.** Curr Pharm Teach Learn. 2023 Jun;15(6):573-580. doi: 10.1016/j.cptl.2023.06.005. Epub 2023 Jun 22. PMID: 37355382
- Reduction of systemic exposure and side effects by intra-articular injection of anti-inflammatory agents for osteoarthritis: what is the safer strategy? **Xie Z, Wang L, Chen J, Zheng Z, Srinual S, Guo A, Sun R, Hu M.** J Drug Target. 2023 Jun 9;1-16. doi: 10.1080/1061186X.2023.2220083. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37249274
- Factors influencing prescribing the first add-on disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs in patients initiating methotrexate for rheumatoid arthritis. **Huang Y, Chatterjee S, Agarwal SK, Chen H, Johnson ML, Aparasu RR.** Explor Res Clin Soc Pharm. 2023 Jun 15;11:100296. doi: 10.1016/j.rcsop.2023.100296. eCollection 2023 Sep. PMID: 37521021
- Adherence to oral endocrine therapy in racial/ethnic minority patients with low socioeconomic status before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Rahimi S, Ononogbu O, Mohan A, Moussa D, Abughosh S, Trivedi MV.** Int J Clin Pharm. 2023 Jun 28. doi: 10.1007/s11096-023-01609-6. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37380914
- In vitro model to simulate multiple drugs with distinct elimination half-lives. **Hudson CS, Smith JE, Eales BM, Nikolaou M, Tam VH.** Int J Antimicrob Agents. 2023 Jul 9;62(4):106924. doi: 10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2023.106924. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37433386
- Assessing treatment switch among patients with multiple sclerosis: A machine learning approach. **Li J, Huang Y, Hutton GJ, Aparasu RR.** Explor Res Clin Soc Pharm. 2023 Jul 10;11:100307. doi: 10.1016/j.rcsop.2023.100307. eCollection 2023 Sep. PMID: 37554927
- Comparison of Risk Stratification Approaches to Identify Patients with Clostridioides difficile Infection at Risk for Multidrug-Resistant Organism Gut Microbiota Colonization. Zasowski EJ, **Ali M, Anugo A, Ibragimova N, Dotson KM, Endres BT, Begum K, Alam MJ, Garey KW.** Infect Dis Ther. 2023 Jul 12. doi: 10.1007/s40121-023-00843-9. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37436677
- Decoding a cryptic mechanism of metronidazole resistance among globally disseminated fluoroquinolone-resistant Clostridioides difficile. Olaitan AO, Dureja C, Youngblom MA, Topf MA, Shen WJ, **Gonzales-Luna AJ, Deshpande A, Hevener KE, Freeman J, Wilcox MH, Palmer KL, Garey KW, Pepperell CS, Hurdle JG.** Nat Commun. 2023 Jul 12;14(1):4130. doi: 10.1038/s41467-023-39429-x. PMID: 37438331
- Safety and Efficacy of Riluzole in Acute Spinal Cord Injury Study (RISCIS): A Multi-Center, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blinded Trial. Fehlings MG, Moghaddamjou A, Harrop JS, Stanford R, Ball J, Aarabi B, Freeman BJC, Arnold PM, Guest JD, Kurpad SN, Schuster JM, Nassr A, Schmitt KM, Wilson JR, Brodke DS, Ahmad FU, Yee A, Ray WZ, Brooks NP, Wilson J, **Chow DS, Touns EG, Kopjar B.** J Neurotrauma. 2023 Jul 13. doi: 10.1089/neu.2023.0163. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37279301
- Management of metastatic melanoma in Texas: disparities in the utilization of immunotherapy following the regulatory approval of immune checkpoint inhibitors. **Olateju OA, Zeng Z, Thornton JD, Mgbere O, Essien EJ.** BMC Cancer. 2023 Jul 13;23(1):655. doi: 10.1186/s12885-023-11142-4. PMID: 37442992
- High FOXA1 levels induce ER transcriptional reprogramming, a pro-metastatic secretome, and metastasis in endocrine-resistant breast cancer. Fu X, Pereira R, Liu CC, De Angelis C, Shea MJ, Nanda S, Qin L, Mitchell T, Cataldo ML, Veeraraghavan J, Sethunath V, Giuliano M, Gutierrez C, Györfi B, **Trivedi MV, Cohen O, Wagle N, Nardone A, Jeselsohn R, Rimawi MF, Osborne CK, Schiff R.** Cell Rep. 2023 Jul 18;42(8):112821. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2023.112821. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37467106
- Effect of Fecal Microbiota, Live-Jslm (REBYOTA [RBL]) on Health-Related Quality of Life in Patients With Recurrent Clostridioides difficile Infection: Results From the PUNCH CD3 Clinical Trial. **Garey KW, Dubberke ER, Guo A, Harvey A, Yang M, Garcia-Horton V, Fillbrunn M, Wang H, Tillotson GS, Bancke LL, Feuerstadt P.** Open Forum Infect Dis. 2023 Jul 20;10(8):ofad383. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofad383. eCollection 2023 Aug. PMID: 37564743
- Impact of the AACAP practice parameters on the metabolic adverse event monitoring for second-generation antipsychotics (SGAs) in children and adolescents. **Sanyal S, Calarge CA, Rowan PJ, Aparasu RR, Abughosh S, Chen H.** J Psychiatr Res. 2023 Jul 22;165:170-173. doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychires.2023.07.017. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37506412
- Rethinking access to care: A spatial-economic analysis of the potential impact of pharmacy closures in the United States. Adepoju OE, Kiaghadi A, Shokouhi Niaki D, Karunwi A, **Chen H, Woodard L.** PLoS One. 2023 Jul 27;18(7):e0289284. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0289284. eCollection 2023. PMID: 37498949
- Outpatient opioid prescribing by Alzheimer's diagnosis among older adults with pain in United States. Huang Y, **Aparasu RR, Varisco TJ.** BMC Geriatr. 2023 Aug 1;23(1):465. doi: 10.1186/s12877-023-04115-6. PMID: 37528367
- Donor-recipient specificity and age-dependency in fecal microbiota therapy and probiotic resolution of gastrointestinal symptoms. Wu Q, Boonma P, Badu S, Yalcinkaya N, So SY, **Garey KW, Williams K, Arnold LE, Shulman RJ, Kellermayer R, Savidge TC.** NPJ Biofilms Microbiomes. 2023 Aug 3;9(1):54. doi: 10.1038/s41522-023-00421-4. PMID: 37537181
- Risk of incident cardiovascular events with disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs among adults with rheumatoid arthritis: a nested case-control study. **Huang Y, Agarwal SK, Chatterjee S, Chen H, Johnson ML, Aparasu RR.** Clin Rheumatol. 2023 Aug 4. doi: 10.1007/s10067-023-06709-2. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37540382
- What is the PhORCAS(t) for international and refugee student pharmacists applying to ASHP-accredited residency programs? **El-Desoky R, Rosario N, Alshrouf H.** Am J Health Syst Pharm. 2023 Aug 4;80(16):1090-1095. doi: 10.1093/ajhp/zxad109. PMID: 37218347
- Estrogen-Related Receptor Gamma Gene Therapy Promotes Therapeutic Angiogenesis and Muscle Recovery in Preclinical Model of PAD. Sopariwala DH, Rios AS, Saley A, **Kumar A, Narkar VA.** J Am Heart Assoc. 2023 Aug 15;12(16):e028880. doi: 10.1161/JAHA.122.028880. Epub 2023 Aug 7. PMID: 37548153
- Real-World Comparative Effectiveness of Methotrexate-Based Combinations for Rheumatoid Arthritis: A Retrospective Cohort Study. **Huang Y, Agarwal SK, Chen H, Chatterjee S, Johnson ML, Aparasu RR.** Clin Ther. 2023 Aug 10;S0149-2918(23)00231-X. doi: 10.1016/j.clinthera.2023.06.024. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37573225
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- Zileuton ameliorates aminoglycoside and polymyxin-associated acute kidney injury in an animal model. **Hudson CS, Smith JE, Eales BM, Kajiji S, Liu X, Truong LD, Tam VH.** J Antimicrob Chemother. 2023 Aug 11;dkad246. doi: 10.1093/jac/dkad246. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37563789
- Consumer Likelihood to Seek Information on OTC Medicines. Taylor JG, Ayosanmi OS, **Sansgiry SS, Perpelkin JP.** Pharmacy (Basel). 2023 Aug 11;11(4):128. doi: 10.3390/pharmacy11040128. PMID: 37624083