



The University of New Mexico

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO • HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY



Lobo Pharmacy Central

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DEAN'S MESSAGE



Reflections on My First Year

As November has come to a close and I complete my first year as Dean, I would like to reflect on the accomplishments that have been achieved. The College of Pharmacy has new vision and mission statements, and strategic goals and objectives have been identified. Our strategic planning committee has a strategy to identify our strategic actions and the development of "micro-plans" around these actions. New committees were named and include the admissions committee, facilities and space utilization committee, faculty compensation task force, graduate education and research committee, information technology advisory committee, student scholastic achievement and progression committee, a staff council and the fiesta committee, which organizes celebrations in the College. The curriculum committee has proposed new competencies for our professional program and is developing a new curriculum for consideration by the faculty in 2004. The RIB (Research Incubator Building) is nearing completion and will be occupied, in part, by our newly-NIH funded New Mexico Center for Environmental Health Sciences in February. Planning continues for the Health Science Center's Research Building and Education Building which will be extensively utilized by our faculty and students. I established a

Dean's Giving Circle, composed of donors who made significant personal commitments to the College and named an Executive Advisory Board, which met in October. We held our first White Coat Ceremony in August at the conclusion of our new orientation program for first-year students and I established regular meetings with the student body. I established and we recruited a Director of Student Services, Dr. Megan Thompson, who will be responsible for recruiting, admission processes and career advisement for students. The College was reviewed for accreditation in April and accreditation was continued until June 2005. We will be again visited by the ACPE in April 2005. The pharmacy practice residency program and specialty residency in infectious diseases pharmacotherapy at UNM Hospital and the College of Pharmacy were reviewed for accreditation in July and will be fully accredited in March 2004. The year has been full of challenges and rewards. None of the above accomplishments would have been possible without the committed work of our faculty, staff, alumni, state-wide practitioners or the Vice President for Health Sciences. I look forward to more accomplishments during my second year as your Dean.

Dean John A. Pieper

CALENDAR

December 1, 2003, 4pm, Dr. Fadi Xu (LRR), "Interaction of hypoxia and stimulation of pulmonary C-fibers in control of breathing," Room B15

December 7-11, 2003, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

December 13-20, 2003, Final Examinations, Fall 2003 Semester

December 19, 2003, 6pm, UNM General Commencement, University Arena

January 13-14, 2004, COP Retreat, Tanoan Country Club

January 18, 2004, NMPHA Mid-Winter Meeting, Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North

January 28, 2004, 1-2pm, Student Open House, COP Administrative Offices

May 14, 2004, 6:30pm, Graduation and Awards Banquet, Hyatt Regency, 330 Tijeras NW

May 15, 2004, 9am, UNM General Commencement, University Arena

May 15, 2004, 2pm, COP Commencement, Kiva Auditorium, Albuquerque Convention Center

NEW MEXICO BOARD OF PHARMACY

In 1889, the territorial governor of New Mexico established the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy, making it the oldest established Board in the state. The Board is given the mission of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public through the administration and enforcement of several statutes. These statutes include: the Pharmacy Act; the Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act; the Controlled Substance Act; the Drug Product Selection Act; the

Imitation Controlled Substance Act; the Drug Precursor Act; the Impaired Pharmacist Act; and the Pharmacist Prescriptive Authority Act. In addition to the New Mexico statutes, the Board also promulgates regulations in support of these statutes.

The Board not only licenses pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns, but also issues licenses to 16 different types of facilities where prescription drug products are stored or distributed and to practitioners wishing to dispense, possess, or write prescriptions for controlled substances. In all, the Board of Pharmacy issues licenses to approximately 16,000 applicants.

The actual Board is comprised of nine individuals. There are six pharmacist members and three public members. The state is divided into quadrants and a central district. There is one pharmacist member appointed from each of these districts and one at-large member to represent the hospital pharmacists. The three public members are at-large members. The Governor appoints board members for five-year terms and no member may serve more than two full five-year terms.

The Board of Pharmacy employs seven state drug inspectors and five administrative staff to carry out the mission of the Board. The state drug inspectors must be qualified as registered pharmacists and must be certified law enforcement officers. Inspectors are involved in a wide range of activities; including arrests of violators of the controlled substances laws, educational activities involving the public and licensees, and inspection of facilities throughout the state. Inspectors also participate on several task forces involving various federal and state law enforcement agencies. State Drug Inspectors are also cross-commissioned with the Food and Drug Administration and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Education of licensees and the public is a big part of the inspectors' workload and

throughout the year make in excess of 25 presentations to community service groups, licensees, other medical professionals, and law enforcement agencies. The Board's website can be accessed at: <http://www.state.nm.us/pharmacy/>

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

The University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Megan Thompson as Director of Student Services and Assistant Professor of Pharmacy (Clinician Educator). Dr. Thompson's assumed her position on December 1, 2003. Megan graduated from the UNM COP in 2001 with the Pharm.D. degree and was employed as a pharmacist at Smiths Food and Drug prior to accepting this position.

As Director of Student Services, Dr. Thompson will be responsible for developing and coordinating the professional student recruitment program, career advisement programs for professional students, and pre-pharmacy societies at UNM and other 2- and 4-year colleges in the state of New Mexico. She will also coordinate the admissions processes for professional students including oversight of interview scheduling and communications with admitted and alternate list students. Dr. Thompson will serve as the Dean's liaison to student organizations and coordinate students' participation in national meetings as well as the orientation program for entering first-year students.

Dr. Thompson will also assist in the coordination of an over-the-counter medication and alternative medicine course, as well as provide PBL instruction and develop a clinical practice site in an ambulatory setting.

PHI LAMBDA SIGMA

On November 14, 2003, 15 students and two alumni were inducted into the Gamma Alpha chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma. The University of New Mexico chapter is the 73rd chapter to be chartered. The purpose of Phi Lambda Sigma, the national Pharmacy Leadership Society, is to promote the development of leadership qualities, especially among pharmacy students. Members are selected by peer recognition. No greater honor can be bestowed upon an individual than to be recognized as a leader by one's peers. Such recognition instills and enhances self-confidence, encourages the less active student to a more active role and promotes greater effort toward the advancement of pharmacy.

Founded in 1965, through the creative imagination of Alabama pharmacist Charlie Thomas, then a student at Auburn University School of Pharmacy, Phi Lambda Sigma celebrates many years of leadership recognition. Believing that leaders needed recognition for their contributions to our profession, the Alpha chapter of Auburn University was chartered in 1965 and thus began the tradition that is Phi Lambda Sigma today. The membership of the society is rich in leadership diversity and values the enduring support of the many friends, deans, advisors, faculty, alumni and student members.

The initiation ceremony was held in the Nursing/Pharmacy Auditorium at 5:30pm. Representing Phi Lambda Sigma was Jillian James, National Speaker of the House, and a 4th-year student at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. Ms. James led the ceremony for the inductees. Also officiating at the ceremony were Dean John A. Pieper and Interim Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Donald A. Godwin, as PLS faculty advisor. During the ceremony, each inductee was announced by Dr. Godwin when they proceeded to the front of the room. Each inductee then recited the oath of

Phi Lambda Sigma. Following a candle lighting ceremony, Dean Pieper and Dr. Godwin pinned each member with the Phi Lambda Sigma mortar and pestle key pin. Each member also received a certificate, and green and gold honor cords to be worn at graduation. A reception was held following the ceremony.

Phi Lambda Sigma Student Initiates:

1. Brandi Beyhan
2. Kathy (Que-Huong) Dong
3. Michael Faithe
4. Diana Gabaldon
5. Katie Gruchalla
6. Andrew Harmon
7. Kelly Hoggatt
8. Candice Lipcaman
9. Deborah McNutt
10. Michael Monske
11. Jeff Nygren
12. Gretchen Ray
13. Daniel Riding
14. Sarah Rivera
15. Amber Swanson
16. Niki Valdez

Phi Lambda Sigma Alumni Initiates:

1. Joy Donelson
2. John Heaton



Charter initiation class of Gamma Alpha chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma. L-R: Joy Donelson (Class of 1951), Andrew Harmon, Katie Gruchalla, Niki Valdez, Michael Faithe, Kathy Dong, Kelly Hoggatt, Mike Monske, Brandi Beyhan, Sarah Rivera, Deborah McNutt, Candice Lipcaman, Daniel

Riding, Gretchen Ray, Diana Gabaldon, John Heaton (Class of 1963). Not pictured: Amber Swanson.



Candlelight ceremony



Representative John Heaton and Dean John A. Pieper address the initiates



Joy Donelson and Kathy Dong



Dean Pieper, Jillian James (Phi Lambda Sigma National Speaker of the House), and Dr. Godwin



l-r: Pharm.D. student Juan Adame & Mary Margaret Doyle, CVS Pharmacy

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY CAREER FAIR

On October 22, 2003, the University of New Mexico chapter of the American Pharmacist Association – Academy of Students of Pharmacy (APhA-ASP) held its fall career fair. More than 20 employers had booths at the event and several conducted interviews at the College for both new graduate and intern positions. The money raised from this event will assist students with travel to regional and national APhA meetings. APhA-ASP would like to thank everyone, who both helped and participated, for their support.



l-r: Marcy George and Ernest Dole, Pharm.D., Lovelace Sandia Health Systems representatives, speak to participant

FACULTY NEWS

Denise Cuellar, R.Ph., was a recent participant in the Nonprescription Medicines Academy (NMA), as one of 40 faculty attendees representing colleges and schools of pharmacy from North America. This 6th annual meeting of the NMA was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The goal of the meeting was to facilitate a learning environment and networking opportunity for faculty to advance education and research in the area of nonprescription therapy.

FOCUS ON FACULTY

Mary K. Walker, Ph.D. obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Environmental Toxicology in 1991 and joined the UNM COP basic science faculty in 1997. Her research interests focus on the role of the aryl hydrocarbon (Ah) receptor, a DNA-binding protein, in cardiovascular development and function. She currently employs five people in her research laboratory, including two Ph.D. scientists, a predoctoral graduate student, a senior technician, and an undergraduate laboratory assistant.

One of the research approaches taken in the studies in her laboratory is to use the environmental pollutant, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin, as a high affinity ligand for the Ah receptor and to

study the molecular and cellular mechanisms by which it causes cardiovascular structural and functional changes. Recent epidemiology studies suggest that humans exposed to dioxin exhibit an increased risk of dying from hypertension and heart disease. To investigate this relationship further, a newly funded grant proposal, "Fetal Dioxin Exposure and Adult Heart Disease," will support studies to determine whether fetal dioxin exposure increases the risk of hypertension and cardiac hypertrophy in adulthood.

In a second approach to studying the role of the Ah receptor, researchers in her laboratory study cardiovascular function in mice genetically lacking the Ah receptor. These studies are revealing some very surprising results. Mice lacking the Ah receptor develop cardiac hypertrophy as they age, but only those mice maintained at high altitude (i.e. in ABQ) also develop hypertension associated with elevated endothelin-1. Thus, these mice appear to represent a new animal model for altitude-induced hypertension. The human implications for these results are that genetic polymorphisms in the human Ah receptor may contribute to hypertension in humans and may increase the risk of hypertension at high altitudes.

Dr. Walker contributes to the COP professional and graduate programs by teaching the renal and cardiovascular pharmacology blocks in Pharm 731 and a new course "Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology" (Pharm 576). She serves as the co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and co-director of the Toxicology graduate program. When she is not busy with her COP or research responsibilities, you can find her hiking in the Sandias or perusing fabrics in any number of Albuquerque quilt shops.

[STAFF NEWS](#)

Lisa Allen has joined the College as an Administrative Assistant 1. She will be

serving as faculty support for Drs. Anderson, Dominguez, Heideman, Marshik and Ms. Wittstrom. Before coming to the College, Lisa served as faculty support at the UNM College of Education.

Rosemarie Anderson has left the College to pursue other career interests. She served in the Student Services office.

Bronwin Stapleton, Ph.D., has joined the lab of Dr. Craig Marcus as a post-doctoral fellow. She received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Queensland, Australia. Her research interests include the study of marine organisms, and the purification, characterization and synthesis of bioactive compounds from marine organisms.

[FOCUS ON STAFF](#)

Vanessa Harris currently serves as Supervisor, Academic Advisement at the College. Before coming to the College in 2000, she served as an Administrative Assistant at the School of Medicine. Vanessa received an B.A. in political science at the University of South Carolina and a M.S. in public administration from UNM. She is currently taking coursework in the educational assessment program. Vanessa was also an inaugural participant in the UNM Management Academy and graduated in September 2003. She established the College's Pre-Pharmacy Society comprised of UNM and TVI students taking pre-requisites for entrance into the Pharm.D. program. Vanessa is active in several educational activities: New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference board member; HSC AHEC (assists students with funds for rural rotations); UNM ADVISEL Council (identifies and provides mentors for academic advisement faculty and staff); and the HSC STAR Council. She is married to Jimmy and has two sons – Jeremy, age 9, and Jordan, age 4, who are very active in soccer.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

TOXICOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM

Andrew “Drew” Burdick recently defended his dissertation entitled “Mechanisms of growth factor receptor activation by metabolites of benzo(a)pyrene in human mammary epithelial cells.” He has been conducting research in Dr. Scott Burchiel’s laboratory and has found that benzo(a)pyrene, a rodent mammary carcinogen, can mimic growth factor signaling in human mammary epithelial cells. Drew’s research further characterized the ability of benzo(a)pyrene metabolites to activate the epidermal growth factor receptor through the production of reactive oxygen species. Growth factor receptor activation by environmental pollutants may represent a mechanism by which these compounds contribute to human breast carcinogenesis. Drew received a B.S. in Environmental Health from Colorado State University. His future plans include a postdoctoral fellowship at Penn State University, State College, PA. His mentor will be Dr. Jeffrey Peters and his research will be focused on understanding the role of peroxisome proliferator activated receptors (PPARs) in skin and colon cancer.

RADIOPHARMACY GRADUATE PROGRAM

Tapan Nayak is a graduate of the University of Mumbai School of Pharmacy and a second-year student in the Pharmaceutical Sciences/Radiopharmaceutical Sciences graduate program. He is currently completing his thesis research which investigates the effects of gemcitabine on somatostatin receptor expression and the effects of combination therapy on neoplastic cells in vitro. Somatostatin receptors are normally expressed in many neuroendocrine tissues such as the pituitary or pancreas, and highly over expressed in malignant neoplasms arising from these organs. This makes them a potential target for receptor-based drug delivery. One aim of this work is to determine the potential role of gemcitabine pre-treatment in somatostatin-

receptor targeted therapy. This targeted therapy uses radiolabeled somatostatin analogues to deliver cytotoxic doses of somatostatin and harmful radiation. It is hypothesized that gemcitabine may increase somatostatin receptor expression in tumors thus increasing the fraction of the administered drug reaching the target tissue. Gemcitabine is also known to inhibit DNA repair and thereby act as a radiation sensitizer. It is hoped combination therapy using gemcitabine and somatostatin receptor targeted therapy may result in enhanced cytotoxicity with fewer side effects. If successful, the results of this in vitro work will be translated into a clinical research study next year in patients with GI malignancies. It is further hoped that combining gemcitabine with somatostatin receptor targeted therapy will result in improved outcomes for patients with malignancies.

PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION GRADUATE PROGRAM

The ISPOR UNM chapter is actively involved with the ISPOR Student Network composed of 24 student chapters from the U.S., Canada and the U.K. The ISPOR UNM Chapter has been elected to the Newsletter Subcommittee of the Student Network. The ISPOR UNM chapter, along with two other chapters, is responsible for creating the ISPOR Newsletter and the student corner of the ISPOR Connections. Each newsletter is published on a bi-monthly basis and can be accessed at the following link:

http://www.ispor.org/student/newsletter_index.htm

STUDENT NEWS

APHA-ASP MIDYEAR REGIONAL MEETING

The UNM American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Students of Pharmacy (APhA-ASP) members traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada, October 31, for a

weekend of professional development and professionalism.

Opportunities for professional development included seminars and a career fair. Students attended workshops on networking, professionalism, business etiquette, enhancing the value of a Pharm.D. degree, and pharmacy technology. These workshops provided attendees valuable knowledge to aid in fulfilling their aspirations and realizing the unlimited potential of the student pharmacist.

The most rewarding portion of the meeting was the ability to make an impact on the profession of pharmacy via the Policy Proposal Forum. This forum affords students the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of pharmacy by proposing, discussing, defending, and voting on proposals that may one day change the way pharmacy is practiced. Of the 22 policies passed, a full third of those were brought forward by UNM College of Pharmacy students. Overall, 90% of UNM's policies were accepted.

These numbers demonstrate phenomenal effort and influence on the part of our students. UNM attendees were recognized and awarded as the chapter with the most impressive participation. Dr. Matthew Borrrego, APhA-ASP faculty advisor, was proud of the impact UNM students made upon the student members and faculty from the other Region 8 schools. Borrrego said, "UNM students have proven to be a real force, with real influence, in this region. I was very impressed with the showing made by our students, as were the faculty of other schools who complemented the turnout and involvement of our chapter. I was pleased with the level of professionalism exhibited by our students and look forward to another exceptional meeting next semester in Seattle."

COP PHONATHON

The first annual COP phonathon was held October 27-30, 2003. COP alumni were contacted via telephone in order to seek pledges for student initiatives such as the student mentorship and student tutoring programs. In conjunction with the phonathon, the Pharm.D. classes held a competition for the number of student participants. The class with the most participants was awarded \$500 toward their class fund, second place won \$250, and third place won \$100. There were 19 students from the class of 2007 for the first night, nine from the class of 2005 on Tuesday night, and 20 from the class of 2006 on Wednesday night. On the final night, a \$100 gift certificate was awarded to Dan Riding for receiving the highest amount in donations. A total of \$4,570 was raised during the phonathon.

Kyle Milberger, first-year Pharm.D. student and class president, provided the following assessment: "The Dean, classmates, and the alumni made it a great experience. The Dean went to the phonathon and called the alumni along with our class. It was awesome to see him working side-by-side with us. I don't believe many deans would do what he does. He is an incredible man. My classmates made it a great experience, as well. It is a lot of fun working with such a variety of people. Some of the students, for example Barbara Hamer, had worked at one point as a telemarketer. Most of all, it was nice working together and building camaraderie. Talking to the alumni gave me a great amount of hope. During all of the conversations, I would ask, 'Did you feel you were well prepared for the profession/career you are in now?' I was amazed at the responses. All except for one person, and I called a lot of people, said they were well prepared. Some of them even went into detail about their joy for their profession, even after all these years. Hearing this from the alumni increased my confidence that this pharmacy program is going to help me reach my goals."



l-r: Pharm.D. students Amber Swanson, Diana Gabaldon, and Stacey Thompson

FOCUS ON STUDENTS

Brandi Beyhan, 4th-year Pharm.D. graduated from Aztec (New Mexico) High School and then went on to attend Brescia University in Kentucky for two years while playing college volleyball. She returned to UNM in order to complete pharmacy prerequisites. Brandi chose a career in pharmacy because of the diverse fields of practice a pharmacist has access to. Her father, William, is a graduate of the College of Pharmacy (1978) and is a registered pharmacist in Aztec, NM. Brandi's aunt, Jenni Beyhan, is also a 4th-year Pharm.D. student. While a student at the College, Brandi has been active in APhA-ASP by serving as a class vice president, member-at-large, SPIN Co-Coordinator, and NMPHA Executive Council student co-representative. She has also been active in ASHP, COP Curriculum Committee and NMPHA. Brandi was recently inducted into Phi Lambda Sigma Society. She has also received the Pharmacists Mutual Leadership and Academic Excellence Award. After her anticipated graduation in May 2004, Brandi plans to serve a pharmacy practice residency, followed by an infectious diseases residency. The following is Brandi's advice to students: "Grades are important, but don't go through school with your nose in a book. You'll miss out. Work hard, play hard!"