

Lobo Pharmacy Central



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

February, 2005 Vol 3, Issue 1

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

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Our mission is to develop innovative leaders in pharmaceutical care and research who enhance the quality of life for the people of New Mexico.

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A Message from Our Dean

With the February 2005 issue of the Lobo Pharmacy Central, our College of Pharmacy newsletter is back in production. My former assistant, Susan Quintana, left at the end of September for a position in the School of Medicine and in the wake of her departure, the newsletter production was put on hold. With Barbara Kaputa assuming the position of Assistant to the Dean and the great work of Bridgette Wagner-Jones, we are up and running again.

The New Year began with an exciting retreat focused on strategic initiatives to increase extramural funding in the College. This was the first retreat focused on the second mode of our bimodal vision of achieving excellence in pharmaceutical research. Our research programs are healthy and expanding. Our fiscal year grants and contracts expenditures for 2003-04 were \$3.2 million compared to \$2.6 million in 2002-03. Details of the retreat are contained in the newsletter.

Assistant Dean Don Godwin, Director of Student Services Megan Thompson and our student services staff are overjoyed and overwhelmed with the 1305 applications for the Class of 2009. This is by far the largest and most talented applicant pool that the College of Pharmacy has ever reviewed and represents a 77% increase over the then-record 736 applications received last year. Our student body continues to set the leadership standard regionally and nationally with three students currently holding elected regional offices in the Academy of Students of Pharmacy (ASP) of the American Pharmacists Association and one student appointed to a national committee. Sarah Rivera (Class of 2006) is the Region 8 member-at-large, Barbara Hamer (Class of 2007) is the Region 8 Midyear Regional Meeting coordinator and Thaddus Wilkerson (Class of 2007) is Region 8 delegate. Jennifer Short (Class of 2007) is one of four students appointed to the 2004-05 Policy Committee for ASP. No other college of pharmacy in the US has more than one student holding a regional or national office. We are all very proud of these talented student pharmacists.

For the past several months, several faculty members and I have been focused on two major interdisciplinary initiatives on campus. In December, I announced the formation of the New Mexico Center for Isotopes in Medicine. This center, based in the College of Pharmacy, will bring together the considerable talents and resources of the Isotope Production Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratories, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, the UNM Cancer Research and Treatment Center and the MIND Institute and the nationally-recognized radiopharmaceutical sciences program in College of Pharmacy. The College and Los Alamos National Laboratory are funding the start-up of the Center with continued funding based on both state and federal support. The details of the center are discussed in this newsletter. The College of Pharmacy is also partnering with the School of Medicine on a renewal of the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) grant. While the School of Medicine has received funding for this educational pipeline grant for the past 15 years, the College of Pharmacy is now a full partner in the program. The grant would fund programs from middle school age children to post-baccalaureate students who are interested in health careers. We are all excited about the opportunities this grant could provide for the children of New Mexico. In closing, I believe we continue to make impressive strides towards our vision of achieving excellence in educating pharmacists who can provide pharmaceutical care and excellence in pharmaceutical research. Your support is greatly appreciated and your thoughts and concerns are always welcome!



John A. Pieper, Pharm.D.

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WINTER RETREAT UPDATE

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On Friday, January 14, 2005, UNM College of Pharmacy faculty, select staff, and stakeholders met for a one-day retreat at the UNM Student Union Building to identify strategies for the College to increase funding for our research programs and to further develop our graduate degree programs.

The morning session of the retreat began with a welcome from Dean John A. Pieper and highlights of College research successes from Dr. Craig Marcus, Associate Professor and Director, Pharmaceutical Sciences Division, and Dr. Mark Holdsworth, Associate Professor and Director, Pharmacy Practice Division. Dr. Gary Yost, Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Utah College of Pharmacy presented a lecture on "Organization and Research Structures for Colleges of Pharmacy" which provided insight and inspiration for both Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacy Practice research endeavors. Retreat participants also heard from various faculty on "Opportunities for New Research Funding for CoP Investigators." Areas with opportunity for growth included the NIEHS Superfund Basic Research Program, AREA and COE grants, and also current Radiopharmacy/LANL Initiatives, which were presented by Dr. Jeffrey Norenberg, Associate Professor/Radiopharmaceutical Sciences Program Director, and Dr Eugene Peterson of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Equipped with the information from these presentations, the participants spent the rest of the morning discussing strategic initiative opportunities for non-traditional funding sources, and identifying within the College, areas of unique research, programmatic, and clinical expertise, as well as unique technical and informational resources and unique study populations - and their respective needs/concerns within the State of New Mexico.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) of the College of Pharmacy's research programs were identified by the participants at the beginning of the retreat's afternoon session. Ryan Deller, Business Analyst with the UNM HSC assisted in the preparation and structure of this work session. The results of this session as well as the morning session will be available for review online, at the College of Pharmacy website within the next few weeks. (<http://hsc.unm.edu/pharmacy>).

Overviews of the existing graduate programs affiliated with the College as well as overviews of those programs in the planning stages were presented by various College of Pharmacy faculty as well as Dr. Thomas Niemczyk, Chair of the UNM Chemistry department who voiced his department's willingness and readiness to partner with the College in providing graduate education. Dr. Jerry Born, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the College of Pharmacy, has been working closely with Dr. Niemczyk to make this program a reality.

Dean Pieper ended the retreat by thanking Drs Marcus, Felton, and Benson for their hard work in making the retreat a success as well as all of those who presented, and assisted with planning the retreat. UNM five- and ten-year service pins were presented to Julie Moss (5), Dr. Jim Liu (5), and Dr. Jeffrey Norenberg (10).

*- this article was made possible
only through the excellent minutes taken by
Linda Jurey, Supervisor, Administrative Support.*





NEW MEXICO CENTER FOR ISOTOPIES IN MEDICINE (NMCIM)

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Lead Institutions: University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, College of Pharmacy
Collaborators: Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, Mental Illness and Neurosciences Discovery (MIND) Institute, UNM Department of Chemistry, UNM Cancer Research and Treatment Center, UNM School of Medicine Department of Neurosurgery, New Mexico State University Department of Chemistry, New Mexico Highlands University Department of Chemistry, TCI Medical, Inc., New Mexico Positron

Purpose and Benefit: The New Mexico Center for Isotopes in Medicine will convene and leverage New Mexico's unique assets to become the premier full-service provider of stable and radioactive isotope production for the development of diagnostic and therapeutic clinical applications.

Radioisotopes are isotopes that spontaneously emit radiation. Around the turn of the 19th century, French scientists discovered their medicinal values and began using radioisotopes to treat cancer. Today,



the use of radioisotopes has become a routine part of healthcare. Diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals are used to examine blood flow to the brain, functioning of the liver, lungs, heart or kidneys and to assess bone growth. In addition to their diagnostic value, radiopharmaceuticals are effective tools in the treatment of numerous diseases. In many cases, they are also proving to be far more cost-effective than conventional drug therapies.

"New trends in the pharmaceutical industry, availability of isotopes, demonstrated cost effectiveness, and improvements in patient outcomes have created a new opportunity for UNM and the people of New Mexico," said John A. Pieper, Dean of the UNM College of Pharmacy. Now, we have the opportunity to re-emerge as a national leader in this field."

In partnership with ten of the state's leading research and biotechnology organizations, the UNM College of Pharmacy has developed a plan to make this happen. With an isotope production facility at LANL; research and development capabilities at NMSU and NMHU; biosynthetic capabilities of the UNM Department of Chemistry; pre-clinical testing facilities at LRRI and the College of Pharmacy; clinical expertise and testing facilities at the MIND Institute, UNM Cancer Research and Treatment Center and the Medical School's Department of Neurosurgery; and several local private firms that specialize in the production and commercialization of isotopes, New Mexico is in a unique position. "We have all of these in one state — that's extremely rare."

Donna M. Smith, Division Director for Technology Transfer at LANL believes this is an opportunity to capitalize on the state's assets. "We have unique capabilities and by working together we can create an economic development opportunity for the state," she said.

Pieper agrees, pointing out that this is New Mexico's opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a booming industry. Although there are about 1,800 known radioisotopes, only about 200 are used on a regular basis. The market for radiopharmaceuticals is expected to reach \$5 billion by 2007 - \$2.5 billion in diagnostics and \$2.5 billion in therapeutics. But, says Pieper, the greatest benefit of the center is that the people of New Mexico will directly benefit from the advances in diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Proposed State Funding: \$8 million (\$2 million in first year)

- from the "TRC - New Mexico Technology Research Collaborative" Winter 2005 Magazine.
Cathleen Rineer-Garber was the author for this article.



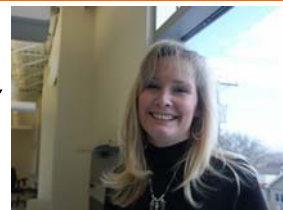


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A NEW FACE AT THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Danette Petersen joins the College as an Accounting Tech

Danette joined our staff in the Accounting Office on December 6, 2004. A UNM veteran, Danette worked in accounting at the UNM Bookstore before making the trip across the "Gulf of Lomas, Blvd" and has already impressed many of the faculty and staff she serves with her knowledge, great attitude, and organization. Danette also worked at Colorado University at Boulder for ten years before moving back to New Mexico, which she says is home to her since she graduated from Santa Fe High School. The mother of three children, "all teenagers," with her son being a United States Marine, Danette is very proud of all of her children and thinks of herself as a classic "Marine Mom." Some of Danette's interests include reading, gardening, scuba diving, and hiking. She is an avid fan of sports, her favorite of which is ice hockey. Stop by the Accounting Office and say "hi" if you haven't already met her. Welcome Danette! We're glad to have you on board.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING, 2005

February, 2005

- NMPHA Mid-Winter Meeting
February 5 & 6, 2005
- AACP Interim Meeting,
Washington D.C.
February 7-11, 2005

March, 2005

- Spring Break
Week of March 14, 2005
- ACPE Accreditation Site Visit
March 29 & 30, 2005
- Awards and Scholarships Ceremony
5:30pm, March 30, 2005
UNM SUB Ballroom C

April, 2005

- APhA - Orlando, Florida
April 1- 5, 2005
- CoP Pinning Ceremony
5:30 pm, April 19, 2005
UNM SUB Ballroom C
- NMSHP Spring Meeting
10:00 am-4:30pm
April 23, 2005
"Advancing Disease State
Management"
UNM College of Pharmacy
2502 Marble, NE
Albuquerque, NM

May, 2005

- NACDS - Palm Beach, CA
April 30 - May4, 2005
- Last Day of Classes
May 6, 2005
- Finals Week
Week of May 9, 2005
- COP Graduation Banquet
6:30pm, May 13, 2005
Albuquerque Sheraton Old Town
- COP Convocation
1:00pm, May 14, 2005
- New Mexico NIEHS Center
Symposium
8:00am, May 26, 2005
- Memorial Day
May 30, 2005 - UNM Closed

Congratulations to Dr. Laurie Hudson for being named a Regents Professor and to Dr. Renee Mercier for being named a Regents Lecturer.

Congratulations to Dr. Amy Barton Pai who has recently received Fellowship status in the American Society of Nephrology.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Council Officers for 2005

- Shawnee Martinez, President
- David Washburn, President-elect
- Maryann Seiger, Secretary
- Marcel Sikking, Treasurer
- Admin at Large, Amy Childs
- Lab at Large, Martina Rosenberg

The College of Pharmacy Staff Council meets the third Tuesday of every month at 2:00pm in room B85 of the Pharmacy Building