

# Lobo Pharmacy Central



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

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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*

February has been an interesting month at the College of Pharmacy with the state legislature in session and the presentation of our new curriculum and tuition proposal to the Board of Regents. On the legislative side, the College's two initiatives, the UNM/NMSU Cooperative Pharmacy Program (HB39/SB165) and The New Mexico Center for Isotopes in Medicine (HB313), were very well received. Rep. John Heaton ('61, D- Eddy) sponsored our cooperative pharmacy program on the house side and Sen. Mary Kay Papen (D-Dona Ana) sponsored on the senate side and along with Rep. Joni Gutierrez (D- Dona Ana), these three remarkable legislators provided the leadership in securing partial funding for the program. We have \$155,000 committed to the program for 2006-07, which is about 40% of what we requested but is certainly enough to begin our planning and initial implementation. Please pass your thanks and gratitude on to Reps. Heaton and Gutierrez and Sen. Papen for their amazing commitment to the College and our shared vision for pharmacy in Southern New Mexico. NMSU President Mike Martin was also a wonderful supporter for the program. Rep. Jeanette Wallace (r-Los Alamos) sponsored our radioisotopes legislation which has not received funding yet. We are extremely optimistic that major state and federal funding will be found for this wonderful initiative that brings together the College of Pharmacy, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, the UNM Cancer Research and Treatment Center and the UNM Department of Chemistry to develop novel radioisotope-based diagnostic agents and drugs.

At the February UNM Board of Regents meeting, I presented our new curriculum and request for tuition increase to fund the new curriculum. The new curriculum will introduce four new semesters of Pharmacy Care Labs, increase pharmacotherapeutics course work by 50%, add electives, expand our introductory experiential education program and add an office of program and student assessment. Even with the tuition increase, we will remain 10-20% less than the in-state tuition at our peer institutions such as the University of Arizona, Texas Tech University and the University of Colorado. The new curriculum will be on par with the best Pharm.D. programs in the country and will provide our students with the skills that they need to outstanding pharmacists when they graduate and throughout their careers. Please send your thoughts and comments to me at [jpieper@salud.unm.edu](mailto:jpieper@salud.unm.edu). I enjoy hearing for each and every one of you!



John A. Pieper, Pharm.D.

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## NEW FACES AT THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY



**Dr. Changjian (Jim) Feng** has joined the College of Pharmacy as an Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry. Jim is originally from China. He and his wife Danping came to the US in 2000, and they have two lovely kids, David and Daniel.

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Dr. Feng's current research is focused on role of reactive nitrogen species (RNS) in oxidative stress. Nitric oxide (NO), which is enzymatically synthesized in the body by NO synthase (NOS), is a key intercellular signaling molecule or defensive cytotoxin in the nervous, cardiovascular and immune systems, and can contribute to the severity of diseases such as cancer or pathological conditions such as stroke and asthma. Ongoing studies are investigating role of control elements in physiologically essential electron transfer processes in NOS. Other research is to be focused on the role of reactive oxygen species in regulating NOS expression or catalysis and NO signalling under oxidative stress. Dr. Feng has access to homogeneous active nitric oxide synthase (NOS) proteins for studying NOS modulation in oxidative stress, and his lab is to be set up for measuring RNS in vitro and in vivo. Dr. Feng received his Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from Nanjing University, China in 1998. His Ph.D. thesis was on synthesis and bioactivity of metal-based antioxidants, especially mimics of superoxide dismutase and catalase. In the last five years, he worked on protein electron transfer (using laser flash photolysis) and active site structure of molybdenum enzymes (using pulsed EPR). His expertise includes synthesis, rapid kinetics, EPR spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, protein purification, and HPLC.



“My name is **Blanca Graciela Flores**, I am earning my MS. in Pharmacy at the Facultad de Farmacia in Morelos, Cuernavaca (City of eternal spring), which is 50 minutes away from Mexico City. I am very proud to study there because it is the only Faculty (College) in Mexico where you can study MS and PhD in Pharmacy. I have my degree in Chemistry and I have been working the last four years in the PET center at the National University of Mexico there we have a cyclotron RDS 111 and we produce radiopharmaceuticals like  $^{18}\text{F}$ FDG, ammonia,  $^{15}\text{O}$ xygen, and  $^{11}\text{C}$  acetate. I am responsible for the radiochemistry. I have this great opportunity to come to UNM due to the memorandum of understanding between my Facultad de Farmacia and the UNM College of Pharmacy. While here, I am attending the NEO program (Nuclear Education Online), a radiopharmacy course, and learning about the research programs in the Radiopharmacy Program—topics which are not available in my country. Our faculty is very small but we are starting. When I am not studying or working, I share very nice moments with my two marvelous kids.”



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING, 2006

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### March, 2006

- **SOT National Meeting**  
San Diego, CA  
March 5-9, 2006
- **NM Board of Pharmacy**  
**Reception:** Hosted by UNM  
College of Pharmacy  
March 13, 2006  
HSC Library and Informatics  
Center
- **Annual Awards & Scholarships  
Ceremony**  
5:30pm  
COP Room 135 & Lounge  
Thursday, March 23, 2006

### April, 2006

- **ACCP Meeting**  
April 9-12, 2006
- **4th Annual Pinning Ceremony**  
Thursday, April 20, 2006  
5:30 pm - Embassy Suites Hotel &  
Conference Center Ballroom
- **NACDS Meeting**  
April 29-30, 2006

### May, 2006

- **NACDS Meeting**  
May 1-3, 2006
- **Finals Week**  
May 8-13, 2006
- **Class of 2006 Graduation  
Banquet**  
Friday, May 12, 2006  
Sandia Casino
- **College of Pharmacy  
Convocation Ceremony**  
Saturday, May 13, 2006  
1:00pm Popejoy Hall  
Reception following in the  
University Honors Courtyard

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Three of our M.S. graduate students in Pharmaceutical Sciences, **Isela Martinez** (Walker lab), **Andrea Aragon** (Walker lab), and **Leslie Lund** (Timmins lab), have each received the "**New Mexico Graduate Scholars Award**" for Spring 2006. This award will pay for their graduate tuition for Spring 2006 semester. Please congratulate them on this accomplishment!

### STAFF COUNCIL NEWS

#### **Hip-Hip Hooray!** To Linda Jurey!

Linda is the latest recipient of the Hip-Hip Hooray award. Thank you Linda for all the things you do for the College of Pharmacy!! Make sure you stop by room B-06 to congratulate her!! The other nominees for this last quarter were: Shawnee Martinez, Tamara Anderson and C.J. Laselute.

#### **Staff Council Election Results—Please Congratulate Our New Officers!**

President-Elect: Marcel Sikking  
Lab-at-Large: Bernadette Pacheco  
Admin-at-Large: Charlotte Jaramillo  
Secretary: Vanessa Garcia  
Treasurer: Danette Petersen

The Next Staff Council Meeting is Scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 2006, 1pm, COP Lounge

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