



The University of New Mexico

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



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

Lobo Pharmacy Central

Volume II, Number 3 (March 2004)

DEAN'S MESSAGE



In the April 2003 issue of *Lobo Pharmacy Central*, I articulated my vision for the College of Pharmacy; *Achieve excellence in educating pharmacists who can provide pharmaceutical care and excellence in sponsored research and scholarship.* While much of my first 15 months have been focused on the first mode of this bimodal vision, I want to provide an update on our significant research accomplishments. For the first time, 50% of all faculty members in the College of Pharmacy were principal investigators on grants and contracts in 2002-2003. Within the last month, the National Institutes of Health released research award data for the 2002-2003 year. Our College of Pharmacy was ranked 31st among the 90 Colleges of Pharmacy in the United States in total amount of NIH grants and contracts awarded in 2002-2003 (\$2,020,000) and 29th in NIH total awards plus non-NIH federal agency and foundation research awards with a total of \$2,400,000. Our ranking significantly exceeded those at a number of our peer institutions including Texas Tech University, University of Nebraska, University of Oklahoma, University of Tennessee and many others. Even more significantly, our total NIH awards per number of Ph.D. faculty members was ranked 24th among U.S. colleges/schools of

pharmacy (average of \$140,000 per Ph.D. faculty member). My vision is for us to be ranked in the top 20% of U.S. colleges/schools of pharmacy in this category, which will require us to have \$3.5 million in NIH funding in the near future. I believe we are well on our way to accomplishing this goal with the ongoing recruitment of three new pharmaceuticals faculty members (drug delivery, pharmacokinetics and pharmacogenomics), in collaboration with the UNM Cancer Research and Treatment Center and the DeSantis Endowed Chair in Pharmacy Administration. To further facilitate our research programs, I have named a faculty Research Committee which will be working on nurturing our research culture within the College. I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of our faculty in sponsored research and scholarship and I look forward to continuing to work with our faculty as we further build our national reputation in sponsored research.

Dean John A. Pieper

CALENDAR

March 6, 2004, 8am-12pm, Pharm.D. Interviews, COP

March 8-9, 2004, NM Board of Pharmacy Meeting

March 8, 2004, 6 – 8pm, NM Board of Pharmacy Reception, HSC Library & Informatics Center

March 8, 2004, 4pm, Toxicology Seminar, Dr. Wei Wang, UNM Dept. of Chemistry, “Chemical Approaches to Biological Problems,” NRPH B15

March 15, 2004, 4pm, Toxicology Seminar, Dr. Simon Wood, UNM College of Pharmacy, “Microarray Analysis and Functional Characterization of the Nitrosative Stress Response in Nonmucoid and Mucoid Pseudomonas Aeruginosa,” NRPH B15

March 19, 2004, 12-4pm, Pharm.D. Interviews, COP

March 24, 2004, 5pm, Dean’s Student Leadership Dinner, Albuquerque Country Club

March 26-30, 2004, APhA Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA

April 3, 2004, 8am-12pm, Pharm.D. Interviews, COP

April 3, 2004, HSC Pre-Health Careers Day

April 7, 2004, 10am-3pm, COP Career Fair, Lounge

April 14, 2004, 1-2pm, COP Pharm.D. Student Meeting with Dean Pieper, NRPH 135

April 14, 2004, 5pm, COP Awards & Scholarship Ceremony, Student Union Ballroom

April 16, 2004, 12-4pm, Pharm.D. Interviews, COP

April 17-21, 2004, NACDS Annual Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ

April 22, 2004, 5:30pm, COP SRC Photo Scavenger Hunt

April 23, 2004, 6pm, 3rd-year Pharm.D. Student Pinning Ceremony, Student Union Ballroom

April 24, 9am, NMSHP Spring Meeting

April 29, 8:30am, Executive Advisory Board, COP

May 14, 2004, 6:30pm, Graduation 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

August 9-10, 2004, COP Summer Retreat, Prairie Star, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM

August 18-20, 2004, COP Pharm.D. Class of 2008 Orientation

August 20, 2004, 5pm, COP White Coat Ceremony, Rodey Theatre, UNM Fine Arts Center

UNM HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENT DAY A SUCCESS

Health Sciences Center and main campus students and faculty gathered recently at UNM’s American Indian Student Services offices in Mesa Vista Hall in celebration of the Health Sciences Center Native American Student Day. The event was hosted by Pamela Agoyo, Director of American Indian Student Services.

On Tuesday, February 10, UNM’s Native American students had a chance to learn about the educational, research and service programs offered by the College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy and the School of Medicine and the many career

opportunities in the health field. State Senator Leonard Tsoisie, one of the two Native American senators, took a break from the Legislative Session to join Dean John Pieper, Pharm.D. of the College of Pharmacy, Dean Paul Roth, MD, of the School of Medicine, Gayle Dine'Chacon, M.D., Director of the Center for Native American Health and others from the HSC to attend the event.

“We were successful in informing Native American students who may be interested in pursuing a career in health care about the health professional programs available here at the UNM Health Sciences Center,” said John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., Dean, College of Pharmacy.

According to Pieper, there are 70 Native American students within the College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing and School of Medicine.

The event was coordinated by Dean Pieper, Dr. Dine'Chacon and the UNM American Indian Student Services.



Dean John A. Pieper, State Senator Leonard Tsoisie, Dean Paul Roth, and Valerie Romero-Leggott, Director, Cultural & Ethnic Programs, meet with UNM Native American students



Dean John A. Pieper, State Senator Leonard Tsoisie, and Dr. Gayle Dine'Chacon, Director, Center for Native American Health, with UNM Native American students

UNM HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER ART PROGRAM

The UNM Hospital Gallery, and what has now become the UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC) Art Program, was established in 1991 by Jonathan Abrams, M.D., and former hospital administrator Thom Sloan, to acquire art for the newly constructed UNM Hospital Ambulatory Care Center. This building houses UNM outpatient clinics and therapy programs, as well as faculty offices for a number of clinical departments. These include the departments of Internal Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, and Neurology.

The initial art works placed in the hospital were acquired through multiple donations and a few purchases made possible through the 1% for art program. Over the years, the UNM HSC has been very fortunate to receive many additional gifts. The collection now numbers more than 700 pieces and is valued at over \$1 million. None of this would be possible without the generous support of the many friends and supporters of UNM HSC.

Significant gifts to the collection have been given by Romona Scholder, Ray Graham, Bruce Warren Davis, and the Horwitch Family. Artists themselves have been exceedingly generous and there are now substantial holdings of three New Mexico artists: Garo Antreasian, Susan Linnell, and Harry Nadler. The collection also includes a number of fine

lithographs acquired from UNM's Tamarind Institute of Lithography and many works, on loan, from the Albuquerque Museum.

The Art Program is always interested in receiving new gifts of art. The new Outpatient Surgery and Imaging Services building, on University Boulevard, has just been completed and has many empty walls that the Program hopes to fill with donated art. In addition, UNM is planning to construct four new buildings on the UNM HSC campus which will provide extensive wall space for artwork. With much of the new construction in the design phase, there are still opportunities to design spaces to accommodate large works and sculptures.

Any work that is accepted into the Art Program collection may be tax deductible, based upon the item's appraised value and the advice of the donor's tax consultant. While the emphasis is on quality in the collection, the Program accepts works of art that may not be appropriate for local museums, and therefore the Program's gift or acquisition policy is quite liberal. The Art Program has established a fund at the UNM Foundation for those who would like to support the Program through tax deductible cash contributions. Funds are needed to appraise, maintain, and conserve the existing collection; frame and install new works; and establish an endowment to fund future purchases.

If you would like additional information on the UNM Health Sciences Center Art Program and how to support it, please contact Christina Fenton at (505)272-9700.

Art Program Collection in the COP Administrative Area



Magic Square #6, oil on canvas, 1982, artist: Harry Nadler



Garden House, colored pencil collage on paper, 1995, artist: Dara Mark

COP PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE

Angela Heisel is the new Public Affairs contact for the College of Pharmacy as of January 2004. Prior to that, she worked as a student employee in the Office of Public Affairs before graduating in December of 2003 from UNM with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Mass Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations.

While in college, Angela also worked at the Daily Lobo and interned at KOAT-TV. She currently is involved with the Public Relations Society of America.

“I am very excited to be working with the College of Pharmacy. There are so many great things going

on here and I look forward to promoting them to the internal and external community,” Angela said.

Angela’s duties will include obtaining newsworthy information and story ideas from the COP faculty, staff and students, organize and coordinate the information to be used in stories and news releases, responding to inquires from media representatives, and provide public relations perspective on issues at meetings.

Along with the COP, Angela’s other responsibilities at the HSC include College of Nursing, Cancer Research & Treatment Center and Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services.



l-r: Dean John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., and Pharm.D. students Jennifer Short, Kyle Milberger & Michael Faithe

National Poison Prevention Week March 21-27, 2004

**“Children Act Fast... So Do Poisons!”
1-800-222-1222**

Some 30 children die every year due to accidental poisonings, and approximately 1 million phone calls are placed to Poison Control Centers annually by adults seeking help when children have swallowed something harmful. In an effort to prevent such tragic events, National Poison Prevention Week was established by the U.S. Congress on September 16, 1961.

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

COP STUDENT OPEN HOUSE

A COP student open house was held on January 28, 2004. The students were provided with the opportunity to tour the newly remodeled administrative offices.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Graham Timmins has been awarded \$10,000 by the HSC Research Allocation Committee (RAC) for a project entitled “Modeling melanoma promotion by UVA.” Building upon the established expertise of Dr. Ron Ley, who used the possum *Monodelphis domestica* to uniquely demonstrate UVA causation of premelanoma lesion in a mammal, Dr. Timmins will test the use of a modified protocol to specifically model UVA tumor promotion in this model.

Dr. Amy Barton Pai has also been awarded a \$10,000 RAC grant for the project entitled “Effects of intravenous iron sucrose on the rate of staphylococcus aureus growth in uremic serum.” Infection is the second leading cause of death in patients with end-stage-renal disease, mainly due to staphylococcal infections. Iron is an essential requirement for most microorganisms, and it has been shown that iron overload can enhance bacterial growth and virulence. *Staphylococcus aureus* employs several iron sequestration mechanisms to effectively obtain iron from host sources to augment growth in vivo. Intravenous iron (IV) is administered routinely to hemodialysis patients to support red blood cell production by recombinant erythropoietin. The primary objective of this proposal is to compare the rate of *S. aureus* growth in uremic plasma in vitro at specified timepoints after a 100 mg dose of IV iron sucrose. A secondary objective will be to evaluate the relationship between appearance of non-transferrin bound iron and the rate of *S. aureus* growth.

FOCUS ON FACULTY

Matthew E. Borrego, Ph.D., R.Ph., assistant professor of pharmacy administration, is a native New Mexican from Santa Cruz, NM (a suburb of Espanola). He earned his B.S. (1989) in pharmacy and M.S. (1995) in hospital pharmacy administration from the UNM College of Pharmacy. He received his Ph.D. (1998) from the University of Arizona with a major in social and administrative sciences/pharmacoeconomics and a minor in educational psychology. At the College, Dr. Borrego teaches in the Pharm 707-Social and Epidemiologic Pharmacy, Pharm 708 – Administrative Pharmacy, Pharm747 – Pharmacy Practice Research and PBL courses. He also teaches and mentors students in the Pharmacy Administration graduate (M.S. and Ph.D.) program. Dr. Borrego's research interests include pharmacy and interdisciplinary education, applied pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes research studies. His current collaborative educational research projects include the investigation of the association of graduate student stress with health-related quality of life and perceived academic stress among pharmacy administration graduate students; a national survey of radiopharmacists' practice patterns, education and job satisfaction, and their preparedness to practice radiopharmacy; and qualitative analysis of the educational content of a problem-based learning case in the NM Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program. His current collaborative applied pharmacoeconomic research projects include the pharmacoeconomic evaluation of usual care versus a pharmacy-based intervention for diabetes control in a Navajo population and the cost-effectiveness of two strategies for vaccinating patients with hepatitis C virus infection against hepatitis A and hepatitis B (a pharmacy administration graduate student's thesis project). His other current pharmacy and New Mexico related research projects include a survey of New Mexico pharmacists' knowledge and attitudes toward prescribing oral emergency contraceptive products in their practice and

factors involved in determining the average costs of dispensing a prescription in the state of New Mexico (another pharmacy administration graduate student thesis project). Dr. Borrego serves as the COP faculty representative to the UNM HSC Rural Health Interdisciplinary Program which trains health professional students from the different HSC programs in an interdisciplinary and rural setting. Dr. Borrego's favorite responsibilities at the COP include serving as the faculty advisor for the Class of 2004 and as chapter advisor of the 125 member strong APhA-ASP (Academy of Students of Pharmacy) student chapter. Dr. Borrego also serves as the chair of the College's newly formed Assessment Task Force, serves on the COP Faculty Development Committee and is a faculty member of the UNM-wide Southwest Hispanic Research Institute (SHRI). When not working, Dr. Borrego can be found coaching (basketball, baseball or football) and enjoying his very active 8-year-old son, Justin, hiking or fishing in Northern New Mexico or working in his garden.

FOCUS ON STAFF

Ann Marie Bailey is a Research Tech 3 in the lab of Dr. Craig Marcus. Her research area involves drug discovery. Ann Marie received a B.S. in biochemistry from the University of Nevada – Reno, and a M.S. in microbiology from Colorado State University, Ft. Collins. She is a volunteer at the New Mexico AIDS Clinic/Outreach Programs and administers counseling and HIV tests. In June 2004, Ann Marie will be leaving the College in order to attend the physician assistant program at the UNM School of Medicine.

STUDENT NEWS

AMERICAN PHARMACIST ASSOCIATION STUDENT FORUM (APHA-ASP)

On February 19, 2004, APhA-ASP provided full lipid profiles, diabetes screenings, blood pressure measurements and stroke assessments at the Lady Lobo basketball game. This was in partnership with the American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, Pfizer and AstraZeneca and promoted the "Go Red for Women!" campaign to raise awareness of heart disease and stroke in women.

Thirteen students, four faculty members and one pharmacist screened over 80 individuals at this event. APhA-ASP would like to thank all that helped and participated in this event. And by the way, the Lady Lobos beat Utah! Go Lobos!



l-r: Pharm.D. student Jessica Bowen, Dr. Naomi House, Dr. Megan Thompson, and Pharm.D. students Danielle Mollett, Daniel Riding, Sneha Sharma & Roxane Ortiz

KATIE'S KIDS

A vital role for pharmacists to fulfill is that of patient educator. In an effort to become the best pharmacists possible while serving the community, students from the University of New Mexico's chapter of the American Pharmacy Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists participated in educating some of the most vulnerable patients of all, children. UNM students contributed to the "Katie's Kids" program which was sponsored by Target stores. The goal of the program is to teach children that medication is not candy. The children were also taught that pharmacists are medication experts.

According to Jess Benson, Pharm.D., who serves as Director of the New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center, 42% of poisoning victims within the state of New Mexico in 2003 were children under the age of five. The total number of poisoning victims was 23,191, while children under the age of five accounted for 9,766 of these. Of those nearly ten-thousand childhood

poisoning incidents, 44% involved medications. Dr. Benson stressed that, traditionally, pharmaceutical agents are by far the cause of the majority of children's poisonings each year. In fact, the next most common agents were household cleansers which accounted for less than half of the amount of poisonings than medications did in the year 2003.

These statistics clearly point to the grave danger medications can create for children as potentially poisonous substances. Because of the risks drugs can cause, it is critical to educate children that medicines are, indeed, NOT candy. Reducing the threat that medication poisoning poses for the children of New Mexico is a valid goal, and is one which UNM Pharm.D. students strive to attain. Sarah Rivera, UNM APhA-ASP chapter president, noted that the "Katie's Kids" sessions were not only informative, they were also fun, which is key to facilitating childhood learning. As she stated, "It was a lot of fun, and the kids really enjoyed themselves. Because of this, 'Katie's Kids' is an excellent program to help prevent medication poisoning in kids."

FOCUS ON STUDENTS

Sarah Rivera, a 2nd-year Pharm.D. student, was born in Las Cruces, NM, but because her father was in the Air Force, soon after her family moved to Colorado Springs, CO. Her family has also lived in Guam, and Crestview, FL before moving back to Albuquerque. She graduated from the Albuquerque Academy in 1997. In July 2000, Sarah married Steven Rivera and became the step-mother of his daughter, Tara. Sarah states, "Steve and Tara truly make it possible for me to do all that I do in pharmacy school. My husband's support and help is a dream and I owe much of my success to him."

Sarah has always wanted a career in health care but was unaware of the opportunities in pharmacy. Upon the suggestion of her husband, Sarah looked into the field and discovered that it was exactly what she was looking for. "I believe a career in pharmacy gives me the opportunity to care for patients, help my community and still have time to care for my family." Sarah has found a passion for the profession already and is excited to eventually work in New Mexico to share her knowledge and

feelings not only with patients but also with other pharmacists and with students preparing for their pharmacy career.

Sarah is currently the UNM APhA-ASP chapter president and vice president of UNM's charter chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma. In her 1st year of pharmacy school, Sarah was vice president of her class and secretary of APhA-ASP. Through these leadership positions she has learned more about the profession and has enjoyed working with people in the community. Recently, Sarah was featured on the HSC web-site in the "Day of the Life of a Pharmacy Student." The making of this project was fun for Sarah, and she hopes that it will inspire students to choose a career in pharmacy.

Sarah is also the volunteer coordinator for the Homeland Security/Combating Terrorism Conference, which is going into its 3rd year, and also for the Strategic Indirect Warfare Conference. These conferences were inspired by the events of September 11th and are designed to assist in the security and well being of our country.

Following is Sarah's advice to students: "If there is any advice I have for students it would be to get involved and stay involved. My involvement with professional organizations has opened my eyes to new and exciting opportunities and has also kept me excited about the profession. The education we receive is extremely important, and let's face it, it's the whole reason we are here, but the experience in pharmacy school is invaluable and I believe that we are a select few that have this opportunity, so let's take advantage of it."

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION GRADUATE PROGRAM

Bob Addison, R.Ph., a Master of Science in Pharmacy Administration graduate student, is nearing completion of his thesis. His research is on determining the average cost of dispensing a prescription in the State of New Mexico. As far as can be ascertained, this is the first time that a study like this has been done in the state. Mr. Addison plans to complete and defend his thesis during Spring 2004 semester.