

Volume 2, Issue 14, July 12, 2002, From the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy

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From the Dean

Dear Friends:

We are always very appreciative of the support received from alumni and friends enabling the provision of high quality educational experiences for our students. Regardless of the type of contribution, time or money, the efforts of the many individuals having a genuine interest in promoting the college have contributed in ways that ensure the current and future success of our programs.

As a means of recognizing the many contributions made to the college over the years, we recently erected a "Wall of Recognition" in Oklahoma City and in Tulsa honoring those individuals who have provided their valuable resources for our use. The plaques that have been placed on walls in the college corridors are readily visible to visitors and are intended to express our never-ending gratitude to our many donors.

The commemorative plaques contain two closed lists with the names of donors to the college's centennial campaign of 1993 and to the Henry D. and Ida Mosier Building Fund. These individuals are also recognized on our website at <http://oupharmacy.com/partner/donor/index.asp> and <http://oupharmacy.com/partner/donor/founder.asp>, respectively. Also permanently mounted on two of the panels are etchings of the faces of those individuals who have established endowments in the OU Foundation for use by the College of Pharmacy. These individuals are recognized as Lifetime Partners and can be seen at <http://oupharmacy.com/partner/>. In addition, contributors to shared faculty positions, advisory board members, annual donors, and Dean's Partners (contribution of \$1000 in the previous calendar year) are recognized on a list that changes annually. Silver, Gold, and Platinum Partners are acknowledged in those categories based upon contributions beginning at the \$10,000 level.

I hope you will take the opportunity to visit the college in Oklahoma City and Tulsa to see the many recent changes.

Please consider helping us find ways of fulfilling the needs listed at

<http://oupharmacy.com/alumni/development/program.asp>. I look forward to hearing from you and to greeting you on your next visit.

Sincerely,



College News

▪ Wall of Recognition Installed

The college has recently placed several plaques along its corridors that recognize the valuable contributions made by individual donors. The plaques are readily visible to visitors of the college in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and are intended to express gratitude and thanks to the many supporters who have aided our development. The lists of those so honored and recognized can be viewed at <http://oupharmacy.com/partner/>.





▪ Classroom Renovation Accomplished

In preparation for the upcoming Fall semester when students in the first year of the pharmacy program will be learning simultaneously in classrooms in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, the college recently completed the installation of equipment to enable and facilitate the distance learning environment. Room 103 of the pharmacy building in Oklahoma City has undergone a major renovation allowing connection and transmission of lectures to a similar classroom at The Schusterman Center in Tulsa. A new central console houses the computer system necessary to operate the cameras, microphones, screens, and monitors that constitute the classroom setting. From there, the faculty will be able to control presentations utilizing multiple technological components.



Important Healthcare Information

▪ ACIP Recommends Against Smallpox Vaccination for the General Public

In a recent issue of "Emerging Infectious Diseases": scientists point out that not only does awareness of gastrointestinal anthrax in a differential diagnosis remain important in anthrax-endemic areas, it also is important in settings of possible bioterrorism; and investigators provide an update on the smallpox research agenda. To view these articles, go to http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/bio_links.htm.

Alumni News

▪ Mike Burden ('79) – Recent Visitor

Mike stopped by the college in Oklahoma City during a recent trip to visit family in the area. He is currently serving as Director of Pharmacy in a hospital pharmacy in California. Classmates and friends can contact Mike at mwburden@earthlink.net.

▪ John Anderson ('95, '01) Update

Having graduated with the B.S. degree in Pharmacy, John went on to obtain the Doctor of Pharmacy degree at OU in May of 2001. He completed a residency in Managed Care with AdvancePCS in Hunt Valley, Maryland in June of 2002 and recently began work with Advance PCS as a Clinical Manager in Chicago. Classmates and friends can communicate with John at john.anderson@advancepcs.com. Congratulations John!

▪ Alumni Association Officers, 2002-2003

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy Alumni Association officers for 2002-2003, as announced at the annual meeting on June 20, are as follows:

President, Bobby Richardson, Duncan
President-Elect, Tom Noles, Edmond
Secretary, Chris Kaiser, Tulsa
Treasurer, Brooke Van Horne, Edmond

The association is looking forward to a very productive year.

Pharmacy News

▪ NHLBI Stops Clinical Trial of Estrogen Plus Progestin

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has stopped early a major clinical trial of the risks and benefits of combined estrogen and progestin in healthy menopausal women due to an increased risk of invasive breast cancer. The large multi-center trial, a component of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI), also found increases in coronary heart disease, stroke, and pulmonary embolism in study participants on estrogen plus

progestin compared to women taking placebo pills. There were noteworthy benefits of estrogen plus progestin, including fewer cases of hip fractures and colon cancer, but on balance the harm was greater than the benefit. The study, which was scheduled to run until 2005, was stopped after an average follow-up of 5.2 years.

Following the NHLBI's decision to stop the estrogen plus progestin study, the Institute and the investigators have worked intensively to develop information materials regarding the WHI findings for participants in all WHI-related studies. These materials, as well as a news release and links to the JAMA article and a related editorial, can be found at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/whi/hrtupd/>.

▪ **Senior Discount Card Program Website**

The Oklahoma Pharmacists Association has launched the Senior Discount Card Program website at <http://opha.com/seniordiscountcard> to help seniors work through the maze of manufacturer programs. Limited income seniors will derive substantial benefit from these programs. National estimates of 8-11 million medicare enrollees who have no prescription drug coverage will be able to get the medicines they need to help them properly manage their health care. Non-compliance has been an increasingly dangerous situation sending seniors to hospitals with serious infections, strokes and heart disease.

The manufacturer representatives are touting these programs as temporary measures until the government can put together a medicare prescription drug benefit. Medicare recipients who do not have a prescription benefit from their secondary insurance and who meet income restrictions will qualify for these discounts.

Lilly, Pfizer, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline, Aventis, AstraZeneca, Abbott, Ortho-McNeil, Janssen, Bristol-Myers Squibb are the manufacturers that have announced programs so far. Lilly and Pfizer have individual plans, while the other companies are joined together into one program called "Together RX".

OUPharmTech News

▪ **OUPharmTECH Partnered with OPhA to Launch Senior Discount Card Program Website**

OUPharmTECH has partnered with The Oklahoma Pharmacists Association to launch the Senior Discount Card Program website at <http://opha.com/seniordiscountcard>.

It is a user-friendly, searchable database where users can either search by the drug name or discount card. Users can also view covered drugs by clicking on the appropriate hyperlinked letter. The search results then direct users to the respective manufacturer sponsored programs. In addition, program enrollment forms can be downloaded and printed.

Job Openings

OU MEDICAL CENTER, Children's Hospital

- Clinical Assistant Professor

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Schusterman Center, Tulsa

- Clinical Assistant Professor
- Clinical Assistant Professor
- Clinical Pharmacist

The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Oklahoma City

- Research Technician
- Pharmacy Technician
- Assistant or Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics
- Assistant or Associate Professor

Eckerd Drug Company

- Pharmacist
- Pharmacy Technician

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc

- Staff Pharmacist and/or Assistant Pharmacy Manager
- Staff Pharmacist

USPHS/Indian Health Service

- Staff Pharmacist
- Staff Pharmacist