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## From the college

Dear Friends:



In addition to their activities in classrooms and clinics, College of Pharmacy faculty also conduct research of various types. Research activities not only lead to advances in scientific knowledge and improved patient care, but they generate financial support for several college programs, and provide the foundation of the graduate program. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few research projects that are currently being conducted by our faculty.

With the addition of several new faculty members, we now have a number of research projects in infectious diseases. Dr. Nathan Shankar recently published his research on pathogenic Enterococci in the prestigious journal, *Nature*. Perhaps some of our readers saw related articles on this work with antibiotic-resistant "superbugs" in last summer's local newspapers. Faculty with related research interests include Dr. Holly Hoffman, who investigates antibiotic-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and Dr. Mike McShan, who is interested in the pathogenicity of *Streptococcus pyogenes*. Other research projects involving infectious organisms include those of Dr. Gordon Sachdev, who studies cystic fibrosis and its common infections from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and Dr. Chris Rathbun, who studies improved therapeutic regimens in the treatment of HIV infections.

Dr. Rae Matsumoto has a number of projects in the area of neuropharmacology that are primarily devoted to developing new drugs capable of antagonizing effects of cocaine or methamphetamine. Dr. Matsumoto has also studied movement disorders. In addition to her vibrant research projects and many other commitments within the College of Pharmacy, Dr. Matsumoto also serves as Associate Director of the Oklahoma Center for Neurosciences.

The addition of two new faculty members in Pharmacy Administration (Dr. Lourdes Planas and Dr. Donald Harrison) will increase the scope of the college's investigations in the administrative sciences. Examples of work in this area include cost-benefit analyses, emerging new roles of pharmacists, impact of advertising initiatives to the public, and means of improving patient adherence.

The OU Health Sciences Center recently received a grant to develop a Cancer Center. Some of our faculty who are already conducting investigations in the cancer field include breast cancer and metastasis (Dr. Tom Pento), mucin-related gene expression in cancer tissue (Dr. Gordon Sachdev), and improved treatment of neoplastic diseases (Dr. Patrick Medina and Dr. Mike Burton).

I should note that a generous gift from the Yamanouchi USA Foundation allowed us to establish a 'seed grant program', through which faculty members can obtain initial funding to explore new ideas. We hope that our readers share some of our excitement for the ongoing research activities in our College.

Finally, I should add that this will be the final issue of e-News for the current year. In behalf of the faculty, staff and students of the College of Pharmacy, I would like to thank all who have supported us during the past year, and to extend our wishes for a joyous Christmas, and a happy and successful New Year.

Best wishes,

[Les Reinke](#), Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research

## Alumni News

### ▪ **Nominate Officers and Awards for 2003-2004**

To nominate alumni association officers and awards for 2003-2004, you could follow the links:

<http://oupharmacy.com/alumni/office/nomination.asp> and <http://oupharmacy.com/alumni/awards/nomination.asp> respectively.

Deadline for nomination: February 8th, 2003

See [past alumni association officers](#).

See [past alumni award recipients](#).

## OUPharmTech News

### ▪ **Web Portals and Higher Education**

Written by top higher education leaders, this publication addresses how portals, in concert with customer relationship management and other emerging technology tools, can be used to customize and personalize the resources and services offered on campus. From a bird's eye view, it focuses on the technology issues related to portals and their implications for colleges and universities.

Follow link: <http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/html/pub5006.asp> to view publication.

### ▪ **New Law Eases Copyright Limits For e-Learning**

The TEACH Act, SIGNED INTO LAW ON NOVEMBER 2 BY PRESIDENT BUSH, provides some much needed clarification and expansion of privileges for distance learning. Although many requirements must be met, the Act, when coupled with application of fair use, makes life a bit easier for distance learning providers, faculty, and students.

The TEACH Act essentially permits the use of digital material essential to e-Learning in much the same way materials are used in a physical classroom setting.

Specifically, the law will permit content to be stored on a server for asynchronous use by students, and would permit the fair-use of portions of audiovisual and dramatic works as well as sound recordings in digital format. The law also protects digital copyrighted information used in distance education by limiting the distributed material to enrolled students and requiring the use of technological measures to prevent downstream distribution.

See more information on [New Copyright Law for Distance Education: The Meaning and Importance of the TEACH Act](#) (PDF format) note, in particular the section, "*Duties of Information Technology Officials*"

### ▪ **Web Resources on HIPAA**

EDUCAUSE has compiled a list of [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996](#) (HIPAA) resources on its website at <http://www.educause.edu/issues/hipaa.html>. The web page provides links to the federal government, associations, non-governmental organizations, and universities.

## 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

### **Eckerd Drug Company**

- Pharmacist

### **Wal-Mart Stores, Inc**

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