



Volume 3, Issue 7, April 11, 2003, From [The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy](#)

## From the college

Dear Friends:



I want to take this opportunity to summarize for you some of the recent activities and accomplishments of the faculty in the [Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences](#) of the College of Pharmacy. Of course this past year has been very busy with the complete implementation of our 4-year Pharm.D. program and the expansion of the Pharm.D. program to the Schusterman campus in Tulsa. In addition, to these educational challenges and opportunities, this past year has been very productive for our faculty in research and creative activity.

During the past year, the faculty and students (graduate and undergraduate) of this department have published 21 peer reviewed articles in national and international journals. In addition, they have presented 27 oral and poster presentations at scientific meetings. The focus of these scientific publications reflects the current interest of our faculty in molecular approaches to the development of new and more effective therapeutic agents. Some of the major themes highlighted in these articles includes: the development of sigma receptor antagonists for the treatment of substance abuse; relationship between noise-induced hearing loss and auditory hair cell function; pharmacokinetics in drug discovery and development; evidence for the involvement of free radicals in alcohol-associated toxicity; identification of specific genes involved in virulence and drug-resistant in the microorganism *E. faecalis*; changes in the expression of mucin genes (MUC1, MUC5B and MUC8) in cystic fibrosis and in endometrial cancer; identification of new therapeutic targets to prevent the progression and metastasis of breast cancer and prenatal exposure to various drugs on the behavior and development of offspring.

Faculty research activities have resulted in the funding of 10 new grants from external agencies such as the National Cancer Institute, Department of Defense, Myoclonus Research Foundation, National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology. These new awards total over 1 million dollars which will be used to support research and graduate programs within the College. Many of these projects represent collaborative efforts between faculty members within the College and with other HSC faculty.

Finally, I would like take this opportunity to introduce you to Dr. W. Michael "Mike" McShan, the newest member of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. McShan earned a Ph.D. from the Baylor College of Medicine in 1988 and has conducted extensive research in the genetics of pathogenic bacteria and infectious disease. He has published many important articles in journals such as the Journal of Bacteriology, Molecular Microbiology, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In addition, he has been an invited speaker at international scientific meetings both in North America and Europe. In last several years his research interest has focused upon the genomics of pathogenic streptococci. As part of these investigations, he was project leader in the sequencing of the first genome of *Streptococcus pyogenes* and was co-principal investigator in the sequencing of the genome of *Streptococcus mutans*, the causative agent of tooth decay. Dr. McShan's current research interests include the role of DNA mismatch repair in the acquisition of antibiotic resistance and escape, the role of the regulation of the streptolysin O virulence gene cluster in *S. pyogenes*, and the genes responsible for defining the strains of *S. pyogenes* that cause post-streptococcal acute glomerulonephritis. The central theme to these studies is the identification of novel bacterial therapeutic targets, intervention strategies and vaccine development. With his excellent background in the bio-molecular genomics of microorganisms, Dr. McShan will be sharing some of his expertise with our students in our Pharmaceutical Biotechnology and Infectious Disease courses.

On behalf of the faculty of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences I would like to thank you for your interest and support. If you have any questions or suggestions that I or other faculty in the Department could help you with, feel free to contact me by e-mail: [tom-pento@ouhsc.edu](mailto:tom-pento@ouhsc.edu) or with a phone call (405) 271-6593 Ext. 47244. I wish you well and hope to hear from you during the coming year.



Sincerely,

J. Thomas Pento, Ph.D.  
Noble Foundation Presidential Professor  
Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

## College News

### ▪ Bruce T. Roberts To Deliver Anthony Lecture

Mr. Roberts will speak on "Ownership Advantage" on Friday, April 18th in Room 103 of the College of Pharmacy building in Oklahoma City. The seminar will be webcast live via the Internet at <http://oupharmacy.com/distinguished/index.asp>.



The Linda H. and Calvin J. Anthony Distinguished Entrepreneur in Pharmacy Lecture Series is made possible through the kind and generous establishment of the Linda H. and Calvin J. Anthony Endowment for Entrepreneurial Development in Community Pharmacy Practice. The series brings to campus individuals with distinguished accomplishments as entrepreneurs in the profession of pharmacy, with an overall goal of providing an occasion for students, faculty, staff, and alumni to learn about current opportunities and future directions in community pharmacy as well as key factors that facilitated the success of the invited lecturer. These goals reflect the philosophy of Calvin and his wife Linda, who purchased their first pharmacy in Stillwater upon Calvin's graduation from OU. Calvin and Linda remain committed to the promotion and enhancement of educational endeavors, not only at The University of Oklahoma, but also to the entire State of Oklahoma and to the profession of pharmacy.

### ▪ Eckerd Contribution For the College



Steve George from Eckerd Drug, presented a check to Dean Voth and Dean Coffey. The partnership between the college and Eckerd (<http://oupharmacy.com/partner/>) continues to serve the educational and professional goals of both organizations.

### ▪ Dr. Renee Trewyn To Attend ACCP Heart Failure Traineeship

[Dr. Trewyn](#), Pharm. D. of The OU College of Pharmacy - Tulsa has been invited to participate in the ACCP Heart Failure Traineeship this coming October. The traineeship provides ambulatory care clinical experience in one of several heart failure clinics and exposure to ongoing clinical research in heart failure.

## Alumni News

### ▪ Deborah Teel ('77) Email Update

Deborah reports that she is living in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Friends and classmates can email her at [dandebteel@cox.net](mailto:dandebteel@cox.net).



▪ **Christine Voegeli ('02) Email Update**

Christine reports that she is living and working in Oklahoma City. Friends and classmates can email her at [cnvpharmd@hotmail.com](mailto:cnvpharmd@hotmail.com)

## Oklahoma Poison Control Center News

▪ **Governor Brad Henry Announces Contest Winners**

Governor Brad Henry recently recognized National Poison Prevention Week by announcing the winners of a statewide poster contest for kindergarten through fifth graders. The contest is sponsored by the Oklahoma Poison Control Center, the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma Safe Kids Coalition to raise awareness of National Poison Prevention Week. National Poison Prevention Week is always the third week in March, however, the poison center believes every week should be poison prevention week.

Approximately 2 million phone calls are placed annually to poison control centers across the nation by adults seeking help when children swallow something harmful, says Tracy McKeown, education coordinator at the Oklahoma Poison Control Center. In 2002, over 18,000 accidental poisonings in children under the age of 6 were reported in Oklahoma.

"Poisonings can happen in a matter of seconds," McKeown says. "Household products we rely on everyday - such as medicines, cleaners, detergents and insecticides - can prove deadly if left within reach of children."

The poison prevention poster contest helps create more awareness in Oklahoma about poison prevention. The winners are listed below in each grade level. First place winners were invited to meet the Governor and received a \$50 saving bond. Pictures of the first, second and third place winners can be found on the poison center web site at

[www.oklahomapoison.org](http://www.oklahomapoison.org).

### Kindergarten Winners

- 1st Place – McKayla Davis from Sallisaw, Brushy Elementary
- 2nd Place – Elizabeth Spencer from Sallisaw, Brushy Elementary
- 3rd Place – Cheyenne McClure from Shidler

### First Grade Winners

- 1st Place – Amberly Proctor from Hanna
- 2nd Place – Cambrea Lott from McAlester
- 3rd Place – Rachael Hopkins from Pond Creek

### Second Grade Winners

- 1st Place – Mikaela Rich from Durant, Washington Irving
- 2nd Place – Mekale Chappel from Oklahoma City, Millwood Schools
- 3rd Place – Alex Hicks from Oklahoma City, Linwood Elementary School

### Third Grade Winners

- 1st Place – Chelsea Cloud from Stilwell
- 2nd Place – Robin Collins from Stilwell
- 3rd Place – Tessa Mays from Stilwell

### Fourth Grade Winners

- 1st Place – Hilary Hume from Stilwell
- 2nd Place – Heather Means from Stilwell
- 3rd Place – Tara Rabon from Stilwell



### **Fifth Grade Winners**

- 1st Place – Kelsey Proctor from Hanna
- 2nd Place – Chandra Taylor from Wanette
- 3rd Place – Rachel Megli from Stilwell

### **OUPharmTech News**

#### ▪ **Crash Course in Copyright**

This course is provided by the UT TeleCampus. Follow link to access online materials:

<http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/cprtindx.htm#top>

#### ▪ **Distance Education Clearinghouse**

The Distance Education Clearinghouse is a comprehensive and widely recognized website bringing together distance education information from Wisconsin, national, and international sources. New information and resources are being added to the Distance Education Clearinghouse on a continual basis.

The Clearinghouse is managed and maintained by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, in cooperation with its partners and other University of Wisconsin institutions.

### **Job Openings**

#### **The University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy, Oklahoma City**

- Nuclear Staff Pharmacist
- 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