

Graduate Affairs & Research

SEPTEMBER 2007



COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Special points of interest:

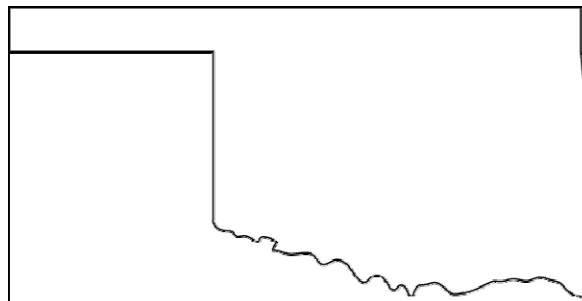
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Drug Discovery and Development in Oklahoma

On June 25, 2007, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the OU Cancer Institute co-hosted the first-ever meeting to discuss drug discovery and development research in Oklahoma. The College of Pharmacy was represented by Tom Pento, Michael Burton, and Les Reinke.



The goals of the meeting were to:

- (1) identify existing resources and expertise for drug discovery research in Oklahoma;
- (2) determine what capacities were needed to advance this research; and
- (3) establish a framework to promote drug discovery research in the state. Meeting participants included representatives from OMRF, OUHSC, OU-Norman, OSU, the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, the University of Tulsa, Southwestern OSU, and the biotechnology sector.

It was concluded that considerable expertise and infrastructure already exists in synthetic and combinatorial chemistry at several of the universities. Experience in clinical trials and regulatory affairs exists at OUHSC and OMRF. Drug development research is already progressing in natural products, autoimmune disease, cancer, diabetes, molecular medicine, and phase I trials. Areas of weakness include a lack of experienced and externally funded investigators in drug discovery, lack of some specific cores (e.g., non-rodent models and toxicology), and dedicated funding for drug discovery research.



A variety of recommendations were received for development of an Oklahoma Drug Discovery and Development Consortium, which hopes to promote drug discovery research throughout the state. The conference organizers plan to meet with representatives from the representative organizations to further promote collaborations and secure funding.

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Graduate Students Milestones and Recognition

Welcome new graduate students!

Jesse Kemp

Ph.D. Program

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Kupiec



Kasturee Daw

Ph.D. Program

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Shankar



Ngoc-Phuong Nguyen

PharmD/MS program

Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Standifer



Prachi Vilechar

Ph.D. Program

Faculty Advisor:

Dr. Vibhudutta Awasthi



Congratulations to our 2006-2007 Graduates!

- **Tam Bui, Ph.D.** (Dr. Farmer, faculty advisor)
- **Quentin Phung, M.S.** (Dr. Farmer, faculty advisor)
- **Matt Brammer, Pharm.D./M.S.** (Dr. Matsumoto, faculty advisor)
- **G.T. Dolan, Pharm.D./M.S.** (Dr. Shankar, faculty advisor)
- **Craig Trusley, Pharm.D./M.S.** (Dr. Kupiec, faculty advisor)
- **Tara Jenkins, Ph.D.** (Dr. Harrison, faculty advisor)

Congratulations on passing the General Examination!

- **Mark Aldridge** (Dr. Basmadjian, faculty mentor)

Congratulations on travel award!

Heith Crosby received a travel award to attend the "Integrative and Organ Systems Pharmacology" short course at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, July 25-August 5, 2007.

ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS!

ASPET Travel Awards to EB'08

San Diego, CA—April 5-9, 2008

Application Deadline: December 1, 2007

Travel Award Terms and Procedures for 2008

Terms:

All travel awards for 2007 will consist of reimbursement for registration at the pre-registration rate plus a fixed sum of \$600 to partially defray the costs of travel and housing. Applicants must register themselves online. If selected for a travel award, the pre-registration fee will be added to the \$600 fixed sum. The total amount will be awarded in a check at the ASPET Opening Awards Ceremony on April 5.

Procedures:

Applications must be submitted electronically online or as e-mail attachments.

<http://www.aspet.org/public/awards/GSTA.htm>

New Grants and Contracts Awarded (since July, 2007)

College of Pharmacy faculty have been awarded the following contracts and grants since July 2007:

- **Awasthi, Shanjana.** Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences. OCAST, 08/01/07 through 07/31/2010. "Evaluation of a Vaccine for *Coccidioides* in Mouse Model."
- **Awasthi, Shanjana.** Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Presbyterian Health Foundation Bridge Grant, 07/01/2007 through 06/30/2008. "Immune Functions of Dendritic Cells, TLR and Collectins in Preterm Baboon Lung."
- **McShan, W. Michael.** Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences. NIH AREA Grant, 07/01/2007 through 06/30/2009. "Bacteriophage Control of DNA Repair in *Streptococcus Pyogenes*."
- **McShan, W. Michael.** Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences, NIH. American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) 2007 Predoctoral Fellowship, 09/01/2007 through 08/31/2008 for **Julie Scott**, graduate student.
- **Awasthi, Vibhudutta.** Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Industry-sponsored contract from CELLPHIRE Inc. 08/01/07 through 07/31/08. "Evaluation of freeze-dried platelets in a rabbit model."
- **Standifer, Kelly.** Professor, Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Presbyterian Health Foundation Seed Grant, 09/01/2007 through 08/31/2008. "Orphanin FQ/nociceptin (OFQ/N) mediation of morphine tolerance."



September 2007 Research Seminars

- **Thursday, Sept. 6**—Harris Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Binghe Wang. "Going after the 'sweet spot' in selecting aptamers for glycoproteins." COP, Rm. 103—noon
- **Thursday, Sept. 13**—Ashby Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Lakshmi A. Devi. "Heterodimerization of mu and delta opioid receptors: A role in modulating analgesia and addiction." COP, Rm. 103—noon
- **Friday, Sept. 14**—OCNS Seminar Series (co-sponsored with the Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences). Dr. James J. Galligan. "Neural control of gastrointestinal motility and blood flow." BRC, Rm. 109—noon
- **Thursday, Sept. 20**—Dr. Lester Reinke, Dr. Michelle Condren, Dr. Chris Rathbun. "Pharm.D. pathways to biomedical research." COP, Rm. 101—noon
- **Thursday, Sept. 27**—Dr. Ron Graham, Dr. Kelly Flanigan, Dr. Shelli Gorman-Keast. "Pharmacy Management Consultants: An example of Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits Management." COP, Rm. 101—noon

All lectures (with the exception of Friday, Sept. 14) will be broadcast live to 1D18 on the Schusterman campus in Tulsa..



2007 OU-Tulsa Research Forum Winner

Rebecca Simons, College of Pharmacy student, received first place on the poster competition, clinical vignette student at the 2007 OU-Tulsa Research Forum held April 25-26 on the Tulsa campus.

*Rebecca's poster presentation was about an elderly female patient with *Clostridium difficile* diarrhea.*

*After admission to the hospital with influenza A, she experienced another episode of *C. difficile* diarrhea and was diagnosed with a VRE UTI. She started on metronidazole therapy but had to discontinue due to refractory nausea. Because of the VRE, she was initiated on Alinia (nitrazoxanide) as there was limited in vitro data to support activity against *C. difficile*. She responded to therapy and was discharged to an outside nursing facility.*

There is now a randomized trial comparing Alinia to metronidazole therapy.

Congratulations to both Rebecca Simons and Dr. Marilee Obritsch for the recognition at the OU-Tulsa Research Forum!

More News You Can Use Regarding Grants & Contracts

Pharmacy Students Participated in Summer Scholars Program

Two pharmacy students spent their summer participating in the first Summer Scholars Program sponsored by the OUHSC Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program.

As summer students, Ann Howell (P3) and Kavita Trivedi (P3) participated in a summer course that featured approaches to clinical research.

Ann's summer project was "Delayed Methotrexate Clearance in Pediatrics" (Tracy Hagemann, faculty advisor), and Kavita's project was "Effect of Heart Failure on International Normalized Ratio (INR) in Patients Taking Warfarin" (Toni Ripley, faculty advisor).

Clinical and Translational Research is part of the NIH Roadmap, and is intended to speed the translation of laboratory advances into patient care.

The OUHSC campus is developing an application for CTSA funding that will continue support of the General Clinical Research Center, and will also implement new graduate programs in Translational Science.

Congratulations to Ann, Kavita, and their advisors!

Welcome Dr. Yee!

Dr. Seonghwan Yee, Ph.D, joined the College of Pharmacy as a research assistant professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences. His research interests are in the development of small animal imaging techniques using various types of radiopharmaceuticals. Basic physiological measurements of blood flow, blood volume and oxygen metabolism using ^{15}O labeled positron emission tomography (PET) tracers, as well as quantitative measurements of glucose metabolism using [^{18}F]FDG, are included in his research interests. He is a medical physicist and brings in expertise in areas related to nuclear pharmacy and small animal imaging.



Reviewing Peer Review: NIH needs your help!

Please take a few minutes to respond to the NIH Request for Information on Peer Review at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-074.html>. NIH is launching a comprehensive effort to examine the peer review process.

This requires broad and comprehensive input from the scientific community. *We are particularly interested in creative suggestions about how we can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the system, even if this involves radical changes to the current approach. This issue is a top priority for NIH this year.*

The final recommendations, including modifications to peer review policies and practices, will then be approved by NIH leadership, including both Institute and Center Directors, the NIH Director, and in consultation with advisory councils. You are invited to share any comments you have directly to zerhounidirect@nih.gov.

Grants.gov Registered Users Reaches 100,000!

Since it first went live in October 2003, Grants.gov has grown tremendously. For the week ending July 20, 2007 Grants.gov surpassed the 100,000 mark for registered users. This landmark achievement illustrates the institutionalizing of Grants.gov for finding and applying for federal grants.

NIH Resources Available

For information about NIH programs, useful health information, and additional resources, see the NIH web site at www.nih.gov. An archive of the Director's Newsletter is available at <http://www.nih.gov/about/director/newsletter/archive.htm>.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

PhRMA Foundation

Deadline: October 1, 2007

<http://www.phrmafoundation.org>

Health Opportunities

Predocctoral Fellowship
Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Sabbatical Fellowship
Research Starter Grant

Baxter Catalyst Grant Program

Focusing on the patient as a priority, the Baxter CATALYST grant program seeks to support novel therapeutic discoveries, enhance medical education and information, and increase the outreach potential of patient organizations. CATALYST was developed by Baxter Healthcare Corp. to facilitate investigators, educators, and organizations in seeking funding for their projects, particularly in the areas of immunology, neurology, hematology, biosurgery and pulmonology.

Deadlines: Varied Dates

http://www.baxtercatalyst.com/Catalyst_Grants/index.html