

OU Pharmacy

A Publication for Alumni and Friends of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy

Winter 2021



Creative Ideas

Dean Draugalis
Receives Lifetime
Achievement Award

page 12



The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence, but rather it is to act with yesterday's logic.

— Peter Drecker

Navigating a Changing Environment

Roller coaster rides have never been a favorite pastime for me. Experiencing extreme heights, careening turns and dropping to new lows just doesn't seem like a good way to experience life in general!

Many will say that this past year has been equivalent to a roller coaster ride. We started the year hopeful as we began a daunting effort to finally combat the COVID-19 virus by vaccinating faculty and staff on our campuses. Lower cases in early spring made us optimistic and hopeful, but then another surge came upon everyone. We looked at second doses, and then booster shots later this year. More research findings have pointed to possible oral medications as another opportunity in the future. We have just completed a month of offering

both COVID-19 and flu vaccinations.

This ever-changing environment has permeated our college as we navigate the challenges of in-person learning, still more Zoom meetings, and the constant decisions of whether or how we hold large meetings. We originally scheduled a White Coat Ceremony, but then had to cancel at the last moment. Many professional meetings have chosen to go virtual. Even our Adrenaline Run this past March was a first-time virtual event.

Peter Drucker said, "The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence, but rather it is to act with yesterday's logic." I am proud of our college and all we have accomplished this past year. We have met this turbulence bravely.

I am extremely grateful to our faculty,

staff, alumni and students as, together, we write a prescription for inspiration in the midst of such a changing environment. We have inspired each other to improve our health and our lives.

Sincerely,

JoLaine R. Draugalis, R.Ph., Ph.D., FAPhA, FASHP
Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor
Dean and David Ross Boyd Professor
Regents' Professor
Phil C. and Ferne Ashby Endowed Dean's Chair

PHARMACY MAGAZINE

A publication of OU College of Pharmacy

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Abigail Scott at the First Dose Celebration on Dec. 16.

Turbulence Inspires Professionalism Through COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

Navigating a changing environment this past year was actually normal for many. The turbulence felt by many was met with professionalism, teamwork, selflessness and dedication by students, staff and faculty from the OU College of Pharmacy.

At the end of 2020, the college began a

COVID-19 vaccine initiative on campus. The first milestone arrived on December 16, as everyone celebrated the administration of that first dose. Pharmacy students enthusiastically volunteered to play a central role as vaccine providers.

“I was so proud of our P1 and P2

classes who joined the clinics quickly upon completing their immunization training,” said Susan Conway, Pharm.D., director of experiential education. “All our students did an absolutely amazing job administering vaccines as well as filling in various supporting roles for the clinics.”



▲
Averie Vardaman (P4) administers OU COP's 10,000 dose at OU North Tower on Jan. 10.

Conway has been actively involved in the planning and administration of flu shot clinics in the past. The addition of the COVID vaccine clinics were both busy and challenging. Together, the college provided 25,519 vaccines.

“Most of all,” Conway said, “we demonstrated that pharmacists are essential health care providers.”

Abigail Scott, Pharm.D., was a P4 student and gave the one of the first five shots administered simultaneously to a

team from the COVID intensive care unit on December 16. “That particular moment stands out for me because it emphasized the importance of every member of a healthcare team,” she said. “Through OU’s clinics, they recognized the value of every employee, from environmental services to pharmacy to surgery. Everyone plays a role in patient care.” Scott participated in six COVID vaccine clinics, plus several through work and rotations.

On January 10, the 10,000th dose was administered by Averie Vardaman, Pharm.D., also a P4 at the time. This clinic was at the North Tower of the OU Health University of Oklahoma Medical Center. Celia Lopez (P3) administered dose number 50,000 for OU Health at the last College of Pharmacy vaccine clinic on April 30.

“COVID vaccine clinics were a lot like the flu shot clinics that I’ve done before, but they had another layer to them,” Scott



▲
Cecilia Lopez administers dose #50,000 for OU Health at last OU COP vaccine clinic on April 30. Lopez was able to provide bilingual services to this patient so he could understand the process.

Initial vaccine rollout DEC. 2020 THROUGH APRIL 2021

COP COVID-led Clinics	Campus clinics-primarily for campus employees and students	Community clinics-outreaching to underrepresented populations
Number of clinics	37	8
Number of hours	187	45
Number of doses	21,615	3,904

COP Volunteers	# of People	Hours Contributed
Future PIs	3	12
P1 students	24	210
P2 students	41	563
P3 students	33	409
P4 students	37	935
Residents and graduate students	10	153
COP faculty	36	2105
COP staff	34	2179
COP alumni	8	99
	226	6665

said. “Almost everyone I encountered was excited to finally receive their vaccine and put the last year behind them. There was a feeling of anticipation and relief in the atmosphere that I had never experienced before.”

Scott admitted that throughout most of the year 2020 she felt helpless. She wanted to be useful, but didn't know what she could do beyond wearing a mask and social distancing. “Once the vaccines were authorized, I felt like I could finally be part of the COVID-19 response. Pharmacists are always ready and willing to help, and we jumped right in.”

She added, “I hope our profession takes advantage of the momentum we have built through vaccine administration and use it to improve patient care.” As a side note, she said that this will be a memory she'll want to share with her grandkids — “many, many years from now.”



The College of Pharmacy recently administered nearly 500 COVID-19 vaccinations to Western District of Oklahoma judges and court employees. As a thank you, the Western District presented Eric Johnson and Kevin Rinaldi with framed, retired flags that flew over the U.S. Courthouse. Eric and Kevin accepted the flags on behalf of the many College of Pharmacy faculty, staff and students and OU Health volunteers who have played a vital role in our vaccination efforts.

Fall Flu Vaccine Clinics INCLUDING COVID BOOSTERS

Dates	Flu	COVID	Total
9/22/2021	60		60
9/24/2021	1044	694	1738
9/29/2021	492	351	843
10/1/2021	610	440	1050
10/6/2021	664	360	1024
10/13/2021	709	351	1060
10/15/2021	531	231	852
10/20/2021	565	250	815
10/22/2021	411	524	935
20/27/2021	518	433	951
10/29/2021	433	581	1014
TOTALS	6037	4305	10342

College Researcher Earns \$2 Million Grant to Study Innovative Method of Controlling Viruses



Burgett's research is unique in that he is not using a drug to target the virus itself; he is targeting a human protein that viruses need to replicate.

Burgett (far right) and his lab personnel, (from left) Richard Bui, Emily Falcon, Dinesh Nash, Jorge Barrios-Rivera, Susan Nimmo and Richard Fogel.

As COVID-19 has demonstrated, viruses can emerge at any time and bring devastation across the globe. Because many viruses mutate quickly, there are very few drugs to treat them, nor are there vaccines in many cases. What if there were a way to prevent a virus from hijacking the human protein it needs to replicate?

That is the focus of Anthony Burgett, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. For a number of years, Burgett has studied new targets for drug development, including targets for antiviral drugs, but the current pandemic has illuminated the importance of his research. He recently received a \$2 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a component of the National Institutes of Health, to investigate a new approach for

antiviral drug development.

Burgett's research is unique in that he is not using a drug to target the virus itself; he is targeting a human protein that viruses need to replicate.

"For the most part, antiviral drug development for the many untreatable RNA viruses has attempted to target one viral protein found in one virus," he said. "Therefore, these drugs likely will only be effective against one or a few known viruses. And, because of the high rate of mutation in these viruses, an antiviral drug targeting a viral protein is not likely to work for very long before drug-resistant viruses develop. In our research, we found a protein in human cells that many different kinds of viruses need in order to replicate. Our approach is to create a drug that prevents the

viruses from using this human protein to replicate, which may be an effective therapeutic strategy not just for one virus, but for many different viruses."

Editor's note: Research reported in this article is supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a component of the National Institutes of Health, under the award number 1R01AI154274-01A1. The grant also supports the work of Burgett's collaborator, Earl Blewett, Ph.D., at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. The project also has received funding from the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, the Barnes Family Foundation in Tulsa, and is supported going forward by an equipment grant from the Presbyterian Health Foundation in Oklahoma City.

A Vital Instrument for Drug Development

A nuclear magnetic resonance instrument is vital for biomedical and clinical research, especially for drug development, translational research and bioanalysis. This instrument, commonly called an NMR, is standard at most academic biomedical research centers. An NMR allows for the characterization of molecular structure and an assessment of molecular purity in a non-destructive analysis, usually requiring only a few minutes of analysis on small amounts of materials.

However, this instrument was lacking at the OU Health Sciences Center and also within the entire Oklahoma City biotech/pharma research landscape. An NMR had been present in a specially designed NMR room at the college. But the OUHSC campus 300 MHz NMR relocated with a researcher in January 2020, leaving the research community without this vital analytical capability.

Due to the efforts of Anthony Burgett, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, a new 500 MHz NMR was recently installed at the college. The acquisition of the NMR was supported by several OUHSC research groups that require daily or periodic access. Burgett's equipment grant proposal to the Presbyterian Health Foundation included matches from several university entities plus the OU College of Pharmacy to allow for the purchase of the instrument. His proposal detailed how the absence of a campus NMR limits the OUHSC campus research mission, especially in areas of therapeutic development and translation research.

Additionally, Susan Nimmo, Ph.D., recently joined the Burgett research group to serve as a staff scientist and lab manager, with primary responsibility of overseeing the NMR. Nimmo has over 20 years of experience directing the NMR facility at the OU-Norman campus, and she is an expert in the application of NMR analysis in research.



▲
Susan Nimmo, Ph.D.

CURRENT GRANT LISTINGS

Vibhuti Agrahari, Ph.D.

“ROS-responsive nano-sensogel for prevention of cisplatin-induced ototoxicity and hearing loss.” Capita Foundation; 10/01/21 - 09/30/22.

“Bio-responsive nano-sensogel for prevention of chemotherapy.” Presbyterian Health Foundation; 07/01/21 - 06/30/22.

Shanjana Awasthi, Ph.D.

“Surfactant protein-A regions as TLR4 immunomodulators.” NIH/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; 07/01/17 - 06/30/22.

“Molecular mechanism of action of TLR4-interacting SPA4 peptide in lung epithelial cell systems.” (Fellowship-Godbole). American Association of Immunologists. 09/01/21 - 08/31/22.

Vibhudutta Awasthi, Ph.D.

“Preclinical efficacy study in a rat model of stroke.” DIRK, LLC; 10/01/21 - 09/30/22.

Anthony W. Burgett, Ph.D.

“Drug targeting of oxysterol-binding protein (OSBP) for respiratory viral infections.” Oklahoma State University Center; 07/01/21 - 06/30/22.

“Cellular mechanism of oxysterol-binding protein (OSBP) in viral proliferation.” National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases; 04/08/21 - 03/31/26.

“Drug development of ORP4-targeting compounds for the potential precision of ovarian cancer.” Presbyterian Health Foundation; 07/01/21 - 06/30/22.

“Acquisition of an NMR instrument for OUHSC campus-wide drug development, translational, and clinical research.” Presbyterian Health Foundation; 07/01/21 - 06/30/22.

Lucila Garcia-Contreras, Ph.D.

“Preclinical assessment of OHet72 as a new drug in the armamentarium against TB and MDR-TB.” NIH/NIGMS, 07/01/21 - 06/30/22.

Anne Kasus-Jacobi, Ph.D.

“Multi-target peptide: A drug to remember.” University of Missouri-MBARc; 11/01/21 - 07/31/22.

Aditya D. Joshi, Ph.D.

“Deciphering hepatoprotective role of cinnabarinic acid.” Harold Hamm Foundation/Presbyterian Health Foundation; 07/01/21-06/30/22.

Dongin Kim, Ph.D.

“Role of renal lymphatics in blood pressure regulation.” National Institutes of Health; 12/01/18-11/20/23.

“Developing smart molecular insecticide (RNAi-based) control method targeting Mormon crickets (orthoptera tettigoniidae).” Texas A&M University; 03/01/21-02/28/22.

Motolani E. Ogunsanya, Ph.D.

“Quality of life of ethnically diverse Black prostate cancer survivors: Development of a conceptual model using grounded theory.” Department of Defense; 10/06/20 - 10/05/22.

Anne Pereira, Ph.D.

“Novel ophthalmic product for corneal infections and injuries; 2020 STTR subcontract.” Biolytx; 09/30/21-09/29/22.

Chris Rathbun, Pharm.D.

“HIV drug-assistance program (HDAP) to promote adherence.” Oklahoma State Department of Health; 04/01/21 - 03/31/22.

Scott Schaeffer, BS

“Oklahoma Poison and Drug Information Center support and enhancement project.” Health Resources and Services Administration; 09/01/19 - 08/31/24.

“Acute poisoning management and educational activities for Oklahoma.” Oklahoma State Department of Health; 07/01/21-06/30/22

Nick Schwier, Pharm.D.

“Effect of endotoxemia on colchicine plasma levels.” American College of Clinical Pharmacy Foundations Futures Grant; 11/01/21 - 10/31/22.

Amanda Sharpe, Ph.D.

“Role of estrogen receptor- α in aging and sex-specific responses to 17 α -estradiol.” Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation; 09/01/21 - 06/30/22.

Grant Skrepnek, Ph.D.

“Drug Utilization Review (DUR) board contract: Health care management for DUR/AD/MTM.” Oklahoma Health Care Authority; 07/01/21 - 06/30/25.

“PMC Tele-MTM collaboration with the Oklahoma State Department of Health.” Oklahoma State Department of Health; 06/30/21-06/29/24.

Editor's note: This listing is current as of Nov. 10, 2021.

Faculty

HIGHLIGHTS



The Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society welcomed **Dean JoLaine Draugalis** into the Hall of Fame Class for 2020. Because of COVID-19, this class was celebrated in November. Each year since 1994, the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society has recognized individuals, living and deceased, whose achievement and leadership in scholarship, teaching, research, administration, staff support, outreach and public service have brought honor and distinction to higher education in the state. To date, more than 200 men and women have been inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame.

Vibhuti Agrahari, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received a new investigator seed grant from the Presbyterian Health Foundation for her project “Bio-responsive nano-sensogel for prevention of chemotherapy-induced ototoxicity and hearing loss.” Agrahari also received a grant from Capita Foundation for her project “ROS-responsive nanosensogel for prevention of cisplatin-induced ototoxicity and hearing loss.” Capita Foundation is a nonprofit organization that encourages researchers to explore innovative avenues in the prevention and cure of hearing disorders.



Shanjana Awasthi, Ph.D., received a fellowship from the American Association of Immunologists for her postdoctoral fellow, **Natchiket Godbole, Ph.D.** (right). Godbole’s project is “Molecular mechanism of action of TLR4-interacting SPA4 peptide in lung epithelial cell systems.” Awasthi, professor of pharmaceutical sciences, also received a presidential professorship at the Spring Faculty Awards.



Dongjin Kim, Ph.D., (right), assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, is serving as mentor for Chang-Sun Kang, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in Kim’s laboratory. They received a trainee research award from OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center for their research project “GSH-depleting pro-oxidant-loaded exosomes for MDR cancer therapy.” The award is funded in part by the National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Support Grant P30CA225520 awarded to Stephenson Cancer Center.



Michael J. Smith, Ph.D., received a Presidential Professorship at the Spring Faculty Awards reception. Additionally, Smith has been appointed as the associate dean for academic and student affairs at the college.



The OU Health Sciences Center Student Government Association Robert A. Magarian Award was presented to **Katherine O'Neal, Pharm.D.** This award honors a faculty member whom students consider to be outstanding in the area of teaching, mentoring, service or professional activities, and representing the same characteristics exhibited by Dr. Magarian, OUHSC professor emeritus and active community leader.

Welcome to **Jeffrey L. Henderson Jr., Pharm.D.** Henderson is a new clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences. His area of specialty is ambulatory care pharmacy.



Wei Yue, Ph.D., (left), associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, received the Provost's Teaching Award for Early Career Faculty at the Spring Faculty Awards reception. Her research program focuses on novel mechanisms involved in regulation of OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 transport function.

Misty Miller, Pharm.D., (right), associate professor, Department of Pharmacy: Clinical and Administrative Sciences, received the Educator of the Year award from the College of Pharmacy Class of 2021.



Farmer Retires

Kevin Farmer, R.Ph., Ph.D., FAPhA, retired in June after 30 years of service at the OU College of Pharmacy.

He earned his undergraduate degree in pharmacy in 1980 and his doctorate in pharmacy administration in 1990, both from the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Farmer participated in Cohort 2 (2005-2006) for the year-long Academic Leadership Fellows Program through the American Association of College of Pharmacy. In addition, he is a Fellow in the Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science section of the American Pharmacists Association.

Farmer served the APhA in numerous roles, including chair of

the Economics, Social, and Administrative Sciences section in 2016; co-author on papers receiving the Clinical Research Paper Award in 2010 and 2015; and associate editor of the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association since 2016. Farmer also has served as an accreditation site team member for the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) since 2012.

He has been both a mentor and adviser for numerous undergraduate and graduate students.

Johnson Nationally Recognized with Honorary Membership

Having a few abbreviations or titles after your name often describes your accomplishments. Advocacy for a profession like pharmacy means contributing not only on an academic level, but also campus-wide and nationally. Eric J. Johnson, MBA, MS-MIS, CPA, earned an additional designation this past March as an honorary member in the American Pharmacists Association. He was recognized at its annual meeting in March.

As senior associate dean for administration and finance, he oversees operations in the college business office, including grants and contracts, information technology, alumni affairs, poison control center, outpatient pharmacies, and pharmacy management consultants. Johnson constantly explores ways to showcase and expand pharmacy services and operations on campus.

One of his major accomplishments has been organizing an interdisciplinary effort with faculty from the College of Nursing, Hudson College of Public Health and the Graduate College for the expansion of the flu clinic to students at the undergraduate campus. According to Susan Conway, Pharm.D., director of experiential education, “the success of the OU College of Pharmacy-led flu clinics are, in large part, due to the individual contributions made by Eric Johnson.”

Johnson and the team have received

The success of the OU College of Pharmacy-led flu clinics are, in large part, due to the individual contributions made by Eric Johnson.

— Susan Conway

numerous awards and recognition for these immunization efforts, including the AACP Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Experiential Education in 2014, honorable mention at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit-Healthcare Personnel Campaign in 2013, honorable mention for the APhA Immunization Champion Award-Community Outreach Category in 2013, and invitation to speak for the Innovations in Immunizations Pharm Talk at the APhA annual meeting in 2017. Johnson and his colleagues also received recognition from the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education for the best experiential education article, “Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy



Practice Experiences Within Campus-Based Influenza Clinics.”

He co-coordinates the Pharmacy Business and Entrepreneurship elective and teaches management and financial topics in several courses at the college. Under his guidance, students in the elective have been selected top 10 national finalists in the Good Neighbor Pharmacy NCPA Pruitt-Schutte Business Plan competition six times, with three teams receiving the national winning title since 2013.

Johnson is a member of the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association and has represented Oklahoma several times in the APhA House of Delegates.



Supporting the NEXT GENERATION of Pharmacists

Development. Merriam-Webster defines this word as the act or progress of growing, becoming larger or more advanced. Its synonyms include words like expansion, growth, advance, and progress. As the Development Officer for OU College of Pharmacy, my goal is simple – to educate individuals on the incredible work of the college and walk beside those who want to share in its continuous development.

Although my time with the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy has been short in comparison to my predecessor, Rex Urice, it hasn't taken me long to see the passion this college has for supporting its students, community and the healthcare industry. Over the last two years, the college took on the challenging role of providing COVID-19 vaccinator training and vaccine administration to OU Health's campus, local community and historically underserved communities across Oklahoma. Over 250 students, faculty, staff and alumni have volunteered more than 7,000 hours of their time at 56 clinics to deliver over 28,000 COVID-19 vaccine and booster doses.

Additionally, OU College of Pharmacy entered into its 11th year of offering flu clinics for the OU Health community and their families. The college has focused on innovative ways it can increase the distribution of flu vaccines including alterations in clinic locations and times, streamlining and automating the registration process, and providing

diverse vaccine products. Since 2010, the College of Pharmacy has provided over 50,000 flu vaccinations. The innovation exemplified by the college has provided invaluable experience to prospective pharmacy practitioners, scientists and educators.

This work just scratches the surface of perpetual activity at the college, but we need the support of alumni and friends to continue. It has been personally inspiring for me to meet individuals who are passionate about supporting the college, even in the midst of the global pandemic. I understand there may be many more of you who wonder how they can contribute to the work happening here – and I would like to help you find the best possible way. You may be interested in gifting a portion of your estate to the college, or perhaps you'd like to create an endowed fund that will live on in perpetuity. I want to help you discover how you can successfully create your legacy with the college.

"I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists." These words are spoken by each student at OU College of Pharmacy. Maybe this was even you, when reciting the Oath of a Pharmacist. With your support, we can advance OU College of Pharmacy to new heights and support the next generation of pharmacists together.

— *Lydia Chapman, Development Officer*

Rex Urice and Lydia Chapman Accept New Positions at OU Foundation

Rex Urice, J.D., recently accepted the position of executive director of planned giving for all three University of Oklahoma campuses. This new position will allow him to work with donors who wish to make a gift to the University of Oklahoma from their wills or trusts.

“I started full time with OU College of Pharmacy over 17 years ago,” said Urice. “It’s been my personal pleasure to be a part of this administrative team and help secure some wonderful legacy and current gifts to further the college’s goals.”

Urice has seen the college increase its national awareness through special recognitions from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and other organizations. He has also seen the development of the annual Adrenalin Run sponsored by alumni, as well as the renovation of classrooms at the college building.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed working with alumni and faculty,” said Urice. “Dean Draugalis has been such a positive, driving force as she has led the college. Navigating through different provosts and university presidents has been challenging, but rewarding. I look forward to seeing Lydia Chapman handle development duties for the college as she has excellent experience in this area.”



Meet Lydia Chapman

Lydia Chapman has been appointed as the development officer for the OU Health Sciences Center, and will devote her efforts to securing major gifts that support the College of Pharmacy and College of Allied Health’s highest priorities.

Before arriving at the University of Oklahoma, Chapman served as the development specialist for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, covering the Kansas City metro, Kansas and Nebraska areas while her husband, Thomas, worked for the Kansas City Chiefs. When he accepted an opportunity with the Pittsburgh Steelers, Chapman was asked to remain with St. Jude to cover western and central Pennsylvania.

An Amber, Okla. native, Chapman is excited to be back in her home state and supporting a top-tier academic institution. She is passionate about building relationships with college alumni and donors.

If you are interested in learning more about leaving your legacy for the college, please contact Chapman at lydia-chapman@ouhsc.edu.

New Members Join College National Advisory Board

The National Advisory Board plays a vital role in helping OU College of Pharmacy plan effectively for the future. Board members work closely with the college and the dean in critical review of current activities, long-term planning and development.

The board meets twice a year (generally during the fall and spring semesters) in order to keep the college abreast of current trends and issues in the profession. Members of the board include individuals from diverse pharmacy practice settings as well as from the general community of interests.

Newest members include Rear Admiral Pamela Schweitzer, John Hofstetter and Nhat Nguyen.

Rear Admiral Pamela Schweitzer

Rear Admiral (RADM) Pamela Schweitzer retired in 2018 from a four-year term as the Assistant Surgeon General and 10th Chief Pharmacist Officer of the United States Public Health Service. As Chief Pharmacist Officer (first female in this role), RADM Schweitzer was responsible for providing leadership and coordination of more than 1,300 PHS pharmacy officers in 13 agencies with the Office of the Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services.



Of her 29-year career in federal service, she most recently served at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Previously, she served in varied assignments in the Indian Health Service and the Veterans Health Administration. RADM Schweitzer has a wide variety of experiences with developing clinical programs and managing large projects.

Since retiring, RADM Schweitzer continues working on a number of public health-related projects, improving health and access to healthcare in rural and underserved communities, interoperability and reimbursement for clinical services.

She also serves on other boards including: Tabula Rasa Healthcare, National Council for Prescription Drug Program Foundation, National Community Pharmacy Association

Innovation Center and NCPA Innovation Center Services, and Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences.

RADM Schweitzer received her bachelor's degree in biological sciences from California State University Fullerton (CSUF), earned her Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) from the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) School of Pharmacy, and completed an ambulatory care/administrative residency at University of California Irvine Medical Center.

John Hofstetter

John Hofstetter is the former pharmacy director for ALK/OKC Allergy Supplies, where he oversaw nationwide compounding for patient-specific immunotherapy prescriptions. Hofstetter has held numerous senior-level leadership positions at Abbott Laboratories, Hospira, Lloyd Laboratories and Oklahoma's own Allergy Laboratories, Inc.



Early in his career, Hofstetter expanded his interest in hospital pharmacy practice into product development and manufacturing for sterile injectable drugs at Abbott Laboratories. He was instrumental in the development and commercialization for many parenteral nutrition, pain management and anesthesia drug products, such as propofol for injection. He later became active in global efforts for drug product outsourcing and contract in manufacturing, where his ability to listen, assess and integrate customer strategic goals into tactical capabilities contributed to partnerships in Europe, Japan, India and Australia.

Hofstetter earned his pharmacy degree from OU College of Pharmacy in 1985 and completed his master's degree in pharmaceutical science in 1987. He received certification in management and leadership from Lake Forest College, Ill., and certification in tablet manufacturing from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



Nhat Nguyen, D.Ph.

Nhat Nguyen is an area healthcare supervisor for Walgreen Co., a nationwide drugstore chain with national headquarters in Deerfield, Ill. She is responsible for leading Walgreens pharmacy operations for over 100 retail and specialty locations in the Dallas area.

Nguyen joined Walgreens in Oklahoma City where she worked as a pharmacy intern as she completed Bachelor of Science degrees in psychology and pharmacy from the University of Oklahoma. As a pharmacy manager over the span of 16 years, she directed the operations of nine different Walgreens pharmacies in Oklahoma City, Houston, Tucson, and most recently, Dallas.

In November 2015, Nguyen was promoted to the role of area healthcare supervisor. Her continued involvement with clinical services, including medication management, patient adherence and senior, adult, and childhood immunizations, serve the goal of keeping Texans healthy by providing convenient, affordable access to healthcare services and counseling. She serves on the board of directors of the Good Days Organization, a patient assistance foundation that provides linkage to care for patients struggling with chronic diseases.

National Advisory Board Members

Patrick M. Garman, Pharm.D., MBA, M.S., Ph.D.,

Colonel (R), United States Army
Vaccine Medical Director
Pfizer, Inc.
Fountain Hills, Ariz.

Joe H. Harmison

Pharmacist-Owner
DFW Prescriptions
Grand Prairie, Texas
Alumnus, 1970 B.S.

B. Douglas Hoey, MBA

CEO, National Community
Pharmacists Association
Alexandria, Va.
Alumnus, 1992 B.S.

John M. Hofstetter

Former Pharmacy Director for ALK /
OKC Allergy Supplies (retired)
Noble, Okla.
Alumnus, 1987 B.S., 1989 M.S.

Rebecca R. Johnson

Former President, Allergy
Laboratories Inc., Oklahoma City,
Okla.
Alumna, 1993 B.S.

Thomas C. Kupiec PhD

CEO Analytical Research
Laboratories, Oklahoma City Okla.
Alumnus, 1997 Ph.D.

Scott Lason

Senior Advisor, Talent Acquisition
Manager
CVS Health
North Richland Hills, Texas
Alumnus, 1990 B.S.

**Josephine M. Li-McLeod PhD –
Chair**

Chief Strategy Officer, Stratevi
Cambridge Mass.
Alumna, 1994 B.S., 1998 Ph.D.

Brian S. Nightengale PhD

President, Good Neighbor Pharmacy
AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation.
Palm Harbor, Fla.
Alumnus, 1990 B.S.

Nhat K.T. Nguyen

Dallas Area Healthcare Supervisor
Walgreen Co., Irving, Texas
Alumna, 1998 B.S.

**Rear Admiral-Retired Pamela
Schweitzer, Pharm.D.**

Assistant Surgeon General and 10th
Chief Pharmacist Officer of the United
States Public Health Service

Mark St. Cyr, M.P.H.

Division Clinical Specialist–Pharmacy
North Texas Division IT&S
HCA Information Technology and
Services, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Alumnus, 1977, B.S.

Jigar Thakkar, Pharm.D., MBA

Chief Pharmacy Officer and Vice
President, Ancillary Services
OU Health, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Kasey K. Thompson, Pharm.D.
Chief Operating Officer and Senior Vice
President
Office of Policy, Planning and
Communications
American Society of Health-System
Pharmacists
Bethesda, Md.
Alumnus, 1998 B.S., 999 Pharm.D.

G.T. Dolan, M.S., Pharm.D.

Pharmacy Manager
Blue Ridge Isotopes/Precision Nuclear
of Virginia
Salem, Va.
Alumnus, 2007 M.S., 2007 Pharm.D.

WELCOME CLASS OF 2025



GPA: 3.56
Prerequisite



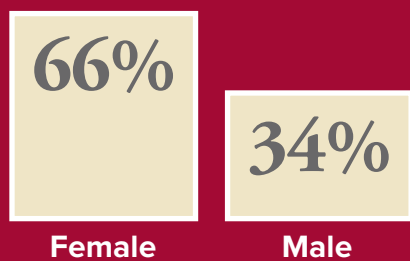
GPA: 3.39
Overall



GPA: 3.20
Science / Match



GPA: 3.13
Biology / Chemistry



Female

Male

23

Average Age



Oklahoma residents: 87%
Non-residents: 13%



Class Size: 62

Hoey Elected as Council President

B. Douglas Hoey, OU Pharmacy Class of 1992, was elected as World Pharmacy Council president. Hoey currently serves as the National Community Pharmacists Association CEO. The World Pharmacy Council is an international group with a mission of building international recognition of community pharmacy and its role, policies and value to citizens around the world. Read more about this organization by visiting <https://bit.ly/36TmTOV>.

“Community pharmacies in many countries have been integral to the fight against COVID-19 pandemic,” said Hoey. “I am humbled to be elected by my international colleagues to promote the work pharmacists are doing around the world to improve quality of care, lower overall health care costs, and act as local economic powerhouses to communities throughout the world.”

FROM THE **Alumni President**

Reconnect Continue to Support

The past year has brought many changes to all of us, both in our professions as well as in our personal lives. Many of us have been called to the front lines fighting the COVID-19 pandemic by treating hospitalized patients or by vaccinating patients in an effort to keep them healthy. We have adapted to virtual meetings, rescheduled conventions, and many other changes in the way we relate to our friends, family, and colleagues. It has required an intentional effort to stay connected while still staying safe, healthy and distant. While

many of these changes will persist into the foreseeable future, we have started to see glimpses of things returning to normal.

As we enter 2022, I encourage you to reconnect to the College of Pharmacy and continue to support the future of the pharmacy profession. While I am a recent alumnus, graduating in 2017, I have already felt the impact that connecting and networking with fellow alumni can have on my career and overall experience with pharmacy. The annual alumni tailgate held in conjunction with the homecoming football game in Norman has been a highlight for me, both to catch up with classmates and friends, as well as to meet other pharmacists from different classes coming for the game. The Adrenaline Run annually held in March is another opportunity to connect with the college, as well as an opportunity to donate time by volunteering with the race, or monetarily by sponsoring the event and helping to support events for current and future alumni. I also met many fellow pharmacists at the annual meeting and awards reception in June and enjoyed getting to recognize some OU graduates for their honors and achievements.

I'm looking forward to returning to some of our pre-pandemic activities. As we consider what this new normal will look like, I hope you will join us at some of these events and reconnect to the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy and the Alumni Association. I am honored to serve as your President of the Alumni Association and hope to reconnect with you as we support all of the exciting events on the horizon.

Boomer Sooner,
Tanner Tiedeman, Pharm.D., '17
President



▲
Tanner Tiedeman ('17) and his sister, Abby Moore ('19) reconnected at the annual Alumni Reception this summer.

The Eric Mueller Show

The post-pharmacy graduate pathway can indeed take many different turns. After moving 797 miles south from his hometown of Winona, Minnesota, to pursue his degree, Eric R. Mueller did not know that Oklahoma City would be the place where he would meet the love of his life, Dana Kristensen. He graduated from the OU College of Pharmacy in May 2020.

While at the college, Mueller had a keen interest in exploring non-traditional avenues for pharmacy graduates. He was a member of the leadership degree option at the college. “My experiences within the leadership degree option gave me the opportunity to truly harness the power of having an open mind,” he said. “The leadership option plays a crucial role in one’s self-discovery and pushes students to become exceptional future leaders. Through working with my

cohort, I ascertained what keeps me internally driven to strive toward success. I have always sought to think differently, and I know that my time as a member of the leadership degree option laid the foundation to chase my entrepreneurial dreams.”

An initial attraction to independent pharmacy ownership quickly blossomed into an entrepreneurial dream of starting his own healthcare business. After graduating from pharmacy school, he chose to pursue a community pharmacy residency to build his network and learn from innovative thinkers within the industry. Because of this networking with others who had created personal brands using their skill sets and expertise, Mueller started to create his own personal brand. Shortly after, the idea of starting a podcast began to brew in his mind.



Through the prevailing support of family and friends, The Eric Mueller Show was born. An official launch on Jan. 1 set the foundation for building the personal brand he was seeking. His mission with the podcast is to explore what makes a person’s inner clock tick and become successful. By interviewing successful individuals and showcasing their advice, Mueller wants to be a resource for others to chase their own dreams. Furthermore, the podcast serves as an avenue for Mueller to develop his own mind as a budding entrepreneur.

Mueller’s ultimate career goal is to be the founder of a Fortune 500 healthcare company. He believes that within the next 10-15 years, there will be a new service, technology or business that is revolutionizing the industry, and he aspires to be the one to create that company. “The Eric Mueller Show could very well be the catalyst to discovering that big idea,” he said.

The link to his website for the podcast is: ericmueller.com/ericmuellershow



GT Dolan Moves to Corporate Nuclear Pharmacy Position



It isn't an acronym, but for the past eight years, the initials "GT" had only one meaning at the OU College of Pharmacy. GT Dolan, Pharm.D., MS, BCNP, served as the nuclear pharmacy manager and an adjunct instructor of pharmaceutical sciences. He is now working at a corporate laboratory in Vermont.

Dolan simultaneously earned his Pharm.D and M.S. ('07) as a dual-degree student at the OU Health Sciences Center. He was placed in Dr. Nathan Shankar's lab, where the main focus was *E. faecalis* and the transfer of virulence markers between strains. "Dr. Shankar taught me to keep up on current literature and provided a ton of guidance when experiments weren't going well," he said. "I also had great lab mates. Arto Baghdayan and Dr. Phil Coburn helped me immeasurably when I was in school."

He started with the College of Pharmacy nuclear pharmacy in 2005 as an intern and was hired as a staff pharmacist when he graduated in June 2007.

In 2013, Dolan assumed the manager role and oversaw operations of a 24-member radiopharmacy staff and ensured compliance with pharmacy protocols as well as state and federal regulations. In addition, he trained

incoming pharmacy interns and nuclear medicine technology students. He has served on the Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties Nuclear Specialty Committee since 2017.

"I chose this career at an interesting time," Dolan said. "Nuclear medicine was effectively shrinking and more radiopharmaceuticals were taken off the market or fell out of use than were added until 2011-12. Now, we are currently growing with new radiopharmaceuticals being approved all the time. Since 2017, the college's pharmacy has been the only facility dispensing Netspot in Oklahoma. As new agents are approved, I expect a significant growth."

Netspot, after radiolabeling with Ga 68, is indicated for use with positron emission tomography for location of somatostatin receptor positive neuroendocrine tumors in adult and pediatric patients.

The nuclear pharmacy is relocating its facility on campus, a move that Dolan said needs to happen. "New sterile compounding standards mean having facilities that meet those demands," he said. "Air quality has to be maintained and continually monitored with increased attention to engineering controls

designed to prevent contamination of sterile medication with micro-organisms."

This new layout is modern. "It will allow for better efficiency. It will also bring radioiodine preparation in house, which will allow for better access for the pharmacy's customers," he said.

Dolan moved to Vermont this past summer and is now running a low-energy lab for a corporate entity in Williston. He's effectively doing the same job as he did for the university, but on the corporate side. He anticipates he'll move to another role in less than two years. However, he plans to come to Oklahoma City as much as he can to visit his sister. In addition, he recently joined the college's National Advisory Board. The initials GT will be whispered once again in the hallways.



New Software Enhances Poison Center's Ability to Respond

The arrival of COVID-19 ushered in a new set of challenges for the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information, especially in the arena of new technology. With the abrupt institution of the lockdown, hardware upgrades were rapidly instituted in order to allow everyone to work from home. These upgrades significantly enhanced the center's ability to flexibly respond to challenges, both minor (e.g., temporary commuting difficulty due to snow or ice) and major (e.g., tornado or fire damage to the center).

While the implementation of new hardware rarely causes significant issues once initial kinks are worked out, software changes have the potential to wreak havoc. That's the position staff members found themselves in when new electronic medical record software, called ToxSentry™, was instituted after the hardware upgrade. While the heart of the poison

center is its staff and their ability to guide both members of the public and medical professionals through responses to poisoning, every recommendation, patient symptom, lab value, and all other data regarding the case must be meticulously documented. The frontend of the database plays a critical role in logging this information in a coherent, secure and easily retrievable fashion.

For many years, the center's staff worked with a serviceable, but rarely updated, piece of software that had become second nature to use. Ultimately, however, growth of the staff's clinical abilities and volume of data requests from providers throughout the state outstripped the existing software's capabilities. The hunt for a new, more flexible data solution resulted in the adoption of ToxSentry™, a product pioneered, developed and refined by the Florida and Georgia poison centers.

Alumna Receives National Recognition

Bled N'guessan Tanoë, a 2016 alumna from OU College of Pharmacy, was recently named the Community Woman Pharmacist for 2021. Fittingly, her recognition was announced on Women Pharmacist Day, observed Oct. 12.

October was chosen for this special recognition because it traditionally serves as National Pharmacist Month. The 12th day of the month was selected in honor of the first female pharmacist in the United States, Elizabeth Gooking Greenleaf, who had 12 children.

It is my hope that we here in Oklahoma take advantage of this momentum to push for reforms in the working conditions for our Oklahoma pharmacists and technicians who are desperately trying to serve our communities with all they have.

— Bled N'guessan Tanoë

Tanoë spearheaded a campaign that promotes awareness of declining work environments among pharmacists in retail pharmacy settings because of an increased workload due to COVID-19 testing and vaccines. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government recognized pharmacists as a critical touch point for medical care in the community. The increased workload created by the integration of COVID-19 testing into an already-stressed work environment produces another risk factor for burnout.

“It was indeed a great honor to receive this award,” Tanoë said. “But receiving this recognition means that this campaign is resonating with pharmacists and technicians. It is also a path, hopefully, to initiate many changes which are so desperately needed in community pharmacy. The biggest reward I will receive is to see the national importance which should be placed on our pharmacists and technicians. Our pharmacists and technicians are worth fighting for, and their contribution to our healthcare system can’t be overlooked.

“This award brings an additional light to the improvements that the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association and the Board of Pharmacy are trying to create,” Tanoë added. “It is my hope that we here in



Oklahoma take advantage of this momentum to push for reforms in the working conditions for our Oklahoma pharmacists and technicians who are desperately trying to serve our communities with all they have. With the current culture of some pharmacy chains, we need to enact some relief plans as soon as possible. I hope we can take this movement even further. Let Oklahoma be the first state to redirect our profession to what matters the most: providing a safe and healthy working environment for pharmacists and technicians so that they can in turn take care of our patients.”

She encourages pharmacists to join her social media campaign at #PizzasIsNotWorking. This campaign is designed to draw awareness to the reality that free pizza and other ad-hoc rewards are not a viable solution to the burnout sweeping the pharmacy industry. The “Pharmacy Staff for COVID-19 Support” Facebook group Tanoë started as part of the campaign has about 44,600 members.

T E N T H A N N U A L
ADRENALINE RUN
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2022 | 9am

10th Annual Adrenaline Run Slated for March 5



Registration for the 10th Annual Adrenaline Run 5K/10K is now open! Join us in person March 5 at the OU Health Sciences Center. All participants who register online by Feb. 6 will receive a long sleeve Sport-Tek T-shirt, and the first 200 to complete the race will receive a customized finisher's medal. Volunteers also may register online and will receive a short sleeve cotton T-shirt at no cost. There will be an awards ceremony following the race. This event is timed by EnMotive and sanctioned by USA Track & Field.

SIGN UP & MORE

Participants and volunteers can sign up at <https://okc.enmotive.com/events/register/10th-annual-2022-adrenaline-run-5k-10k>. Proceeds from the Adrenaline Run will benefit the OU College of Pharmacy through expansion of contemporary education, research and service. The Adrenaline Run is sponsored by the OU College of Pharmacy Alumni Association. For more information, please email cassidy-roberts@ouhsc.edu or leegile@yahoo.com.

GET UPDATES

We encourage you to follow the Adrenaline Run Facebook event page for further updates.



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Continuing Education Accredited for Six Years



The OU College of Pharmacy Continuing Pharmacy Education program has been accredited for another six years by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Continuing Pharmacy Education Commission and Board of Directors. The OU College of Pharmacy was found to be compliant with all 11 ACPE standards. The accreditation term extends to June 30, 2027, a standard six-year term, with no recommendations for changes or further reporting during that period.