Pharmacy research day highlights student projects

On January 20, 2010, Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy student pharmacists gathered in Alumni Auditorium along with faculty, undergraduate students, and a number of guests for the first Pharmacy Research Day hosted by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The event kicked off with a seminar by Dr. Neil Osheroff, professor in the departments of Biochemistry and Medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Dr. Osheroff was invited to speak about the research in his laboratory on DNA topoisomerases, which are important drug targets for the treatment of cancer and bacterial infection. The seminar was consistent with the purpose of Pharmacy Research Day — to generate interest and exposure to research opportunities in the biomedical sciences.

Following the seminar, a poster session was held for the Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy students who performed summer research at Lipscomb and Vanderbilt Universities:

- Student pharmacists Patrick Nickell and Rachel Stephens worked with Drs. Susan Mercer and Mike Fowler in Lipscomb’s Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences to study the potential for abuse of methylphenidate patches used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. The focus was to determine if medicine can be extracted from the transdermal delivery patch and therefore could potentially be abused.
- Dr. Jens Meiler in the Vanderbilt’s Department of Pharmacology worked with student pharmacist Li Li on computational protein design to investigate their folding characteristics and expression pattern in bacterial cell cultures.
- Student pharmacist Kelly Radford assisted Dr. Eva Harth in Vanderbilt’s Department of Pharmacology in the development of polymer drug delivery systems for imaging and treatment of various cancer types.
- Dr. Michael Aschner in Vanderbilt’s Department of Pharmacology worked with student pharmacist Lauren Van Atta to research how metals such as mercury and magnesium influence the development of disorders such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s.
- Student pharmacist Christopher Thomas worked with Dr. Joey Barnett in Vanderbilt’s Department of Pharmacology to characterize proteins expressed in cells that could be used to make more durable heart valves.

Frist Global Health Leaders to serve in Zambia, Africa

The idea of spending six weeks in Zambia, Africa has generated an enthusiastic response from student pharmacists even though there is the possibility of not having running water, electricity or getting to shower for a week. Through the generous support of a grant from Hope Through Healing Hands (HTHH), John Deason and Brittany Latimer will be serving at the Zambia Medical Missions (ZMM) in the summer of 2010 in spite of the challenges they may face. HTHH is a nonprofit organization established in 2004 by Senator Bill Frist, M.D. The mission of HTHH is to promote improved quality of life for citizens and communities around the world. The student pharmacists are receiving a grant to travel to underserved areas to bolster health care in communities and clinical settings for the summer and will focus on service and training. Deason and Latimer will be recognized as Frist Global Health Leaders.

The inaugural event for the Global Health Leaders will be to serve in the ZMM in June and July. ZMM is a program designed to provide medical and spiritual help to the needy of Zambia, a mission that is perfectly aligned with that of the College of Pharmacy. As such, it involves a serious commitment from its volunteers to work under difficult and challenging conditions. Candidates for the positions must first consider the following:

- Am I ready to stay in a place where I may not get a shower or bath for over a week?
- Am I ready to sleep on the floor/ground, in a sleeping bag?
- Am I ready to stay in a place with no electricity, running water, and no flush toilet?
- Am I ready for long days of hard work?
- Am I committed to serving others and following a program that is prearranged for me?
- Am I healthy enough to participate in a program that may be physically demanding?

With the establishment of the partnership Senator Bill Frist, M.D., stated “We are excited that Lipscomb University will have the opportunity to send two students from the College of Pharmacy to Zambia this year to do service and training abroad in health with our Global Health Leaders Program. We believe our investment in these students will influence their career goals and commitment to global health for years to come.” Indeed the impact that the experience will have on the people of Zambia and the student pharmacists will be life-changing for all.
expanding to include more intensive patient consultations and involvement in drug pharmacists will continue at least through 2030. With pharmacists’ duties Pharmacy Manpower Project and the Health Service Resource Agency’s “The experiencing an increased demand for pharmacist services. According to the Pharmacy Manpower Project and the Health Service Resource Agency’s "The Adequacy of Pharmacy Supply: 2004 to 2030," a significant shortage of pharmacists will continue at least through 2030. With pharmacists’ duties expanding to include more intensive patient consultations and involvement in drug therapy management decisions, opportunities for quality practice placements will be in abundance for many years. For our student pharmacists the future is indeed very bright. Pharmacy is an essential component of a comprehensive health care system. Due to many of society’s changing social and health issues, future pharmacists will face even more challenges, expanded responsibilities, and an ever-increasing growth in opportunities. I am proud to be a part of an educational system that not only helps meet the strong demand for pharmacist provided patient care nationwide, but also produces pharmacists who strongly value service, compassion and the ethical conduct required in our profession.
Lipscomb Associates invest in education innovation

Lipscomb Associates are a unique group of supporters who desire to be part of a long term success story. Associates give $1,000 or more during a calendar year in quarterly or semiannual payments and can designate their gifts to be used specifically in the College of Pharmacy. Our Associates create educational possibilities that simply could not happen with tuition revenue alone. Students pursuing a professional career must be able to commit the majority of their time to educational and professional pursuits through residences and other valuable learning opportunities. College of Pharmacy Associates provide the support needed for success. An investment in Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy is an investment in the health of our society. Our world needs skilled healthcare professionals who are compassionate and competent in the nations technologically rich and information driven workplaces. Knowledgeable scientists are also needed to conduct vital research, and our communities need compassionate and caring servants. Support from Associates will provide opportunities for students to learn how to care for the needs of our society. College of Pharmacy Associates will light the way for our student pharmacist’s dreams to become a reality.

The Associates designation is intended to provide individuals an opportunity to join others in supporting students not just with a one-time gift but with a significant gift on an annual, renewable basis. While Lipscomb welcomes any size gift at any time, the Associates program is our way of recognizing those who want to join us for a longer horizon than that which a single year or single gift provides.

Pharmacy Giving Societies
The Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy thanks the donors who help make a Christian pharmacy education possible for our students.

DEAN’S SOCIETY
($25,000+)
Michele Fowler
Rick and Ann Jones
Wayne and Katherine Lewis
Ray and Jane Marcrom
Memorial Foundation
Nester and Jo Stewart
Mac and Mary Underwood
CVS
Wal-Mart

APOTHECARY SOCIETY
($5,000-$14,999)
Morris Dickson
Faculty and Staff of the Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy*
HCA
Medicine Shoppe
Steve Sharp
Bill and Judy Staggs
Don Sullivan
Walgreens

Rx FRIENDS SOCIETY
($1,000-$4,999)
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee
Eli Lilly
First Tennessee Bank
Jim Gibbs
Mike Hackney
Ferrell Haile
Nashville Healthcare Council
Jonathan Perlin
Thomas Marcrom
Pharmacists Mutual
J. Allen Scoggin
Carl Sims
Hubie and Dee Anna Smith
Mike Swaim
Van Swaim
Paul Keckley

MORTAR & PESTLE
SOCIETY ($15,000 - $24,999)
Scott and Paige Akers

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE
(Up to $999)
Bo Bartholomew
Chri Costers
Berry Derryberry
Doug Dye
Donal Sharp
Ron and Susan Swang
James and Linda Whisn

* 100% of the Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy faculty and staff have contributed to support a student scholarship fund.

To learn more about how you can help support the Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy, contact Jeff McCormack at 615.966.7167 or jeff.mccormack@lipscomb.edu.
The new faculty research lab in Burton Health Sciences Center.

**VICB Grant Award**

Dr. Susan Mercer, Lipscomb University Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Vanderbilt University Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, has been awarded a pilot project grant from the Vanderbilt Institute of Chemical Biology (VICB). The project entitled, “A Small Molecule Activator of Heme Sensing in Bacterial Pathogens” was submitted in collaboration with Dr. Eric Skaar, Vanderbilt University Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology. Mercer and Skaar, both members of the VICB, began collaborating in February 2009 and have since developed a productive research relationship. This funding will provide for continued research efforts on this project and additionally allow for development of a stronger relationship between the two institutions. Mercer will perform chemical syntheses in a new research laboratory located within the College of Pharmacy. Chemical synthesis will focus on development of small molecule libraries which will be submitted to the Skaar laboratory for biological analysis. Results will drive an iterative process of library design and will lead to publications both in the chemical and biological literature.

Mercer intends to mentor a Pharm.D. Summer Research student on this project and arrangements have been made to be exposed the selected student to both the chemical and biological aspects of the research project. The student will focus a majority of their time on medicial chemistry efforts; however, the student will also have the opportunity to experience Dr. Skaar’s laboratory by means of shadowing and attendance at laboratory meetings. This project will provide a unique opportunity for a Pharm.D. student to fully understand and engage in the drug discovery process - a definite benefit to their future career.

**Faculty Publications**


Kook, W., Mercer, S. L., Cooper, A., and France, C. P. Behavioral effects of gamma-hydroxybutyrate, its precursor gamma-butyrolactone, and GABA(B) receptor agonists: time course and differential antagonism by the GABA(B) receptor antagonist 5-aminooxy[1,2-d]oxepin (dithiooxymethyl phosphinic acid (CGP33348). *J Pharmacol Exp Ther.* 2009 Sep;330(3):876-83.


American Pharmacists Month

By: Brittany Latimer, Class of 2012

The month of October was American Pharmacists Month. The Association of Student Pharmacists chapter took this opportunity to reach out to the undergraduates through different on-campus activities. One activity included a health fair in the Bennett Campus Student Center. During the health fair student pharmacists focused on Immunizations, Diabetes, Breast Cancer, and Heartburn Awareness. We wanted to make the students more conscious of the important role that pharmacists can play in their healthcare. We also used weekly trivia questions as a way to educate the student body about different topics that tend to affect college age students. The questions focused on the flu, ADHD, Mono, and Meningitis. During the month of April, we will conduct another health fair to educate students about current health care topics.

Thanksmas

By: Kayleen Daly, Class of 2012

With a chill in the air, Christmas lights aglow and the aromas of homemade food floating throughout the air, 200 faculty, staff, student pharmacists and friends joined together on December 3 for the first annual Thanksmas.

A combination of both Thanksgiving and Christmas, the idea of Thanksmas initially began within the walls of the Lipscomb University Pharmacy School. Sparked by a common desire among the students to celebrate the spirit of the holidays together, the University immediately recognized this as not only an issue of importance within the class but within the school.

A Bison family gathering at its finest, Thanksmas featured a culinary spread unlike any other. Featuring a massive turkey with dressing and all the trimmings, featuring a culinary spread unlike any other. Featuring a massive turkey with dressing and all the trimmings, which was generously donated by our local CVS Pharmacy, the event was given a touch of Lipscomb as participants. Lipscomb University President, Randy Lowry, and Walt Leaver, Vice President of University Relations, relayed heartfelt stories about how pharmacists made an impact in their lives and lead the group in prayer.

Save the Date

College of Pharmacy Prayer Breakfast
April 7, 2010
7 a.m. • Burton Health Sciences Center
For more information, contact jeff.mccormack@lipscomb.edu or 615.966.7167

Toy drive brightens children’s Christmas

By: Audrey Wolski, Class of 2013

For most people, Christmas is a time of year spent with family and loved ones. We give thanks for the many blessings that we have received and celebrate our Christian faith. Unfortunately not everyone has family or loved ones during this special time of year to share in this celebration. So, in 2009 Lipscomb’s College of Pharmacy decided to embrace the children who are in need of a little joy and love in their lives by conducting our first annual toy drive to let them know that there are people out there that care about them.

Our efforts this past year were donated to the Davidson County Department of Children’s Services. DCS is responsible for providing temporary care or foster care for children whose families are unable or unwilling to care for them. The children range in age from newborn to 18 years old. DCS recruits foster families who provide safe and supportive homes in which the children’s emotional, physical and social needs can be met in a stable and secure environment.

Through the generosity of the pharmacy students, faculty, and staff, we provided almost 200 items ranging from: baby clothes, dolls, cars, board games, DVDs and books for all age groups. We hoped to provide a real Christmas for these children.

As you know Lipscomb’s College of Pharmacy is a new program, and it was a pleasure to see the entire school working together to help our community. We would like to thank everyone for their contributions in making this a very successful endeavor. Congratulations!

On a personal note, the reason I choose Lipscomb’s College of Pharmacy over other programs had to do with the people this school possesses and the standard of excellence they set forth. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience participating in such a new program, establishing events such as this toy drive while developing strong relationships within our community.

Thankful for- our professors who challenge us daily, the local companies who hire us as either interns or employees to apply our textbook theories to real-life situations, and most importantly one another. There is nothing stronger than the bond of the Lipscomb Bison, and I want to say thank you again to everyone for their efforts in organizing the 2009 Thanksmas. We look forward to celebrating the joy of the season again next year.
Breast Cancer Awareness
Student pharmacists, Dean Roger Davis, and President Lowry proudly wear pink and gather on the steps of the Burton Health Sciences Center to celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month and honor Sandy Bledsoe, breast cancer survivor. Mrs. Bledsoe spoke to the student pharmacists about her experiences at an awareness event hosted by the College of Pharmacy.

Academic honors

Dean’s List (4.0 GPA)
Fall Semester 2009
Erin Agee
Stephanie Bierkamp
Jennifer Chellevold
Rachel Gentry
Kasey Grisham
John Jantz
Li Li
Blair McGee
Andrea Rose
Rachel Stephens
Benton Turner

Cumulative G.P.A.
Li Li
Rachel Stephens

Honor Roll (3.5-3.99 GPA)
Fall Semester 2009
Jamie Anderson
Emma Bolinger
Ashley Bragg
Trevor Calvert
Amanda Cowles
Bailey Crick
Joel Daniel
Cara Ferebee
Art Frederick
Ariel Froderman
Faye Girardi
Adam Gulley
Ryan Heath
Bobby Henderson
Eric Hitch
Rhett Hogan
Elizabeth Holladay
Edd Holland
Kelly Holland
Andrew Jacob

Eric Johnson
Ji Sup Lee
William McEarl
George Mead
Alisa Miles
Patrick Nickell
Katie Pearsall
Rachel Pison
Sara Pruett
Kelly Radford
Frances Santos
Andrew Smith
Crystal Snyder
Delanie Sullivan
Courtney Thomas
Jason Tomichek
Trinh Truong
Maria Urban
Lauren Van Atta
William Waters
Stacy Witham

Cumulative G.P.A.
Jamie Anderson
Eric Hitch
Savannah Hulsey
John Jantz
Brittany Latimer
Will McEarl
Alisa Miles
Patrick Nickell
Dhru Patel
Katie Pearsall
Kelly Radford
Frances Santos
Ly Tran
Trinh Truong
Benton Turner
Lauren Van Atta