



College of Pharmacy
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Report to the
Texas Pharmacy Congress
July 31-August 1, 2025

Students, Faculty Member Earn Accolades at APhA in Nashville

UHCOP students and a faculty member earned recognition for their skills, research and service at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting & Exposition March 21-24 in Nashville, Tenn.

In the APhA-Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) National Patient Counseling Competition, recent graduate **Hunter Adam**, Pharm.D. ('25), placed First Runner-Up. Adam is the third UHCOP student in the past seven years to finish among the Top 10 finalists in the national competition.

Pharm.D. candidate **Ariana Moorer** received a Presentation Merit Award in the Innovative Report (Student) category for her project, "Leveraging Pharmacy Interns to Improve Hypertension and



UHCOP students, faculty, alumni and friends attending the APhA meeting were among the well-wishers of outgoing alumnus and APhA National President Alex Varkey, Pharm.D., M.S., FAPhA.

Diabetes Outcomes For Value-Based Care Contracts in a Federally Qualified Health Center."

Recent graduate **Tammie Lam**, Pharm.D. ('25), received a Certification of Recognition for her service on the 2024-25 APhA-ASP National Communications Standing Committee, and Pharm.D. student **Janvi Patel** served as the UHCOP Delegate in the APhA-ASP House of Delegates.

For his efforts leading a study on vaccine hesitancy among parents of pediatric patients, Associate Professor **Douglas Thornton**, Pharm.D., Ph.D., BCPS, was awarded the 2025 Wiederholt Prize For Best Published Paper Award For Economic, Social And Administrative Sciences.

\$550K AHA Established Investigator Award Boosts Wu's Embryonic Heart Research

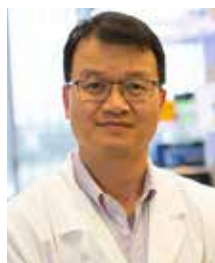
Mingfu Wu, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacology, was selected for an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association, which includes a five-year, \$550,000 research grant to advance his research into "communication highways" of the embryonic heart.

One aim of Wu's laboratory is to explore methods of treating congenital heart defects, including understanding how the heart's layers develop and communicate during early heart formation in utero.

While examining mouse cardiac muscle under the

microscope, Wu discovered tunneling nanotube-like structures (TNTLs), also known as "nanotubes," connecting the layers of the heart.

TNTLs transport cytoplasmic proteins, transduce signals between heart muscle cells, and initiate myocardial growth toward the heart cavity to form ventricular trabeculae.



Wu's research further aims to provide insights into mechanisms of cellular communication and suggests that TNTL formation might help cells to regulate long-distance cell-cell communication and modulate tissue patterning in mammalian systems.



UHCOP PLS Upsilon Wins Chapter of Year

The UHCOP Upsilon Chapter of the Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) Pharmacy Leadership Society secured its fourth national Division III Chapter of the Year Award – Division III in the past 10 years during the virtual 2025 PLS Awards Ceremony April 12.

Upsilon also was one of winners of the Lead the Way Award for its workshops on acceptance and understanding of the diverse communities pharmacists serve, approaching conflicts appropriately, overcoming hardships with resilience and grit, and leading from behind. Members also volunteered at the Houston Food Bank and Project C.U.R.E.

UHCOP Confers 114 Degrees at 2025 Commencement

The college recognized 102 Pharm.D., six Ph.D. and six M.S. program graduates of the 2024-25 academic year during the UHCOP 2025 Commencement May 8.

The class included 50 graduates who achieved high academic honors: 10 Summa Cum Laude, 19 Magna Cum Laude, and 21 Cum Laude. The latter group included three graduates who achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA and served as the college banner bearers for the ceremony.



In addition, 20 members of the Rho Chi Honor Society and 16 members of the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society were among the graduating students.

During the ceremony, the college also recognized five Class of 1975 "Golden Cougars" on their milestone 50th graduation anniversary.

On May 7, awards were presented to graduating students in more than 20 categories to recognize excellence in areas such as clinical skills, counseling, and service.

Houston Program Presents Anderson Leadership Award to Varkey

The Houston Program (THP) honored UHCOP's **Divya A. Varkey**, Pharm.D., M.S., with the Roger W. Anderson (RWA) Leadership Award at the 7th Annual RWA Leadership Celebration June 12 in Houston.

Varkey serves as a clinical associate professor and the graduate program director for the M.S. in Pharmacy Leadership and Administration, THP's academic component.

She has coauthored two book chapters and a dozen journal publications as well as more than two dozen abstracts and poster presentations at state and national meetings.



RWA Leadership Award recipient Divya Varkey is flanked by THP alumnae Linda Haines and Brandi Hamilton, husband Alex Varkey, and THP alumnus Kyle Munch.

Varkey is an active member of the Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists

and the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP). Varkey's past honors include TSHP's Tipton Leadership Award, the Pharmacy Mentor Award, the Special Recognition Award for Service to the Board of Directors, and the Special Recognition Award for Educational Service.

The award was first presented in 2019 to honor the contributions of nationally recognized pharmacy leader Roger W. Anderson, Dr.P.H., M.S., FASHP, whose career included more than 20 years of leadership at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

College Honors Top 2024-25 Preceptors

Several pharmacy preceptors and organizations were recognized at the Class of 2025 Graduation Awards & Reception May 7 for their outstanding experiential training of Pharm.D. students.

The 2024-25 academic year honorees were:

- Ambulatory Care Preceptor of the Year – **Jocelyn Thomas**, Pharm.D. ('06), Harris Health System-Gulfgate Health Center
- Community Preceptor of the Year – **Amy Frankum**, B.Pharm, H-E-B Pharmacy
- Faculty Preceptor of the Year – **Jeff Sherer**, Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS, CGP
- Health Systems Pharmacy of the Year – **Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital**
- Hospital Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year – **Michelle Yazdchi**, Pharm.D., MBA, BCSCP, CPHQ, CPPS, HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake
- Institutional Patient Care Preceptor of the Year – **Eileen Sullivan**, Pharm.D., Houston Methodist Hospital
- Outpatient Pharmacy of the Year – **H-E-B Pharmacy**

Joseph Earns TSHP Award

Instructional Lab Manager **Leslie Joseph**, B.S., RPhT, earned the Mike Knapp Pharmacy Technician Award at the TSHP Annual Seminar April 3-5 in Irving.

Joseph is an experienced pharmacy technician, educator, and industry leader with over a decade of experience in the field.

Joseph's award brings back-to-back wins for UHCOP, with **Sherrie Myers**, RPhT, earning the award in 2024.



UHCOP's Leslie Joseph accepts the Knapp award from outgoing TSHP President Jeff Wagner.

Pharmacy Coogs Draw Multiple Honors at TSHP, TPA Meetings

UHCOP students secured several honors at the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists (TSHP) Annual Seminar April 3-5 and the Texas Pharmacy (TPA) Association Conference & Expo July 18-20.

In the TSHP Student Pharmacist Leadership Challenge Competition, the team of **Chad Johnson, Braxton Jones, Cynthia Ma** and **Jasmine Malhotra** won first place. Placing third was the team of **Alyssa Glass, Sydney Mohr** and **Gia Tran**.

Receiving Honorable Mention in the Research Poster Competition was the team of **Dacia Esquell, Melanie Garcia, Jeremy**



Pictured are several members of UHCOP's first- and third-place Student Pharmacist Leadership Challenge Competition teams.

Ninan and **Julianne Yanga** for their abstract, "Evaluating Waste Validation with the Expansion of Raman Spectroscopy."

The poster, "Developing a Pharmacist Productivity Dashboard in a Health-System," by recent THP graduate **Alexis Hyman**, Pharm.D., MBA, M.S. ('25), drew an honorable mention in the Resident/Fellow/Post-Graduate: PGY2 category.

TSHP Research & Education Foundation scholarship recipients were: **Megan Huang Frazier**, Pharm.D. candidate – GCSHP Leadership Scholarship; **Glory Anne Garcia**, Pharm.D. candidate –Phyllis B. Ginsburg Memorial Scholarship; **Kevin Huynh**, Pharm.D. ('25) – Sidney Phillips Memorial Scholarship; and **Michael Torano**, Pharm.D. ('23), MBA, M.S. ('25), BCPS, CPHQ – Frederick W. Mullin Endowed Pharmacy Scholarship.

Torano, a recent THP HSPAL graduate, also received the 2025 Leo F. & Ann Godley Residency Fellowship Award.

In the TPA Student Pharmacist Self Care



The UHCOP team finished second in the TPA Student Pharmacist Self Care Championship team.

Championship, UHCOP finished a close second after an audience "sound-off" was used to break the tie for first place. The UHCOP team comprised **Taylor Daigle, Estrella Flores, Rachana Inteti** and **Thanh-tam Nguyen**, with assistance from **Dylan Subroto**.

Texas Pharmacy Foundation scholarship recipients were: **Atefeh Ghane Ezabadi**, Pharm.D. candidate – Larry "Neal" McClaugherty Scholarship; **Gabriela Gaytán** – Ladies Auxiliary Scholarship; and **Merna Khalil** – Texas Pharmacy Foundation General Scholarship.



UHCOP's Delta Delta Chapter of the Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity reclaimed the title of Southwest Province (SWP) Chapter of the Year at the 2025 SWP Spring Assembly March 7-9 in Fort Worth. Delta Delta previously held the SWP "best chapter" title from 2015 to 2022. In addition to this year's chapter win, Pharm.D. students **Michael Crichlow** and **Emetu Umah** were elected Chaplain and Webmaster, respectively.

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Najat Abu-Hmidan, Pharm.D. student, was one of 20 students nationwide selected for the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP) Student Registration Grant to attend the 2025 AAPP Annual Meeting April 27-30 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Megan Huang Frazier, Pharm.D. candidate, received the Outstanding Student Award by Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

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Aryonne Gibson, Pharm.D. candidate, and **Kaia Perkins** and **Patrick Stegall**, Pharm.D. students, were awarded Gene Adams American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Scholarships.

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Jing Ming (Jett) Lim, Pharm.D. student, was selected as a 2025-26 senior fellow of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Houston-Galveston.

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Ariana Moorer, Pharm.D. candidate, was one of 100 students selected nationwide to participate in the 2025 Scholar Mentoring & Development Program for Biotechnology (SMDP Biotech) and the 2025 BIO International Convention June 15-19 in Boston, Mass.

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Five PHOP candidates and students were accepted into summer internships programs: **Prachet Bhatt** - Abbvie; **Jerusha Daggolu** - Exact Sciences; **Sourab Ganna** - Edwards Lifesciences; **Olajumoke Olateju** - Abbvie; and **Zhen Zeng** - Merck.

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Several UHCOP Pharm.D. students took to the Texas State Capitol in February and March to participate in the "UH Day at the Capitol" and "Texas Pharmacy Day at the Capitol" events, which aimed to raise awareness and advocate for the university and its students and pharmacy/patient care issues, respectively.



Team-based Care Focus of 4th Geriatric Medication Safety Symposium

The fourth Geriatric Medication Safety Symposium was held virtually and in-person April 24-25 at the Denton A. Cooley, MD and Ralph C. Cooley, DDS University Life Center in Houston's Texas Medical Center.

The symposium is supported by a multi-year National Institute on Aging grant to UHCOP Mustafa & Sanobar Lokhandwala Professor **Rajender Aparasu**, Ph.D., FAPhA, and UTHealth McGovern Medical School Professor Holly Holmes, M.D., M.S., AGSF.

The symposium brought together practitioners, researchers and student and postdoctoral trainees in medicine, pharmacy, nursing and dentistry from multiple academic institutions and health care organizations in the Greater Houston/Galveston area and beyond. Research data and findings were shared in a variety of formats, including a workshop, panel, poster and podium presentations, and plenary sessions from leading experts.

UHCOP Ph.D. student **Sai Cheruvu** won for her podium



GMSS 2025's workshop, panel and plenary session presenters, and Planning Committee members spanned the disciplines of medicine, pharmacy, nursing and dentistry.

presentation, "Longitudinal Patterns and Predictors of Adherence to Triple Therapy in Older Adults: A Group-Based Trajectory Approach."

Clinical and Translational Research Symposium Showcases Projects from UH, TMC Institutions

The second Clinical and Translational Research Symposium held May 9 at UHCOP showcased the cutting-edge work of undergraduate, graduate and professional students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty researchers from across the Houston area.

The daylong program featured 45 poster presentations, 16 podium presentations and 10 short talks by trainees and faculty investigators from across several UH colleges, as well as neighboring Texas Medical Center institutions.

UHCOP Pharmaceutical Sciences Ph.D. candidate **Bilqees Fatima**, Pharm.D., won



Keynote speaker Paul Harris and UHCOP Professor and symposium chair Meghna Trivedi present the first-place poster award to UHCOP Ph.D. candidate Bilqees Fatima.

the poster competition for her project, "Predictors of Progression-Free Survival

Following CDK4/6 Inhibitor Therapy in Patients with Hormone Receptor-Positive Breast Cancer."

The keynote speaker was Paul Harris, Ph.D., FACMI, FIAHSI, of Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) and Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.

Harris, who serves as principal investigator for the All of Us Protocol and PI for the VUMC-led All of Us Data and Research Center, presented "REDCap – What's Old, What's New, What's Next, and What Matters?"

Inaugural Muscle Biology and Cachexia Conference Welcomes 300+ Researchers

The Institute of Muscle Biology and Cachexia (IMBC) at UHCOP hosted its inaugural Muscle Biology and Cachexia Conference May 18-20 at UH.

The event drew nearly 300 established, early-career and student researchers from across the U.S. as well as Canada, Italy, Singapore and Turkey for 46 podium, 20 short-talk, and 65 poster presentations.

Conference highlights included keynote presentations by Denis C. Guttridge, Ph.D., of the Darby Children's Research Institute and the Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina,



UHCOP alumnus Anket Joshi, far left, was among the conference's presentation award recipients.

and Marco Sandri, M.D., of the University of Padova and the Veneto Institute of

Molecular Medicine in Padova, Italy.

Aniket S. Joshi, Ph.D. ('25), placed first in the Best Graduate Student Poster competition for his project, "The IRE1 α /XBP1 signaling axis mediates skeletal muscle wasting during pancreatic cancer cachexia."

The symposium was organized by IMBC Director **Ashok Kumar**, Ph.D., Else and Philip Hargrove Endowed Professor of Drug Discovery & Development and professor of pharmacology, and Associate Director **Radbod Darabi**, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacology.

UHCOP Welcomes Gonzalez, Li and Tomaz da Silva to Faculty

UHCOP recently welcomed three new faculty members to its departments of Pharmacy Practice & Translational Research (PPTR) and Pharmacological & Pharmaceutical Sciences (PPS).

Lorena Gonzalez, Pharm.D., BCPS, has been appointed clinical assistant professor in the PPTR department and the Rio Grande Valley Pharm.D. Satellite Program.



Gonzalez also maintains a clinical pharmacy practice at DHR Health in Edinburg.

Gonzalez earned her Pharm.D. from Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy and completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at DHR Health.

Her research and practice interests are infectious diseases and antimicrobial stewardship. Gonzalez has presented her research at several meetings of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Gonzalez recently was recognized with her alma mater's 2025 Outstanding Early Career Alumni Award.

Airong Li, Ph.D., who served as a postdoctoral fellow in the PPS department since 2021, has been promoted to research assistant professor.

Li earned her bachelor's degree from Henan Agricultural University, China; her master's degree from Nanjing Forestry University, China; and her Ph.D. from Nanjing University, China.



Prior to her work at UHCOP, Li was a faculty member and master's advisor for more than a decade at Zhengzhou University's College of Pharmacy in China, where she was recognized for teaching, mentorship, and lecturing. Co-inventor of two Chinese patents, she also served as a visiting scholar at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Li has authored/coauthored more than 20 peer-reviewed articles in such journals as *Nature Communications*, *ACS Nano*, *Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica B*, and the *Journal of Controlled Release*, and presented her research at meetings of the American Association for Cancer Research and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

Meiricris Tomaz da Silva, Ph.D., who served as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Else & Philip Hargrove Professor Ashok Kumar, Ph.D., since 2021, has been promoted to research scientist in the PPS department.



She previously held postdoctoral fellowship positions at the University of San Paulo (USP) Institute of Biomedical Sciences and the Department of Pediatrics and the Lillehei Heart Institute at the University of Minnesota. Tomaz da Silva earned her Ph.D. from USP and bachelor's and master's degrees in physical therapy from Methodist University of Piracicaba in Sao Paulo.

Her research is focused on developing therapeutic strategies for muscle repair and homeostasis.

She has authored/coauthored two dozen papers in such peer-reviewed publications as *iScience*, *JCI Insight*, *EMBO Reports*, *The FASEB Journal*, *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, and *Science Advances*. She also has made nearly 30 oral and/or poster presentations at such meetings as EMBO, Experimental Biology, and the European Muscle Conference.

College Mourns Passing of Former Faculty Ghose, Zatopek

UHCOP is mourning the passing of two pharmacy leaders who made indelible marks on the college.

Professor Emeritus **Romi Ghose**, Ph.D., passed June 26 at the age of 56. Ghose joined the college as an assistant professor of pharmaceuticals in 2006 and was promoted to associate professor in 2014. Before her UHCOP appointment, Ghose served in instructional and postdoctoral fellow positions at Baylor College of Medicine.



She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Calcutta in India, and her Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

Ghose served as advisor for six Ph.D. students/alumni and on the dissertation committees of 10 other UHCOP Ph.D. students as well as mentoring several Pharm.D., graduate and undergraduate students and postdoctoral fellows. She also served as course coordinator for two Pharm.D. courses and taught in several Pharm.D. and Ph.D. courses in the college.

The recipient of multiple grants, Ghose coauthored over 70 publications and more than 50 abstracts and delivered oral presentations at multiple national conferences.

Alumna and Mading Society member **Shara L. Zatopek**, B.S. ('74), M.A., who served as a faculty member and administrator for 30 years before retiring in 2016, passed April 23 at the age of 74.



Her pharmacy career spanned health-system and community pharmacy, including pharmacist and pharmacy manager positions in chain and independent operations.

At the college, Zatopek held assistant and associate dean positions over such areas as operations, academic/student affairs and admissions and taught in numerous courses in the professional program curriculum, including pharmacy practice, skills, law and management, as well as more than 100 sessions of pharmacy continuing education.

She also served many years on the UHCOP Dean's Executive Council, Dean's Advisory Council, and countless committees and task forces, including the steering committees that developed the Pharm.D. and the TX-PHARM nontraditional Pharm.D. program.

She was one of five UHCOP alumni to serve as national president of the Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society. Upon her retirement, Zatopek received the UHCOP Meritorious Achievement Award.

Paroma Arefin, Ph.D. candidate, was recognized as a Top 5% Finalist at the ISPOR 2025 Research Presentation Awards May 13-16 in Montreal, Quebec, for her abstract, "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare Expenditures Among United States Older Adults with Joint Pain." Arefin also was awarded a PainConnect 2025 Travel Award to present her research, "Equity in Health: A Study of Racial and Ethnic Variations in Arthritis Treatment Expenditures Among Seniors," at the American Academy of Pain Medicine Annual Meeting April 3-6 in Austin.

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Jieni Li, Ph.D. ('24), MPH, research assistant professor, was among the inaugural pilot grant recipients of the UH/Baylor College of Medicine Consortium of Translational and Precision Health, which was established by a \$44.2 million grant from the National Center for Advancing Translational Research. Li's \$40,000 award will further her study into the effectiveness of hormone replacement therapies among multiple sclerosis patients during menopause. Li also was accepted into the Americas Committee for Treatment & Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ACTRIMS) Young Scientists Summit May 5-8 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

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Bradley McConnell, Ph.D., FAHA, FCVS, professor, served on the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics 2025 Organizing Committee.

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Kimberly Nguyen, Pharm.D. ('02), clinical associate professor and assistant dean for student and professional affairs, completed the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Academic Leadership Fellows Cohort 21. **Elizabeth Coyle**, Pharm.D., FCCM, BCPS, clinical professor and associate dean for academic affairs, served as Nguyen's dean mentor.

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Thi Thanh My Nguyen, M.S., Ph.D. candidate, was recognized as a 2025 AGE Early Career Scholar by the American Aging Association and presented "Targeting NLRP3 signaling with a novel sulfonylurea compound for the treatment of neuroinflammation and vascular dementia" at the AGE Annual Meeting May 11-14 in Anchorage, Alaska.

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Natalie Rosario, Pharm.D., MPH, BCACP, clinical assistant professor, received the 2025 Innovation in Self-Care and Nonprescription Medicines Teaching Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

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Ke-He Ruan, Ph.D., M.D., who retired in January, has been appointed professor emeritus.

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Rashim Singh, Ph.D. ('10), research assistant professor, was selected for the inaugural cohort of the Consortium for Translational and Precision Health's two-year K12 Scholars Program, which includes a scholar salary of up to \$120,000 per year.

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Vincent H. Tam, Pharm.D., FIDSA, FIDP, BCIDP, has been appointed as an editor on the Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy editorial board.

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Douglas Thornton, Pharm.D., Ph.D., BCPS, has been named

Platinum, Gold AMCP Medals for UHCOP Researchers

Ph.D. candidate Sourab Ganna, Pharm.D. ('22), and Research Assistant Professor Jieni Li, Ph.D. ('24), MPH, received Platinum and Gold medals, respectively, for their abstracts submitted for presentation at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy 2025 annual meeting March 31-April 3 in Houston.



Ganna

Ganna's abstract, "Cost-Effectiveness of Dextromethorphan-Bupropion (Auvelity) Among Major Depressive Disorder Adult Patients," also was selected for podium presentation at the meeting—a distinction given to only four abstracts each year.



Li

Li's abstract was on "Trends in Disease-modifying Therapies Among Older Adults with Multiple Sclerosis over the Past Decade."

Chair-elect of the Graduate Education Special Interest Group of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

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Joshua Wollen, Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor, received an honorable mention for Best Research Publication from the the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Social and Administrative Sciences Section. Wollen's paper, "Developing and Validating the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism Faculty Perceptions of College Climate (DEIA FPCC) Scale in Pharmacy Faculty," was published in a 2024 issue of the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education.

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Sahar Yazdanfard, M.S., Ph.D. candidate, received the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Abstract Submission Award – Student Posters for her abstract, "Determinants of Increased Travel Burden for Patients Treated with Buprenorphine," which she presented at the ASAM 56th Annual Conference April 24-27 in Denver, Colo.

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Five UHCOP faculty members were among the honorees at the UH 2025 Faculty Excellence Awards hosted by the Office of the Provost. Among those recognized were: **Elizabeth Coyle**, Pharm.D., FCCM, BCPS, **Cathy Hatfield**, Pharm.D., and **Nancy Ordonez**, Pharm.D., BCPS, for 25 years of service; **Louis Williams**, Ph.D., for 50 years of service; and **Vincent H. Tam**, Pharm.D., FIDSA, FIDP, BCIDP, a recipient of the Award for Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity-Professor Level.

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Seven Medicinal Chemistry Ph.D. students and five faculty members attended the 50th annual MALTO Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy Meeting-in-Miniature research conference May 21-23 in College Station.

- Comparative effectiveness of high-efficacy and moderate efficacy disease-modifying agents in reducing the annualized relapse rates among multiple sclerosis patients in the United States. Li J, Hutton GJ, Varisco TJ, Lin Y, Essien EJ, Aparasu RR. *Prev Med*. 2025 Jan;190:108180. doi: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2024.108180. Epub 2024 Nov 16.
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Access to Care Among Adults with Cardiovascular Disease. **Zakeri M, Lal LS, Abughosh SM, Sansgiry S, Essien EJ, Sansgiry SS**. *J Health Care Poor Underserved*. 2025;36(1):96-114. doi: 10.1353/hpu.2025.a951588.
- Fibroblast growth factor-inducible 14 regulates satellite cell self-renewal and expansion during skeletal muscle repair. **Tomaz da Silva M, Joshi AS, Kumar A**. bioRxiv [Preprint]. 2025 Jan 2:2024.10.06.616900. doi: 10.1101/2024.10.06.616900.
- High mobility group box 1 (HMGB1) mediates nicotine-induced podocyte injury. **Datta S, Rahman MA, Koka S, Boini KM**. *Front Pharmacol*. 2025 Jan 7;15:1540639.
- Differences in anxiety, depression and pain experience among adults with chronic low back pain as a function of nicotine product use. Zvolensky MJ, Smit T, Rogers AH, Bakhshaie J, Ditte JW, **Rinker DV**. *J Behav Med*. 2025 Jan 9. doi: 10.1007/s10865-024-00547-6.
- Reduction of vancomycin-associated acute kidney injury with montelukast. **Teran NS, Hudson CS, Phe K, Wang Y, Zhang Y, Chen H, Nigo M, Tam VH**. *J Infect Dis*. 2025 Jan 15:jiaf027. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiaf027
- Phase I trial comparing bile acid and short-chain fatty acid alterations in stool collected from human subjects treated with omadacycline or vancomycin. Jo J, **Hu C**, Horvath TD, Haidacher SJ, **Begum K, Alam MJ, Garey KW**. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2025 Feb 13;69(2):e0125124. doi: 10.1128/aac.01251-24. Epub 2025 Jan 17.
- Role of the Mobile Active Site Flap in IMP Dehydrogenase Inhibitor Binding. Wang X, Rosenberg MM, Kim Y, Maltseva N, **Cuny GD**, Joachimiak A, Kuzmič P, Hedstrom L. *ACS Infect Dis*. 2025 Feb 14;11(2):442-452. doi: 10.1021/acsinfectdis.4c00636. Epub 2025 Jan 29.
- Defining Fulminant Clostridioides difficile Infections: Assessing the Utility of Hypotension as a Diagnostic Criterion. Chua HC, **Eubank TA**, Lee A, Rao K, Jo J, **Garey KW, Gonzales-Luna AJ**. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2025 Jan 22;12(2):ofaf033. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofaf033. eCollection 2025 Feb.
- Marginal structural models to evaluate the association between adherence to direct oral anticoagulants and safety or efficacy outcomes among patients with Atrial Fibrillation. **Mohan A, Chen H, Deshmukh AA, Wanat M, Essien EJ, Paranjpe R, Fatima B, Abughosh S**. *J Am Pharm Assoc* (2003). 2025 Feb 14:102355. doi: 10.1016/j.japh.2025.102355.
- Interactions between ADGRF1 (GPR110) and extracellular matrix proteins govern its effects on tumorigenesis in HER2-positive breast cancer. **Abdulkareem NM, Bhat R**, Castillo M, Jung SY, Vasaiakar S, Nanda S, Ruiz A, Shea M, **Cao W**, Veeraraghavan J, Kim HY, **Bawa-Khalfe T, Hussain T, Liu X**, Gunaratne P, Schiff R, **Trivedi MV**. *Br J Pharmacol*. 2025 Jun;182(11):2524-2541. doi: 10.1111/bph.17463. Epub 2025 Feb 18.
- Dual inhibitor of MDM2 and NFAT1 for experimental therapy of breast cancer: in vitro and in vivo anticancer activities and newly discovered effects on cancer metabolic pathways. **Wang W**, Aguilar M, **Datta S, Alley A, Tadesse M, Wang X, Gao X, Zhang R**. *Front Pharmacol*. 2025 Feb 19;16:1531667. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2025.1531667. eCollection 2025.
- The microbiome-restorative potential of ibezapolstat for the treatment of Clostridioides difficile infection is predicted through variant PolC-type DNA polymerase III in Lachnospiraceae and Oscillospiraceae. **McPherson JK, Hurdle JG, Baker ML, Hussain T, Kumar A, Garey KW**. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2025 Apr 2;69(4):e0167924. doi: 10.1128/aac.01679-24. Epub 2025 Feb 21.
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- GPCR dimerization: Drug discovery aspects and targets in renin-angiotensin systems. **Faisal T, Hussain T**. *FASEB Bioadv*. 2025 Jan 31;7(3):e1486. doi: 10.1096/fba.2024-00180. eCollection 2025 Mar.
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