

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

[TTUHSC.EDU/PHARMACY](http://TTUHSC.EDU/PHARMACY)



## ASHP MIDYEAR OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES

In December, TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy faculty and students traveled to Anaheim, California for the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition. During the event, 14 posters were presented by our students. We also had approximately 30 students and alumni stop by our table at the Texas chapter mixer, where they were able to engage in professional growth, networking and reconnecting with alumni.

### MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear SOP Team Members, Alumni, and Friends,  
SOP members have had a productive quarter and actively engaged in scholarly work, course work, clinical work and community services. We have enjoyed meeting alumni and collaborators at conferences in the fall, celebrated the holidays with family and friends, and are working diligently in the spring semester. I look forward to seeing more of you at meetings, celebratory events, and graduation in the coming months!

–Grace M, Kuo, PharmD, MPH, PhD



# AHMED NAMED EMERGING INVENTOR



In October, the Office of Research Commercialization announced Mahmoud Salama Ahmed, PhD, as TTUHSC's 2023 Emerging Inventor of the Year, an award that recognizes recent innovation contributions of faculty members within the institution.

Ahmed serves as an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Amarillo campus, as well as a Research Instructor at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Ahmed's research program at TTUHSC focuses on recruiting the drug discovery tools including structure-based drug design, organic synthesis, X-ray crystallography, and in vitro/in vivo biological evaluation to modulate different clinical diseases using small molecules.

Ahmed has published 26 manuscripts in prestigious peer reviewed journals including Nature, Nature metabolism, Nature cardiovascular, Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, and European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry.

Learn more about Ahmed's research at <https://ahmed-lab.com>.

## PROFESSOR TAKES PART IN PODCAST



Eric MacLaughlin, PharmD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice, was part in a panel discussion on "Treatment Resistant Hypertension" for an iForumRx podcast. The podcast presents a complex patient case and the panel members act as consultants who talk through options for treatment.

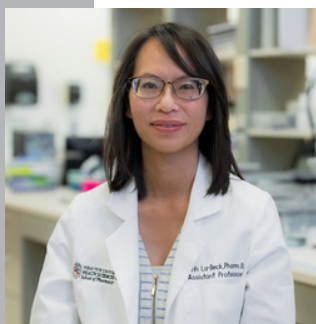


### Texas Tech HEALTH CHECK

 the official podcast of TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

"Texas Tech Health Check," is the official podcast of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Each week, host Melissa Whitfield interviews TTUHSC experts as they share advice and reminders to help us stay healthy—mentally and physically. Listen on the website, Apple Podcasts, Spotify and most other podcast providers!

# RESEARCHERS FEATURED IN DAILY DOSE



Two TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy faculty members recently had their research featured in Daily Dose.

**Irene La-Beck, PharmD**, was featured for her research to investigate the use of delivery systems that can take more drugs directly to tumors with the goal of reducing the side effects associated with chemotherapy treatments. La-Beck received a National Cancer Institute grant to investigate how nanoparticles interact with the immune system and cancer so that new drug delivery systems can be developed. Learn more about [La-Beck's research here](#).



**Jenny Wilkerson, PhD**, was featured for her National Institute of Health (NIH) grant supported research that investigates the influence basal sex hormone alterations may have on chronic post-op pain. Learn more about [Wilkerson's research here](#).

## TTUHSC'S ARPA-H MEMBERSHIP WILL SPUR INNOVATION, IMPROVE ACCESS FOR WEST TEXAS PATIENTS



Imagine if scientists developed a customizable cancer vaccine that was available — and affordable — for everyone. What if a patient scheduled for surgery also had the option of taking a pill whose composition includes nanorobotics capable of performing the procedure?

These and other medical scenarios may seem far-fetched and better suited to a science fiction thriller. However, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) is seeking to take such ideas from the drawing board to the patient, and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) will be part of the effort.

Established as part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in March 2022 and armed with a \$1 billion budget for three years, ARPA-H is a federal funding agency that supports high-impact research capable of driving biomedical and health breakthroughs that can deliver transformative, sustainable and equitable health solutions for everyone. Its mission focuses on leveraging research advances for real world impact. [Learn more here](#).

# TTUHSCSOP WELL REPRESENTED AT ACCP ANNUAL MEETING



TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy was well represented at the ACCP annual meeting in November. More than 40 students, faculty, and residents were in attendance with several giving poster presentations.

## VAN DYKE GRADUATES FROM ACCP ACADEMY

Alaina Van Dyke, PharmD, assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, graduated from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy - ACCP's Teaching and Learning Academy in late 2023. The Academy is an educational program that helps clinical educators develop the skills necessary to guide and inspire the clinical pharmacy profession through the completion of 16 hours of core modules and 4 hours of elective programming.



## O'PRY SELECTED AS EMERGING LEADER

Lindsay O'Pry, assistant director in the office of student affairs and admissions at the Lubbock campus, was selected for the TTUHSC Emerging Leader Program. The program provides new supervisors with the opportunity to develop and gain awareness of essential skills for effective leadership and building teams. Congratulations, Lindsay!





## TWO STUDENTS EARN ACA SCHOLARSHIPS

In December, the American College of Apothecaries Research and Education Foundation announced that TTUHSCSOP students Alexandria Arnett, P3 at the Dallas campus, and Rachel Blanchard, P2 at the Dallas campus, and were selected as two of four recipients of the Pharmacists Mutual | ACA Foundation Community Pharmacy Scholarship.



These scholarships are awarded to student pharmacists who have demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to advancing the future of community pharmacy in the United States. Congratulations, Rachel and Alexandria!

## COLLUM SELECTED - ASCP AMBASSADOR



Faith Collum, P3 at the Dallas campus, was selected as a Regional Student Ambassador for the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP). Collum received the honor at the ASCP annual meeting in November.

## KAPPA PSI WELCOMES PLEDGE CLASS



The Kappa Psi Eta Beta chapter welcomed their new Delta pledge class in December. During the welcome event, big and littles were revealed with the exchanging of gifts and treats. Kappa Psi is the oldest and largest pharmaceutical fraternity with the mission of developing leaders with a passion for service to their community while creating lifelong professional connections.

# MACLAUGHLIN, SEIFERT ADDRESS IMPORTANCE OF READING MEDICATION LABELS



The information included with new prescriptions medication can be overwhelming. Two TTUHSC-Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy medication experts recently shared how important it is to understand crucial information about prescriptions, including usage instructions, dosing, food interactions, missed doses, and potential side effects with the community at-large.



## VETERANS RECOGNIZED

On Veterans Day, TTUHSC team members and students who have dedicated their lives to protecting our freedom and ensuring our safety through military service to our country were recognized at a breakfast.

Two Jerry H. Hodge School of Pharmacy students were among those recognized.

- Katie Phelan, P4 at the Amarillo campus, US Air Force
- Ikechukw (Ike) Achonye, P4 at the Amarillo campus, US Army

## TTUHSC PHARMACY NOMINATED FOR VIEWERS CHOICE

TTUHSC Amarillo Pharmaceutical Care Center is, once again, a finalist for BEST PHARMACY in the NewsChannel10 Viewers Choice Awards! Voting is live through Feb. 16. Cast your vote [here](#).



# STUDENTS HELP BRING SMILES TO DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN

On Dec. 19, several School of Pharmacy students at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Abilene campus served as Santa's elves and helped make Christmas bright for children from disadvantaged communities. The student volunteers helped a group of 48 children "shop 'til they dropped" at the event, which brought big smiles to Big Country.



## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS



Students at the TTUHSC Abilene campus had a little holiday fun decorating gingerbread houses after their last final.



Trina Brown, assistant managing director at the Dallas campus, participated in the TTUHSC Deck the Halls door decorating contest and won the individual door category. Winners of the contest were determined by votes from TTUHSC team members. Brown's door was gnome themed and featured Gnome Santa with his list of naughty/nice Dallas faculty and staff members.



On December 2, the Amarillo Student Council hosted their first fall social event with ice skating at the Amarillo Ice Ranch. The event gave students the perfect chance to socialize and destress before finals.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



The Spring Medication Cleanout collection cycle will kickoff in March and continue through April. The drive through collections allow the public to drop off unwanted medicines and sharps to dispose of them in a free, legal and environmentally responsible manner. To learn more, visit [MedicationCleanout.com](http://MedicationCleanout.com)

Event Dates:

Amarillo Campus: March 23

Lubbock Campus: April 13

Abilene Campus: April 27

## MARCH:

- 1-3: WTPA Spring Retreat
- 7: Amarillo Disaster Day Simulation
- 13: Residency Match Day
- 22: Lubbock Disaster Day Simulation
- 22-25: APhA Annual Meeting

## APRIL:

- 1-5: SOP Spring Break
- 5-7: TSHP Annual Seminar
- 10: Residency Match Day - Phase II

## MAY:

- 8: Celebration of Achievement
- 18: Graduation
- 27: Memorial Day Holiday





# Fun Around Campus



## Wear Red Day & Parenterals Lab



## Holiday Fun



Have something or someone you'd like to see featured in the SOP Newsletter? Send a photo and a brief description of what you would like to see featured to [amber.bustos@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:amber.bustos@ttuhsc.edu)