Upcoming Events

No current events this month...hope you are having a great summer!
Dear Friends,

Usually my July comments are very brief. In fact, I usually just say “Gone fishing” and send my wishes that you are having a great summer.

However, with this edition of “Hoofprints” I want to include a save the date request. There is a dedicated group, headed by Cathy Ross from Communication Disorders, planning our second annual tailgate for UW Homecoming. I hate to start thinking about fall at this point in July but the reality is UW football will be starting its fall practice soon, the start of classes is a little over a month away, and it is time to start planning. Also, given the full schedules most of you have, it is important that you get this on your calendar now and, if you want to stay over, reserve a hotel room soon. If you made the first one, I am sure you had a good time – good food and drink and good friendship. If not, I hope you can make it this time, it will be even better.

Homecoming is the weekend of October 11th – 13th. There will be a reception on Friday, October 11th to recognize the College of Health Sciences Outstanding Alumni and Friend of the College. That will be at the UW Conference Center at the Hilton Garden Inn at 4 p.m. You are all invited to attend and celebrate the achievements of these great people.

On Saturday, there are a number of UW activities including the Homecoming Parade. A web link to the UW activities will be available at a later date. The football game will pit the Cowboys against the New Mexico Lobos and will start at 1:30 p.m. Our tailgate will begin at 11:30 a.m. and give us two hours before the game time to enjoy each other’s company. We are fortunate enough to have one of our divisions, Kinesiology and Health, housed close to the stadium. So, the location for the tailgate will be at the Corbett Building. All of the divisions of the college will be represented by students, staff and faculty.

Please put this on your calendar and join us for refreshments and good times at Homecoming.

All the best,

Joe
Wyoming commemorated the birth of deaf-blind activist **Helen Keller** to call attention to a federal program that puts free communications technology in the hands of people with hearing and vision loss, enabling them to remain connected with family, friends and their communities.

The National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) – also known as iCanConnect – authorizes the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide local distribution of a wide array of accessible communications technology at no cost to people who qualify.

Wyoming’s iCanConnect program officially recognized June 23 to June 29, 2013 as Helen Keller Awareness Week to promote the rights of people who are deaf-blind and call attention to iCanConnect as a civic way to increase opportunities for all. More than one million Americans have some combination of hearing and vision loss. Many, particularly elderly people, may not be aware their loss of hearing and sight would qualify them to receive iPads, amplified telephones, computer screen readers, or other accessible communications technology for free.

"With the right technology, people with disabilities can link to information and be more connected with their friends and family," said Wendy Alameda, Wyoming’s iCanConnect project coordinator. "iCanConnect is a truly transformational program, and we have resources for Wyoming individuals who experience both vision and hearing loss."

For more information about the National Deaf Blind Equipment Distribution Program in Wyoming, and to see if you or someone you know qualifies, visit http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/wydefablind/, E-mail watr@uwyo.edu, or call (307) 766-6187.

**Look for our posters around Wyoming!**
Better Health - There’s an App for that!

Casper residency program conducting research study to better serve its patients
By Mel Schwartz

Faculty and residents from the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency Program (UWFMRP) in Casper are currently participating in two research studies with the University of Washington as a part of the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho (WWAMI) region Practice and Research Network (WPRN). One study includes a patient survey that will provide valuable information about the use of mobile health technology to monitor health conditions, and one study includes a patient survey that will determine the importance of weight loss programs among the patient population.

The same is true for the mobile health survey. If the survey reveals that there is indeed an interest in the mobile healthcare apps available to the consumer, then UWFMRP providers and staff will develop a program to assist patients with downloading and navigating those apps. Patients can use mobile healthcare applications to track their blood sugar, weight, and other conditions; this technology is a relatively new way for individuals to monitor their own health between visits to their primary care provider or specialist.

Dr. Beth Robitaille, Program Director of the University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency Program in Casper, believes this research will bring many benefits to the residency program. “This is practice-based research on topics affecting patients right now,” Dr. Robitaille said. “We can translate the data we receive from those surveys into quality improvement initiatives, which benefit the patients tremendously because such initiatives ultimately lead to improved patient care.”

And the patients will benefit from all aspects of the studies, as each of the surveys is uniquely complimentary to the other. Patients interested in the weight loss program will undoubtedly want to utilize the weight loss and calorie counting apps while in the program and vice versa. The surveys will also help providers develop more successful treatment programs and equip them with the resources they need to empower their patients one program, one app, at a time.

The 10th Annual Division of Communication Disorders Barbara Kahn Summer Speaker at the UW Student Union on Friday, June 28, 2013.

Over 80 professionals, students, and faculty, including speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and nurses, attended an all-day presentation on pediatric swallowing and feeding disorders given by Joan C. Arvedson, PhD, a Board Recognized Specialist, Program Coordinator of Feeding and Swallowing Services at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, and Clinical Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin. Everyone learned a lot at this information-packed event and enjoyed a lunch catered by UW.

Through the generosity of the Barbara Kahn Foundation for Speech Correction, the Summer Speaker Series is offered at no charge to speech-language pathologists who provide externships to our graduate students, members of our State association, and UW faculty. The Kahn Foundation was initially established in 1953 by Ruby and Albert Kahn in memory of their daughter, Barbara Kahn. Barbara was the first student to be awarded a B.A. in Speech Correction in 1952. For over fifty years, this fund has helped support student scholarships, instructor and researcher salaries, and supplies and equipment in the Division of Communication Disorders.
Faculty and Staff News

UW Trustees Approve School of Pharmacy Faculty Promotions

The University of Wyoming Board of Trustees approved promotions of the following School of Pharmacy faculty effective July 1:

Linda Gore Martin, Pharm.D., M.B.A., BCPS, Promoted to Professor

Janelle L. Krueger, M.S., R.Ph., Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor

Melissa L. Hunter, Pharm.D., Promoted to Associate Research Scientist

Mary Onysko, Pharm.D., BCPS, Promoted to Clinical Associate Professor
Travis Brown Study Published in Hippocampus

Travis Brown, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmaceutical science, recently had an article titled, "Loss of interneuron LTD and attenuated pyramidal cell LTP in Trpv1 and Trpv3 KO mice," published in the neuroscience journal of Hippocampus. TRPV1 receptors are multimodally activated channels classically characterized as the "capsaicin receptor." Recent studies have suggested that TRPV1-like receptors are functionally expressed in the brain. To further elucidate what role TRPV1 receptors may have in brain function, Brown, in conjunction with Anda Chirila, Benjamin Schrank and Dr. Julie Kauer (Professor, Brown University), recently showed that TRPV1 and TRPV3 receptors both regulate synaptic efficacy in the hippocampus, a brain region implicated in learning and memory. This may open up new therapeutic targets for memory, addiction, epilepsy and pain.

Former Dean Marcia Dale Honored

The Friends of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing Development Board to honor former Dean Marcia Dale’s memory by seeking funding to provide financial assistance/awards for the nursing “Aspire” program students. The name of the program will also be changed to “The Marcia Dale Aspire Scholar Program”, and the program focus will be on Leadership and Development. The new naming adds a level of prestige but also perpetuates Marcia Dale’s amazing career, giving the students an example of a true leader. Every new class will learn about Dr. Dale and why her name is associated with Aspire.

Caption: (left) four of the eight “Marcia Dale Aspire Scholars”, Amber Wright, Madison Vigil, Maggie McDonnell, and Mary Brame, attended the “Friends” Development Board meeting in June, meeting nursing alumni and leaders from around the United States.
Angela Thompson Article Published in The Consultant Pharmacist

Angela M. Thompson, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical assistant professor of pharmacy practice, recently had an article published in The Consultant Pharmacist titled, "Evaluation of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Medication Management and Control in Older Adults."

Although the management of diabetes mellitus may be determined based on specific patient characteristics, prescribing patterns and overall management of T2DM in older adults are not well described. This retrospective research aimed to characterize glycemic control and pharmacologic management in older patients and to compare glycemic control and pharmacological management in patients 65 to 79 years of age ("young-old") with those 80 to 89 years of age ("old-old"). Results from this study indicate that within the study population, glycemic control was similar between the young-old and old-old. However, the old-old required fewer diabetic medications for this same level of glycemic control.

Thompson's practice setting is located at University of Wyoming Family Medicine Residency Program-Cheyenne in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where she works in ambulatory care. Her interests include geriatrics, diabetes, women's health, men's health, and cardiovascular risk reduction.

Carol Kobulnicky Conducts Workshop on Motivational Interviewing at Idaho State University

Carol J. Hermansen-Kobulnicky, Ph.D., R.Ph., associate professor of social and administrative pharmacy conducted a workshop on Motivational Interviewing for about 20 faculty at Idaho State University (ISU) June 3–4.

After co-presenting a seminar that included Motivational Interviewing at the 2012 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting, Kobulnicky was asked by an associate dean at ISU to conduct the workshop.

Goals of the workshop were to educate faculty attendees about the philosophy and practice of Motivational Interviewing and to help them build skills for using Motivational Interviewing techniques in practice.
Congratulation Residency Graduates!

The Family Medicine Residency Program at Cheyenne celebrated the successful completion of residency training and graduation of six physicians on Thursday, June 27, 2013.

From left:
Nima Azarbehi, DO
Jake Behringer, MD
Kristina Behringer, MD
Robert Oravec, MD
Yusuf Ruhullah, MD
Aaron Wilson, MD

The Family Medicine Residency Program at Casper held their residency graduation on Wednesday, June 26, 2013.

Top from left:
Jenna Sloan, PharmD
Mesha Dunn, MD
Russell Pierce, MD
Marcus Harris, DO

Bottom from left:
Keyna May, MD
Nikki Myhre, DO
Jacob Johnson, DO
Larry Lauriden, DO
An invited review written by UW School of Pharmacy student Jennifer B. Steiner, Zhenbiao Wu (with the Department of Clinical Immunology, Xijing Hospital, Fourth Military Medical University, Xi’an, China), and Jun Ren, UW School of Pharmacy Professor of Pharmacology, has been accepted for publication in the journal of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology July 2013 issue. The article titled, "Ticagrelor: Positive, negative and misunderstood properties as a new antiplatelet agent," is available online from: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1440-1681.12097/abstract.

Steiner credits Dr. Ren’s guidance and his Advanced Cardiovascular Physiology and Pharmacology class (PHCY 6550) for this academic opportunity. Jun Ren, M.D., Ph.D., FAHA, is also the College of Health Sciences Associate Dean for Research and the Wyoming INBRE Program Director.

Ticagrelor is a reversible oral anti-platelet agent that non-competitively binds to platelet receptors. Ticagrelor gained notoriety when an international clinical study compared ticagrelor, prasugrel and clopidogrel drug therapy in combination with aspirin in patients with stable acute coronary syndrome. Of these three agents, ticagrelor demonstrated an overall superior reduction in mortality. These promising findings were controversial because some countries in the study reported the mortality reduction from ticagrelor was actually inferior to that of clopidogrel. In this mini-review, the authors analyze the possible pharmacological mechanisms for these conflicting clinical outcomes and for other observed effects of ticagrelor.

Steiner (class of 2014), from Billings, Montana, was accepted into the 2012 Paul Ambrose Scholars Program of the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. This highly competitive national award is given to graduate and professional students in Allopathic Medicine, Dentistry, Graduate Nursing, Physician Assistant, Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy (D.P.T.). Steiner was one of 46 scholars chosen, of which 9 were Pharm.D. students. She is the first Ambrose Scholar from the University of Wyoming.
Nursing 2013 graduate Emily Bandel hired by Mayo Clinic

New BSN graduate Emily Bandel has been hired by the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Emily was diagnosed with leukemia in her freshman year of college. While receiving cancer treatment she said that she had the opportunity to be cared for by wonderful nurse practitioners. She was inspired to work toward becoming a nurse herself in order to help others, especially children who have cancer. Her job at the Mayo Clinic is partially fulfilling that dream, since she will be working on the Hematology Oncology unit.

Preceptors Helping Students to be their Best!

Kelli Gibson and Erica Wang have been selected as the 2013 Preceptors of the Year for their significant contributions to the education of UW School of Pharmacy students. The announcements were made at the Annual Honors and Awards banquet in May. Kelli Gibson, Pharm.D., BCPS, with Rose Medical Center in Denver, Colorado, teaches an Introductory Hospital rotation for P2s. Erica Wang, Pharm.D., BCPS, is also with Rose Medical Center in Denver, Colorado, and teaches a Critical-Care elective for P4 students. Dr. Wang is an alumna of the UW School of Pharmacy where she received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2006.

Going the Distance: In the Classroom and On the Field

Chaundra Sewell (Pharmacy) has been named a 2013 Mountain West Scholar-Athlete of the Year. She was a star Wyoming Cowgirl basketball player.

Greg Miller (Pharmacy) who was named a 2012 Mountain West Scholar-Athlete of the Year last year, has been awarded a prestigious NCAA postgraduate scholarship. He is a former UW cross country and track and field member.
Alumni and Friends of the College

Find out what all of your UW Friends, Alumni, and Supporters are up to by visiting WYOAALUMNI at wyoalumni.uwyo.edu.