The School of Pharmacy welcomes John Vandel as the new Dean. John is a Wyoming registered pharmacist and community pharmacy owner who has served for twelve years on the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and has served nationally on the American Pharmacist Association and National Community Pharmacist Association boards. He was very active in the development of the all Pharm.D. program in pharmacy education by serving on the AACP “Commission to Implement Change in Pharmacy Education”. He has served 12 years on the WY Board of Pharmacy and is a Past President of the WPhA. He received his B.S. in Pharmacy in 1957 from the University of Wyoming, School of Pharmacy and was selected as one of the 1995 UW Distinguished Alumni. He is currently serving as a member of the WY Health Care Commission.

The School of Pharmacy also welcomes several new faculty members. Dr. Michelle Hilaire is at the Fort Collins Family practice site. Dr. Jennifer Petrie is working in Laramie at the Downtown Clinic. Dr. Christy Graham is in Casper at the Wyoming Medical Center. Dr. Tonja Woods is in Laramie at the Advanced Community Practice site located in the Express Pharmacy. Jeffrey Bernard, B.S., R.Ph. is the new Professional Experience Coordinator.

Dr. Beverly Sullivan was appointed to the position of Associate Dean of the School of Pharmacy. Dr. Bruce Culver was promoted to full professor and Dr. Jun Ren was granted tenure. Dr. Sullivan serves as Director of the Division of Pharmacy Practice and Dr. Culver serves as Director of the Division of Pharmaceutical Science.

Several faculty members were recognized this past year by the College of Health Sciences for outstanding achievements. Dr. Hal Bruyere received the “Outstanding Teacher of the Year” award. Dr. Jun Ren was awarded the “Outstanding Research Scientist” award. Dr. Linda Martin was recognized as the “2004 Meritorious Service” awardee.

Research at the School of Pharmacy continues to increase in quantity and importance. Presently, the school has $4,547,278 in funded grants.

The School of Pharmacy, in conjunction with other science departments on campus, formed the “Center for Cardiovascular Research and Alternative Medicine” (CRAM). This new center will enhance the ability to obtain grants and will facilitate the interdisciplinary collaborative efforts of many research scientists. This new center is housed in the School of Pharmacy.

In addition to “CRAM”, Dr. Tonja Woods developed a new “Advanced Community Practice” site at David Athey’s “Express Pharmacy” in Laramie. This new project will facilitate pharmacists’ collaboration with physicians to perform tests for diabetes, hyperlipidemia, coagulation and bone density. The pharmacist can then, under protocols with the physician, adjust drug dosages for the patient. Dr. Beverly Sullivan developed a Dispensing Clinic at the Downtown Clinic in Laramie.

Loren Thompson, Professional Experience Coordinator, retired this year after 10 years of service to the School of Pharmacy. Loren’s experience and counsel will be missed by the school, but we wish him a very enjoyable and successful retirement.

We have added several staff this year. In the front office we have added Chloe Jones as receptionist and assistant to Bobbie Cesko. Also, Rebecca Gonzales will be working with the Professional Experience Coordinator, operating the call desk for the WY PharmAssist program and facilitating the Tri-Partite Continuing Education program.

Two School of Pharmacy staff members were honored this year. Bobbie Cesko was named the “Outstanding Staff Member” by the College of Health Sciences. Maria Bennett was recognized by Mortar Board with a “Tip of the Cap” award.

This year we had 190 students enrolled in the P1-P4 classes. We graduated 46 of which 20 were males and 26 were females. Their pharmacy GPA was 3.42 and their Cumulative GPA was 3.44. Ten of the 46 went on to be accepted into Residency Training. The first time pass rate for the 2003 Wyoming students was 95%. We experienced a 100% job placement for those going into the work force.

For the first time, the School participated in PharmCAS, a new centralized application process sponsored by AACP. With a 62% increase in applications we enjoyed having over 400 students show an interest in the UW School of Pharmacy for the
One year ago when I accepted the position of Interim Dean I thought that I was going to help out the School of Pharmacy for a short period until a new Dean could be appointed. Well, that has changed and I will be here for awhile.

Being the Dean of a School of Pharmacy was never in my plans but I must admit, in spite of being a lot of work, it has been challenging and exciting. Had it not been for the tremendous support of the faculty, staff, students, and many of you, my moving into this position probably would not have occurred. Due to this support the school has experienced a very productive and progressive year as noted in the “School of Pharmacy Update” article.

The school and the Wyoming Pharmacists Association have been working very closely this past year. Mindy Rasmussen, WPhA CEO, assisted me with a class in “Current Affairs in Pharmacy” and the association helped Tim Sealy put on an outstanding graduation banquet for this year’s graduating class. One of my goals is to bring many of the practitioners and graduates back to assist the school in the many facets of the student’s educational experience. Many of you have a huge amount of experience to share with the students and I want to optimize this opportunity. Therefore, I will be inviting a small number of you to serve on the School of Pharmacy Advisory Committee. The role of the advisory committee will be to assist the school in recruitment, student events, practitioner events, continuing education, nominating adjunct faculty and preceptors, suggesting experiential practice sites, building graduate and practitioner support for the school and fund raising.

This past year we have experienced a tremendous outpouring of gifts and contributions from many of you that has allowed us to help support several students’ attendance at many of the national pharmacy association meetings. The students who went to the meetings were quick to share their experiences with the students who did not go, so we expect to have many more going this next year. I, personally, thank you for your contributions that allowed this globalization and development of our students to happen, and hope that you will be equally or more generous this year. Tuition and University monies only pay a part of the cost of education today. Your support helps fund the many needed items outside of the budget. Our annual fund drive is planned for November but I have included a contribution form in this mailing. If you have already contributed and receive an additional request please do not be offended. Just lay it aside. We and you will know that you have already done your part.

To kick off the year, we are planning a “Pharmacist Weekend” in Laramie on September 24 and 25. You will see the agenda elsewhere in this brochure. We look forward to seeing you in Laramie for this grand annual event.

Q: Can memantine (Namenda®) be used in combination with donepezil (Aricept®) to treat Alzheimer’s disease (AD)?

A: Yes. Patients with moderate to severe Alzheimer’s disease may benefit from the combination of memantine and donepezil. A randomized, double-blind placebo-controlled trial was conducted with 404 patients diagnosed with moderate to severe AD taking donepezil. The patients were given either memantine titrated to 20mg/d (divided BID) or placebo. Memantine patients showed a statistically significant improvement on measures of cognitive function, activities of daily living, behavior and clinical global status over placebo. This trial was conducted for 24 weeks and does not give us long-term data on safety or efficacy.

A postmarketing study completed in Europe in 2003 looked at 158 patients on the combination of memantine and donepezil. The median dose of memantine was 20mg/d and the combination therapy was well tolerated for most patients (98%) for a median of four months at a stable dosage. No serious adverse drug reactions were reported.

If you would like additional information on this or any other drug information question, please contact the UW Drug Information Center at (307) 766-6988 or email rxinfo@uwyo.edu


Faculty Members Receive Grant Funding

Jun Ren, Associate Professor of Pharmacology, will receive $1.1 million over the next five years from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the “Role of Acetaldehyde in Alcoholic Cardiomyopathy.” Alcoholic cardiomyopathy, which is associated with reduced heart function and enhanced risk of stroke and hypertension, is seen in most chronic drinkers and is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in alcoholics. Jun and his fellow researchers are currently working on another project funded by NIH to study the benefit of antioxidants for alcoholic cardiomyopathy.

Kurt Dolence, Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, and his co-investigators Keith Carron and Bob Corcoran of UW’s Department of Chemistry have entered a cooperative agreement between the School of Pharmacy (SOP) and the US Department of Agriculture. The team will receive $160,000 over the next four years to study “The Agricultural Research Service’s Development of West Nile Diagnostic and Vector Control Chemicals” in an attempt to develop ways to detect the West Nile virus on surfaces. Jason Hollister, a post-doctoral student in the SOP, will also be involved in the research.

School of Pharmacy Update

new P1 entry class starting in the fall of 2004. Of these, 319 applications were very viable candidates with 130 having over a 3.0 GPA. Due to the number of applicants and their quality, a decision was made to increase the class size from 48 to 52. The incoming class of 52 (60% resident-40% non-resident) have a GPA of 3.8 (Range 3.4-4.0) and an average PCAT score of 86 (Range 47-99 out of possible 100). The difficult part was rejecting over 90 applicants who in many past years would have been accepted and become good students and pharmacists. We can increase class size but we will need help from our alumni and supporters to obtain the funding for a few more faculty and to develop practice experience sites for student training.

This past year 37 students were awarded scholarships totaling $36,200. The total dollar amount of scholarships and the total number of scholarships continue to increase.

The ACPE (national accrediting agency) performed a “Focused Site Visit” in May 2004. They highly complimented the school on the progress we have made this past year and granted the school a three (3) year accreditation, thus extending our accreditation until June 30, 2007. A written report addressing our progress will be due by November 1, 2005. The academic year for the next currently scheduled evaluation of the Doctor of Pharmacy program for purposes of continued accreditation is 2006-2007.

The University of Wyoming College of Health Sciences School of Pharmacy is proud to sponsor Wyoming Pharmacy Weekend September 24 - 25 Laramie, WYoming Please join us for a weekend dedicated to the practice of pharmacy in the great state of Wyoming!

Otis Hoy Family Seminar Series UW School of Pharmacy Alumni Tailgate The Wyoming Cowboys vs. Ole Miss WY PharmAssist Certification Pharmacist CE

For more information visit one of our websites
http://www.uwyo.edu/pharmacy
http://www.uwyo.edu/pharmacyalumni

or contact the School of Pharmacy at (307) 766-6120

The School of Pharmacy is one of eight principal units comprising the College of Health Sciences. In addition to pharmacy, programs in health sciences include medical education, WIND, communication disorders, nursing, kinesiology and health, social work and dental hygiene. If you know someone who is considering a career in health sciences, please tell them about the College of Health Sciences website:
http://www.uwyo.edu/hs
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