



Report to the Texas Pharmacy Congress — February 19-20, 2020

TAM EARNS ASHP LIT AWARD FOR SUSTAINED CONTRIBUTIONS

UHCOP Professor Vincent H. Tam, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ-ID), FIDSA, has been recognized with the 2019 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Foundation Literature Award for Sustained Contributions.

Presented to Tam during the 2019 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas, the award “recognizes a pharmacist with a 20-year record of publishing high quality and impactful peer-reviewed biomedical literature.”

Tam has authored/coauthored more than 160 papers in peer-reviewed journals since 2001, including a May 2014 paper published in the journal *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* that was recognized as the Pharmacotherapy Paper of the Year



Award by the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists. He also served as coauthor of the “International Consensus Guidelines for the Optimal Use of the Polymyxins” in the journal *Pharmacotherapy*, endorsed by several U.S. and international organizations.

Tam has received research support from

such entities as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, and is a co-inventor on U.S. patents for novel formulations of polymyxin B and a rapid diagnostic system to help guide rational dosing of antimicrobials at the bedside.

A past member of the SIDP Board of Directors, Tam also was the first pharmacist elected to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases’ Board of Directors. In 2018, Tam was inducted as a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

His other honors include the UH Excellence in Research and Scholarship Award and team member of the ASHP Best Practices Award-winning CHI Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center’s Center for Antimicrobial Stewardship and Epidemiology.

College to Host ID Fellowship Forum, SPAC Events for First Time in June

UHCOP will pick up first-time hosting honors for this year’s Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy Fellowship Forum and the Southern Pharmacy Administration Conference (SPAC).

UHCOP will welcome ID fellows and mentors from across the nation to the Marriott Marquis Houston in downtown June 4-7. The program will feature moderated podium presentations by fellows as well as panel discussions and keynote addresses by leading ID faculty focusing on career and research developments.

Dozens of faculty and students also are expected for SPAC 2020, which will be held June 11-13 at UHCOP’s Health 2 Building. Abstracts for e-poster or podium presentation are being accepted until April 4, with all accepted abstracts to be published in the journal *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*. Registration opens March 2 and closes May 8. Bernard Harris, M.D., former NASA astronaut, CEO of the National Math + Science Initiative, and UH alumnus, will be the keynote speaker. For conference details, visit <https://tinyurl.com/uh-spac2020>.

ASHP Student Forum Names SSHP Chapter as PAI Video Finalist

The UHCOP Chapter of SSHP was one of two national finalists in the 2019 ASHP Student Forum Practice Advancement Initiative (PAI) Video Competition.

The PAI campaign aims to significantly advance the health and well-being of patients by supporting futuristic practice models that support the most effective use of pharmacists as direct patient care providers. Links to the top entries are posted at <https://www.ashp.org/Pharmacy-Student/Programs-and-Awards/PAI-Video-Competition>.

UHCOP also was one of four chapters to be recognized in October with an Honorable Mention in the national 2019 Outstanding PAI Program Award competition.

SSHP Residency Mentoring Social

The UHCOP and TSU SSHP chapters hosted their 5th Annual Residency Mentoring Social Jan. 15, which drew 88 students and more than 70 current residents and residency program directors from 17 programs. At right, keynote speaker Jeff Wagner, Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS, assistant vice president of Texas Children's Hospital, is recognized by TSU and UH SSHP chapter presidents Uzo Abajue and Alan Luu.



AMCP/IPHO Round Table

UHCOP's AMCP and IPHO chapters hosted their 5th Annual Round Table Event Jan. 24 to connect 75 students with more than 20 managed care and industry pharmacists, including keynote speaker Dominic Vu, Pharm.D. senior vice president at USI Insurance Services. At the event, the team of Kim Dinh, Jennifer Nguyen, Grace Pham, Irene Huang and Duc Huynh was crowned winner of the local P&T Competition, paving the way for its national competition entry.

APhA-ASP Patient Counseling Competition

Fifty-five students participated in the UHCOP APhA-ASP Chapter's 2020 Patient Counseling Competition, with Pharm.D. candidate Melissa Mirjamali announced Jan. 27 as the local competition winner and college representative for the national competition. At right, Mirjamali (second from right) is pictured with finalists Lina To, Michael Torano and Atra Azad.



DHR Community Health Fair in RGV

Several UHCOP Pharm.D. students traveled to Edinburg for the third year to participate in the DHR Health Community Health Fair Jan. 18, where students and practitioners from various disciplines provided more than 100 flu immunizations, 300-plus wellness screenings and education on various health and safety topics.

APhA-ASP Heart Hustle 5K

The UHCOP Chapter of APhA-ASP hosted its second annual Heart Hustle 5K Walk/Run Feb. 1 on the UH campus. Despite the chilly temperatures, UHCOP students provide wellness screenings and education while participants helped the chapter's Operation Heart initiative raise \$1,300 for the American Heart Association.



UHCOP STARTS 2020 WITH RETIREMENT, PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

With the start of the new year, UH College of Pharmacy has bid farewell, bestowed congratulations and announced appointments as part of its faculty and administrative teams.

Andrea L. Smesny, Pharm.D., MPH, executive associate dean and clinical assistant professor, retired in January after 20 years at UHCOP. Smesny joined the college as a director over the Pharm.D. student experiential outreach/wellness programs. She later became Assistant Dean of Student and Professional Affairs, then Associate Dean of Academic Affairs before being promoted to her most recent post. Smesny played a major role in ensuring the success of the college's new Pharm.D. curriculum, state-of-the-art building, and uninterrupted accreditation.

Paige Pitman, Pharm.D., MBA, clinical assistant professor, has been appointed as Smesny's successor in the role of executive associate dean. Pitman is a graduate of UHCOP, the University of Florida and UH's Bauer College of Business. Pitman most recently served as assistant dean of Student and Professional Affairs, and previously served as director of Pharm.D. Admissions and Recruiting. Her professional career includes management, clinical coordinator and clinical pharmacy posts at UTMB Galveston and CHI Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center.



SMESNY



PITMAN



NGUYEN

Kimberly Nguyen, Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor, has been promoted to succeed Pitman as Assistant Dean of Student and Professional Affairs. A UHCOP alumna, Nguyen joined the college as director of Institutional Based APPEs after working in clinical pharmacy at Houston Methodist Hospital and residency

programs at Dallas Veterans Affairs Medical Center and The University of Texas-MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Karina Garza, Pharm.D., joined the college as a clinical assistant professor with the Rio Grande Valley Pharm.D. Satellite Program in Edinburg. Garza is a graduate of The University of Texas College of Pharmacy/UT-Pan American Pharm.D. program. During her career, Garza has held clinical and management/leadership positions at Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco and Prime Mission Regional Medical Center in Mission. She is a past president of the Rio Grande Valley Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Mabel Truong, Pharm.D., BCPS, joined the college as a clinical assistant professor and Nguyen's successor as director, Institutional APPEs. A UHCOP alumna, Truong completed a PGY1 residency at Saint Joseph East in Lexington, Ky., after graduation, then worked as a clinical pharmacist at University of Louisville Hospital in Louisville, Ky., and Clear Lake Regional Medical Center in Webster, Texas.

Fatin Atrooz, Ph.D., postdoctoral research associate under Associate Professor Samina Salim, Ph.D., was recognized with a "paper excellence award" for her project, "Assessment of sleep and wakefulness pattern in an animal model of early-life sleep deprivation" at the 755th International Conference on Science, Technology and Management Dec. 26-27 in Dubai, U.A.E.

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Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., FNAI, and **Ming Hu**, Ph.D., professors of pharmaceuticals, have been named as the John J. Lovoi Sr. Endowed Professor of Drug Discovery and Development and Diana S-L. Chow Endowed Professor of Drug Discovery and Development.

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Jason Eriksen, Ph.D., associate professor, has been elected as a Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors. Eriksen also recently received a \$75,000 UH 2019 Chancellor's Bridging Technology Fund grant for his project, "Fast Multiplex Microscopy Using Serial Ablation Lathe Tomography."

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Hanan Qasim, Pharmacology Ph.D. candidate working under the mentorship of Associate Professor Bradley K. McConnell, Ph.D., FAHA, FCVS, has been awarded a travel award from the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics to present her project, "Cardiac AKAP12 Signalosome Overexpression Exacerbates Isoproterenol Induced Heart Failure," at Experimental Biology 2020 April 4-7 in San Diego, Calif.

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Swarnava Sanyal, Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy Ph.D. candidate, has been selected as the inaugural Humana Graduate Research Assistant Fellow in Health Outcomes as part of a new collaboration between the college's PHOP department and Humana Pharmacy Solutions.

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Satya Shukla, Ph.D., postdoctoral research associate under Associate Professor Gomika Udugamasooriya, Ph.D., won first place in the UH Postdoctoral Research Symposium Dec. 14 for his oral presentation, "Structural diversification of lipid-phosphatidylserine (PS) targeting peptide-peptoid hybrid compound PPS1."

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