



College Connections

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2011 Preceptor of the Year

When pharmacy students arrive for a rotation at Holcomb Pharmacy in Broken Bow, they can expect their comfort zone to, shall we say, expand.

Mike Holcomb, Pharm.D., a 1990 College of Pharmacy graduate, likes to tailor the rotations through his pharmacy to the experience level of the students.

"If a student has done a lot of nursing home work, we stay completely away from nursing homes when it comes to our work with that student," said Dr. Holcomb, who received the College of Pharmacy's 2011 Preceptor of the Year Award. "I set their rotations to build their strengths in new areas for them."

Dr. Holcomb tells us more about his experience and approach as a preceptor.

Tell us about your pharmacy.

We have a family-run pharmacy just off Broken Bow's main street that has been in operation since 1938. My grandfather started it, then my father ran it and now I do.

How long have you been a preceptor?

I started working with students about 1995.

What is the most rewarding aspect of being a preceptor?

I like to see what we can teach each other. I always ask the students, "What do you think I can do to improve my pharmacy?" They often have excellent ideas that I have been able to implement. Conversely, it's fun to teach

them things they don't learn in pharmacy school, which often relates to the business side of running a pharmacy.

Describe one of your favorite experiences as a preceptor.

I once took a student to a live radio segment focused on blood glucose monitors. The student, who was terrified to be on the radio to start with, was asked to conduct a blood glucose test on an announcer. The student pricked the announcer's



Michael Holcomb, Pharm.D., '90, 2011 Preceptor of the Year, with P4 class president, Branden Nemecek (left) and Dean Courtney Fletcher

finger but no blood came out. She did it again. Still no blood. This scene repeated about six times until finally I grabbed the host's hand and really stuck him hard with a needle, which finally drew some blood. Although mortified, the student did a great job keeping her cool and the announcer had a great sense of humor about it.

As a pharmacy student, what were your experiences like with preceptors?

I had several good ones and some who showed me how not to handle rotations. The main thing I took away was not to use a student as just another worker but rather to see what I can offer him or her educationally.

Spring Honors Convocation

The Holland Performing Arts Center was the venue for the 2011 Scholastic Honors Convocation on May 6. Sixty seniors were vested with their doctoral hoods and took the Pharmacist's Oath. Senior recognition awards and the 2011 Preceptor of the Year Award were also presented at the Convocation. Spring Commencement was held at the Civic Auditorium May 7.

2011 Doctor of Pharmacy Degree Recipients

Michelle Bahl, *Omaha*
Jamie Bergland, *Plattsmouth*
Brian Biga, *Omaha*
Sara Bisanz, *Aberdeen, SD*
James Bower, *So. Sioux City*
-with *Distinction*
Andrew Carter, *Plattsmouth*
Brent Cernik, *Wahoo*
-with *Distinction*
Whitney Cernik, *Wymore*
Amanda Champ, *Fremont*
Tori Cunningham, *Laurel*
Erin Danielson, *Omaha*
Lacey Deterding, *Broken Bow*
Rachel DeVries, *Beatrice*
Tessa Deyle, *Kearney*
-with *Highest Distinction*
Frederick Dunkerson, *Sutton*
Charis Dunlap, *Liberty*
Rachel Espinosa, *Fullerton*
Austin Farnstrom, *Hebron*
-with *High Distinction*
Sunny Forrest, *Grand Island*
Tyler Fries, *Dannebrog*

Jenna Friesen, *Hastings*
Amanda Gowen, *Saronville*
Brandon Gufford, *Cambridge*
Dalal Gumeel, *Sudan*
Shane Halouska, *Alliance*
Laurice Hansen, *Hampton*
Emily Hays, *Beatrice*
Monica Hollrah, *Omaha*
Emily Holm, *Laurel*
Adam Horan, *So. Sioux City*
Sarah Hulvershorn, *Crete*
Kevin Johnson, *Kearney*
Erin Kautz, *Inland*
-with *Distinction*
Gregory Knudsen, *Laurel*
Renee Kohles, *Omaha*
Ryan Kolarik, *Bellevue*
-with *High Distinction*
Annie Lancaster, *Crofton*
Katie Marquette, *Sutherland*
Ambri Merrill, *Ogallala*
Patrick Mesenbrink, *Omaha*
-with *Distinction*
Patrick Meyer, *Albion*

Christen Mick, *Omaha*
Reed Miller, *Johnson*
Ryan Moore, *Omaha*
Branden Nemecek, *Lincoln*
Kristen Nimmo, *Cheyenne, WY*
Benjamin Noll, *Hastings*
Regan Pettijohn, *Gering*
-with *High Distinction*
Ngoc-Thao Phan, *Lincoln*
-with *High Distinction*
Stephanie Popken, *Yakima, WA*
Ashley Presler, *Hastings*
Julia Reffert, *Omaha*
-with *Highest Distinction*
Craig Reha, *Schuyler*
Rachel Scoggins, *Lincoln*
Jessica Shimerdla, *Omaha*
Adam Smith, *Omaha*
-with *High Distinction*
Jeffrey Stansberry, *Pender*
Mary Venteicher, *Pierce*
-with *Distinction*
Dzao Vũ, *Vietnam*
Andrew Willuweit, *Gregory, SD*

2011 Senior Award Recipients

Rho Chi Achievement Award
Regan Pettijohn

Phi Lambda Sigma Award
Craig Reha

Merck Medicinal Chemistry Award
Tessa Deyle

Merck Pharmaceuticals Award
Brandon Gufford

Cunningham Memorial Award
in Pharmacodynamics
Austin Farnstrom

Mylan Pharmaceuticals Award
Erin Kautz

Barbara Osborne Manchester
Award
Amanda Champ

Teva Pharmaceuticals Outstanding
Student Award
Adam Smith

Facts and Comparisons Award of
Excellence in Clinical
Communication
Tori Cunningham

Lilly Achievement Award
Julia Reffert

Joseph B. Burt Memorial Award
Branden Nemecek

Phyllis Rhodes Award
Julia Reffert

Bradley G. Wulf Memorial Award
Craig Reha

Academy of Students of Pharmacy
Certificate of Recognition Award
Ryan Moore

Varro and Virginia Tyler Award
Julia Reffert

Stephen A. Scholtz Memorial Award
Mary Venteicher

US Public Health Service Excellence
in Public Health Pharmacy
Practice Award
Emily Hays

Pharmacist Mutual Insurance
Company Award
Ryan Kolarik

Pharm.D. Honors
Brandon Gufford



Meet UNMC New Investigator Jered Garrison, Ph.D.

UNMC researcher Jered Garrison, Ph.D., answers questions about his work, life and interests.

NOTE: This profile is part of a series highlighting the 24 researchers who will be honored at a May 2 ceremony for UNMC's 2010 Scientist Laureate, Distinguished Scientist and New Investigator award recipients.

- **Name:** Jered Garrison, Ph.D.
- **Title:** Assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences
- **Joined UNMC:** October 2009
- **Hometown:** Marion, Ohio

Describe your research in laymen's terms.

Our research focuses on the development of diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals for cancer, specifically prostate and pancreatic cancer. Radiopharmaceuticals are drugs that include a radionuclide that emits small amounts of radiation that can be used to detect or treat diseases such as cancer.

How does your research contribute to science and/or health care?

There is a significant clinical need for effective diagnostic and therapeutic agents for both prostate and pancreatic cancer.

Name someone at UNMC who provides vital contributions to your success and briefly describe how they help you.

A lot of individuals have and continue to help me. I have been fortunate since coming here to have benefited by a lot of great mentorship from Drs. Surinder Batra, Alexander Kabanov and Dennis Robinson. Of course, the students and research personnel in my laboratory are absolutely vital to my research and my success thus far. Fortunately for me, I have a group of very intelligent and driven researchers who perform the research in my

laboratory.

List three things few people know about you.

- I read a lot – mostly classical literature, biographies and science fiction/fantasy.
- I love to play racquetball (though I haven't been able to find a partner yet at UNMC).
- My wife and I are both animal lovers. We have two dogs and two cats at home.



Meet UNMC New Investigator Gary Cochran, Pharm.D.

UNMC researcher Gary Cochran, Pharm.D., answers questions about his work, life and interests.

- **Name:** Gary Cochran, Pharm.D.
- **Title:** Assistant professor of pharmacy practice
- **Joined UNMC:** July, 2000
- **Hometown:** Glenwood, Iowa

Describe your research in laymen's terms.

The goal of my research is to improve medication safety, reduce harmful medication errors and improve the quality of health care for those in rural areas.

How does your research contribute to science and/or health care?

We partner with rural providers to help them monitor their medication use systems, identify system vulnerabilities and implement changes that will reduce the likelihood of future errors. My current project will allow for a better understanding of error epidemiology and error cause in a setting where little research has previously been conducted.

Name someone at UNMC who provides vital contributions to your success and briefly describe how they help you.

I am fortunate to have developed a number of professional relationships at both UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center over the years. These individuals have provided valuable insight and advice for specific needs – ranging from study design and data analysis to navigation of the federal grant application and grant management systems. In the 10 years that I have been at UNMC, every investigator, clinician or administrator that I have approached has graciously provided the assistance that I've needed.

List three things people may not know about you.

- My primary focus is my family. I love watching my children discover the world around them.
- Archery is a favorite pastime.
- I'm a "retired" private pilot hoping to start flying again one day.



Faculty News



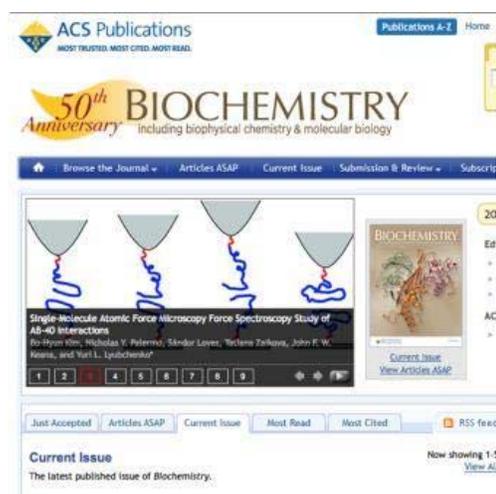
Dr. Dong Wang, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was invited to a special symposium during the American Chemical Society Spring Annual Meeting at Anaheim in March. The topic of the symposium was "[Click Chemistry Approaches in Carbohydrate Chemistry](#)". The symposium organizers invited a few highly respected speakers to this meeting, including Dr. K. Barry Sharpless (third from left), a Nobel Laureate, who first conceptualized click chemistry.

Dr. Dong Wang is also featured with Dr. Rick Reinhardt in the story "Local researchers stumble across new kind of mouthwash." <http://www.ketv.com/news/27626525/detail.html>

Dr. Yuri Lyubchenko, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Director, Nanoimaging Core Facility, has been awarded by the Nebraska Research Initiative \$631,668 for the AFM/Raman instrument.

The paper "Single-Molecule Atomic Force Microscopy Force Spectroscopy Study of A β -40 Interactions" by Dr. Lyubchenko and colleagues was also featured in the magazine *Biochemistry*.

Please see 2011-A β -40 BHK *Biochemistry* final for the complete article.



[9th Annual Greater Nebraska Trip](#)



From left: Charles Krobot, Pharm.D., Dr. Maurer, Dave Wimmer, Bob Bartee and Rick Boldt visit Wimmer's Meats in West Point, Neb. Wimmer is a member of the UNMC Board of Counselors.

Dr. Keith Olsen, Chair, Department of Pharmacy Practice, has been elected to the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Board.

ACCP President-Elect: Curtis Haas

ACCP Secretary: Krystal Haase

ACCP Regents: Edith Nutescu, Jo E. Rodgers

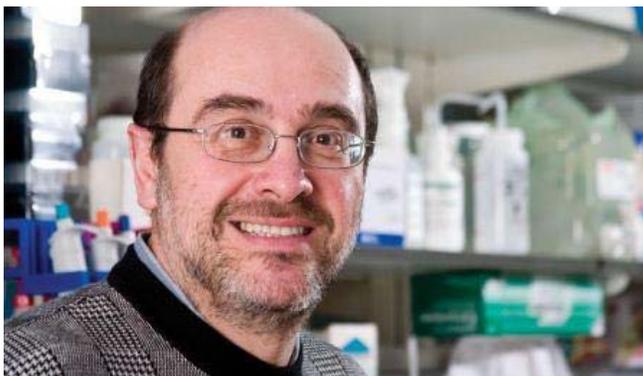
Research Institute Trustees: Jill Kolesar, **Keith Olsen**

Congrats, Dr. Olsen!

UNMC Grants – Dr. Kabanov receives 'mega-grant' from Russian government

UNMC nanomedicine guru Alexander "Sasha" Kabanov, Ph.D., D.Sc., will operate labs on two continents thanks to a two-year, \$4.5 million "mega-grant" from the Russian government.

Dr. Kabanov, the Parke-Davis Professor in Pharmaceutics and director of the Center for Drug Delivery and Nanomedicine (CDDN) at UNMC, is one of 40 Russian, foreign or expatriate Russian scientists who last year received a new type of grant to bring their expertise to Russian universities.



Dr. Kabanov joins an elite group of grant winners. One winner is a Nobel laureate and another holds a Fields Medal, commonly regarded as math's Nobel Prize.

The only chemist in the group, Dr. Kabanov will lead one of six projects at Moscow State University (MSU), his alma mater. He will study chemical formulations of enzymes and proteins for bionanomaterials.

"I am looking for a different approach to therapy for drug-resistant bacteria," he said.

The grant from Russia recognizes the quality of Dr. Kabanov's research, said Don Leuenberger, vice chancellor of business and finance.

The 12-billion-rouble (U.S. \$428 million) 'mega-grant' program is part of Russia's attempt to strengthen research at its universities and modernize the country's science and economy at large.

Dr. Kabanov's laboratory will be in the MSU Department of Chemistry, where he also was a leading research fellow before the fall of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Kabanov and Leuenberger recently signed an agreement with MSU to protect intellectual property developed through this collaboration. The agreement, negotiated by UNeMed, UNMC's technology transfer arm, also gives MSU the license to use Dr. Kabanov's

technologies that he developed at UNMC and gives UNMC access to enzyme engineering technology available at MSU.

"This is a great challenge," said Dr. Kabanov, who along with other mega grant recipients, recently met with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. "We hope to

produce good science and good products in both nations."

Dr. Kabanov facts

Joined UNMC: 1994

Contributions:

- Founded CDDN – the first academic center in nanomedicine in the United States – which is composed of 33 faculty members who hold more than \$34 million in federal research grants and generate about 50 percent of all UNMC patent applications.
- Established the field of "polymer genomics," which investigates effects of polymers and nanomaterials on cellular responses to develop safe and efficient therapeutics.

Student News



Danny Schroeder, Bobby Kurasawa and Jeremy Gieseke

This Spring, the Midwest College of Clinical Pharmacy's (MCCP) meeting hosted the first annual intercollegiate Pharmacy Quiz Bowl Challenge.

It was an amazing showdown between UNMC and Creighton's team of student experts. Danny Schroeder, Bobby Kurasawa and Jeremy Gieseke were awesome! Their lightening fast buzzer action, quick decision making, vast clinical and therapeutic knowledge, and snazzy ties made it apparent they were the team in charge. After a quiz bowl, clinical case, and jeopardy round, they scored 2,550 points leaving the Bluejays trailing at 1,575 points.

Dean Fletcher also presented at the meeting on HIV treatments and the pharmacokinetics behind some of the newer and older therapies.

Thank you to the Faculty and Students for their participation. If you are thinking about participating in next year's competition, start sharpening those clinical facts and think about teams now!

Ellina Pisetsky was the patient counseling competition representative for the College of Pharmacy at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) meeting in March in Seattle, Washington.

Ellina was selected from our Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) local competition where she competed against 15 of her peers.

The competition is based mainly on communication skills, keeping the patient's best interest in mind, as well as conveying accurate drug information.

University expands rural pharmacy program to Peru

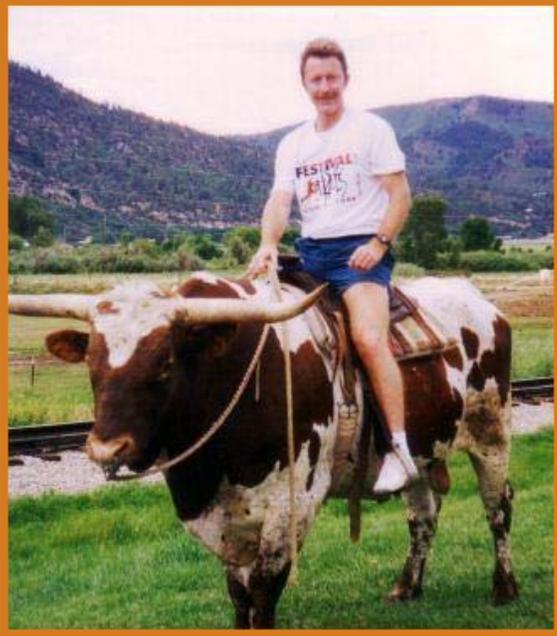
PERU, Neb. (AP) — A University of Nebraska program designed to encourage students to pursue health care careers in rural areas is expanding to Peru State College.

The new program at Peru will begin in the fall of 2012 with slots for three students interested in studying in the pharmacy program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Students who complete the program at Peru will receive automatic admission into pharmacy school at UNMC, as long as they maintain good grades and complete the undergraduate program.

The students will also have their tuition at Peru State waived. Applications will be available online Sept. 1.

Similar programs for other medical careers are offered at Chadron State College and Wayne State College.



Thanks for 25 years of wonderful memories.

As Sandra and I are about to return to New Zealand just two weeks short of 25 years at the UNMC College of Pharmacy, we look back on so many wonderful professional and personal memories that we will take with us. While there are many exciting activities to look forward to in the future, I know I will greatly miss my interactions with students both in

and outside the class room. It is very satisfying to look back on one's professional life and be able to say that I thoroughly enjoyed my "job". To be honest, I experienced much more than I ever anticipated as a young graduate student in New Zealand. Sandra and I are very grateful to everyone who has contributed to our many valued experiences and memories while living in the USA for the last 25 years. In particular, I want to use the College Connections as a mechanism to say a very sincere thank you to all students and alumni of the College of Pharmacy who contributed to make my professional life so exceptionally rewarding. Dean Fletcher has kindly agreed to give me an emeritus appointment so I will continue to take a keen interest in activities in the College and contribute whenever I can. The college will always have my contact information should anyone make it to New Zealand and many have said they intend to do so one day. There will be a boat, canoe, fishing rods etc., waiting and we would love to host you and advise you about exploring the country. Again, sincere thanks to one and all.

Dennis Robinson, Ph.D.

~~Professor and Chair.~~

Retired, gardener, fisherman etc.



The northern view on Dr. Robinson's property in New Zealand.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Robinson's Farewell Reception

July 14, 2011, 4-6pm, COP Commons

White Coat Ceremony

August 17, 2011 @ 7pm, MSC Events Center

Fall Semester First day of classes

August 22, 2011

Barry Carter, Pharm.D. seminar

August 25, 2011 @ Noon in COP Room 1038

Student Plaza Dedication & Lunch

September 13, 2011 from 11:30am-1pm

Career Day

November 18, 2011

Fall Last Day of Classes

December 9, 2011

Fall Finals Week

December 12-16, 2011

Spring Semester First day of classes

January 3, 2012

Spring Break P1s-P3s

March 12-18, 2012

Spring Break P4s

March 26-April 1, 2012

Spring Last Day of Classes

April 20, 2012

Spring Finals Week

April 23-27, 2012

Spring Honors Convocation (all faculty to attend)

May 4, 2012

Commencement

May 5, 2012



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

College of Pharmacy

Preceptor Development Retreat

Save The Date

Location: Eugene T. Mahoney State Park

Date: August 25-26, 2011



Dean's Message

The next chapter.

We mark the graduation of our class of 2011 in this issue of College Connections, and the start of the next chapter of their professional careers in pharmacy. To the class of 2011, it was a pleasure to have you as students, and an honor to welcome you to the ranks of our distinguished alumni. As I remarked to you at graduation, quoting from Garrison Keillor, "be well, do good work, and stay in touch".



This issue also marks the next chapter for two of our distinguished faculty. Dr. Dennis Robinson, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences is retiring, and with his wife Sandra returning to their native New Zealand. Dennis has been a member of the faculty for 25 years, and served as chair (or interim chair) for 13 of those years. Dennis has contributed enormously to the strength of our professional and graduate educational programs and our research programs.

As we go to press with this issue, Dr. Clarence T. Ueda

has announced he will retire from the faculty of the College of Pharmacy on August 1, 2011. Dr. Ueda joined the faculty of the College of Pharmacy as an assistant professor of pharmaceutics in 1974. He was appointed interim dean of the College in 1986 and subsequently dean in 1987. Dr. Ueda served twenty years as dean. He left the deanship and returned to the faculty at the end of 2007.

Clarence's contributions as a member of the faculty and as dean have been numerous and meaningful. Clarence left the deanship with the College in better shape than when he took over as dean. That is an enduring legacy for which we are thankful.

Please join me in wishing Drs. Robinson and Ueda

congratulations for their accomplishments and contributions, and best wishes as they retire from the College of Pharmacy and UNMC and start their next chapters.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'C' and a checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Courtney V. Fletcher, Pharm.D.
Dean and Professor