



College Connections

Elaine Payne receives Gold 'U' for January

Team player. Hard worker. In the College of Pharmacy Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, those terms are synonymous with Elaine Payne.

These attributes were on full display last year as a colleague missed two months of work to recover from an accident. Payne, an office associate II, covered all the co-workers duties along with her own so the department wouldn't have to add manpower.

"Elaine has consistently played a vital role in the daily operations in the department for many years," said Dennis Robinson, Ph.D., chairman and professor in the department of pharmaceutical sciences. "Having an office associate who is totally trustworthy, professional and always 'on top' of the daily activities is greatly appreciated."

For her efforts and dedication, Payne received the Chancellor's Gold 'U' award for the month of January.



Describe your job in laymen terms.

I assist the faculty and research personnel with their grant and contract submissions, monitor the grant budgets and finances for the College of Pharmacy and assist with the little emergencies that seem to occur daily.

What is your best on-the-job memory?

Receiving the Gold 'U' Award is one.

Another one – although bittersweet – was when I was involved with the "Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program" and saw the students earn their Ph.D. degrees and start their careers after spending five years of their lives with us. I still get excited when one of our past students phones or sends an e-mail.

What is the best part of your job?

The faculty, staff and students in the College of Pharmacy and seeing the faculty succeed in their research by receiving a new grant or publishing an article in a prestigious journal.

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Dr. Lyubchenko unravels DNA strand, catches it on video

In many ways, our DNA acts like a yo-yo. It unwinds and then winds up so quickly that no one has seen it – until now.

In every cell, our genetic material is coded on a DNA strand tightly wrapped around a spool-like protein, or histone, which makes it difficult to access.

Yuri Lyubchenko, Ph.D., professor of pharmaceutical science, has found a way to unravel the long DNA strand using an electrostatic charge and has captured that action on video. His discovery may lead to the successful application of gene therapy.



So far, gene therapy, in which genes may be added or modified to prevent or treat illness, has not been successful because of an inability to deliver genes to the right cells.

"It's important to study the interactions of proteins with DNA so we understand how numerous biological processes occur," he said. "We need to know how to make the

genetic code more accessible to proteins so it will be easier to replace, repair or regulate a faulty gene."

[Read more about Dr. Lyubchenko's research](#) in the latest edition of UNMC Discover.

Jayashri Sankaranarayanan, M.Pharm., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, featured in this video on how to provide a list of medications to your pharmacists.

<http://www.ketv.com/video/26873582/detail.html>

Dr. Vennerstrom helps develop single-dose malaria drug

by Tom O'Connor, UNMC public relations

Jonathan Vennerstrom, Ph.D., professor in the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy, has helped lead the discovery of a single-dose oral antimalarial drug candidate.



About the drug: The drug – OZ439 – tested well in Phase I clinical trials and now moves into Phase II trials.

Significance: Other comparable drug candidates must be taken three times daily. A single dose is more convenient and helps ensure patients get the right amount of medicine. Also, the cost to manufacture OZ439 is about half that of

comparable candidates.

Project support: Dr. Vennerstrom's research on the drug was supported by [Medicines for Malaria Venture \(MMV\)](#), a nonprofit organization based in Geneva, Switzerland which receives 60 percent of its funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Other team members working with Dr. Vennerstrom come from Monash University in Australia and the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel, Switzerland.

Read more: The discovery of OZ439 recently was reported in the science journal [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#).

Carla Rubingh, Pharm.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, featured in this article about pain management and attitude.

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/02/16/pessimistic.pain.meds/#>

Student News

Several students, including P3 Marnie Max, from the UNMC SHARING clinics presented at the Society of Student Run Free Clinics 2011 International Conference held in conjunction with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine in Houston, Texas on January 22.

Marnie shared some information about the presentation.

“Our presentation was titled, ‘Integrating Continuity of Care for Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Into a Student-Run Clinic: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach.’ We talked about the Continuity Program at the Sharing clinic, how patients are selected to be in the program, and what role each discipline plays in the care of the patient. Our sponsors were Dr. William Hay and Dr. Jim Medder.”

Thanks, Marnie!

Fu Chen, Ph.D. candidate, was selected by the Cariology Research Group of the IADR as its recipient of the 2011 IADR Lion Dental Research Award for Junior Investigators.

The award was announced at the Opening Ceremonies of the 89th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR on March 16, 2011 in San Diego, California. A plaque was presented to Fu during the BEHSR Group Business Meeting and also included a

\$2000 award.

He also was selected as one of six recipients of the 2011 *IADR Colgate Research in Prevention Travel Award*, an award of \$2000.

The following is a list of winners.

2011 IADR Colgate Research in Prevention Travel Awards

Supported by Colgate-Palmolive Company

H.M.H.N. Bandara

The University of Hong Kong

Fu Chen

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Omer Fleissig

Hebrew University

T.D.K. Herath

The University of Hong Kong

Melissa Thiemi Kato

Bauru Dental School/University of São Paulo

Jinny Kwak

University of California - Los Angeles

Fu Chen’s academic advisor is Dr. Dong Wang.

Graduate Students Hiroyoshi Kawada and James Randazzo (advisor: Dr. Peter Kador) received Student Travel Awards to present their research at the 10th Scientific Meeting of the Association for Ocular Pharmacology and Therapeutics (AOPT) that was held in Fort Worth, TX on February 17th through 20th.



Keith Sutton, an Office Associate I in the Center for Drug Delivery and Nanomedicine, received the Silver ‘U’ award this March. Congratulations Keith!

Upcoming Events

April 20, 2011

Judith Jacobi Seminar, Noon
“Critical Care Pharmacists: Essential Team Members”
Room 1038

April 22, 2011

Last day of classes

April 25-29, 2011

Finals Week

May 6, 2011

Spring Honors Convocation, 10am
Holland Performing Arts Center

May 7, 2011

Graduation, 10am
Civic Auditorium

June 4, 2011

Welcome to Our World (incoming P1s), PM



The poster features the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Medicine logo at the top left. The text is centered and includes the College of Pharmacy name, the event title 'Preceptor Development Retreat' in large red font, a 'Save The Date' sticker, the location 'Eugene T. Mahoney State Park', and the dates 'August 25-26, 2011'. At the bottom, there are three photographs: two men in lab coats, a woman in a lab coat with two other people, and a man and woman in lab coats.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

College of Pharmacy

Preceptor Development Retreat

Save The Date

Location: Eugene T. Mahoney State Park

Date: August 25-26, 2011

Dean's Message

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to share with you our vision for a 21st century home for the College of Pharmacy and an integrated Center for Drug Discovery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The UNMC College of Pharmacy has a 100+ year history of leadership, excellence and innovation in pharmacy education and research, and is regarded as a preeminent College of Pharmacy.

- We are committed to preparing the pharmacist workforce for Nebraska. More than 3500 pharmacists have graduated from UNMC. 60% of the pharmacists who practice in Nebraska are UNMC graduates. More than 80% of our entering pharmacy students are residents of Nebraska.
- We are committed to improving human health through the discovery of new drugs and the development of strategies to make drug therapy safer and more effective. The faculty of the College are at the leading edge of innovation to meet these challenges, and are ranked in the top 10 of all colleges in the United States in terms of funding received from the National Institutes of Health on a per faculty member basis.

The present College of Pharmacy building was constructed in 1976, and renovated in 1989-90 to correct major structural defects (remember those falling bricks?). Pharmacy education and research have changed dramatically since 1976, and the current facility can no longer meet the educational and laboratory needs of the College.

I am pleased to tell you of our plan for a new College of Pharmacy building and integrated Center for Drug Discovery, which will provide a 21st century home to educate the next generation of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, and

inspire our graduates to learn, to teach, to aim high and to achieve their goals.

- The proposed College of Pharmacy building will provide classrooms and student study space, updated technology, and innovative patient simulation and care instructional space. The simulation and patient-care space will include a model pharmacy, a sterile compounding room, and practice areas for patient assessment and point-of-care testing. *These are critical unmet educational needs of the College.*
- The Center for Drug Discovery will provide laboratories for three areas of research: Drug Discovery and Development, Drug Delivery and Clinical and Translational Research.
- The College of Pharmacy and Center for Drug Discovery will be a 95,000 gross sq. ft. building to be located east of the Sorrell Center for Health Science Education on the



new Emile Street bend.

I am also pleased to tell you our vision for pharmacy education has been embraced by lead donors. And, more than half of the \$35 million needed to construct this facility has been raised. The belief in our vision has been inspiring! With additional successful fund-raising, construction could start late in 2011 with completion targeted for the end of 2013.

I invite you to share in this vision for the College of Pharmacy. A world-class facility. A home for excellence in pharmacy education and innovation in drug discovery and development, which together will allow the College of Pharmacy to continue our mission to educate pharmacists and to improve human health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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