



# College Connections

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## Looking Back on 20 Years of RHOP

Since its inception in 1990, 356 students have graduated from the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP).

Many of those young health care professionals returned to rural towns in Nebraska where they live and practice today.

Here is a look at one of those professionals in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the RHOP program.

Niki Salomon, Pharm.D., works at Barmore Drug in Lexington, Neb., and lives in Gothenburg with her husband Aaron Salomon and three-year-old daughter Avery.

**How do you feel your participation in the RHOP program affected your career as a rural health practitioner?**

Being a participant in the program helped me keep my long-term focus on returning to a rural area. I also spent a little more time on certain areas of my pharmacy curriculum when the subject matter was related to rural pharmacy issues.

**What was your most memorable moment as a student and now as a practitioner?**

As a student, I really enjoyed all of my

rotations and the challenges each presented. At times I was a little out of my comfort zone, but I think those experiences helped me become a better pharmacist.



As a practitioner, I am very proud that I have been involved in medication therapy management since its inception in 2006.

**Who is one instructor from your education that had the greatest influence on you? Why?**

I really enjoyed the opportunity to be a student with Nancy Sloan at Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff for my final rotations in the spring of 2002. She is so passionate about the profession of pharmacy and her passion is contagious!

**How do you feel your chosen profession benefits your community?**

I have developed strong relationships with those patients who are dealing with a long-term illness. As a mother, I think I have a better understanding of the challenges that parents face and I have learned to be a better counselor to parents. Also, my interest in diabetes management has helped me get to know our diabetic population better.



## White Coat Ceremony

Our Eleventh Annual White Coat Ceremony took place on August 18 at the Michael F. Sorrell Events Center.

Forty-two students received their professional white laboratory jackets provided by the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association, and took the pledge of professionalism.

**Kyle Peters, Pharm.D., BC-ADM**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, delivered the keynote presentation. Former College of Pharmacy Alumni Association President and current Director of Experiential Programs, **John E. Ridgway, BS, R.Ph., '71**, welcomed the class of 2014 to the Ceremony and assisted with the presentation of the white coats to

the students.

The College of Pharmacy Open House followed where the new students and their families and friends were invited to mingle with faculty, students and staff.

The Open House was an enjoyable way to 'kick-off' the start of the new school year, and to welcome the Class of 2014.

# Class of 2014

Anton Anderson, *Battle Creek*

Joshua Bauer, *Amherst*

Leah Benson, *Grand Island*

Thu-Hong Bui, *Lincoln*

Brody Crowe, *Hastings*

Michael Dibble, *Austin, MN*

Craig Ecabert, *Omaha*

Brittany Ernst, *Phoenix, AZ*

Adam Felber, *Omaha*

Matthew Folcik, *Hastings*

Evan Gahan, *Lincoln*

Jennifer Gallanger, *Orange Park, FL*

Zhan Ge, *Sheffield, IA*

Corin Hartzler, *Culbertson*

Deeko Hassan, *Rochester, MN*

Elizabeth Higgins, *Lincoln*

Wade Hoefler, *Elgin*

Valarie Hoffman, *Chambers*

Ashley Kenkel, *Omaha*

Megan Kenkel, *Omaha*

Jennifer Kim, *Palmdale, CA*

Jared Knoell, *Omaha*

Casey Koch, *Lincoln*

Allyn Komorowski, *Grand Island*

Travis Kuchar, *Meadow Grove*

Daniel Le, *Lincoln*

Hien Le, *Lincoln*

Ryan Linscott, *Lincoln*

Nadir Maaiah, *Omaha*

Matthew Nielsen, *Gibbon*

Gina Paletta, *Omaha*

Brian Robinson, *Omaha*

Rory Sallach, *Charlotte, NC*

Michael Schmidt, *Lincoln*

Sloane Schneider, *O'Neill*

Kendra Schomer, *Madison*

Anna Schreck, *Omaha*

Michael Seim, *Lincoln*

Ronda Stede, *Lakewood, CO*

Hoainam Vo, *Santa Ana, CA*

Janelle Weber, *Dorchester*

Shayla Wrage, *Shelton*

Forty-two new students with a mean GPA of 3.50 were accepted into the College of Pharmacy's Doctor of Pharmacy degree (Pharm.D.) program. These new first-year students bring the total enrollment in the four-year Pharm.D. program to 237 students.

Among the new first-year students, 86 percent are Nebraska residents with 33 percent of the students coming from outside Omaha and Lincoln. The 14 percent of the students who are not from Nebraska come to the College of Pharmacy from all across the United States.

The breakdown of first-year students includes 52 percent female, 48 percent male. Of the 42 incoming students, 81 percent have already received a prior bachelor or higher degree.

## Welcome Chris Shaffer, Pharm.D.

Christopher Shaffer, Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor in the department of Pharmacy Practice in the College of Pharmacy, is a new faculty member at UNMC.

**Name:** Christopher Shaffer, Pharm.D., BCPS

**Title:** Clinical assistant professor in the department of Pharmacy Practice in the College of Pharmacy.

**Interests:** Dr. Shaffer is focused on Personalized Medicine, which is the use of appropriate medications based upon an individual's genetic profile. In addition, Dr. Shaffer conducts research in



pediatric patients, examining how growth and development, along with genetics and environment, influences response to medications. He is currently enrolled in the Master's in Clinical and Translational Research Program at UNMC, where he works across multiple disciplines in T1, T2, and T3-related research.

**Doctoral degree:** Pharm.D., Creighton University; Currently enrolled in the MSIA Program in Clinical and Translational Research at UNMC.

**Memberships:** American College of Clinical Pharmacy, American Society of Health-systems Pharmacists, American Pharmaceutical Association, Nebraska Pharmacists Association.

## Oestreich Elected to APhA-APRS



**WASHINGTON, DC** – The results of the APhA Academy of Pharmacy Research and Science (APhA-APRS) elections were certified by the APhA Committee of

Canvassers. Academy members elected **William E. Fassett, PhD, MBA**, of Spokane, WA, as APhA-APRS Executive Council President-elect (2011-2012); **Zia Shariat-Madar, PhD**, of Oxford, MS, as Chair-elect for the Basic Sciences Section (2011-2012); **Julie Oestreich, PharmD, PhD**, of Omaha, NE, as Chair-elect in the Clinical Sciences Section (2011-2012); **Marcia M. Worley, PhD**, of Duluth,

MN, as Chair-elect for the Economic, Social and Administrative Sciences Section (2011-2012); and **Matthew Witry, PharmD, RPh**, of Iowa City, IA, as APhA-APRS Postgraduate Officer (2011-2013).

Dr. Oestreich is Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy. She completed her Pharm.D. degree at Ohio Northern University and her Ph.D. degree and post-doctoral training at the University of Kentucky. Oestreich's research laboratory is focused on studying the variability of platelet function and response to antiplatelet agents, particularly clopidogrel and other P2Y<sub>12</sub> receptor antagonists. Oestreich teaches pharmacogenetics and cardiovascular pharmacology to students and residents and serves as a volunteer pharmacist, most recently at Faith Pharmacy in Lexington, KY, and in Mexico.

# SMALL PARTICLE - BIG IMPACT

Drug delivery methods that use nanoparticles to target diseased cells and spare healthy ones have become a hot focus area in research in the past decade.

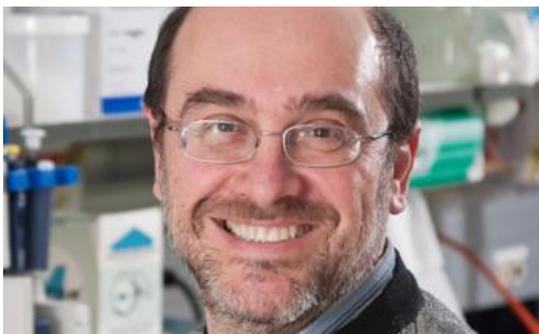
UNMC became a hub for this type of research in 1994 with the arrival of Alexander "Sasha" Kabanov, Ph.D., D.Sc., Parke-Davis Professor in Pharmaceuticals and director of the Center for Drug Delivery and Nanomedicine.

Since 2003, Dr. Kabanov has hosted the International Nanomedicine and Drug Delivery Symposium. The yearly gathering of world leaders in nanomedicine was held in Omaha from Oct. 3-5 – the third time it's been held here.

Below, Dr. Kabanov discusses nanomedicine and the conference.

## **What is nanomedicine and why is it important?**

Nanomedicine develops tiny materials that can enter diseased cells and kill them. When nanomaterials carry both a drug and imaging molecules, you can watch where they go in the body and sometimes turn them on by remote control once they reach their targets. Nanomedicine is linked to drug delivery and therapeutics, but there are areas growing beyond these fields, such as the use of nano-materials in tissue engineering where specially crafted nanomaterials can pattern growth of cell sheets or tissues for tissue regeneration.



## **What is the focus of UNMC's nanomedicine research and how does it impact me?**

We develop efficient drug delivery systems to treat many diseases including cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, stroke, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. There is no cure for many of these diseases. Discovering cures could improve lives and help us live longer. Breakthrough treatments also will help maintain the technological leadership of our nation. In Nebraska, it means new companies growing the economy.

## **What is UNMC doing to advance knowledge in this area?**

In 2004, the CDDN formed at UNMC. Perhaps one of first such centers in the world, it now has 32 faculty members working together with about \$33 million in federal funding. We are building resources to translate our discoveries to help people.

## **Tell me about the conference.**

The conference started in 2003 as a mini-symposium when a Japanese delegation visited UNMC. Since then it has been hosted in five other North American cities. Oriented for students and young scientists, the conference offers poster and oral presentations and a session called "Nanomedicine Research Reports," where junior scientists give talks along with accomplished stars. These sessions are sometimes the most interesting ones.

# Student News

Fourteen graduate students attended the 42nd annual, regional Pharmaceutics Graduate Student Research Meeting (PSGRM) held at the Ohio State University in Columbus from June 17 to 19, 2010. James Randazzo received 4th place for this podia presentation. The 44th PSGRM will be held at UNMC in 2012. The students visited Abbott pharmaceutical company at Abbott Park, Illinois, on their way to Columbus. ☩

Xiang Yi, Ph.D. candidate, was selected the "Best Poster Award" at the 6th Gordon Research Conference "Barriers to CNS". Dr. Kabanov is Xiang's faculty advisor. ☩

Vishakha Ambardekar, Ph.D. candidate, was selected to participate at the International Student Research Forum held in Beijing, China, September 25-29, 2010. Participation was based on scoring of abstracts and oral presentations. Dr. Joe Vetro is Vishakha's faculty advisor. ☩

Congratulations to P4, Brandon Gufford, who has been selected to receive a \$750.00 travelship to the 2010 FIP Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress / AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition in New Orleans, LA, November 14-18, 2010. Brandon, a professional student, competed for this travel award against graduate students. Brandon is completing his Pharm.D. Honors degree with Dr. Dennis Robinson, Chair Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. ☩



Faculty, spouses, staff and students attend the AACP meeting in Seattle, WA in July.

## Upcoming Events

October 22, 2010

Fall Honors, 3pm

Sorrell Center Room 1001

October 26, 2010

College of Pharmacy Seminar

Sorin Luca, Ph.D.

Noon in Room 1038

November 18, 2010

College of Pharmacy Seminar

Julie Oestreich, Pharm.D., Ph.D.

3:30pm in Room 1038

November 19, 2010

Career Day

December 1, 2010

Application deadline

May 6, 2011

Spring Honors, 10am

# PRECEPTORS RETREAT

The annual Preceptor Development retreat was hosted by UNMC College of Pharmacy Office of Experiential Programs (OEP) September 16 and 17, 2010 at Mahoney State Park. This year's retreat was a great success with an overwhelming response of 68 participants.

Keynote speaker, Todd Sorensen, Pharm.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Care & Health Systems and Director, Residency Programs, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, focused his presentation on Leadership and Partnerships with "Three Ships Passing in the Night?", where he described the leadership role of a preceptor, outlined common opportunities and challenges in creating collaborative partnership, and recognized the value of articulating a vision in

facilitating win-win partnerships.

Other speakers included Drs. Harry Alcorn, Lourdes Heuermann, Jeff Huether, Robert Marshall, Warren Narducci, Jennifer Nieman, Angie Obermiller, Cynthia Schmidt and Nancy Sloan, as well as UNMC College of Pharmacy faculty members, Drs. Ally Dering-Anderson, Jeffrey Baldwin, Charles Krobot and Kyle Peters.

"The retreat was not only very informative but a good time as well," said Kimberly Norman, MA, OEP Coordinator. "We want to bring the best programming to our preceptors and show them how much we appreciate all they do for us and our students."

Thank you to all the speakers and participants who made this year's retreat a success!



Participants at the 2010 Preceptor Development Retreat