



# College Connections



## 2010 Preceptor of the Year

For the past eight years, Angela Obermiller, Pharm.D., has served as a preceptor for UNMC pharmacy students at

the Saint Francis Cancer Treatment Center in Grand Island.

The College of Pharmacy alumnus serves as the supervisor of the center's medical pharmacy and she works with about eight UNMC students each year.

For her work with the students, she was named the College of Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year for 2010.

### What is the most rewarding aspect of being a preceptor?

Being a mentor. It's rewarding not only to be part of a student's education as a pharmacist, but more importantly to positively influence how the student develops as a person. I truly enjoy seeing my students succeed both in their rotation and in life and knowing I had a small part in helping them become the pharmacists they are.

### Describe one of your favorite experiences as

### a preceptor.

We deal with life and death every day in providing care for cancer patients. There is a lot of non-textbook learning that takes place when a student is in a room the day a patient triumphs over cancer or is just hearing their diagnosis for the first time. I try to provide the students comfort while explaining we as pharmacists have many opportunities to help patients through these times. In addition, learning about cancer takes on an entirely different focus when students can relate it to a name and a face.

### As a pharmacy student, what were your experiences like?

Wonderful. As a student there were always those teachers that went the extra mile, the ones that seemed to have an investment in each student's future. I was fortunate to have many of these at UNMC, especially during my fourth year clerkship rotations. These preceptors took the time to get to know my strengths as well as weaknesses and therefore provided the best opportunity for learning. In turn, these settings are where I also became a member of their team and not just another student. Now being a preceptor myself, I want to be that type of teacher.

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### Upcoming Events

August 18, 2010 @ 7PM  
White Coat Ceremony

August 19, 2010  
P1 Orientation

August 23, 2010  
First Day of Classes

October 22, 2010 @ 3PM  
Fall Honors Convocation

November 19, 2010  
Career Day

# Student News

The Holland Performing Arts Center was the venue for the 2010 Scholastic Honors Convocation on May 7. Sixty-nine seniors were vested with their doctoral hoods and took the Pharmacist's Oath. Senior recognition awards and the 2010 Preceptor of the Year Award were also presented at the Convocation. Spring Commencement was held at the Civic Auditorium May 8.

## 2010 Doctor of Pharmacy Degree Recipients

Aric S. Anderson, *Hastings*

Amy E. Arnold, *Lincoln*

Elizabeth D. Boals, *Sutton*

Megan J. Bulas, *Omaha*

Andrea N. Carder, *Albion*

Patrick E. Christensen, *Maxwell*

Canice A. Coan, *Columbus*

*-With High Distinction*

Robin M. Crow, *Beatrice*

Leigha M. Curtiss, *Alliance*

Derek T. Deyle, *Kearney*

Melissa A. Doheny, *Broken Bow*

Nicholas B. Dunbar, *Comstock*

Karsen R. Duncan, *Franklin*

Stacy M. Ebel, *Wisner*

*-With High Distinction*

Elizabeth E. Eickman, *Blair*

*-With High Distinction*

Julie K. Felt, *Glenwood, IA*

Anne N. Furasek, *Lincoln*

Adrianna D. Garcia, *Albuquerque, NM*

Daniel A. Griesen, *Lincoln*

Jose Guerrero, *Grand Island*

Kristine R. Hagerty, *Omaha*

Blake D. Henning, *Beatrice*

Elizabeth J. Henning, *Lyman*

Kathryn S. Hentzen, *Omaha*

*-With High Distinction*

Anne N. Herman, *Cook*

Evelyn N. Hong, *Lincoln*

Renee M. Jackson, *St. Petersburg, FL*

Jared D. Jaeger, *Winside*

Ashley S. James, *Waldorf, MD*

Amber L. Johnston, *Central City*

Andrew J. Koehler, *So. Sioux City*

Elaine S. Koyama, *Omaha*

Margaret E. Kucera, *Burwell*

*-With High Distinction*

Edward D. Leaders, *Minden, IA*

Melissa N. Maiefski, *Phoenix, AZ*

Travis M. Maloley, *Lexington*

Jessica E. Miller, *Plymouth*

Michelle L. Miller, *Gretna*

*-With High Distinction*

Stephanie M. Monk, *Omaha*

Craig W. Morgan, *Seward*

Megan R. Nelson, *Ord*

*-With High Distinction*

Hanh M. Nguyen, *Lincoln*

Kimchi T. Nguyen, *Grand Island*

Nazifa Obaidi, *Lincoln*

Amanda D. Pekny, *Stanton*

Stacy B. Pelican, *Palmer*

Abbie L. Pembleton, *Kearney*

Mary K. Peters, *Council Bluffs, IA*

Stephanie L. Peters, *Omaha*

Adam J. Petersen, *Omaha*

Evan J. Peterson, *Omaha*

*-With High Distinction*

Rachel M. Rohrs, *Johnson*

Alexandrea D. Romano, *Omaha*

Matthew T. Schaecher, *Monroe*

*-With High Distinction*

Megan M. Smith, *North Platte*

Tracy J. Snyder, *Gurley*

Alvah C. Stahlnecker IV, *Omaha*

*-With High Distinction*

Julie A. Stukenholtz, *Creighton*

*-With High Distinction*

Randi L. Taylor, *Omaha*

*-With Distinction*

Christian A. Thiede, *Plattsmouth*

Stephanie M. Thimm, *Beatrice*

Jennifer L. Van Moorlegghem, *St. Paul*

*-With High Distinction*

Peter T. Vu, *Terre Haute, IN*

Talia K. Walford, *York*

Jennifer A. Warneking, *Superior*

*-With High Distinction*

Tyler J. Watkins, *Lincoln*

Michelle A. Weber, *Ord*

Kari L. Wellman, *Auburn*

Nathan W. Weston, *Nebraska City*

## 2010 Senior Award Recipients

Rho Chi Achievement Award  
Canice Ann Coan

Phi Lambda Sigma Award  
Karsen Renee Duncan

Merck Medicinal Chemistry Award  
Michelle Lynn Miller

Merck Pharmaceuticals Award  
Jennifer Lynn Nesiba Van Moorlehem

Cunningham Memorial Award  
in Pharmacodynamics  
Stacy Marie Vollmer Ebel

Facts and Comparisons Award of  
Excellence in Clinical Communication  
Margaret Evelyn Kucera

Teva Pharmaceuticals Outstanding Student Award  
Megan Jeaneen Bulas

Mylan Pharmaceuticals Award  
Alvah Carl Stahlnecker IV

Pharmacists Mutual Insurance Company Award  
Kathryn Sullivan Harman Hentzen

Joseph B. Burt Memorial Award  
Megan Rae Nelson

Phyllis Rhodes Award  
Elizabeth E. Eickman

Bradley G. Wulf Memorial Award  
Evan John Peterson

Barbara Osborne Manchester Award  
Elizabeth Deanna Boals

Academy of Students of Pharmacy  
Certificate of Recognition Award  
Aric Samuel Anderson

Varro and Virginia Tyler Award  
Michelle Lynn Miller

Stephen A. Scholtz Memorial Award  
Jennifer Lynn Nesiba Van Moorlehem

Eli Lilly Achievement Award  
Elizabeth E. Eickman

US Public Health Service Excellence in  
Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award  
Robin Michelle Crow



## Meet UNMC Scientist Laureate Alexander 'Sasha' Kabanov, Ph.D.

UNMC researcher Alexander "Sasha" Kabanov, Ph.D., D.Sc., answers questions about his work, life and interests.

**Name:** Alexander "Sasha" Kabanov, Ph.D.

**Title:** Parke-Davis Professor in Pharmaceutics and director of the Center for Drug Delivery and Nanomedicine.

**Joined UNMC:** 1994

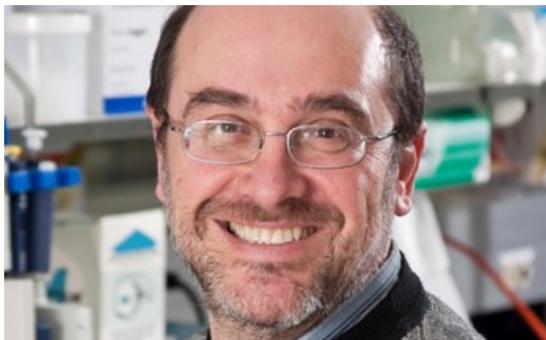
**Hometown:** Moscow

**Describe your research in laymen's terms.**

We develop polymer therapeutics that can safely deliver biological agents to the site of action in the body and modulate cellular responses of cells to these agents to efficiently treat cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

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

We advance material science by developing new polymeric systems of nanoscale size and contribute to health by applying these materials to treat devastating human diseases.



**Beyond grant funding, how do you measure success?**

There are three measurable and essential factors to success:

- Quality and impact of scientific publications that advance knowledge.

- Quality and impact of students who carry the knowledge and scholarship across the globe.
- Translation of the discoveries into products that reach marketplace and make difference in human life.

I feel that I am on the right track with the first two. I

look forward to be able to advance the third at UNMC.

**List three things few people know about you.**

- My best students become my best friends.
- I am a fourth generation of university professors in my paternal line.
- My mother was a ballerina and when I was little I believed that Bolshoi Theatre is a better place to work than Moscow State University. In fact, both are terrific.

### 8th International Nanomedicine and Drug Delivery Symposium—NanoDDS'10

October 3rd - 5th, 2010

Omaha, NE

We cordially invite you and your colleagues, students and postdoctoral

trainees to participate in NanoDDS'10. A scientific program consists of 26 confirmed speakers, an industrial session and roundtable, and poster presentations tailored to make this intimate symposium the perfect environment for interaction, networking, discussion, creativity, and innovation

between trainees (graduate students and post-doctoral fellows) and some of the world's leading academic scientists and industry specialists.

Registration is now open and more detailed information is posted on our website <http://www.nanodds.org>.

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## Meet UNMC Distinguished Scientist Peter Kador, Ph.D.

UNMC researcher Peter Kador, Ph.D., answers questions about his work, life and interests.

**Name:** Peter Kador, Ph.D.

**Title:** Professor of pharmaceutical sciences

**Joined UNMC:** 2002

**Hometown:** Regensburg, Germany

**Describe your research in laymen's terms.**

I conduct translational research on the treatment of diabetic complications and age-related diseases with a focus on cataract, retinopathy, bone loss and neural degenerations.

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

These studies provide potential cures for diabetics and patients with age-related disorders. Several are in the process of being tested clinically in both the human and the veterinary market.



**Beyond grant funding, how do you measure success?**

My reputation and leadership positions among my peers in the ophthalmology and the diabetes research community. I have organized or helped organize more than 30 international workshops/meetings on Aldose Reductase and diabetic complications, cataracts and ocular pharmacology.

**List three things few people know about you.**

- I was the youngest NIH Staff Fellow (at age 29) to be converted to a permanent Staff Scientist of the National Eye Institute, NIH and I became the equivalent of a full professor at age 39.
- I received the Bundesverdienstkreuz (Cross of Merit) from the German Government for organizing a National German Choral Weekend at the DAR Constitution Hall in Washington and the U.S. Capitol Steps. The event was attended by more than 2,000 participants from across the United States, Canada and Germany.
- I performed at the White House at the invitation of President Clinton.

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## Meet UNMC Distinguished Scientist Luis Marky, Ph.D.

UNMC researcher Luis Marky, Ph.D., answers questions about his work, life and interests.

**Name:** Luis Marky, Ph.D.

**Title:** Professor of pharmaceutical sciences

**Joined UNMC:** 1997

**Hometown:** Piura, Peru

**Describe your research in laymen's terms.**

We investigate the energetics for the unfolding of a variety of nucleic acid secondary structures and their interaction with other molecules, including their targeting for the control of gene expression.

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

I use a variety of experimental approaches, and I would like to think that my publications are tutorial. I also am



very much involved in the mentoring of young scientists. We are currently developing rules and strategies for the successful targeting of specific genes. This is based on the use of complementary oligonucleotides and bioenergetics.

**Beyond grant funding, how do you measure success?**

A very important aspect of research is to publish quality original results. These publications should be well-cited, providing transformative ideas. I get very excited when students tell me that they reviewed one of my current papers at their journal clubs.

**List three things few people know about you.**

- I used to surf on the beaches of Lima, Peru, during my early college years;
- I enjoy cooking while having a glass of a good wine; and
- I also prepare good margaritas and other exotic drinks.

# College News

Edward (Ted) Roche, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is among the four UNMC faculty



members who received Outstanding Teaching Awards at the April 20 Annual Faculty meeting. Dennis McNeilly, Psy.D. and Parmender Mehta, Ph.D. from the College of Medicine and Michael Rice, Ph.D. from the College of Nursing were also honored. ❖



Gary Cochran, Pharm.D., S.M., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, has been selected to be featured on the American College of

Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) website in recognition of his contributions to the organization and the profession of pharmacy.

This program was instituted to help recognize ACCP members who have made notable contributions to the College and/or the profession of pharmacy through committee work, publications, presentations or other commendable participation. Dr. Cochran was nominated by his peers in the Health Outcomes Practice and Research Network.

His contributions will be recognized in the July ACCP Report which will provide a link to the Member Recognition website with details regarding his acknowledgement. ❖

The collaborative proposal, “Magnetic Resonance Elastography of a Traumatic Brain Injury Mouse Model,” submitted by Matt Kelso,



Pharm.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and Shadi Othman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biological Systems Engineering at UNL, has been selected for funding. Currently, assessment and treatment options are limited. This project has the potential to identify biomarkers of injury and monitor the effectiveness of therapies. The proposal to develop magnetic resonance elastography techniques to non-invasively assess TBI would be a major advance in this field.

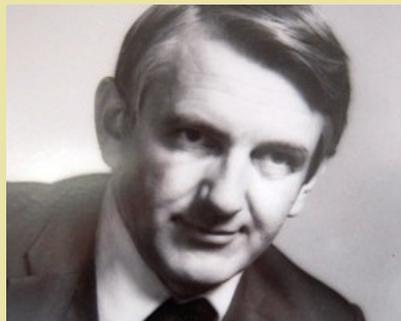
An allocation of \$50,000 in joint UNL/UNMC Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Funds will be made to support this project for the period from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The overall goal of the Engineering for Medicine program is to initiate and increase inter-institutional research collaborations with the result of increasing NIH funding to the institutions. ❖

## Remembering Al Haskell

Albert "Al" Haskell, Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Pharmacy from 1972 to 1983, died March 16 in Hendersonville, Tenn. He was 84.

As pharmacy dean, Dr. Haskell led the college's move from Lincoln to Omaha and also the development of the UNMC Pharm.D., program, the first such program to be implemented outside of California.

"He was a change agent and an educational pioneer," said Jeffrey Baldwin, Pharm.D., professor and vice



chairman for education in the department of pharmacy practice. Dr. Baldwin worked under Dr. Haskell from 1973 to 1983.

"He was a bold administrator and leader of the college during a period filled with change," said Edward "Ted" Roche, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, who worked under Dr. Haskell during his entire tenure as dean. "In many ways, he set the stage for the success we have enjoyed for last 30 years."

Before he was dean, Dr. Haskell served as vice chancellor of the medical unit at the University of Tennessee, Memphis.

## Dr. Batrakova receives Oldfield Award

Elena Batrakova, Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has been named the recipient of the 12th annual Vada Kinman Oldfield Alzheimer's Research Fund Award.

Dr. Batrakova was presented the award during a campus ceremony for her work developing nanomedicines that cross the blood brain barrier and slow the cycle of neuroinflammation and damage in Alzheimer's patients.

The blood brain barrier prevents bacteria and other toxic materials from contacting certain vulnerable parts of

the brain. Unfortunately, it also prevents many medicines from accessing areas of the brain that are affected by Alzheimer's disease.



"Successful delivery of drug therapies across the blood brain barrier will reduce inflammation in the brain and protect neurons in Alzheimer patients," Dr. Batrakova said.

To deliver drugs to the brain, she uses

living cells called macrophages. In mouse models, Dr. Batrakova has successfully injected animals with cells loaded with medicine that have crossed the blood brain barrier and reduced inflammation and protected neurons.

"Our therapies might slow down inflammation in the brain and thus protect neurons in patients with Alzheimer's disease in future," said Dr. Batrakova, who will receive a \$10,000 research stipend with the Oldfield Award.

The late Col. Barney Oldfield established the award in honor of his wife, who battled Alzheimer's for 11 years.

## College News cont...

### Welcome Ally Dering-Anderson, Pharm.D.

Ally Dering-Anderson, Pharm.D., '86, clinical assistant professor in the department of pharmacy practice in the College of Pharmacy, is a new faculty member at UNMC.

Ally will be working with John Ridgway, Kimberly Norman and Nicole Gallardo in the Office of Experiential Programs. Her emphasis is on Community Pharmacy Practice, particularly for 4th year students. Ally is also developing an elective course in Over-the-Counter and Self-Care



Products and will assist with lectures in the Pharmacy Law Class. Ally is the didactic instructor for the College's Immunization Program.

**Doctoral degree:** Pharm.D., UNMC College of Pharmacy

**Memberships:** Nebraska Pharmacists Association,

American Pharmacists Association, American Association of Integrative Medicine, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

**Honors:** Ally was selected as the Preceptor of the Year by the UNMC Class of 1997.

Brandon Gufford, P4, is a recipient of the 2010 AACP Wal-Mart Scholars Program. Dr. Dennis Robinson is Brandon's faculty mentor.

The program provides \$1,000 travel scholarships to 65 student-faculty pairs from AACP member institutions to attend the AACP Annual Meeting and the AACP Teachers Seminar in Seattle, WA from July 10-14, 2010. This momentous program continues to grow each year, with Wal-Mart's support and dedication.

AACP and Wal-Mart share the commitment to help colleges and schools of pharmacy ensure there are an adequate number of well-prepared individuals who aspire to join the faculties of our

expanding programs across the country. The goal of this scholarship program is to strengthen the recipient's skills and commitment to a career in academic pharmacy through participation in programming and activities at the 2010 AACP Annual Meeting and Seminars. ❖

Ms. Philise Williams, graduate student, has received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which will support her graduate studies for the next three years. Dr. Kabanov is Ms. Williams advisor. ❖

#### *Anniversaries*

Timothy R. McGuire, Pharm.D., 20 Years  
Gary L. Cochran, Pharm.D., 10 Years

# Dean's Message



In this issue of *College Connections*, we celebrate special recognitions of several members of the College of Pharmacy family, and mark some endings and beginnings for the College of Pharmacy.

Please read about the university-wide recognitions our faculty have received for their significant contributions to research or teaching, and for contributions to the practice of pharmacy. Two of our students, Brandon Gufford in the professional pharmacy program and Philise Williams in the Pharmaceutical Sciences graduate program, also received awards for the research endeavors.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the accomplishments and the graduation of the Class of 2010. To the Class of 2010, it has been a pleasure and an honor to have you as part of our College of Pharmacy family. I am

pleased to welcome you into the ranks of our distinguished alumni. I would like to leave you with these words from Garrison Keillor: "be well, do good work, and stay in touch".

August 18, 2010 starts our 102<sup>nd</sup> year of pharmaceutical education with the White Coat ceremony for our class of 2014. This is a special event for our entering students and their families, and it demonstrates a strong tie between our alumni and these future pharmacists. The ceremony, co-sponsored by the College of Pharmacy and our Alumni Association, will start at 7pm and is followed by a reception in the College of Pharmacy. The students, faculty and I welcome you to join us.

This time of the year is truly inspiring. The accomplishments of our faculty and students, and the contributions of our alumni to our educational programs illustrate the breadth and excellence of the educational, research and service programs of this College. This is why we are regarded as *a preeminent College of Pharmacy!*

Thank you to all for your efforts and contributions to our College of Pharmacy, and warmest wishes to our most recent graduates.

*Courtney*

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

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