



College of Pharmacy  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Report to the  
Texas Pharmacy Congress  
August 29-30, 2023

## SNPhA Claims Awards, Scholarships and Finalist Spots at Nationals

UHCOP's SNPhA Chapter won six out of eight possible national initiative awards for its local activities at the SNPhA/NPhA National Convention July 27-31 in New Orleans, La.

The chapter was honored for its activities supporting the Bridging the Gap, Fighting Diabetes, Mental Health, Power to End Stroke, Project Keepsake (CKD) and Remember the Ribbon (HIV/AIDS) initiatives. The chapter also was named as a top three finalist for the SNPhA/Rite Aid Chauncey I. Cooper Chapter Excellence Award in the Large Chapter category.

Pharm.D. students **Bethany Bluit** and **Connie Lau** and Pharm.D. candidate **Sarah Garcia-Plouch** were awarded the Executive Leadership Endowed Scholarship, Dr. Bryan Donald Book Award, and Rite-Aid Endowed Scholarship, respectively.



Pharm.D. candidate **Yashvi Patel** won first place for her poster presentation, "Group-based trajectory modeling to identify patterns and predictors of adherence to oral endocrine therapies in underserved population of greater Houston." As one of the top eight finalists in the AstraZeneca MSL Simulation competition, Patel also presented the results of the DESTINY-Breast03 study to the company's US Oncology Medical Affairs team.

**Garcia-Plouch** was nominated for Rite Aid Community Leader of the Year and Chapter President of the Year. In addition, she was appointed 2023-24 National Region IV Facilitator for the SNPhA Board of Directors.

**Patel** and fellow Pharm.D. candidate **Han Lieu** placed second in the national Kroger Clinical Skills Competition.

## ASP Chapter Members Among Winners at TPA Conference



*Tammie Lam, Hunter Adam, Tyler Trinh and Annie Man celebrate winning the Student Pharmacist Self-Care Championship.*

APhA-ASP Chapter members earned multiple honors at the 2023 TPA Conference & Expo July 28-30 in Houston.

Pharm.D. candidate **Haley Brusen** secured first place in the Patient Counseling Competition, with students **Hunter Adam** and **Sarah Davis** among the finalists. The Pharm.D. student team of **Hunter Adam, Tammie Lam, Annie Man** and **Tyler Trinh** won first place in the Student Pharmacist Self-Care Championship.

Among the TPA Foundation scholarship recipients were **Petar Jordanov** – Larry "Neal" McClaugherty Scholarship and **Trinh** – TPF General Scholarship. In addition, **Man** and **Mattie Sul-livan** received Professional Recovery Network Scholarships to attend the 2023 APhA Institute on Substance Use Disorders.

Currently serving as chair of the TPA-ASP Policy Committee, **Trinh** was named chair-elect of the Student Board of Directors.

## Aparasu Receives \$1.6M AHRQ Grant to Study DMA Discontinuation in Older MS Patients

Researchers at the recently established Center for Population Health Outcomes and Pharmacoepidemiology Education and Research (P-HOPER Center) are examining when older patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) should stop taking their Disease Modifying Agent (DMA) medications.

The first-of-its-kind study will involve a

longitudinal national cohort of older adults over 65 years of age with MS and DMA use based on 10-year Medicare claims data.



The results are expected to provide valuable real-world evidence regarding DMA desprescribing and associated outcomes with

significant clinical and policy implications for improving prescribing practices and quality of care in older adults with MS.

The work is funded by a \$1.6 million AHRQ grant awarded to **Rajender R. Aparasu, Ph.D., FAPhA**, Mustafa & Sanober Lokhandwala Endowed Professor and director of the P-HOPER Center.

## Students Provide 2,500+ Screenings, Education Outreach at 1-Day Event

Over 50 Pharm.D. students completed more than 2,500 patient interactions with Houston’s resource-limited elementary school students and families Aug. 5 at the annual City of Houston Mayor’s Back 2 School Fest.



nearly 2,000 adults and children were educated about such topics as medication safety, healthy lifestyle choices, opioid misuse/nalaxone training, and mental health.

Vaccination records screenings helped City of Houston health care providers administer over 200 vaccinations. Nearly 150 attendees received pre-diabetes and/or blood pressure screenings, while

The college has participated in the event every year since 2013, with the exception of two years during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event has become a university-wide event with UH-COP joined by nursing, medicine, optometry and other programs.

**Gowri Kalyani**, Pharm.D. student, was named as a Doctoral Scholar in UH’s NIH-funded program, Helping Everyone Achieve a LifeTime of Health Future Addiction Scientist Training (HEALTH-FAST) program.

Spinal Cord Injury Study (RISCIS) with the Bayesian Approach to Overcome Small Sample Size and Inter-subject Variability” at the ACCP Annual Meeting Sept. 10-12 in Bellevue, Wash.

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**Junghwa Park**, Pharm.D., Ph.D. student, has earned an American College of Clinical Pharmacology (ACCP) Student & Trainee Abstract Travel Award to present her project, “Riluzole in Acute

**Simin Dokht Sadeghi**, Pharm.D. (’23), received the Sandra Evans Webb Scholarship from TSHP’s Research & Education Foundation. The scholarship is named in honor of outstanding fellow alumna and former faculty member Sandra Evans Webb.

## College Honors Top Preceptors of 2022-23

Recently several pharmacy preceptors and organizations were recognized for their outstanding experiential training of Pharm.D. students during the 2022-23 academic year:

Ambulatory Care Preceptor of the Year – **Hannia Qureshi**, Pharm.D. (’10), manager, clinical pharmacy quality, Kelsey-Seybold Clinic

Community Preceptor of the Year – **Ashley Dao**, Pharm.D. (’15), manager/pharmacist-in-charge, Kelsey-Seybold Clinic - Main Campus

Faculty Preceptor of the Year – **Ron Ozuna**, Pharm.D., BCPS, UHCOP clinical assistant

professor and assistant dean, UHCOP RGV Pharm.D. Satellite Program/pharmacy clinical coordinator, DHR Health

Health Systems Pharmacy of the Year – **Harris Health System**

Hospital Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year – **Seena Korah**, R.Ph., Memorial Hermann TIRR

Institutional Patient Care Preceptor of the Year – **Jonathan Patterson**, Pharm.D., BCCCP, clinical pharmacist-critical care, HCA Houston Healthcare-Clear Lake

Outpatient Pharmacy of the Year – **Compounding Shop Pharmacy**, Houston



Dean F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D., R.Ph., congratulates Community Preceptor of the Year Ashley Dao, Pharm.D. (’15).

**Leslie Joseph**, RPhT, and **Sherrie Myers**, RPhT, instructional lab managers, were elected Technician Co-chairs on the Gulf Coast Society of Health System Pharmacists Board of Directors.

raised more than \$200,000 since its inception in 1979 and spawned an endowed scholarship.

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Nearly 60 alumni and friends of UHCOP teed up to raise over \$11,000 for student scholarships at the **2023 UHCOP Golf Classic** June 2 at the Golf Club of Houston in Humble. The tournament has

UHCOP’s **Information Technology Office** won the University-wide UH Staff Council 2022-2023 Team Excellence Recognition Award for its outstanding technical support for pharmacy students, faculty and staff.



## Tolleson Earns National Kappa Epsilon Outstanding Advisor Award

**Shane Tolleson**, Pharm.D. ('14), clinical assistant professor and director of ambulatory APPEs, was honored with the 2021-23 Outstanding Advisor Award by the national Kappa Epsilon (KE) professional pharmacy fraternity at its 54th National Convention July 26-29 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

A member and officer of the organization during

his UHCOP Pharm.D. education, Tolleson was nominated for his steadfast support of the organization and advocacy for students.

The Upsilon Chapter has the distinction of having both of its faculty co-advisors as recipients of the award, with faculty co-advisor Cathy Hatfield, Pharm.D., earning the honor for 2011-2013.

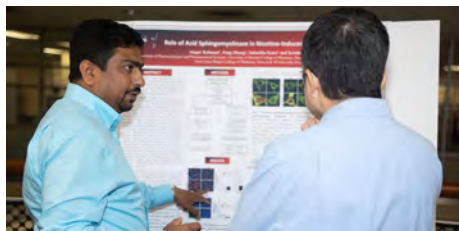
## PPS Symposium Highlights Student, Postdoc Research Advances

With research projects ranging from cancer and cardiovascular diseases to inflammation and infectious diseases, students and postdoctoral fellows showcased their work in UHCOP laboratories at the annual PPS Research Symposium Aug. 9-10 at UH.

Winning presenters and their respective projects from this year's symposium were:

### Graduate Student Oral Presentation

First place, **Zicong Zheng** for "Intestine-Specific Induction of UDP-Glucuronosyltransferases as a Potential Treatment Approach in Mitigating Irinotecan-Induced Delayed-Onset Diarrhea," and second place, **Kavya Mathukumalli** for "TAK1 signaling



in the regulation of Cancer Stem Cells and Rhabdomyosarcoma Growth"

### Graduate Student Poster Presentation

First place (tie), **Aniket Joshi** for "IRE1 $\alpha$ /XBP1 axis promotes myoblast fusion during skeletal muscle repair" and **Wangjia Cao** for "Deciphering genetic basis of Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome"

### Post-doctoral Fellow Oral Presentation

First place, **Lianjie Miao**, Ph.D., for "Distinct populations of vascular smooth muscle and sinoatrial Progenitors are localized adjacent to pro-epicardium," and second place, **Meiricris Tomaz da Silva**, Ph.D., for "Fn14 promotes regenerative myogenesis through augmenting myoblast fusion"

The event also featured talks by Scholar-in-Residence Patrick J. Sinko, Ph.D., R.Ph., FAAPS, FAAS, FCRS, Distinguished Professor in the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy and Parke-Davis Endowed Chair in Pharmaceuticals and Drug Delivery at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

**Diana S-L. Chow**, Ph.D., FNAL, John J. & Paula Lovoi Endowed Professor in Drug Discovery and Development, professor of pharmaceuticals and director of the Institute for Drug Education & Research, recently was honored as the 2023 Pharmaceutical Sciences Alumni Agent of Change by her doctoral degree alma mater, the University of British Columbia.

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**Shantera Rayford Davis**, Pharm.D., BCPS, clinical assistant professor, and collaborators **David Wallace**, Pharm.D., clinical associate professor, **Joshua Wollen**, Pharm.D., clinical assistant professor, and **Dhara Surati**, Pharm.D., BCPS, earned an honorable mention in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy's Lab Instructors Special Interest Group Laboratory Innovation and Teaching Excellence (LITE) Awards for their project, "Researching and Responding to Y-site Compatibility Questions from a Nurse," which was presented at the AACP Annual Meeting July 22-25 in Aurora, Colo.

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**Julianna Fernandez**, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCGP, clinical associate professor, was recognized for completing the Academic Leadership Fellows Program at the AACP Annual Meeting July 22-25 in Aurora, Colo.

**Jiukuan Hao**, Ph.D., associate professor, and co-investigator Ming Hu, Ph.D., Diana S-L. Chow Endowed Professor, have received a two-year, \$440,000 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for his project, "A Novel-designed sulfonylurea compound for Vascular Dementia Therapy."

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**Bradley McConnell**, Ph.D., FAHA, FCVS, professor, and co-investigator Xinli Liu, Ph.D., associate professor, have received a two-year, \$200,000 grant from American Heart Association for his project, "Novel Reprogrammed Cardiac Conduction Cells to Stimulate Synchronized Cardiomyocyte Contractions."

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Three UHCOP faculty members were among UH's Faculty Award honorees for 2022-23: **Bradley McConnell**, Ph.D., FAHA, FCVS — Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award; **Meghna Trivedi**, Pharm.D. ('03), Ph.D. ('04), BCOP — Undergraduate Research Mentoring Award; and **Joshua Wollen**, Pharm.D. — Teaching Excellence Award-Instructor/Clinical.

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UHCOP's 2022-23 Faculty Awards of Excellence recipients were: **Doug Thornton**, Pharm.D., Ph.D. — Research; **Elisabeth Wang**, Pharm.D., BCCP — Teaching; and Service — **Louis Williams**, Ph.D.

## Recent Publications

- Consumer Impressions of the Safety and Effectiveness of OTC Medicines. Taylor JG, Ayosanmi S, **Sansgiry SS**. *Pharmacy (Basel)*. 2023 Mar 10;11(2):51. doi: 10.3390/pharmacy11020051. PMID: 36961029
- Angiotensin II type 2 receptor activation preserves megalin in the kidney and prevents proteinuria in high salt diet fed rats. **Kulkarni K, Patel S, Ali R, Hussain T**. *Sci Rep*. 2023 Mar 15;13(1):4277. doi: 10.1038/s41598-023-31454-6. PMID: 36922642
- A Small Molecule That In Vitro Neutralizes Infection of SARS-CoV-2 and Its Most Infectious Variants, Delta, and Omicron. **Reyes-Alcaraz A, Qasim H, Merlinsky E**, Fox G, **Islam T, Medina B**, Schwartz RJ, Craft JW Jr, **McConnell BK**. *Biomedicines*. 2023 Mar 15;11(3):916. doi: 10.3390/biomedicines11030916. PMID: 36979895
- Cost Effectiveness of CDK4/6 Inhibitors in the First-Line Treatment of HR+/HER2- Metastatic Breast Cancer in Postmenopausal Women in the USA. **Masurkar PP**, Damgacioglu H, Deshmukh AA, **Trivedi MV**. *Pharmacoeconomics*. 2023 Mar 15. doi: 10.1007/s40273-023-01245-y. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36920662
- Academic Pharmacy Fellowship Programs are an Innovative Solution to Improve the Faculty Pipeline. **Wanat MA**, Biju A, DeGracia CM, **EI-Desoky R, Wollen JT, Coyle EA, Fernandez JM, Varkey DA**. *Am J Pharm Educ*. 2023 Jun;87(6):100012. doi: 10.1016/j.ajpe.2022.10.003. Epub 2023 Mar 15. PMID: 37316128
- Training Student Pharmacists How to Mitigate Racial or Ethnic Microaggressions in Patient Encounters. **Wollen J, Rosario N**, Kiles TM. *Am J Pharm Educ*. 2023 Jun;87(6):100068. doi: 10.1016/j.ajpe.2023.100068. Epub 2023 Mar 15. PMID: 37316124
- Micafungin Pharmacodynamics Predict Clinical Outcomes in Hospitalized Patients with Candidemia caused by certain Candida species. **Zaki A, Gonzales-Luna AJ, Beyda ND**, Lasco T, **Garey KW**. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2023 Apr 17. doi: 10.1002/phar.2804. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37067155
- Targeted regulation of TAK1 counteracts dystrophinopathy in a DMD mouse model. **Roy A, Koike TE, Joshi AS, Tomaz da Silva M, Mathukumalli K, Wu M, Kumar A**. *JCI Insight*. 2023 Apr 18:e164768. doi: 10.1172/jci.insight.164768. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37071470
- The Novel DNA Binding Mechanism of Ridinilazole, a Precision Clostridiodes difficile Antibiotic. Mason CS, Avis T, **Hu C**, Nagalingam N, Mudaliar M, Coward C, **Begum K**, Gajewski K, **Alam MJ, Bassères E**, Moss S, Reich S, Duperchy E, Fox KR, **Garey KW**, Powell DJ. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2023 May 17;67(5):e0156322. doi: 10.1128/aac.01563-22. Epub 2023 Apr 24. PMID: 37093023
- Assessment of the validity of peer scores and peer feedback in an online peer assessment platform (Kritik). **Sofjan AK, Nguyen KA, Surati D**, Murette C. *Curr Pharm Teach Learn*. 2023 Apr;15(4):400-407. doi: 10.1016/j.cptl.2023.04.004. Epub 2023 Apr 24. PMID: 37100727
- A self-inspected adaptive SMOTE algorithm (SASMOTE) for highly imbalanced data classification in healthcare. Kosolwattana T, Liu C, Hu R, Han S, **Chen H**, Lin Y. *BioData Min*. 2023 Apr 25;16(1):15. doi: 10.1186/s13040-023-00330-4. PMID: 37098549
- Computational investigation of the impact of potential AT2R polymorphism on small molecule binding. Sharma B, Rehman MT, AlAjmi MF, Shahwan M, **Hussain T**, Jaiswal V, Khan MA. *J Biomol Struct Dyn*. 2023 Apr 28:1-11. doi: 10.1080/07391102.2023.2204492. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37116071
- The RISCIS-PK substudy: An analysis of pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and impact on axonal degradation of riluzole in patients with traumatic cervical spinal cord injury enrolled in the RISCIS Phase III Randomized Controlled Trial. **Chow DS, Nguyen A, Park J, Wu L**, Touns EG, Harrop JS, Guest J, Schmitt KM, Aarabi B, Fehlings MG, Boakye M, Grossman R. *J Neurotrauma*. 2023 May 2. doi: 10.1089/neu.2022.0499. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37130044
- Impact of diversity/life experience scores on the demographic makeup of pharmacy students. **Zhong C, De La Cruz A, Wanat M, Sansgiry S**. *Curr Pharm Teach Learn*. 2023 May;15(5):468-472. doi: 10.1016/j.cptl.2023.04.023. Epub 2023 May 5. PMID: 37149467
- Patients prefer free drug disposal options delivered by pharmacists at the point of care: Results of a decision tree analysis of a national factorial vignette panel survey. **Varisco T, Patel H, Saadi RA, Wanat M, Thornton D**. *Int J Drug Policy*. 2023 Jun;116:104045. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2023.104045. Epub 2023 May 6. PMID: 37156066
- A comparison of medical and pharmacy student perspectives of a clinical interprofessional home-visit versus a virtual interprofessional workshop. Major AB, Zhou Y, **Hatfield CL**, Little KM, Mondragon NM, Gill AC. *MedEdPublish* (2016). 2023 May 12;13:27. doi: 10.12688/mep.19510.1. eCollection 2023. PMID: 37435138
- Structure-activity relationship of BMS906024 derivatives for *Cryptosporidium parvum* growth inhibition. **Lee S**, Love MS, Modukuri R, Chatterjee AK, Huerta L, Lawson AP, McNamara CW, Mead JR, Hedstrom L, **Cuny GD**. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett*. 2023 Jun 15;90:129328. doi: 10.1016/j.bmcl.2023.129328. Epub 2023 May 15. PMID: 37196868
- Incremental health care expenditures for non-Hodgkin lymphoma in comparison with other cancers: Analysis of national survey data. **Zakeri M, Li J, Sansgiry SS, Aparasu RR**. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm*. 2023 May;29(5):480-489. doi: 10.18553/jmcp.2023.29.5.480. PMID: 37121258
- Comparative adherence trajectories of oral disease-modifying agents in multiple sclerosis. **Earla JR, Li J**, Hutton GJ, **Johnson ML, Aparasu RR**. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2023 Jun;43(6):473-484. doi: 10.1002/phar.2810. Epub 2023 May 22. PMID: 37157135
- Utilization and Predictors of Adjuvant Metformin in Children and Adolescents on Second-Generation Antipsychotics (Mixed Receptor Antagonists). **Chen H, Lyu N**, Chan W, **De La Cruz A**, Calarge C. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2023 May 26:S0890-8567(23)00272-1. doi: 10.1016/j.jaac.2023.02.017. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37245706
- Design, synthesis and characterization of lead compounds as anti-inflammatory drugs targeting mPGES-1 via enzymelink screening. **Lu R, Akasaka H, Ruan KH**. *Future Med Chem*. 2023 May;15(9):757-767. doi: 10.4155/fmc-2023-0039. Epub 2023 May 30. PMID: 37248701
- Predictors of opioid prescription among outpatients with osteoarthritis in the United States. **Gohil S, Deyhim N, Mgbere O, Essien EJ**. *J Opioid Manag*. 2023 May-Jun;19(3):205-223. doi: 10.5055/jom.2023.0777. PMID: 37145924
- The median doses of beta-blockers among older adults with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction. Kwak MJ, Schaefer C, Krause TM, Goyal P, Kim DH, Dhoble A, **Johnson M, Aparasu R**, Holmes HM. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2023 Jun 1. doi: 10.1111/jgs.18462. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37260084
- Economic burden of nonadherence to standards of diabetes care. **Zakeri M, Lewing BD, Contreras J, Sansgiry SS**. *Am J Manag Care*. 2023 Jun 1;29(6):e176-e183. doi: 10.37765/ajmc.2023.89376. PMID: 37341982
- PRDM16 regulates arterial development and vascular integrity. Thompson M, Sakabe M, Verba M, **Hao J**, Meadows SM, Lu QR, Xin M. *Front Physiol*. 2023 Jun 1;14:1165379. doi: 10.3389/fphys.2023.1165379. eCollection 2023. PMID: 37324380
- Differences in Perceived Threat and Efficacy in Managing Opioid Use Disorder versus Alcohol Use Disorder. **Tata V, Majid Z, Talwar A, Bapat S, Cruz A, Essien JE, Thornton JD**. *Subst Use Misuse*. 2023;58(10):1187-1195. doi: 10.1080/10826084.2023.2212075. Epub 2023 Jun 4. PMID: 37271735
- Rapid In Vitro Assessment of Antimicrobial Drug Effect Bridging Clinically Relevant Pharmacokinetics: A Comprehensive Methodology. Nikolaou M, **Tam VH**. *Pharmaceutics*. 2023 Jun 7;15(6):1671. doi: 10.3390/pharmaceutics15061671. PMID: 37376120