



UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Report to the
Texas Pharmacy Congress
May 9-10, 2022

97.9%

**#4 in Nation
#1 in Texas**

2010-2020 Mean NAPLEX First-time Pass Rate

<https://clincalc.com/Pharmacy/NAPLEX.aspx>

Upsilon Wins 3rd National Phi Lambda Sigma Chapter of Year Award in 7 Years

UHCOP's Upsilon Chapter of the Phi Lambda Sigma Pharmacy Leadership Society secured its third national Chapter of the Year Award in the past seven years during the PLS Virtual Awards ceremony April 23.

The chapter award recognized Upsilon's wide-ranging leadership, professional development and outreach activities during the 2020-21 year.

The chapter held several workshops ranging from candidacy preparation, elevator pitches and mentorship, and public speaking to "leading from behind," resilience and grit, and emotional intel-



PLS advisors and officers held a drive-through induction ceremony in spring 2021 due to pandemic social distancing safeguards.

2021-22 Speaker of the House.

ligence. Using virtual platforms, the chapter also hosted sessions for mock interviews, CV reviews, and meet-and-greet socializing.

The chapter also held clothing/essential item and monetary donation drives for local nonprofit organizations working with the homeless and LGBTQ+ communities as well as victims of human trafficking and the massive explosion/fire in Lebanon, Beirut.

In addition to being honored with the award, the chapter's own Lamees Loubani presided over the PLS House of Delegates as

Aparasu to Receive AACP Patient Care Research Award

Rajender R. Aparasu, Ph.D., FAPhA, Mustafa & Sanobar Lokhandwala Endowed Professor, will be honored with the 2022 Paul R. Dawson Award for Excellence in Patient Care Research by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy at the AACP Pharmacy Education 2022 meeting July 23-27 in Grapevine.

Aparasu's primary areas of research interest include outcomes research and pharmacoepidemiology, with particular emphasis on improving the quality of pharmaceutical care in older adults.

Recognized among the World's Top 2% Scientists in Geriatrics in *PLoS Biol-*

ogy, Aparasu serves as editor-in-chief of the journal *Drug, Healthcare and Patient Safety* and as editorial board member of several other journals.



He has co-edited/co-authored three books and published over 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts, with over 250 presentations in national and international meetings and thousands of citations for his work.

Aparasu has received more than \$5 million in research support from federal agencies and the pharmaceutical industry.



75th Anniversary Gala June 4

UHCOP will celebrate 75 years of Character, Compassion, Competency and Courage with alumni, faculty, students and friends at its Diamond Jubilee Gala Saturday, June 4, at the Hilton UH Hotel.

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/uhcop-75gala>

**UHCOP
CLASS
OF 2022**

46

**UHCOP Students Matching in
Phase I/II PGY1 Residencies**

80.7%

**UHCOP Phase I/II PGY1 Residency
Application Match Rate**

76.5%

**U.S. Phase I/II PGY1 Residency
Application Match Rate**

Source: ASHP

Ph.D. Candidate Earns Poster Award at AMCP 2022 for Adherence, Telephone Intervention Project

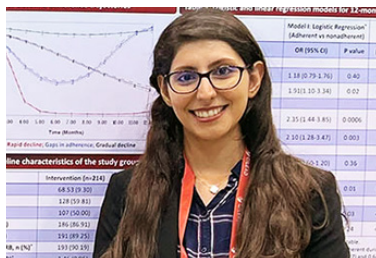
Ph.D. candidate Zahra Majd, Pharm.D., was recognized with the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy Foundation Best Graduate Student Poster Award at the AMCP 2022 meeting March 29-April 1 in Chicago.

Majd's study provides new evidence that telephone-based interventions conducted by pharmacy students are an effective tool for improving medication adherence among nonadherent patients with hypertension and diabetes. At both 6- and 12-month points, patients in the intervention group were associated with better adherence compared to the control group who received usual care.

Study coauthors included UHCOP Ph.D. candidate and first author Anjana Mohan and faculty members Michael Johnson, Ph.D., E. James Essien, M.D., DrPH, Nancy Ordonez, Pharm.D., BCPS, and Susan Abughosh, Ph.D., whose National Heart Lung and Blood Institute grant supported the project.

Other contributors included University of Texas at Austin faculty member Jamie C. Barner, Ph.D., FAACP, FAPhA; CareAllies' Clinical Operations Director Omar Serna, Pharm.D., BCACP, and Chief of Pharmacy Estaban Gallardo, Pharm.D.; Chapman University College of Pharmacy Professor and Chair of Department of Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy Marc Fleming, Ph.D., R.Ph.; and Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing faculty member Marcia Holstad, DSN, RN, FNP-BC.

Majd previously won bronze medals for her research at the 2021 and 2020 AMCP Nexus meetings.



UHCOP Teams Take Top 2 Spots in Regional SNPhA Clinical Skills Competition

Two teams of UHCOP Pharm.D. students captured the top two spots in the Region III/IV/V Student National Pharmaceutical Association's Kroger Clinical Skills Competition Regional Conference March 11-12 in Houston.

Students **Lauren Lee** and **Noemie Senawong** captured first place, and **Leslye Echeverria** and **Susan Yoo** finished second at the regional meeting. Lee and Senawong won the P1/P2 national competition at the 2021 SNPhA Virtual Conference, which marked the second national title for Lee.



Noemie Senawong, left, and Lauren Lee, right, display their clinical skill awards at the SNPhA Region III/IV/V Conference.

In addition, Lee and Senawong – along with fellow student **Josiah Willingham** – were awarded a \$2,500 grant to expand their smoking cessation outreach program called “Lung Defenders” in Houston’s homeless community. Team members visit shelters up to four times a month to offer counseling and resources, including a state tobacco control program guide, nicotine gum/patches, nicotine-free gum, a stress ball and a journal, for those interested in quitting smoking. The team will present its results at the 2022 SNPhA National Conference this summer in Atlanta.

Delta Delta Chapter Sweeps Kappa Psi SW Province Collegiate Awards

The UHCOP Delta Delta Chapter of the Kappa Psi (KΨ) Pharmaceutical Fraternity swept the Collegiate Awards category – including its sixth consecutive Chapter of the Year title – at the KΨ Southwest Province Spring Assembly April 8-9 in Houston.

In addition to the top chapter title, Delta Delta earned the following honors:

- The “99 Hands Award” for its community outreach initiatives, including members volunteering to provide immunizations, wellness screenings and health information translation services at a primary care prevention

health fair at Vietnam Buddhist Center in Sugar Land;

- “Chapter Report of the Year Award” for most professional and creative presentation; and
- The “Man Mile Award” for the most members (34 Delta Delta members out of 71 total attendees from 14 chapters) at the meeting.

In addition to the chapter recognition, chapter members Julie Lu and Josiah Willingham were installed as the province’s Grand Council Convention Delegate and Webmaster, respectively.



Kappa Psi Delta Delta Chapter Vice Regent Deven Jadeja, second from left, and Regent Alec Garza, third from left, receive the Chapter of the Year Award from Southwest Province Regent Ahmaya Mustafa, far left, and Vice Regent D.J. Onuaguluchi, far right.

Chow Honored with Conference of Southern Graduate Schools 2022 Outstanding Mentor Award

UHCOP's Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., FNAI, was awarded the 2022 Outstanding Mentor Award from the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) at its annual conference Feb. 17-19 in Raleigh, N.C. Chow was nominated for the CSGS honor after earning the University of Houston Graduate Mentor Award in 2021.

A faculty member since 1982, Chow serves as John J. Lovoi Sr. Professor of Drug Discovery and Development, professor of pharmaceuticals and director of the college's Institute for Drug Education and Research. She has trained and mentored 41 Ph.D. and seven master's degree students as well as dozens of postdoctoral fellows, visiting scholars and undergraduate students during her 41 years at UHCOP.



Under her guidance, mentorship and research support, Chow's students have excelled in producing award-winning research at major scientific conferences and, following graduation, secured highly productive and successful careers in academia, the pharmaceutical industry and regulatory setting, including the Food and Drug Administration.

Chow is an internationally recognized researcher and expert in the field of pharmaceuticals, particularly the study of pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics, and modeling, as well as the development and analyses of novel drug formulations and drug-delivery systems for the treatment of leukemia, cancer, infection and acute spinal cord injury as well as studying the stability and efficacy of medications used in space flights on the International Space Station.

The CSGS comprises 200 graduate schools spanning the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia.

Marwaha, Tejada-Simón Receive UH Faculty Excellence Awards for Teaching, Student Success

Two UHCOP faculty members – Aditi Marwaha, Ph.D., and MariVi. Tejada-Simón, Ph.D., M.Ed. – are among the 2021-22 recipients of the University of Houston Faculty Excellence Awards bestowed by the UH Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost.

The awards are among the highest honors conferred by the university. Marwaha and Tejada-Simón were recognized for their use of innovative teaching technologies to enhance student learning, retention and engagement as well as their extraordinary efforts to support student success.



An instructional assistant professor, Marwaha has been a UHCOP faculty member since graduating from the college's Pharmaceutics Ph.D. program in 2005. In addition to serving as a department academic coordinator and a student organization faculty advisor, Marwaha is involved in the teaching of 10 didactic courses and facilitates three skills labs of the Pharm.D. program.

Tejada-Simón, an associate professor of pharmacology, teaches in eight professional or graduate student courses, including two of which she also serves as course coordinator. She also serves as director of the college's Faculty Development and a faculty advisor for a UHCOP Pharm.D. student organization.

100+ Explore Research, Practice Insights at Geriatric Medication Safety Symposium

The inaugural Geriatric Medication Safety Symposium April 7-8 – brought together nearly 100 health care practitioners, researchers, students, residents and fellows who gained or presented new insights in patient care for older adults.

The event featured plenary talks and workshops by nationally recognized researchers and practitioners; continuing education for physicians, pharmacists, nurses and dentists; and presentations by students, residents and postdoctoral fellows.

UHCOP Ph.D. student Yinan Huang secured the Best Podium Presentation Award for her study "Characterizing Opioid Prescribing Among U.S. Adults with Alzheimer's Disease: A Cross-sectional Analysis of the National Ambulatory Care Medical Survey."

University of Texas Medical Branch Ph.D. student Jordan Westra, MPH, won the Best Poster Presentation Award for his project "National Trends and Patterns of Cessation of Prescription Opioid Use Among Medi-

care Beneficiaries, 2013-2018."

Funded by a five-year National Institute on Aging grant, the symposium was co-hosted by UHCOP's Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy and McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston and chaired by UHCOP's Rajender R. Aparasu, Ph.D., FAPhA, and UTHealth's Holly M. Holmes, M.D., M.S., AGSF. The event traces its roots back to the Houston Medication Safety Symposium held from 2017 to 2019.

Recent Publications

- Prescribing of disease modifying agents in older adults with multiple sclerosis. **Talwar A**, Earla JR, Hutton GJ, **Aparasu RR**. *Mult Scler Relat Disord*. 2022 Jan;57:103308. doi: 10.1016/j.msard.2021.103308. Epub 2021 Oct 5. PMID: 35158421
- Fulminant *Clostridioides difficile* Infection: A Review of Treatment Options for a Life-Threatening Infection. Carlson TJ, **Gonzales-Luna AJ**, **Garey KW**. *Semin Respir Crit Care Med*. 2022 Feb;43(1):28-38. doi: 10.1055/s-0041-1740973. Epub 2022 Feb 16. PMID: 35172356
- Nanoemulsion delivery systems for enhanced efficacy of antimicrobials and essential oils. Garcia CR, **Malik MH**, **Biswas S**, **Tam VH**, Rumbaugh KP, Li W, **Liu X**. *Biomater Sci*. 2022 Feb 1;10(3):633-653. doi: 10.1039/d1bm01537k. PMID: 34994371
- Left Ventricular Noncompaction Is Associated with Valvular Regurgitation and a Variety of Arrhythmias. Li Q, **Miao L**, Xia L, **Abdelnasser HY**, Zhang F, **Lu Y**, **Nusrat A**, **Tabassum M**, Li J, **Wu M**. *J Cardiovasc Dev Dis*. 2022 Feb 2;9(2):49. doi: 10.3390/jcdd9020049. PMID: 35200702
- Efficacy, Safety, Pharmacokinetics, and Microbiome Changes of Ibezapolstat in Adults with *Clostridioides difficile* Infection: A Phase 2a Multicenter Clinical Trial. **Garey KW**, **McPherson J**, Dinh AQ, **Hu C**, **Jo J**, **Wang W**, **Lancaster CK**, **Gonzales-Luna AJ**, **Loveall C**, **Begum K**, **Alam MJ**, Silverman MH, Hanson B. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2022 Feb 4;ciac096. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciac096. Online ahead of print. PMID: 35134880
- NPY1R exerts inhibitory action on estradiol-stimulated growth and predicts endocrine sensitivity and better survival in ER-positive breast cancer. **Bhat R**, **Thangavel H**, **Abdulkareem NM**, Vasaikar S, De Angelis C, Bae L, Cataldo ML, Nanda S, Fu X, Zhang B, Schiff R, **Trivedi MV**. *Sci Rep*. 2022 Feb 4;12(1):1972. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-05949-7. PMID: 35121782
- Prostacyclin Promotes Degenerative Pathology in a Model of Alzheimer's Disease. **Womack TR**, **Vollert CT**, **Ohia-Nwoko O**, **Schmitt M**, **Montazari S**, Beckett TL, Mayerich D, Murphy MP, **Eriksen JL**. *Front Cell Neurosci*. 2022 Feb 7;16:769347. doi: 10.3389/fncel.2022.769347. eCollection 2022. PMID: 35197825
- Combining Neprilysin Inhibitor With AT2R Agonist Is Superior to Combination With AT1R Blocker in Providing Reno-Protection in Obese Rats. **Gray EA**, **Patel SN**, Doris PA, **Hussain T**. *Front Pharmacol*. 2022 Feb 7;12:778953. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2021.778953. eCollection 2021. PMID: 35197849
- Reversible lysine fatty acylation of an anchoring protein mediates adenylylation of adrenergic signaling. Bagchi RA, Robinson EL, Hu T, Cao J, Hong JY, Tharp CA, **Qasim H**, Gavin KM, Pires da Silva J, Major JL, **McConnell BK**, Seto E, Lin H, McKinsey TA. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2022 Feb 15;119(7):e2119678119. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2119678119. PMID: 35149557
- Genetic Mechanisms of Vancomycin Resistance in *Clostridioides difficile*: A Systematic Review. **Eubank TA**, **Gonzales-Luna AJ**, Hurdle JG, **Garey KW**. *Antibiotics (Basel)*. 2022 Feb 16;11(2):258. doi: 10.3390/antibiotics11020258. PMID: 35203860
- Displacement and Isolation: Insights from a Mental Stress Survey of Syrian Refugees in Houston, Texas, USA. **Atrooz F**, Chen TA, Biekman B, **Alrousan G**, Bick J, **Salim S**. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2022 Feb 22;19(5):2547. doi: 10.3390/ijerph19052547. PMID: 35270240
- Clumping Morphology Influences Virulence Uncoupled from Echinocandin Resistance in *Candida glabrata*. **Hu C**, Fong G, Wurster S, Kontoyiannis DP, **Beyda ND**. *Microbiol Spectr*. 2022 Feb 23;10(1):e0183721. doi: 10.1128/spectrum.01837-21. Epub 2022 Feb 2. PMID: 35107318
- Multi-country surveillance of *Clostridioides difficile* demonstrates high prevalence of spores in non-healthcare environmental settings. **Jo J**, **Gonzales-Luna AJ**, **Lancaster CK**, **McPherson JK**, **Begum K**, **Jahangir Alam M**, **Garey KW**. *Anaerobe*. 2022 Feb 25:102543. doi: 10.1016/j.anaerobe.2022.102543. Online ahead of print. PMID: 35227896
- Factors Associated with Switching From Injectable to Oral Disease Modifying Agents Among Patients with Multiple Sclerosis. **Li J**, **Chikermane SG**, **Earla JR**, Hutton GJ, **Aparasu RR**. *Mult Scler Relat Disord*. 2022 Feb 26;60:103703. doi: 10.1016/j.msard.2022.103703. Online ahead of print. PMID: 35278846
- Risk of asthma exacerbation associated with opioid and nonopioid analgesic use in children with current asthma. **Nair AA**, Farber HJ, **Chen H**. *J Manag Care Spec Pharm*. 2022 Mar;28(3):325-335. doi: 10.18553/jmcp.2022.28.3.325. PMID: 35199576
- Draft genome sequence data of a clinical *Enterococcus faecalis* isolate in Sabah, Malaysia. Mastor NNI, Subbiah VK, Bakar WNW, **Begum K**, **Alam MJ**, Hoque MZ. *Data Brief*. 2022 Mar 6;41:108019. doi: 10.1016/j.dib.2022.108019. eCollection 2022 Apr. PMID: 35295870
- A NanoBiT assay to monitor membrane proteins trafficking for drug discovery and drug development. **Reyes-Alcaraz A**, **Lucero Garcia-Rojas EY**, **Merlinsky EA**, Seong JY, **Bond RA**, **McConnell BK**. *Commun Biol*. 2022 Mar 8;5(1):212. doi: 10.1038/s42003-022-03163-9. PMID: 35260793
- Targeting NLRP3 signaling by a novel-designed sulfonyleurea compound for inhibition of microglial inflammation. Zhang C, Sajith AM, **Xu X**, Jiang J, Phillip Bowen J, Kulkarni A, **Hao J**. *Bioorg Med Chem*. 2022 Mar 15;58:116645. doi: 10.1016/j.bmc.2022.116645. Epub 2022 Jan 31. PMID: 35151118
- Unbiased peptoid cell screen identifies a peptoid targeting newly appeared cell surface vimentin on tumor transformed early lung cancer cells. **Shukla SP**, **Zhang H**, Fang B, Minna JD, **Gomika Udugamasooriya D**. *Bioorg Med Chem*. 2022 Mar 15;58:116673. doi: 10.1016/j.bmc.2022.116673. Epub 2022 Feb 15. PMID: 35189561
- Adherence to concomitant diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia treatments among older patients. **Paranjpe R**, **Chen H**, **Johnson ML**, **Birtcher K**, **Serna O**, **Abughosh S**. *J Am Pharm Assoc (2003)*. 2022 Mar 16:S1544-3191(22)00083-8. doi: 10.1016/j.japh.2022.03.011. Online ahead of print PMID: 35400619
- Stem Cell Theory of Cancer: Implications for Drug Resistance and Chemosensitivity in Cancer Care. Tu SM, Guo CC, **Chow DS**, Zacharias NM. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2022 Mar 18;14(6):1548. doi: 10.3390/cancers14061548. PMID: 35326699
- Development of Rofecoxib-Based Fluorophores from ACQ to AIE by Positional Regioisomerization. Wang X, Chen L, Li R, **Xie Z**, **Hu M**, Sun S, Li Z, Hao J, Lin B, Chen X, Xie L. *Chempluschem*. 2022 Apr;87(4):e202100522. doi: 10.1002/cplu.202100522. Epub 2022 Feb 18. PMID: 35179314
- Differential Expression of Presynaptic Munc13-1 and Munc13-2 in Mouse Hippocampus Following Ethanol Drinking. **Ghosh A**, **Muthuraju S**, **Badal S**, Wooden J, Leasure JL, Roman G, **Das J**. *Neuroscience*. 2022 Apr 1;487:166-183. doi: 10.1016/j.neuroscience.2022.02.008. Epub 2022 Feb 12. PMID: 35167938
- Evaluation of Discharge Opioid Prescribing in Coronary Artery Bypass Patients Following an Opioid Stewardship Intervention for Providers. Babino JM, **Thornton JD**, Putney K, Bethany Taylor R, **Wanat MA**. *J Pharm Pract*. 2022 Apr 11:8971900221088797. doi: 10.1177/08971900221088797. Online ahead of print. PMID: 35410543
- Effect of inadequate care on diabetes complications and healthcare resource utilization during management of type 2 diabetes in the United States. **Lewing B**, Sangsiry S, **Abughosh SM**, Lal LS, **Essien EJ**, **Sangsiry SS**. *Postgrad Med*. 2022 Apr 12:1-13. doi: 10.1080/00325481.2022.2061260. Online ahead of print. PMID: 35379062
- Development of a physiologically based pharmacokinetic model to predict irinotecan disposition during inflammation. **Tao G**, **Chityala PK**, **Li L**, Lin Z, **Ghose R**. *Chem Biol Interact*. 2022 Apr 14;360:109946. doi: 10.1016/j.cbi.2022.109946. Online ahead of print. PMID: 35430260
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- Supraphysiological activation of TAK1 promotes skeletal muscle growth and mitigates neurogenic atrophy. **Roy A**, **Kumar A**. *Nat Commun*. 2022 Apr 22;13(1):2201. doi: 10.1038/s41467-022-29752-0. PMID: 35459245