WHO Extends 25-Year Partnership

The College of Pharmacy was re-designated as a PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for Traditional Medicine by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

“The re-designation of the College as a WHO Collaborating Center will enable the College’s faculty to continue to conduct research, provide research training to scientists in developing countries and serve as consulting experts in the development and promotion of the use of quality, safe and efficacious herbal medicine by people around the world,” said the Center’s director Norman Farnsworth, PhD, distinguished professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy.

The UIC-based Center is one of only two collaborating centers for traditional medicine in the United States and serves as the WHO’s primary technical resource facility. The latest re-designation will extend the College’s relationship with WHO beyond a quarter of a century.

Since its inception in 1981, the Center has

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Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy Gift

The Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy in January 2006 received an unrestricted, $45,000 gift from Amgen.

Though specific plans for the funds are not finalized, they are expected to support the Department's pre- and/or post-doctoral training in drug metabolism. Professor and Department Head Judy Bolton, PhD, explained that the gift will also help fund the annual Minnesota Illinois Kansas Iowa (MIKI) meeting and create a small, student recruiting budget for the Department.

"Partnerships and support from the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries are crucially important to the College's success since this support aids us in the training of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, the majority of who will find lucrative and productive employment in these industries. In addition, Amgen's financial support for the department provides recognition for our strong program in graduate and postdoctoral training in medicinal chemistry and Pharmacognosy, particularly as they apply to drug metabolism" Dr. Bolton said.

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In the Spotlight

Meet the new Coordinator of External Relations

Details on page 4

Erin Tolle
Accolades and News

ожет Clara Awe, PhD, EdD, assistant dean, Urban Affairs, and adjunct associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Administration, was quoted in the article titled “UIC and CVS Workforce Development Program,” which appeared in the December 2005 AACP News. The article featured the College and its collaboration with CVS/Pharmacy, Chicago Public Schools and the Coalition for United Community Labor Force to offer the Pathways to Pharmacy program.

Jan Engle, PharmD, clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, and associate dean, Academic Affairs, was interviewed about the pharmacist shortage in late December for a nationally-run segment on Fox News. Dr. Engle was quoted in the October 24 Northwest Indiana Times article titled “Taking Stock” and in the December 20 Chicago Tribune article titled “A Dose of Caution.”

Michael Johnson, PhD, professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, and director, Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, was elected to the all-campus Promotion and Tenure Committee through the year 2008.

Alexander Mankin, PhD, professor and associate director, Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, was recently invited by the Russian Academy of Sciences to become a member of the International Advisory Board for its journal, Molecular Biology. He will take part in editing the journal in both the Russian and English languages.

Andrew Mesecar, PhD, associate professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, and member, Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, presented two invited lectures in November 2005. He delivered “Towards a Molecular-level Understanding of the Cancer Chemopreventive Properties of Dietary and Other Natural Compounds” at the UIC Department of Human Nutrition, and he discussed “Crystallographic Studies of Enzyme Reaction Coordinates: Molecular Odysseys in Four Dimensions,” at Loyola University’s Department of Chemistry.

Adam Negrusz, PhD, DSc, associate professor, Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences, was quoted in the January 6 Near West/South Gazette article titled “State Police Labs Recognized for Forensic Quality.” The article, which ran as the

Students to Present at AMPC

Student members of the UIC Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) chapter will present a March 30 session “Exploring Pharmacy Practice Preparedness in Response to the Medicare Modernization Act,” during their organization’s Regional Meeting.

Other pharmacy students; faculty members; industry professionals, including managed care administrators and pharmacy benefits managers; and representatives of the UIC group’s sponsor, Novartis, are expected to attend.

In April, the group will present a poster with the same title at AMCP’s national convention in Seattle.

The participating pharmacy students (pictured above with faculty advisor J. Warren Salmon, PhD, Department of Pharmacy Administration) include: Christina Bond, Janet Devine, Chris Hollman, Stacy Szappan, Jamie Vora, Rob Wittenberg and Maggie Zazadzki.

The following Pharmacy employees were not honored in the article titled “Service Recognition 2005-2006,” which appeared in the December 2005 Dean’s Dispatch. We apologize for this oversight.

Service Recognition 2005-2006

The College applauds the following Hospital Pharmacy Service employees for their hard work and dedication to the College and the University.

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Send Us Your News!
To submit news, story ideas or additional meeting dates for publication in the Dean’s Dispatch, visit: http://www.uic.edu/pharmacy/DeansDispatch
Alan Lau, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, received approval for the Clinical Trial “Darabepoetin Alfa (Serum Free Bioreactor Technology) in CKD Subject” from Amgen Inc.

Keith A. Rodvold, PharmD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, received funding with a total amount of $866,875 from Aventis for the study “Comparison of the Intrapulmonary and Plasma Concentrations of Telithromycin and Azithromycin in Healthy Adult Subjects.”

J. Warren Salmon, PhD, professor, Department of Pharmacy Administration, received funding in the amount of $2,000 from Novartis Pharmaceuticals on behalf of UIC’s Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy student chapter. The grant will support a Medicare Part D research project being conducted by PMAD 380 students, under Dr. Salmon’s direction.

Glen Schumock, PharmD, MBA, associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, received funding in the amount of $74,630 for the study “Improving Treatment of Acute Decompensated Heart Failure in Community Hospitals” from Scios, Inc.

Miriam Mobley Smith, PharmD, clinical assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, and director of experiential education, received continuation funding in the amount of $35,846 from the Suburban Area Agency on Aging for the project “Medication Monitoring and Safety in Older Adults: A Community Based Education Program.”

D. Doel Soejarto, PhD, professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy; director, Pharmacognosy Field Station; and member, Program for Collaborative Research in the Pharmaceutical Sciences, along with Harry Fong, PhD, professor emeritus, Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy and Program for Collaborative Research in the Pharmaceutical Sciences, and associate director, World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Traditional Medicine, received additional funding from the Fogarty International in the amount of $50,000 for the project titled “Studies on Biodiversity of Vietnam and Laos.”

JoAnn Stubbings, MCHA, clinical assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, received funding in the amount of $24,776 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for the conference titled “Prescription Drug Expenditures: Too Much or Not Enough? A Question of Perspective.”

Gregory Thatcher, PhD, professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, received new funding in the amount of $189,477 from the National Institutes of Health/National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine for the project titled “Botanicals for Treatment of Depression.”

Yanming Wang, PhD, associate professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, received continuing funding from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging in the amount of $120,417 for the project titled "Quantitative Imaging of Amyloid Deposits in AD and Aging". Dr. Wang received new funding in the amount of $44,000 from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for the project titled “Molecular Probes for in vivo MRS Studies of Myelin.”

Zaijie Jim Wang, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences, received continuing funding from the National Institutes of Health/National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the amount of $186,136 for the project titled "Molecular Mechanisms of Vitex agnus-castus L. in PMS."

Amgen Gift

Dr. Bolton added that she is especially appreciative of Amgen’s Vice President of Pharmacokinetics and Drug Metabolism, Paul Pearson, who was instrumental in the College’s ability to secure the corporate gift.

Amgen is a leading human therapeutics company in the biotechnology industry. The Fortune 500 company is credited with pioneering the development of novel products based on advances in recombinant DNA and molecular biology.

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 22 2006
Pharmacy Alumni Reunion
Renaissance Hotel • Oak Brook, Illinois
The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy 2006 Interim Meeting will take place February 26 through March 1 in San Antonio, Texas.

The American Pharmacists Association 2006 Annual Meeting and Exposition will take place March 17 through 21 in San Francisco, Calif.

The College of Pharmacy Graduate Student Award Program will take place April 20 from 5 to 7 pm.

The 2006 Pharmacy Alumni Reunion will take place April 22 at Oak Brook Renaissance Hotel.

The College of Pharmacy Sesquicentennial Gala will take place on September 26, 2009.

Name: Erin Tolle
Title: External Relations Coordinator
Education: Ms. Tolle received her degree in Mass Communication, with a minor in English, from Illinois State University (ISU) in May of 2005.
Background: Before coming to UIC, she had worked in healthcare marketing and public relations at Hopedale Medical Complex in Hopedale, Ill., a small town in central Illinois.
Responsibilities: Assisting with alumni relations, development, advancement and communication endeavors at the College.
Biggest Challenge: “Treading in uncharted waters with a newly created position that has so many diverse aspects to it. This is also what makes it exciting. Always loving a good challenge, I look forward to where my time with the College will take me.”
Settling In: “Starting my first true ‘big girl’ job and moving to a new city can be more than a little overwhelming, but everyone has made me feel so welcome. I’m eager to jump right into things and get to know everyone better.”
Making History: While at ISU, she led a four-person student group in a national public relations campaign competition concerning academic honesty. The team placed third out of more than 60 schools - higher than any other previous competing team from ISU.

Accolades continued
cover story, featured the Forensic Science Program and its relationship with the Illinois State Police Forensic Science Center.

Casperi Richardson, MPA, Office of the Dean, completed a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Rosalie Sagraves, PharmD, dean and professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, was appointed to the Board of External Visitors for the University of Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy, and as a reviewer for the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health/Specialized Centers of Research on Sex and Gender Factors Affecting Women's Health. She was Honorary Co-Chair of the second annual American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago Women and Lung Health Conference and serves as a board member of the 2006 Sister To Sister Everyone Has a Heart Event which will take place in February 2006.

Stacy Shord, PharmD, assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, received the Amgen Nephrology Research Award as a recipient of an American College of Clinical Pharmacy Research Institute Grant.

Re-Designation continued
maintained an active partnership with the WHO on activities related to the use of traditional, complementary and alternative medicine in primary health care. It provides information on the chemistry and biology of medicinal plants, via the NAPRALERT database, to research institutions and health ministries in developing countries, while members of its faculty have participated in numerous regional and international consultations sponsored by WHO.

Adding to the reputation of the College is the presence of the companion UIC/NIH Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements Research, sponsored in part by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, which is the only other institution in the USA also designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine.