

Dean's Newsletter

Issue 2, December 2014

Note: The Dean's newsletter is published every second month and provides updates on academics, research, events, and other items of interest. Join us in celebrating our achievements by submitting your updates to Kieran Kobitz, Merry Beazley, and Kishor Wasan.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

\$5 million grant for nuclear medicine and imaging research in Saskatchewan

New funding announced by the Saskatchewan government will support nuclear innovation research in the province, including the establishment of a research chair in radiopharmacy at the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.



[Read the Fedoruk news release.](#)

CFP announces 2014 innovation fund grant winner

The Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy announced **Drs. Jeff Taylor and Kerry Mansell** as the winners of the prestigious 2014 Innovation Fund Grant valued at \$46, 300. **The Evaluation of Pharmacist Prescribing for Minor Ailments – the clinical and economic value**, will look at the impact of pharmacist intervention into these common conditions.



[Read the CFP news release.](#)

MORE NEWS

Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice

- Health Minister Dustin Duncan introduced legislative amendments that will expand scope of practice for Saskatchewan pharmacists, benefiting residents through more efficient and accessible health care services. Amendments to The Pharmacy Act, 1996 will recognize the ability of pharmacists to improve health care delivery in the province, working collaboratively with doctors and other health professionals. [See full story.](#)

Launch of the Dean's Pharmacist & Dietitians Celebration Tour

- The College of Pharmacy & Nutrition is saying thank you. Dean **Kishor Wasan** will be visiting pharmacists and dietitians to recognize them for their hard work, and provide them with a copy of our centennial book [Pharmacy - An Art, a Science, a Profession.](#)





MORE NEWS (cont'd)

PharmD Program

- The PharmD retreat was held November 12-14 to concentrate on planning the redesign of the BSP to an entry-level PharmD. The retreat was spearheaded by **Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk**. We are delighted that **Professor Emeritus Linda Suveges** has offered her continued involvement and support in the planning. Thank you both!
- Regular updates on the PharmD program will soon be available on the college website. Watch for the link in our next newsletter or on our social media channels.



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Follow [@UofSPharmNut](#) on Twitter

Study results in medication policy change

- A study conducted by the Saskatchewan Drug Utilization and Outcomes Research Team (SDUORT) has resulted in a change in the provincial reimbursement policy for a particular cholesterol-lowering drug known as Ezetimibe or Ezetrol®. [See full story.](#) Or [Read the paper.](#)

IN THE MEDIA

- **Prescription for success**, an article on fourth year pharmacy student **Brennan Bosch**. [See full story.](#)
- Technology developed by **Kishor and Ellen Wasan** is moving toward Phase 1A clinical studies. [See full story.](#)



Brennan Bosch, Huskie hockey player and pharmacy student.

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

WELCOME!

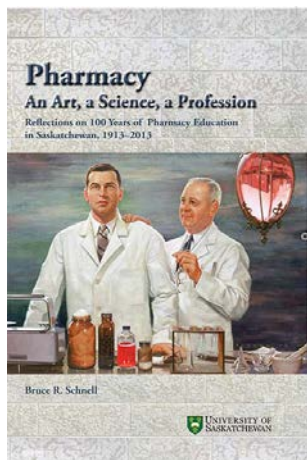
- **Kieran Kobitz** – Communications & Alumni Relations Specialist. Kieran joined the college on November 10.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

- Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Nuclear Chemistry or Radiopharmacy. [See the job posting.](#)



ALUMNI NEWS



CENTENNIAL BOOK

Pharmacy An Art, a Science, a Profession – Reflections on 100 Years of Pharmacy Education in Saskatchewan, 1913-2013 by Dean Emeritus Bruce R. Schnell (BSP '60)

- The book traces the college's development from its formation in 1913, when pharmacists were considered skilled tradesmen, through to the mid-century, when pharmacists were seen as dispensers of drugs, to present day, where pharmacists have become true professionals, drug therapy experts, and integrated members of health care teams.
- Alumni and friends can get their complimentary copies of the book at the University Bookstore located in the Health Sciences Building, E-wing. Those people who are located outside of Saskatoon can contact the College to order their copy.
- The book will soon be on sale to the public at McNally Robinson in Saskatoon. We'll

announce when the book is available in store on our social media channels, and in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to **Beth Kessler**, BSP 2008, CRE, and pharmacist at Pharmasave Radville. Beth had the distinct honour of winning the Takeda Magnum Opus award from the Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan -PAS earlier this year. The award is given to a pharmacist who has successfully completed specialty education and expanded her practice as a result. Beth is a certified Respiratory Educator who practices on the Rural West Primary Health Care team.



On October 25, **Jaris Swidrovich** (BSP 2010, PharmD 2013) was presented with the New Hospital Pharmacy Practitioner Award at the 60th Annual Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists – Saskatchewan Branch annual general meeting and educational sessions. This award is presented annually to a member of the Branch in recognition of promising leadership, dedication and commitment to practice excellence and professional growth.

Jaris was also ratified as President of the Saskatchewan Branch for the coming year.

Do you have alumni news to share? Submit your story to kieran.kobitz@usask.ca to be featured in our next newsletter.



EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

The **10th Annual Pharmacy White Coat Ceremony** was held on Sunday, October 26, 2014, and over 400 invited guests, family and friends attended the event. **Dean Kishor Wasan** brought greetings on behalf of the College; and **Dr. Patricia McDougall** provided greetings on behalf of the University. **Julia Bareham**, BSP 2008, provided the keynote address. A reception was held immediately after the ceremony in the E-wing Atrium. Thank you to our sponsors **the Bank of Nova Scotia, Pfizer Consumer HealthCare, and Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan** for their generous financial contribution towards the reception, lab coats, and nametags, respectively.



L to R: Keynote speaker Julia Bareham; BSP Class of 2018; Dean Kishor Wasan

Nutrition 25th Anniversary – a reception was held for students, SHR preceptors and College faculty and staff to mark the 25 years since the Division of Nutrition and Dietetics joined the College. A celebration of the anniversary will take place in RQHR in the spring. [Click here to jump to the Division of Nutrition and Dietetics timeline.](#)

Saskatchewan Public Health Nutrition Research Network Symposium: Integrating Research, Policy and Practice was held on October 16-17. This symposium provided an overview of public health nutrition and presented perspectives from the audience on priorities and directions in research, policy, and practice. [Click here to jump to the “More On Our Graduate Students” section to read an article on the symposium by Dr. Hassan Vatanparast and Sarah Finch.](#)

The Simpson Lecture was held on October 16 in the Leslie and Irene Dubé Theatre. Dr. Tim Green spoke on mandatory folic acid fortification in Canada. Dr. Green’s research interests lie broadly in the area of vitamins including folic acid and the prevention of birth defects, the consequences of high homocysteine, and the assessment of vitamin D status in various population groups.

Run for the Cure – faculty and staff are supported our CAPSI students again this year with the Breast Cancer Fundraiser, held October 5. Way to go everyone!

Light the Night – On October 5, staff and friends supported the mission of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada and honour the memory of Bev Allen.

Open House On October 3, the College hosted a recruitment fair-style come and go for high school students, parents, and counsellors. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about our programs, meet current students, tour the Apotex pharmacy skills lab, and play a fun Nutrition food-facts game.

Pharmacy Career Fair – was held on Saturday, October 18 and was organized by the Student and Employment Career Centre.

Myla Wollbaum, Director of Professional Practice at the **Pharmacists' Association of Saskatchewan** spoke to fourth year students about professional advocacy and practice in Saskatchewan and beyond.



EVENTS (cont'd)

David Windross, Vice President External Affairs at Teva Canada spoke with fourth year pharmacy students on the generic pharmaceutical industry from a policy perspective.

The **Saskatchewan Pharmacy & Nutrition Student Society's** winter formal "Baby It's Cold Outside" was held at the Radisson Hotel on November 28.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next **Nutrition Professional Enhancement Day (PED)** has been booked for January 8, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon. This year's PED speaker is Stephanie Clairmont. Stephanie is a dietitian entrepreneur from Ontario, Canada. She has many accomplishments, including opening a successful practice helping people with irritable bowel disease, writing a book titled *The IBS Master Plan*, and is a regular on the Marilyn Dennis show. Stephanie is coming to speak about her journey as an entrepreneur.

Our second **College Wide Faculty, Staff and Student Representative Meeting** will be held on Monday, January, 12. **Kishor Wasan** will provide updates on current action items, and answer questions from attendees.

RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

RECENT RESEARCH FUNDING

CIHR Bridge Funding

University of Saskatchewan CIHR bridge funding has been awarded to S. Kontulainen, D. Cooper A. Baxter-Jones, **H. Vatanparast**, JD Johnston, J Lanovaz., and M. Szafron for *Revealing Origins of Osteoporosis Trial (ROOT): An evaluation of sexual dimorphism and determinants of bone micro- architectural development in adolescence*.

PRESENTATIONS

Kishor Wasan presented the following at the **American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS)** Annual Meeting and Exposition. The event took place at the San Diego Convention Center November 2 - 6.

- Poster on November 4 between 9:30 and 12:30: T2099 - Novel Oral Amphotericin B Formulation Remains Highly Effective against Murine Systemic Candidiasis following Exposure to Tropical Temperature
- Panel Moderation on November 5 from 9:00 - 11:00: Antimicrobials, Super BUGS and Global Health
- Presentation on November 5 from 2:25 to 2:50: Development of a Tropically Stable Oral Lipid Formulation of Amphotericin B for the Treatment of Systemic Fungal Infections and Visceral Leishmaniasis



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Botterill, J.J., Guskjolen, A.J., Marks, W.N., **Caruncho, H.J.**, Kalynchuk, L.E. (2014) Limbic but not non-limbic kindling impairs conditioned fear and promotes plasticity of NPY and its Y2 receptor. *Brain Structure and Function*. Article in press.
- Carlson, R.J., Doucette, J.R., **Nazarali, A.J.** Current Developments in Pharmacogenomics of Multiple Sclerosis. *Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology*. Article in press.
- **Haddadi, A.**, Hamdy, S., Ghotbi, Z., Samuel, J., Lavasanifar, A. (2014) Immunoadjuvant activity of the nanoparticles' surface modified with mannan. *Nanotechnology*, 25 (35), art. no. 355101.
- Katzman, M., Lawson, J., **Whiting, S.J.**, Rosenberg, A.M. (2014) Factors associated with cord blood vitamin D concentration in Saskatchewan newborns. *Applied Physiology, Nutrition and Metabolism*, 39 (10), pp. 1188-1191.
- Kingwell, E., **Evans, C.**, Zhu, F., Oger, J., Hashimoto, S., Tremlett, H. (2014) Assessment of cancer risk with β -interferon treatment for multiple sclerosis. *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry*, 85 (10), pp. 1096-1102.
- Melaku, Y.A., Sahle, B.W., Tesfay, F.H., Bezabih, A.M., Aregay, A., Abera, S.F., Abreha, L., **Zello, G.A.** (2014) Causes of death among adults in northern Ethiopia: Evidence from verbal autopsy data in health and demographic surveillance system PLoS ONE, 9 (9), art. no. e106781.
- Romay-Tallon R., Rivera-Baltanas, T., Kalynchuk, L.E., **Caruncho, H.J.** (2014) Differential effects of corticosterone on the colocalization of reelin and neuronal nitric oxide synthase in the adult hippocampus in wild type and heterozygous reeler mice. *Brain Research*. Article in press.
- Sachs-Barrable K, Conway J, Gershkovich P, Ibrahim F, **Wasan K.M.** (2014) The use of the United States FDA programs as a strategy to advance the development of drug products for neglected tropical diseases. *Drug Dev Ind Pharm*. 2014 Nov;40(11):1429-34.
- Sachs-Barrable, K., Darlington, J.W., **Wasan, K.M.** (2014) The effect of two novel cholesterol-lowering agents, disodium ascorbyl phytostanol phosphate (DAPP) and nanostructured aluminosilicate (NSAS) on the expression and activity of P-glycoprotein within Caco-2 cells. *Lipids in Health and Disease*, 13 (1), art. no. 153.
- Shashni, B., Sharma, K., Singh, R., Sakharkar, K.R., Dhillon, S.K., Nagasaki, Y., **Sakharkar, M.K.** (2013). Coffee component hydroxyl hydroquinone (HHQ) as a putative ligand for PPAR gamma and implications in breast cancer. *BMC genomics*, 14 Suppl 5.
- Singh, R.S.P., Michel, D., Das, U., **Dimmock, J.R.**, **Alcorn, J.** (2014) Cytotoxic 1,5-diaryl-3-oxo-1,5-pentadienes: An assessment and comparison of membrane permeability using Caco-2 and MDCK monolayers. *Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry Letters*, 24 (22), pp. 5199-5202.
- **Wasan K.M.**, Sivak O, Bartlett K, **Wasan E.K.**, Gershkovich P. Novel oral amphotericin B formulation (iCo-010) remains highly effective against murine systemic candidiasis following exposure to tropical temperature. *Drug Dev Ind Pharm*. 2014 Aug 29:1-6.



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

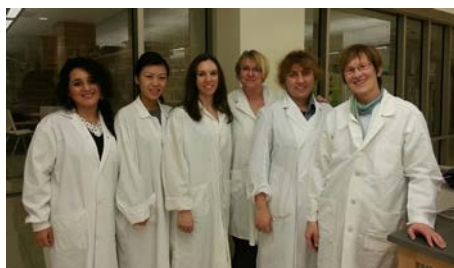
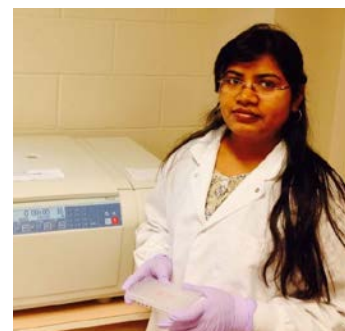


- Our December Researcher of the Month is **Dr. Derek Jorgenson**. His research program focuses on primary health care practice and has interests in investigating: optimal roles for pharmacists in the primary health care system, interventions to improve medication management in the primary health care system, and best methods of teaching medication management skills to health professional students and practicing pharmacists.

[Read more about Dr. Jorgenson's work.](#)

- Our November Trainee Spotlight features **Merlin Thangaraj** who is pursuing her Ph.D. in neuroscience and studying with **Dr. Adil Nazarali**. She is currently investigating the role of Sirtuin2 in myelination and the aging brain.

[Read more about Merlin on our website.](#)



- **Dr. Phyllis Paterson** is our November Researcher of the Month. Dr. Paterson's research program has two streams: investigating how nutrition can be used to enhance recovery and reduce disability after a stroke, and developing synchrotron-based spectroscopic imaging of brain biochemistry following stroke that is linked to recovery of function.

[Read more about Dr. Paterson's work.](#)

- And finally, **Dr. Ed Krol** was our Researcher of the Month in October. Dr. Krol's research program focuses on natural products with potential health benefits. Specifically, the metabolism of flaxseed lignans; the therapeutic properties of lignan analogues; and the development of ^{18}F lignan probes for positron emission tomography.

[Read more about Dr. Krol's work.](#)





RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

TRAINEE SUCCESS

Four Pharmacy and Nutrition graduate students were conferred with their degrees at Fall Convocation 2014:

- **Dr. Eshwari Addala** (Nutrition)
 - Supervisors: **Drs. Jonathan Dimmock** and **Brian Bandy**
 - Thesis: In Vitro Studies Using Curcumin and Curcumin Analogues as Candidate Mitochondria Targeting Anticancer Agents Affecting Colon Cancer Cells

- **Pui Chi Cheng** (Nutrition)
 - Supervisors: **Drs. Kerry Mansell** and **Susan Whiting**
 - Thesis: Hand Grip Strength as a Nutritional Assessment Tool

- **Akhilreddy Thoutreddy** (Pharmacy)
 - Supervisors: **Dr. Jane Alcorn**
 - Thesis: Inflammation Affects Ontogeny of L-Carnitine Homeostasis Mechanism in the Developing Rat

- **Jovana Tomic** (Pharmacy)
 - Supervisors: **Drs. Jane Alcorn** and **Gord Zello**
 - Thesis: The Relationship Between Glucose Metabolism Byproduct, D-lactate, and Vascular Endothelial Cell Dysfunction and Possible Role in Diabetes

Several other students also successfully defended their theses over the past two months: **Dr. Solmaz Setayeshgar** (Nutrition), **Ahmed Abou-Hadeed** (Nutrition), **Julia Bareham** (Pharmacy), **Robert Pammett** (Pharmacy), and **Jena Boyko** (Pharmacy).

Ginny Lane and **Sarah Finch** received first and second place poster competition awards, respectively, at the **Global Health Conference** that was held at the University of Saskatchewan on October 4. Both Ginny and Sarah are PhD students supervised by Dr. Hassan Vatanparast. [Click here to jump to an article submitted by Noura Sheikhalzoor on the conference.](#)

Noura Sheikhalzoor, a Master of Science candidate in Nutrition was featured on the Dietitians Canada website with her blog **Dietitians: Where Do We Fit into the Food System?** [See full story.](#)

Dennis Okella won 3rd prize in the graduate student category for the Society for Craniofacial Genetics & Developmental Biology's poster competition. His topic was Six2 gene expression along the Anterior-Posterior axis of the developing murine secondary palate. [See full story.](#)

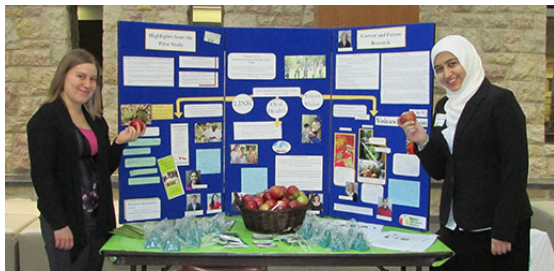


RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

MORE ON OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS

■ Pharmacy and Nutrition's Participation at the 3rd Annual Global Health Conference

Submitted by: Noura Sheikhalzoor, M.Sc. (c), RD



L to R: Christina Wist, Noura Sheikhalzoor

College faculty and students were active participants in the recent 3rd Annual Global Health Conference organized by the College of Medicine held in October. This year's theme was **Immigrant and Refugee Health**. Noura Sheikhalzoor, a registered dietitian and a Master's candidate in Nutrition represented us on the planning committee, where she assisted in recruiting speakers and volunteers, and raising funds. Pharmacy and Nutrition graduate and undergraduate students made up the largest cohort of volunteers!

There were excellent speakers from the College, including Dr. Hassan Vatanparast, who presented on "Acculturation and Nutritional Status of Immigrants." He also organized and facilitated a workshop on "Immigrant & Refugee Children's Health," which had a great turnout and was very well received by the audience. Dr. Vatanparast organized part of another workshop that featured a presentation on LINK (Linking Immigrants with Nutrition Knowledge). Christina Wist, third year nutrition student, presented on the program, which enables students to learn about nutrition issues impacting immigrants and refugees, and to take part in experiences to develop communication and cultural competency skills. Dr. Roy Dobson co-facilitated a workshop on cultural competency and patients dialogues. Noura presented the topic: "Food, Culture and Identity" at the "Food and Culture" session at the conference.

Three of our graduate students presented their research at the posters session and two were recognized: 1st Place Honours – Ginny Lane, "Unpacking Immigrant Children's Health Status: Focus on Diet Adequacy/Food Security;" and 2nd Place Honours – Sarah Finch, "Cultural Competence in Dietetics Education: Evaluating the Impact of a Community Service Learning Project in Dietetics Education." Both students are supervised by Dr. Vatanparast.

The College was one of the conference sponsors, and featured a display at the Conference Expo on LINK "Cultural Competence in Dietetics Education;" Voices in Vision project; and the Healthy Immigrant Children study.



L to R: Judy White, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina, Sarah Finch, Ginny Lane, Dr. Hassan Vatanparast



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

■ Integrating Research, Policy, and Practice

In Public Health Nutrition, October 2014

Submitted by: **Dr. Hassan Vatanparast and Sarah Finch, PhD(c)**



Initiated at the University of Saskatchewan in 2011, the Public Health Nutrition Research Network (PHNRN) is a team of researchers and public health professionals. Its mission is to improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities by fostering better understanding of the causes and determinants of nutrition issues through cross-disciplinary and collaborative public health nutrition research.

This October, the PHNRN hosted its second annual symposium. The event provided an opportunity for participants from various health sectors to actively engage with each other and with invited speakers, towards the goal of defining priorities and directions in research, policy and practice in public health nutrition. Keynote speakers were Dr. Shailesh Shukla from the Department of Indigenous Studies, University of Winnipeg, and Dr. Tim Green from the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, University of British Columbia, who shared their experiences working with international populations. Six groups of Saskatchewan public health nutritionists presented on their current initiatives, projects, knowledge and experiences.

The symposium was hosted and sponsored by our College, the University of Regina Faculty of Social Work and the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, who are working together to form and demonstrate successful collaborations among public health nutritionists in the community, the two universities, various levels of government and varying disciplines. Additionally, the event brought stakeholders together to shape the future directions of the network.

The PHNRN aims to engage all those involved in any aspect of research in public health nutrition. Please contact **Dr. Hassan Vatanparast** at vatan.h@usask.ca for more information or suggestions you may have.



Celebration of the Silver Anniversary of the Division of Nutrition and Dietetics Joining the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and Nutrition's Long and the Rich History at the U of S

Submitted by: Merry Beazley

This fall marked the 25th Anniversary of the Division of Nutrition and Dietetics joining the College. However, the history of nutrition and foods being offered at the U of S goes back to 1916-17! Please find below milestones in this rich chronicle. A celebration, held at the U of S in October, was attended by faculty, staff, students and practitioner-partners from the SHR. Another celebration will be held in Regina with our RQHR partners in spring 2015. Pictured at October celebration: Dr. Shawna Berenbaum and Roberta Gallagher, Operations Leader for Sherbrooke Community Centre and Nutrition Preceptor/Clinical Instructor.



1913 ***School of Pharmacy established;*** becomes a College in 1921.

1916-17



First foods and nutrition courses offered at the U of S.

1928 ***School of Household Sciences established,*** becoming a College in 1942 and the College of Home Economics in 1952. ***The College was disestablished in 1990.***



1987 ***Division of Nutrition and Dietetics created in the College of Pharmacy.***

1994 ***College renamed the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.***

1998 ***Revised BSc in Nutrition*** approved that includes practicum to become a dietitian through ***unique, innovative partnership with the Regina Qu'Appelle and Saskatoon Health Regions.***



2013-14



College of Pharmacy and Nutrition celebrates its Centennial, which included the honouring of Pharmacy and Nutrition *Alumni of Influence.*