

Dean's Newsletter

Issue 5, June 2015

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@usask.ca.

Editor's note: The Dean's Newsletter will be on hiatus over the summer and the next edition will be published in September 2015.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honorary Degree

Congratulation to **Dr. Bruce Robert Schnell**, BSP, MBA, PhD, FCSHP, who received an honorary Doctor of Science degree at the Thursday, June 4 convocation ceremony. Dr. Schnell joined the faculty in 1966 and was dean from 1976 to 1982. As the first pharmacy dean to hold a PhD degree, he rejuvenated the undergraduate education program and developed solid research and PhD programs in pharmaceutical science and practice. [Read the full story.](#)



Distinguished Professor

Congratulations to **Dr. Susan Whiting** who is one of the latest to join the ranks of Distinguished Professor at the University of Saskatchewan. The Distinguished Professorship Program was set up to recognize outstanding achievement in research, scholarly or artistic work by both faculty and professors emeriti.



IDRC Grant

Dr. Carol Henry will receive \$1.76 million towards a \$3.85 million project with her colleagues in Ethiopia to bring higher-yielding, more nutritious chickpea and bean varieties to more than 70,000 farming households. **Drs. Gordon Zello** and **Susan Whiting** are also part of this important project. [Read the full story.](#)



\$1 Million Fedoruk Chair in Radiopharmacy

The Fedoruk Chair in Radiopharmacy will be an Enhancement Chair, made possible through a generous grant from the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation at the University of Saskatchewan. The Fedoruk Centre has provided \$5 million to build capacity for nuclear medicine and imaging research in Saskatchewan. [Read the full story.](#)



MORE COLLEGE NEWS

2015 CANADIAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Awards

- **Dennis Gorecki**, former Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, has been awarded the **2015 CPhA Meritorious Service Award**. This award recognizes service to the pharmacy profession such that it brings credit and prestige to the profession. [Read the article.](#)
- **Sherylin Houle (BSP, 2006)** was awarded the **Canadian Pharmacists Journal Best Paper of the Year** as lead author on the paper "Paying pharmacists for patient care: A systematic review of remunerated pharmacy clinical care services," in the July/August 2014 issue of CPJ. [Read the article.](#)
- **Robert Pammett (BSP, 2010; MSc 2015)** was awarded the **CPhA New Practitioner Award**. Robert has already proven himself a leader in pharmacy, poised to act as a major agent of change over the next decade. [Read the article.](#)
- **Meaghan King (BSP, 2014)** was awarded the **Dean George A. Burbidge Award** for achieving the highest mark on the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada's spring qualifying exam. [Read the article.](#)

Presentations

Robert Pammett presented his study A Comparison of Drug Therapy Problems Identified in Patients Eligible and Ineligible for Provincial Medication Review Programs in Canada.

Saskatchewan Night

The annual Saskatchewan Night alumni reception was held at Patty Boland's on the first night of the conference. This year's theme was '80s Night, and the top floor of the pub was filled to capacity. Thanks to Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists for helping make this event happen.





MORE COLLEGE NEWS (cont'd)

2015 PHARMACY ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE

medSask Award

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists presented medSask with its Award of Merit. The award was in recognition of medSask's 40th anniversary as an organization serving the profession of pharmacy in Saskatchewan.

Student Engagement

Thank you to the Cornerstone Fund committee for providing funding for students to attend the conference. The committee approved funding to cover the registration costs for any student who was interested in attending this year's conference. The fund paid for 13 students' registration fees.



Alumni Reception

The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists held its Opening Awards Banquet, where the 10, 25, and 50 year graduating classes were honoured. The college sponsored the dessert and hospitality suite after the banquet. Thank you to all of our alumni who came out for the evening!

Pharmacy Student Business Plan Winners Presentation

Sunday at the conference, third year pharmacy students Karmen Coffey, Tanya Fontaine, Brittney Holland, Travis Maley, Janelle Shewchuk, and Emma Sloboshan presented their plan that won the Fifth Annual Pharmasave-Rubicon Pharmacies Canada Inc. Pharmacy Student Business Plan Competition.



Name Change

Congratulations to the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan on their new name and brand, which was revealed at the conference.



2015 CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES CONFERENCE

Many of our faculty and students were recognized with several CSPA/AFPC Awards as listed below:

- 2015 GlaxoSmithKline National Summer Student Research Program Award: **Matthew Walliser**
- Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy Graduate Student Award for Pharmacy Practice Research: **Fahad Alzahrani** for his publication on diabetes (Masters work with **Drs. Kerry Mansell, Jeff Taylor** and others)
- Rx&D Student Research Poster Award Winner: **Paul Pown Raj Iyyanar**
Paul also won the national best poster award for our work on Hoxa2 during palate development. Paul works in the lab of **Dr. Adil Nazarali**.
- Past AFPC President Award: **Dr. Kerry Mansell**



MORE COLLEGE NEWS (cont'd)

CONVOCATION

Graduates

Congratulations to the Class of 2015! A total of 81 pharmacy degrees, 21 nutrition degrees, and 9 graduate degrees were awarded during spring convocation.

SCP Luncheon

Thank you to Saskatchewan College Pharmacists for hosting their annual luncheon following the convocation ceremony. Family, friends, faculty, and staff got to watch the college's newest graduates be inducted into the pharmacy profession.

Graduation Banquets

Pharmacy and Nutrition both held graduation banquets at TCU Place in the evening following convocation. Students took the opportunity to celebrate four years of accomplishments and wish each other well in the future. The two groups merged later on in the evening and were entertained by the band Pants of Tom, which includes our very own David Blackburn and Jeff Taylor.

NUTRITION RESEARCH DAY

Throughout their internships, fourth year nutrition students are required to conduct research projects and present them at the Nutrition Research Day each spring. Students presented on a wide range of topics related to nutrition and dietetics.

During this past academic year, the nutrition internship coordinators asked the fourth year students to provide selfies with their favourite fruits. As a way to say thank you and goodbye at Nutrition Research Day, the coordinators shared each student's selfie and memorable internship moment, and presented them each with a gift. [View the gallery.](#)



PharmD Update

- The faculty will meet later in June to continue working on the PharmD curriculum, and a brief progress report has been posted to the blog. [Read the blog.](#)
- PharmD Update is our blog to keep all of our stakeholders up to date on the PharmD curriculum development process. We want your feedback – feel free to post your comments or questions on the blog, our social media channels, or you can email our Communications Specialist at kieran.kobitz@usask.ca.



MORE COLLEGE NEWS (cont'd)

IN THE MEDIA

Lecturer **Courtney Quiring**'s article on ways in which educators and preceptors can help improve student preparedness was published in Pharmacy Practice+ magazine. [Read the article.](#) (Subscription required)

Dr. Carol Henry appeared on CTV's Farmgate to talk about her work in helping improve crop production in Africa. The segment starts at 0:56. [Watch the video.](#)

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to **Professor David Hill** on his upcoming retirement. Our previous Dean will receive the honorary title Professor Emeritus upon his retirement from the University of Saskatchewan effective August 1, 2015. Thank you for your years of service, Professor Hill.

Congratulations to **Dr. Adil Nazarali**. He has been selected to receive the 2015 Provost's College Teaching Award for the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. The Provost's College Awards for Outstanding Teaching annually recognize an outstanding teacher in each College at the University of Saskatchewan.

Back in April, **Drs. Jeff Taylor** and **Kerry Mansell** shared their thank you video at the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy Innovation Gala. The foundation has provided them with an Innovation Fund grant for their work in minor ailments. [Watch the video.](#) or [Read about their work.](#)

APPOINTMENTS

- **Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk** has been reappointed as the Associate Dean Academic. A full statement from the Dean's Office, which includes Dr. Shevchuk's many accomplishments and contributions to the college, is available on our website. [Read the statement.](#)
- **Dr. Carol Henry** has been appointed as the Assistant Dean, Division of Nutrition and Dietetics effective July 1, 2015 for a three year term. Carol is an internationally recognized scholar-practitioner in community-engaged research, teaching and learning, who came to our College 15 year ago. [Read more about her work.](#)
- **Shannon Wiens** has been appointed Administration and Planning Specialist as of May 8, 2015. She was previously the Director of Advancement Operations, reporting to President Gordon Barnhart. The position that Shannon has taken over was filled by **Merry Beazely** since 1987.
- **Sandy Knowles** has been appointed to the position of Executive Assistant to the Dean as of May 1, 2015. This EA position that Sandy fills was previously titled Secretary to the Dean, and has been filled admirably by **Jacqueline Huck** for close to 30 years.

Two of the College's most outstanding people were nominated for YWCA Women of Distinction Awards.

- **Christine Ruys**, Graduate Programs Secretary, was nominated for the Community Building Award for her countless hours of volunteer work and leadership.
- **Dr. Azita Haddadi**, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy, was nominated for the Research & Technology Award for her work in developing a new cancer therapy that directly targets breast cancer cells.



ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Dr. Gwen Chapman (BSHEC, 1982)** on her appointment as the new dean in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences at the University of Guelph. [Read the announcement.](#)

Congratulations to **Jeff Wandzura (BSP, 2013)** who is part of the winning team for the 2015 University of Saskatchewan Tech Venture Challenge. The TruVation team's first product, Patient Prep, is a mobile application for medical professionals to organize patients' information and improve care. The app is aimed at helping the more than 12 million people in North America each year who receive incorrect medical diagnoses, more than half of which are exacerbated by deficiencies in collection of medical information. [Read the full story.](#)

Congratulations to **Dr. Sherilyn Houle (BSP, 2006)** on being named one of the 2015 Wellspring Leadership Award winners.

Congratulations to **Zach Dumont (BSP, 2008)** Winner of the 2015 Pharmacy Leadership Academy Scholarship. [Read the full story.](#)

Dr. Jaris Swidrovich (BSP, 2010) was presented with a Star Blanket by the Saskatoon Tribal Council on March 26. A Star Blanket is given to demonstrate great respect, honour and admiration for an individual. [Read the full story.](#)

Sabrina Pidperyhora (BSP, 2003) appeared on CTV Morning Live on Wednesday, May 13, to discuss how to prevent contracting hepatitis while on vacation. [Watch the video.](#)

Scot Simpson (BSP, 1990) was featured in a University of Alberta story on pharmacists' role in improving patient health. [Read the article.](#)

Amy Lamb (BSP, 2012) appeared on Global Saskatoon Evening News last night to discuss how to deal with seasonal allergies. Watch the video to see what advice she had to give. [Watch the video.](#)

Brooke Bulloch (B.Sc. Nutr., 2009) appeared on Global Saskatoon Morning News today to discuss how to get enough vitamin D in your diet. [Watch the video.](#) Brooke later appeared again on Global Saskatoon to discuss proper hydration. [Watch the video.](#)

Alison Friesen (B.Sc. Nutr., 2015) shared her nutrition expertise on CTV Morning Live and spoke about eating right to prepare for a marathon. [Watch the video.](#)

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 Third Year Nutrition Celebration and Send-off was held on Tuesday, April 7, at the University Club. The celebration marks the end of the students' campus-based learning and the start of their internships. Congratulations and good luck to all of our third year nutrition students!



The first meeting of the new American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Student Chapter took place on Wednesday, April 29, at the GSA Commons. Dean **Kishor Wasan**, faculty advisor for the chapter, spoke about the career opportunities that exist in pharmaceutical sciences.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Golf Tournament

The college's annual golf tournament will be held on Friday, June 26, at 2:00 pm. The tournament will take place at Crickle Creek Golf Course and be followed by a barbecue at The Berry Barn. This year's event will have a family-friendly format, including mini-golf and the Crickle Creek Fun Zone.

For more information, see the [event flyer](#). To register, please email christine.ruys@usask.ca. The registration deadline is Friday, June 19.



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

RESEARCH FUNDING

Great news: the College's research funding has increased nearly 400% from \$1.4M (2013-14) to \$5.3M (2014-15).

Congratulations to **Dr. Dave Blackburn** and Dr. Sharyle Fowler. They were awarded an Interdisciplinary Health Research Team Grant for Development and Evaluation of an Experiential Training Program for Pharmacy Students and Community-Based Preceptors to Improve the Quality of Healthcare for Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) in Saskatchewan.

Dr. Susan Whiting and her colleagues have been awarded a \$20,000 One Health Research Development Grant. Their project is a feasibility study of providing chickens to a community so young children will be able to eat "an egg a day" for protein and micronutrients in an otherwise poor quality diet.

Dr. Hassan Vatanparast was awarded a grant from the Children's Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan for "The Impact of Vitamin D on Disease Activity in Canadian Children Who are Suffering from Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis"

TRAINEE SUCCESS

The College had nine former graduate students receive their degrees at Spring Convocation 2015:

PhD

- **Dr. Mhd. Wasem Alsabbagh**
Pharmacy - Thesis: Cardiovascular Risk Reduction, Medication Adherence and Socio- Economic Status (SES)
Supervisor: David Blackburn
- **Dr. Isaac Asiamah**
Pharmacy - Thesis: Synthesis of Nordihydroguaiaretic Acid (NDGA) Analogues and Their Oxidative Metabolism
Supervisor: Edward Krol
- **Dr. Zohreh (Solmaz) Setayeshgar**
Nutrition - Thesis: Dietary Intake in Relation to Metabolic Syndrome and Associated Risks in Canadian Adults and Adolescents
Co-Supervisors: Susan Whiting and Hassan Vatanparast



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

MSc

- **Ahmed Ali Heider A Abou-Hadeed**
Nutrition - Thesis: The Protective Effect of Ascorbate and Catechin Against Myocardial Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury in an Isolated Rat Heart Model
Supervisor: Brian Bandy
- **Dania Ahmed S Alrefai**
Nutrition - Thesis: The Impact of Vitamin D on Disease Activity in Crohn's Disease
Supervisor: Hassan Vatanparast
- **Julia Elizabeth Bareham**
Pharmacy - Thesis: Evaluation of a Consult Pharmacist-Delivered Comprehensive Medication Management Service
Supervisor: Derek Jorgenson
- **Jenifer Alma Boyko**
Pharmacy - Thesis: Adherence to INR Monitoring in the Community Among VKA-treated Patients in Saskatchewan: An Observational Study
Supervisor: David Blackburn
- **Hanan Awad Ebrahim Elsayed**
Pharmacy - Thesis: Investigating the Mass Spectrometric Behavior of Novel Antineoplastic Curcumin Analogues
Supervisor: Anas El-Aneed
- **Robert Thomas Pammett**
Pharmacy - Thesis: Evaluation of a Screening Questionnaire to Identify Patients at Risk of Drug Therapy Problems in Community Pharmacies
Supervisor: Derek Jorgenson

Awards

Pharmacy

- **Paul Iyannar**, PhD student with **Dr. Adil Nazarali**, was awarded the **2015 AFPC/Rx&D Student Research Best National Poster Award** at the recent Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences conference that was held in Toronto from May 26 to 28.
- **Adegboyega Lawal**, a PhD student studying with **Dr. Thomas Rotter**, has been awarded a **Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Scholarship**.
- **Glaiza Tan**, who will be starting her PhD studies under the supervision of **Dr. Adil Nazarali** in September, has been awarded a **Dean's Scholarship**.
- **Fahad Alzahrani**, who received his MSc degree in Pharmacy in 2014, was awarded the **Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy Graduate Student Award for Pharmacy Practice Research** for a publication arising from his Master's work with **Dr. Kerry Mansell**.

Nutrition

- **Leandy Riley**, a PhD student under the supervision of **Carol Henry**, has been awarded a **Teacher Scholar Doctoral Fellowship**.



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

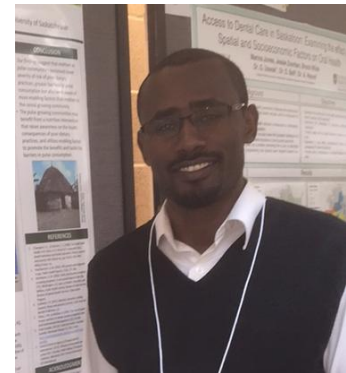
Program Update

Four new graduate students joined the College this May: please welcome **Lila Abobakar** (Nutrition MSc with Hassan Vatanparast), **Kiday Hailelassie** and **Getenesh Berhanu Teshome** (both Nutrition PhD with Carol Henry and Susan Whiting), and **Ayat Zagzoog** (MSc with Azita Haddadi).

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

Congratulation to our May Trainee Spotlight **Getahun Lombamo**.

Getahun's current research looks into the nutritional health of mothers and young children in pulse- or cereal-based agricultural communities in Ethiopia. [Read more about his research on our website.](#)



Congratulations to **Dr. Gord Zello** who is our June Researcher of the Month.

Dr. Zello has an active research program in both basic and applied nutrition. His fields of specialization are intermediary metabolism and nutritional assessment. [Read more about his work on our website.](#)





RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Mukker JK*, Singh RSP*, Muir AD, **Krol ES, Alcorn J.** Comparative pharmacokinetics of purified flaxseed and associated mammalian lignans in male Wistar rats. *British Journal of Nutrition* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0007114514004371>
- Yapura J, **Badea I**, Zamberlam G, Price C, Mapletoft R, Pierson R, Singh J, Adams G.P. Formulation and testing of a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor intravaginal device for the control of ovarian function in cattle. *Animal Reproduction Science* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.anireprosci.2015.03.005>
- Alsabbagh MW*, **Mansell K**, Lix LM, Teare G, **Shevchuk Y**, Lu X, Champagne A, **Blackburn DF.** Trends in Prevalence, Incidence and Pharmacologic Management of Diabetes Mellitus Among Seniors Newly Admitted to Long-Term Care Facilities in Saskatchewan between 2003 and 2011. *Canadian Journal of Diabetes* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cjcd.2014.10.002>
- Perez-Costas E, Fenton EY*, **Caruncho HJ.** Reelin expression in brain endothelial cells: An electron microscopy study. *BMC Neuroscience* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12868-015-0156-4>
- Das U*, Lorand T, Dimmock SG, Perjesi P, **Dimmock JR.** 3-Benzylidene-4-chromanones: A novel cluster of anti-tubercular agents. *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry* <http://dx.doi.org/10.3109/14756366.2014.913036>
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- Sadat, S.M.*, Saeidnia, S., **Nazarali, A.J., Haddadi, A.** Nano-pharmaceutical formulations for targeted drug delivery against HER2 in breast cancer (2015) *Current Cancer Drug Targets*, 15 (1), pp. 71-86.
- Roba AC, Gabriel-Micheal K, **Zello GA**, Jaffe J, **Whiting SJ, Henry CJ.** A Low Pulse Food Intake May Contribute to the Poor Nutritional Status and Low Dietary Intakes of Adolescent Girls in Rural Southern Ethiopia. *Ecology of Food and Nutrition* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03670244.2014.974593>
- **Mansell H**, Elmoselhi H, Shoker A. Association between circulating thrombopoietin levels and cardiovascular risk prediction scores in renal transplant recipients. *American Journal of Nephrology* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1159/000377641>
- Carlson RJ, Doucette JR, Knox K, **Nazarali AJ.** Pharmacogenomics of interferon- β in multiple sclerosis: What has been accomplished and how can we ensure future progress? *Cytokine and Growth Factor Reviews* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cytoqfr.2014.10.008>
- Alaverdashvili M*, **Paterson PG**, Bradley MP. Laser system refinements to reduce variability in infarct size in the rat photothrombotic stroke model. *Journal of Neuroscience Methods* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jneumeth.2015.03.029>
- **Perepelkin J**, Di Zhang D. Quality alone is not enough to be trustworthy: The mediating role of sincerity perception. *International Journal of Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Marketing* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/IJPHM-02-2013-0006>
- Lix LM, Yan L, **Blackburn D**, Hu N, Schneider-Lindner V, **Shevchuk Y**, Teare GF. Agreement between administrative data and the Resident Assessment Instrument Minimum Dataset (RAI-MDS) for medication use in long-term care facilities: A population-based study. *BMC Geriatrics* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12877-015-0023-2>
- **Henry C, Whiting SJ**, Phillips T, Finch SL*, **Zello GA, Vatanparast H.** Impact of the removal of chocolate milk from school milk programs for children in Saskatoon, Canada. *Applied Physiology, Nutrition and Metabolism* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1139/apnm-2014-0242>



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

- Wakayo T, Belachew T, **Vatanparast H, Whiting SJ**. Vitamin D deficiency and its predictors in a country with thirteen months of sunshine: The case of school children in Central Ethiopia. PLoS ONE <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0120963>
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- Phillips T, **Zello GA**, Chilibeck PD, Vandenberg A. Perceived benefits and barriers surrounding lentil consumption in families with young children. Canadian Journal of Dietetic Practice and Research <http://dx.doi.org/10.3148/cjdpr-2014-025>