

Dean's Newsletter

Issue 3, February 2015

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@usask.ca.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014 George A. Burbidge Memorial Award

- It is with great pleasure to announce that the 2014 George A. Burbidge Memorial Award for the Highest Standing in Canada on the Pharmacist Qualifying Examination Part I and Part II goes to **Meghan King** a 2015 BSP graduate from the University of Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy and Nutrition.

This is a very prestigious honour for one of our alumni and the University of Saskatchewan. The award is made available for annual presentation by the Canadian Pharmacists Association in memory of Dean G.A Burbidge, a pioneer in Canadian pharmaceutical education.

Dr. Ed Knaus Graduate Scholarship in Pharmaceutical Research

- We're happy to announce a new scholarship: the Dr. Ed Knaus Graduate Scholarship in Pharmaceutical Research.

This endowed scholarship has been set up to reward the academic achievement of graduate students in any year of program in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, Division of Pharmacy, who are conducting research into the innovative design, development, and/or delivery of drugs. The award will be made on an annual basis and based on academic achievement and potential for research excellence, as determined by the Graduate Awards Subcommittee.

Scholarships leave a lasting legacy of support for our best students. To learn how to set up new scholarship, please contact the college's development officer Andy Collin at andy.collin@usask.ca.

Medication Assessment Centre partners with SWITCH

- **Derek Jorgenson**, MAC Director, appeared on Global Saskatoon Morning News health segment on Tuesday, January 20. He discussed MAC's partnership to provide services at SWITCH to improve medication outcomes in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods.
[Watch the clip.](#)



Chocolate Milk in Schools

- A study on milk consumption in Saskatoon schools gained attention from nearly twenty media outlets in January. CBC Saskatchewan also featured a panel of parents discussing the issue on the morning news radio show.
[Read the Star Phoenix story.](#)
[View of full list of publications.](#)



MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont'd)

2015 CFP Pillar of Pharmacy Award

- Congratulations to **Darcy Stann (BSP, 1978)** on winning **the 2015 CFP Pillar of Pharmacy Award**. Darcy was recognized as an industry leader in Western Canada for using innovative practice designs to further business development and professional services. [Read more.](#)

Accreditation

- Our pharmacy degree program accreditation has been extended to 2017. With this extension we won't be required to renew our accreditation again before transitioning to the PharmD program.

American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences

- The University of Saskatchewan has the newest American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences Student Chapter. Thanks to **Mays Al-Dulaymi** and **Mona Hamada** for organizing the effort to establish this new chapter. They will both act as the initial leaders for the group, and **Dean Kishor Wasan** will be the faculty supervisor.

MORE NEWS

PharmD Update

- Curious about the latest developments with the PharmD program? PharmD Update is our new blog to keep all of our stakeholders up to date. 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.

[Visit the blog.](#)

Joint Statement on the Entry Level PharmD

- On December 22, the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, and the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists issued a joint statement about the upcoming PharmD program and the current baccalaureate degree in pharmacy.

[Read the statement here.](#)

Fall 2015 Admissions

- Application for admission to the college is now open for both the pharmacy and nutrition undergraduate programs. The deadline is February 15, 2015, at midnight.
- Pharmacy's test of critical skills and personal profile tests will be written on Saturday, March 21, 2015.



MORE NEWS (cont'd)

Pharmacy Professional Development Week (PDW)

Our pharmacy students attended PDW from January 7 to 11 in Quebec City. They made their school proud by participating in competitions and professional development activities and results were as follows:

National Competition Results

- **IPSF Health Campaign Award: 1st Prize**
This award was for the 2013 HIV/AIDS Campaign headed by AJ Havlicek and Paige Fehr (IPSF representatives on CAPSI Local Council 2013-14). This award comes with prize money to put forth towards future health campaigns and also a monetary prize for a local charity of CAPSI's choice. AIDS Saskatoon will be receiving this bursary.
- **Compounding Competition: 3rd Place**
Team: Madison Schmidt, Trista Kobussen, Jayesh Changela Darren Bogle
- **Student Literary Competition: 3rd Place**
Stacey Leek: "Rewards in Pharmacy: A Barrier to Effective Patient Care in Western Canada"
- **Guy Genest Award: Darren Bogle**

Other news to report includes:

- The students in the Pharmafacts Bowl, and competitors included **Stefano Barillaro, Jailin Liu, Jana Ridley and Madison Schmidt.**
- **Paraag Trivedi** represented the college in the Patient Interview Competition.
- **Jayesh Changela** represented the college in the OTC Counseling Competition.
- **Darren Bogle** represented the college in the first ever National Mr. Pharmacy Pageant and sang his way to third place.
- CAPSI National Elections were also held and the new national CAPSI council was announced. **Kelsey Joorisity** will be moving up to the position of CAPSI Senior for Saskatchewan and **Shelby Scherbey** was elected as CAPSI Executive Secretary.
- Waterloo was announced as the host for Professional Development Week 2016 in Niagara Falls.





MORE NEWS (cont'd)

Congratulations to the following faculty on their appointments:

- **Dr. Gordon Zello** has been appointed as nutrition advisor on the science committee for the Canadian Obesity Network.
- **Dr. Jane Alcorn** has been appointed to the Board of Director for the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences for 2015.
- **Dr. Azita Haddadi** has been elected member at large for the Canadian Controlled Release Society.
- **Dr. Kishor Wasan** has been appointed to the Fellowship Committee of the Prestigious Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Golden Key Society

- **Dr. Kishor Wasan** provided the keynote address for the University of Saskatchewan Golden Key's New Member Recognition Event on December 4, 2014. At the end of his address he was presented with his Honourary Member certificate by the chapter's leadership.

IN THE MEDIA

- The new **Parent Comfort Room** in Thorvaldson was featured on CTV Saskatoon. [Watch the clip.](#)
- The new partnership between MAC and SWITCH was also featured on Saskatoonhomepage.ca, with a focus on the partnerships impact on First Nations healthcare. [Read the article.](#)
- **Jason Perepelkin** weighed in on the pharmacy side of Target's business after the chain announced it was pulling out of Canada. Subscribers can read the full article on the [Canadian Healthcare Network website.](#)
- **Carol Henry's** research investigating the use of pulses in Ethiopian cooking was featured in an International Development Research Centre article. [Read the article.](#)
- **Hassan Vatanparast** was featured this week in the Star Phoenix article "Skies have been sunnier than you might think" by Janet French. [Read the article.](#)



FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

WELCOME!

- **Sandy Knowles** – Undergraduate Admissions and Programs Secretary. Sandy previously worked for the college from 2001 to 2012.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

- **Administration and Planning Specialist** – Closes February 10. [Read the job posting.](#)
- **Executive Assistant to the Dean** – Closes February 10. [Read the job posting.](#)



ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. J. Gordon Duff (BSP, 1953; MSc, 1955) passed away on December 11, 2014. He served the University of Saskatchewan as an Instructor of Pharmacy from 1958 to 1961. In 1961 Dr. Duff moved to Halifax to take up the position of Director of the College of Pharmacy in the newly formed Faculty of Health Professions at Dalhousie University.

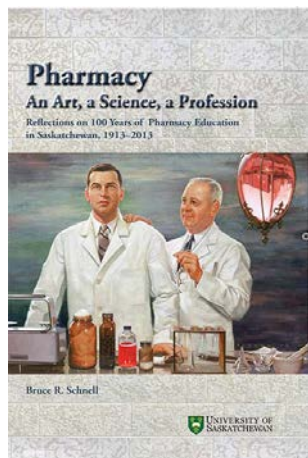
Beth Kessler (BSP, 2008) provided a seminar on community pharmacy innovation and wins to students in Doha, Qatar at the College of Pharmacy, Qatar University.



January issue of Pharmacy Business magazine features many BSP alumni including **Andrew Parkes (BSP, 1982)** (pg. 35) and **Lorelei Miller (BSP, 1992)** and her team at Medi-Centre Pharmacy in Prince Albert (pg. 56-58). [Read the magazine here.](#)

Jarron Yee (BSP, 2006) was featured in Pharmacy Business Magazine for his successful compounding pharmacy in Regina. [Read the article.](#)

Kelly Kizlyk (BSP, 2002) appeared on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Wednesday, December 10, to discuss how to deal with dry winter skin. [Watch the video.](#)



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 is now on sale to the public at McNally Robinson in Saskatoon for \$19.99.
- 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.

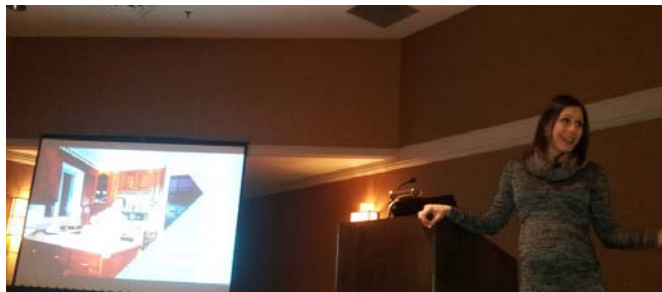
Do you have alumni news to share? Submit your story to kieran.kobitz@usask.ca to be featured in our next newsletter.



EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

The **Nutrition Professional Enhancement Day (PED)** was held on January 8, 2015 at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon, and the event was supported by the Cornerstone Fund. This year's PED speaker was 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 spoke about her journey as an entrepreneur.



A grand opening for the **Parent Comfort Room** on Thursday, January 8, in room 127 of the Thorvaldson Building. Thanks to nutrition students Caitlin Kaczowka and Kara Friesen, along with Kayla Madder and Rita Hanoski for organizing this important initiative. The room is a breast feeding-friendly space and will be open 8:30 am to 12 pm, 1 to 4:30 pm.



Our second **College Wide Faculty, Staff and Student Representative Meeting** was held on Monday, January, 12. **Kishor Wasan** provided updates on current action items, and answered questions from attendees.

A **Student Town Hall** on was held Wednesday, January 14, to update students on tuition increases for the 2015-16 academic year, and on our progress in the PharmD program.

Amy Smith (BSP, 2015; PharmD(c)) presented **Oral Contraception: New Area of Prescribing for Saskatchewan Pharmacists** on Friday, January 16.

Nutrition students held a **Health Food Market** on Wednesday, January 20, in the Health Sciences E-wing lobby. The students plan to make this market a monthly event to promote healthy eating choices. Thanks to **CHEP Good Food Inc.** for supporting their efforts.





EVENTS (cont'd)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next PharmD Retreat will be held on Wednesday, February 25 for faculty and staff. Watch for an update on our blog in the weeks following the retreat.

The College Academic Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday, March 22. Please reserve the date. Details will follow.

RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

RECENT RESEARCH FUNDING

- **Dr. Jonathan Dimmock** received funding from the Mitacs Accelerate program for research intern Swagatika Das.
- **Dr. Holly Mansell** was awarded funding from Astellas Pharma Canada Inc. to produce an educational video series for transplant patients.
- Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission has awarded **Dr. Adil Nazarali** funding to study the neuroprotective properties of flax components.
- **Dr. Jeff Taylor** received funding from Pharmacists Association of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists to pursue his work on minor ailments in Saskatchewan.
- **Dr. Ellen Wasan** received funding from iCo Therapeutics Inc. to study candidate drug molecules in a lipid-based oral drug formulation system.
- **Dr. Jim Fang** received funding from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to study the health effects of Saskatoon berries in elderly smokers.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

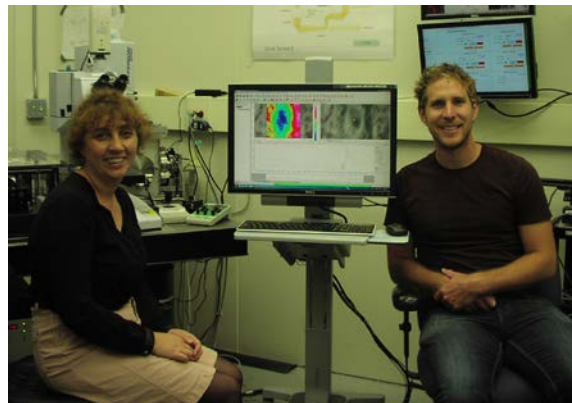
- Izadifar, M, **Haddadi, A**, Chen, X, Kelly, ME. Rate-programming of nano-particulate delivery systems for smart bioactive scaffolds in tissue engineering. 2015 Nanotechnology, 26 (1), art. no. 012001
- Alaverdashvili, M, Hackett, MJ, Pickering, IJ, **Paterson, PG**. Laminar-specific distribution of zinc: Evidence for presence of layer IV in forelimb motor cortex in the rat. 2014 NeuroImage, 103:502-510.
- Malek, S, **Taylor, J, Mansell, K**. A questionnaire examining attitudes of collegiate athletes toward doping and pharmacists as information providers. 2014 Canadian Pharmacists Journal, 147 (6):352-358.
- Carlson, RJ, Doucette, JR, **Nazarali, AJ**. Current Developments in Pharmacogenomics of Multiple Sclerosis. 2014 Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology, 34 (8):1081-1085.
- Romay-Tallon, R, Rivera-Baltanas, T, Kalynchuk, LE, **Caruncho, HJ**. 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. 2014 Brain Research, 1594:274-283.
- Sampieri, F, Allen, AL, **Alcorn, J**, Clark, CR, Vannucci, FA, Pusterla, N, Mapes, SM, Ball, KR, Dowling, PM, Thompson, J, Bernstein, LR, Gebhart, CJ, Hamilton, DL. Efficacy of gallium maltolate against Lawsonia intracellularis infection in a rabbit model. 2014 Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics, 37 (6):571-578.
- Yang, PHW, Black, JL, Barr, SI, **Vatanparast, H**. Examining differences in nutrient intake and dietary quality on weekdays versus weekend days in Canada. 2014 Applied Physiology, Nutrition and Metabolism, 39 (12): 1413-1417.
- 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? 2014 Cytokine and Growth Factor Reviews. Article in Press.



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

Congratulations to **Dr. Mariam Alaverdashvili**, Research Associate, and **Dr. Mark Hackett**, Postdoctoral Fellow, on their recent publication in Neuroimage. One of their x-ray absorption spectroscopy images was chosen to be featured on the journal front cover. [View the journal.](#)

Drs. Alaverdashvili and Hackett are affiliated with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)/Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC) Synchrotron Medical Imaging Team, and this research arose out of the labs of Phyllis Paterson and Ingrid Pickering (Dept Geology).



SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH

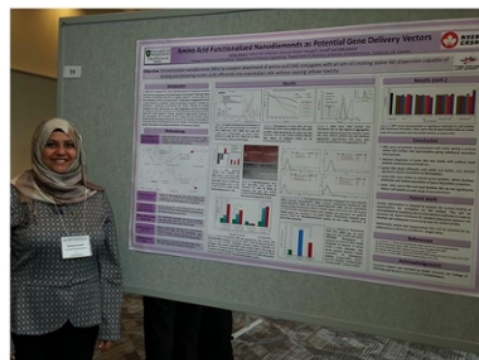
Our January 2015 Researcher of the Month is **Dr. Meena Sakharkar**. Dr. Sakharkar's research interests are in drug target identification and validation using multiple cross-disciplinary approaches.

[Read more about Dr. Sakharkar's work on our website.](#)



Saniya Alwani, an MSc student studying under the supervision of **Dr. Ildiko Badea**, is highlighted in the January Trainee Spotlight. Saniya is currently examining the use of nanodiamonds as carriers to be used in therapeutic gene delivery.

[Read more about Saniya's work on our website.](#)





RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

TRAINEE SUCCESS

College Award Recipients

Pharmacy:

- **F.J. Fear Postgraduate Scholarship (2 awards)** - Krysta Currie (Supervisor: Dr. Jorgenson) and Katherine Lysak (Supervisor: Dr. Jorgenson)
- **Ford Postgraduate Scholarship** - Rahul Jain (Supervisor: Dr. Dobson)
- **Alf Pepper Research Award** - Katherine Lysak (Supervisor: Dr. Jorgenson)
- **Ramsey Postgraduate Fellowship** - Krysta Currie (Supervisor: Dr. Jorgenson)
- **Sanofi Scholarship in Pharmacy (bursary)** - Rashmi Patil (Supervisor: Dr. Yang)
- **Shoppers Drug Mart Dean's Trust Scholarship (2 awards)** - Omar Abuhussein (Supervisor: Dr. Yang) and Rashmi Patil (Supervisor: Dr. Yang)

Nutrition:

- **Elizabeth Helen McLeod Scholarship (shared)** - Leandy Riley (Supervisor: Dr. Henry) and Noura Sheikhalzoor (Supervisor: Dr. Berenbaum)
- **Mary Isabel Irwin Scholarship** - Noura Sheikhalzoor (Supervisor: Dr. Berenbaum)

External Recognitions

In May, the College will be pleased to welcome **Kiday Hailelassie** and **Shenzhen Yao** to the Nutrition and Pharmacy PhD programs, respectively. Both have been awarded the three-year **2015 Dean's Scholarship**, one of the most prestigious graduate scholarships offered by the University of Saskatchewan. Kiday will be studying under the supervision of Dr. Henry and Shenzhen will start his PhD with Dr. Blackburn, who is also his current MSc supervisor. [Read more about these distinguished students on our website.](#)

Elham Zeniezhad-Movassagh, a Nutrition PhD student studying under Dr. Vatanparast, has been selected as a finalist for the American Society for Nutrition's **Emerging Leaders in Nutrition Science Poster Competition** in March 2015. As such, she will receive special recognition in ASN meeting materials and will be included in a press release to promote this honour.

Program Update

Three of our students successfully defended their theses recently: **Dr. Isaac Asiamah** (Pharmacy PhD with Dr. Krol), **Jena Boyko** (Pharmacy MSc with Dr. Blackburn), and **Hanan Elsayed** (Pharmacy MSc with Dr. El-Aneed).

Five new graduate students joined the College this January: please welcome **Lina Al-Sakran** (Pharmacy PhD with Dr. Evans), **Shanal De Silva** (Pharmacy PhD with Drs. Alcorn and Sakharkar), **Kelly Buxton** (Pharmacy MSc with Dr. Blackburn), **Ahlam Hawsawi** (Pharmacy MSc with Drs. Alcorn and Sakharkar), and **Renee Ramikie** (Nutrition MSc with Dr. Henry).