

Dean's Newsletter

Issue 8, January 2016

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.

TOP STORIES

PharmD approved by University Council

Our entry to practice PharmD program has been formally approved by the University Council. This is a major milestone for the College and congratulations go out to everyone involved for their time and efforts. A special thank you to **Dr. Linda Suveges**, **Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk** and **Shauna Gerwing** for leading the process. The proposal will now go to University Senate in April 2016 for final approval. Stay up to date with the most recent developments on the PharmD curriculum with our blog [PharmD Update](#).

College Research Day

On Tuesday, November 10, the College held a Research Day at the Western Development Museum, which included 11 oral presentations, over 50 research posters, and an inspiring keynote address. The research presented during the day included applied and bench sciences in both pharmacy and nutrition, and gave our graduate students and faculty the opportunity to learn more about each other's work.

Thank you to keynote speaker **Dr. D. Lynn Kirkpatrick (BSP, 1978; PhD, 1981)** for joining us for the day. Dr. Kirkpatrick's career has focussed on cancer drug discovery and development, and she now heads the biotechnology company Phusis Therapeutics.



Dr. Adil Nazarali designated Fellow of the Society

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has designated **Dr. Adil Nazarali** as a Fellow of the Society. Fellowship is awarded to members who have made an outstanding original contribution to the advancement of pharmaceutical knowledge or attained distinction in the science, practice, profession, or history of pharmacy.

Dean Wasan selected for Prix Galien Canada Jury

Congratulations to **Dean Kishor Wasan** who has been selected for the Prix Galien Canada Jury. The Prix Galien Canada is the most prestigious award in the field of Canadian pharmaceutical research and innovation. [Read more.](#)



MORE COLLEGE NEWS

IN THE MEDIA

Dr. Carol Henry was featured in a **Western Producer** article on Thursday, November 26, about the benefits of pulse crops. She spoke about her work in Ethiopia to use pulses to improve nutrition in poor rural regions. [Read the article.](#)

Karen Jensen and **Dr. Fred Remillard** were featured in **On Campus News** on Friday, November 20, for their work on PharmaZzz, a pilot program that looks at non-medication therapy to help those suffering from insomnia who may or may not be taking drugs to assist with their sleep. [Read the article.](#)



Photo credit: Lesley Porter

Drs. Carol Henry and **Gordon Zello** were featured in an **On Campus News** article on Friday, December 4, about their work on pulse crops. Researchers from the Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Pharmacy and Nutrition, and the Department of Sociology are working with colleagues at Hawassa University in Southern Ethiopia to harness pulses to improve nutrition in poor rural regions. [Read the article.](#)

Dr. Holly Mansell was profiled by the **Flin Flon Reminder**, her hometown newspaper, on Wednesday, November 4. The article reflects on how she became interested in science, and her research on organ transplantation and the role of medications. [Read the article.](#)



The Centre for Drug Research and Development Saskatchewan Innovation Fund is supporting concussion testing at the University of Saskatchewan. The College led the development of this fund in 2015. [Read the article.](#)

Nutrition M.Sc. candidate **Noura Sheikhalzoor** was recently interviewed by the **something nutritus** blog about her role as a Registered Dietitian and the work she does as part of her degree program. The blog is written by **Steph Langdon, RD (B.Sc. Nutri, 2010)**. [Read the blog.](#)

Noura was also interviewed by **On Campus News** as part of an article about the Graduate Professional Skills certificate program. She spoke about the skills she learned in the certificate program, which will help her achieve her goals after graduate school. [Read the article.](#)



MORE COLLEGE NEWS (cont'd)

In November, **Dr. Carol Henry** spoke at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Her talk “At the pulse of Nutrition Security: Scaling up pulse innovations for food and nutrition security in southern Ethiopia” summarized the work done through the Hawassa University-U of S partnership over the past several years, focusing on pulse crop producing and productivity. The current focus is on scaling-up pulse innovations, and way forward.



Dr. Fred Remillard gave concurrent presentations on “Selecting Antidepressants for Initial & Subsequent Therapy & Planning for its Discontinuation” at the Practical Management of Common Medical Problems Continuing Medical Education conference on Friday, November 20.

Dr. Susan Whiting and second year nutrition student **Gina Guo** volunteered for a display booth at Step Up and Stay Balanced on Sunday, November 22. The event helped educate people on the science of bone health and injury prevention.



On Thursday, November 26, **Dr. Gordon Zello** moderated a panel on food security. The panel discussion brought together researchers from several disciplines to dialogue about various aspects of food security and “hidden hunger.”

Karen Jensen, medSask manager, gave a presentation on off-label drug prescribing at the CADTH sponsored Canadian Association of Advanced Practice Nurses workshop on New Perspectives on Mental Health: Drug Use and Addictions in Everyday Practice in Regina on Saturday, November 28.

Dr. Derek Jorgenson was in Qatar in November as a Visiting Professor to share his experiences and learn about the programs offered at Qatar University. He presented on the following:

- Medication Assessment Centre
- ADAPT Continuing Education Program
- Curriculum program evaluation
- He also helped teach in their professional skills lab, observed teaching, and toured many of the hospital and primary care based SPEP sites.

He's pictured with **Dr. Kyle Wilby, BSP (2008)**, ACPR, PharmD; Assistant Professor, College of Pharmacy, Qatar University.





MORE COLLEGE NEWS (cont'd)

Antibiotic Awareness Week

Congratulations to **Kelsey Joorisity, Shelby Scherby, Kaitlyn Tress, Kristin Arguin, Arielle Sherman, and Darren Reithmeier**, who lead a campaign on behalf of CAPSI to promote Antibiotic Awareness Week on campus.

Activities which they organized included PAWS announcements to all students on campus with a link to a video and contest, partnering with Health Sciences Students Association to host an evening discussion, trivia night on antibiotics and stewardship, pictures featured on Facebook, posters around campus and displays on digital screens.

Thank you to **Dr. Yvonne Shevchuk** who provided encouragement and guidance for the successful campaign.



CAPSI Outreach

Our pharmacy students have been busy with CAPSI outreach activities throughout the fall term. Operation: Butt Out addressed the harmful effects of smoking to students in grades 5-8 and Kids and Medicine taught students in grades 1-4 about safe use of medications. Our students reached out to over 1,300 students in 14 Saskatoon schools.

Nutrition Fairs

As part of their Nutrition Program Planning and Evaluation course, third year nutrition students applied their learnings on needs assessment, goal and objective setting, designing, implementing and evaluating in a community project. They put on nutrition fairs at three elementary schools around Saskatoon. At these interactive and educational fairs, Grade 6-8 students learned about nutrition through different stations. The fairs were a fun learning experience for both the nutrition students and the children.





MORE COLLEGE NEWS (cont'd)

Undergraduate Nutrition Research

Third year nutrition student **Desiree Perras** enrolled in the Regina Summer Student Research Program during summer 2015, and received a research award for her project at the Regions Academic Health Sciences Students Research Event.

Desiree worked closely with her supervisor **Stephanie Cook**, Director of Nutrition & Food Services, RQHR to complete her summer research project titled: "Meal Delivery Service Model to Alternate Level of Care Unit; Impact on satisfaction and dietary intake"

The program is funded by the Department of Research and Performance Support, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, and provides a semi-structured approach to research for academic health science students.

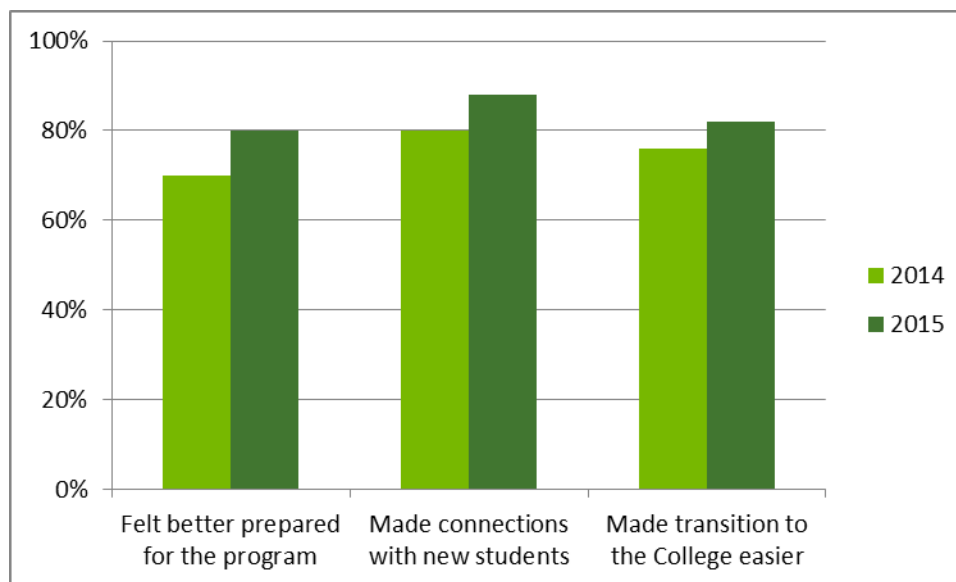


Nutrition Accreditation

The Nutrition Program Accreditors were on-site on Monday, October 26 and Tuesday, October 27 to review our program. The site visit went very well and we received a very favourable review of our program. Complete accreditation results will follow in the next newsletter.

First Year Orientation Survey Results

The year over year orientation survey results have demonstrated a significant improvement in three key areas.





FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

New Nutrition Faculty Position

The Nutrition program is seeking a new Assistant Professor (Clinical Nutrition) for a tenure-track position. The successful candidate should hold a PhD in human nutrition and be prepared to obtain registration with the dietetic regulatory body in Saskatchewan within the first year of their appointment. Applications will be reviewed beginning January 1, 2016, and the start date will be July 1, 2016. [Read the job ad.](#)

Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Affairs

The College is seeking a new Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Affairs for a five year term, with the possibility of renewal, to provide academic and administrative leadership for the success of the College's research enterprise. The Search Committee will begin considering candidates after February 15, 2016. The appointment will begin July 1, 2016. [Read the job ad.](#)

Awards

Congratulations to **Dr. Susan Whiting** who was recently awarded Osteoporosis Canada Provincial chapter Backbone Award for 2015. The Backbone Award is presented annually by Osteoporosis Canada to active volunteers who have served for at least two years and who are considered integral to the organization.

Congratulations to **Dean Kishor Wasan** and his colleagues who were presented with a recognition award from the Members of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Global Health Focus Group for their work on supporting, educating and training young scientists as global health professionals.

Dr. Jaris Swidrovich received an Honourable Mention in the Charitable Work category at the Commitment to Care & Service Awards.



Appointments

Dr. Adil Nazarali has been elected as the next Neuroscience Research Cluster leader. The Neuroscience Research Cluster comprises of 21 faculty members and over 60 trainees and research staff at the University of Saskatchewan. They work to understand what causes certain brain disorders and how best to treat patients who suffer from these brain disorders.



ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Terri Schindel (BSP, 1986)** and **Sherilyn Houle (BSP, 2006)** who were each part of research teams that received awards from the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy Innovation Fund.

- Terri is part of a research team at the University of Alberta which will explore relationships between real-life community pharmacy practice and the development and implementation of care plans.
- Sherilyn, an Assistant Professor at the University of Waterloo, is leading a team of researchers to investigate the clinical effectiveness and patient satisfaction of a pharmacist-managed travel medicine clinic under a pharmacist's expanded scope of practice.

[Read more about their work on the CFP website.](#)

Dawn Marie Sloan-Beahm (BSP, 1989) and **Falynn Wilson (BSP, 2008)** talked to students in Estevan about what it's like to be a pharmacist at their career day on Thursday, November 5. The two pharmacists ran an information booth, and made a presentation to students, which included our AAPS video.

Thanks to Dawn Marie and Falynn for proudly representing the profession of pharmacy!



Saskatoon Health Region welcomed a new Director of Food and Nutrition Services this fall. **Dena Webb-Listwin, RD, (B.Sc.Nutri, 1992)** brings considerable experience to the role of director and will continue to work closely with the College.

Congratulations to **Amy Smith (BSP, 2010)** who received her Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Toronto in June 2015.

Brooke Bulloch (B.Sc.Nutr, 2009) appeared on Global Saskatoon Morning News to talk about:

- The dangers of red or processed meat, and alternative protein sources. [Watch the video.](#)
- Foods that support the immune system. [Watch the video.](#)
- How to get enough vitamin D in your diet during the winter months. [Watch the video.](#)

Alison Friesen (B.Sc.Nutri, 2015) appeared on Global Saskatoon Morning News on Monday, December 21 to talk about healthier holiday snacks. [Watch the video.](#)



Myla Wollbaum (BSP, 2002), Director of Professional Practice for Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan, was on CTV Morning Live Regina on Friday, November 6 to talk about pharmacists administering flu shots. [Watch the video.](#)



ALUMNI NEWS (cont'd)

In their recently published paper, **Dr. Jason Perepelkin** and **Melissa Abramovic (BSP, 2013)** explore why patients trust pharmacists. The research project was part of a specialty SPEG rotation during Melissa's time as a student. [Read the article.](#)

Nathan Longeau (BSP, 2006) was profiled in Pharmacy Business magazine. He speaks about how a major renovation and expanded services has led to a large increase in sales. [Read the story.](#)

Amy Smith (BSP, 2010) recently wrote a journal article on pharmaceutical care for athletes, in which she proposes an assessment tool to help guide athletes in choosing natural health products. [Read the article.](#)

Our condolences to the family and friends of **Norman Jansen (BSP, 1962)** who passed away in December.

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

Dietitians of Canada Visit

On Friday, October 23, about 40 nutrition students attended a meet and greet with Dietitians of Canada Regional Executive Direction (SK, MB, Northwestern ON) Jennifer Wojcik.

SPNSS Winter Formal

On Saturday, November 21, Saskatchewan Pharmacy & Nutrition Student Society put on another successful Winter Formal, with proceeds supporting SWITCH - Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health.



Stacherogy

The annual pharmacy graduation banquet fundraiser returned on Friday, November 27, at Sutherland Hall. After the traditional perogy dinner, the faculty and staff were on stage to compete in Minute to Win It-style games. Thank you to **Dean Wasan** for emceeding the event, and congratulations to **Drs. Yvonne Shevchuk** and **Kerry Mansell** on taking first place.



EVENTS (cont'd)

College Holiday Party

On Saturday, December 5, the College held its annual holiday party at Boffins Public House. During the afternoon, the children were treated to a visit from Santa Claus, and they were entertained by the Wacky Wizard. Thanks to fourth year pharmacy student Matt Lyons for playing Santa Claus for the children.

The evening program included a turkey dinner, and the faculty and staff made a \$310 donation to the Saskatoon Food Bank. Congratulations to **Kristine Zulak** on winning the random draw for the tax receipt.



Pharmacy Curriculum Town Hall

On Monday, December 7, **Dr. Roy Dobson** led a town hall meeting with the fourth year pharmacy students to gather feedback on the pharmacy curriculum, and provide them with the opportunity to contribute to the pharmacy curriculum of future students.

Pharmacy Christmas Carolling

Another College tradition took place on Thursday, December 10, as the fourth year pharmacy students went Christmas carolling at the faculty and staff's homes.





EVENTS (cont'd)

Upcoming Events

United Nations Year of the Pulses Kickoff – Wednesday, January 6

The kickoff event will be hosted by **Dr. Carol Henry, Dean Kishor Wasan, and Dean Mary Buhr** (Agriculture & Bioresources). The United Nations declared that 2016 will be the International Year of Pulses, and one of the College's research areas is to improve food security through improved sustainable agricultural practices and human nutrition by the inclusion of pulse crops.

Nutrition Rounds – Thursday, January 21

Saskatoon Health Region Nutrition Rounds will be presented at the Saskatoon City Hospital Auditorium and broadcast provincially via telehealth at 2:30 pm. This session will include two presentations by fourth year nutrition students: "Cuckoo for Coconut Oil: Is Coconut Oil Really a Miracle Cure" (**Chrissa Karagiannis**), and "Canola Oil: Tasty or Toxic" (**Michele Sheikh**).

Alumni Speaker Series: Don McIntosh – Tuesday, January 26

Don McIntosh (BSP, 1987) is an alumnus of the University of Saskatchewan. Over his career as a pharmacist, he has been fortunate to be engaged in several different practice areas and a variety of rewarding unique clinical situations. He will be touching on his experiences, past and present, in this interactive session.



Join us at Louis' Loft at 5:30 pm for networking and snacks. The event is free and open to everyone. *Please RSVP to kieran.kobitz@usask.ca by Thursday, January 21.*

Symposium on Agrimedical Models in Research – Wednesday, January 27

Join us for a symposium on the use of pigs as important models for both agricultural and medical research. Presentations will include information on the suitability and use of the pig as an agrimedical model, resources available at Prairie Swine Centre to pursue agrimedical research, and the importance of agrimedical models in collaborative research.

The symposium will take place in E3100 Health Sciences 12:00 – 1:30 pm. *All are welcome to attend.*

Introduction to President Stoicheff – Wednesday, January 27

Faculty, staff, and student leadership of the College will have a dedicated meeting to learn about the President's vision for the University and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Nutrition Professional Enhancement Day – Monday, March 7

This year's Nutrition PED topic is childhood obesity, and the speaker will be Dr. Jean-Pierre Chanoine. Dr. Chanoine is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of British Columbia, and Head of the Endocrinology and Diabetes Unit at British Columbia's Children's Hospital. *Further details will be made available on the College's website and Facebook page, and in the next newsletter.*

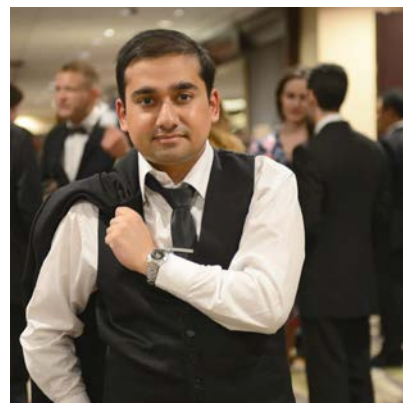


RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Spotlight on Research: Paarag Trivedi

Congratulations to fourth year pharmacy student **Paraag Trivedi** who is our December Trainee Spotlight.

In the summer of 2015, Paraag joined an ongoing project with the Saskatchewan Transplant Program headed by **Dr. Holly Mansell**. Creation of an Evidence-based Video Series for Patients on the Kidney Transplant Waitlist aims to enhance pre-transplant education about the transplant process and emphasize the benefits, risks, and challenges of maintaining optimal adherence to immunosuppressive medications following surgery.



[Read more about this research project on our website.](#)

RESEARCH FUNDING

Dr. **Hassan Vatanparast** (Nutrition) and his colleagues, Drs. Saija Kontulainen and Adam Baxter-Jones (Kinesiology), **Susan Whiting** (Nutrition), and Michael Szafron (Public Health), were awarded \$81,100 by Dairy Farmers of Canada for their research project entitled “Role of Milk and Alternatives on Bone Material and Strength, Body Composition and Cardio-Metabolic Risk from Childhood to Adulthood through the Pediatric Bone Mineral Accrual Longitudinal Study”.

Drs. Darcy Marciniuk (Medicine) and **Thomas Rotter** (Pharmacy) have been awarded \$100,000 over 3 years from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of clinical pathways for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Saskatchewan.

Dr. Azita Haddadi was awarded a \$25,000 NSERC Engage Grant for her project “Nanoparticle formulation and evaluation of novel synthetic immune stimulating agents.”

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Dong, C., **Badea, I.**, Poorghorban, M.*, Verrall, R., Foldvari, M. (2015) Impact of phospholipids on plasmid packaging and toxicity of gemini nanoparticles. *Journal of Materials Chemistry B*, 3(45): pp. 8806-8822.
- Pammett, R.T.*, **Blackburn, D., Taylor, J., Mansell, K.**, Kwan, D., Papoushek, C., **Jorgenson, D.** (2015) Evaluation of a community pharmacy-based screening questionnaire to identify patients at risk for drug therapy problems. *Pharmacotherapy*, 35(9): pp. 881-886.
- Maini S*, Fahlman BM*, **Krol ES.** (2015) Flavonols protect against UV radiation-induced thymine dimer formation in an artificial skin mimic. *J Pharm Pharm Sci. Nov*; 18(4):600-15.
- Hu, Y., An, Y., Fang, N., Li, Y., Jin, H., **Nazarali, A.**, Ji, S. (2015) The optimization of soluble PTEN expression in escherichia coli. *Open Biochemistry Journal*, 9, art. No. A1, pp. 42-48.
- Michaelsen MH, **Wasan KM**, Sivak O, Müllertz A, Rades T. (2015) The effect of digestion and drug load on halofantrine absorption from self-nanoemulsifying drug delivery system (SNEDDS). *AAPS J.* Oct 20. [Epub ahead of print]
- Taha DA, **Wasan EK, Wasan KM**, Gershkovich P. Lipid-lowering Activity of Natural and Semi-Synthetic Sterols and Stanols. *J Pharm Pharm Sci.* 2015 Nov;18(4):344-67. PMID: 26626241



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

TRAINEE SUCCESS

Program Update

Congratulations to **Rahul Jain**, who successfully completed his Master's of Science this fall.

Congratulating **Dr. Marc Morris** on the successful defence of his thesis: Biological Markers Demonstrate Utility and Predictive Value in Inflammatory Bowel Disease. He was supervised by **Dr. Gordon Zello**.

Three new students will be starting their studies in our graduate program this January: please welcome **Katherine Ford** (Nutrition MSc. with Dr. Susan Whiting) and **Fakir Yunus** (Nutrition MSc with Dr. Gord Zello), and welcome back **Sarah Fatani** (Pharmacy PhD with Dr. Anas El-Aneed).

Congratulations to **Dr. Mark Hackett**, who in January 2016, will return to his home in Australia to take up a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Curtin University. You will have met Mark in the College through his collaboration with the Paterson lab over the last several years. Mark has been applying synchrotron techniques to study stroke pathophysiology and treatment as a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)/Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC) Synchrotron Medical Imaging Team Grant (supervisors: Drs. Graham George and Ingrid Pickering). We wish you all the best, Mark.

Student Poster Presentations

Reem Alomari, Nutrition MSc student studying with Dr. Susan Whiting, presented her poster "Examining the Potential for Vitamin D Deficiency in Young Saudi Women Living in Canada: A Qualitative Approach" at both the Global Health Conference held in Saskatoon on October 17 and at the 21st Qualitative Health Research Conference held in Toronto, ON, on October 20. She received a College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Travel Award to attend the conference.

Zeinab Hosseini, PhD student in Nutrition with Drs. Hassan Vatanparast and Susan Whiting, received an **International Diabetes Congress Travel Grant** to present her poster "Pre-diabetes and undetected diabetes, a public health concern in Canada" at the International Diabetes Congress 2015 in Vancouver from November 30 to December 4.

Tasnim Jahan, PhD candidate in Pharmacy with Dr. Azita Haddadi, received a College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Travel Award to present her poster "Structural activity relationship of a targeted PLGA nanoparticle system: A model cancer vaccine" at the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Meeting and Exposition 2015 in Orlando, Florida from October 26-29.

Kosar Omidian, Nutrition PhD student studying with Dr. Brian Bandy, received a College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Travel Award to present her poster "Polyphenol inhibition of benzo[a]pyrene-induced mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress in an in vitro model of carcinogenesis" at the International Conference on Polyphenols and Health in Tours, France, from October 27-30.

Hossein Rafiei, Nutrition PhD candidate studying with Dr. Brian Bandy, also received a College of Pharmacy and Nutrition Travel Award to present his poster "Targeting mitochondrial biogenesis and function by dietary polyphenols as an approach to prevent non-alcoholic fatty liver disease" at the International Conference on Polyphenols in Health in Tours, France.



RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES (cont'd)

External Award Recipients

- **Reem Alomari** was awarded a **Scientific Excellence Award** from the Saudi Culutral Bureau in Ottawa on December 13.
- **Sarah Finch**, PhD student in Nutrition studying with Dr. Vatanparast, has been awarded the **Canadian Home Economics Foundation Graduate Student Award**, which recognizes her volunteer work.
- **Tasnim Jahan** received a 2015 **George and Arlene Loewen Family Bursary** from the University of Saskatchewan.
- Clinician Investigator Program/General Surgery Resident Dr. Amanda Hall received a Research Trainee Award from the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition for her abstract “Aluminum content in parenteral nutrition negatively affects bile acid transporters.” Dr. Hall is supervised by **Drs. Gordon Zello** and Grant Miller (College of Medicine).
- **Allison Cammer** won the People's Choice award at the 8th Provincial Dementia Care Summit for her poster “Best practices regarding nutritional care of urban and rural long-term care residents with dementia.”

