Summer 2015
For University of Iowa College of Pharmacy Alumni & Friends

Celebrating Accomplishments
Eager for New Chapters
Dear Friends,

Many exciting ventures and discoveries have happened within the College of Pharmacy over the past few months, which I’m thrilled to share with you in these pages.

We are proud to announce our first permanent chair of the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics: Rob Kerns, ’96 PhD (page 7). The college is also excited to have its fourth professorship - the James A. Otterbeck OnePoint Patient Care Professorship in Hospice and Palliative Care – filled by James B. Ray, PharmD, CPE (page 9).

Earlier this year, the college hosted the inaugural meeting of a new board, called the Genesis Board. I invited Kelly Brock, one of our outstanding alumni, to chair the board, and you can read about both the board and its chair on page 16. I cannot wait to see the heights this board reaches as current students connect with recent graduates who have found early success in their careers.

Also within the past year, the college has formed novel and unique relationships with other educational institutions in the state. Faculty members from our Applied Clinical Services division have been team-teaching pharmacotherapy courses to physician assistant students at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.

Gary Milavetz, associate professor and Applied Clinical Services division head, and his team recently published critical findings on how medications can impair drivers (page 11). His cutting-edge research looked into possible effects of medicines on drivers well beyond sedation, long before the FDA proposed new rules earlier this year that would also flag drugs under development for other potential central nervous system effects.

Beth Bird, ’83 BSPh, a member of our Executive Leadership Board is on the forefront of an emerging market called enterprise healthcare management. She is the manager of solutions consulting for one of the industry’s leaders, Chicago-based Castlight Health.

And last but not least we have a photo spread of all our new graduates ready to change the world of pharmacy as we know it (page 6). Congratulations, graduates!

Professionally yours,

Donald E. Letendre
Dean and Professor
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On the cover: Oluwatobi (Toby) Fadeyi is all smiles after commencement ceremonies.
College Reaches B
Over the years, many a middle or high school student has walked out of the College of Pharmacy carrying either flavored lip balm or scented hand cream of their own creation.

The students’ handiwork is a product of the college’s Pharmacy Practice Lab, a technologically-advanced, licensed pharmacy used for hands-on practice experiences. Pharmacy students and staff members lead the young students through stations. For example, to make lip balm, there are stations for mixing sunflower oil and beeswax beads, melting it in a microwave, adding flavoring and color, and waiting for it to solidify.

The visitors leave the college with more than just their unique concoctions: They have a better idea of how pharmacists compound medicines to patients’ unique needs. Also, someone has taught them about pharmacy career pathways.

The institutional relationships that keep the students visiting the practice lab are unique, usually arranged as part of health career education events or camps. Sometimes our partner institutions specifically send minority or low socioeconomic status students who may not otherwise be exposed to health science professions at an early age.

Hands-on labs for young students are just one example of how the college goes beyond business as usual to advance the profession and help the community. Certainly, our faculty and students touch communities across the state through student organizations, rotations, and other avenues that are part of a pharmacy college’s traditional boundaries. But the long arm of the UI College of Pharmacy reaches beyond conventions and into the community in unique ways, often through close relationships with other educational institutions.

Under two relatively new arrangements, higher education students in the state are receiving instruction from our professors and our fourth-year students, even though they aren’t working toward a PharmD or PhD in pharmacy.

Starting in the 2014-2015 academic year, faculty members in our Applied Clinical Sciences (ACS) division have been team-teaching pharmacotherapy courses in spring and summer to physician assistant students at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.
Part of the future role of St. Ambrose Master of Physician Assistant Studies students will be to prescribe medicines appropriately. Through distance learning technology and in-person visits, ACS faculty members are providing the physician assistant students this knowledge.

The course curriculum – Pharmacotherapy I and II – was developed in-house at the College of Pharmacy as well. The physician assistant students get a primer on pharmacology – how drugs interact with the body – and drug therapy. Mostly, though, they learn how drugs affect individual organs in a therapeutic way.

“So the question is, given a particular disease state, what drugs do the (physician assistant) students need to know?” said Gary Milavetz, associate professor in ACS, who was instrumental in creating the course curriculum. “What dosing should they use, and are there side effects and other things they need to be aware of? For example, for respiratory issues, they probably want to deliver medicines using an inhaler.”

But St. Ambrose students are not the only higher education students in the state who benefit from existing relationships with our college. Since the fall of 2014, Kirkwood Community College student pharmacy technicians have also been receiving instruction from members of the college faculty and student body. Once or twice per semester, fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy students have provided extra lessons to the technicians-to-trADItIoNAl CollEGE
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the faculty and students at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy also impact communities across the state through student organizations, rotations, and other avenues that are part of a pharmacy college's traditional boundaries.

Researchers and educators’ traditional work touches many lives outside of the college. To illustrate, faculty member Jeanine Abrons and five pharmacy students traveled to Dominica, West Indies, earlier this year as part of an annual rotation offered by the college. The small country has few pharmacists, and Abrons’ group collaborated with pharmacists and government officials and provided continuing education on pharmacy-related topics. The group also taught two lectures at Dominica State College to pharmacy students. Annually, the group plans and hosts a health fair in a local community. This year, the group also collaborated with a local community pharmacy to offer the first-ever employer-based health screening.

College researchers may pass along advice or business strategies to community enterprises. Our faculty and students sit on prominent boards, are part of state, national, and international professional and student organizations, and attend industry meetings that help move the profession forward.

Pharmacy students also provide services to Iowans through experiences such as Katy’s Kids and TakeAway: Iowa. Katy’s Kids, sponsored by APhA (American Pharmacist Association), teaches elementary-aged students about medication safety. Meanwhile, TakeAway: Iowa is a program wherein students facilitate events to allow Iowans to safely dispose of old, unused, and expired medications, and is sponsored by the Iowa Pharmacy Association. Students hold health fairs, community screenings, and educational programs. They attend and present research at state and national meetings, and collect goods and raise funds for area non-profit organizations.

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be, as part of a rotation with Jeffrey Reist. Reist, PharmD, is the Pharmacy Practice Lab supervisor and a clinical associate professor in ACS.

“The Kirkwood instructors don’t have the same equipment as we have, and the pharmacy students on rotation with me have been interested in teaching pharmacy, so this relationship is mutually-beneficial,” said Reist.

At the practice lab, the Kirkwood students experience first-hand what it would be like to stand in a hospital’s sterile compounding room, under a special hood, to compound a medication. They also practice preparing IV fluid lines. In addition, Reist’s PharmD student teachers have traveled to Kirkwood to teach measurement conversion, along with other types of pharmacy mathematics that the technicians will use in the field.

There is no financial arrangement in place for this program. “With changes happening in the pharmacy workforce, there is a need for well-educated pharmacy support staff members,” said Reist. “Anything we can do to help community colleges train technicians will help the profession.”

Maureen Donovan, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, is also working on issues related to technician training in Iowa, but on a statewide scale. Starting in 2020, there will be a greater workforce need for pharmacy technicians who have graduated from an accredited technician program. Currently, there aren’t any community colleges offering the type of accredited programs that will most likely start to be in demand.

Donovan would like to facilitate creating a structure so that if an Iowa community college wants to receive accreditation, they can. So far this year, college leaders have held a day-long conference with influential pharmacy leaders in education – including community college leaders, and current pharmacy technician program directors – to discuss how to achieve accreditation before 2020. The college has also surveyed community colleges with pharmacy technician training programs to see where gaps exist in their individual roads to accreditation.

The college stands ready to lend a hand where needed, whether that means assisting in the development of curricula or providing expert instruction in specific areas that could be made available to all of the partner technician training programs across the state. In addition, plans are also under development to utilize the college’s technologically advanced Pharmacy Teaching Lab facility to provide hands-on training to student pharmacy technicians so that similar facilities do not need to be duplicated at each community college.

A task force of community college members has been formed to envision and bring a unified statewide curriculum – and quite possibly many new and unique relationships with the College of Pharmacy – to life.

On May 13, the Doctor of Pharmacy class and their families attended the annual Senior Dinner at the Marriott Hotel. Individual students were recognized with awards for scholarship and leadership.

The Doctor of Pharmacy commencement was held on Thursday, May 14. The graduating class was addressed by Dean Letendre, University of Iowa President Sally Mason, class president Madeline Yassen, and commencement speaker Stephen Mullenix ’74 BSPh.

Finally, on Friday, May 15, the college’s Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Science graduates were honored during the Graduate College’s commencement ceremony.
Robert J. Kerns, '96 PhD, is the college’s first permanent chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics (PSET).

Kerns received a PhD from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in 1996. He returned to Iowa in 2002, after completing a postdoctoral Fellowship at Princeton University and starting his independent academic career as a faculty member at Wayne State University in Detroit.

“I am enthusiastic about leading the PSET Department,” said Kerns. “The PSET faculty is a dynamic group of outstanding researchers and educators with a passion for fundamental and translational research in drug discovery, drug development and biomedical science.”

The PSET department is comprised of two divisions: the Division of Medicinal and Natural Products Chemistry (MNPC) and the Division of Pharmaceutics and Translational Therapeutics (PTT). Kerns was formerly head of the MNPC division. Since its inception in 2013, the PSET Department had been led by Emeritus Professor Larry Fleckenstein, PharmD, as interim chair. Fleckenstein remains a Professor Emeritus in the PSET department. When Kerns became PSET’s first chair, Jonathan Doorn, PhD, became the new division head for MNPC, where he is an associate professor, and Bighley Professor Aliasger Salem, PhD, will continue serving as division head for PTT. The college’s other academic department is Pharmacy Practice and Science (PPS), led by Clinical Professor Jay Currie, PharmD. PPS also contains two divisions.

A medicinal chemist at heart, Kerns is enthusiastic about using chemistry to solve problems in medicine. He enjoys designing and synthesizing bioactive molecules in the quest to make them work – or work better – as drugs.
Kerns brings a unique expertise to his multidisciplinary research team. He joins forces with other types of scientists including microbiologists, biochemists, structural biologists, and pharmacologists. Kerns’ research group is currently collaborating with scientists from the University of Iowa, Johns Hopkins University, Vanderbilt University, Rutgers University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the University of Minnesota. Kerns’ research programs have received financial support from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, American Cancer Society, and American Heart Association.
James B. Ray, PharmD, CPE, a nationally-recognized leader in pain control and palliative care, has been appointed to fill the James A. Otterbeck OnePoint Patient Care Professorship in Hospice and Palliative Care at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy.

OnePoint Patient Care, the nation’s leading provider of community-based hospice pharmacy and pharmacy benefit management services, recently made a donation of $1.5 million to the University of Iowa’s College of Pharmacy to fund a professorship in hospice and palliative care pharmacy. James A. Otterbeck, chairman of OnePoint Patient Care and a University of Iowa alumnus, spearheaded the professorship. “Being named to the new Otterbeck Professorship in the College of Pharmacy is a great honor,” Ray said. “Mr. Otterbeck and Dean Letendre’s vision will ensure that all future University of Iowa pharmacy graduates are skilled as palliative care generalists. Additionally, the resources will now exist to support the expansion of specialists within the profession of pharmacy, to meet the growing demand for experts in pharmacotherapy in palliative care and hospice.”

Ray has focused on pain control and palliative care throughout his more than 30-year career, the earlier part of which also included oncology pharmacy practice. He has worked as an educator, consultant, research supporter, and clinical practitioner.

Most recently, Ray was a clinical assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy in Richmond, Va. His primary area of practice was with the Acute Pain Service in acute post-operative pain control, and he was a team member with the Palliative Care Consult Service. He serves as the Chair of the Pharmacotherapy Special Interest Group in the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and is the incoming James B. Ray
Named Hospice and Palliative Care Professor
chair of the Pain Management and Palliative Care Section Advisory Group in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

Ray received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Nebraska College of Pharmacy. He completed an ASHP-accredited Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The professorship is unique in the nation, bringing the best in pharmacy and other disciplines to patients receiving end-of-life care. Ray will help the college take the lead in serving patients and their families in this critical health-care specialty through education, training and research.

"MR. OTTERBECK AND DEAN LETENDRE’S VISION WILL ENSURE THAT ALL FUTURE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA PHARMACY GRADUATES ARE SKILLED AS PALLIATIVE CARE GENERALISTS."

JAMES B. RAY, PHARM.D., CPE
Before heading out for dinner with friends, Helen took an over-the-counter allergy medication. Then she had a drink with her meal. The next morning, she couldn’t remember how she got home.

Helen figured she could still drive well after a drink with dinner. But alcohol likely intensified the sedating effects of the allergy drug she took.

Gary Milavetz, associate professor in the Division of Applied Clinical Sciences in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, spends a lot of time wrestling with complicated questions about how medications and other drugs can impair drivers. He and his collaborators — primarily from the UI Colleges of Engineering and Medicine — use state-of-the-art technology to conduct cutting-edge research on drugged driving.

The studies raise tough questions. Their answers could one day provide drivers and policymakers with useful information to minimize drug-related accidents and fatalities. Among them: Why is sedation the only potential problem people are warned about before driving? Sedation is only one way to measure how a drug could affect a person’s central nervous system (CNS): the brain and spinal cord. Shouldn’t people be warned about how drugs could also alter other CNS functions such as thinking processes, decision-making or memory? Since laws set a legal limit for drivers’ blood alcohol levels, might it be possible to set similar limits for other drugs, including prescriptions?

Milavetz and his team have studied many common prescription and over-the-counter drugs, including the sleeping pill Halcion as well as Xanax, Benadryl, NoDoz caffeine tablets, and Adderall, often prescribed for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Study participants virtually “drive” the UI National Advanced Driving Simulator. Each person gets the same driving environment, and the research team draws blood and measures vitals. The team has challenged how precise a commonly-used measure of driving performance really is (called the standard deviation of lateral position, or SDLP). They have also developed new methods,
such as using an electroencephalogram (EEG) to detect drivers’ electrical brain activity.

Milavetz has found that comparing effects of different drugs on driving is complicated and can be affected by speed limits and driving conditions. For example, someone who is drunk might drive badly under any conditions, but a driver who has taken the sleeping pill Halcion (triazolam) might drive terribly on some types of roads but not others.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is working on new rules that would require drugs under development be tested for potential effects beyond just sedation. The new rules outline that the best way to test new drugs for central nervous system and other effects is by using well-controlled driving simulator studies.

Conducting scientific research of drugged driving has taught Milavetz that there are no easy answers. Even if a drug is known to affect the central nervous system, for example, it can still make sense for a driver to take it. For example, a person with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder might take Adderall to stimulate their brain in order to concentrate.

It’s not just mainstream prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs being studied, either. Recently, the first major results from a careful investigation into the effect of cannabis on driving performance with the Iowa researchers was published. The team worked on the study with the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Office for National Drug Control Policy. The topic is of growing importance as more and more states reduce their restrictions on the drug.

One surprising finding was that when driving in the simulator under the influence of both alcohol and cannabis, the effect of the substances were not doubled. Rather, it only added on to the effects each drug independently had on weaving in a lane while driving.

Milavetz and Tim Brown, PhD, associate research scientist at NADS, were co-principal investigators on the cannabis study. Gary Gaffney, MD, associate professor of psychiatry in the UI Carver College of Medicine, was its principal investigator.

**DRIVING AND MEDICATION STATISTICS**

- **46 percent of U.S. adults are prescribed at least one medication** (National Center for Health Statistics, 2009)

- **There are more than 200 million licensed drivers in the U.S.** (2011, Department of Transportation)

- **More than 10 percent of daytime drivers tested positive (via oral fluid or blood analysis) for having a prescription or over-the-counter drug in their body, but not an illegal drug** (2013-2014 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

- **In 18 percent of cases where a driver died, he or she also tested positive for drugs** (Fatality Analysis Reporting System, Department of Transportation)
Recognizing Our Professional Mentors

The University of Iowa College of Pharmacy is grateful to alumni and friends who volunteer their time and expertise in mentoring our Doctor of Pharmacy students. We humbly thank you for your guidance. Listed below are the professional mentors for the classes of 2015-2018.

Mary Beth Adam
Gary Albers
Bruce Alexander
Samm Anderegg
Michael Andreski
Brett Barker
Patrick Barnes
Lucas Bartlett
Abby Beane
Kevin Bebout
Andrew Berg
Megan Bernabe
Kyle Beyer
Beth Bird
Carolyn Boerner
Dennis Bousselot
Kelly Brock
Brittany Bruch
Angela Burer
Grant Buxton
Barry Carter
Carl Chalstrom
Elizabeth Chang
Anita Cheruvillil
Gary Christensen
Kevin Christians
Todd Christiansen
Ryan Clark
Jason Cleppe
Jon Clingman
Roy Clingman
Melissa Corrigan
Kristin Cox
Christopher Crank
Bernie Cremers
Cherie Cremers
John Daniel
Angie Danielson
Katelyn Deiber
Bill Drilling
Laura Elliott
Gus Erickson
Mike Farley
Stan Fuhrlett
Jacob Fulton
Michael Gassmann
Rick Gates
Heather Gates
Sonia Gates
Courtney Gent
Jen Goings
Bob Greenwood
Amanda Hagan
Allie Haight
John Hamlie
Liz Hansen
Lucinda Harms
Karen Harper
Kristen Heidewald
Ron Herman
Amy Hetrick
Kyle Hilsabeck
Ryan Hobbs
Jim Hoehns
Kelly Hoenig
Brooke Hofmeyer
Natalie Hunter
Tony Huynh
Bryan Jackson
Harold Jackson
Bridget Jermeland
Megan Johannessen
Manda Johnson
TJ Johnsrud
Jack Kalmf
Krist Kavanaugh
Kelly Kent
Youssef Khalifa
Laura Knockel
Yvonne Koch
Mary Koerperick
Katie Krei
Julie Kuhl
Kate Kurt
Kelly Larrison
Diane Lawson
Megan Leloux
Zach Less
Craig Logemann
Theresa Lover
Shane Madsen
Roger Maharry
Steve Martens
Amy Martin
Lisa Mascaro
Lloyd Matheson
Randy McDonough
Dana McDougall
Laura McGonegle
Will Meeker
Erin Meeker
Anna Metz
Brian Meyer
Crystal Michael
Richard Michael
James Miller
Megan Mormann
Mary Mosher
Randy Moud
Steven Nelson
Linda Ningtalingale
Leman Olson
Brandy Patterson
Eric Paulus
Stewart Peterson
Austin Philipp
Wesley Pilkinson
Zach Pollock
Rachel Popp
Judith Price
Anthony Pudio
Kevin Purcell
Sue Purcell
Dawn Recker
Caitlin Reinking
Jeffrey Reist
Heather Rickertsen
Jana Roberts
Katy Roiles
Marc Rollmer
Bob Sack
Marshall Sanders
Jenny Sanders
Kevin Schleich
Pete Schlickman
Kerry Schueler
Jordan Schultz
Jim Scott
Jack Scott
Phoebe Sebhatu
Bob Shaw
Ray Shelden
Dane Shiltz
Rachel Smith
Bernard Sorofman
Angie Spannagel
Gail Stachovic
David Stefl
Nora Stelter
Bob Stessman
Tom Taiber
Sangita Tandon
Rebecca Taylor
Tom Temple
Michelle Terwilliger
Jon Thompson
Joseph Thompson
Sarah Tierney
Farah Tofloc
Coralynn Trewet
Lap Truong
Traviss Tubbs
Ben Urick
Ryan Van Engle
Renata Vaschevici
Leigh Vaughan
Stevie Veach
Debbie Veale
Dustin Villhauer
Emily Vyverberg
Katherine Waack
Cathleen Waddle
Maunnon Weidman
Bob Weidman
Rich Wenzel
Jenny Wick
Lynette Wickman
Adam Wilcox
Matthew Weirg
Pamela Wong
Kathy Zeier

Words of Wisdom

“Student pharmacists are the future of pharmacy. The best piece of advice I can give to student pharmacists is that they should find some good mentors along their journey. I believe having good mentors along the way to becoming a pharmacist is an absolute necessity. I absolutely love mentoring students. In addition to “lighting the fire” or motivating students to find a career path they love, it’s also exciting to help students learn, grow and become more effective in their pharmacy career, wherever their journey may take them.

It’s nice to be that trusted adviser and role model to the student pharmacists. I support my mentees and students by offering suggestions and knowledge, both general and specific, even constructive criticism at times. The goal is help my mentees and students improve their skills and, hopefully, advance their careers.”

Pamela Wiltfang, ’12 PharmD

Pamela with some of her mentees at a dinner.
Transforming End-of-Life Care

According to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, the area of pain and palliative care is an important new field in pharmacy education.

This emerging paradigm in health care—which focuses on tending to the patient’s mind, body, and spirit—requires a multidisciplinary team of providers, including everyone from pharmacists and physicians to social workers and nurse practitioners. Together, these team members provide expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support that is expressly tailored to patients’ wishes and needs.

Though the field of hospice and palliative care continues to grow, there still are relatively few colleges of pharmacy that are preparing students to provide such holistic care.

The UI College of Pharmacy is leading the way in this initiative thanks to UI graduate James A. Otterbeck, who made a gift of $1.5 million through his company, OnePoint Patient Care, to establish the James A. Otterbeck OnePoint Patient Care Professorship in Hospice and Palliative Care in the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy.

James B. Ray recently became the college’s first James A. Otterbeck OnePoint Patient Care Professor in Hospice and Palliative Care. Professor Ray came to Iowa in June from the University of Virginia Health System, where he worked as a pharmacy clinical coordinator in pain and palliative care. He will help Iowa pharmacy become one of the first institutions in the country to comprehensively train pharmacy students and other health-care providers in innovative methods for end-of-life care.

“This professorship in hospice and palliative care will help emphasize, throughout all of the university’s health-care disciplines, the importance of education, training and research for end-of-life care,” says Donald Letendre, dean of the UI College of Pharmacy. “We look forward to becoming a national leader in serving patients and their families in this critical health-care specialty.”

To learn more about how private support benefits the UI College of Pharmacy, contact Mundi McCarty, director of development for the UI College of Pharmacy, or go to www.uifoundation.org/pharmacy.
Meet the Executive Leadership Board

The Executive Leadership Board, led by Dean Donald E. Letendre, was established in 2010 to advise the College of Pharmacy as it develops and works toward its strategic goals and visions. The members of the board meet periodically to discuss the college’s strategic plan, changes in the curriculum, trends in pharmacy practice, fundraising, and facilities.

Beth Ann Bird, ’83 BSPh

Beth Ann Bird is on a mission to bring transparency to the price and quality of health care.

Bird – who has a pharmacy degree and master’s degree in management – is a manager of Solutions Consulting for San Francisco-based Castlight Health, a small startup company aiming to change the way patients consume health care services. Her resume includes big corporate health care names such as Medco Health Solutions and Merck & Co.

In Bird’s current role, she supports the Sales Organization in promoting Castlight’s cloud-based software platform to employers seeking to optimize delivery of health care benefits to employees. The platform enables a consumer-based health care shopping experience for employees, the cross-promotion of existing benefit programs, and reporting to assist employers in fine-tuning the benefits offering.

“I joined Castlight because it’s on a mission to disrupt health care and the way it’s delivered,” said Bird. “I enjoy being disruptive, creative, entrepreneurial, and changing the status quo.”

Bird talks about how labor- and time-intensive the process used to be to get reimbursed for work-related travel expenses. Today though, a software system can capture a traveler’s trip selections and expenses in real-time, leading to a more timely direct deposit. “It’s a seamless, simple process,” Bird said. “On the back end, employers can manage and review the expenses for all employees. They have a dashboard where they can look for outliers, opportunities to improve, and areas to consider limiting if it seems like an allowance is too high.”

“That’s what Castlight is for health care,” she added. “We’re helping employers to reduce health care costs and increase productivity while improving employee health and well-being.

We’re helping employers turn what was a crippling cost into a strategic advantage,” Bird said.

Bird serves on the Executive Leadership Board because she’s excited about Dean Donald Letendre’s vision. She also advocates for elements of business to be included in the new curriculum.

“People are drawn to Don because of his energy,” Bird said. “You want to jump on the bandwagon and help him achieve the goals he sets forth, which are real, exciting, disruptive and new.”
Meet the
Genesis Board

The members of the College of Pharmacy’s new Genesis Board are leaders largely in the pharmacy profession, with the mission of enhancing student success and fostering a culture of leadership and mentorship through active participation.

The board was formed in fall of 2014, spearheaded by the vision of Dean Donald E. Letendre. Its goal is to encourage student and alumni interactions, build new traditions, create opportunities for students, and assist with the diverse needs of students within the pharmacy community.

The inaugural chairperson is Kelly Brock, ’02 PharmD, who also was awarded one of the college’s first Genesis Awards in 2013. Brock is the president of the health care consulting company KB Pharmacy Solutions, Inc.

Board members include:

Samm Anderegg – ’11 PharmD – Augusta, Georgia
Brett Barker – ’08 PharmD – Nevada, Iowa
Andrew Berg – ’12 PharmD – Austin, Texas
Kelly Brock – ’02 PharmD – Tustin, Calif.
Justin Carr – ’13 PharmD – Monterey, Calif.
Elisabeth Donahey – ’10 PharmD – Chicago, Ill.
Nate Harold – ’12 PharmD – Dubuque, Iowa
Kelly Bisgard Kent – ’03 PharmD, ’04 R – Williamsburg, Iowa
Duncan Mackie – ’14 PhD – Iowa City, Iowa
Justin Schneider – ’04 PharmD – Chicago, Ill.
Farah Towfic – ’11 PharmD – Dubuque, Iowa
Jen Tryon – ’04 PharmD – Chicago, Ill.
Emily Vyverberg – ’09 PharmD – Asbury, Iowa
Joanne Wakeman – ’02 BS, ’09 PhD – San Diego, Calif.
Jennifer Wick – ’02 PharmD – Solon, Iowa
Matt Witry – ’08 PharmD, ’13PhD – Iowa City, Iowa
The College of Pharmacy’s inaugural Genesis Board has a dynamic first-ever chair in Kelly (Hott) Brock.

“I am honored to serve as the chair of this new board and join forces with its incredible group of successful alumni,” said Brock, who hit the ground running after graduating from the college 13 years ago with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Brock has worked in community pharmacies, primary care clinics, an urgent care center, and a specialty clinic. She has also held academic positions, relishing the research and teaching roles that come along with them.

In 2010, Brock founded the health care consulting company KB Pharmacy Solutions, Inc. As president, Brock aims to advance the pharmacy profession by using her unique talents and wide variety of experience.

Currently, Brock is helping nonprofit organizations whose missions include elevating the level of pharmacy practice and advancing the role of pharmacists.

She has also recently served as one of three community coordinators for the APhA Foundation’s Project IMPACT: Diabetes. The national project brought a patient-centered care model to more than 2,000 patients in 25 disadvantaged communities. Some of the patients were able to manage their disease for the first time in their lives.

It was rewarding work. “I interviewed a patient in one of my communities in California, and the first thing he said to me was that Project Impact saved his life,” Brock said. “The support that he was getting from his pharmacist and his health care team helped him take care of his diabetes.”

After Brock won one of the college’s first Genesis Awards in 2013, Dean Donald Letendre asked Brock to chair the Genesis Board.

“The College of Pharmacy gave me the foundation I needed to be successful, and the relationships I have formed over the years have been invaluable to my career,” said Brock. “I hope as a board, we can create opportunities for alumni to connect with and mentor current students.”
1: Rob Nichols, Brianne Bakken, Allison Martin, and Douglas Dual visit with State Representative John Forbes at the state capitol.

2: State Representative Dave Jacoby meets with Tyler Heiderscheit and Kasey Abel at the state capitol.

3: Dean Letendre, State Representative Chuck Soderberg, and Brianne Bakken visit at the state capitol.
1: Tom Temple, ’77 MS, Steve Firman, ’76 BSPh, Jim Scott, ’70 BSPh, Ed Maier, ’70 BSPh, and Al Shepley, ’71 BSPh gather at the college to discuss future building plans.

2: Gary Christensen, ’09 PharmD, and Anne Espeland, PharmD student, Class of 2016, visit the College of Pharmacy booth at the Iowa Pharmacy Association Midwest Expo.

3: Emily ’02 PharmD and Michael Cotton, Laura Borgelt, ’95 BSPh, and Brendan Lundy.

4: Douglas Dual, Allison Martin, Ken Engel, ’76 BSPh, Rob Nichols, and Dean Letendre at Peterson Drug in Williamsburg, Iowa.

5: Dr. Jerry Wesolowski, ’61 PhD, and his wife, Alice, visited the college spending time with Emeritus Professor Keith Guillory and Dean Letendre. The Wesolowski’s reside in Kingwood, Texas.

Towncrest Pharmacy Honored for Longevity, Excellence

Towncrest Pharmacy was recently recognized by the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce for the Roots Award. The Roots Award recognizes businesses that have remained in business for 50 years or more in the Iowa City area.

Towncrest Pharmacy opened in 1965. Under the leadership of owners Bill Haigh ('68 BSPh), Bernie Cremers ('64 BSPh), Randy McDonough ('87 BSPh, '00 PharmD), and Mike Deninger ('91 BSPh, '98 PhD), Towncrest Pharmacy continues to provide excellent patient care and innovative approaches to pharmaceutical practices.

In addition to being honored with the Roots award, Towncrest was recently recognized by McKesson as Healthmart Pharmacy of the Year in the North Central Region and runner-up nationally. There are approximately 1,000 Healthmart Pharmacies in the North Central Region and nearly 4,000 nationwide.

Owner Randy McDonough noted that the honor exemplifies the solid foundation Bill Haigh and Bernie Cremers built and how Towncrest Pharmacy has been able to not only survive, but thrive in a very challenging period in pharmacy.

1970s
Robert Grimm, '70 BSPh, was featured in a profile by the Orange County Register for his work with the Orange County (Calif.) Rescue Mission. In this volunteer position, Grimm serves the medication needs of thousands of low-income families.

Thomas Temple, '77 MS, and Susan Winckler, '92 BSPh, were elected as at-large trustees of the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention.

1980s
Deborah Veale, '81 BSPh, was elected vice president of the California State Board of Pharmacy. Veale is the director of payer relations for CVS Pharmacy and resides in Palos Verdes, Calif. She and her husband, Tom, have endowed a professorship at the College of Pharmacy.

1990s
Scott Karolchyk, '90 BSPh, '95 MS, discussed compounding pharmacies and FDA guidelines with the Wall Street Journal in Feb. 2015.

Yihong Qiu, '92 PhD, was awarded the Publication of the Year by AbbVie, Inc. for his manuscript, “Influence of Product Design on In Vivo in Vitro Correlation (IVIVC) of Complex Multiple Release (MR) Dosage Forms,” published in the Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

2000s
Kara Haun,’09 PharmD, is the new director of pharmacy at Mercy Medical Center-Dubuque, in Dubuque, Iowa. She most recently served as the executive team leader, pharmacy manager at Target Pharmacy in Dubuque.

2010s
Nathan Vorac, ‘11 PharmD, has purchased McClimon Pharmacy in Geneseo, Ill. His family and community have utilized the pharmacy since it first opened its doors in the 1880’s. Vorac looks forward to keeping it an independent pharmacy while providing the same level of care that has been provided there for over 100 years. The pharmacy is now named Vorac Pharmacy LLC.

Dana McDougall, ’11 PharmD, and Rachel Smith were married on June 6, 2015, in Waterloo, Iowa. McDougall works for the Covenant Cancer Treatment Center in Waterloo.
Carolyn Eisenbart (Carbee), ’42 BSPh, passed away on April 18, 2015. Eisenbart was a graduate of the College of Pharmacy and resided in Morton Grove, Ill.

James Edor Valdahl, ’54 BSPh, of New Hampton, Iowa, passed away March 20, 2015. He served two years in the U.S. Army and worked for more than 50 years at Gardner Drug and Jim’s Pharmacy in New Hampton.

Walter T. Williams, ’62 BSPh, passed away on March 18, 2015. After completing his pharmacy education, Williams went on to begin his career as a pharmacist in Marshalltown, Iowa, where he worked at Gregor Drug for five years. He moved to Sioux City and was employed at Toller Drug and White Drug. In 1970, Williams purchased Williams Drug as an independent pharmacist. He operated the store for 35 years and retired in 2005.

Roy A. Hicks, ’70 BSPh, passed away on Dec. 27, 2014. He was a retired local pharmacist and business owner from Adel, Iowa.

Jeffrey D. Faber, ’78 BSPh, passed away on April 26, 2015. Jeff and his family lived in Le Mars, Iowa, where Jeff worked as a pharmacist for several years before moving to Sioux City. For 25 years, Jeff served as staff pharmacist and later as manager of an off-site infusion pharmacy at Mercy Medical Center.

A study conducted by Tamara Lallier, ’14R (pictured above with Dean Letendre), and Megan Mormann, ’12 PharmD, ’13R, was featured in Pharmacy Practice News in Feb. 2015. They investigated the value of pharmacist involvement in a medical home environment.


Maurice Shaw, ’13R was recently promoted to manage his second Walgreen’s store. He also serves as a preceptor for the college and was recently featured in a current Chicago State University newsletter. Shaw was also nominated as MTM lead for his district and assists with 22 stores for Walgreen’s Pharmacy.

Mallory Breuker, ’14 PharmD, and Eric Thomas Snyder were married Sept. 6, 2014, in the Circle of Hope at the Ingham Lutheran Camp on West Lake Okoboji, Iowa.

Alex Middendorf, ’14R, presented the webinar “Teach to Coach – Developing Health Coaching Skills in Students and Residents” on Feb. 19, 2015. The webinar was presented through the Collaborative Education Institute’s preceptor training series.

Iowa Pharmacy grads subject of new book

A new book celebrates the 90-year history of a Burlington, Iowa, pharmacy that had strong ties to the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. Sutter’s Sodas Satisfy: A memoir of 90 years of Sutter Drug Co., by Jane Sutter Brandt recounts the rich history of a family business and shares heart-warming memories from the author, other Sutter family members, and pharmacists. Sutter Drug Co. was owned and operated by two generations of pharmacy college graduates.

Raymond Sutter graduated in 1921 and immediately went to work for his father, Joseph R. Sutter, who learned pharmaceutical skills through an apprenticeship. Ray Sutter’s three sons, Joe, Bill, and David, all follow in their father’s footsteps, graduating from Iowa with pharmacy degrees.
Chelsea (Hunter) Aidala, ’07 PharmD, and her husband, Shane, welcomed their daughter, Macie Leigh, on July 12, 2014. Macie Leigh weighed 5 pounds, 2.8 ounces, and was 19 inches long. Karl Hunter, ’70 BSPh, and Amanda Gillispie, ’17 PharmD candidate, are the baby’s proud grandfather and cousin.

Bristen Leon Bayliss was born on Oct. 31, 2014 to Kelsey Bayliss, ’14 PharmD, and her husband, Austin. Bristen weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces.


Josh Davis, ’06 PharmD, and his wife, Emmy, welcomed Maeli Annalynn on Oct. 9, 2014. She weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and 20.5 inches long.

Doug Ellis, ’04 PharmD, and Danielle Boeding, ’12 PharmD, welcomed daughter Darian Elyse on Oct. 19, 2014. She weighed 7 pounds, 5.7 ounces, and was 20.5 in length. She joins her big sister, two-year-old Dreu Elizabeth.


Liz (Farber) and Aaron Harthan, both ’08 PharmD, welcomed their first daughter Ellie Anne on Sept. 29, 2014. She was 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and 20 inches long.

Ashley Geisinger, ’09 PharmD, and husband, Lee, welcomed their second child Jax Easton Geisinger on July 23, 2014. He weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 19 inches long. He joins big sister Lela.

Kylie (Mathias) Gerardy, ’09 PharmD, and her husband, Scott, welcomed Avery Lynn on July 19, 2014. She weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.

Brett and Shannon Heintz welcomed Anika Jo on April 8, 2015. She weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. Brett is a clinical associate professor at the college, and Shannon is a clinical associate professor.

Jill Kauer and her husband, Aaron, welcomed Rachel Nicole Kauer on Nov. 24, 2014. She weighed 8 pounds, and was 20.75 inches. Jill is a clinical assistant professor at the college.

Kayla Lalor and her husband, Jerry, welcomed their second child, Aaron Witte Lalor on Dec. 2. Aaron weighed 9 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 20 inches long. He joins big brother Quinn. Kayla is the college’s alumni relations coordinator.

Grant Middendorff, ’14 PharmD, and his wife, Courtney, welcomed their son, Harrison Jacob, on Feb. 25, 2015. Harrison weighed in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces, and measured 20 inches long.

Nagesh Palepu, ’84 PhD, welcomed his first grandchild, Rhoshan Palepu Narasimhan, on March 11, 2015. Rhoshan was born to Palepu’s daughter, Hitha, and her husband, Sri Narasimhan.
Are you an alum who recently had a baby? Make the College of Pharmacy a family tradition!

Tell us the news of your family’s addition—send your information to pharmacy-alumni@uiowa.edu—and we’ll send you a free Future Iowa Pharmacists onesie to welcome your new bundle of joy!

**Lana Holst Reid**, ’09 PharmD, and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their son, Rylan David, on Dec. 12, 2014.

**Chayla Stanton-Robinson**, a ’16 PharmD candidate, welcomed her daughter, Zoey Elyse Elliott, on Jan. 12, 2015.

**Lisa (Hickey) Veit**, ’05 PharmD, and family welcomed daughter, Madeline, on Feb. 4, 2015, weighing in at 8 pounds, 0.2 ounces.

**Lam and Miranda Vo**, both ’12 PharmD, welcomed their son, Neil Allen, on May 5, 2014. Neil weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and measured 19 inches long.

**Stephen Wong**, ’11 PharmD, and his wife, Lori, welcomed Abigail Wong on Aug. 5, 2014. She weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.

**Mary Ray** joined the College of Pharmacy as Assistant Dean for Assessment and Curriculum on July 1, 2015. In her role, Ray will oversee the collegiate accreditation process, and is instrumental in implementing the revised Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum. Before joining the UI College of Pharmacy, she was an associate professor of pharmacy practice and the director of the Office of Experiential Education at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine School of Pharmacy, where she oversaw the entire experiential program.

**Laura Knockel**, ’05 PharmD, ’06 R, has joined the College of Pharmacy as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice & Science. Her primary teaching role is in the Pharmacy Practice Lab series. She also maintains a practice in community pharmacy. She received her PharmD from the University of Iowa and completed a PGY-1 Community Pharmacy Practice residency with the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and Hy-Vee Pharmacy in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Her professional interests include advancing community pharmacy practice, diabetes education, immunizations, and smoking cessation. She is an active member of the Iowa Pharmacy Association and is currently on the Board of Trustees.

**Will Perry** has joined the college’s Research Administration Office as research support coordinator. He comes to the college with a breadth of grants experience and knowledge. Most recently, Will was at the UI Grant Accounting Office, and prior to that had experience in grants and contracts with a local clinical trials services company. He will help ensure that the office provides seamless service to faculty in all aspects of both submission and management of grants and contracts.
Bernard Sorofman, executive associate dean and professor, was appointed to the board of the Iowa Rural Health Association for a three-year term.

Deanna McDanel, ’01 PharmD, clinical associate professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was selected as a 2015 Master Preceptor by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. The Master Preceptor Recognition Program recognizes exemplary preceptors in the AACP that help support future practitioners throughout their experiential education and professional practice.

Jeanine Abrons, clinical assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, edited the publication of Peripheral Brain for the Pharmacist, 4th Edition published by the American Pharmacists Association. Abrons is also an Associate Editor of the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association.

Abrons also helped to lead one of the first continuing education sessions for the Dominica Pharmacists Association in Dominica, West Indies. The project focused on infectious disease practices and consisted of the fourth annual health fair in the LaPlaine District of Dominica. The group assisted with all-day health screenings at Whitechurch, one of the largest employers in Dominica.

Mike Brownlee, ’01 PharmD, associate dean, Lisa Mascardo, ’95 BSPh, adjunct assistant professor, Kevin Moores, clinical associate professor, and Melissa Murer Corrigan, adjunct assistant professor and Executive Leadership Board member, have been named fellows in the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Thirty-five pharmacists receive this recognition nationally each year. These members of the College of Pharmacy join just 838 others who have been awarded the ASHP fellowship since 1988.

Dale E. Wurster, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics, was awarded Purdue University’s 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award at a program on April 10, 2015. These prestigious awards, initiated in 1984, are conferred annually upon selected alumni in recognition of their outstanding achievements in professional and scientific endeavors.

Ryan Jacobsen, clinical associate professor, Stevie Veach, ’06 PharmD, ’07R, clinical assistant professor, and Brett Barker, ’08 PharmD, adjunct assistant professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, were elected to serve on the Iowa Pharmacy Association Board of Trustees, beginning June 2015.

Ron Herman, ’76 BSPh, ’78 MS, ’92 PhD, clinical professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, served as a presenter, moderator, and judge throughout the Dubai International Pharmaceuticals and Technologies Conference and Exhibition, held March 8-10, 2015. Attended by over 5,000 professionals, the conference is the largest pharmacy gathering in the Middle East.

Aliasger Salem, Bighley Professor and Head of the Division of Pharmaceutics and Translational Therapeutics, has been appointed as the associate editor for the AAPS Journal, the journal of the American Association for Pharmaceutical Scientists Society.

Jean Paul Gagnon, is a candidate for Honorary President of the American Pharmacists Association. He retired as Senior Director of U.S. Policy and Strategic Advocacy for Sanofi US after 22 years of service. He previously served as assistant professor at the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy and Professor/Division Head of Pharmacy Administration at the University of North Carolina School of Pharmacy.
The Iowa Pharmacy Association Annual Meeting was held June 11-13, 2015 in Coralville. This year’s meeting focused on healthcare collaboration, with presentations from statewide and national perspectives. Many UI College of Pharmacy faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends were recognized as outstanding leaders, including:

- Adjunct instructor and 2014 Honorary Alumni Award Recipient Bob Greenwood, sworn in as the 2015-2016 IPA president.
- Executive Leadership Board member and 2011 Honorary Alumni Award recipient Richard Hartig received the Bowl of Hygeia.
- Clinical Associate Professor Susan Vos was elected as Vice Speaker of the House.
- Ryan Jacobsen, Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at UIHC, was awarded the Excellence in Innovation Award.
- Former Executive Leadership Board member Ed Maier, ’70 BSPh, received the Robert G. Gibbs Distinguished Pharmacist Award.
- Adjunct Assistant Professor Angie Spannagel, ’09 PharmD, received the Distinguished Young Pharmacist Award.
- Robert Nichols, ’17 PharmD candidate, was selected to serve as part of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) Student Leadership Council for the 2015-2017 term. The NCPA represents the interests of America’s community pharmacists, including the owners of nearly 23,000 independent community pharmacists.

- Alyssa Billmeyer, ’16 PharmD candidate, has been appointed as Vice Chair for the 2015-2016 APhA-ASP Policy National Standing Committee. Billmeyer is one of four students selected nationally to serve on the committee.

- Anneka Levra, ’17 PharmD candidate, representing Teeters PODS, received a PHIL Student Success Grant as part of the partnership between University of Iowa President’s Office and the University of Iowa Foundation. The grant was put toward the “Fit Against Force Philanthropy Event Funding.”

- Jasmine Mangrum, ’18 PharmD candidate, has been appointed co-chair of the UI Black Student Advisory Committee (BSAC). The organization hosted a forum for all UI students on April 14, 2015, to present attendees with the opportunity to meet committee members, network, and contribute ideas for helping black students thrive at the UI.

- Victoria Parker, graduate student in the department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Experimental Therapeutics, was selected as a 2015 GEM Fellow by the National GEM Consortium, a national consortium for graduate degrees for minorities in engineering and sciences. GEM recruits high quality underrepresented students looking to pursue Master’s and Doctoral degrees in applied science and engineering, and matches their specific skills to the specific technical needs of GEM employer members.

- Shiny Parsai, ’16 PharmD candidate, was selected as the National Project Coordinator for APhA-ASP/International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) International Standing Committee. Parsai was among a national selection of students recognized by members of the APhA-ASP Student Scholarship Review Committee for their involvement in the organization. She was awarded the Juan and Esperanza Luna Scholarship for exceptional demonstration of leadership and academics.

- Edward Bean, ’64 BSPh, John Drzycimski, ’65 BSPh, Duane Haberichter, ’64 BSPh, David Johnson, ’65 BSPh, Carl Rouse, ’64 BSPh, and Wayne Ruhl, ’65 BSPh, were recognized for 50 years of pharmacy service.

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Ben Urick, a graduate student in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science, was selected as a recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award by the University of Iowa. The awards are given annually to a few of the many graduate teaching assistants who spark learning and creativity in the classroom.

The University of Iowa College of Pharmacy was among the recipients of $210,000 in scholarships and grants awarded by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) Foundation. The project, spearheaded by William Doucette, professor and head of Division of Health Services Research, will launch an initiative to develop collaborative practice agreements for community pharmacies; conduct research on access disparities in urban areas; evaluate health information exchanges; and incorporate advanced MTM education into the curriculum.

Influential leaders in pharmacy education and practice gathered in Des Moines on Feb. 5 to explore ideas and partnerships that could broaden the educational programs available for Iowa’s pharmacy technician workforce. The state’s first-ever Iowa Pharmacy Technician Education Summit, at the John and Mary Pappajohn Education Center, drew representatives from the state’s colleges of pharmacy, community colleges, as well as from state and national pharmacy associations and the Iowa State Board of Pharmacy.

PharmD students Brandon Gerleman, Anh Ngo, and Jasmine Mangrum were elected to the 2015-2016 Graduate & Professional Student Government executive board.

Nicole Brogden, Department of Pharmaceutical Science and Experimental Therapeutics, and Heather Ciliberto, Clinical Assistant Professor of Dermatology at Carver College of Medicine, received the 2015 Weston Grant Award from the Society for Pediatric Dermatology. The grant will support their project, “A prospective pilot study to define epidermal barrier properties and cytokine/growth factor expression in patients with infantile hemangiomas.”

Associate Dean and Professor Maureen Donovan and Administrative Services Coordinator Lois Baker were both selected as International Advocate 2014-2015 by UI International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). The award recognizes their “exemplary support of international students, scholars, or internationalization efforts.”

Graduate students from the Division of Pharmaceutics and Translational Therapeutics recently attended the Pharmaceutics Graduate Student Research Meeting (PGSRM) in Lexington, Ky.

Students from the American Pharmacists Association – Academy of Student Pharmacists gave a Katy’s Kids presentation about medication safety to children at the Grant Wood Safety Village summer camp among many other Iowa City area schools during the 2014-2015 academic year.

The University of Iowa’s Health Sciences Research Week was held April 21 and 22, 2015, with the theme “Applying Chemical Biology to Understand and Treat Human Disease." Participants hailed from the College of Pharmacy, Carver College of Medicine, Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, and VA Health System.

The College of Pharmacy was well represented with a total of 48 posters presented. Megan Kelchen, Behnoush Khorsand-Sourkohi, Krystal Titus-Rains, and Diana Karkow received Outstanding Poster Presentation awards for the College of Pharmacy Research Week poster competition.
The UI College of Pharmacy’s new vision, “We are driven to be a preeminent college of pharmacy in the world. Our world begins in Iowa,” demonstrates the college’s solid commitment to the healthcare of Iowans and beyond.

The college is at the vanguard of monumental changes, mirroring societal changes in healthcare and drug discovery. In addition to embarking on work toward a brand new, state-of-the-art facility, the college is ready to launch a forward-thinking, trendsetting curriculum and has just completed its ambitious five-year strategic plan.

To underscore the exciting advancements being made by the college and the profession, the UI College of Pharmacy reflected on how it is defined – what sets it apart from similar institutions. After extensive research, the college is launching a new brand and energizing its look.

The college’s new strategic messaging will center on three core brand values: Discover and Grow Together; Build Excellence; and Achieve Outcomes that Matter. These brand values serve as the foundation of our esteemed institution. They are intrinsically linked to the UI College of Pharmacy experience and articulate the qualities that emerged most strongly with students, faculty, alumni, board members, leaders, and other health care professionals.

- **Discover and Grow Together:** Community is an essential part of our culture. We are committed to interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaboration.
- **Build Excellence:** Each of us has the potential to build our own personal excellence in leadership and in advancing the profession as practitioners, educators, or discovering new medicines to improve lives.
- **Achieve Outcomes that Matter:** Redefining the role that pharmacy will play in tomorrow’s healthcare one outcome at a time.

A brand video also helps to demonstrate its points of pride and new look.

Please join Dean Donald E. Letendre in saluting the UI College of Pharmacy – its 130-year foundation, its robust and solid present, and its bright and promising future.

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**In the next issue ...**

- Exciting changes to the UI College of Pharmacy’s Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum are coming for Fall 2015.
- The college will honor some of its brightest stars during Homecoming 2015.
Interview with Vijaya Joshi

Vijaya Joshi graduated from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy with a PhD in Pharmaceutics in 2014. After completing her degree, Joshi accepted a role as a formulation scientist for SpineThera, a pharmaceutical company based in Minneapolis. She is on a team that is developing a sustained release injectable drug to treat spine-related conditions.
What educational path brought you to the UI College of Pharmacy?
I have a strong background in chemistry, mathematics and physics, and was among the top 2 percent of all engineering candidates to qualify for the Indian Institute for Technology-Joint Entrance Exam (IIT-JEE) in 2005. I decided to study pharmacy at the Department of Pharmaceutics, IIT-Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) for my undergraduate studies. I was very interested in the research involved in drug development. During my time at IIT-BHU, I interned in different departments across the university, and spent my summers working in research institutes like the Indian Institute of Sciences. I was fortunate to receive multiple scholarships and awards for my undergraduate research work that further motivated me to pursue graduate school and build a career in pharmaceutical research.

How did you decide to come to the UI College of Pharmacy?
As a student of IIT-BHU, I interned in the departments of pharmacy, zoology, and biology to get hands-on experience in a broad range of research techniques used by professionals in biology research. I was fortunate to have had these interactions with scientists from various backgrounds early in my career and to gain technical knowledge. This motivated me to take a similar path for my graduate studies – where I could gain expertise in core pharmaceutical research and collaborate with scientists from different backgrounds. The research in the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy is truly translational. The faculty works in collaboration with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, as well as the pharmaceutical industry on research projects that have direct impacts on improving currently available clinical therapies. I was particularly interested in Dr. [Aliasger] Salem’s research involving the development of delivery systems for drug molecules. I expressed my interests to Dr. Salem early-on during the admission process. He was very kind to support and mentor my dissertation work.

How did your education at the UI prepare you for this next phase of your career? How did your experiences here shape your future decisions?
I graduated from the UI with a PhD in Pharmaceutics. The curriculum designed for graduate students in Pharmaceutics gave me a strong theoretical basis of pharmaceutical research. The weekly graduate seminars provided a peek at ongoing projects at different labs. Such technical exposure helped establish the core foundation of pharmaceutical scientist in me. There have been many instances in my current position where I will encounter a problem that is closely related to a research project I was involved in or discussed during my graduate studies at the UI. Also, the continuous feedback from UI professors in my research and in classrooms helped me understand my strengths and weaknesses. It is the education I received at UI that prepared me to start a career in the pharmaceutical industry and experience what it takes to make a laboratory drug into prescription medicine.

“The research in the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy is truly translational.”
Vijaya Joshi

Do you plan to stay involved with the University of Iowa and your advisor, Dr. Salem?
I had a wonderful time at UI throughout my graduate studies. I have developed many strong relationships at UI and still rely on their advice. It is always refreshing to see an email from a fellow Hawkeye and I am happy to help whenever possible.

At UI, Dr. Salem has supported me technically and financially throughout my education. I would be more than interested if I could be of any help to the college and to Dr. Salem.
UPCOMING EVENTS

September 11
Eggleston-Granberg Pharmacy Student Scholarship Golf Outing
Otter Creek, Ankeny Iowa

October 8
Alumni Award Recipients, Investiture, and Class Honor Years Celebration Dinner
Brown Deer Golf and Country Club, Coralville, Iowa

October 9
Osterhaus Medal for Lifetime Achievement Symposium
James A. Otterbeck OnePoint Patient Care Professor in Hospice and Palliative Care Investiture Ceremony
John L. and Carole E. Lach Chair in Drug Delivery Technology Investiture Ceremony
University of Iowa Old Capitol Senate Chambers

October 9
Alumni and Family Celebration
Sheraton, Iowa City, Iowa

October 10
Homecoming Tailgate and Football Game
Iowa City, Iowa

October 27
American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Alumni and Friends Reception
Orlando, Florida

November 5 and 6
Career Fair and Placement Day
Sheraton Hotel, Iowa City, Iowa

November 13
Dean’s Appreciation Dinner
Iowa City, Iowa

Send us your personal and professional news
HawkScripts is an alumni publication for the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. We want to hear from you!

Email: pharmacy-alumni@uiowa.edu

Online: pharmacy.uiowa.edu/alumni-friends/keep-touch

Phone: 319-335-8348

Mail: University of Iowa College of Pharmacy
115 S. Grand Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52242-1112

Keep in touch with the College of Pharmacy
Be sure to keep your information up-to-date with the College of Pharmacy for all the latest news and events. If you have updated contact information, please send to kayla-lalor@uiowa.edu.

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