DOPS Hits New Highs in Research Funding

To date this year, SSPPS’ Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences topped $28 million dollars in research grants. The majority of which were from the National Institutes of Health. In addition to NIH funding, the School recently received a $750,000 grant from The ALSAM Foundation to create the L.S. Skaggs Professorship, a shared faculty position between our School and the University of Colorado BioFrontiers Institute. The L.S. Skaggs Professorship is an integral part of creating the Drug Discovery and Precision Medicine Program.

Our successful research funding efforts contributed to our School’s rankings for fiscal year 2012-2013, which appear below. These rankings do not include grants received after July 1, 2013:

* No. 7 in the nation for NIH funding among pharmacy schools
* No. 8 in the nation for grant funding from all sources among pharmacy schools

Accolades

Graduate students and post doctoral fellows from the School’s Pharmaceutical Sciences program recently won awards for their research presentations during the Mountain West Society of Toxicology (MWSOT) Meeting. Kudos to toxicology graduate students Rui Xiong and Surendra Singh for graduate student poster and graduate student platform presentations; and Drs. Derek Drechsel and Jonathan Shannahah for their postdoctoral poster and postdoctoral platform presentations respectively. In addition, Dr. Shannahah was officially appointed as MWSOT postdoctoral representative.

During the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) annual meeting, two students in Dr. Kompella’s laboratory won awards. Ruchit Trivedi won the ocular drug delivery and disposition focus group graduate student poster award sponsored by Bausch and Lomb. He will be presenting his research in a talk and poster presentation at the annual AAPS meeting in San Antonio, TX. Punnet Tyagi won the research award sponsored by the American Association of Indian Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAiPS). He will be presenting his research in a poster at the annual meeting of the AAPS as well.

PhD candidate Cynthia Tilley recently received a Keystone Symposia Underrepresented Minority Scholarship. The award will help defray travel and lodging expenses associated with attendance at the upcoming Developmental Pathways and Cancer meeting in Banff, Alberta.

Faculty member Vasilis Vasiliou, PhD, has been selected to receive the John and Barbara Shell Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Research and Graduate Education. Toxicology graduate student Regina Bis and pharmaceutical sciences graduate student Surendra Singh are recipients of this year’s Heim Graduate Student Awards. A reception and dinner to honor these recipients is scheduled for Dec. 19.

Gene Erwin Passes

Former dean and professor, Gene Erwin, recently passed away after a long illness. Dr. Erwin who was dean from 1974-1984 was instrumental in advancing our school into one of the most successful research pharmacy schools in the country. The decision to move to the Health Sciences Center campus on Colorado Boulevard and 9th Avenue was made during his tenure as dean but took many years to accomplish. Services were held Dec. 6 at the Celebration Church in Montrose, Colo.