



College of Pharmacy  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Report to the  
Texas Pharmacy Congress  
February 21-22, 2024

## ASHP Foundation Applauds Garey's 20-plus Years of Scholarship in Biomedical Literature

UHCOP Professor Kevin W. Garey, Pharm.D., M.S., FASHP, FIDSA, FCCP, BCIDP, was recognized with the American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) Research and Education Foundation's 2023 Literature Award for Sustained Contributions at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exhibition Dec. 3-7 in Anaheim, Calif.

The award to Garey, who serves as chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice & Translational Research and Robert L. Boblitt Endowed Professor of Drug Discovery, "recognizes a pharmacist with a 20-year record of publishing high quality and impactful peer-reviewed biomedical literature."

Over his 24 years of scholarship, Garey



Garey is congratulated by ASHP Foundation Chair Kelly M. Smith, Pharm.D., FASHP, FCCP, at the 2023 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting.

focused his early research efforts on surgical site infections, with investigations into invasive candidiasis and *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff) infection (CDI) dominating his work over the past decade. His findings in these

areas have been incorporated into national and international practice guidelines, as well as being recognized with multiple awards at the national and international levels. He is also the author or contributor on more than 125 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Garey's "big break" into the area of candidiasis – infections caused by *Candida* fungal species – came in 2006 with his multi-institutional study published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* showing delays in initiation of antifungal agent fluconazole increased deaths.

Garey is now the second UHCOP faculty member to win this award, with Vincent H. Tam, Pharm.D., BCIDP, FIDSA, being honored in 2019.

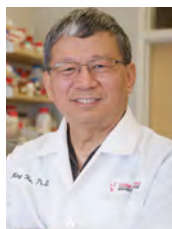
## Hu Receives \$1.4M Grant from NIDCR for Research on Opioid Use Disorder Drug

Ming Hu, Ph.D., pharmaceuticals professor and Diana S-L. Chow Endowed Professor of Drug Discovery and Development, has been awarded a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research to investigate the side effects of sublingual buprenorphine.

Buprenorphine, a drug prescribed to help treat opioid use disorder, has been linked to dental health problems. A warning about the side effects linked to oral formulations of the drug was issued by the FDA in January 2022.

By gaining a comprehensive understanding behind excessive oral exposure to buprenorphine, the team's goal is to develop a countermeasure that addresses the dental health problems associated with the use of the formulations.

In addition to Hu, the multi-PI project team includes UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry's Dr. Bing-Yang Wang, DDS, Ph.D., and UHCOP's Rashim Singh, Ph.D., and Douglas Thornton, Ph.D., Pharm.D.



## Trivedi Earns \$1.1M DOD Grant for Breast Cancer Research

Meghana Trivedi, Ph.D., Pharm.D., professor of pharmacy and pharmacology, has been awarded \$1.1 million by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity to aid her research finding that a high blood pressure medication is effective in treating deadly triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC).



Trivedi has found that an FDA-approved drug for high blood pressure, nebivolol, targets G protein-coupled receptors which aid in the treatment of TNBC. The project will investigate preclinical efficacy as well as pharmacokinetics of nebivolol and mechanism of action by which it exerts its anti-cancer activity in TNBC. The study team includes Baylor College of Medicine's Chad Creighton, Ph.D., and Benny Kaiparettu, Ph.D., and UHCOP's Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D., FNAI, and Michael Johnson, Ph.D.

## Student News

### Student Posters Accepted for Presentation at 2023 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

# 42

For a second consecutive year, UHCOP Pharm.D. students presented the highest number of research posters among their Texas pharmacy school peers at the **American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)** Midyear Clinical Meeting & Exposition.

A total of 42 research posters accepted for presentation at the meeting Dec. 3-7 in Anaheim, Calif., were authored or coauthored by UHCOP students, comprising 2.3% of the meeting's 1,800 student posters and among the top five colleges nationwide.

UHCOP's **American Pharmacists Association-Academy of Student Pharmacists** Chapter won the Region VI Operation Heart Award at the 2023 APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting Nov. 3-5 in Washington, D.C.

**Trisha Otwell**, Pharm.D. student, was recently accepted into the ACT Pharmacy Collaborative's Community Pharmacy Student Scholar Leaders program, securing one of 50 spots from across the country.

**Junghwa Park** ('22), UHCOP Ph.D. candidate and Pharm.D. alumna, is one of only five individuals nationwide accepted into the

American College of Clinical Pharmacology 2024 Leadership Development Program. The six-month program is designed to develop a leadership mindset in participants, empower them to increase their potential for success, and create opportunities for them to serve as ACCP leaders.

**Olajumoke Olateju**, pharmaceutical health outcomes and policy Ph.D. student, was awarded University of Houston's Cullen Graduate Fellowship Travel Grant.

The **UHCOP Upsilon Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS)** was spotlighted by the PLS national organization for hosting "Crucial Conversations" workshops to develop members' conflict resolution skills.

**Petar Jordanov**, Pharm.D. candidate, has received a fourth consecutive scholarship from the West Texas Pharmacy Association.



Continuing the tradition started in 1992, the first-year class of Pharm.D. students hosted the **2024 International Day** on Jan. 31. The students organized booths to showcase their respective cultures, with a variety of food and activities including henna tattoos, karaoke and a lion dance.

## College & Faculty News

### Williams Celebrates 50 Years of Teaching, Research and Service

Hundreds of UHCOP alumni, students, faculty colleagues, and family members recently paid tribute to Associate Professor Louis Williams, Ph.D., over three events to show their appreciation for his 50 years of teaching, research and service at the college.



Over his five-decade career, Williams taught and mentored conservatively more than 5,000 professional and graduate students and served as adviser for two student organizations which routinely return from regional and national conferences weighed down by awards and other achievements.

In 1979, Williams and UHCOP alumnus and former faculty member Larry McClougherty ('72) co-founded the college's scholarship golf tournament. 45 years later, the tournament raises thousands of dollars each year for student scholarships and travel funds and spawned one of the college's scholarship endowments.

Pharm.D. candidate **Adam Siddique** was recognized as the GCSHP Outstanding Student, and UHCOP Instructional Lab Manager **Leslie Joseph**, CPhT, was named as the Outstanding Pharmacy Technician by the Gulf Coast Society of Health-System Pharmacists at the organization's 2023 Annual Seminar Nov. 11.



Siddique



Joseph





## ID Fellow Eubanks Joins Faculty Ranks

Infectious diseases researcher **Taryn A. Eubank**, Pharm.D., BCIDP, has been appointed as a research assistant professor in the college's Department of Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research.



Eubank is a 2021-23 alumna of the T32 Texas Medical Center Training Program in Antimicrobial Resistance, where she engaged in advanced clinical practice, basic science, drug discovery, public health and hospital epidemiology training and projects. Eubank served on three clinical trials related to COVID-19 over 2020-21 at Houston Methodist Hospital, with one trial as the co-primary investigator. Since 2021, she also has served as pharmacy clinical specialist at Houston Methodist.

Eubank's primary research interests include antimicrobial resistance, the gut microbiome and the gut resistome. Eubank has authored/co-authored abstracts, case reports and original research articles in such peer-reviewed journals as *Pharmacoepidemiology*, *Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, the *American Journal of Pathology*, and *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

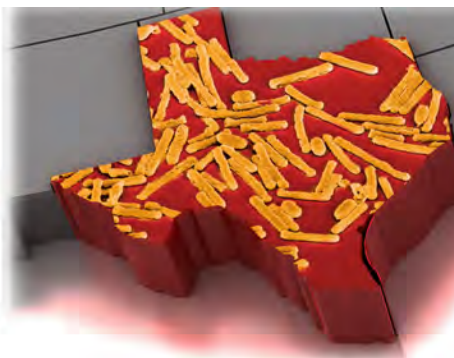
## AHA Renews Program to Train CV Researchers

The University of Houston's Houston Experience for Advancing Research and Training (UH-HEART) program prepares participants for future careers in cardiovascular-related research has received a three-year renewal, thanks to a \$165,000 Institutional Award for Undergraduate Student Training grant from the American Heart Association.

UH-HEART provides 10 weeks of hands-on laboratory work, workshops and seminars to rising undergraduates and recent graduates. Participation includes a stipend and optional travel support to present at a conference.

The UH-HEART leadership consists of Bradley K. McConnell, Ph.D., FAHA, FCVS, professor of pharmacology and principal investigator/program director; and Tho Tran, Ph.D., research assistant professor of chemistry and UH-HEART assistant program director. For details, visit [tinyurl.com/ddi-uh-heart](http://tinyurl.com/ddi-uh-heart).

**THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024**  
Bioscience Research Collaborative,  
Rice University  
Abstract Deadline: April 22  
Registration Deadline: April 22  
Audience: Investigators & Trainees



**Call for Abstracts  
Registration Open!**  
**Inaugural Clinical  
and Translational  
Research Symposium**  
Friday  
04.26.2024  
University of Houston  
College of Pharmacy  
Health Building  
Abstract deadline: March 26, 2024  
Registration deadline: April 19, 2024  
[tinyurl.com/uh-ctr-symposium](http://tinyurl.com/uh-ctr-symposium)

The Houston C. diff & Microbiome Conference Thursday, May 16, at Rice University's Bioscience Research Collaborative aims to serve as a forum for Texas Medical Center/Houston-area infectious diseases trainees and researchers to discuss findings and explore collaborations. Registration and abstracts are due April 22; visit [tinyurl.com/htx-cdiff-con](http://tinyurl.com/htx-cdiff-con) for details.

UHCOP will host the inaugural Clinical and Translational Research Symposium Friday, April 26, as a forum for sharing recent advances and enhance interactions among scientists. Awards will be presented for best podium and poster presentations. Abstracts are due March 26 and the registration deadline for this free event is April 19; visit [tinyurl.com/uh-ctr-symposium](http://tinyurl.com/uh-ctr-symposium) for details.

## GERIATRIC MEDICATION SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

April 25-26, 2024

Cooley University Life Center  
Texas Medical Center, Houston

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Deadline: March 4 / Acceptance Notification by March 18

[tinyurl.com/gmss-2024](http://tinyurl.com/gmss-2024)



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UTHealth Houston  
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The Geriatric Medication Safety Symposium is supported by the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health under award number 1R13AG071364.

## Recent Publications

- Herbal Medicines as adjuvants for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced diarrhea. **Zheng Z, Srinual S, Chen J, Li L, Du T, Hu M, Sun R, Gao S.** *Curr Drug Metab.* 2023 Aug 17. doi: 10.2174/1389200224666230817102224. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37592799
- Insight into the mechanism of Xiao-Chai-Hu-Tang alleviates irinotecan-induced diarrhea based on regulating the gut microbiota and inhibiting Gut  $\beta$ -GUS. Wang C, Teng X, Wang C, Liu B, Zhou R, Xu X, Qiu H, Fu Y, **Sun R**, Liang Z, Zhang R, Liu Z, Zhang L, Zhu L. *Phytomedicine.* 2023 Nov;120:155040. doi: 10.1016/j.phymed.2023.155040. Epub 2023 Aug 19. PMID: 37683587
- Prioritizing ethical patient care responsibilities: A call to restructure student training practices in federally qualified health centers. **Rosario N, Wollen J**, Scott ED. *Explor Res Clin Soc Pharm.* 2023 Aug 21;11:100320. doi: 10.1016/j.rcsop.2023.100320. eCollection 2023 Sep. PMID: 37662696
- Macrophage angiotensin AT2 receptor activation is protective against early phases of LPS-induced acute kidney injury. **Fatima N, Ali R, Faisal T, Kulkarni K, Patel S, Hussain T.** *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol.* 2023 Nov 1;325(5):F552-F563. doi: 10.1152/ajprenal.00177.2022. Epub 2023 Aug 24. PMID: 37615049
- Beyond cyanotoxins: increased Legionella, antibiotic resistance genes in western Lake Erie water and disinfection-byproducts in their finished water. Lee J, Lee S, **Hu C**, Marion JW. *Front Microbiol.* 2023 Aug 28;14:1233327. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2023.1233327. eCollection 2023. PMID: 37700867
- Outcomes from an interprofessional, dementia-focused, telementoring program: a brief report. **Fernandez J, Agarwal KS**, Amspoker AB, Godwin KM, Green E, Pickens S, Lindo J, Asghar-Ali AA. *Gerontol Geriatr Educ.* 2023 Aug 30:1-6. doi: 10.1080/02701960.2023.2253175. Online ahead of print. PMID: 3764722
- Activation of Munc13-1 by Diacylglycerol (DAG)-Lactones. **Das J, You Y, Mathukumalli K**, Ann J, Lee J, Marquez VE. *Biochemistry.* 2023 Sep 19;62(18):2717-2726. doi: 10.1021/acs.biochem.3c00375. Epub 2023 Aug 31. PMID: 37651159
- Association Between Abnormal Metabolic Parameters and Receiving Subsequent Interventions in Children and Adolescents Initiating Second-Generation Antipsychotics. **Sanyal S, Lyu N**, Calarge C, Rowan PJ, **Aparasu RR, Abughosh S, Chen H.** *J Child Adolesc Psychopharmacol.* 2023 Sep;33(7):269-278. doi: 10.1089/cap.2023.0027. Epub 2023 Sep 7. PMID: 37676976
- Latest advancements in the study of the relationship between NSAIDs and three prostaglandin E2 synthases. **Ruan KH, Lu R.** *Future Med Chem.* 2023 Sep;15(17):1549-1552. doi: 10.4155/fmc-2023-0172. Epub 2023 Sep 13. PMID: 37702004
- The Significance of Bayesian Pharmacokinetics in Dosing for Critically Ill Patients: A Primer for Clinicians Using Vancomycin as an Example. Alneazy FS, Almutairi MS, **Gonzales-Luna AJ**, Thabit AK. *Antibiotics (Basel).* 2023 Sep 13;12(9):1441. doi: 10.3390/antibiotics12091441. PMID: 37760737
- Student-led podcasts to enhance literature evaluation skills. **Wang EM, Varisco TJ, Thornton JD, Varkey DA, Wanat MA.** *Curr Pharm Teach Learn.* 2023 Nov;15(11):968-973. doi: 10.1016/j.cptl.2023.09.006. Epub 2023 Sep 14. PMID: 37714755
- Development of a communication-based virtual patient counseling objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) for first year student pharmacists. **Wollen JT, Gee JS, Nguyen KA, Surati DD.** *PEC Innov.* 2023 Sep 16;3:100215. doi: 10.1016/j.pecinn.2023.100215. PMID: 37771459
- Comparison of Community Pharmacist and Non-Community Pharmacist Perceptions of a Community Pharmacy Specialty Board Certification. **Wollen J, Lieu HH, Yu S, White JC, Davis SR.** *J Pharm Pract.* 2023 Sep 21:8971900231202647. doi: 10.1177/08971900231202647. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37732497
- Development and internal validation of a risk prediction model for HIV disease severity among people living with HIV and mental illness or substance use disorder. **Iloanusi S**, Yunusa I, **Mgbere O, Abughosh SM, Chen H, Essien EJ.** *Ann Epidemiol.* 2023 Sep 22:S1047-2797(23)00181-3. doi: 10.1016/j.annepidem.2023.09.007. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37742879
- How do we define high and low dose intensity of heart failure medications: a scoping review. Kwak MJ, Wang Q, Onyebeke C, Holder T, Goyal P, **Aparasu R**, Dhoble A, Holmes HM. *BMC Cardiovasc Disord.* 2023 Sep 27;23(1):478. doi: 10.1186/s12872-023-03514-2. PMID: 37759279
- Population-based assessment of the burden of COVID-19 infection in African countries: a first-year report card and public health implications. **Mgbere O**, Nwabuko OC, **Olateju OA**, Adepoju OE, Liaw W, Darkoh C, **Essien EJ.** *Ther Adv Infect Dis.* 2023 Sep 28;10:20499361231202116. doi: 10.1177/20499361231202116. eCollection 2023 Jan-Dec. PMID: 37779674
- Trends in Repeat Opioid Analgesic Prescription Utilization for Acute Pain in Children: 2013-2018. **Nair AA**, Placencia JL, Farber HJ, **Aparasu RR, Johnson M, Chen H.** *Acad Pediatr.* 2023 Oct 4:S1876-2859(23)00372-8. doi: 10.1016/j.acap.2023.09.020. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37802247
- Adherence to Recommended Metabolic Monitoring of Children and Adolescents Taking Second-Generation Antipsychotics. **Sanyal S**, Calarge C, Rowan PJ, **Aparasu RR, Abughosh S**, Sisley S, **Chen H.** *Psychiatr Serv.* 2023 Oct 4:appis20220584. doi: 10.1176/appi.ps.20220584. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37789728
- Fn14 promotes myoblast fusion during regenerative myogenesis. **Tomaz da Silva M, Joshi AS**, Castillo MB, **Koike TE, Roy A**, Gunaratne PH, **Kumar A.** *Life Sci Alliance.* 2023 Oct 9;6(12):e202302312. doi: 10.26508/lsa.202302312. Print 2023 Dec. PMID: 37813488
- Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome: Signaling & Molecular Perspectives, and the Road Ahead. **Datta S, Cao W, Skillman M, Wu M.** *Int J Mol Sci.* 2023 Oct 17;24(20):15249. doi: 10.3390/ijms242015249. PMID: 37894928
- Intersection of Perceived COVID-19 Risk, Preparedness, and Preventive Health Behaviors: Latent Class Segmentation Analysis. **Mgbere O, Iloanusi S**, Yunusa I, Iloanusi NR, **Gohil S, Essien EJ.** *Online J Public Health Inform.* 2023 Oct 24;15:e50967. doi: 10.2196/50967. eCollection 2023. PMID: 38046563
- Physician perspective on the implementation of risk mitigation strategies when prescribing opioid medications: a qualitative analysis. **Tata V, Al Saadi R, Cho SK, Varisco TJ, Wanat M, Thornton JD.** *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2023 Oct 31;23(1):1185. doi: 10.1186/s12913-023-10136-z. PMID: 37907915
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- Application of machine learning in predicting survival outcomes involving real-world data: a scoping review. **Huang Y, Li J**, Li M, **Aparasu RR.** *BMC Med Res Methodol.* 2023 Nov 13;23(1):268. doi: 10.1186/s12874-023-02078-1. PMID: 37957593
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- Contribution of membrane raft redox signalling to visfatin-induced inflammasome activation and podocyte injury. **Koka S, Surineni S, Singh GB, Boini KM.** *Aging (Albany NY).* 2023 Nov 17;15(22):12738-12748. doi: 10.18632/aging.205243. Epub 2023 Nov 17. PMID: 38032896
- A small molecule exerts selective antiviral activity by targeting the human cytomegalovirus nuclear egress complex. Chen H, Lye MF, Gorgulla C, Ficarro SB, **Cuny GD**, Scott DA, Wu F, Rothlauf PW, Wang X, Fernandez R, Pesola JM, Draga S, Marto JA, Hogle JM, Arthanari H, Coen DM. *PLoS Pathog.* 2023 Nov 17;19(11):e1011781. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1011781. eCollection 2023 Nov. PMID: 37976321