

Meet the University of Tennessee, AAPS Student Chapter

These are exciting times for the graduate and Pharm.D. students at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. We recently initiated an AAPS Student Chapter at the University and have been busy with various exciting events happening and programs being planned.

The chapter was initiated last July, when it split from the umbrella "Southern Regional Student Chapter" (SRSC), which formerly included the University of Mississippi at Oxford, University of Louisiana at Monroe, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the University of Tennessee, Memphis. The chapter quickly sprang into action holding a mini-social for all members on Aug. 21, 2003 under the leadership of the executive committee members Ajit Narang (Chair), Lisa Tang (Vice-chair), Manish Gupta (Secretary/Treasurer), and Dr. Bernd Meibohm (Faculty Advisor). The chapter has approximately 30 members, divided into six active committees working toward various goals of the chapter. The chapter aims to foster the professional development of its members, advance the community's awareness of professions in pharmaceutical sciences, and to promote social growth and interaction among its members. The chapter meets monthly to review and plan its activities.

Development of an invited speaker pro-

gram was one of the first major projects of the chapter. As a result of this initiative, Dr. William P. Purcell, Founder and CEO of Molecular Designs, Inc. spoke to the chapter in October 2003 on *Strategies in Drug Development*. He gave a very motivating talk on entrepreneurship and molecule discovery. His speech allowed the students to gain new insights into drug development from an industry perspective, including molecular design, pre-clinical and clinical trials, and marketing.

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The Speaker Committee, chaired by Ajit Narang in coordination with Stacey May and Erin Phillips at the AAPS Outreach Department, has arranged speakers from the pharmaceutical industry as well as academia and regulatory affairs to speak to the chapter monthly throughout 2004. In addition to these speaking engagements, the

chapter hosts weekly journal club presentations by its members on topics relating to the research interests of individual members.

Teresa Liu heads the Website Committee, which has done an excellent job in creating our new website (http://copstudents.utmem.edu/aaps_sc/home.htm). The website includes a current roster of all the members with links to their biography's, CV's, and labs; a calendar of upcoming events and birthdays; pictures from past events and of our home base, Memphis; and a page with important links.

Manish Gupta, chairing the Fundraising Committee, has been highly successful in raising over \$1000 for the chapter by marketing T-shirts, creatively designed by Lisa, to the members as well as nonmembers at UT. The funds will be used for future journal clubs, speakers, luncheons and social events. The committee is also planning to extensively raise funds for the upcoming "PharmForum 2004" meeting in Memphis.

The Newsletter Committee, chaired by Kirk Hevener, will soon debut our first newsletter covering all the chapter's events and talks, as well as a few articles on the profession by our members. The newsletter will be posted online for all to see.

The Outreach Committee, headed by Kelly Earhart, promotes awareness of the profession in the community. The members of the committee have plans to address students at local high schools and undergraduate institutions through Spring 2004 to create awareness about pharmacy and pharmaceutical research in general and the related academic programs being offered at the

AAPS Thanks Dr. Bende for Presentation during Staff Education Initiative

AAPS would like to send a hearty thanks to Steve Bende, Ph.D., Vice President of Scientific Affairs at the Generic Pharmaceutical Sciences Association. As part of our ongoing staff education initiative, Dr. Bende took time out of his very busy schedule this February to address issues

relating to generic pharmaceuticals and generic biologics. Covering topics such as ANDAs, FDA policies regarding "generic" biologics, and financial implications, Dr. Bende's presentation was very effective and staff learned about some challenges related to the generics field.

AAPS' Director of Marketing, Peter Inchauteguiz, noted "Dr. Bende effectively communicated to me, the non-scientist, the intricacies associated with the process of approving generic alternatives. And, he managed to be not only informative but entertaining."



University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

To promote social interaction among its members, the chapter held two get-togethers this semester. Kelly Earhart and Maggie Thompson, of the Social Committee, under the chairmanship of Kellie Turner, have hosted our first two social events, both of which had huge turnouts. The holiday party included a dinner and a gift exchange. These events gave the members of the chapter an opportunity to relax and interact with one another off campus, share ideas, exchange interests, and cement new bonds of friendship. Because the events were potluck meals, they also gave the chapter members an opportunity to enjoy dishes that spanned numerous cultural tastes. The chair of the Social Committee has several plans for the upcoming semester, including trips to sporting events like the Memphis River Kings minor league hockey games and Memphis Grizzlies basketball games. Of course, the chapter will continue to hold potluck dinners on a regular basis.

Members of the chapter are active in attending scientific meetings relevant to the research interests both nationally and internationally. Besides the AAPS Annual

Meeting in the Salt Lake City (attended by approximately 20 of our members), the chapter members were active participants in Pharmaceutics Graduate Student Research Meeting (PGSRM) in Chicago, IL; AAPS Southern Regional Discussion Group (SRDG) in Little Rock, AR; Controlled Release Society in Glasgow, Scotland; and American Society of Gene Therapy in Washington, D.C., among others. They presented posters and podium sessions and interacted with other participants.

Professional meetings are essential to the learning process for graduate students in pharmaceutical sciences. With this in mind, our chapter, in cooperation with the UT College of Pharmacy and the AAPS Southern Regional Discussion Group, is organizing "PharmForum 2004", May 17-18 in Memphis, TN. PharmForum is a regional scientific meeting for graduate students, postdocs and trainees, as well as pharmaceutical scientists from industry and academia. This meeting will coincide with the MALTO Medicinal Chemistry meeting at the campus. We are expecting about 100 participants based on last year's turnout in Little Rock, AR. The chapter members are currently busy planning fundraising activi-

ties, socials, speaker presentations, and other events to coincide with the meeting.

Dr. Meibohm has been offering his valuable time and advice in running the various activities and giving us direction for the future. With his guidance, although new, the UT Student Chapter is making significant strides into the future and hopes to leave a permanent mark in pharmaceutical sciences on the fabric of Memphis.

Dr. Meibohm has the following to say about the members of the chapter: "Due to their enthusiasm, creativity, and diligence, the leadership and members of the UT AAPS Student Chapter have successfully established a diverse and highly appealing program within the few months since inception of their chapter. I congratulate them for their success and invite all graduate students that are not yet members to take this unique opportunity for advanced professional development and join the UT AAPS Student Chapter."

For more information on the UT Memphis Student Chapter, please contact chair Ajit Narang at anarang@utm.edu. To start a student chapter at your school, please contact Erin Phillips at PhillipsE@aaps.org.

Graduate Student Deadlines: Annual Meeting Awards

<p>APQ Graduate Student Symposium in Analysis and Pharmaceutical Quality May 3</p> <p>Biotec Graduate Student Symposium in Biotechnology May 3</p> <p>CS Graduate Student Symposium in Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, Drug Metabolism and Clinical Sciences May 3</p>	<p>PDD Graduate Student Symposium in Drug Delivery and Pharmaceutical Technologies May 3</p> <p>PPDM Graduate Student Symposium in Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics, Drug Metabolism and Clinical Sciences May 3</p> <p>PT Graduate Student Symposium in Drug</p>	<p>Delivery and Pharmaceutical Technologies May 3</p> <p>Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award in Pharmaceutical Technologies May 10</p> <p>Outstanding Manuscript in PharmSciTech May 17</p> <p>Postdoctoral Fellow Award May 3</p>
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New Look for VSP

The Visiting Scientist Program is currently being revamped to better assist schools in identifying scientific speakers. Redesigned into a more flexible Speakers Bureau, the program will address student needs on a timelier basis.

Instead of waiting for the biannual matching process, schools will be able to request speakers whenever they determine a need. Look for more information on the AAPS Student Center at <http://www.aapspharmaceutica.com/vsp>.

