PharmaTAP
An Engagement Program of
the School of Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences
and Purdue’s Technical
Assistance Program
In this issue of *The Purdue Pharmacist*, we are delighted to introduce you to PharmaTAP, a new engagement initiative of the School. Made possible through our recent grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., you can read about how this initiative aims to improve the safety and efficacy of medication use throughout the State of Indiana.

Our programs continue to be recognized for their excellence through varied measures. Recently, the Chronicle of Higher Education’s 2007 Top Research Universities Faculty Scholar Productivity Index placed eleven Purdue University doctoral programs in the top 10. I am pleased to share that Pharmacy was ranked third in the nation. A total of 375 universities were evaluated, and the rankings were based on measures of faculty productivity.

In November, we were delighted to present Dr. Jack Dixon, Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, as the Varro E. Tyler Distinguished Lecturer. You can read more about him in this issue of *The Purdue Pharmacist*.

In mid-March, I had the unique opportunity to attend a symposium in Hyderabad, India, to discuss advancements in bionanotechnology and pharmaceuticals at the Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology. Several Purdue researchers, as well as researchers and students from across India, attended the presentations and poster sessions. I was honored to be invited as a conference speaker, as were fellow Purdue Pharmacy colleagues Steve Byrn, Head, Department of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy, and Yoon Yeo, Assistant Professor of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy. Novel formulations, tissue engineering, and tools of nanoscience are changing our world’s health-care system, and this symposium will help foster new links and new possibilities in the next frontier of health and medicine. While in India, I had the opportunity to visit the pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities of Wockhardt Ltd., whose Chairman is Habil Khorakiwala (MS 1966), a Distinguished Alumnus of our School. I was also able to tour one of their specialty hospitals, which are Joint Commission accredited and serving a growing international patient population (including patients from the United States). The delivery of healthcare and development of pharmaceuticals are increasingly a global activity—a reality that demands our engagement on a global level.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 12th Annual BoileRx Golf Classic on June 5, 2008. This is a wonderful time for alumni and friends to come out and support the School and raise money for scholarships. If you have not yet registered for this event, there’s still time to do so and details can be found on page 4.

And lastly, I’m happy to be writing this message to you from the newly renovated Deans’ Suite made possible by a gift from Stan [BS 1955] and Char Beck. Thanks to their generosity, *The Stanley and Charlotte Beck Deans’ Suite* is nearly complete (see page 2), and I welcome you to view the transformation next time you are on campus.

Hail Purdue!

Craig K. Svensson
Dean
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Thanks to a generous gift from Stanley (BS 1955) and Charlotte Beck, construction has been underway to help ensure that the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is positioned to continue to provide leadership in the education of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists in the 21st century. Their gift has been directed at renovating the deans' offices. The transformation will no doubt provide an extraordinary first impression for the School to its visitors.

Stan and Char were high school sweethearts, and Char worked in the local pharmacy all through her high school years. It was when the couple met that Stan also became interested in pharmacy. The two eventually enrolled in pharmacy, and Char comments, “Purdue was the beginning of a great life together.” Stan’s exemplary grades allowed him to be accepted in Kappa Psi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, and Rho Chi and to graduate with honors. Aside from excelling in academics, he was a member of the Sigma Pi fraternity and sang in the Varsity Glee Club. He has always felt that the Glee Club gave him a sense of sophistication and self-assurance which are valuable to anyone’s life. He was named a Pharmacy Distinguished Alumnus in 2006. Char was a Purduette and member of the swimming team. She would have been a member of the class of 1956 had she not transferred elsewhere following Stan’s graduation.

There was one opening in pharmaceutical research at Abbott Laboratories when Stan was completing his studies, and Abbott had contacted Professor Glenn Sperandio at Purdue who recommended Stan for the position. The married couple moved to North Chicago, Illinois, where they both began work at Abbott Laboratories—Stan advancing in the executive training program, and Char beginning in radiopharmaceuticals, which was very rare for women at the time. Stan simultaneously spent eight years at the University of Chicago working on his MBA and worked evenings in a drug store. Char also worked at Abbott by day and the drug store by night. “We had nothing when we started out. We had a crazy black and white TV—only 11 inches across, half a car, and the clothes on our backs.” The Becks spent their entire careers with Abbott Laboratories—Stan retiring as Director of Global Reimbursement and Char retiring as Quality Engineer, the first woman to hold such a position.

The couple feels truly fortunate for the life they were given and for their successful careers at Abbott. They are blessed to share their good fortune with others. In 1996, five days prior to his retirement, Stan suffered a massive stroke rendering him mentally and physically incapacitated. Their lives since that fateful day—though changed in drastic measure—have been of extreme optimism. Even as Stan remains 75% paralyzed, his amazing mental powers are restored. In 2000, a new century, Stan and Char returned to their hometown of Lebanon, Indiana. There, the Becks have spearheaded programs to help redevelop the downtown area by rehabilitating a major business building and opening a downtown delicatessen. They are major contributors to Witham Hospital and a new community center, developing and managing a ‘Keep Lebanon Beautiful’ program. And they are emphatic about giving back to Purdue. “Purdue pharmacy started it all,” Char says, “and we have tried to help those who gave us a foundation to start our lives.” She believes philanthropy is truly important, and by making this gift the couple hopes they are setting a good example for others to follow.

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences extends its sincere gratitude to Stan and Char Beck for their support to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.
Dean Craig Svensson enjoys his new surroundings

Stan and Char Beck (center) surrounded by the Purduettes after a President’s Council Brunch in the fall of 2007

Charlotte Beck
**BSPS Graduate Making Strides**

ADAM J. SCOTT (BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2003) accepted the role of Team Leader, Parenteral Clinical Trial Manufacturing in Pharmaceutical Sciences R&D, with Eli Lilly and Company in January 2008. In his new role, Adam will be responsible for ensuring the timely supply of high quality parenteral drug products for clinical trials and also for operational support of the larger CT Manufacturing group.

"This promotion for Adam Scott represents one of the most noteworthy achievements for a Purdue BSPS graduate going directly into the Pharmaceutical industry to date," comments Frank Brown, Adjunct Professor of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy and former Director of the Purdue BSPS Program. "This position is a most responsible one directly ensuring the quality of current and future clinical supply of parenteral products to hospitals."

Since 2000, more than thirty Purdue Pharmacy BSPS graduates have elected employment into the United States pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Brown says that to the best of his knowledge, their careers have done well. ‘Most of them have received deserved ‘in-line’ promotions, or promotions that directly recognize their scientific and technical growth and achievements within their current positions,” he says. ‘Adam’s promotion, however, represents a bona fide promotion, which, in my experience, represents the Lilly Company’s recognition of Adam’s demonstrated skills in working with and through other people as a leader, in addition to recognition of his individual scientific and technical contributions and accomplishments.” Dr. Brown continues that all tasks in industry are completed by working within teams—with and through other people, and future leaders such as Adam are targeted early in their careers by their demonstrated ability to lead other scientists, professionals and other nonexempt associates toward common goals that are aligned with the objectives of Senior Management.

Adam began his career at Lilly in 2001 while a Purdue Pharmacy undergraduate as a Purdue Pharmacy Summer Intern in Lilly Dry Products Manufacturing Division. Since joining the Lilly organization full-time upon graduation in 2003, Adam has held positions as an Associate Pharmaceutical Chemist in Manufacturing Science & Technology involved in the startup of a new facility, as a Pharmaceutical Chemist in Freeze Drying Technology, and most recently as Parenteral Clinical Trials Manufacturing Associate and Interim Team Leader in Parenteral Clinical Trial Manufacturing. Adam is also a key member of the Purdue University Recruiting Team at Lilly.

“The Purdue BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences program provided me with a broad and deep technical foundation that has allowed me to easily communicate and work with colleagues from all parts of the business, including manufacturing, quality, engineering, formulation development and regulatory affairs,” says Adam. “I link my success directly to my BSPS education and especially the opportunity to participate in the internship program to gain early exposure to working in a cGMP team environment.”

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**Save This Date!**

**12th Annual BoileRx Golf Classic**

**June 5, 2008, at Noon**

**Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex**

The 12th annual BoileRx Golf Classic tournament will be held on Thursday, June 5, 2008, at Purdue’s Birck Boilermaker Complex. There is a Noon shotgun start. The registration form is available at [http://www.pharmacy.purdue.edu/advancement/alumni/boilerx_registration.pdf](http://www.pharmacy.purdue.edu/advancement/alumni/boilerx_registration.pdf). If you have questions, please contact Linda Yelton at (765) 494-1370 or lyelton@purdue.edu.
Garnet E. Peck Symposium

The fifth annual Garnet E. Peck Symposium entitled “Techniques for Monitoring and Controlling Pharmaceutical Processes” was held on Thursday, October 25, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Select City Centre in Lafayette.

This symposium discussed the practical statistical considerations in the use of NIR in the evaluation of blend uniformity in solid dosage formulations and the need for careful experimental design. Surface area and the functionality of powders was also treated with implications in blending. The importance of in-line monitoring of a crystallization process was presented and the clear applications of Raman spectroscopy was shown for accurately following the events. The use of high shear wet granulation to produce a product of desired characteristics was shown with the illustration of product results. Another important area for consideration was the use of spectroscopic measurements for the determination of compact hardness and density. This testing demonstrated the use of nondestructive methods for the evaluation of mechanical properties. Finally, a presentation was given on the use of NIR spectroscopy for the determination of content uniformity of tablet formulations.

Speakers and hosts gather for a photo shoot during the 5th Annual Garnet E. Peck Symposium on October 25, 2007. L to R: Jim Pazdan, Novartis; Rodolfo Romañach, U of PR-Mayaguez; Chetan Pujara (PhD 1997), Allergan; Jim Drennen, Duquesne University; Garnet Peck (MS 1959, PhD 1962), Ken Morris and Teresa Carvajal, Purdue University. Not pictured: Lynne Taylor, Purdue University
PharmaTAP partners with Purdue’s Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering (RCHE) and the Healthcare Technical Assistance Program (HTAP) to integrate faculty research capabilities and apply engineering principles to solve problems and improve performance.

RCHE is improving the efficiency, quality and accessibility of healthcare by tapping into expertise in engineering, science, management and social sciences. Launched in 2005 with a gift from the Regenstrief Foundation, the center is the only integrated university-wide effort in healthcare engineering in the nation. The mission of HTAP is to provide patients with the best care while minimizing risks and costs. HTAP specialists partner with healthcare providers on projects to redesign and optimize processes, as well as with the Purdue Technical Assistance Program (TAP). TAP has been partnering with Indiana companies for more than 20 years and has completed more than 6,600 projects throughout the state. TAP collaborates with many partners, such as the Indiana Hospital Association and RCHE, to better serve you.

It is through this joint effort that PharmaTAP can focus on its mission to improve patient safety, clinical quality, and efficiency in any setting where medications are used. Its vision is safe, efficient, quality, and reliable medication use throughout Indiana.
At this point in the patient safety journey we know patient safety research and best practices. The challenge for healthcare organizations is to implement patient safety research and best practices rapidly into a complex environment. PharmaTAP, drawing on both research and practice, is a resource that bridges that gap.

Kathryn G. Rapala, JD, RN, DNP (c)
Executive Director, Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety
Visiting Associate Professor, Purdue School of Nursing
Our Experience, Your Gain

By partnering with PharmaTAP, you can:
- Increase operational efficiency and effectiveness—Reduce wait time, delays in care, and resource waste throughout the healthcare value chain,
- Improve patient safety—Reduce potential for medication-related harm, and
- Improve clinical quality—Improve reliability of processes used to support care.

Our Expertise

As a world-class research university, Purdue offers recognized expertise in a variety of fields including biomedical engineering, communication, industrial engineering, nursing, pharmacy practice, and technology. Multidisciplinary teams are assembled from Purdue’s deep pool of research expertise and tailored to the specific interest of those seeking assistance. PharmaTAP also collaborates with other academic centers, associations, organizations, and vendors.

Our multidisciplinary expert teams:
- Recommend improvements in pharmacy operations,
- Assess compliance with regulatory standards and clinical quality measures,
- Evaluate adverse events involving medications to prevent recurrences,
- Provide onsite support to teams engaged in performance improvement,
- Offer materials to aid change in new topic areas, and
- Engage in demonstration projects and/or research to improve safe medication practices.

Our Performance Improvement Methods

We use a variety of performance improvement methodologies and tools to engage staff in redesigning and improving healthcare processes. Improved processes result in more efficient workflows, improved clinical quality and patient safety, and increased satisfaction among patients, clinicians, and staff.

Our Clients

Our clients are healthcare providers seeking pragmatic, quantitative, evidence-based, and customized solutions to improve medication practices and systems design. Clients also include the pharmaceutical industry for initiatives related to appropriate drug use, product packaging, distribution, etc.

Carol Birk named director of PharmaTAP

Carol received her BS in Pharmacy from Purdue University, MS in Pharmacy Administration from University of Wisconsin, and completed a two year administrative residency at the University of Wisconsin. Her areas of focus include: pharmacy program management and development, contemporary strategies to improve the safety and efficiency of the medication use process, medication use accreditation and regulatory standards, leadership, mentoring and organizational design, and performance improvement and measurement. She has extensive experience in hospital pharmacy practice and healthcare performance improvement. She is a former member of the Pharmacy Dean’s Professional Council and is a 1995 recipient of the Pharmacy Distinguished Alumni Award from Purdue.

To learn more about PharmaTAP, please contact Carol at (317) 275-9302 or cebirk@purdue.edu. You may also visit the PharmaTAP website at www.purdue.edu/pharmatap

“Our mission is to improve medication practices and system design to enhance safe practices,” says Birk. “Through PharmaTAP, practitioners and organizations can access Purdue’s deep pool of experts to meet the specific interests of those seeking assistance. Each engagement is unique and customized to meet needs by engaging staff to improve processes.”

Carol Birk
The mission of PharmaTAP encompasses the enhancement of medication safety across the continuum of care. As a clinical pharmacist in the critical care setting, medication safety has been an integral part of my practice and I anticipate that it will be continually enhanced through involvement and participation in focused projects led by PharmaTAP.”

Christopher M. Scott, PharmD, BCPS
(BS 1998, PharmD 1999)
Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Purdue University School of Pharmacy
Pharmacy Manager, Clinical Services
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care/Blunt
Residency Program Director, PGY1 and PGY2 - Critical Care
Wishard Health Services

Abbigail Mortier, PharmD, staff pharmacist at WHS, and Chris Scott demonstrate the routine monitoring of lab tests for high risk drugs to assure appropriate therapy.

John Watt, RPh, MS, staff pharmacist at WHS, meets with a patient at discharge to provide education about their medications and to provide the patient a complete list of their medications.
The following is reprinted with permission by the Purdue News Service; written by Elizabeth Gardner, January 14, 2008.

New pharmacy outreach program established

Purdue University has used part of a $25 million grant from Lilly Endowment to launch a program to help Indiana improve the quality and efficiency of health-care services.

The program is called PharmaTAP, and Purdue’s School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences has paired with Purdue’s Technical Assistance Program to advance several new outreach initiatives.

“PharmaTAP will not only draw from the strengths of Purdue’s top-ranked School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, but also from Purdue’s strengths in science, engineering, nursing and management,” said Craig Svensson, dean of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences. “It will improve patient safety in a variety of healthcare settings.”

The program offers health-care providers, such as hospitals, pharmacies and nursing homes, services in clinical quality, patient safety, technology application and operational performance. It also provides assistance in the optimization of pharmaceutical product packaging to ensure safe distribution and delivery, Svensson said.

“By advancing performance in these areas, we will contribute to the ongoing transformation of health care in Indiana and beyond,” he said.

Providing outreach to assist in applying technology is an important aspect of the program, he said.

“Much of health care is becoming automated, and technology is shaping the future of patient care,” Svensson said. “Technology offers possibilities for improvement in patient safety and efficiency of care. For example, the addition of bar codes to medication labels as a check on proper administration of drugs or automated dispensing for medications can help limit the possibility of human error.”

Multidisciplinary expert teams will provide onsite assessments and teach procedures to reduce medication errors. They also will investigate and evaluate instances of significant medication errors and make recommendations to prevent recurrences. In addition, PharmaTAP teams will develop and implement system solutions using performance improvement methodologies and will identify and disseminate best practices.

Carol Birk, the recently named director of PharmaTAP, said the program’s mission is to prevent patient harm by improving medication practices and system design.

“We want Indiana to be the pinnacle of safe, efficient and reliable systems to provide health care of the highest quality,” she said. “Through PharmaTAP, practitioners and institutions can access Purdue’s expertise in a variety of fields including medication safety, pharmacy practice, biomedical and industrial engineering, nursing and technology.”

Teams will be assembled from Purdue’s deep pool of research expertise and tailored to the specific interest of those seeking assistance, she said.

“In Indiana, this will be the main resource of its kind,” Birk said. “The program is different from a consulting firm because we are integrating faculty research and applying engineering principles to help our clients improve performance. Each engagement with a health-care entity will be unique and customized to their needs.”

PharmaTAP will partner with the Purdue Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering and HealthCareTAP as part of Purdue’s Technical Assistance Program.

“This program is an important component of the overall mission of TAP to strengthen the Indiana economy and improve the quality of life for Indiana citizens,” said David R. McKiniss, director of the Technical Assistance Program and Purdue’s associate vice provost for Engagement. “By making the vast resources at Purdue available to businesses in Indiana, we help improve the efficiency of services, decrease costs and improve patient safety. We position the state to grow and compete globally and to be a leader in patient care.”

Faculty will be an integral part of the program and will collaborate with health-care institutions. Purdue faculty will be able to identify trends in health care and to apply their research capabilities to solve current problems. The PharmaTAP program will allow them to take their research out to the field and implement their work in the health-care system.

“By working closely with health-care entities, Purdue’s professors will have greater exposure to the current issues and needs of the fields,” said Steven Abel, assistant dean for clinical programs and head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice for Purdue. “This practical application of research to address the challenges facing industry goes to Purdue’s fundamental nature as a land grant university.”

This also will enhance Purdue’s curriculum, as professors will be in a position to develop new courses on safety and to teach students the latest methodologies because of their work with PharmaTAP, said Abel, who also is the Bucke Professor of Pharmacy Practice.

“Students are the future leaders of health care,” he said. “Keeping students educated and informed of the latest research findings and techniques is critical to making a change in health care.”
CVS/Caremark Honors the School and Supports Pharmacy

Dean Svensson received the Outstanding Partner Award for 2006 from CVS/Caremark on April 17, 2007. On December 28, 2007, CVS presented a check for $50,000 to Dean Svensson in recognition of the School’s outstanding support, commitment, and continued dedication to the advancement of community pharmacy. The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences truly appreciates CVS for this generous gift.

Anticipated Graduation Date: December 2009
Hometown: Memphis, Tennessee
Major Professor: Dr. Joseph Thomas III
Research Interests: Health outcomes research among older adults
Post-graduation plans: To pursue a career in academia or government

“Being a graduate student in the School of Pharmacy has been a phenomenal experience. I enjoy being able to work with the faculty in order to gain valuable experience in teaching and research. This has provided me an opportunity to broaden my knowledge as it relates to the future of healthcare and how it affects the aging population. These experiences have been excellent preparation for my future career goals in academia or government.”

SIXTY SECONDS
With a Graduate Student

Lori M. Ward
BS 2000, Chemistry, Tennessee State University
MS 2006, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Florida A&M University
Doctoral Student, Department of Pharmacy Practice
(Pharmacy Administration/Gerontology)

Anticipated Graduation Date: December 2009
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Wish List
Department of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy

The Department of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy (IPPH) is widely recognized as one of the leading industrial pharmacy programs in the world. The IPPH manufacturing laboratories are used for a number of courses at the undergraduate and graduate level, as well as for the Regulatory and Quality Compliance Graduate Certificate and the MS programs, training for the FDA, and in the international cooperative programs associated with its U.S. based initiatives.

Having up-to-date laboratory equipment is critical in maintaining IPPH’s reputation as a leader in the industrial pharmacy education field. In order to have well equipped laboratories, the following are needed to replace some current equipment:

Adventurer Pro Precision Balance, Ohaus
• 210g capacity
• with GMP capacity
• Two at $1,395 each

Explorer Pro Precision Top Loading Balance, Ohaus
• 6100g capacity
• Two at $2,540 each

Screens for Stokes Oscillating Granulator
• $3,000

Tap Density Instrument
• A unit that could handle two cylinders and could be 50 or 100 ml in volume
• Vankel style
• $7,000

Small Coating Pan
• Must be eg 24” accela cota in good condition
• $150,000 (Due to the expensive nature of this machine, the Department is interested in working with prospective donors to facilitate a new or suitably used pan, or to possibly provide long term loans of a new pan for specific projects.)

For more information about how you can assist with these needs, please contact Steve Bym, IPPH Department Head, at sbym@purdue.edu.
While Suree Lee (BS 1995, PharmD 1998) was finishing her pharmacy doctorate, she felt called to help others not only by becoming a pharmacist in the United States but also by sharing her experiences with the international community.

Every year since 1999, Suree has traveled throughout Thailand, teaching and developing continuing education programs for Thai pharmacists at local hospitals and businesses. Now, she has focused her teaching at the hospital at Chiang Mai University in northern Thailand.

Each teaching trip to Thailand is usually one month long, with at least two continuous weeks of teaching workshops. Each workshop usually lasts three days, featuring three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon. “They [the Thai participants] come from 500 to 600 kilometers away. They have to spend a lot of time to participate.”

The themes of recent teaching trips have focused on two of the major clinical problems facing Thai pharmacists: high chronic renal failure rates and premature birth care. Workshops include updates on treatments and case studies based on the current U.S. guidelines and publications. Other topics discussed have been anticoagulation, infectious diseases and pharmacokinetics.

“We often, they will request workshops discussing perinatal nutrition in adults, pediatrics and neonates, as these are relatively new topics to them,” said Suree, who works in the St. Elizabeth Pharmacy in Lafayette, Indiana. “Concepts such as clinical monitoring and drug dosing in renal patients are new as well. They have little hands-on experience with these issues, and they want to gain some insight on how we practice in the U.S.”

Suree highlighted some of the experiences she has had during her workshops. When she first presented how to determine renal functions for clinical pharmaceutical applications, she was surprised to find that many Thai pharmacists had never monitored patients’ renal functions. Many drugs were administered to patients without dosing adjustments, including drugs with high toxicity and narrow therapeutic indices. Despite the pharmacists understanding the theories behind dosing adjustments and having the capability to do so, the hospital had limited staff and budget to clinically monitor patients resulting in very few pharmacists gaining experience in this area. In this sense, Thai pharmacies are about 10 years behind U.S. pharmacies in clinical practice. Years after this presentation, many patients in Thailand are now receiving lab tests for monitoring renal function three times a week, as well as necessary dosing adjustments. “Unfortunately, they...”

“When Suree Lee travels to Thailand each year, she’s just not visiting. She’s helping, teaching, and healing others.”
don’t have the staff and clinical experience, but three days of lab draws compared to none is a massive improvement,” comments Suree.

Another major problem in Thai hospitals is that there are a large number of premature babies born due to the high poverty level and lack of prenatal care. In Thailand, the average length of stay for a 27-week-old premature baby in the neonatal hospital is 11 months. “They often underfeed the babies because it is difficult to increase caloric intake without increasing dextrose concentrations in parenteral nutrition formulas. They don’t have experience in using insulin drips in these patients like we do here.”

“I heard they started using insulin for the neonate population last year. Every year I go back and see some improvements, but being there makes me appreciate what we have here,” Suree says. “We really take it for granted what we have here.”

Estimating calorie requirements and monitoring the nutritional needs of adult and neonatal patients have been the focus of several past workshop sessions. This past year’s workshop included advice on monitoring patients and pharmaceutical care [chart reviewing and therapeutic indices of selected drugs], and the pharmacists will start reviewing charts for high-risk admission patients i.e. patients over 60 years old or patients with renal failure, pediatrics, and neonates.

Last year, Suree was honored with an invitation to speak to the Thai Ministry of Health. The focus of her presentation was shaped by her experiences and discussions with many Thai pharmacists. Unlike the U.S., the Thai government pays for all health care costs for Thai citizens. There is concern from local pharmacists that some of the current health policies are not having positive effects, particularly in providing proper care and training. “There are concerns for the health budget, and there is not enough money for simple blood draws – which many times aren’t done to begin with,” said Suree. In her presentation to the Ministry of Health, Suree stressed the need for a change in budget for simple treatments, such as blood draws, as well as emphasized the importance of medication safety in pharmacies.

The continuing education program is funded by the Thailand Ministry of Education and the Department of Pharmaceutical Care at Chiang Mai University. Chiang Mai University Hospital is a 2,000 bed hospital that sees an average of 2,500 inpatients and 1,100 outpatients daily. Their pharmacy makes on average 150 chemotherapies and 25 doses of neonatal nutrition formulas a day. The hospital staff consists of up to 22 pharmacists whose average salaries are $600 a month each.

Although she dislikes the lengthy 24 hour flight covering 10,000 miles, Suree enjoys the challenges and rewards of her experiences in Thailand and plans to continue her collaboration with the pharmacists at Chiang Mai University.

“I feel really good about making a difference. I feel very useful, and I learn a lot, too. I believe I received a lot of insight on how they practice. The time when you choose to stop teaching and exchanging ideas is when you stop learning. This experience has been one of the highlights of my career. As a pharmacist, the best reward is to see improvements in your patients as the result of your work. I’ve been very fortunate at both my hospital at home and at hospitals abroad to have such opportunities.”

Suree—who is fluent in Thai—returned to Chiang Mai in January 2008 where they ironically describe her as having a strange accent. Suree was born in Bangkok, Thailand—where her parents still reside—and was raised in Singapore. She came to the U.S. with her two children in 1986. She graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a bachelor’s of science in health sciences and finished her pharmacy degree (BS 1995) and doctorate in pharmacy (PharmD 1998) at Purdue University.

SuperValu Pharmacies graciously donated a supply of flu vaccines to the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences for nursing students to use at the Family Health Clinic in Carroll County. SuperValu also hosted a luncheon on February 1, 2008, in the Hook Drug Student Lounge. All faculty, staff and students were invited to drop in and have sandwiches, chips and soft drinks. Many thanks are extended to Steve Keen (BS 1981), a SuperValu recruiter, for helping arrange the vaccine donation.

Pharmacy Alumni Coffees

"Pharmacy Alumni Coffees...Life After Class" was designed to allow PharmD students and pharmacy alumni to meet and interact. These sessions were sponsored by the Purdue Pharmacy Alumni Association (PPAA), thus allowing the students to learn about this association. The co-authors of this project, Paula Opheim and Kristin Frost, served as fourth professional year student representatives to the PPAA Board. Jane Krause, Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice, and Dana Neary, Manager of Alumni Relations and Special Events, assisted with the organization of this project.

Alumni of various schools of pharmacy were invited to speak in PHPR 100: Pharmacy Orientation during the fall 2007 semester. Prior to class, guests attended a one-hour coffee with second and third professional year students. Two to three alumni interacted with the students at each session, and the sessions included a brief biography and introduction of each alum followed by a question and answer period. Five coffees were held throughout the semester, and the sessions allowed the students to ask questions and learn about career opportunities, clerkship rotations, and interviewing, as well as the PPAA. Some of the students who attended the coffees commented that they enjoyed the "relaxed, non-classroom atmosphere" and the "unique opportunity to learn about various practices of pharmacy." Students also appreciated the advice on interviews, networking and resume tips, as well as the midday snack. The alumni participants agreed that the setting provided an informal backdrop where the discussion was derived from student driven questions.

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences extends its sincere thanks to the following individuals who took the time to share their experiences with our students at the coffees and in the classroom: Kwadwo Amankwa, Heidi Anksorus, Mark Bunton (BS 1995), April Fry Hegg (BS 1988, PharmD 1995), Anna Markel, Pamela Ringor (BS 1997; MS 1994, Management), Ron Rosich (BS 1981), Edward Sheridan, Laura Smith (PharmD 2007), Deborah Vanerka (BS 1994), and Kara Duncan Weatherman (PharmD 1994).
The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences was pleased to present Dr. Jack E. Dixon as the Varro E. Tyler Distinguished Lecturer on November 1-2, 2007. The Tyler Distinguished Lectures Series was established to honor Dean Varro E. Tyler for his 20 years of dedication to the School and his impact on the profession when he was promoted to Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs in 1986. The two lectures presented were titled “Protein Phosphatases: Their Roles in Signal Transduction and Disease” and “Bacterial Pathogens: Hijacking Signal Transduction Pathways.”

Dr. Dixon is the Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He received his BA degree from UCLA and PhD in Chemistry from UC Santa Barbara. After postdoctoral study at UCSD, he began his independent career at Purdue in 1973, joining the Biochemistry faculty, where he rose through the ranks and in 1986 was appointed the Harvey W. Wiley Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry. In 1991, he left for the University of Michigan to accept the chair of the Department of Biological Chemistry and was appointed to the Minor J. Coon Professorship. He was named Co-director of the Life Sciences Institute at Michigan in 2001. In 2003, he moved to the University of California, San Diego, where he was the Dean of Scientific Affairs and Professor of Cellular and Molecular Medicine and Professor of Pharmacology.

He has brought a strong chemical background and expertise in biochemistry and molecular biology to his research investigations. Early in his career, he was a leader in research on the biosynthesis and post-translational processing of polypeptide hormones. In the late 1980s, Dixon’s laboratory turned its attention to the recently discovered protein tyrosine phosphatases (PTPases). His laboratory has been a pioneer in the structure and function of PTPases, as well as determining many of their roles in signal transduction. He discovered the first dual-specificity phosphatase, which led to the identification of the cell cycle protein, P80cdc25, as a phosphatase. He also showed that the bacteria responsible for the plague or “black death” harbor the most active PTPase ever described. Recent studies have uncovered novel molecular aspects of Yersinia infectivity that he now has extended to plants and plant symbionts.

Dr. Dixon has received many awards, including the Michigan Distinguished Faculty Leadership Award in Biomedical Research, the National Institutes of Health MERIT Award, the Lions Award for Cancer Research, and the William C. Rose Award and the Merck Award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences.

Jack E. Dixon
Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer
Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Tyler Distinguished Lecture Series
Ken Morris (L) and Steve Nail (PhD 1975) (R)

On November 11, 2007, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences annual meeting began with a Purdue Alumni and Friends reception held in San Diego, California. The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences recognized Drs. Ken Morris and Steve Nail. Ken Morris, Director of Graduate Programs and Associate Head of the Department of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy, was honored as an AAPS Fellow. Steve Nail, Adjunct Professor of the Department of Industrial and Physical Pharmacy, was recognized by AAPS for his lifetime research achievements.

In November of 2007, Alan Zillich (BS 1998, PharmD 1999), Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, received a Research Career Development Award by the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs through the V.A. Health Services Research and Development Division. This competitive, peer-reviewed national program will provide grant support for three years to further develop his career as a research scientist. During that time, he will hold a dual appointment with the Roudebush V.A. Medical Center in Indianapolis as a research scientist for the Center for Excellence in Implementing Evidence-Based Practices. This opportunity allows him to refine and learn new research skills, as well as complete a project in his own area of interest—pharmacy services.

Jean-Christophe Rochet

Jean-Christophe (Chris) Rochet obtained his PhD degree in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Alberta (Edmonton, Canada) in 1998. His thesis research focused on the catalytic mechanism and folding properties of the mitochondrial enzyme CoA transferase. He was eager to carry out postdoctoral research on a medically relevant protein folding problem, and at the time, it was clear that Alzheimer’s disease (AD) was a protein misfolding disorder. He contacted Dr. Peter Lansbury, a leading researcher in the AD field, who then invited Chris to join his new initiative in another protein misfolding disorder, Parkinson’s disease (PD). From 1999-2002, Chris worked with Dr. Lansbury in the Department of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, and his postdoctoral research was supported by fellowships from the Human Frontier Science Program Organization and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. While working in the Lansbury lab, Chris became familiar with PD, not only in terms of the underlying disease mechanisms in the brain, but also in terms of the emotional toll of the disease on patients and their families. “As a result of this experience,” he says, “I felt committed to continuing to work on PD when I launched my own research program at Purdue.” He joined the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at Purdue University as an assistant professor in the fall of 2002. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in May 2008.

PD is a neurodegenerative disorder characterized by the loss of dopaminergic neurons from the substantia nigra of the brain. The loss of neurons in the brains of PD patients may be caused by harmful clusters or ‘aggregates’ of α-synuclein, an abundant protein in the central nervous system. α-Synuclein undergoes chemical modifications at different sites along the protein chain, and some of these changes are thought to stimulate the formation of toxic aggregates.

When asked what interests him most about his research, Chris comments it is the idea that there are many types of errors in the cell that lead to PD. For example, mutations in eight genes (encoding very different proteins) have been found to cause rare, early-onset forms of PD. This suggests that the health of neurons in the brain depends on a complex, integrated network of proteins that somehow interact with each other. If any one of these proteins fails, then the whole network is affected, and neurons die as a result. “If we can understand why each member of the network is important, then we can develop strategies to improve the function of all of the members simultaneously,” he says.

“This type of ‘multipronged’ therapeutic approach could then be used to treat all forms of PD, including variants of the disease arising from different mutations and even non-genetic forms of the disease.”

One of the projects in Chris’s research group (recently funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation) aims to understand why the protein α-synuclein, which is normally involved in regulating neuronal signaling, undergoes a ‘gain of toxic function’ and becomes harmful in PD. By characterizing changes to the protein sequence
that promote conversion of the protein to harmful aggregates, one can determine which modifications of α-synuclein are involved in dopamine neuron death in PD. "This project is relevant to the treatment of PD because it focuses on identifying new ways to prevent dopamine neuron killing by α-synuclein," says Chris. "Many of the chemical modifications explored in our study are carried out by enzymes, which means that we may be able to prevent harmful changes to the α-synuclein sequence by developing inhibitors that block the undesired enzyme activity."

His lab is also investigating cellular protective mechanisms that help prevent the death of neurons in PD. The cellular protective proteins that he’s focusing on include antioxidant proteins, which suppress oxidative stress (a characteristic problem of neurons that die in the brains of PD patients), and molecular chaperones, specialized proteins that prevent the aggregation of other proteins such as α-synuclein. One of the protective proteins being studied, DJ-1, has both antioxidant and chaperone activities. "If DJ-1 function can be boosted," Chris says, "then it may be possible to slow the death of neurons in PD."

"Ultimately, our goal is to identify small molecules that inhibit harmful mechanisms leading to cell death (such as α-synuclein aggregation) or molecules that enhance the normal protective responses in the cell (such as antioxidant and chaperone responses)," says Chris. "In addition to drug candidates that we’re studying in collaboration with other groups in academia and industry, we’re testing molecules present in our diets, including flavonoids in blueberry extracts."

Concerning working with the students in his laboratory, Chris enjoys interactions that involve troubleshooting and sorting out problems. "Much of one’s time in science is spent trying to understand why an experiment didn’t work as expected, but when the students and I are able to put our heads together and figure out these problems, it’s a tremendously satisfying experience." He also enjoys witnessing the students’ excitement about important discoveries in the lab, and seeing them develop to the point where they take ownership of their projects and initiate new research directions that he hadn’t anticipated.

All in all, the research conducted in Chris’s laboratory is beneficial because it may lead to new drugs to treat PD. At present, there are no drugs to stop the underlying death of neurons in the disease. Rather, current drugs merely help alleviate the symptoms. If we can discover ways to slow the underlying cell death in PD, then we may enable patients to live relatively normal lives for longer periods, with less deterioration in their motor abilities. Chris suggests, "Not only would such therapies relieve the emotional burden on patients and their families, but it would also help alleviate the staggering costs of health care for the increasing numbers of patients with PD (and other diseases such as AD) as our population continues to age."

Chris is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, American Chemical Society, Society for Neuroscience, and Sigma XI. His recent honors include a New Investigator Award from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, a Melvin Yahr Fellowship from the International Federation of Parkinson’s Disease, and a Young Investigator Award from the American Academy of Nanomedicine. Outside the scientific and academic arenas, he enjoys participating in a number of sports, including windsurfing, skiing, and swimming, although most of his time now is spent with his wife, Joanne, as they run after their two-year old son, Liam. He is a lifelong Red Sox fan and enjoys visiting art museums around the world.
Pharmacy Days Career Fair

Pharmacy Days is a highly focused series of events for Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences students and employers. The Career Fair, held on November 7, 2007, is open to pre-Pharmacy, pre-BSPS, BSPS, and Pharmacy students, allowing them to access employment information for internships, residencies, full-time positions, and career exploration. The Career Fair is followed by two days of interviewing for summer and full-time opportunities.

Pharmacy Days Yields More Than Just Jobs and Internships

It’s not uncommon to see students walking around with trinkets from the Career Fair. Kroger, a corporate sponsor of the School and Career Fair, handed out a variety of college student munchies. Jackie Jimerson, Director of Multicultural Programs, was so intrigued with the Mac & Cheese last year that students pulled the boxes from their bags to “donate” to Ms. Jimerson. Jaclyn Jeffries, Pam Mullen, and Lindsey Stoeckinger surprised her with an armload of Mac & Cheese at the conclusion of the Career Fair this year. We hope you put it to good use, Ms. J!
ASHP Meeting Reception

The Venetian in Las Vegas, Nevada, was the setting for the annual Purdue Pharmacy Alumni and Friends reception at the ASHP mid-year meeting on December 2, 2007. Over 200 alumni and friends of the Purdue School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences attended the reception. Dean Craig Svensson welcomed everyone and gave a brief School update. Dr. Steve Abel introduced our new Pharmacy Practice faculty. Several faculty and students interacted with our alumni. Door prizes were won by Grace Voight and Teresa Gentry. The ASHP Summer Meetings will be held in Seattle, Washington, from June 8-11, 2008.

AAPS Meeting Reception

On November 11, 2007, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences annual meeting began with a Purdue Alumni and Friends reception held in San Diego, California. Over one hundred Pharmacy alumni and friends attended the reception at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina, where Dean Craig Svensson gave welcoming remarks and shared information about the exciting things happening in the College. The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences recognized Drs. Ken Morris and Steve Nail [see Faculty News, page 16]. Door prizes were awarded out and food, fun and fellowship were enjoyed by all.
Donald Shaavel (BS 1948) writes that he just turned 80 years old (but young at heart), has been married 55 years, and has lived in beautiful Palm Springs, CA, for the past 40 years. He still works part-time after having owned his own pharmacy for 30 years. This past November, he and his family traveled back to Purdue for the 100th anniversary of the band where he and 502 other alumni members marched on campus and performed at the football game. He shares that it was a wonderful experience and that he also enjoyed visiting the pharmacy building and meeting some of the students.

Jennifer (Zimpfer) DeWees (BS 1989, PharmD 1990) has been elected as president of the Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP) for the 2007 calendar year. She will have administrative responsibility for the departments of Pharmacy, Radiology, Pathology, and Rehab Services in her new role.

James Fuller (BS 1986, PharmD 2004) was recently appointed to the position of Vice President for Clinical Support Services at Wishard Health Services in Indianapolis. He previously served as director of the Wishard Pharmacy Department. He will have administrative responsibility for the departments of Pharmacy, Radiology, Pathology, and Rehab Services in his new role.

Jim Lile (BS 1989, PharmD 1990) has been elected as president of the Michigan Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP) for the 2009 calendar year.

Gilberto and Jennifer (Franke) Cruz (PharmD 1998) welcomed a new baby girl on November 30, 2007. Angelica Noelle joins the students. Without Borders” as a pharmacist in China. The nature of the project is another humanitarian mission with “Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders” as a pharmacist in China. The nature of the project is TB-HIV and MDR-TB.

Jill (Dyer) Karrer (BS 1997) and her husband, Aaron, welcomed their first child, Elise Kathleen, into the world on January 14, 2008. She weighed 6 lbs 10 oz.

Phillip and Betsy (Bickert) Poon (PharmD 1994) (mobak@comcast.net) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Colin Andrew, on February 8, 2007.

Debra (Dabrowiak) Ross (BS 1991) writes that after 16 years as a staff nuclear pharmacist, she is excited to share her knowledge in a new position as Pharmacy Training Manager at Coviden Ltd. for 37 nuclear pharmacies across the U.S. To accept this promotion, she returned to full-time work after 4 1/2 years working part-time.

Stacey (Wolsing) Bane (PharmD 2005) and her husband, Greg, welcomed their first child on October 3, 2007. His name is Devin Isaac, and he weighed 7 lbs 8 oz and was 21 inches long.

Sarah and Dan Cleveland (PharmD 2003) (clevelanddaniel@hotmail.com) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Ann, on July 29, 2007. She weighed 6 lbs 1 oz and was 20 inches long.

Wendy (Bricklemeyer) Cox (PharmD 2001) writes that after spending three months living in Kinsale, Ireland, for her husband Brian’s (BS 1998, Chemical Engineering) job, she and her family returned home in time to prepare for and welcome their newest member. Julia Shannon was born on October 29, 2007, weighing 7 lbs 3 oz. Big sister Audrey (2 1/2 ) is very proud.


Jeanelle (Ford) Lucas (PharmD 2002) and her husband, Michael (BS 2000, Mechanical Engineering), recently moved from Michigan to Ohio where she is now a stay-at-home mom to Sadie, born on August 7, 2007.

Karen McGill (PharmD 2006) completed a residency at Aurora HealthCare in 2007. She was elected as President of the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) for 2007-08. The organization states that “IPSF is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy students with the aim to promote improved public health through provision of information, education, networking as well as a range of publications and professional initiatives. Founded in London in 1949, IPSF currently represents 350,000 pharmacy students and recent graduates from over 70 countries worldwide.”

Brian Schuck (PharmD 2002) (bschuck@charter.net) writes that he is entering his fifth year as a District Manager for Kmart Pharmacy. He was District Manager of the Year in 2007 for the Central Division.

Jason Singer (PharmD 2003) and his wife, Angela (BS 2001, Education), have a new Boilermaker in the family. On February 4, 2008, the couple was blessed with their first child, a little girl named Isabelle Anne. She weighed 7 lbs 5 oz and was 21 inches long.

Alison Wong (PharmD 2000) (foshenemytoin@hotmail.com) shares that she is on her way to embark on another humanitarian mission with “Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders” as a pharmacist in China. The nature of the project is TB-HIV and MDR-TB.
Richard H. Beaulieu (BS 1978) passed away in September of 2007. He was employed as Director of Pharmacy at Dukes Memorial Hospital in Peru, IN.

Edward Marcisz II (BS 1978) from Whiting, IN, passed away in September of 2007 at the age of 52. He worked a loyal 29 years at St. Catherine’s Hospital in East Chicago, IN. He is survived by his pharmacist siblings Joseph Marcisz (BS 1976, PharmD 1988) and Jan Keresztes (BS 1974 PharmD 1982), as well as his niece, Jennifer Keresztes (PharmD Candidate 2010).

Allen Eugene “Gene” Crum (BS 1950), an Indianapolis native, passed away on January 18, 2008. He served as a regent of Kappa Psi and was a member of the Alumni Association, John Purdue Club, and President’s Council.

After graduating from Purdue, he served with the U.S. Navy in the Korean War and retired from the naval reserve in 1963 with the permanent rank of LTSG. He began working for Eli Lilly and Company in 1955 and retired in 1992. During his time at Lilly, he worked in the medical division, serving as a salesman, clinical contact trainee, clinical research coordinator for the Eastern Region of the U.S., and as a medical plans manager, responsible for assembling new drug applications.

Gene was passionate about civic involvement and served on a number of local and national boards. He was most passionate about the Boy Scouts of America. He was an Eagle Scout, and served on the Board of Directors for the Crossroads of America Council. He was Chairman for Cub Scouting and an Executive Committee member for the East Central Region, as well as a member of the National Executive Committee and National Committee for Cub Scouting.

He was married to Mary Ann Hornaday from 1953 until her death in 1999. They had three daughters and six grandchildren. In 2001, he married Phyllis Ballere Fine. He enjoyed playing golf, reading, and traveling. He was a member of the John Purdue Club, R.B. Stewart Society, and an ardent supporter and friend of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

In Memoriam

UPDATE YOUR INFO:

Moved?
Started a new job?
Retired?
Just Married?
Had a baby?

Share your news with us by completing the online form at http://alumni.pharmacy.purdue.edu/index_form.shtml.

OR

MAIL TO: School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
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We encourage you to update your contact information so we can continue to keep you informed about the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. You will be given the opportunity to advise us whether or not to share your news in The Purdue Pharmacist. Class Notes only reports those events that have actually occurred; this precludes engagements and pregnancies. We also do not report divorces, and we reserve the editorial discretionary veto. If you would like to submit a photograph (i.e., wedding and baby portraits), please mail them to the above address or email them to the Editor; they will be used based on appropriateness and space availability and will not be returned. Please direct Class Notes inquiries to Amy Chandler, Editor, at chandler@purdue.edu.
Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis has a new challenger, a center in the Purdue Research Park that on Tuesday (December 11, 2007) became the sole North American producer of a potent antibiotic.

The drug, Seromycin®, had been developed earlier by Eli Lilly and Co., which, in turn, gave the park’s Chao Center for Industrial Pharmacy & Contract Manufacturing the exclusive rights to manufacture, distribute and sell the drug. Lilly had been producing the drug until now.

The Chao Center is among the first university-affiliated organizations to receive commercial rights to an existing pharmaceutical product and then actually manufacture it, Purdue President France A. Córdova announced Tuesday (Dec. 11) at a lunch with Indianapolis business leaders. The partnership is part of a humanitarian effort to produce and manufacture a needed drug in smaller quantities that can’t be produced in a cost-effective way by larger pharmaceutical companies.

Part of the agreement gives Purdue pharmaceutical sciences students the opportunity to work at The Chao Center and learn how to produce drugs under the strict guidelines set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. When they graduate, they then have the advanced skills that are needed for the pharmaceutical sector, which is a focus area for the Indiana economy.

Under the agreement, Lilly provides The Chao Center with the intellectual property and associated analytical, regulatory, quality and technical support, including all necessary and related regulatory materials. Lilly also has agreed to donate equipment and supplies to the Purdue Research Foundation, The Chao Center’s parent organization, which will be used to support the Seromycin® manufacturing process. In turn, the center will make the prescription drug available to pharmaceutical wholesalers in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands for distribution to pharmacies.