



Pharma News

SUPPORTING PHARMACY TEACHING AND

RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Neal Davies begins term as Dean with big ideas, ambitious plans

By Lisa Thomson Stifora

After spending years abroad in Australia and the United States, the Faculty of Pharmacy's new Dean, Dr. Neal Davies, has returned to his prairie roots. The great-great-nephew of the Canadian Pacific Railway superintendent who brought the CPR to Winnipeg, Davies has big plans to steer the Faculty of Pharmacy into new territory.

Following his pharmacy training and PhD work in Alberta, Davies took a position as a lecturer at the University of Sydney in 1998. In 2002, he moved his family back to North America and joined Washington State University's College of Pharmacy. He held several positions there that helped prepare him for his new role in Manitoba, directing the Pharmaceutical Sciences Graduate Program, Professional and Undergraduate Research, and the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. He was also instrumental in boosting the college's research profile and the recruitment and retention of outstanding students and faculty.

Today, Davies is ready to get to work on enhancing Manitoba's Faculty of Pharmacy. Having spent his first few months meeting with students, faculty, staff and alumni, he says, "The program is in great shape. However, I think we can make things better and that's what I hope to do."



To that end, Davies will embark on a tour of Manitoba's pharmacies, establish a distinguished alumni award, and set forth a new strategic plan that will dovetail with Manitoba's anticipated new Pharmaceutical Act.

The Manitoba tour will kick off in January 2012 when Davies leaves the Apotex Centre to, he says, "go out on the front lines and meet with alumni and members of the pharmaceutical community to thank them for their support and encourage their continued involvement with the faculty."

CONTINUED on Page 2

What's in our

WINTER 2012 ISSUE

<i>Manitoba hosts Canadian Research Conference</i>	2
<i>New Faculty and Staff</i>	3
<i>Research News</i>	3
<i>Outstanding Teacher Awards</i>	4
<i>New students take first steps in pharmacy career.</i>	5
<i>Donor Honour Roll</i>	6
<i>Donor Profile: MPhA</i>	7
<i>Preceptor of the Year Awards</i>	8



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Neal Davies... continued from p.1

Davies plans to visit each and every one of Manitoba's 370 pharmacies. The tour will have a modern twist in the form of a new web site that will allow you to follow the Dean's progress via blog posts and see photos from his visits.

One topic that will surely be part of those visits is the new Distinguished Alumni Award for the Pillars of Pharmacy, which will have its inaugural presentation in fall 2012. "We have such great alumni," says Davies. "As a faculty I think we need to acknowledge their important contributions."

The highly anticipated release of the new Manitoba Pharmaceutical Act will also be top of mind as Davies visits with the community. It will certainly be part of the faculty's new strategic plan that will be shared with the community in 2012.

That plan will address the future of the Faculty of Pharmacy. It will ensure, says Davies, that, "we in the Faculty of Pharmacy will be ready to provide the education necessary for the profession to advance pharmaceutical care in Manitoba in the 21st Century."

To learn more about the Dean's Tour, schedule a visit at your pharmacy or submit a nomination for the Distinguished Alumni Award for the Pillars of Pharmacy, contact the faculty at (204)474-9306 or pharmacy@umanitoba.ca.



(Left to right): Dr. Silvia Alessi-Severini, 2011 CPERC Chair; Dr. Lavern Vercaigne, then-Acting Dean; The Honourable Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health; and Dr. Lalitha Raman-Wilms, AFPC President.

Manitoba hosts Canadian Pharmacy Education and Research Conference

This June, the Faculty of Pharmacy hosted the 2nd Canadian Pharmacy Education and Research Conference (CPERC), entitled "Pharmacy at The Forks: Education and Research Coming Together." Held in conjunction with the 68th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada (AFPC), the conference assembled pharmacy educators and researchers from across the country.

"As the Chair of this year's CPERC I was happy to be able to offer an important conference program dealing with the exciting changes occurring in pharmacy education," says conference Chair Dr. Silvia Alessi-Severini.

Manitoba's Minister of Health, the Honourable Theresa Oswald, kicked off the conference, bringing greetings at the opening reception. The Minister's greetings, Dr. Alessi-Severini says, "coincided with the announcement of the hiring of more pharmacists in the Province's emergency rooms."

The conference was packed with excellent sessions. Manitoba's Dr. Ruby Grymonpre chaired a session on interprofessional education and Dr. John Gilbert of the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative added to that topic with his keynote address: "IPE: six questions and two wicked problems." Acting Associate Dean (Academic) Dr. Sheryl Zelenitsky chaired a session on AFPC new educational outcomes, curriculum mapping and program evaluation while Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association President Dr. Shawn Bugden led a satellite event at the Faculty of Pharmacy that looked at pharmacy vaccine administration and patients' safety initiatives. Then-Acting Dean Dr. Lavern Vercaigne also chaired a session, which focussed on integrating basic sciences into new pharmacy curricula.

Pharmaceutical research was also showcased at the conference. A poster session that featured work from researchers at each of Canada's pharmacy faculties gave presenters the opportunity to share and discuss their research findings with colleagues from all across the country. Later, national award winners presented their research in a special session on the second day of the program.

Attendees enjoyed a closing awards dinner at the Forks Market, where guests enjoyed a taste of Manitoban food and hospitality while celebrating the achievements of all national winners, including two of Manitoba's students, Yining Li and Samaa Alrushaid.

New Faculty and Staff

The Faculty of Pharmacy is pleased to announce the following new faculty and staff appointments.



Drena Dunford joined the faculty in August 2011 as a full-time clinical instructor. She earned a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in 1999 from the University of Waterloo, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 2003 from the University of Toronto. Her career as a pharmacist has included positions in Winnipeg at Shoppers Drug Mart and the primary care medical clinic located on 17 Wing, Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg. Dunford obtained the status of Certified Diabetes Educator in 2008.

Grace Frankel

joined the Faculty of Pharmacy in September 2011 as a part-time pharmacy practice instructor. In 2009, Frankel earned her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Manitoba. She then worked for a year in community practice at Rexall. Frankel currently works at St. Boniface Hospital in neonatal intensive care in addition to her faculty position. She is working towards a Doctorate of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto where her primary interests are infectious disease and cardiology.



Dr. Harris Iacovides became a full-time assistant professor in July 2011. Dr. Iacovides completed the majority of his academic training at the University

of Manitoba, obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology in 1999, Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 2003 and Master of Science in Pharmacy in 2006. He obtained his PharmD at the University of Toronto in 2010. Dr. Iacovides was an instructor

for the undergraduate clinical courses with the Faculty of Pharmacy last year.

Sheila Ng joined the Faculty of Pharmacy in August 2011 as a part-time pharmacy practice instructor. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Manitoba in 2004. After graduation, Ng was licensed with the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia, practicing with Shoppers Drug Mart in Powell River, BC. Ng looks forward to continuing her community practice in Winnipeg.



Sonal Purohit

joined the Faculty of Pharmacy in September 2011 as a part-time pharmacy practice instructor. Purohit earned a Bachelor of Pharmacy

from the University of Manitoba in 2001 and has since worked as a community pharmacist with Shoppers Drug Mart Kildonan Place, where she is Pharmacist Owner. Purohit received the Young Leadership Award in 2003 and an Outstanding Pharmacy Practice Recognition in 2005.

Lisa Zhang joined the faculty effective June 2011 as the faculty's new Graduate Program Administrator. Zhang's most recent appointment was with the Faculty of Human Ecology and the St. Amant Research Centre where she provided assistance in data collection, preparation of reports and working with graduate students among other duties. Zhang also recently attained her Master's Degree from the University of Manitoba.



Tenure and Promotions

Dr. Silvia Alessi-Severini was granted tenure effective July 1, 2011.

Dr. Hope Anderson was promoted from assistant to associate professor effective March 30, 2011.

Research News

Hope Anderson was awarded a CIHR grant for a total of \$357,492 over 3 years for her grant entitled "Protective signaling by PPARs in cardiac hypertrophy."

Hope Anderson was the recipient of a 2010 Merit Award in the Combination category. The award is from the University of Manitoba and the University of Manitoba Faculty Association.

Emmanuel Ho was awarded a grant from The Dr. Paul H. T. Thorlakson Foundation Fund in the amount of \$28,000 for his research project entitled "Novel nanomedicine for the active targeting of lymphoid tissue."

Mike Namaka was awarded a grant from Pfizer Canada Inc. in the amount of \$99,991 for his research project entitled "Effect of pregabalin on pain behaviours in rat sciatic nerve axotomy model."

Graduate Studies Profile

The Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba has developed an outstanding reputation for research and scholarship. Since 1962, we have built a proud tradition of preparing graduate students for their careers and helping them to become outstanding alumni.

The faculty is home to world-class laboratories, equipment and facilities. Our research programs are well-funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and industry.

Our 113 alumni – 82 Master's of Science and 31 PhDs – have gone on to become academic leaders and faculty members at pharmaceutical and medical schools throughout North America and enjoy successful careers in the pharmaceutical industry and pharmacy practice.

Today, the faculty is home to 18 graduate students from around the world, including Canada, USA, China, India, Kuwait, Nigeria and Libya. Their research covers pharmaceutical, clinical and social sciences; it encompasses the discovery, design, synthesis, mechanism of action, delivery and the fate of drugs, to the dispensing of pharmaceuticals and health care advice, clinical patient care and optimization of pharmacotherapy and pharmaco-economic and pharmaco-epidemiological aspects of pharmacy and health services management and policy.

*For more information about graduate programs in the Faculty of Pharmacy at University of Manitoba, please visit our web-site:
umanitoba.ca/faculties/pharmacy/programs/graduate_program.*

Outstanding Teacher Awards 2011

The Faculty of Pharmacy is pleased to announce the Outstanding Teacher Award recipients for 2011. These dedicated teachers were selected by their students to receive this honour. The awards for years one through three were presented by the Dean at this year's White Coat Ceremony; the Bristol-Myers Squibb Award was presented at June's graduation ceremony.



Outstanding Teacher 1st Year: Dr. Dennis Cote



Outstanding Teacher 2nd Year: Kristine Petrasko



Outstanding Teacher 3rd Year: Chris Louizos



Bristol-Myers Squibb Award (for Outstanding Teacher 4th Year): Dr. Lavern Vercaigne

Calling all alumni!

Plan your reunion today.

The Manitoba Pharmacy Annual Conference is coming up this spring and offers a wonderful opportunity to reunite with old classmates.

Hitting a milestone anniversary? Plan a reunion to celebrate with the help of our Alumni Relations Office!

Contact Tammy Holowachuk, Reunion and Special Events Officer at (204) 474-6455 or holowac@cc.umanitoba.ca to get started.

New students take first steps in pharmacy career

Fifty-five first-year University of Manitoba pharmacy students took their first steps toward becoming pharmacists on September 26, 2011 during the annual White Coat Ceremony and Student Recognition event.

The White Coat Ceremony is a highly symbolic, tradition-filled event that culminates with each student receiving a new white lab coat that symbolizes their entry into the pharmacy profession. Students then stand and recite the "Pledge of Professionalism" in which they promise to show compassion and respect throughout their careers and to set worthy examples in the application of humanistic principles.

New Dean of Pharmacy Dr. Neal Davies hosted the ceremony, welcoming students and guests. Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association Registrar Ron Guse was the guest speaker. He advised students that they have crossed over from being just university students and have now become responsible representatives of the pharmacy profession. He went on to say that they are now first and foremost responsible and accountable to their patients.

The outstanding accomplishments of pharmacy students and faculty were recognized as Dr. Davies and Dr. Lavern Vercaigne presented the 2010-11 student awards. Dr. Yuewen Gong then presented the summer student research awards to four students: Scott Andreson, Chelsea Huang, Jordan Nash and George Panos.

Educators were also honoured at the ceremony with the presentations of the Outstanding Teacher and Preceptor of the Year awards. Please see pages 4 and 8 for all the details about these exceptional individuals who have made significant contributions to the education of our future pharmacists this year.

The event closed with the ceremonial draping of the incoming first year students. Faculty member Dr. Harris Iacovides then led the students in the pledge of professionalism before this year's co-sticks gave closing remarks.

Alumni Award to recognize distinguished graduates

Dr. Neal Davies, Dean of Pharmacy, is pleased to announce the establishment of the Faculty of Pharmacy Pillars of the Profession Outstanding Alumni Award. The award will recognize our most outstanding alumni. The community is encouraged to send nominations via email to pharmacy@umanitoba.ca. The inaugural award will be presented at the faculty's annual White Coat and Student Recognition Ceremony in autumn 2012.

The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2012. Nominations received after this date will be considered the following year.

Each nominee must be a graduate of the University of Manitoba Faculty of Pharmacy, who has served the profession or community in such a way as to have distinguished themselves and directly or indirectly brought distinction and honour to the faculty.

Watch the Faculty of Pharmacy web site for more information to come, or if you have an urgent inquiry, contact us at (204) 474-9306 or pharmacy@umanitoba.ca.



Manitoba's incoming class of pharmacy students.

Message from Philanthropy

The fall is always an exciting time here on Bannatyne Campus; this year even more than usual as we welcomed a new Dean, Dr. Neal Davies, to the Faculty of Pharmacy.



Dr. Davies will be embarking on an ambitious campaign to meet with as many of our alumni and pharmaceutical community in Manitoba as possible. Be on the lookout for a new web page dedicated to his tour around Manitoba.

At our annual White Coat Ceremony we welcomed 55 new students. Soon, those students will join the ranks of our outstanding alumni. Beginning next year, the faculty will recognize the contributions of its alumni with the creation of the Faculty of Pharmacy Pillars of the Profession Outstanding Alumni Award.

Many of our alumni are also donors, whose contributions allow the faculty to grow and thrive. Their contributions helped us build the Apotex Centre and will help the faculty to enhance pharmaceutical practice in Manitoba and beyond. We are proud to recognize them in the honour roll.

One donor we highlight in this issue is the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association. Their cumulative gifts of more than \$1.7-million to the Faculty of Pharmacy represent the support of Manitoba's entire pharmaceutical community. Please take time to read about how their contributions have enhanced the faculty.

We are always happy to hear from our alumni and friends. If you would like to discuss what is new on campus, talk about ways to give back to your faculty, or would like to meet the new Dean, please do not hesitate to call us toll free at 1-800-330-8066 or email Ext_Rel_Bannatyne@umanitoba.ca.

Danielle Dunbar, CFRE
Acting Director of Philanthropy
External Relations on Bannatyne
Campus

Donor Honour Roll

The Faculty of Pharmacy acknowledges the generosity and support of alumni, faculty, staff, corporate partners and friends who have generously given \$5,000 or more to the Faculty of Pharmacy during their lifetime as of March 31, 2011.

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Donor Profile:

Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association

by Lisa Thomson Stifora

With total contributions to the Faculty of Pharmacy exceeding \$1.7-million, the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association (MPhA) is no ordinary donor. Indeed, the Association's gifts represent more than just one organization giving to another. Instead, they demonstrate the support of Manitoba's pharmaceutical community as a whole.

Since 1983, the members of the MPhA have voted to support the faculty through their membership fees. The amount has steadily grown over the years and today, each pharmacist contributes \$100. "It is a legacy that should make every Manitoba pharmacist proud," says MPhA president Dr. Shawn Bugden. "There is no question that this support has helped Manitoba to produce some of the best trained pharmacy graduates in the country."

The support is demonstrative of the true partnership that exists between the MPhA and the faculty. The MPhA actively participates in the Faculty of Pharmacy beyond simply making financial contributions by providing teachers for pharmacy courses such as the fourth year Current Topics class and providing representation for several faculty committees. This high level of engage-

ment with the faculty gives the MPhA a good understanding of the faculty's strengths and challenges. "There are many challenges in maintaining a quality professional entry to practice program. This support helps reduce the some of the challenges around funding and has contributed to exceptional graduates," says MPhA Registrar Ron Guse.

Dr. Bugden believes that those graduates are very important to the Association's membership, and a key reason behind their support, saying, "It is an opportunity for pharmacists to give back to the profession and provide support to the next generation of pharmacists."

Those future pharmacists receive support in numerous ways through the Association's support. The MPhA has enhanced educational offerings through funding of the Structured Practical Experiential Program (SPEP) and a student CPR course; supported faculty and instructors by funding preceptor workshops and education and professional development opportunities; improved our facilities through the purchase of additional computers and new low-temperature laboratory freezers; and supported student initiatives

such as the Winnipeg Interprofessional Student-run Health (WISH) Clinic. Together, these enhancements have contributed to our students' outstanding performance on the PEBC exams and recognition at other national events.

"The generosity of the members of the MPhA enables The Faculty of Pharmacy to advance the profession of pharmacy in Manitoba by offering students a quality integrated education and by providing important resources to faculty and researchers," says Dean of Pharmacy Dr. Neal Davies. "We are all grateful for the MPhA's continued support of our faculty.

The financial contributions provided represent an outward demonstration of an inner commitment to the profession and is a collective affirmation of the oath we all have taken as primary health professionals."

As the profession continues to grow over the coming years, expanding its scope of practice, the MPhA will continue to be an important partner for the Faculty of Pharmacy. We thank Manitoba's pharmaceutical community for their ongoing support and look forward to breaking new ground together.

"We are all grateful for the MPhA's continued support of our faculty."



Preceptor of the Year Awards 2011



The Pharmacy Team of the Year: (Left to right) Front row: Amber Schmidt, Heather Trachsel, Cathy Sabiston, Priscilla Pereira, Michael Armas. Back row: Lissa Kochie, Brendon Mitchell, Chad Leachman, Ishwar Master, Monique Yakiwchuk.

Community Preceptor of the Year: Ken Humeniuk (Shopper's Drug Mart Winnipeg Square)

Since earning his pharmacy degree in Manitoba in 2001, Humeniuk has worked with Shoppers Drug Mart. Humeniuk enjoys having pharmacy students because he learns as much from them as they do from him. Last year, Humeniuk precepted two fourth year pharmacy students both of whom nominated him for this award.



Institution Preceptor of the Year: Brendon Mitchell (HSC Children's Hospital)

Mitchell, a Manitoba pharmacy graduate, has worked with the Health Sciences Centre Pharmacy Department since 2007. He has worked in a range of areas, most recently as the Clinical Resource Pharmacist for the Pediatric Pharmacy group. Mitchell believes his success as a preceptor comes from having a plan, but also the flexibility to adapt that plan



to suit the needs of the learner. He also feels it is important to provide a safe environment where students are free to learn and make mistakes.

Pharmacy Team Award: Pediatric Pharmacy Team at HSC Children's Hospital

The Pediatric Pharmacy team is an enthusiastic group of pharmacists and technicians who work well together and teach/mentor effectively as a team. Each person has a different approach to precepting, which offers a multitude of learning opportunities.

Electives Program Preceptors of the Year: Linda Johansson and Wendy Rebeck (WSD Adult EAL Program)

Since 2008, many pharmacy students have chosen this elective site, where they teach new Canadians about our health care system and the services that Canadian pharmacists can offer. Students report their experiences to be very inspiring and rewarding, speaking highly of the guidance they receive from Johansson and Rebeck.

Johansson taught in the public school system for a number of years prior to joining the Adult EAL program, where she is now department head.

Rebeck is Resource Teacher at Sir William Osler School for the Winnipeg School Division Adult EAL Program. Like Johansson, Rebeck began her teaching career in the public school system.