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Preceptor Newsletter



Message from the Experiential Team

Hello, and welcome to the first edition of our HSC College of Pharmacy Experiential Newsletter! We are excited to use this forum to provide you as preceptors updates from our college and experiential programs and to deliver educational pearls and recognition. The fall semester is well underway, nearing its end on campus for P1-P3s, and the Class of 2021 is already at the halfway point in their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rotations. We are also excited to begin planning for the 2021-2022 IPPE and APPE year, and are in the process of collecting your availability through the end of November. We hope that this newsletter serves as an informative and helpful resource for you. In the spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving and holiday season, now and always, we are grateful to have you educating our students.

Campus News

University of North Texas Health Science Center has undergone a rebranding focus to emphasize our identity as the Health Science Center. You may see our new logo across this newsletter and on our students' white coats. While we are formally still officially named the University of North Texas System College of Pharmacy, you may see more HSC as our acronym or HSC College of Pharmacy (HSCCP) in communications moving forward as we transition to these updates.

**Welcome
Class of 2024!**



Welcome New PharmD Class (Class of 2024)

HSC College of Pharmacy is excited to welcome 103 students to the class of 2024 this fall. Students are joining us from a variety of undergraduate schools including University of North Texas main campus. Class of 2024 has hit the ground running with a mix of virtual/online learning and campus based labs this fall semester.



Preceptors of the Year 2019-2020

Fay Chan, PharmD, Medical City Fort Worth- IPPE Hospital Preceptor of the Year



Jessica Schillig, PharmD, BCPS, Medical City Fort Worth- IPPE Hospital Preceptor of the Year



Amulya Tatachar, PharmD, BCACP – APPE Faculty Preceptor of the Year



Nolan Toups, PharmD, BCPS, Medical City Arlington- APPE Preceptor of the Year



Bonnie Woody, PharmD, Tom Thumb Pharmacy- IPPE Community Preceptor of the Year



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Precepting Pearls: Lessons Learned During the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought upon far reaching challenges, especially from a healthcare/pharmacy practice and an educational delivery standpoint. These challenges have merged in experiential education as many Introductory and Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences have pivoted and restructured to ensure student, pharmacist, and patient safety coupled with a focus on practice-ready focused learning. Some rotations are fully remote or virtual, whereas some are integrated with in-person activities. Rotations that remain in-person may even look differently with reduced face-to-face patient contact, Plexiglas barriers, or restructured or removed rounding experiences. Despite these changes from “normal,” there are already takeaway precepting lessons that can be used now, and even perhaps in the future.

- **Align activities:** Some rotation activities may not be able to be completed as usual - think outside the box to work through how students can still impact patient care and learn. For example, if your facility has cut down significantly on in-person pharmacist delivered discharge education, can your student work on creating high quality patient education pamphlets instead? If your patient load allows little time for as many topic discussions as you would normally do, can the student write a “point paper” or create a robust topic handout for you to review? These are even examples of activities the students can do remotely if you have to stagger their time at your site or do a blended virtual and in-person rotation. Some rotation activity pivots may even expand the learning experience, improve your efficiency, and bring about lasting changes for the future.
- **Be flexible:** The pandemic has been a lesson in flexibility across the board, and rotations are no different. Your rotation structure may have changed, and how patient care or competencies are delivered may be transformed. That said, standards and expectations don’t have to change, but how fast you get there and what it looks like may be different. In precepting, keep in mind your goals and recognize that students are learning to practice upon graduation - your current practice may be different for you but may be realistic for what the students need to be equipped to do upon graduation.
- **Address wellbeing:** Now more than ever, it is essential to check in with our learners to see how they are doing. Change is difficult, and students may be undergoing personal struggles as well. Take time each day or week to do a wellbeing check in, even if brief, and consider infusing small snippets of wellbeing into your rotation (e.g., a lunchtime walk, ending each week with a gratitude reflection, listing things that make you happy in the morning before completing patient care activities).

It is important to note that every rotation, student, and preceptor is different. Flexibility is encouraged, and new and unique opportunities should be embraced for what works for your learning experience. Have ideas or want to brainstorm? Don’t hesitate to reach out to any HSC College of Pharmacy Experiential Faculty; we are here to help.

- Meredith Howard, PharmD, BCPS

Calendar of events

2020-2021 UNTHSC Holidays Important Dates

26
Nov, 2020 Thanksgiving*

27
Nov, 2020 Precepting availability due

24 to **01**
Dec, 2020 Jan, 2021 Winter Break

18
Jan, 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

14
May, 2021 Commencement

31
May, 2021 Memorial Day*

*=APPE students are granted 8 hours
leave from rotation for holiday

2020-2021 Remaining Rotation Block Dates

09 — **18**
Nov, 2020 Dec, 2020 Block 5

04 — **12**
Jan, 2021 Feb, 2021 Block 6

15 — **26**
Feb, 2021 Mar, 2021 Block 7

29 — **07**
Mar, 2021 May, 2021 Block 8

2021-2022 APPE and IPPE Availability

A reminder that rotation availability for the 2021-2022 APPE and IPPE year is due on November 27th, 2020. Availability may be entered in CORE ELMS or sent via email to Ms. Genika Reed at Genika.Reed@unthsc.edu. Please reach out with any questions you may have.

Student Perspective: Beyond the Mask

Like any P4 student starting on Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE) rotations, I was nervous, anxious, but all the more eager to learn and apply the knowledge I've gained from my didactic courses. My first rotation was Ambulatory Care, and it was remote due to the pandemic. Although my rotation shifted from the traditional in-clinic experience to remote at home, I promptly adapted to continue delivering my patient care through Doximity. It wasn't until I went on to my next rotation in the inpatient setting that I quickly faced a dilemma of wearing masks and how they impact communication.

Since English isn't my first language, I often have to rely on reading facial expressions and nonverbal cues to communicate with others. While we all are practicing safety by wearing masks and keeping a distance of at least 6 feet apart, this becomes a challenge to gauge people's emotions. It is also difficult to understand what people are saying due to the inability to read people's lips. In addition to challenges working with others, I especially observed the impact of wearing masks on the pharmacist-patient relationship. Some patients weren't able to understand my counseling, and I couldn't connect as well with patients through my facial expressions. After recognizing the disadvantages of wearing masks, I began to improve my communication skills by enhancing my nonverbal cues, such as nodding, using more hand gestures, and manipulating my eyebrows to express my feelings. I also worked on my tone by speaking louder, slower, and accentuating my consonants, such as "f," "sh," "th." As a result, I could see a positive transformation in my daily communication with other healthcare providers and patients.

As the pandemic remains, face masks will continue to be a requirement for practice. While APPE rotations are about developing patient care related skills, this year the importance of non-verbal communication is emphasized. It is definitely the time to learn to adjust for more effective communication. Use more words, ask more questions, enhance your tone, and be creative with your body language. And lastly, stay healthy, stay safe, and stay strong, everyone!

- ToQuyen Phan, PharmD Candidate Class of 2021

Continuing Education (CE) Programs

We are excited to share the following CE programs, free for our preceptors

Texas Pharmacy Law 2020 Update preceptor conclave recording (1.0 credit hour, TX Law, Expires 10/20/2021), available [online](#)

Naloxone and The Opioid Epidemic: Pharmacy's Impact preceptor conclave recording (1.0 credit hour, TX Pain Management, Expires 10/26/2022), , available [online](#)

Expanding Care and Improving Efficiency with Layered Learning: IPPEs, APPEs, and Beyond (1.5 credit hour, TX Preceptor, Expires 11/1/2021), available [online](#)

Certificate Programs

Open to professionals and students interested in career specialization

Drug Discovery and Development (DDD) Certificate Program

- Can be completed 100% online in 2-4 semesters (12 credits total)
- Learn more or register [here](#)

Pharmacometrics Certificate Program

- 12-month online program
- Learn more or register [here](#)