



*Volume 5, No. 3*

# theBEAT



*Monitoring the pulse of*  
**TTUHSC Amarillo**

*March 1, 2013*



## Poison Center ready for 2015 Medication Cleanout

Continuing an important community program that it started in 2009, the Texas Panhandle Poison Center (TPPC) has announced the dates for the spring round of Medication Cleanout events.

The 2015 collections will begin March 14 at the TTUHSC campus in Amarillo as a kick-off to National Poison Prevention Week (March 15-21). Additional spring collections are slated for the TTUHSC campuses in Abilene (April 11) and Lubbock (April 18). All three events will run from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Because the events require coordination between each School of Pharmacy campus, local law enforcement and various other entities, TPPC Managing Director and Assistant Professor Jeanie Jaramillo, Pharm.D., said the dates are firm.

“If you’re a student organization leader, a faculty member or a staff member that participates in scheduling other events like health fairs, volunteer days or student organization parties, we would appreciate it if you can make note of these dates so that we don’t have conflicts,” Jaramillo said. “For students, there may or may not be tests during these weeks, so I hope by providing advance notice, they can plan to study ahead so they are able to participate in these important events. We realize it’s not humanly possible to avoid all conflicts, so simultaneous, unavoidable events are likely.”

The 35 previous Medication Cleanout events have resulted in the appropriate destruction of roughly 20,229 pounds of unused, unwanted and expired medications. Jaramillo said the School of Pharmacy now has more data regarding unused medications than any other known entity in the U.S. She hopes the data will be used to drive prescribing and dispensing practice changes and to push for the ability to donate unused, tamper-sealed medications.



## Match Day Coming March 20

The 2015 Match Day for the TTUHSC School of Medicine students will take place Friday, March 20 at the Amarillo Country Club. As part of a national program, the graduating students will simultaneously open a letter containing the location of their initial residency training.

# The Keys To Knowing Everything You Should Know About

## BREAST CANCER AND MORE...

Women's Health Program

**March 7, 2015 @ 3 p.m.**

Amarillo Seventh Day Adventist Church

Women's Ministry Department

1511 S. Seminole, Amarillo

**For more information about the program, contact Elvia Sanchez  
@ 806-677-9223 or Maria Gallardo @ 806-382-8772**

- *Learn about the risk factors for breast and cervical cancer and what you can do to minimize your personal risk in an informative program*
- *Find out if you qualify for no-cost mammograms, pap tests and HPV vaccinations at today's program*
- *Get vaccinations onsite following today's program*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

City of Amarillo

Program presented by the  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at  
Amarillo, Breast Center of Excellence  
and Amarillo Public Health Department Adult  
Immunization Clinic



Breast Center of Excellence  
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## Dr. Misra Receives Melanoma Grant

Subhasis Misra M.D., from the Department of Surgery was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health to study melanoma. The question he will be trying to answer: "Are there gender based differences in how patients with surgically treated cutaneous melanoma actively follow skin protection guidelines and modify their behavior with regard to skin care?"



*Laura W. Bush*  
INSTITUTE for WOMEN'S HEALTH  
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

## Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among both men and women in the United States every year. And because March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, TTUHSC at Amarillo and many of our community partners will begin promoting their Get F.I.T. to Stay Fit program in Amarillo and the surrounding areas. As part of a \$1.4 million CPRIT grant, the goal is to get 6,000 area men and women screened for colorectal cancer by December 2017. Those who meet specific screening criteria will be given a simple take-home test they can do to determine if a colonoscopy or further testing is needed.

The TTUHSC faculty and staff working on this grant will reach out to the different clinical departments on the Amarillo campus to help educate physicians, students and residents on the importance of early detection for colorectal cancer. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among both men and women in the United States every year. For more information on this CPRIT grant, please contact:

Subhasis Misra – Department of Surgery [subhasis.misra@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:subhasis.misra@ttuhsc.edu)

Aparajita Mishra – Family Medicine [aparajita.mishra@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:aparajita.mishra@ttuhsc.edu)

Melanie Guzman – Department of Surgery [melanie.guzman@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:melanie.guzman@ttuhsc.edu)

Darla Gregory – [darla.gregory@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:darla.gregory@ttuhsc.edu)



# SOP grad student has memorable February



February may be a small month on the calendar, but it was a big month for Neel Fofaria, a Ph.D. candidate, for the SOP's Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Fofaria's month of good fortune began when he was awarded a TTUHSC Endowed Phonathon Scholarship by the TTUHSC Student Government Association Phonathon Committee. The Phonathon Scholarships are awarded in recognition of the student's involvement in school activities and community services and their demonstrated leadership ability. Fofaria is currently president of the Graduate Student Association of Amarillo and Chair-Elect for the Amarillo Chapter of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

Later in the month, Fofaria was selected by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) to receive an AACR-Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology Scholar-in-Training Award, based on the quality of the abstract he submitted for presentation at the AACR Annual Meeting 2015.

Per AACR, these awards are highly competitive and are presented to fewer than ten percent of those who apply. The award recognizes outstanding young investigators for their meritorious work in cancer research. The award funds were donated by Bristol-Myers Squibb Oncology to support young investigators who submitted high-quality papers to present at the AACR Annual Meeting, scheduled for April 18-22 in Philadelphia.

As the month drew to a close, Fofaria was invited to speak at the Bio2Device Group (B2DG) Meeting March 31 in Sunnyvale, California, where he will present his research titled, "Overexpression of Mcl-1 confers resistance to BRAFV600E inhibitor therapy in melanoma."

B2DG is a premier organization dedicated to all professionals in the life sciences industry within the San Francisco Bay Area and is open to anyone in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, diagnostics, health care, life science tools and laboratory services industries. Their events provide the latest industry information through weekly educational programs and face-to-face interactive opportunities to build and maintain a career network. Fofaria works for the Department of Biomedical Sciences in the laboratory of Sanjay Srivastava, Ph.D

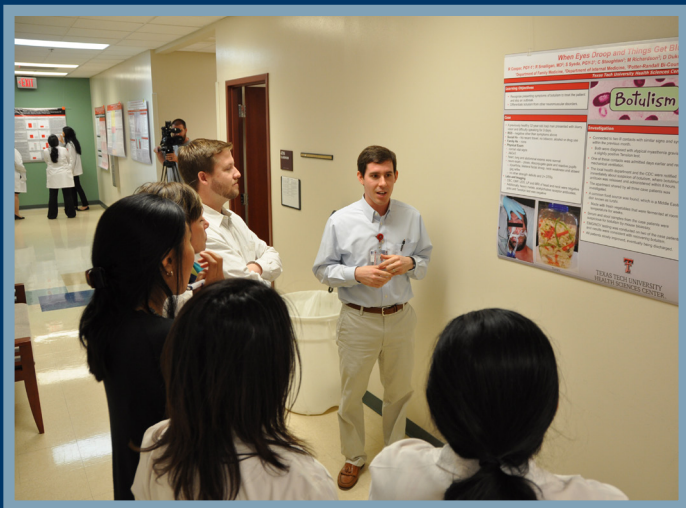
## Mr. Pharmacy contest entertains, raises money for charity

Kappa Psi, an SOP student organization, made Friday the 13th a lucky and entertaining date at the Amarillo campus by holding its Second Annual Mr. Pharmacy-Amarillo Pageant Feb. 13. P2 Lee Congdon, who represented the SOP's Double T student organization, took home the crown this year. Congratulations to all the contestants for putting on a great show, with all the proceeds going to Toys for Tots.



# Research Day

Reminder: Research Day 2015 is April 8. Students and residents will have a chance to show off their research and an awards ceremony will be held to recognize the winning projects. Lunch will be provided.



## TTUHSC Represents North Texas Surgery Conference

Students from the School of Medicine represented TTUHSC at Amarillo at the North Texas Chapter of the American College of Surgeons annual meeting February 20-21 in Dallas. The students had three oral presentations and six research posters at the event. Kelly Thurston won the best paper in the oncology category. Pictured at the event are Steven Riela, Robert Conrad, Stevenson Tsiao, Program Co-Chair Subhasis Misra, MD, Tracy Nguyen, Grace Wong, Bryce Stash, Jeevitha Patil.





the  
**POWER** of the *purse*

Featuring Keynote Speaker  
**Lauren Bush Lauren**

**LUNCHEON & PURSE AUCTION**

Thursday, April 9

Amarillo Civic Center Heritage Ballroom

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sponsor tables starting at \$1,500

Individual Tickets \$100

Founder of FEED, Lauren Bush Lauren is a niece of Laura W. Bush and a daughter-in-law to fashion legend Ralph Lauren. At the Power of the Purse luncheon, you can hear Lauren's life-changing story while you await the opportunity to bid on beautiful, one-of-a-kind designer bags and vintage purses!

To purchase tickets or for more information, please call  
806.414.9949.

Presented By

*Laura W. Bush*  
INSTITUTE for WOMEN'S HEALTH  
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



# REMEDY Program Helping Around the World

TTUHSC students and faculty are having an impact on peoples lives halfway around the world thanks to generous donations from medical facilities here in Amarillo. The REMEDY Program (Recovered Medical Equipment for the Developing World) started at Yale University and a chapter of it began at the Amarillo TTUHSC campus seven years ago. Since then, hundreds of unused medical and surgical items have been sent to hospitals and medical facilities in Pakistan, Ethiopia and most recently Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine. On a Saturday in January, members of the local REMEDY Program spent several hours packing boxes bound for the Dnipropetrovsk Medical Academy in the war-torn east central area of the Ukraine.

Two of the boxes they collected are destined for a Children's hospital in Pakistan, they contain items such as a neonatal incubator, infant CPAP systems, infant electrodes, infant ambu-bags, infant blood pressure cuffs, formula, tracheostomy tubes and more. The boxes headed to Ukraine contain materials such as cotton swabs, alcohol prep pads, urinalysis strips, gloves, gauze, surgical tape, surgical gowns, hemostats, assorted size syringes, anesthesia face masks, catheters and even a ventricular pacemaker.

Donation boxes are set up in the TTUHSC Amarillo clinics as well as in designated areas at Northwest Texas Hospital to help with future deliveries around the world. The group expects their next delivery will be made late this summer or early fall.





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1400 Wallace Boulevard  
806-414-9964**



## Employee Spotlight

Name: Jesse Melson

Title: Senior Designer

When did you start at Tech? February 2015

Jesse was born and raised here in Amarillo, his parents are the most supportive people in his life and always push him to do great things, and his close family, well, they are a hoot and a half.

Melson enjoys being creative, drawing, designing, painting, He also sings opera and music theatre. But he does have a sporty side, as he loves skiing, hiking, biking, and walking my four dogs.

Melson is new to TTUHSC, but just designing, it's always intrigued him how PR can affect daily lives, and he love being part of it.

Melson owns and runs The Paper Crane, which is an art gallery and coffee shop in Canyon. He graduated from WTAMU with a degree in Music Education in 2013.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™  
*at Amarillo*

Please send any information you'd like to include in *The Beat*  
to Justin Patterson at [justin.patterson@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:justin.patterson@ttuhsc.edu).