ANNUAL REPORT **2024-2025**

FROM THE DEAN

Howdy!

It is my pleasure to share with you the College of Pharmacy's Annual Report. This publication offers a glimpse into a year marked by innovation, growth, and a steadfast commitment to excellence.

Inspired by our namesake Irma Lerma Rangel, our College strives to reimagine pharmacy and transform lives. Her powerful legacy reminds us of the profound impact we can make on the world. In this issue, you will read more about that impact.

Our faculty, students, staff, and partners have continued to advance the profession of pharmacy through groundbreaking research, exceptional clinical training, and impactful community engagement. In the pages that follow, you will find highlights of our accomplishments and stories that reflect our mission and speak to the strength and trajectory of our college.

We are proud of what we have achieved together—and even more excited about what lies ahead. I invite you to explore this report and join us in celebrating the work and dedication that define our college community.

Warm regards,

Mansoor Khan, PhD, RPh, FAAPS
Dean, Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy
University Distinguished and Regents Professor
Presidential Impact Fellow, Texas A&M University

ADMINISTRATION

Dean
Dr. Mansoor Khan

Department Heads
Pharmaceutical Sciences:
Dr. Fadi Khasawneh
Pharmacy Practice:
Dr. H. Stephen Lee (Acting)

Associate Deans
Asim Abu-Baker
Associate Dean for Clinical & Professional Affairs & Acting Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Chendil Damodaran
Associate Dean for Research & Innovation

Assistant Deans

Garry Castellanos
Assistant Dean for Finance & Administration

Amanda Galindo
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

DIRECTORS

Juan Bustamante
Director of Recruitment

Charles Douglas
Interim Director of Assessment

Amanda Galvan
Director of Student Success

Carolynn Mathews
Director of Experiential Education

Mohammad Nutan
Director of Program Development

Shelby Purdy
Director of Marketing and Communications

Gilbert Reyna
Associate Director of Instructional Technology Services

Charlie Suarez
Director of Business Operations & Support Services

Yinan Wei
Interim Director of Graduate Studies

THE ANNUAL REPORT
2024-2025

EDITOR + DESIGN
Shelby Purdy
Director of Marketing & Communications

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Lesley Henton
Shelby Purdy
Teresa Saenz

PROOFREADING
Maggie Abrigo
Maria Jaramillo

PHOTOGRAPHY
Shelby Purdy
Artug Altug

COLLEGE UPDATES

Unit returns to College of Pharmacy following short tenure as School of Pharmacy

Four academic units in the Texas A&M University Health Science Center (Texas A&M Health) have adjusted their identities from school to college, effective August 15, 2024.

These units include the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, College of Dentistry, College of Medicine, and College of Nursing.

The changes were approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board after General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III, president of Texas A&M, asked each unit to consider their designation as a school or college as part of an assessment of the university's academic structure and other topics.

The College of Dentistry, College of Medicine, College of Nursing and Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy briefly rebranded to schools in fall 2022.

All future graduating students will do so under the new college designations.

Received Accreditation through 2032

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) Board of Directors, during its January 29-31, 2025, meeting reviewed the Interim Report submitted by the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy for purposes of continued accreditation status. The Board reaffirmed accreditation of the PharmD program through June 30, 2032.

New Dean Announced

Mansoor Khan, PhD, has been named dean of the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, effective June 1, 2025. Khan had been serving as interim dean since April and, prior to that, served as acting dean beginning in August 2023.

Read more about the new Dean for the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy on page 11.

Remembering Lindsey Cheyenne Webster

Among the graduates honored at the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy's 2025 Commencement Ceremony was Lindsey Cheyenne Webster, who was recognized posthumously. Lindsey's presence was deeply felt throughout the ceremony, as classmates, faculty, and administrators paused in a moment of silence to honor her memory. She was set to graduate Magna Cum Laude and had been accepted to a PGY1 Residency at VA Texas Valley Coastal Bend Healthcare System in Corpus Christi, TX. A member of the graduating class, Lindsey was remembered for her dedication to the pharmacy profession and her enduring spirit.

Though she could not walk the stage, she was formally acknowledged as "Dr. Lindsey Cheyenne Webster," a testament to the impact she made and the journey she completed alongside her peers. Her name was called among the graduates and her parents and daughters accepted her diploma. She received a standing ovation — a powerful reminder that her legacy remains a part of the Aggie Pharmily forever.

Drawn by Dr. Duha Eldow, '25

YEAR IN PHOTOS


TIES
& TENNIS SHOES
MEMORIAL FUN RUN


TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Irma Lerma Rangel
GENERAL (RET.) MARK A. WELSH III
THE INVESTITURE of the 27TH PRESIDENT of TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Prescribing Pharm Techs

A new Aggie Pharmacy Technician Program is training skilled pharmacy technicians to support pharmacists and serve the needs of Texans statewide.

In 2024, The Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy officially started accepting students into its first certification program, The Aggie Pharmacy Technician Certification Program (Aggie PTP). The Aggie PTP began as a proposal with two key visions: address pharmacy technician workforce shortages in Texas and nationwide and offer a high-quality pharmacy technician education at low or no cost. Pharmacy technicians are essential members of the health care team who handle prescription processing, medication delivery and inventory management while often serving as the primary point of contact behind the counter for customers.

The vision receivedt the attention of The WoodNext Foundation who gave $1 million to help bring the program to life, covering its first-year operational costs and providing scholarships for the inaugural cohort of 13 students in summer 2024.

The curriculum is shorter than most pharmacy technician programs but is designed for students to maximize their studies and practical experiences. The first two blocks are taught by Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy faculty and cover the instructional aspects of the curriculum, from pharmacy ethics to dosage calculations and medication compounding. The Aggie PTP curriculum is based on a model where students practice in retail or hospital pharmacies what they learn in the classroom and lab. When students begin their hands-on phase, they will practice as pharmacy technician trainees.

To further support their success, students are also paired with Texas A&M PharmD students as peer mentors. “As a first-generation student, my mentor was an important source of support and guidance, whether it was breaking down a class concept or giving advice about the apprenticeship,” said Mia Taht ’27, an inaugural student.

“We hope to extend the program’s reach allowing us to support more students in achieving their career goals and better serve the state of Texas,” said Mansoor Khan, Dean of the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy.

In Texas, one pharmacist might need up to six pharmacy technicians to efficiently manage prescription requests.

“We continue to see so many pharmacy closures because there simply aren’t enough technicians to support the pharmacists. When pharmacies close, it reduces access to essential prescription services, triggering a trickle-down effect as displaced customers overwhelm other pharmacies. We aim to prepare high-quality technicians who can step into these environments and readily address the growing demand.”

- Dr. Andrea Mora, Aggie Pharmacy Technician Program Director

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the

growth of pharmacy technician positions in Texas

to be approximately **24%** between 2020 - 2030 compared to a national growth rate of 5%.

A 2022 National Community Pharmacists Association survey found that more than

70%

of pharmacies

were having trouble filling technician positions.

Over

46%

of U.S. counties are pharmacy deserts, meaning residents have to drive more than 15 minutes to their closest pharmacy.

LEARN MORE ABOUT AGGIE PTP

"Many aspiring students face barriers to entering the pharmacy field due to a lack of access. We want this program to serve as a stepping stone for anyone, regardless of their financial situation or educational background."

-Dr. Indra Reddy, Interim Chief Operating Officer and Vice President at Texas A&M Health

Texas A&M Rangel College of Pharmacy Celebrates Class of 2025 Graduates

In a heartfelt ceremony at Rudder Auditorium, the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy conferred degrees on the Class of 2025, marking the culmination of years of dedication and academic achievement for more than 100 pharmacy graduates.

The ceremony, one of 20 across the university this semester, began at 10 a.m. with a processional led by faculty and student leaders. Dr. Amanda Galindo, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, welcomed guests and reminded them of the solemnity of the occasion.

Dean Dr. Mansoor Khan formally greeted the audience, highlighting the graduates' entry into a global network of nearly 600,000 Aggie alumni. "You are continuing a tradition born of our mission as the public, tier one research, land grant, sea grant, and space grant institution for Texas," Khan said.

The ceremony featured a moment of reflection led by Class of 2025 graduate and former Phi Lambda Sigma president Anna Oommen. She honored late professor Mark Bremick and recounted the cohort's journey through rigorous coursework, rotations, and personal milestones — including marriages and new children. "How do you eat an elephant?" she asked, quoting Bremick. "One bite at a time. We did it. We finally ate the elephant."

The college also paused to remember classmate Lindsey Cheyenne Webster, who was honored posthumously.

Dean Khan recognized several groups for their support, including faculty, alumni, preceptors, military veterans, and first-generation students. Special recognition was given to veterans and Class of 2025 members Monét Giles and Jeremiah Hall, both U.S. Air Force veterans.

Academic excellence was a centerpiece of the event, with 52 students earning Latin honors. Eight graduates achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA and were honored as *Summa Cum Laude* Graduates with Distinction: Abigail Malin Barker, Nicole Benita Becerra, Mauricio Blancas, Heston Scott Bugai, Christa Lynn Chapa, Paityn Taryn Glaze, Alexander Joe McMillan, and Melanie Peña.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Indra Reddy, Interim COO and Senior Vice President of Texas A&M Health and founding dean of the college. He emphasized innovation, service, and the future of pharmacy leadership. In recognition of his contributions, Reddy was presented with the Texas A&M Health Science Center Medallion.

Degrees were formally conferred by Dr. Timothy Scott, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. The ceremony included the donning of doctoral hoods for both PhD and PharmD graduates, the recitation of the Oath of a Pharmacist led by Dr. Diana Marisol Peña (Class of 2019), and a welcome from The Association of Former Students.

As the ceremony concluded, Dean Khan encouraged graduates to lead, serve, and continue the pursuit of discovery in health care. "Our future is certainly in capable hands," he said. "Their hands."

TEXAS A&M
Pharmacy

MATCH DAY 2025 RESULTS

32
STUDENTS MATCHED

77%
PGY1 MATCH RATE

67%
PGY2 MATCH RATE

27
MATCHED IN TEXAS

Texas A&M University names Mansoor Khan as dean of the College of Pharmacy

Mansoor Khan, PhD, has been named dean of the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, effective June 1, 2025. Khan had been serving as interim dean since April and, prior to that, served as acting dean beginning in August 2023.

"I am humbled by this selection following a thorough vetting process," Khan said. "It is a tremendous honor and privilege to serve this wonderful institution, whose mission is to prepare future leaders through transformative education, research and scholarship. We have outstanding PharmD and PhD students, staff and faculty colleagues who are passionate about helping this college grow, and I am excited to be part of this wonderful Pharmily."

Since joining Texas A&M in 2015, Khan has held several key leadership roles, including vice dean of the Rangel College of Pharmacy and interim department head of pharmaceutical sciences. He has been recognized with the university's three highest faculty honors: University Distinguished Professor, Regents Professor and Presidential Impact Fellow.

"With a national and international reputation in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, Dr. Khan is well-positioned to lead the Rangel College of Pharmacy into its next chapter," said Alan Sams, provost of Texas A&M University. "I look forward to the continued impact he will bring through collaboration with faculty, staff, students and partners in research, industry and public service."

Khan brings more than 25 years of distinguished leadership experience in academia and federal service. His expertise spans academic program development, research funding acquisition, clinical practice advancement and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.

Prior to joining Texas A&M, Khan spent over 11 years at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where he served as director of product quality research and senior biomedical research scientist in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. His earlier academic appointments included roles at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and work in research and development at Novartis Pharmaceuticals in New Jersey.

Khan has authored over 370 peer-reviewed manuscripts, five books, 39 book chapters, and served as a national/international speaker over 300 times. He has received more than 25 million dollars funding from NIH, FDA, state organizations, and pharma or excipient companies. He has received the nation's highest awards as distinguished scientist from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), International Excipient Council (IPEC), and the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Technology and Education (NIPTE).

Khan's visionary leadership and commitment to excellence are poised to elevate the College of Pharmacy during a time of tremendous opportunity and growth.

"Our college has a strong presence on the Kingsville and College Station campuses, where we offer PharmD and PhD degrees," Khan said. "We see tremendous opportunities to expand our academic programs through new degree offerings and joint degrees, not just in these two cities but across the state.

Khan said the college's clinical practice faculty are also well-positioned to contribute to impactful scholarship. "They do this through partnerships, co-curricular initiatives and entrustable professional activities, all grounded in interprofessional collaboration," he said. "Our national research ranking has been steadily rising over the past several years, and our faculty are determined to bring us into the top 15 percent nationally."

He added that the college remains focused on the people behind the progress.

"We are committed to reaching that goal while continuing to improve the experience of our students, staff and faculty. We strive to foster a thriving environment of growth, collaboration and professional fulfillment for everyone in our Pharmily."

A licensed pharmacist, Khan earned his bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Kakatiya University and a master's in pharmaceutical technology from Andhra University, both in India. He later earned a second master's in pharmaceutics from Idaho State University and a doctorate in pharmaceutics and biopharmaceutics from St. John's University in New York.

"I take this opportunity to thank the search committee that included faculty, staff, students, alumni and the Texas A&M Foundation, along with the committee chair, Dr. John August, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. I would also like to thank Provost Alan Sams and Dr. Indra Reddy, search firm Korn Ferry, provost office staff and my council of dean colleagues who believed in me and provided this opportunity to serve as the dean of our wonderful college. I look forward to our continued progress," Khan said.

A nationally recognized pharmaceutical scientist, Khan brings visionary experience and research excellence to guide the college into its next era of growth and impact.

Researchers Develop 3D-Printed Medication To Treat Deadly Infection In Pediatric Patients

Breakthrough from Texas A&M holds promise to replace high-cost, adult tablets used to treat toxoplasmosis in children.

Toxoplasmosis, an infection caused by a parasite, is the leading cause of foodborne deaths in the U.S., and if contracted by a pregnant woman, can be transmitted to the fetus. The only commercially available medications to treat pediatric toxoplasmosis are costly, compounded adult tablets, but new 3D-printed medication developed at Texas A&M University may save lives and costs.

It is estimated that over 40 million people in the U.S. — and 1 billion worldwide — are infected with toxoplasmosis, which is caused by the parasite Toxoplasma gondii. Most people with healthy immune systems who become infected show no symptoms; around 10% of patients have mild, flu-like symptoms such as swollen lymph nodes and muscle aches and pains.

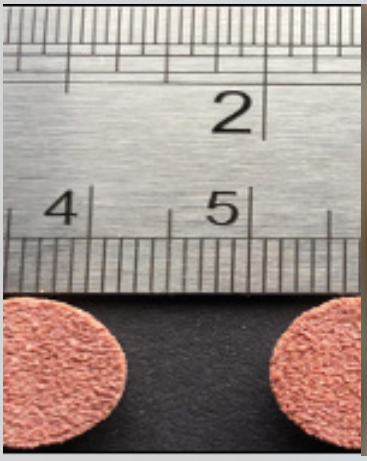
Infections can be transmitted to humans by eating raw or undercooked meat or shellfish, or unwashed produce; by exposure to infected cat feces or soil; and congenitally, or the passing of an infection from mother to unborn child. Fetuses and newborns are at particularly high risk of death or severe consequences including hydrocephalus, blindness, deafness, seizures and intellectual disabilities. It is estimated up to 4,400 babies in the U.S. are born with toxoplasmosis each year.

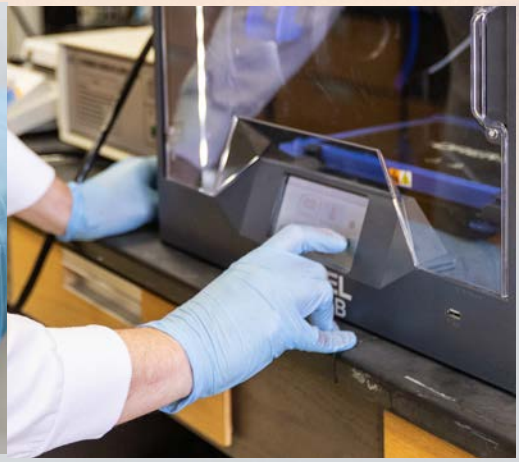
Critical Need For Kids With Toxoplasmosis

Dr. Mansoor A. Khan, Regents Professor of pharmaceutical sciences and dean of the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, said there is an acute need for a pediatric product to treat toxoplasmosis. “Adult tablets are manipulated and compounded when pediatric prescriptions are received,” he said. “Such products may have questionable quality as they are not evaluated for content, stability and bioavailability.”

Additionally, he said, the adult products themselves are expensive. “As an example, the adult Daraprim [the standard first treatment for toxoplasmosis] costs around $790 per tablet,” Khan said. “Congenital and acquired toxoplasmosis in pediatric patients is treated with pyrimethamine and sulfadiazine plus leucovorin for 12 months or longer. Since the weight of the child changes with time, a dose flexibility in dosage form is required. Therefore, the need for this combination product, with dose flexibility, is acute and lacks commercial availability.”

Prior to joining Texas A&M, Khan worked for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration where he served as a division director senior biomedical research scientist in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.



Khan (PI), along with Dr. Ziyaur Rahman (MPI), professor of pharmaceutical sciences, has received $3.1 million dollars NIH R01 Grant, part of which they are using to 3D print pediatric toxoplasmosis drugs.

"This study is expected to lead to the development of a novel dose-flexible pediatric delivery system for pediatric populations for toxoplasmosis," Khan said.

The researchers say the tablets will be created using 3D-printing technology at Reynolds Medical Sciences Building on the Texas A&M campus in College Station. "Tablets will be evaluated for required quality attributes, stability, and pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamic studies," Khan said. "After the proof of concept and characterization studies, the 3D printing machines can be deployed in area hospitals."

Rahman said he hopes the 3D printing of drugs for pediatric patients helps ease some of the burdens on parents. "This approach can be applied to other drugs for pediatric diseases where no pediatric-friendly dose-flexible formulation is commercially available," he said. A similar 3D-printed approach for an antiviral therapy was funded by another NIH R01 grant last year ($2.82 million dollars for five years).

Collaboration Across Campus

The interdisciplinary project includes co-investigators from across the university:

Jennifer Fridley, clinical assistant professor and director of Veterinary Medical Park, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Matthew Kuttolamadom, associate professor, College of Engineering; Lamba Omar Sangare, assistant professor, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Quan Zhou, assistant professor, College of Arts and Sciences.

RESEARCH RANKINGS

AY 2024-2025

#34

NATIONAL RESEARCH RANKING

R1

Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education

Texas A&M University is one of the world's leading research institutions, dedicated to advancing knowledge and serving the public good.

Showcasing Innovation: The Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy Research Colloquium

The Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy continues to highlight its commitment to advancing pharmaceutical science and clinical practice through its annual College of Pharmacy Research Colloquium. This signature event is designed to showcase the innovative and impactful research taking place within the College, offering a dedicated platform for faculty, students, and staff to share their scientific discoveries and scholarly work.

Open to all researchers affiliated with the College, the colloquium invites the submission of abstracts that span a wide range of pharmaceutical disciplines. From bench science to clinical studies and public health initiatives, the event celebrates the breadth and depth of research conducted by the College's vibrant academic community.

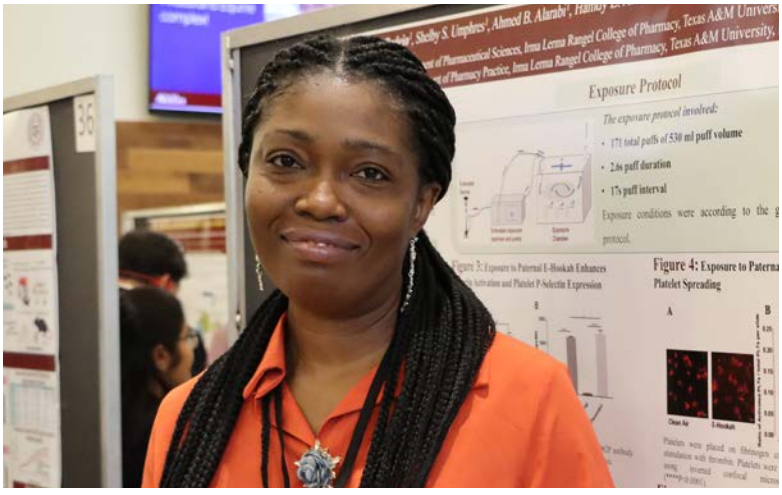
A hallmark of the colloquium is its lineup of dynamic keynote speakers—nationally recognized leaders in pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy practice. This year's distinguished speakers include:

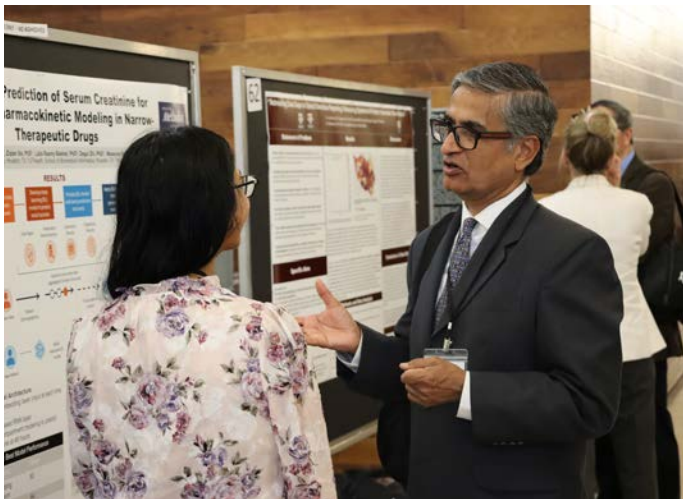
- Peter J. Newman, Ph.D., a renowned researcher in platelet biology and signal transduction, whose work has significantly advanced the understanding of cardiovascular diseases.
- Kun Cheng, Ph.D., FAAPS, FAIMBE, a leading expert in drug delivery and nanomedicine, whose research has contributed to the development of novel therapeutics for cancer and inflammatory diseases.
- Vinata B. Lokeshwar, Ph.D., a distinguished scientist in urologic oncology, with pioneering studies in cancer biomarkers and therapeutic targets.
- Judith A. Smith, PharmD, BCOP, CPHQ, FCCP, FHOPA, FISOPP, an accomplished clinical pharmacist and researcher focused on optimizing chemotherapy and supportive care in oncology.

These keynote presentations offer attendees a unique opportunity to engage with thought leaders driving innovation across the pharmaceutical field. Their sessions are designed to provoke meaningful dialogue, stimulate new ideas, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration among participants.

"At its core, the Research Colloquium serves as a testament to the College's mission of advancing knowledge and improving health outcomes. The discoveries and ideas presented here are more than academic exercises—they represent essential contributions to the scientific and clinical landscapes, both regionally and nationally," said Chendil Damodaran, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Research and Innovation and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

As the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy continues to grow as a hub of research excellence, the colloquium remains a vital gathering point for innovation, inspiration, and the shared pursuit of scientific progress.




Prediction of Serum Creatinine for
Therapeutic Drugs

A Rite of Passage: Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy Celebrates White Coat Ceremony

At the start of the fall 2025 semester, the Texas A&M Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy held its White Coat Ceremonies. The two ceremonies are a meaningful tradition that mark a pivotal moment in a pharmacy student's professional journey. This symbolic event recognizes the transition from classroom instruction to clinical experience, as students who have successfully completed their first year are formally welcomed into the next phase of their pharmacy education.

The white coat, a longstanding emblem of clinical service, trust, and patient care, is ceremonially presented to each student by faculty memebrs, signifying their entrance into the responsibilities and ethical standards of the pharmacy profession. As part of the event, students also recite the Pledge of Professionalism, publicly affirming their commitment to uphold the values and expectations set forth by the pharmacy community.

The White Coat Ceremony originated at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and has since been adopted by healthcare education institutions across the globe. At the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy, this important tradition began in 2007 and continues to be a highlight of the academic year.

This year's ceremonies were held at both the Kingsville and College Station campuses, each featuring distinguished keynote speakers who shared their professional insights and words of encouragement.

At the Kingsville campus ceremony, the keynote address was delivered by Dr. RoxAnn Dominguez, Chief Executive Officer for the Texas Pharmacy Association.

"The white coat is a promise. A promise to your patients, to your colleagues, to your families and to yourself, that you will uphold the values of this profession with integrity, empathy, and excellence," she said.

At the College Station campus, students listened intently as Dr. Evan T. Robinson, Professor and Dean of the College of Pharmacy at UNT Health discussed privilege, professionalism, purpose and passion. With over two decades of experience in clinical pharmacy and countless administrative roles, Dr. Robinson has been a dedicated mentor to hundreds of students and an outstanding leader in the pharmacy profession.

With thoughtful remarks from both keynote speakers, the White Coat Ceremony reaffirmed the college's mission to prepare practice-ready, patient-centered pharmacists equipped to serve their communities.

"Wearing the white coat comes with the great responsibility of maintaining integrity, heartfelt compassion, and professionalism in all you do. You will wear this white coat countless times, and you will touch numerous lives. Every time you put it on, your purpose will be for something greater than yourself," said Dr. Mansoor Khan, dean of the Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Irma Lerma Rangel
College of Pharmacy

RURAL PHARMACY PROGRAM

The College of Pharmacy is committed to working with our Texas A&M Health colleagues to engage rural communities to address health care challenges. In rural communities, pharmacies serve as key access points for healthcare services, medication education and clinical resources. The College of Pharmacy is uniquely positioned to engage with and support our rural communities throughout the State of Texas.

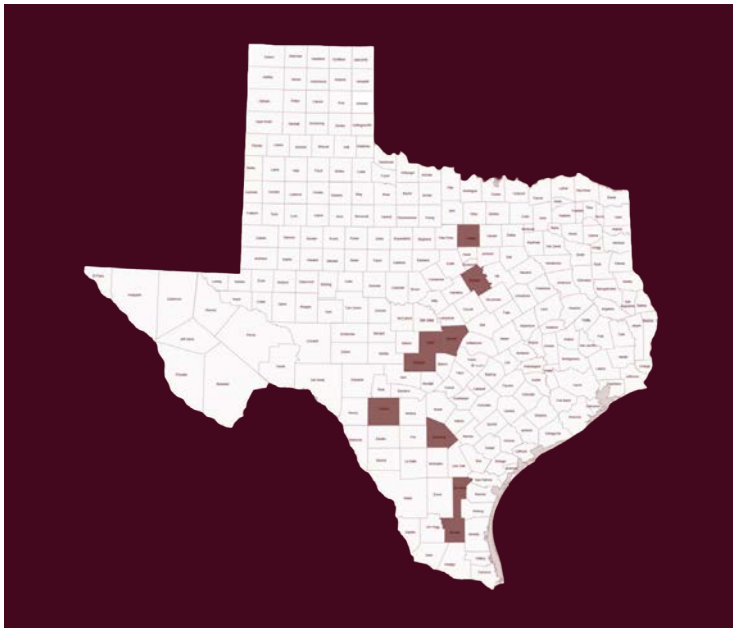
Fouth-year PharmD students have the unique opportunity to complete one or two advanced pharmacy practice experience (APPE) 6-week rotations in a rural community setting. The exposure allows students the ability to experience an in-depth look into rural medicine.

The College partners with the Texas A&M Health Rural Engagement Program, or TX-REP, to support small-town health care providers in delivering high-quality care to the rural communities they serve. Pharmacy is currently supporting the following areas for rural Texas:

SERVING TEXAS

COUNTIES SERVED

Parker	Uvalde
Bosque	Attascosa
Burnet	Jim Wells
Llano	Brooks
Gillespie	



Reimagining Pharmacy - Transforming Lives

STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

"Working in a rural pharmacy, such as the one in Fredericksburg, Texas profoundly impacts communities by providing essential healthcare access and personalized support. Pharmacists in these areas often become trusted health advisors, bridging gaps left by limited medical services. Their presence fosters better health outcomes, builds trust, and strengthens the overall wellbeing of isolated populations. In addition, this rotation provided an opportunity to network with local alumnae who offered new insights and connections."

Carissa Gomez, Class of 2025
Rotation: Fredericksburg

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Indra Reddy named Founding Dean Emeritus of Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents has honored Indra K. Reddy, PhD, with the prestigious title of Founding Dean *Emeritus* of the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy. This honor recognizes his distinguished and dedicated service during his illustrious 20-year tenure as the founding dean, during which he transformed the College into one of the nation's leading institutions.

Reddy currently leads the Texas A&M University Health Science Center (Texas A&M Health) as interim chief operating officer and vice president.

"I am deeply honored to be recognized as the Founding Dean Emeritus of the Rangel College of Pharmacy," Reddy said. "This honor is a testament to the collaborative efforts and unwavering dedication of our exceptional faculty, committed staff and hard-working students. Together, we have built a foundation of excellence in pharmacy education, research, patient care and community service."

Reddy joined the Rangel College of Pharmacy in 2004 and spearheaded the establishment of the first professional health program south of San Antonio. The school opened its doors in Kingsville in 2006 to address the critical need for pharmacists in the region. The first cohort graduated in 2010, and by 2012, the College was ranked among the top 50 pharmacy schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

Under Reddy's visionary leadership, the College experienced exceptional growth, expanding to the College Station campus in 2014. He skillfully managed teams on both campuses, bridging the 300-mile gap to unify cohorts and synchronize all College affairs. In 2023, he initiated the new Aggie Pharmacy Technician Program to address the pharmacy technician shortage in Texas.

"Reddy's remarkable 20-year journey as the dean of pharmacy at Texas A&M has left an indelible mark on the institution, its students and the field of pharmacy itself. His legacy of excellence, mentorship and innovation will continue to inspire us and lead future generations to a brighter and more compassionate future in the world of pharmacy," said Mansoor Khan, PhD, dean of the College of Pharmacy and University Distinguished Professor.

Among his numerous accomplishments, Reddy has been instrumental in expanding the College's research enterprise. In 2021, he launched a new PhD program in pharmaceutical sciences and recruited top researchers, including several RO1-funded faculty members. In 2022, the College set a record by surpassing $10 million in research funding, ranking 31st out of 113 pharmacy schools in the national standings for total research funding for the 2021-22 academic year, according to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP).

"The 'Pharmily,' as Dr. Reddy affectionately named it, expresses its deepest gratitude for his outstanding contributions to the College of Pharmacy during his years as dean. His legacy will continue to inspire and shape the future of pharmacy education and research at the university and beyond," Khan said.

Mansoor Khan named University Distinguished Professor

Dean of the Rangel College of Pharmacy, Mansoor Khan, Ph.D. has been named one of the 2024 University Distinguished Professors. Texas A&M University awarded the title of University Distinguished Professor, its highest faculty award, to eight scholars in 2024. Khan is the very first University Distinguished Professor from the College of Pharmacy.

The University Distinguished Professor designation is bestowed upon Texas A&M University faculty members who are preeminent in their fields and have made at least one transformational contribution - or provided an intellectually substantial "leap forward" - in their discipline. This is the highest achievement a faculty member can earn at the university, and demonstrates the high quality of scholarship underway at Texas A&M. University Distinguished Professors are preeminent authorities in their academic disciplines and their accomplishments are exemplified by outstanding teaching, research, mentoring and service.

This faculty cohort has made significant contributions and inspired innovative thought in intellectual property rights, experimental high-energy physics, space systems, automated power systems and smart grids, drug delivery systems, optical biosensors, building genome maps and enhancing brain function after injury, disease or aging.

Srinath Palakurthi named 2024 Chancellor EDGES Fellow

Srinath Palakurthi, PhD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel School of Pharmacy, has been named a 2024 Chancellor EDGES (Enhancing Development and Generating Excellence in Scholarship) Fellow recipient.

Under the direction of Chancellor John Sharp, the EDGES Fellowships were developed with resources from The Texas A&M University System to honor, incentivize and boost mid-career faculty at the associate or early full professor rank who are making significant marks in their discipline. The recognition highlights the intentional commitment of the A&M System to support, retain and recognize faculty with significant and sustained accomplishments and the promise of continued high-impact scholarship.

EDGES Fellows retain the right to use the title throughout their tenure as faculty members in good standing at Texas A&M.

"Dr. Palakurthi's contributions to the field of pharmaceutical sciences have been nothing short of exceptional, and the impact of his scholarly work is being recognized worldwide," said Fadi Khasawneh, PhD, head and professor of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The Palakurthi lab is currently focusing on developing nanoparticle formulations for combination therapy of ovarian and breast cancers.

2025 Rangel College of Pharmacy Faculty & Staff Awards

Pharmacy Graduate Resident Award

Dr. La' Jarion Hart

Faculty Preceptor of the Year Award

Dr. Andrew Tenpas

Preceptor of the Year Award

Dr. Derek Harvick

Staff Member of the Year Awards

Mr. Jesse Garza
Mr. Steve Leggio
Mrs. Samantha Ruiz

Teacher of the Year Award

P1 - Dr. Dr. Mohammad Nutan
P2 - Dr. Charles Douglas
P3 - Dr. Stephen Lee

Teaching Team of the Year Award:

Integrated Pharmacotherapy Two: Cardiovascular Diseases

Dr. Heather Hay, Dr. Dai Lu, Dr. Fatima Alshbool , Dr. Alyssa Castillo, Dr. George Udeani, Dr. Fadi Kasawneh

Teaching Team of the Year Award:

Mental Behavior Disorders

Dr. Joy Alonzo , Dr. Hamed Ali Ismail, Dr. Mahua Choudhury, Dr. Anne Cécil Mingle

Dr. Amanda Galindo

2024 Outstanding Professional in Graduate and Professional Student Services Award.
Awarded by NASPA and the NASPA Administrators in Graduate and Professional Student Services Knowledge Community

Dr. Charlotte Farris

Member of Cohort 21 of the AACP Academic Leadership Fellows Program. The AACP Academic Leadership Fellows Program develops and supports leaders in the Academy that contribute to the advancement of pharmacy education, higher education, and the pharmacy profession.

Dr. Joy Alonzo

Recognized with a 2024 DEA Community Star award.

Dr. Frank North

Visited the White House in his role as President of the National Pharmaceutical Association.

Ask a Pharmaceutical Scientist:
Phthalates: What you should know about these common toxins in beauty products

By Teresa Saenz

Cosmetic companies are not required to disclose whether their products contain phthalates, so it's up to consumers to do their own homework.

Many of us unknowingly expose ourselves to phthalates (pronounced "THAL-ates"), chemical compounds commonly found in everyday products. These colorless, odorless plasticizers are used extensively in cosmetics, personal care items and products that encounter plastics during manufacturing or packaging.

Phthalates serve multiple purposes in beauty products, from preventing cracking in nail polish to reducing stiffness in hair sprays. They help retain scent in fragrances and add flexibility to plastics. People can be exposed to these chemicals in many ways, including eating, drinking or breathing and through the skin.

Mahua Choudhury, PhD, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the Texas A&M University Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy and co-director of the Texas A&M Health Center for Micro-encapsulation and Drug Delivery, explains how chronic exposure to phthalates can negatively impact the endocrine system, organ function, reproductive health and child development.

"People often believe plasticizers are hazardous when microwaving because they think the chemicals will transfer to their food. However, phthalates do not require heat to be released," Choudhury said.

Identifying phthalates in products

Several common phthalates appear in consumer products, including diethyl phthalate (DEP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), dimethyl phthalate (DMP) and isobutyl phthalate (DiBP). The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) stance on these compounds is complex. Under the authority of the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (FPLA), the FDA requires an ingredient declaration on cosmetic products sold to consumers, which means you can tell if a product contains phthalates by reading the list of ingredients on its label.

"Products labeled clean or organic in the beauty section don't automatically mean that you are free of all these adverse chemicals," Choudhury said.

In 2010, the FDA conducted a survey of cosmetics that contained phthalates to track general trends in their use in cosmetics. However, cosmetic companies are not legally obligated to submit their formulations to the FDA, and regulations do not require them to disclose individual fragrance or flavor components or their specific ingredients.

How do phthalates get into my body?

Although you can't see, smell or taste phthalates, they're in hundreds of products you use every day—from food packaging to shampoos and makeup. These chemicals can seep out of products and get into your body through eating, drinking, breathing or even through your skin. Phthalates can even cross the placenta during pregnancy, meaning they can reach a developing fetus. Once inside the body, phthalates can disrupt the endocrine system, which is responsible for regulating hormones that control everything from metabolism to growth.

"Recent studies published by Chemical Research in Toxicology focused on how phthalates influence metabolic and inflammatory processes. Together, these findings highlight the complex ways phthalates disrupt critical bio-

logical pathways, furthering the concern about their role in metabolic disorders and inflammation," Choudhury said.

The European Commission and other regulatory bodies classify DBP and Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP) as endocrine disruptors and reproductive toxicants. Prenatal exposure to these chemicals has been linked to altered male genital development, hormone imbalances in infants, reduced sperm quality in men and infertility in women. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has also identified DEHP as a probable human carcinogen, raising uncertainty about the long-term health impacts of these phthalates.

How to avoid phthalates

You can take several steps to minimize your exposure to phthalates. Reading product labels carefully is essential, though phthalates often hide behind terms like "fragrance" or "parfum." Look for products explicitly labeled as "phthalate-free" or choose items from companies committed to avoiding these chemicals. This is particularly important for pregnant women and young children, who may be more vulnerable to the potential effects of these compounds.

A 2001 report released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showed elevated phthalate levels in women of childbearing age, yet the FDA maintains that available evidence doesn't warrant regulatory action against phthalates in cosmetics. This stance contrasts with the European Commission's position, which has classified some phthalates as endocrine disruptors. Ongoing research continues to investigate their health impacts.

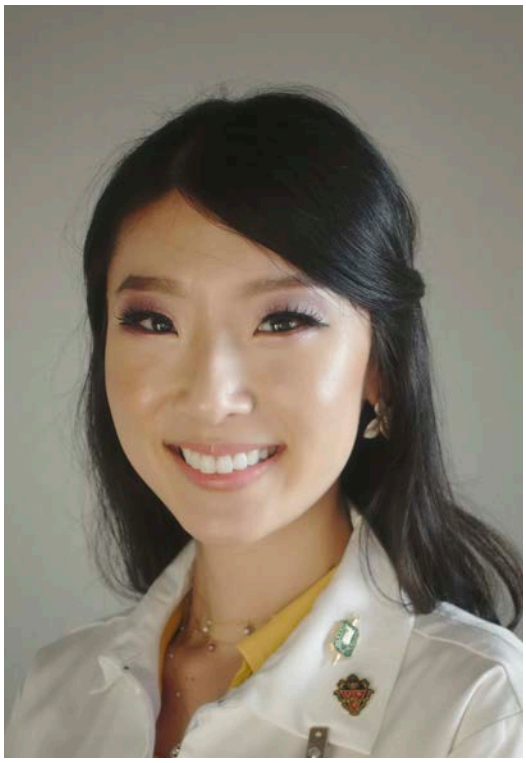
"We are really vulnerable to phthalates as the effects can extend from the mother to the baby," Choudhury said. "Additionally, race plays a role. Studies have shown that the African American population often uses specific hair and makeup products, many of which contain high levels of phthalates."

Although the FDA considers some phthalates, such as DEP, safe in current cosmetic applications, consumers are responsible for making informed choices by carefully reviewing product ingredients. If you're concerned about phthalate exposure, consider avoiding products listing "fragrance" or "flavor" and reach for manufacturers who explicitly state their products are phthalate-free. This is especially relevant during pregnancy and early childhood when exposure risks may be heightened.

Avoiding phthalates can be a challenge, which is why consumer awareness is crucial. As regulatory bodies continue to evaluate their safety, it's up to each of us to assess the risks and make informed choices about the products we use. With new research continually uncovering more about the health effects of phthalates, staying informed about these common chemicals is key to protecting your own health and well-being.

ALUMNI: Where are they now?

CHRISTINE NGUYEN



Christine Nguyen, Pharm.D., is the Regional Director of Pharmacy of H-E-B's Northwest Food and Drug Division. She received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Texas A&M College of Pharmacy. Upon graduation, she returned to Waco, where she was a Pharmacy Manager at several locations in the community before moving back to her hometown in Dallas. There, she opened the Frisco location as the Pharmacy Manager, the very first H-E-B Pharmacy in the Dallas area. In 2023, Dr. Nguyen was selected to serve on H-E-B's World Greatest Manager Council for pharmacy representing the NWFD region.

Dr. Nguyen is a strong advocate for the profession. She currently serves on the Texas Pharmacy Association (TPA)'s board as a Board Director and within the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), serves as the New Practitioner Officer, Chair of the Pharmacy Residency and Fellowship Standing Committee, and a member of APhA's Academy of Pharmacy Practice and Management's Executive Committee. She also remains active within the Immunizing Pharmacists Special Interest Group, having served on their Professional Affairs Committee, and having chaired their Advocacy Committee for two terms. Her other professional memberships include the Dallas Area Pharmacy Association, Phi Lambda Sigma, Phi Delta Chi, Phi Delta Chi Texas Alumni Chapter, and the Texas A&M College of Pharmacy Alumni Association.

MAJOR ALEXANDER S. PATLOVANY

Maj Alexander S. Patlovany, Pharm.D., serves as the Diagnostics and Therapeutics Flight Commander, 559th Medical Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas. He is responsible for a team of 53, providing pharmacy, clinical laboratory, and diagnostic imaging services to 242,000 beneficiaries. He oversees a budget of $24.5 million, producing 414,000 prescriptions, 51,600 laboratory results, and 12,400 diagnostic imaging studies annually.

Maj Patlovany entered the Air Force in 2013 as a commissioned officer after graduating from Texas A&M Health Science Center. His Air Force experience includes leading the highest volume central fill pharmacy in the Air Force, clinical residency at a Level I Trauma Center, and deployment in Kuwait. Prior to his current position, he was the Pharmacy Support Element Chief, 96th Medical Support Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla, where he mentored 5 pharmacy captains, managed pharmacy information technology in preparation for a modern electronic health record, and drove numerous process improvements at one inpatient and two outpatient pharmacies.

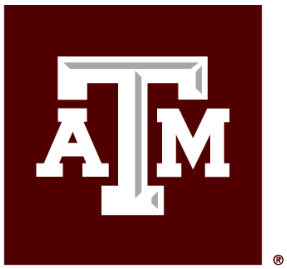
Get involved! Contact the Texas A&M University College of Pharmacy Alumni Association at:
aggiepharmacistalumni@outlook.com

The Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy is committed to the educational pursuit and success of each student and support from alumni and friends of the institution is imperative in this promise.

To learn more about planned gifts, please contact:

CARA HADDOCK

c-haddock@tamu.edu | 713.677.8407



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Irma Lerma Rangel College of Pharmacy