On August 24th, family, friends and faculty from the school of pharmacy attended the white coat ceremony for the incoming pharmacy class of 2023. The keynote speaker was the new UTEP President, Dr. Health Wilson. She gave a moving speech about providing patient care by reflecting on her uncle’s pharmacy practice. After the ceremony, the attendees gathered for refreshments to the music of mariachis.
Preceptor Spotlight:

The quarterly UTEP School of Pharmacy (SOP) Preceptor Newsletter highlights pharmacist and non-pharmacist preceptors providing Introductory and/or Advance Pharmacy Practice Experiences for the UTEP SOP pharmacy students.

Rick Soto-Ruiz, Pharm.D., AAHIVP, BCIDP
Director of Pharmacy/Infusion Center Services
The Hospitals of Providence - East and Transmountain Campuses

Dr. Soto graduated from Eastwood High School in 2001, the University of Texas at El Paso (Biological Sciences) in 2006, the University of Texas at Austin (PharmD) in 2010. He has been working in pharmacy since 2005 as a technician and been precepting for 8 years. We sat down with Dr. Soto to learn more about his influential preceptors and why he precepts.

Can you remember a preceptor that was instrumental to your learning and how s/he helped you?
One of the most instrumental preceptors that I had was actually not a pharmacist at all. Dr. Suresh Antony, MD was able to serve as my preceptor for an Infectious Disease rotation during my P4 year. From the beginning, it was clear that we were both out of our comfort zone. He had not really worked with pharmacy students and I didn’t know what to expect from a preceptor that really didn’t have conventional pharmacy training. The rotation was definitely rough at first; both of us constantly challenging each other on various aspects of medication management. In the end however, this sparked a relationship that we carry to this day. We both acknowledged the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to patient care in which the pharmacist and provide devise the therapeutic plan collaboratively. Dr. Antony and I continue to work together, now as colleagues, within different healthcare systems.

What do you enjoy most about precepting students?
As a preceptor, I can only hope to motivate my students to continue to change the pharmacy profession for the better. There is nothing more I enjoy more than seeing one of my ex-students develop a new initiative, or become a pharmacy specialist in their own right. Many of my students are now clinical specialists, spread across the country, teaching students of their own. This in itself makes it all worth it.

Pharmacy Preceptor Podcast:
A podcast covering a variety of topics such as Hypertension, StrengthsFinder, Motivational Interview, and Pharmacogenomics to name a few. Listen at https://snxrovinger.podomatic.com/.
Feedback and Evaluations

Preceptors often do not have training on how to provide feedback and/or evaluations. This process can quickly become a negative encounter and can be time consuming. Feedback - convey information, is ongoing, formative, frequently, provided in small doses, non-judgmental, fact-to-face and focuses on what was done and potential consequences of actions.

Formative feedback includes students to participate in a self-assessment and help to identify student’s goals, strengths, and weaknesses. Summative feedback is ongoing and near evaluations, can be end of day check in’s especially in the first week to make sure both are headed in the same direction (5-10 minutes), focuses on objectives and student goals and how they can improve.

Evaluation - confirms judgement on performance based on syllabus or objectives, no new feedback should be provided. Preceptors need to consider the following when providing feedback: environment (semi-private or private), timing (provide feedback as soon as possible: positive or negative), frequency, interpersonal (consider how the student may feel and/or personality), content (provide specific examples to frame negative feedback).

Preceptor responsibilities include to limit surprises by providing clear expectations from the beginning of the rotation, give feedback as often as soon as possible with evidence (provide objective facts and behaviors), and model behavior. Providing evidence during feedback sessions will also help with midpoint and final evaluations.

Student responsibilities include self-reflection the night before the evaluation (e.g. answering questions regarding how they think they did professionally, rotation specific topics [disease state management], goals for the first half of the rotation, and if they have accomplished any goals to come up with more.)
New Faces at the School
The school is excited to have the following new faculty join us:

Dr. Taslim Al-Hilal, Ph.D.
Dr. Al-Hilal is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Dr. Al-Hilal received his PhD and MPharm from Seoul National University and his B Pharm from University of Development Alternative. Previously, Dr. Al-Hilal was at the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Dr. Al-Hilal’s research interests include Organ-on-a-chip model, Cardiopulmonary diseases, Cancer angiogenesis, Drug transport barriers, Vascular biomarkers. When not at UTEP, Dr. Al-Hilal likes water sports, driving, hiking and skiing. Dr. Al-Hilal’s message to the UTEP Community “I would like to be a teacher, a mentor, and a scientist with one philosophy in mind that it is important to be a good person than a better scientist.”.

Dr. Hyeun Ah Kang, Ph.D.
Dr. Kang got her bachelor and master degrees (both in pharmacy) in South Korea. After graduation, Dr. Kang worked for Health Insurance Review & Assessment Services (HIRA), a government agency which manages national drug formulary and assesses healthcare resource use in South Korea. From there, Dr. Kang joined the doctoral program at the University of Texas at Austin, College of Pharmacy in 2013 and earned another Master degree from College of Education focusing on Quantitative Methods in 2017, and Doctoral degree in 2019. Dr. Kang joined UTEP School of Pharmacy in August 2019 and is teaching P3 students in the Economic, Clinical, and Humanistic Outcomes (ECHO) class this Fall and will be teaching Health Services Administration in Spring. During her leisure time, Dr. Kang enjoys exploring neighboring cities, yoga, Pilates, and Zumba.
Dr. Md Nurunnabi, Ph.D.
Dr. Nurunnabi has joined at UTEP School of Pharmacy as an Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2019 Fall. Dr. Nurunnabi will teach Pharmaceutical formulation and compounding. He is an expert in bioengineering, biomaterials, and drug delivery research. His research interest is developing bioengineered formulation for delivering a therapeutic molecule to the disease site, in order to reduce drug mediated side effects and improve therapeutic effect. Prior to UTEP, Dr. Nurunnabi completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard University. He earned his PhD and MS in bioengineering from Korea National University of Transportation, and BS in Pharmacy from University of Development Alternative, Bangladesh. He has published more than 40 peer-reviewed articles, 10 patents, 8 book chapters, and edited 2 books. He is currently on the Early Career Editorial Board for the ACS Biomaterials Science & Engineering, and editor of a biomaterials book series published by Elsevier.

Dr. Sebastian Perez, Pharm.D.
Dr. Perez grew up in El Paso, TX, in the very neighborhood that the school of pharmacy resides in (Lamar elementary, Wiggs middle school, El Paso high school). Dr. Perez received his BS biology from UTEP 2005, Pharm.D. Texas A&M 2010, 2 year pharmacotherapy residency at Barnes Jewish Hospital, St Louis MO 2010-2012, and is a board certified pharmacotherapy specialist. Before joining UTEP, Dr. Perez was a faculty member at Texas A&M from 2012-2019 where he precepted IPPEs, APPEs, PGY1 and PGY 2 residents, and was recently a residency program director for the PGY2 internal medicine specialty pharmacy residency at Texas A&M. At UTEP, Dr. Perez will be an instructor in drug information, ISBP courses and serve as course coordinator for the integrated skills lab in the fall and others in the spring and will serve as residency program coordinator for the school’s PGY2 pharmacotherapy specialty pharmacy residency. Dr. Perez’s research interest is in best practices and facilitating/creating systems for advancing the profession and supporting a more patient centered philosophy of practice that pharmacists can be reimbursed for, teaching and learning regarding assessment (making assessment more accurate) and student learning (methods/strategies for facilitating student self-learning), and clinical research (antithrombotic therapy, pharmaceutical care services impact).
Student Officers for the APhA-ASP Chapter for the 2019-2020 Year (from right to left)
President Michael Maxwell (P3)
President-Elect: Jason Sanchez (P2)
Communications VP: Cristina Ortega (P3)
Finance VP: Andrew Carrion (P3)
Patient Care VP: Jacqueline de la Vega (P3)
Membership VP: Gerardo (Jerry) Sanchez (P2)
International VP: Amir Rastegari (P3)
Policy VP: Gaspar Quintana (P3- not pictured)

The P4s are starting.........
.....Remember to provide your IPPE and APPE availability
Starting May 2020, there will be P4 students on APPEs. OEE is requesting your availability for APPEs and spring and summer IPPEs by Oct 11th. Start planning for students now. If you have questions on what IPPEs or APPEs you could take or how students could fit in, let the OEE know. Additionally, if you have trouble submitting availability, let us help you!
The UTEP SOP is listening....

The UTEP SOP presented The Pharmacy Job Market in Current Times, Saturday 9/7/19 in response to requests to provide updates on the current pharmacy job market in the area. We were happy to see about 30 pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and students join us. The presentation will be available online soon. To continue the discussion, the UTEP School of Pharmacy has invited Dr. Michael Katz, Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Science, at University of Arizona College of Pharmacy to speak, October 22, 5:30 PM-7:00 PM. More information to come out soon.
What level is the student at: introduce, Reinforce, APPE ready or Apply?

Part 1 of series looking at the experiential evaluation scale and how it applies to the practice environment.

In addition to the day to day feedback you give a student, the Course IPPEs and APPEs have evaluations in CORE ELMS for the preceptor to complete. While the feedback and comments used to evaluate the student should not be new to the student, applying that to the evaluation scale could be confusion. The evaluation scale has 4 levels the student could be at. But what does this really mean? What level should I expect the student to be at? Through this series, we will explore these and other questions about the experiential evaluation.

The four levels in the evaluation scale are:

1. **Introduction** - student knows how to achieve competency in knowledge, but rarely demonstrated it; significant intervention from preceptor and preceptor must often complete for student
2. **Reinforce** - student knows how to achieve competence in knowledge but has not demonstrated it at an acceptable level; student required significant intervention from preceptor
3. **APPE ready** - student performed the competency in knowledge at an acceptable level; student has met expectations but requires occasional intervention from preceptor.
4. **Apply level** - student has excelled in performing competency in knowledge; student has met expectations and requires minimal to no intervention from preceptor.

This evaluation scale is applied to the assigned Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) for that rotation. In Experiential Education, students may be attempts to "apply" their skills. However, that would not be at an "Apply level" for this scale. The preceptor should look at the entire EPA statement and look at how much the preceptor needed to be involved in the tasks. For instance, a P1 student may be able to communicate with a patient effectively, but would need prompting from the preceptor about what to communicate.

In the next article, we will continue to explore applying the EPA evaluation scale to specific case scenarios.
Preceptor Literature:
Sylvia, LM. A Lesson in clinical reasoning for the pharmacy preceptor. AJHP 2019; 76: 944-952.

CORE ELMS Corner:

Viewing student feedback

You evaluate students on rotation, but did you know that students can evaluate the preceptor. You can view individual evaluations under the "Evaluations" tab, then "evaluation of preceptor/site." This lists all evaluations completed. Additionally, you can go to the "reporting" tab and run a report for all your evaluations to get your averages and how you compare with other preceptors.

Students evaluate preceptors on the following statements on a 4 point likert scale of rarely (1), sometimes (2), frequently (3), always (4):

- The preceptor provided sufficient activities/opportunities to allow for completion of rotation objectives.
- The preceptor is a good role model.
- The preceptor is a knowledgeable teacher.
- The preceptor demonstrated an acceptable level of professionalism regarding responsibility, commitment to excellence, respect for others, honesty and integrity, care and compassion, and relationships with the members of the health care team.

Lastly, the students is asked "I would recommend this preceptor to other students," with a yes or no response.

All student responses are anonymous. Preceptors will only see their evaluations once five (5) evaluations have been completed. Student evaluations of preceptors are required for course IPPEs and APPEs and optional for didactic IPPEs. View all student feedback as an opportunity to grow as a preceptor.

If you have trouble viewing your feedback or have questions, contact the OEE.
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*1 mile walk alternative available

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Early Registration (Now-October 25) $25
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Halloween Costumes are encouraged! All runners will receive a t-shirt.

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All proceeds will go towards an endowment that will benefit the UTEP School of Pharmacy students.