



# SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

3RD QUARTER | SEPTEMBER 2025

## MINER RX NUGGET

Updates for the preceptors of the University of Texas at El Paso School of Pharmacy

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## UTEP White Coat Ceremony Class of 2029





## Calendar:

Oct. 20-26: National Pharmacy Week

Nov. 11: PET Quarterly Meeting & Preceptor Recognition Dinner

Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving Holiday - University Closed

Dec. 22-Jan. 1: Christmas Holiday Break - University Closed

## Upcoming Rotation Dates:

### 2025 Fall IPPE

Aug. 25 - Dec. 7 : Week 1-15

### 2025-26 APPE

Sep. 22 - Oct. 31: APPE 4

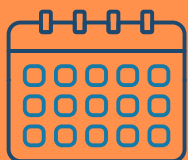
Nov. 3 - Dec. 12: APPE 5

Jan. 5 - Feb. 13: APPE 6

Feb. 16 - Mar. 27: APPE 7

Mar. 30 - May 8: APPE 8

Update your calendar:  
Send us your events!



# Announcements

## “Improving Vaccination Rates Across the Lifespan” Webinar

The National Hispanic Pharmacists Association NHPA invites you to attend their upcoming webinar titled “Improving Vaccination Rates Across the Lifespan”

The webinar will be presented by two Wal-Mart PharmD residents, Dr. Nealee Weldon and Dr. Gaurav Ahol.

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 7 PM EST/6 PM CT/5 PM PT

Register now:

[bit.ly/3VkJGQx](https://bit.ly/3VkJGQx)



## On Demand Preceptor Courses in CEImpact

As a UTEP School of Pharmacy Preceptor, we encourage you to take advantage of the FREE CEImpact database for all your Pharmacists CE needs.

Start by visiting the UTEP sponsored CEImpact landing page at the link below and log in with your primary email.

### UTEP CEImpact

After logging in, input the UTEP25 discount code in the left menu and begin browsing the many free and discounted Pharmacy CE courses. Highlighted below are three of the most popular course.

FERPA: A Guide for Preceptors

Managing Time as a Preceptor

Crucial Conversations in Experiential Education

*Thank you Preceptors!*



# School of Pharmacy Student Highlights

Big news! UTEP School of Pharmacy has won the 2025 Texas Pharmacy Association Student Advocacy Award! 🏆

Our TPA-ASP chapter was recognized for our outstanding contributions to pharmacy advocacy in Texas, including our involvement in Pharmacy Day at the Capitol, virtual meetings with Rep. Vincent Perez and Sen. Cesar Blanco, and hosting voter registration drives last summer.

We're so proud of all the hard work and dedication our students have put into making a positive impact in our community. Here's to more advocacy, action, and achievements ahead! Go miners!



Congratulations to our amazing student pharmacists P2 Tania Ibarra, P2 Daisy Enriquez, P3 Crystal Barraza and P3 Jessika Cox who represented UTEP School of Pharmacy with excellence this past weekend at the Student Pharmacist Self-Care Competition Championship, part of the Texas Pharmacy Association Expo at Austin, TX



They dominated the competition by winning both preliminary rounds, showcasing their clinical knowledge, communication skills, and professionalism. Though the final wager round didn't go our way, their performance was nothing short of outstanding!

We are incredibly proud of your hard work, teamwork, and dedication. See you back at the championship next year!



# Featured Article

## **FDA Alleges Association Between Prenatal Acetaminophen Use and Autism in Children**

“However, experts say that a causal relationship between acetaminophen and autism has not been established.”

The FDA has announced that it is initiating the process for a label change—and alerting physicians across the country—reflecting supposed evidence suggesting that the use of acetaminophen (Tylenol; Kenvue) by pregnant women may be associated with a heightened risk of neurological conditions, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD), or autism.<sup>1</sup>

However, the agency also notes that while numerous studies describe an association between acetaminophen and neurological conditions, a causal relationship has not been established. It also cautioned that acetaminophen is the only OTC drug approved for use to treat fevers during pregnancy; ibuprofen (Advil) and aspirin are generally not recommended until after 20 weeks’ gestation. Overheating, or hyperthermia, during pregnancy—especially of a long duration and during the first trimester—may increase the risk of harm to the baby.<sup>1-4</sup>



“The FDA is taking action to make parents and doctors aware of a considerable body of evidence about potential risks associated with acetaminophen,” FDA Commissioner Marty Makary, MD, MPH, said in the news release. “Even with this body of evidence, the choice still belongs with parents. The precautionary principle may lead many to avoid using acetaminophen during pregnancy, especially since most low-grade fevers don’t require treatment. It remains reasonable, however, for pregnant women to use acetaminophen in certain scenarios.”<sup>1</sup>

Medical societies, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, decried the actions as “highly concerning to clinicians” and “irresponsible when considering the harmful and confusing message they send to pregnant patients.” Indeed, the highest quality available evidence affirms that there is no link between prenatal acetaminophen use and neurodevelopmental disorders.<sup>5,6</sup>



# Featured Articles (cont.)

## **FDA Cites Small Studies, but Larger Research Debunks Suspicion**

In its announcement, the FDA cited evidence that has emerged in recent years describing a correlation between acetaminophen use during pregnancy and subsequent ADHD and ASD diagnoses. It specifically cited 2 cohort studies: the 2019 Nurses' Health Study II, which used a negative control exposure approach to evaluate the association between maternal acetaminophen use and ADHD among 8856 children, and the 2020 Boston Birth Cohort study, which analyzed 996 mother-infant dyads for prospective associations between cord plasma acetaminophen metabolites and ASD and ADHD.<sup>1,7,8</sup>

More recently, researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai published a systematic review applying the Navigation Guide methodology and came to the suggestion that prenatal exposure to acetaminophen may increase the risk of neurodevelopmental disorders, including ASD and ADHD. According to these researchers, the findings indicate that higher-quality studies were more likely to show a link between acetaminophen and ASD or ADHD; however, they caution that the study does not establish causation.<sup>9</sup>

According to the ACOG, these studies feature methodological pitfalls, including a lack of a control for confounding factors or the use of unreliable self-reported data. The sample sizes of these studies also pale in comparison with other higher-quality studies available. One such study was published last year in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA); it was a nationwide cohort study in Sweden with sibling control analysis, a critical measure for ensuring no unobserved familial confounding.<sup>5,10</sup>

Across a large sample of 2,480,797 children, preliminary models without sibling control found a marginally increased risk of autism at age 10, ADHD, and intellectual disability. However, according to matched full sibling pairs, there was no evidence that acetaminophen use during pregnancy was associated with autism, ADHD, or intellectual disability. Furthermore, there was no evidence of a dose-response pattern in sibling-control analyses. From this large sample, no associations between ASD or ADHD and acetaminophen use could be firmly established, suggesting that other models claiming such associations was due to unobserved confounding of data.<sup>10</sup>

"In more than 2 decades of research on the use of acetaminophen in pregnancy, not a single reputable study had successfully concluded that the use of acetaminophen in any trimester of pregnancy causes neurodevelopmental disorders in children," Steven J. Fleischman, MD, MBA, FACOG president of ACOG, said in their news release.<sup>5</sup>



# Featured Articles (cont.)

## Next Steps for Pharmacists

The FDA's announcement may cause a whirlwind of concerns and questions from both pregnant individuals and mothers. There may be worries regarding past or current acetaminophen use for maternal fevers, headaches as a sign of preeclampsia, and pain, and patients may be concerned that their child is at risk of neurodevelopmental disorders if acetaminophen is taken. Pharmacists can play an essential role in easing patient concerns and planning next steps for their care.<sup>1</sup>

Acetaminophen is the only available option for pregnant individuals to reduce fever or mitigate pain. Pharmacists should counsel patients that alternatives, including ibuprofen, should be avoided. According to the FDA's letter to physicians, pregnant individuals should consider minimizing the use of acetaminophen for routine low-grade fevers, but the decision should be "balanced with the fact that acetaminophen is the safest over-the-counter alternative in pregnancy among all analgesics and antipyretics." Pharmacists should relay this information to patients, while noting that high-quality research has not found an association between prenatal acetaminophen and ASD or ADHD.<sup>11</sup>

Above all, pharmacists should ensure that patients who are pregnant continue to effectively manage their pain or fevers as they arise. Preventing severe fevers is a critical aspect of managing the health of both the mother and child.

### REFERENCES

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# New Additions to UTEP School of Pharmacy

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**Kayla Maki Ortiz, PharmD, PCIDP**  
Clinical Assistant Professor

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## Calling for 2026-27 IPPE/APPE Availability



We are currently calling out for 2026-27 IPPE/APPE Availability. Summer IPPE Community/Hospital rotations start on June 1st 2026 until August 21 2026.  
APPE rotations start on May 25th 2026 until May 7th 2027.

### [Availability Submission Survey](#)

Please don't hesitate to submit your availability via the survey link above or notify the OEE department at [exedpharmacy@utep.edu](mailto:exedpharmacy@utep.edu) if you are available to take students.

We will be happy to assist in collecting your availability.

Thank you in advance for supporting our students!



This is a quarterly publication of the UTEP Office of Experiential Education/Preceptor Excellence Team.  
We'd love to hear from YOU - Please send article ideas, events, awards/achievements/celebrations, or reach out to us if your are interested in becoming more involved.  
Contact the OEE/PET: [exedpharmacy@utep.edu](mailto:exedpharmacy@utep.edu)