



SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

2ND QUARTER | JUNE 2025

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

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UTEP School of Pharmacy 2025 Graduating Class



On May 15th 2025 the School of Pharmacy celebrated it's 5th cohort.

Congratulations Class of 2025!

Calendar:

Aug. 12th - PET Quarterly Meeting

Aug. 25th - Fall Classes Begin

Sep. 1st - Labor Day (University closed)

Upcoming Rotation Dates:

2025 Summer IPPE

Jun. 30 - Jul. 11: IPPE Block 4

July 14 - 25: IPPE Block 4

July 28 - Aug. 8: IPPE Block 5

Aug. 11 - 22: IPPE Block 6

2025-26 APPE

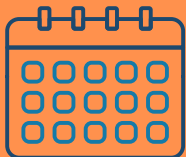
Jun. 30 - Aug. 8: APPE 2

Aug. 11 - Sep. 19: APPE 3

Sep. 22 - Oct. 31: APPE 4

Nov. 3 - Dec. 12: APPE 5

Update your calendar:
Send us your events!



Announcements



Calling for 2025 Fall Didactic IPPE Availability



We are currently calling out for 2025 Fall Didactic Availability. Fall Didactic rotations run from August 25th until December 7th.

Please notify the OEE department at 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!



On Demand Preceptor CEImpact Updated 2025 Access Code

As an active UTEP SOP preceptor, it is important to us that you maintain your Preceptor status with the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. To promote this, on-demand continuing education (CE) programs through CEImpact have been made available to you at no cost. For the new [2025 CEImpact access code](#) and a [list of TCEP approved CEImpact courses](#), please reference the documents under the Preceptor Resources section of your CORE Elms home page. Locate the "External Resources" link at the bottom of the left-bound menu on your CORE ELMS Home page for CEImpact log in instructions.



Thank you Preceptors!

2024-25 Preceptors of the Year

It is our pleasure to recognize the recipients of the Preceptor of the Year Award as voted on by the School of Pharmacy students.



Dr. William DeMarco
Albertson's/Savon
Pharmacy

**IPPE Community
Preceptor of the Year**



Dr. Sarah Garcia
Del Sol Medical
Center

**IPPE Hospital
Preceptor of the Year**

Dr. Alaa Abdelhakiem
UTEP School of
Pharmacy

**APPE Faculty
Preceptor of the Year**



Dr. Gabe Ortiz
University Medical
Center

**APPE Non-Faculty
Preceptor of the Year**



Want to get more involved?

Join our Preceptor Excellence Team!

The Preceptor Excellence Team is a great way to be more involved with efforts focusing on developing, recruiting, retaining, evaluating and recognizing preceptors. Reach out to Amanda Loya at amloya1@utep.edu if you are interested in being part of the PET.



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 you are interested in becoming more involved.

Contact the OEE/PET: exedpharmacy@utep.edu

CORE ELMS Corner

UPDATES TO APPE & IPPE ROTATION EVALUATIONS

For the 2025-26 rotation year the Office of Experiential Education has updated the APPE & IPPE Final and Midpoint Evaluations in an effort to simplify and create a more user-friendly format. This new layout is designed to make the evaluation process more efficient and intuitive. To assist in this transition, please review the updates outlined below along with the updated tutorial videos.

- IPPE Final Evaluation- <https://utep.yuja.com/v/ippecourseeval>
- APPE Midpoint Evaluation- <https://utep.yuja.com/v/appemidpointeval>
- APPE Final Evaluation- <https://utep.yuja.com/v/appefinaleval>

Rotation-Specific Changes:

- IPPE Rotations: The final evaluation has been updated to incorporate the new professionalism rubric.
- APPE Rotations: Both the midpoint and final evaluations have been updated to reflect the new professionalism rubric.

Streamlined Evaluation Format:

Assessment of each EPA has been condensed down to one question and no longer requires selection of activities performed by the student. Instead, a list of “Sample Activities” is provided with each EPA for preceptors to reference.

	N/A- Not Applicable	Observe Only	Direct Supervision	Reactive Supervision	Intermittent Supervision	General Direction	
EPA 1. Collect information necessary to identify a patient's medication-related problems and health-related needs. Sample Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect a history from a patient or caregiver.• Collect a medication history from a patient or caregiver.• Collect a patient's experience with medication.• Collect information related to barriers for patients to take their medication(s).• Collect objective information from the patient (e.g. physical exam, point of care testing).• Collect data from a patient's electronic health, digital health, or medication record.	Final Required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Enter comments for Final

Updated Professionalism Assessment – EPA 15:

EPA 15, which focuses on assessing professionalism during rotations, has been revised using a new rubric organized around four key themes:

- Communication
- Compliance
- Timeliness
- Engagement

Preceptors will have an opportunity to assess each element on the Midpoint and Final evaluation and make a final assessment of the student's overall Professionalism through the rotation.

We believe this updated approach will provide a clearer structure for evaluating and giving targeted feedback to students. By focusing on these specific themes, we hope preceptors will find it easier to identify strengths and areas for improvement in student professionalism.

Featured Article

Meet the new members of the CDC's vaccine advisory panel

Published on June 12th 2025 by [Advisory Board](#)

"HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Wednesday appointed eight new members to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which advises CDC on vaccines, two days after he fired all 17 members from the committee. Here's who's on the panel."

RFK Jr. appoints new ACIP members

On Monday, Kennedy fired all 17 members of ACIP, arguing in an opinion piece for the Wall Street Journal that ACIP has been "plagued with persistent conflicts of interest and has become little more than a rubber stamp for any vaccine," adding that ACIP has "never recommended against a vaccine — even those later withdrawn for safety reasons" and has "failed to scrutinize vaccine products given to babies and pregnant women."

While Kennedy argued the financial conflicts of interest were cause for the firings, a White House official and person close to Kennedy said on Tuesday to the New York Times that Kennedy was also concerned that all the members had been appointed by former President Joe Biden and that some had donated to Democrats.

In a post on X, Kennedy announced the eight doctors and researchers who would be part of ACIP, saying his picks included "highly credentialed scientists, leading public-health experts, and some of America's most accomplished physicians." All of Kennedy's picks are either medical doctors or doctorates.

The new ACIP members include:

Joseph Hibbeln, a psychiatrist and nutritional scientist with expertise in the effects of nutrition on the brain. Hibbeln has published research suggesting vegetarian diets could be linked to depression and has argued that a variety of psychiatric disorders could be caused by deficiencies in omega-3 fatty acids. According to STAT, it doesn't appear he's done much research on vaccines.



Vicky Pebsworth, a nurse with a Ph.D. in public health who previously served on **FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee** (VRBPAC). Pebsworth is currently on the board of the **National Vaccine Information Center**, a nonprofit previously known as **Dissatisfied Patients Together**, which questions the safety of vaccines.

Featured Article

Dr. Michael Ross withdrew from the federal vaccine safety advisory committee Wednesday, two weeks after Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appointed him.

James Pagano, an ED physician with over 40 years of experience in the medical field. Kennedy said Pagano is a "strong advocate for evidence-based medicine" and has served on multiple hospital committees.



Robert Malone, a physician and researcher who has claimed to be one of the inventors of mRNA and has also denounced the technology. He gained fame among the anti-vaccine world and critics of the COVID-19 pandemic response through various appearances on podcasts, including an appearance on Joe Rogan's podcast in late 2021 where he questioned the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

Martin Kulldorff, a Swedish biostatistician and previous member of ACIP's vaccine safety subgroup and FDA's **Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee**. Kulldorff helped develop statistical tools for CDC's Vaccine Safety Datalink project, which tracks adverse vaccine effects. He also cowrote the Great Barrington Declaration, alongside **NIH** Director Jay Bhattacharya, in 2020, in which he and his coauthors advocated for lifting lockdowns to build herd immunity to COVID-19. Kulldorff became a leader at the **Brownstone Institute** in 2021, a think tank based on opposing COVID-19 restrictions that has also published articles disputing the safety of COVID-19 shots and other vaccines.



Cody Meissner, a professor of pediatrics at **Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine** and a previous member of ACIP from 2008 to 2012, as well as a previous member of VRBPAC. Meissner recently supported Kennedy's decision to stop recommending COVID-19 shots for health children and healthy pregnant women and in 2021, wrote an essay alongside FDA Commissioner Marty Makary arguing against masking children to limit the spread of COVID-19. Meissner has also previously argued against COVID-19 vaccine mandates and expressed concerns about people at low risk of serious COVID-19 getting vaccinated during the pandemic. However, Meissner has also said vaccines have saved millions of lives across diseases and called COVID-19 vaccines "extraordinary," saying the shots are safe and effective for adults.

Featured Article

Retsef Levi, a professor of operations management at the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**. Levi has worked on projects around healthcare system management but doesn't appear to have much of a publishing record on topics related to vaccines or infectious diseases, according to STAT. However, Levi started coauthoring papers and letters to the editor during the COVID-19 pandemic raising safety concerns about COVID-19 vaccines, and in 2023 said that the vaccines should be halted, alleging they were causing deaths.



Kennedy said the new members will attend ACIP's next meeting, which is scheduled for June 25, and that they will demand "definitive safety and efficacy data before making any new vaccine recommendations." ACIP will also "review safety and efficacy data for the current schedule as well," Kennedy added.

Reaction

Following the announcement, several infectious disease and vaccine experts accused Kennedy of breaking his word that he wouldn't appoint "ideological anti-vaxxers" to ACIP and expressed concerns about some of the appointments.

"I think everybody is expecting that what we're going to start seeing is the rollback of the recommendations," said Sara Rosenbaum, a professor emerita of public health law at George Washington University.

"This was all a prelude to a takeover of the process by which the recommendations and the schedule are built," she said. "And now what we're going to start seeing is changes to the recommendations on the schedule for both [the Vaccines for Children Program] and for private insurance."

Paul Offit, a vaccine expert at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, who previously served as a member of ACIP, said he was mainly concerned about the appointments of Pebsworth and Malone who, he said, "is a clear anti-vaccine activist."

As for the rest of the committee, Offit said "they seem reasonable — what they lack, it seems to me, is the kind of expertise or experience in vaccines that was on that committee. I think we lost experience, expertise, and institutional memory, and so I think we've taken a giant step backward in terms of the kind of advice that we're going to be getting. And I wonder whether the medical and scientific community will look at this committee now and not trust their advice."

Featured Article

Abram Wagner, from the **University of Michigan's** school of public health who investigates vaccination programs, said he's not happy with the appointments.

"The previous ACIP was made up of technical experts who have spent their lives studying vaccines," he said, adding that most of the appointees "don't have the technical capacity that we would expect out of the people who would have to make really complicated decisions involving interpreting complicated scientific data."

However, Offit and other experts specifically praised Meissner for his depth of vaccine knowledge. Richard Hughes, who teaches vaccine law at **George Washington University Law School**, called Meissner a "legitimate vaccinologist."

Hughes said three of the new members are "legitimate physicians" who have "no discernible expertise" in immunology or vaccines. But he characterized the remaining four as "Covid-19 deniers, skeptics and outright anti-vaccine individuals."

Source: [Advisory Board](#)