Meridian and Pocatello Student Pharmacists Awarded Grant for Community Outreach Efforts

Idaho State University College of Pharmacy’s nationally recognized outreach programs have another award to add to the prescription bottle—a $1,500 Powering Tomorrow Grant from Idaho Power.

The college’s student pharmacy organization is among 32 schools, universities and nonprofits in Idaho and Oregon to receive a grant, which recognizes innovative educational programs and community initiatives.

“We are thrilled. The money is critical to our outreach programs which are funded through student fundraising activities,” said pharmacy student James Lufkin.

This is the fourth year of the Powering Tomorrow grant program. Applicants apply via Idaho Power’s Facebook page and readers vote. Idaho Power considers the number of votes cast and the applicant’s program merits. For a list of 2014 grant recipients, go to www.idahopower.com/poweringlives.

ISU’s student pharmacy outreach programs—which served more than 13,000 Idahoans in 2013—have garnered national and regional awards for innovative and comprehensive approaches to health care and consumer education. Both Meridian and Pocatello-based students participate.

Through Operation Immunization, students vaccinated 5,300 patients for influenza, meningitis and pneumococcal disease. Operation Diabetes, Operation Heart and Gen Rx screened thousands of Idahoans for heart disease and diabetes and educated the public about drug abuse and how to safely dispose of old medications. Thanks to the Poison Prevention mascot, Mr. Yuk, hundreds of school children learned the dangers of ingesting unidentified substances and what to do in emergencies.
Dr. Karima Benyahia, an international researcher from Sidi Bel Abbes, Algeria, has wrapped up a month-long visit to the College of Pharmacy at Idaho State University-Meridian.

She spent Jan. 7 through Feb. 4 collaborating with Dr. Dong “Danny” Xu, a computational chemist and assistant professor in the Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences department.

Xu conducts research in advanced molecular simulation and protein engineering that could lead to the discovery of new drugs to treat chemical addictions and mental illness.

Benyahia, a faculty member in the Sciences and Technology Institute at the University of Ain Temouchent, Algeria, was searching for advanced study in computational chemistry and learned of Xu’s research on the Internet. She was accepted to her university’s international scholars program, which helped fund her trip to Idaho.

Benyahia says she’ll apply the knowledge gleaned from her collaboration with Xu to her own biomedical research and share new insights with her colleagues at home.

Xu says it was a pleasure to host Benyahia for the month and looks forward to continuing the collaboration.

He said ISU is already known for its caliber of research in Idaho and the United States. Hosting an international researcher can strengthen the university’s prestige on a global level, he added.

Xu holds a Ph.D. in computational science from San Diego State University. After three years of postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Diego, Xu joined ISU in 2012.

**Spaghetti Feed Raffle & Auction**

*It’s not too late to participate!*

Listed 18th on the Idaho State Journal’s list of 101 things to do in Pocatello, the College of Pharmacy Spaghetti Feed Raffle and Auction has become a community event that shouldn’t be missed. In it’s 21st year, this year’s event will take place Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. in the Pond Student Union Ballroom.

Tickets for the event will be $5 per person or $20 per family.

This year there will be historical pharmacy items available in the silent and live auctions. These items include a set of pharmacy scales that date from 1943 and framed scripts that date as far back as 1925. These items are a small part of the donations received from the Eames and Pyeatt families. Other items in the auction include an Apple iPad Mini and several Apple iPod Nanos will be given away in the raffle.

Hosted by the College’s Professional Pharmacy Student Alliance, (PPSA) proceeds from the event will once again help fulfill the wish of a Make-A-Wish child.
This year’s Make-A-Wish child is Yadira, an 18-year-old young woman who was diagnosed with leukemia several years ago. When asked about her wish, Yadira said, “Many people want to go somewhere or meet someone but all I want is to be someone. Someone I would be very proud to know.” Her wish is for “assistance with college tuition.” Yadira recently graduated from high school and has started attending ISU. At least 25 percent of the proceeds from the Spaghetti Feed will go to fund Yadira’s wish come true. The remaining will go to fund the College of Pharmacy community patient outreach projects, for which they have received national recognition.

We welcome sponsorship for the event and have received donations from many generous benefactors including Albertson’s, Rite-Aid, Michael Prime ('70) and Dick’s Pharmacy.

Contact James Lufkin at lufkjam@pharmacy.isu.edu or julie@pharmacy.isu.edu, 282-3393 for more information.

Take a look at these items and more at http://pharmacy.isu.edu/live/sfra/.

Lindsey Hunt (P3) has recently been awarded a scholarship from the APhA Foundation. Only 13 students in the nation are chosen to receive this prestigious award. According to the APhA Foundation, the students who receive this award are not only involved in their school’s APhA Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) chapter but "help shape the future of the pharmacy profession while managing the demands of a full-time curriculum."

Hunt has served as APhA-ASP Secretary and Policy Vice President. According to Professor Glenda Carr, "The reason that Lindsey is successful in her professional pursuits is because of her leadership. She has chosen pharmacy as her profession and we will be rewarded because of it. Her advocacy efforts will be felt for many years to come; as she has set the bar of achievement so high.

While involved with ASP, Hunt has established a better relationship with both state pharmacy associations. She coordinated a Pharmacy Day at the Idaho State Capital building bringing together both state organizations to work together for the same cause. "Pharmacy Day with the legislatures has never been so successful; much of that success is because of Lindsey’s ambition and determination,” said Carr.

Hunt also served as the Region 7 Delegate Assisting Idaho State, Oregon State, Univ. of Utah, Washington State, Univ. of Washington, Pacific Univ, and Univ. of Montana with resolution development. This position included the opportunity to lead the Policy Proposal Session and Chapter Delegate Orientation session during the 2013 Midyear Regional Meeting.

In addition to these pursuits, Hunt is an intern for the Boise Community Health Screening Events that bring interdisciplinary opportunities to students and health screening services to the underserved public.

Dr. Robin Dodson, Director of Student Services in Meridian added, “Lindsey is an outstanding example of a PharmD student not only in her academic performance, but her commitment to community service, leadership and the profession. She is and will continue to be a successful professional and leader of pharmacy.”

Hunt will be recognized on March 31, 2014, at the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Orlando.
You are Invited...

Friday, April 25, 2014, 6-9 p.m.

...to a Reception and at the L.S. Skaggs College of Pharmacy Complex at the ISU-Meridian Health Science Center

Paul Cady, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at ISU, cordially invites alumni, friends and your guests to a reception and open house at the ISU-Meridian Health Science Center.

Please join our faculty, staff and students to see the Skaggs College of Pharmacy Complex, which includes our new research labs and the research faculty that run them. We will also be dedicating the Glen H. Pyeatt History of Pharmacy Artifacts Display and the Legacy of Commitment Donor Wall.

Join alumni from the Division of Health Sciences and see how ISU has grown in the Treasure Valley. We are proud of our programs and want to share them with you.

R.S.V.P. to (208) 373-1700 or rsvp@pharmacy.isu.edu