Dr. Kirk Hevener Receives New Investigator Award

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) has recently chosen Idaho State University Pharmacy professor Dr. Kirk Hevener for a New Investigator Award.

The award, which supports new pharmacy faculty member’s research programs, includes a $10,000 pilot grant as well as travel expenses to present his research at the annual AACP meeting in July 2015.

Pilot grants are traditionally awarded to junior faculty and allow the opportunity to, “take good ideas and turn them into good research projects,” said Hevener. The award will make Hevener’s research competitive for larger grants once his project is off the ground.

“I’m very happy to get it,” said Hevener. “It’s my first award since coming to ISU. I’m glad they had confidence in my research to fund it.”

Hevener, who joined the Biological and Pharmaceutical Sciences Department in March 2013, is the newest faculty member at the Skaggs Pharmacy Complex at the ISU Meridian Health Science Center.

“Dr. Hevener is part of a small group of energetic new faculty members engaged in structural biology and drug discovery research,” said Dana Diedrich, chair of the

Hevener uses computer-aided modeling to identify new compounds that can inhibit these targets as drug candidates. His research has focused on infectious diseases of the oral cavity such as periodontal disease as well as infectious diseases of the lower bowel such as Clostridium difficile colitis.

His project will concentrate on characterizing a novel antibacterial target in the C. difficile bacteria and testing to identify inhibitors. Hevener hopes to prove that inhibition of this target, an enzyme called FabK, will result in a selective antibacterial affect against C. difficile. According to the Mayo Clinic, “Illness from C. difficile most commonly affects older adults in hospitals or in long-term care facilities and typically occurs after use of broad-spectrum antibiotic medications.”

“Hypervirulent, drug-resistant C. difficile infections result in an estimated 14,000 deaths per year and a national burden in excess of $3 billion annually,” Hevener stated in his abstract. “Broad-spectrum antibiotics can kill off the ‘good’ bacteria in the gut, allowing C. difficile to grow. (continued)
Selective antibiotics, such as those we hope to develop, could be used to treat *C. difficile* infection, while allowing the return of the ‘good’ bacteria.”

One reviewer for the grant called Hevener’s work a “highly interesting project that focuses on an unmet need for inhibitors against *C. difficile*.”

Hevener comes to Idaho from postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He received both a Pharm.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee.

According to Dean Paul Cady, “Hevener is a wonderful addition to our faculty and has everything it takes to be a successful researcher.”

Nationally, 12 were chosen to receive the award.

### 21st Annual Spaghetti Feed Raffle and Auction

Tickets for the event will be $5 per person or $25 per family.

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 girl 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.” Leading to her wish of “assistance with a 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 make Yadira’s wish come true. The remaining will go to fund the College of Pharmacy rural community patient outreach projects, for which they have received national recognition.

There are two ways you and your business can support the 21st Annual Spaghetti Feed, Raffle & Auction. The first is a cash sponsorship for which your company will be given special recognition as one of our event sponsors with your logo appearing on all of our promotional materials. The second way you can support us is to donate an item to our event that will live auction at our event a great success. Over the next month we will be contacting people and businesses to gather items for our live event.

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

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<th>21st Annual Spaghetti Feed Raffle &amp; Auction</th>
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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.

Yadira, the 2014 Make-A-Wish recipient

A view of the Spaghetti Feed silent auction 2013
Dr. Cindy Wilson Leaving College to Pursue New Adventures

Following a 19-year career with the Idaho State University College of Pharmacy, Dr. Cindy Wilson is leaving to pursue new adventures.

“I am grateful for the opportunity I have had at ISU to expand my skills as a scientist, as a teacher and in the pedagogy of learning,” said Wilson.

Wilson came to ISU in 1995 following a postdoctoral Fellowship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She earned her B.S. degree from Pennsylvania State University and earned her Ph.D. from East Carolina University School of Medicine in the field of Biochemistry.

Because of her research in diabetes she became deeply involved with Operation Diabetes and developed many programs within the operation.

“She helped establish Operation Diabetes into the nationally recognized program it is today,” said Dean Paul Cady. “She receives a lot of credit for expanding our outreach and building awareness of the College of Pharmacy.”

Wilson taught classes in endocrine pharmacology, cardiovascular pharmacology, renal pharmacology, hematological pharmacology and diabetes. She actively taught in the University undergraduate and the graduate degree programs (M.S. and Ph.D.), as well as in the professional Pharm.D. program.

“I appreciate that Dr. Cindy Wilson was the most upbeat and positive faculty member in our department,” said Dana Diedrich, chair of the Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences department. “She has a keen sense for detail and did her work with precision and enthusiasm. I shall miss her contributions to the College and department.”

“Wilson is a wonderful, innovative teacher,” Dean Cady added.

When asked what she will miss about teaching she said among many things. “I will miss the day-to-day interactions with students and the opportunity to assist them in overcoming hurdles, serving the community and the intellectual stimulation with students and colleges across the campus and state in the academic environment.”

Wilson is a natural storyteller and has pursued an interest in photography from a young age. She shares this love by creating images for people to connect to the places that she’s visited soon to be available on her website: expandingvisionsportal.com. You can follow her and her art on Facebook at www.facebook.com/expandingvisionsportal. Her images have been displayed at First Friday Art-Walks, a local dentists office and soon to be seen in local coffee shops. As a life-coach she offers her vast collection of tools, processes, experiences and skills in one-on-one and group settings.

As she spends more time away from Pocatello Wilson said she will always love it here. According to her, it offers easy access to amazing, preserved, diverse natural habitat to hike, bike and rock climb. “I’ve learned how to rock climb here and how to roll a kayak because of ISU’s amazing Outdoor Center,” she said.

Wilson also has a love of red-rock country and spends a lot of time in Moab, UT at the Mt. Peale Sanctuary (mtpeale.com). According to Wilson she will be taking her grant writing skills as a consultant for the sanctuary. Her association with Mt. Peale combines her love for animals and the outdoors with people who care for animals and the wilderness.

Pharmacy Students Help Make Holidays Brighter

College of Pharmacy students in Pocatello and Meridian spent the holiday giving their time and efforts to make it a bright one for those in need. Phi Lambda Sigma fraternity collected food items and monetary donations for the Idaho Food Bank to help those families in the area enjoy a holiday meal. More than 300 lbs of food were donated to the Idaho Food Bank.

The P-1 class hosted an adopt-a-family fundraiser in which one family in Meridian, one in Pocatello, one family in Idaho Falls and The Bannock House in Pocatello were beneficiaries of the $1000 raised.

Kappa Psi Epsilon Pi fraternity was involved in 6 separate events including Toys for Tots, the Idaho Humane Society pet drive and Dress-A-Child. The Idaho Food Bank, area children and pets and nine individual families benefited from their efforts.

The students would like to thank all of those that gave so generously and helped make each project successful.
Idaho State University student pharmacists joined the Idaho State Pharmacy Association (ISPA) to present Idaho Pharmacy Day and Health Fair Monday, Jan. 20 at the State Capitol.

ISU’s student chapter of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and local Idaho pharmacists were on the first floor of the Idaho State Capitol Building in downtown Boise offering a wide range of health services to the public and lawmakers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students provided free screenings for blood glucose, blood pressure, flu shots and cholesterol, as well as informed the attendees about smoking cessation, immunization, poison prevention, the dangers of prescription drug abuse, and over-the-counter medications and natural products. They were also available to discuss the expanding role of the pharmacist within a variety of practice settings.

The event is part of a continuous outreach effort by ISU-College of Pharmacy to raise health awareness throughout Idaho. Student pharmacists from ISU have received national recognition for their innovative and expansive patient care projects through the American Pharmacists Association (APhA). They received the 2011 National Award for their diabetes outreach projects. The accolades received are even more impressive because ISU is among the AAA Division in terms of size, so ISU grabbed this award using a much smaller number of students than the AA and A schools. The following year they were awarded a Chapter Achievement Award based on all of their projects and programs which placed them third of all 37 AAA Chapters.

ISU student pharmacists continue to dominate the region which includes top pharmacy schools like Oregon State, Washington State, University of Washington and University of Utah. There are five standard patient care projects that receive regional and national awards within APhA. In 2013, ISU received the regional award for three of those five projects: Diabetes, Immunization and Generation Rx. Generation Rx provides Jr. High and High School students information about the dangers of prescription drug abuse. These awards represent the dedication of students, faculty, and pharmacists from the community who oversee students.

Continuing Pharmacy Education Seminar

The Idaho State University College of Pharmacy is pleased to offer our annual continuing pharmacy education (CE) program, designed to update your pharmacy knowledge base and rejuvenate your practice skills in therapeutics. This one-day seminar will provide you with current information and a fresh perspective on a variety of topics.

Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, nurses, and mid-level practitioners are invited to attend this program. All seven presentations are ACPE-accredited, the last five are also ANCC-accredited. Additionally, the hour of pharmacy law CE meets the continuing education requirements for pharmacist licensure in Idaho.

If you have questions regarding this continuing education program, please call the Office of Continuing Pharmacy Education at 208.282.2586. You can also find more information at http://pharmacy.isu.edu/live/ce/.

Program Dates:
Meridian - March 2nd
Pocatello - March 16th
Coeur d’Alene - April 13th