Professor Rex Force named Associate Dean for Clinical Research

Rex Force, Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Family Medicine at Idaho State University and Director of the Family Medicine Clinical Research Center, has been named the associate dean for clinical research in the Idaho State University Division of Health Sciences and will head ISU’s new Idaho Center for Health Research.

“The faculty across the Division of Health Sciences is committed to increasing our research profile,” said Linda Hatzenbuehler, associate vice president and executive dean for the ISU Division of Health Sciences. “Developing this position and staffing it with an individual of Dr. Force’s background and expertise is a key element in achieving our goal.” Force has acted as interim associate dean for clinical research since last November.

“Our new office is helping to support health-related research across both campuses: in Pocatello and at ISU-Meridian,” Force said. “We’ll be providing a variety of different services to the ISU Division of Health Sciences, including supporting the grant funding process from beginning to end.”

The center will help researchers with the “pre-award process,” helping to identify grant-funding opportunities and assisting with grant writing. It will also offer budgetary assistance, project planning, project management assistance and reporting.

Force and the center are also cataloging the expertise of faculty and staff in the Division of Health Science to help with research collaboration among different parties.

Force is also charged with creating and maintaining connections with community health partners such as clinics, hospitals and other health organizations “across the state and region and even nationally.”

“I think as the premier health institution in the state we need to have a presence throughout the state as it relates to research,” Force said. “We all have important missions within our fields and it all requires research to move health care forward. We have a tremendous amount of research capability on our campuses and we need to maximize it to better fulfill our health mission and improve the health of Idahoans.”

Force earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in pharmacy from Oregon State University and his Pharm.D. degree from the University of Texas, after which he completed a clinical research fellowship at Ohio State University.

Force has been active in the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. He has authored more than 60 professional and research publications, and speaks regularly at professional meetings.

Force and his collaborators have received grants and contracts in excess of $5 million while at ISU. Presently, he is the site principal investigator of two research studies funded by the National Institutes of Health. His research interests focus on the treatment of diabetes, high blood pressure and cholesterol.

His work has also evaluated innovative methods for health care delivery and medication safety. He has been on the faculty at Idaho State University since 1993.

Andrew Taylor
When you walk out the door and out onto the sidewalk of Douglas Bell’s pharmacy, you are standing in Yellowstone National Park. Located on the southern border of Montana, the small independent pharmacy is located at the northern entrance of the Park in a small town called Gardiner, Montana.

While Gardiner may have a population of 500, October through May, tourist season is a different story. “July and August are the busiest time of year for us,” says Bell. Bell may fill 30 prescriptions a day in the off-season, and in July and August fill up to 100 a day. “I like to practice here because I provide a service people really need,” says Bell. In addition to his storefront, Bell supplies Yellowstone Parks’ walk-in clinics with orals and emergency medicines. 60 percent of his business is provided in this way.

Bell finds a lot of satisfaction in owning a pharmacy in such a beautiful place. “More ‘thank you’s’ than dollars make my day” he says. And on his time off, “It only takes three minutes from the door of my house to take my eight year old fishing in our favorite spot,” says Bell.

Bell graduated from the College of Pharmacy in 1989. At the time the pharmacy program was changing from a Bachelors program to a PharmD program. “I opted to stay with a BS degree and it has served me well,” says Bell.

After graduation, Bell opened a Medicine Shop in Twin Falls and was there for seven years. He decided to move closer to his hometown of Rexburg and did relief work in Alaska and the Arctic. The Gardiner Pharmacy had been open over 100 years and after going through a number of owners was closing. This is when Bell decided to buy it. At the same time his future wife, Kelly Stermitz had purchased the building and partnered with Bell. Four years later, they married.

Bell has four children. A 25 year old daughter, a 24 year old son, a 15 year old daughter and an eight year old son.
Walgreen’s Diversity Project

The prospect of a career in Pharmacy can be an exciting option for any student. The need for bilingual/diverse pharmacists is the focus of The Walgreen’s Diversity Project, which asks current PharmD students to educate and create awareness in minority populations with an emphasis on the Hispanic community.

This year, students in Meridian focused their efforts on High School classes that were already interested in healthcare careers. They presented for a Health Professions class and two Pharmacy Technician classes at Renaissance High School. They also presented at four Health classes at Mountain View High School.

After each presentation, they were asked questions about pharmacy school and how to become technicians. According to P3, Julia Permyakov, “We strived to tell students that a career in pharmacy can be for anyone and that a career as a pharmacist can be very rewarding.”

“Out of every class we presented at, there were always several students who were interested in pharmacy as a career. We hope that our presentation will encourage more students to pursue a career in pharmacy,” said Julia.

Students participate in International Vampire Cup Blood Drive

As part of a community awareness program that promotes the importance of donating blood, students participated in the international Vampire Cup Blood Drive. The competition is between all chapters of IPSF (International Pharmacy Student Federation). It was the first time the ISU College of Pharmacy participated in the drive but it was very successful. In Meridian the drive was on April 10th. There were 26 donors, and 12 were new donors. In Pocatello, the drive was on April 26th and there were 23 donors. Operations that were able to set up booths during the drive were Operation Heart, Poison Prevention, Generation Rx and Heartburn Awareness. According to Megan Penner, one of the student organizers, “It was our first year participating in the competition, and we are excited to make it a bigger and better event each year!”
Pharmacy Fair Set for November 8 and 9 in Meridian

The Idaho State University College of Pharmacy and the Professional Pharmacy Student Alliance (PPSA) will host the 2012 Pharmacy Recruiting Fair November 8 and 9 at the Meridian Health Science Center. Last year the Fair, which was held on the Pocatello campus, attracted recruiters from 23 different companies from Idaho and across the United States. This year the fair will be held at the Meridian campus for the first time and there is a drive to include independent pharmacies in the Boise area.

The recruiters come to conduct one-on-one interviews with the students for potential employment. Each year the College makes a special effort to ensure that fourth-year students performing clinical rotations in Pocatello, Boise, Coeur d’Alene and other Western sites return to campus to participate in interviews during the pharmacy recruiting fair.

“Several of the top pharmacies in the United States send recruiters to campus each year seeking ISU graduates who are well-educated, professional pharmacy practitioners,” said Julie Hillebrant, the coordinator for the Fair. Currently, about 60 pharmacy students serving rotations anticipate graduation in May 2013. In addition to the 2013 graduates, first-, second- and third-year pharmacy students will be able to discuss internships and employment opportunities with recruiters. The fair allows students to increase their knowledge of career pathways in community, hospital, research and other pharmacy career opportunities. In addition to recruiter interviews, participating companies will display exhibits from 10 a.m. to noon November 9 at the Meridian Health Science Center. For more information, contact Hillebrant at 208-282-3393 or julie@pharmacy.isu.edu.

Business Plan Competition Winners for 2012

Congratulations to this year’s recipients of the William M. Eames Business Plan Competition. They are Allison Cardona, Anisa Andrus, Jesse Wageman, and Jamie Williams. The competition, which includes scholarship money to the first, second and third place recipients, has been a way to encourage students interested in independent pharmacies.

The winning plan is sent to the Good Neighbor Pharmacy National Community Pharmacists Association Pruitt-Schutte Student Business Plan Competition for consideration for regional awards. ISU College of Pharmacy has won regional recognition many times and for the first time in 2011, they were chosen for first place nationally.

According to Allison Cordona, “The general idea of our business plan was to purchase an existing pharmacy through a junior partnership over a period of five years. Our main focus of the business was to maintain the hometown feeling while offering several different services at our pharmacy, such as immunizations, and patient education programs on different disease states. We also wanted to uphold the values of exceptional customer service and make our pharmacy the place people want to come.”

left to right: Dean Paul Cady, Anisa Andrus, Allison Cordona, Jamie Williams and Dr. Kerry Casperson (not pictured Jesse Wageman)
End of the year activities
2012
Researchers at Idaho State University’s Institute of Rural Health and College of Pharmacy are conducting a brief survey of pharmacists throughout Idaho.

Please log onto [http://j.mp/LSd5SJ](http://j.mp/LSd5SJ) by July 31, 2012 for details and to participate in our 4 question survey.

If you choose to participate, you have the option to be entered into a drawing for ISU merchandise.

Thank you in advance for your participation!
For more information, please contact Dr. Laura Tivis at tivilaur@isu.edu.

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**Take Time to Join Us:**
**College of Pharmacy & ISU Events**

August 23rd, 24th - P1 Orientation for the class of 2016
August 27th - White Coat Ceremony
September 5th - Welcome back picnic Meridian
September 6th - Welcome back picnic Pocatello
September 15th - Meridian Fun Run

For questions on any of these events call Julie Hillebrant (208) 282-3393