

## ***AAPS PharmSciTech* Volume 4, Issue 4 – Editorial**

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In this issue, the three Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award Manuscripts have been published as the lead articles. *New Approaches in Characterization of Pharmaceutical Solids Using Digital Image Information* by Niklas Laitinen, University of Helsinki; *Identification of Chemically Modified Peptide from Poly (D,L-lactide-co-glycolide)* by Santos B. Murty, University of Kentucky; and *Superporous IPN Hydrogels having Enhanced Mechanical Properties* by Yong Qiu, Purdue University. Dr. Laitinen's research utilizes a molecule-based pharmaceutical technology approach to demonstrate that through digital imaging of bulk powders, powder characterization, including particle size analysis, can be performed rapidly. Dr. Murty's research provides an insight into the mechanisms of drug reactivity within polymer sustained release implant devices. Octreotide acetate, a somatostatin analogue, can covalently react with ester functional groups in PLGA and PLA polymers and highlight the possible creation of new chemical entities during therapeutic drug delivery. Dr. Qiu showed the unique property of a superporous hydrogel to rapidly swell to a size large enough to be retained in the gastrointestinal track. To provide sufficient mechanical strength for the swollen superporous hydrogels, a second polyacrylonitrile polymer network can be introduced. The resulting hydrogels showed significantly improved compression strength and elasticity, up to 50 times as compared to the controls.

Congratulations to these young authors for their selection as recipients of the Manuscript Awards as well as for the accomplishment of completing their PhD dissertation research in the last year. The Awards are sponsored by Emisphere Technologies Inc. and are intended to encourage PhD graduates to present their dissertation research at the annual meeting and to publish their papers in an AAPS journal. These new PhDs will be honored at the AAPS annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, in October and each will be presenting their papers at the meeting.

*AAPS PharmSciTech* will reach 60 published articles by the end of the year, an increase of approximately 70% over any of the previous 3 years. This increase is the result of submissions having more than doubled over the last year. The journal has shown great progress

during the past year and with the support of pharmaceutical researchers has become a recognized voice for the community. As a result of this progress the journal has recently petitioned the Institute for Scientific Information to include *AAPS PharmSciTech* in the Thomson ISI Journal Citation Database. I want to thank all of you who have supported the publication this year and encourage all of our readers to submit their research for publication. Please tell your colleagues that *AAPS PharmSciTech* is a good resource and will help you make an impact in the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick P. DeLuca, PhD,  
Editor-in-Chief & Sullivan Medallist