

Summary of University of Kentucky Pharmaceutical Sciences AAPS Student Chapter 2007 Postgraduate Conference

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The biennial 2007 University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences Postgraduate Conference, organized by the University of Kentucky (UK)-American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences (AAPS) Student Chapter, was held in Lexington KY, April 19-21. Designed to inform UK pharmaceutical sciences graduate program alumni on new and ongoing research within the UK-Pharmaceutical Sciences Program, the conference allowed current graduate students to showcase their research and connect with graduates. Two distinguished alumni received outstanding graduate program alumni honors for their academic and/or industrial contributions in the field of pharmaceutical sciences:

- Kim L.R. Brouwer, PhD (2006 awardee)
- Munir Hussain, PhD (2007 awardee)

Kim Brouwer earned her PhD in pharmaceutical sciences in 1983 and is currently the George H. Cocolas Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Division of Pharmacotherapy and Experimental Therapeutics at the School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr Brouwer's lecture was entitled *Development of Novel Bench-to-Bedside Tools for Studying Hepatobiliary Drug Transport*. Munir Hussain earned his PhD in pharmaceutical sciences in 1983 and is currently a senior research fellow at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company in New Brunswick, NJ. Dr. Hussain's presentation was entitled *Microenvironment pH Modulation in Solid Dosage Forms: Chemical Stability, Dissolution, and Oral Absorption*.

The Keynote Speaker for the Conference was William Charman, PhD, Dean of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, Professor of Pharmaceutics and Director of Centre of Drug Candidate Optimization (CDCO) at the Victorian College of Pharmacy. Dr Charman's presentation was entitled *Public/Private*

Partnerships-A New Drug Discovery Model for Malaria and Other Neglected Diseases.

A graduate student session featured six presentations from senior graduate students representing the areas of drug delivery, medicinal chemistry and pharmacology:

- Darshini Trivedi, *Physiological and Pathological Roles of Cyclooxygenase-2*;
- Stan Banks, *Microneedle-Enhanced Transdermal Delivery of Naltrexone*;
- Phil Empey, *Transporter Gene Expression in Lactating Mammary Epithelial Cells*;
- Miranda Beam, *Varying Substrate Specificity to Produce Superior Analogs of the Anticancer Agent Mithramycin*;
- Masha Guseva, *Dietary Choline Supplementation in Experimental Traumatic Brain Injury*; and
- Michael Dehart, *Nucleophilic Reactions with Intermediates Generated During Asparagine Deamidation and Aspartate Isomerization*.

Three faculty lectures included in the program were:

- Tonglei Li, PhD, *Aspirin, Still causing a Headache*;
- Kim Nixon, PhD, *Alcohol and Neuronal Stem Cells: A Novel Target for Binge-Induced Brain Damage*; and
- Kyung-Bo Kim, PhD, *Custom-Tailored Prostate Cancer Therapy*.

The conference was well received by alumni, faculty, graduate students and post-docs and, was judged to be a success based on attendance numbers.

The scientific program concluded with the presentation of a commemorative plaque to William Charman, PhD, for his continuing research contributions in the pharmaceutical sciences.

In addition to top scientific research presentations, the organizing committee hosted social events. One such event was a Saturday afternoon trip to the horseraces at Keeneland Race Track.

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