



ASPET selects UMMC pharmacology, toxicology faculty for travel award

By Dr. Stanley V. Smith



Smith

Dr. Stanley V. Smith, UMMC associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology, is one of three recipients of the [2020 Pharmacology Educator Travel Awards](#) from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics' Division for Pharmacology Education.

Smith was selected for the senior educator award because of his lifelong commitment to and leadership in pharmacology education and his dedication to students. The committee also recognized his years of mentorship to diverse junior colleagues and his contributions to educational scholarship as evidenced by the quality of his submitted educational abstract.

Other recipients of the award include Dr. Khalil Eldeeb of Campbell University's Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine and Dr. Rupa Tuan of the University of California, San Francisco. The recipients will attend the ASPET Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2020 from April 4-7 in San Diego, California.

The travel awards promote participation by pharmacology educators in the ASPET annual meeting and fosters career development in pharmacology education.

Smith earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry at UMMC. After his post-doctoral training as an Intramural/Cancer Research Traineeship Award Fellow at the National Institutes of Health, he returned to UMMC where he is an associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology; course director of medical pharmacology, dental pharmacology and fundamental pharmacology; and director of the UMMC Mass Spectrometry Core Facility.

"It is my responsibility as an educator to effectively communicate my thoughts to others," Smith said. "If I am not reaching the students or the target audience, it is incumbent upon me, as the educator, to find a common ground to successfully impart knowledge.

"This travel award will allow me to network with other educators on a national level to share ideas, develop new approaches and adapt successfully to a constantly changing learner population."

Smith dedicated the travel award to his mentor, the late Dr. Robert B. Koch, former professor of biochemistry at Mississippi State University. "My exposure to and subsequent interest in academic research and education was a serendipitous occurrence," Smith said. "I grew up in a very rural area of Mississippi where education was not encouraged at best and, due to the impoverished environment, unfortunately it was often discouraged. Luckily, both my parents were supportive of me and my desire to learn.

"I found myself a high school sophomore with no idea of what I wanted to do in the future. One day, Dr. Robert B. Koch walked into my high school. He was a successful researcher who had funding from the Army Research Organization. He wanted to use his resources to host minority students in his laboratory for the summer.

"Dr. Koch was a visionary who thought that exposure was the key to recruiting and to improving diversity. Working alongside Dr. Koch, I was immediately smitten by research and academia. I remember thinking to myself in 1981 at the age of 15, 'This is what I want to do for the rest of my life.' He was a great, great man."

Smith said Koch also helped structure his teaching philosophy that is the basis of how he instructs today. He said it started when Koch allowed him to teach a section of a master's biochemistry class.

"To this day, I still have a card signed by all the students in that first class thanking me for helping them survive BCH 8205," Smith said. "From Dr. Koch, I learned that in teaching, you identify the strengths of the individuals you are instructing and make sure you reinforce and encourage those strengths.

"The confidence developed makes it easier to address weaknesses. This creates an educational environment where learning is from a positive standpoint rather than from a point of negativity and promotes the ideal of being a life-long learner."

Smith has been selected to the Nelson Order of Teaching Excellence and was twice named an M-2 All-Star Professor by the Evers Society. He said he is most proud of the Department of the Year Award given to the Pharmacology Department for the first time in more than a decade by the Evers Society.

"The Department of the Year Award reflects that everyone in the department has embraced the teaching mission and is passionate about teaching pharmacology," he said.



CE Central: One-stop shop for all continuing education needs

By Elizabeth Jacobs



Jacobs

Continuing Education at UMMC has a new full-service, web-based solution that provides benefits for all users. Whether planning an event or claiming credits, users now go to a single location. Noteworthy benefits of CE Central include:

- Planners and hosts can use a streamlined application process that collects all required items for accreditation maintenance.
- Interprofessional events are easier to plan: CE Central allows multiple disciplines in the same request without added work or additional forms.
- CE participants can access all types of CE activities in one place; when events are finished, evaluations and credit claiming are available on the same day.
- CE speakers must only complete a Conflict of Interest form once and update as needed.

To start using CE Central, create an account at [CE Central](#). There is no single sign-on linked to a UMMC active directory account, so users should remember their password!

If assistance is required, click the [Resources for Planners](#) tab. Tutorials for creating an account, planning an event and claiming credit are available.

Dr. Vickie Skinner, director of Continuing Health Professional Education, said the controlled substance prescriber series e-Learning modules should be available by the end of March. For more information, check CE Central often and stay tuned to the website.



'Excellent Teacher' courses enhance learning experience at UMMC

By Natalie Gaughf



Gaughf

The Office of Academic Support provides and manages "Excellent Teacher" and "Excellent Teacher: Faculty Edition," two courses that were developed to encourage excellence in teaching and learning at UMMC.

Both courses are available via Canvas and can be completed at the participants' own pace and convenience. The curriculum for each course consists of 19 educational topics, three interactive learning assignments, a bibliography and various assessments. The content is based on the medical literature and addresses "Teaching and Communication," "Curriculum Design," "Feedback and Evaluation," and "Ethics and Professionalism."

Completion of the Excellent Teacher course is mandatory for all house officers. Certificates are provided upon completion.

Continuing education credit may be earned for some disciplines for faculty who complete the Excellent Teacher: Faculty Edition course.

To view Excellent Teacher instructions for UMMC residents, fellows and other trainees, click here ([Excellent Teacher - Instructions for UMMC residents, fellows and other trainees](#)). To view Excellent Teacher: Faculty Edition instructions for UMMC faculty, click here ([Excellent Teacher: Faculty Edition - Instructions for UMMC faculty](#)).

For more information, email the [Office of Academic Support](#) at academicsupport@umc.edu.

