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UCSF Professor to Receive Prestigious Dawson Biotechnology Award

Honoree is a leader in the areas of drug delivery, bionanotechnology and regenerative medicine.

Alexandria, Va.—The [American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy](#) will recognize a pharmacy educator from the [University of California, San Francisco](#) for her contributions to contemporary **teaching and scholarship in biotechnology**. Tejal Desai, Ph.D., will receive the prestigious [Paul R. Dawson Biotechnology Award](#) during the **AACP Annual Meeting, *Pharmacy Education 2012***, in Kissimmee, Florida, July 14-18.

Since receiving her Ph.D. in 1998, Desai has achieved prolific success in just a short time. She began her academic career at the University of Illinois at Chicago as the school's first faculty hire in bioengineering. In that role she was instrumental in starting a new bioengineering department and guiding the development of new curricular and laboratory approaches to bioengineering education.

Desai joined Boston University as an associate professor in 2001 where she led a new center in bionanotechnology and bioMEMS, as well as developed new courses in bionanotechnology, drug delivery and tissue engineering. In 2005, she came to UCSF as a full professor in the Department of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences (BTS), a joint department of the UCSF Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award which recognizes both research and teaching," said Desai. "This recognition would not be possible without the creative and committed students and colleagues I have had the opportunity to work with over the last 10 years."

Desai's scientific achievements are changing the way others in her field are thinking about drug delivery. She has developed new ideas to design particles with nanostructured surfaces to render both bioadhesive and biomimetic properties. Her ground-breaking work is supported by many patents as well as work with large companies such as Genentech, Kimberly Clarke and Johnson & Johnson. Desai has a strong track record of attracting extramural support from NIH, NSF and the pharmaceutical industry. Despite today's competitive funding environment, she has received more than \$1 million in annual direct funding.

"As her research productivity and ability to attract research funding have shown, Tejal is a brilliant scientist," commented Mary Anne Koda-Kimble, Pharm.D., dean of the UCSF School of Pharmacy. "As well she is an extraordinary, prize-winning teacher. She brings to both the lab and classroom the kinds of fresh ideas and follow-through that so clearly predict even greater success in the years to come."

Desai has balanced her research productivity with excellence in both teaching and service. In collaboration with Frank C. Szoka, Ph.D., a former Dawson Award recipient and BTS department colleague, she has extensively redesigned the UCSF School of Pharmacy's drug delivery course for the Pharm.D. professional program, incorporating modern dosage formulations and principles of engineering. The revised course is now among the most highly evaluated by UCSF student pharmacists. She has supervised nearly 30 Ph.D. science students and has been recognized by the NSF New Century Scholar awards and recently received a teaching excellence recognition from UCSF School of Pharmacy Dean Koda-Kimble.

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“Seeing that a young scientist can achieve so much in both teaching innovation and scholarly productivity should inspire others,” said Lucinda L. Maine, Ph.D., R.Ph., AACP executive vice president and CEO. “That is why this year’s recipient is so extraordinary.”

The award is named in honor of Amgen former vice president of marketing and sales, Paul R. Dawson, a staunch supporter of education in biotechnology. Desai will receive a double helix glass sculpture and monetary award during the Examining Excellence Awards Plenary on July 17 at the 2012 AACP Annual Meeting.

The 2012 AACP Annual Meeting will be held July 14-18 at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Kissimmee, Florida. The conference offers educational programming, exhibits, networking events and award presentations. *Registration fees are waived for credentialed journalists. Visit the [AACP Web site](#) or contact our media relations representative for more information.*

About AACP

Founded in 1900, AACP is a national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators. Comprising 127 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy including more than 6,400 faculty, 57,000 students enrolled in professional programs and 5,700 individuals pursuing graduate study, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education. Visit www.aacp.org to learn more about AACP and stay connected with the Association on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

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