

For Iowa. Forever More. Impact Stories
Aliasger K. Salem, College of Pharmacy

Aliasger K. Salem wants to help save lives. The Lyle and Sharon Bighley Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences runs a University of Iowa lab that is conducting groundbreaking research—including work on a melanoma vaccine and bone regeneration—that will help revolutionize health care.

“I am grateful to be the recipient of a named professorship—created through the generosity of donors Lyle and Sharon Bighley—that gives me the resources necessary to work closely with my students in pursuing research. I chose to come to the University of Iowa because of its high-quality students and faculty—and because it fosters an environment in which investigators can collaborate,” says Salem, who is a professor in the UI Departments of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering and in the University of Iowa Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center. He also is head of the Division of Pharmaceutics and Translational Therapies in the UI College of Pharmacy.

In 2011, Salem was named the 2011-2012 University of Iowa College of Pharmacy Teacher of the Year in recognition of his demonstrated commitment to excellence, and he was nominated for this award every year from 2004 to 2011. In addition, he received the P1 Teacher of the Year, given to teachers of first-year pharmacy students, in 2005, and in 2008, he received a Council of Teaching Award, a university-level award for faculty involved in teaching innovations.

“We recruit the very best students with the goal of training them to become global leaders in developing new therapies,” says Salem. “We are using nanotechnology to improve therapies in a range of diseases, from bone disease to cancer.” Salem and his students are able to explore such life-changing work, in part, because of generous donors to *For Iowa. Forever More: The Campaign for the University of Iowa*.