AWARDS/HONORS

Amber Clemmons, Clinical Assistant Professor
Appointed Chair of the program committee for the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) for 2015-16

Brian Cummings, Associate Professor
Elected as the Vice-President Elect of the Mechanisms Specialty Section of the National Society of Toxicology

Lori Duke, Assistant Dean for Experience Programs
Elected Liaison to the ACPE International Services Program Commission

Rajgopal Govindarajan, Associate Professor
Served as a grant reviewer to Hong Kong reviewer Innovation and Technology Commission, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Dexi Liu, Professor and Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences
Served as reviewer for the NIH/NHLBI program project grant, Jan. 16, 2015

Cory Momany, Associate Professor
One of 25 UGA professors selected as CTL Fellow for Innovative Teaching to participate in 2015: Focus on Flipping the Classroom

Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor
Served on an invited review panel of the Medical Research Council, UK

GRANTS

Dexi Liu, Professor and Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences
Received $150,000 from the American Heart Association for study of genetic circuit for prevention of hyperlipidemia-mediated atherosclerosis

Scott Pegan, Associate Professor
Received $260,442 from USDA ARS for study of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) and porcine delta coronavirus (PDCOV) protease function and modification to improve swine innate immunity

PUBLICATIONS

Rajgopal Govindarajan, Associate Professor
Eileen Kennedy, Assistant Professor

Dexi Liu, Professor and Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences
Book Edited

Paper Published


Scott Pegan, Associate Professor

Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor

Glycogen synthase kinase-3 (GSK3) first identified as a metabolic enzyme involved in carbohydrate metabolism was later identified to be activated during various diseases such as cancer, bipolar disease and diabetes. The role of GSK3 that exists in two different isoforms namely GSK3α and GSK3β is not yet characterized in any disease states. Our study was focused on characterizing the isoform specific role of GSK3α and GSK3β in the regulation of prostate cancer progression and metastasis through specific gene knockdown and through preclinical studies in rodent models. This manuscript published in the journal 'Oncotarget' discusses the specific role of GSK3α during the early stages of prostate cancer growth via regulation of apoptosis and proliferation, and the importance of GSK3β during the advanced stages of prostate cancer. We identified that GSK3β is involved in the differentiation of early stage prostate cancer cells into more aggressive ones through a process known as epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition, thus promoting its entry into circulation and subsequent metastasis to distant tissues such as lung and bone. Our study generates reasonable optimism on the beneficial effects of targeting one or both of the GSK3 isoforms for the management of advanced prostate cancer. Study was funded by the UGA College of Pharmacy funds and departmental TRI Grant.

George Zheng, Associate Professor
PRESENTATIONS

Houjian Cai, Assistant Professor
Presented to the Elkin lecture on Jan. 16th, 2015 with the title “Src kinase mediates dietary saturated fatty acids accelerated prostate tumor progression” in Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University.

Amber Clemmons, Clinical Assistant Professor

Rajgopal Govindarajan, Associate Professor
Gave an invited seminar on ‘Epigenetic Priming in Pancreatic Cancer Chemotherapy’ at Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center (OSUCCC): Jan 29 2015

Anthony Hawkins, Clinical Assistant Professor
Presented “Prevalence and Factors Associated with Absence of Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis” as a poster at the SCCM Annual Congress in Phoenix, AZ.

Eileen Kennedy, Assistant Professor
Gave an invited seminar entitled “Chemical Biology Tools to Study Kinase Regulation” at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Physiology in Dortmund, Germany on Jan. 19.

Gave an invited Keynote lecture entitled “Chemical Biology Tools to Study Kinase Regulation” at the 12th Annual Biochemistry Retreat for the University of Kassel in Wesendorf, Germany, Jan. 21-24.

J. Russell May, Clinical Professor


Scott Pegan, Associate Professor
Conference Poster Presentation: