**AWARDS/HONORS**

**Maha Abdalla, Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics Ph.D. Candidate**
Received a $500 Graduate Travel Award from the University of Georgia’s Graduate School on September 23, 2013. to present her poster, “Triciribine, a Selective Akt Inhibitor, Ameliorates Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and Pulmonary Hypertension”, at the 2013 American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Annual Meeting, October 12-17, 2013, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The award was the highest amount a student can receive for graduate travel for FY14.

**Catherine Bourg, Clinical Assistant Professor**
Featured on the New Practitioner Spotlight on the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) website

**Amber Bradley-Clemmons, Clinical Assistant Professor**
First recipient of the ASBMT (American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation) Pharmacy SIG New Practitioner Award to the field of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HCT).

**Henry Cobb, Clinical Associate Professor (retired) ‘69, ‘80 ‘95**
Chosen to receive the College’s 2013 Distinguished Alumnus Award

**Brian Cummings, Associate Professor**
Served as a grant reviewer for the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program Study Section on the Training-Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics Review Panel

Appointed as an Associate Editor for the journal, Toxicology Reports

**Michael Neville, Clinical Associate Professor**
Honored at Mercy Health Center’s Open Heart Dinner as one of four people to receive the Volunteer of the Year Award acknowledging his dedication, service and leadership as the Pharmacy Coordinator for the center.

**Palak Patel, Pharmacy Care Administration Graduate Student**
Took third place during the best poster competition for her work entitled, “Oncologic/Toxicity Outcomes Associated with Active Surveillance Compared with Immediate Treatments in Low-Risk Localized Prostate Cancer,” at the Southeast Society of Toxicology meeting held at Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

**Marjorie Shaw Phillips, Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Pharmacy Manager at Georgia Regents Medical Center**
One of six appointed to the Nominating Committee for the new Pharmacy Technician Accreditation Commission (PTAC) being created as a collaboration with ASHP and ACPE

**Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor**
Elected a Fellow of the American Heart Association, Council of Atherosclerosis Thrombosis and Vascular Biology (ATVB) for professional and research accomplishments as well as leadership in vascular biology and cardiovascular diseases
Trina von Waldner, Director Continuing Education and Outreach
Received Georgia Society of Health System Pharmacists Community Service Award as a two year-member of a Georgia Disaster Medical Assistance Team that deployed to Long Island for 12 days in mid-November in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, to set up generator-powered mini medical centers

GRANTS

Rajgopal Govindaragan, Assistant Professor
Received $6,500 from the American Foundation for Pharmacy Education for understanding the progression of cancer: novel approach for overcoming chemoresistance and metastasis

Yujun Zheng, Associate Professor
Received $82,500 from the American Heart Association to develop novel chemical probes to profile substrates of histone acetyltransferases

PUBLICATIONS

Michael Bartlett, Interim Assistant Dean, Nontraditional Education and Outreach


Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor
Sally Elshaer, Mohammed Abdelsaid, Ahmad Al-Azyzih, Suraporn Matragoon, Julian Nussbaum and Azza El-Remessy. Pronerve growth factor induces angiogenesis via activation of TrkA: possible role in proliferative diabetic retinopathy. J. Diabetes Research. This study was in collaboration with the Eye clinic at the Georgia Regents University where ocular fluids from patients with proliferative diabetic retinopathy were used to demonstrate the pro-angiogenic response of proNGF in human retinal endothelial cells.

Islam Mohamed, Sherif Hafez, Arwa Fairaq, Advije Ergul, John Imig and Azza El-Remessy. Thioredoxin-interacting protein is required for endothelial NLRP3 inflammasome activation and cell death in a rat model of high-fat diet. This study demonstrated for the first time that High fat diet-induced obesity can cause vascular inflammation and detrimental effects on retina vasculature even before incidence of diabetes.

Susan Fagan, Distinguished Research Scientist and Assistant Dean


Michael Neville, Clinical Associate Professor
Beth Phillips, Clinical Professor

Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor
The study identifies the role of Akt in myofibroblast (MF) differentiation, the hallmark of fibrotic diseases. While transient activation of Akt by ‘Fibroblast growth factor’ is necessary for tissue recovery following a wound and ischemic injury, sustained Akt activation in response to ‘Transforming growth factor-beta (TGF)’ is integral for MF differentiation and tissue fibrosis. Akt-mediated MF differentiation was achieved through the enhanced expression of smooth muscle cell actin-alpha in MF through transcription factors Serum Response Factor (SRF) and myocardin. We tested three drugs; ‘Triciribine’, (Akt inhibitor), ‘rapamycin’ (mTOR inhibitor) and ‘CCG1423’ (SRF inhibitor) for their inhibitory effects on MF differentiation. Our study demonstrated that Akt is integral for the differentiation of fibroblasts to MF, and inhibition of Akt by triciribine will blunt the TGF-induced MF differentiation. Effect of Triciribine was the best compared to rapamycin and CCF1423. Study was supported by the American Heart Association, National Institutes of Health and UGA-COP Dean’s special endowment funds.

Trina von Waldner, Director, Continuing Education and Outreach

PRESENTATIONS

David DeRemer, Clinical Associate Professor

Susan Fagan, Distinguished Research Scientist and Assistant Dean
Patel A (4th year UGA Pharm.D. Student), Soliman S, Fagan SC. Effect of Minocycline on the Proangiogenic Effect of Candesartan in Human Brain Endothelial Cells

Ami Patel won the Central Nervous System PRN student travel award ($500) and presented her poster orally to the CNS PRN at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, NM on October 12, 2013

Eileen Kennedy, Assistant Professor
invited speaker at the 4th International Meeting on Anchored cAMP Signaling Complexes in Denver, CO from Oct. 4-6, 2013.

Dexi Liu, Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences
Keynote Speaker: “Gene Therapy for Liver Diseases: State-of-art and Future Perspectives” at the 17th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Hepatology, Tokyo, Japan, October 9, 2013

Invited Seminar: “Prevention and Treatment of Obesity through Gene Transfer,” Faculty of Pharma-Sciences Teikyo University, Tokyo, Japan, October 10, 2013

Invited Seminar: “Preventing Obesity and Obesity-associated Insulin Resistance though Gene Transfer,” Frank Reidy Research Center for Bioelectrics, Medical Diagnostic and Translational Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Old Dominion University, October 22, 2013
Kalen Manasco, Clinical Associate Professor
Poster presented at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on October 17:

Rusty May, Clinical Professor


Beth Phillips, Clinical Professor

Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor
Abstracts presented at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) Annual conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 13-16, 2013:


LeeAnn Thompson, Samantha Burke, Erin Gurley, Robert Newsome, Maha Abdalla and Somanath Shenoy. Dasatinib, a Src/Abl inhibitor attenuates alpha-SMA synthesis: Role in pulmonary fibrosis (This is a collaborative effort between PharmD candidates and Graduate students in the laboratory)

Erin Gurley, LeeAnn Thompson, Maha Abdalla, and Somanath Shenoy. Dasatinib inhibits alpha-SMA assembly in myofibroblast differentiation: Potential role in pulmonary fibrosis (This is a collaborative effort between PharmD candidates and Graduate students in the laboratory)

OTHER NEWS

Jim Bruckner, Professor
I participated in a meeting of the Chemical Substances Committee of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists in Cincinnati, OH. This committee sets national/international standards to protect workers from inhalation and dermal exposure to potentially toxic chemicals in the workplace

Homecoming 2013
The 2013 College of Pharmacy Homecoming Tailgate & Reunions for the Classes of 2008, 2003, 1998, 1993 and 1988 are scheduled for Saturday, November 9, as the Dawgs take on Appalachian State!

As in years past, the tailgate begins three hours prior to kickoff and will feature a barbecue lunch and plenty of good company.

Register here: http://www.t.uga.edu/jL.

Contact Kim Hamby, Director of Alumni Affairs, with any questions at kihamby@uga.edu or 706-542-4536. We look forward to seeing you and your family in Athens this fall--and GO DAWGS!"