A Monthly Newsletter of The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy
November 2013

AWARDS/HONORS

**Dexi Liu, Professor and Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences**
Served as a member on National Institutes of Health Study Section (IMST-13 Basic and Integrative Bioengineering Panel), Nov. 7, 2013

Appointed by the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) President-elect as a member of the Task Force on Basic Research Funding/Resources, Nov. 12, 2013

**Hal Richards, Clinical Assistant Professor**
Elected to the BPS Critical Care Specialty Council for a three-year term and also elected Vice Chair of the council.

GRANTS

UGA College of Pharmacy Faculty Receive Seed Grants for Research, Teaching and Pharmacy Practice from CoP Foundation Funds

Dean's Pharmacy Special Endowment Fund (for support of research, education and special projects)

- **James Franklin**, “Effect of MitoQ on Late-Stage Neuropathology in a Mouse Model of Alzheimer’s Disease”
- **Mandi Murph**, “The therapeutic actions of microRNA against the progression of ovarian cancer in a murine model”
- **Somanath Shenoy**, “Differential role of TGFβ in tumor growth and bone remodeling in prostate cancer”
- **Trina von Waldner**, “Pharmacy Technician Continuing Education Initiative”
- **Catherine White**, “Physiological-Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Modeling and Its Application”

R.C. Wilson Pharmacy Fund (for support of research and scholarship)

- **Aaron Beedle**, “Evaluation of recombinant protein therapy for fukutin-deficient muscular dystrophy”
- **Raj Govindarajan**, “The role of SET in pancreatic tumor metastasis: Generation of Preliminary Results”
- **Eileen Kennedy**, “Development of anti-malarials by targeting the malaria kinome”
- **Cory Momany**, “Development of Crystallization Techniques for DNA-binding Proteins”
- **Lakshman Segar**, “Role of AMP-activated protein kinase in the vasoprotective actions of metformin”
Morgan Fund in Pharmacy Practice (for support of educational endeavors regarding disease state management and outpatient settings)

- Lindsey Welch, “Impact of home blood pressure monitoring versus standard education and counseling in a student-led employee wellness program”

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Han-Rong Weng, Assistant Professor**
Research papers accepted for publication:

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Jim Bruckner, Professor, and Cathy White, Associate Professor**
Attended the national meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists in San Antonio, TX, and made the following research presentation:
“Effect of Maturity on Plasma Protein Binding in Humans”, by C. White, J. Bruckner, P. Sethi and B. Cummings. We found that binding of some widely-used drugs (Diazepam & Cyclosporine) and pyrethroid insecticides to plasma proteins and lipoproteins was lower in neonates and infants than in children and adults. Higher levels of unbound drugs in neonates and infants may result in increased drug action and/or clearance in these age-groups. This is the most comprehensive study to date on the maturation of plasma binding of drugs, in that plasma samples were obtained from 31-129 individuals in each of 7 age-groups.

**Tony Capomacchia, Associate Professor**
Attended the Smeeting in San Antonio, TX, 10-14 November and presented the following research:
“Oral Rifampin Wax Microspheres Prepared with the Hydrophobic Congealable Disperse Phase Method to Mask Taste and Treat Tuberculosis in Sanctuary Elephants”
Amri Rigby (UGA Young Scholars Program, summer 2013) and AC Capomacchia

“Influence of Physico-Chemical Properties on the in vitro Skin Permeation of the Enantiomers, Racemate and Eutectics of Ibuprofen for Enhanced Transdermal Drug Delivery”
X. Yuan (Department of Chemistry, Medical Technology, and Physics, School of Science, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764, ) and AC Capomacchia

**Dexi Liu, Professor and Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences**
Presented research work at The Obesity Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Atlanta, GA, Nov. 11-16, 2013

(Poster) Sary Alsanea, Mingming Gao and Dexi Liu, Phloretin Prevents, But Not Reverse High Fat Diet-induced Obesity and Hepatic Steatosis in Mice

(Poster) Yongjie Ma, Mingming Gao and Dexi Liu, Chlorogenic Acid Suppresses High Fat Diet-induced Inflammation and Hepatic Steatosis

(Podium) Mingming Gao, Yongjie Ma and Dexi Liu, Rutin Suppresses Palmitic Acids-triggered Inflammation in Macrophages and Blocks High Fat Diet-induced Obesity and Fatty Liver in Mice
Rusty May, Clinical Professor
Presented, “New Drug Update 2013: A Formulary Approach” to the Medical Staff, University Hospital, Augusta, GA on November 21, 2013.

Han-Rong Weng, Assistant Professor
Presented research work at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting in San Diego (Nov. 9 – Nov. 13, 2013):

Dylan W. Maixner, Mei Gao and Han-Rong Weng, Targeting glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta for the treatment of neuropathic pain.

Han-Rong Weng, Mei Gao, Inhibition of glycogen synthase kinase 3β (GSK3β) activity with lithium prevents and attenuates paclitaxel-induced neuropathic pain.

Xisheng Yan, Dylan W. Maixner, Mei Gao and Han-Rong Weng, Attenuation of AMPK activities in the spinal dorsal horn reduces glial glutamate transporter activities in a rat model of neuropathic pain.

Xisheng Yan, Ruchi Yadav, Mei Gao and Han-Rong Weng, Regulation of spinal glial glutamate transporters (GLT-1) by PKC in the genesis of neuropathic pain.

OTHER NEWS

Catherine White, Associate Professor
Served on the Coordinating Board for the UGA Medical Reserve Corps, joined GA-3 Disaster Medical Assistance Team, participated in the Black Faculty Staff Health Fair at the Tate Center.

Board Certifications
All five of our second year specialty resident graduate certificate students became board certified in pharmacotherapy.

Newly Board Certified Graduate Student Residents:
Dallas Schepers, Pharm.D., BCPS
Critical Care Resident (Major Professor: Hal Richards)

Cady Ploessl, Pharm.D., BCPS
Pediatric Resident (Major Professor: Kalen Manasco)

Michael Thiman, Pharm.D., BCPS
Ambulatory Care Resident (Major Professor: Beth Phillips)

Megan Hartranft, Pharm.D., BCPS
Oncology Resident (Major Professor: David DeRemer)

Jacquelyn Bryant, Pharm.D., BCPS
Critical Care (Major Professor: Trisha Branan)