A Monthly Newsletter of The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy
April 2015

AWARDS/HONORS

**Michael Bartlett, Interim Assistant Dean, Nontraditional Education and Outreach**
Bartlett laboratory undergraduate James Michael Sutton was selected to receive a Richard Bryan Scholarship for high academic achievement and excellence in research. He received the award at the PBS Research Day, April 28, 2015.

Bruckner and Bartlett laboratories undergraduate Eled Gebrehiwot was selected to receive a Richard Bryan Scholarship for high academic achievement and excellence in research. She received the award at the PBS Research Day, April 28, 2015.

**Aaron Beedle, Assistant Professor**
Named “TEACHER OF THE WEEK” April 20, 2015 by the UGA Center for Teaching and Learning

Chaired and programmed the “Muscle Diseases: Recent Advances in Disease Mechanisms” session of the American Physiological Society at the 2015 Experimental Biology meeting in Boston, MA.

Beedle laboratory undergraduates Vedika Rajasekaran and Noreen Syed were each winners of the 2015 CURO Research Assistantship Award.

Beedle laboratory undergraduate Vedika Rajasekaran has received a prestigious 2015 Summer Internship in Biomedical Research award from the National Institutes of Health. She will work in an NIH intramural laboratory in the Washington, DC area for the summer.

Beedle laboratory undergraduate Kristen Peissig won the John E. Nine Scholarship for Excellence in the Pharmaceutical Sciences for her outstanding performance in coursework and undergraduate research. She received her award at the Department of Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Sciences research day on April 28, 2015.

**Trisha Branan, Clinical Assistant Professor**
Featured as the Member Spotlight in the Society of Critical Care Medicine Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacology Section April Newsletter

**Houjian Cai, Assistant Professor**
Graduate student Lishann Ingram, received GlaxoSmithKline Science Achievement Award for the 2014-15 academic year by UNCF fund.

Graduate student Sumit Rai received travel award for Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, Jr. Student Symposium 2015 being held on March 16, 2015 at Clark Atlanta University

**Eileen Kennedy, Assistant Professor**
Graduate students Laura Hanold and Melody Fulton both received Travel Awards from the 24th Annual American Peptide Symposium in Orlando, FL

Melody Fulton was also selected for a presentation and will be a finalist for the Young Investigator's Award at the 24th Annual American Peptide Symposium in Orlando, FL

Laura Hanold was selected as the recipient for the 2015 La Rocca Graduate Student Award.
Michael Bartlett, Interim Assistant Dean, Nontraditional Education and Outreach

Brian Cummings, Associate Professor
Differential effect of cocaine exposure on the abundance of phospholipid species in the rat brain and blood. In Drug and Alcohol Dependence. Brian S. Cummings, Sumitra Pati (PBS graduate student), Serap Sahin, Natalie E. Scholpa (ITP graduate student), Prashant Monian (undergraduate), Paul N. Trinquero (undergraduate), Jason K. Clark and John J. Wagner.

Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor
Published in Biomedical Research International: Imbalance of the nerve growth factor and its precursor as a potential biomarker for diabetic retinopathy. This clinical study was funded by Translational Research Initiative (TRI) Grant from the Department of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy. The study was conducted in collaboration with the Dr. Deigo Espinosa, Retina Director, Eye clinic at GRU where findings from experimental research was validated in human patients. Diabetes causes accumulation of the nerve growth factor precursor and decreases in NGF in ocular fluids, which are mirrored in serum of the same patients. There was positive correlation of the proNGF/NGF ratio between ocular fluids and serum, suggesting that this ratio can serve as biomarker of diabetic retinopathy.

George Zheng, Associate Professor
Zheng laboratory graduate student Liza Ngo received a prestigious National Science Foundation Scholarship Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) Award.

Eileen Kennedy, Assistant Professor

**Dexi Liu, Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences**

**Mandi Murph, Associate Professor**

Melanoma - Current Clinical Management and Future Therapeutics serves as an advanced course in melanoma or an addendum to further polish expertise. Sections of the book include a thorough introduction on epidemiology and disease, the current surgical management of melanoma and lymph node dissection, immunotherapy along with drug toxicities and emerging research topics, like RAGE and autotaxin, that have potential therapeutic applications. The chapters in this book explore the most common subtype of melanoma, cutaneous disease, as well as a rare form, acral lentiginous melanoma and even canine tumors. Experts from around the globe contributed chapters, most of which have visual illustrations to depict aspects of disease management and therapy, allowing readers to grasp the advanced concepts presented.

**Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor**

Our previous studies suggested that mutual interaction and cooperation between Akt and cRaf/Mek pathways may be cell, stimuli and/or context specific. We investigated the specific role of Akt1 and Mek1 in extracellular (ECM) remodeling by the fibroblasts. Our study identified that cooperation between Akt1 and Mek1 is necessary to mediate ECM synthesis and that their effects were reconciled through the activation of p70 S6-kinase via phosphorylation at T421/S424 and S411, respectively. Furthermore, Akt1 and Mek1 cooperated in mediating ECM assembly via activation of integrin β1. Together, we show for the first time that Akt1 and Mek1 pathways cooperate via p70 S6-kinase in fibroblast-mediated ECM remodeling.

Published Book Chapters: Sabbineni H and Somanath P.R, 2015. Mechanisms of Vascular Remodeling in pulmonary arterial hypertension (Chapter 1), In: Pulmonary arterial hypertension and Nifedipine: Pathogenesis and Management, Nova Science Publishers, pp. 1-38; and


**PRESENTATIONS**

**Aaron Beedle, Assistant Professor**
Presented “Small Group Problem-Based Learning Exercises to Advance Students’ Critical Thinking and Scientific Reasoning Skills”, a 45 minute interactive invited session, at the University System of Georgia Teaching and Learning Conference 2015.

Beedle lab graduate student Steven Foltz gave a short oral presentation entitled “Therapeutic Targeting of Akt/mTOR Signaling in Fktn-deficient Muscle” at the 2015 Experimental Biology meeting in Boston, MA.

Hosted the poster session and presented “Altered Fiber Types in Regenerated Muscle of Fktn-KO Muscular Dystrophy Mice” at the 2015 Experimental Biology meeting in Boston, MA.

Beedle lab undergraduate students Vedika Rajasekaran and Noreen Syed each presented posters at the 2015 CURO Research Symposium (Athens, GA) entitled “Validation of CRISPR/Cas9 for Genome Editing of Fktn in C2C12 Mouse Myoblast Cell Lines” and “Assembly of a Dual-Selection Cassette for Gene-Specific Targeting by CRISPR/Cas9 to Recapitulate Dystroglycanopathies”.
Houjian Cai, Assistant Professor
Dr. Sungjin Kim: Postdoctoral fellow: “Dietary saturated fatty acids accelerate Src kinase mediated prostate tumor progression” for Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, Jr. Student Symposium 2015 being held on March 16, 2015 at Clark Atlanta University.

Sumit Rai, Graduate student: “Differentiation of Adult prostate epithelial stem cells requires heparin sulfate” for Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, Jr. Student Symposium 2015 being held on March 16, 2015 at Clark Atlanta University.

Poster presentation in Dr. Houjian Cai’s lab
Dr. Qianjin Li, Postdoctoral fellow: “Inhibiting FRS2-mediated FGF/FGFR and its drug resistant mutants induced oncogenic signaling” for Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, Jr. Student Symposium 2015 being held on March 16, 2015 at Clark Atlanta University.

Dr. Meng Wu, Postdoctoral fellow: “Pathological expression go P63 is regulated by the hedgehog signaling” for Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, Jr. Student Symposium 2015 being held on March 16, 2015 at Clark Atlanta University.

Sumit Rai, Graduate student: “Differentiation of Adult prostate epithelial stem cells requires heparin sulfate” for Gordon Research Conference March 1-6, 2015 at Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Lucca (Barga), Italy.

Shaivam Patel, Undergraduate student: “Screening Lead compound on targeting fatty acylation of Src kinase by Click Chemistry” abstract for Dr. Sidney A. McNairy, Jr. Student Symposium 2015 being held on March 16, 2015 at Clark Atlanta University.

Brian Cummings, Associate Professor
Resume/CV-The Do’s and Don’ts That Define Success for Academic Job Applications. A Webinar presented in conjunction with the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Anthony Hawkins, Clinical Assistant Professor
Provided a CE presentation for nurses and pharmacists on ‘Management of the Intubated Patient: Pain, Agitation, Delirium’ at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, GA.

Keith Herist, Clinical Associate Professor
Presented “HIV/AIDS - The Community Pharmacist’s Perspective” to the R.C. Wilson Pharmaceutical Association at their monthly meeting on April 22.

Kalen Manasco, Clinical Associate Professor
Presented “Infectious Diseases” at the 1st Annual Pediatric Pharmacy Preparatory Review Course at the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Updates in Therapeutics in Chicago, Illinois on Sunday, April 12, 2015.

J. Russell May, Clinical Professor

Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor
Presented Keynote “The Adolescent Brain and Addiction” and “Marijuana, Alcohol, and Prescription Drugs: Update 2015” at the Mississippi School for Addiction Professionals, Hattiesburg, Mississippi;

Presented Keynote “Medication Assisted Treatments for Substance Use Disorders” at the Pathways to Understanding: Neuroscience, Addiction Treatment, and Young Adults Conference, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia;


Presented with Dr. Samah Fawzi Al-shatnawi, Ph.D. candidate, three poster presentations at the Annual Meeting of the College of Psychiatric and Neurological Pharmacists (CPNP), Tampa, Florida:

Student Pharmacists and Alcohol Drinking Behavior: Findings from a Collaborative of Colleges of Pharmacy in the United States;

Perceived Stress and Impulsivity as a Predictor of Substance Use Disorders: Findings from the Student Pharmacist Chemical Health Scale III;
Influence of Sociological Factors on Physicians Prescribing of Psycho-stimulants in Patients with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

**Beth Phillips, Rite Aid Professor**

**Marjorie Shaw Phillips, MS, RPh, FASHP (Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice UGA and Pharmacy Coordinator Georgia Regents Medical Center)**

**Robin Southwood, Clinical Associate Professor**
Presented Activities of a Diabetes Care Team in a Community Hospital. Presented at Interprofessional Summit in Savannah GA in April 2015

**George Zheng, Associate Professor**
Zheng laboratory graduate students and postdocs gave poster presentations at the Southeast Enzyme Conference on April 11 in Atlanta.

**OTHER NEWS**

**David DeRemer, Associate Professor**
Participated in the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA) Board and Health Policy Committee 2015 Capitol Hill Day. HOPA individuals met with Senate and House of Representatives personnel regarding –
1) Provider Status- H.R. 592/S. 314 Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas and Enhancement Act
3) Oral Parity – Cancer Drug Coverage Parity Act of 2015

**Dexi Liu, Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences**
Appointed as a Member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Research and Resources Implementation Committee, the AAPS

Attended Workshop on “Managing Yourself and Leading Others”, Harvard University, Boston, April 13 -14, 2015

**Jason Zastre, Associate Professor**
Quoted in Atlanta Journal Constitution, Washington Post and other national newspapers that problem with lethal injection drug that caused the last-minute postponement of an execution in Georgia was likely caused by shipping and storing the drug at a temperature that was too low

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Albert W. Jowdy Golf Classic, May 18, Athens Country Club

Kenneth L. Waters Lecture, November 4