

Rx News

A Monthly Newsletter
of The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy
April 2016

AWARDS/HONORS

Aaron Beedle, Assisant Professor

Served as the invited expert for a podcast by the American Journal of Physiology Heart and Circulatory Physiology discussing a recently published article on muscular dystrophy cardiomyopathy.

Brian Cummings, Associate Professor

Received the 2016 American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Junior Achievement Award in Toxicology. This award is given in recognition of Outstanding Research Contributions to Toxicology by an Early Career Investigator (those that received their Ph.D. in the last 15 years).

Sumitra Pati (PBS Graduate Student for Brian Cummings) received the 2016 Best Poster award in the Neuropharmacology Division of the American Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at the 2016 Experimental Biology Meeting in San Diego.

Anthony Hawkins, Clinical Assistant Professor

Selected to the ACCP Research Institute Mentored Research Investigator Training (MeRIT) Program, a 2 year longitudinal program to begin July 2016

Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor

Selected to serve as a member of the executive committee of the Substance Abuse Research Alliance(SARA). SARA envisions a future where private and public institutions effectively plan, implement, administer and evaluate substance abuse policies and programs that educate and improve the lives of citizens - across all ages, ethnicities, and economic circumstances.

Lilian Sattler, Interdisciplinary Assistant Professor

Accepted to the CTL Lilly Teaching Fellows Program 2016-2018. Through its support of new, tenure-track faculty at UGA, this highly selective program seeks to provide Lilly Fellows with opportunities to strengthen their teaching skills and develop their ability to appropriately balance teaching with the research and service roles required by a research university.

Henry Young, Kroger Associate Professor in Community Pharmacy

Named 2015-16 Public Service and Outreach Faculty Fellow

Jason Zastre, Associate Professor

Invited speaker at American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) Drug Transporter Workshop, Baltimore, MD April 17th 2016, Title "Thiamine Transporters in Cancer"

Awards earned by Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics (CET) students

Wael Eldahshan, MS second- year CET student from **Susan Fagan's** lab got the UGA/AU best poster presentation among UGA students in the AU graduate research day.

Arwa Fairaq, PharmD, fourth-year CET student from **Lakshman Segar's** lab got the best student presentation from Dept. of Endocrinology, Augusta University during AU graduate Research day.

GRANTS

Brian Cummings, Associate Professor

Received \$144,049 from the National Institutes of Health and Auburn University for an ongoing study of secretory phospholipases (sPLA2) and their receptors for delivering nanoparticles.

PUBLICATIONS

Eileen Kennedy, Assistant Professor

Goth F, Schulz MS, Autenrieth K, Bertinetti D, Faelber K, Zuhlke K, Kreuchwig A, Kennedy EJ, Krause G, Daumke O, Herberg FW, Heinemann U, Roske Y and Klussmann E. (2016) "AKAP18:PKA-R11a structure reveals crucial anchor points for recognition of regulatory subunits of PKA." *Biochem. J.*, DOI 10.1042/BCJ20160242 (PMID: 27102985).

Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor

Gao F, Artham S, Sabbineni H, Al-Azayzih A, Peng XD, Hay N, Adams RH, Byzova TV, Somanath PR. Akt1 promotes stimuli-induced endothelial-barrier protection through FoxO-mediated tight-junction protein turnover. *Cell Mol Life Sci.* 2016 Apr 25. PubMed PMID: 27113546.

Vascular permeability through endothelial-barrier modulation is essential for inflammation. Mechanisms regulating the endothelial-barrier are not clearly defined. To delineate the role of Akt1 in endothelial-barrier regulation, we created endothelial-specific, tamoxifen-inducible Akt1 knockdown mice and stable ShRNA-mediated Akt1 knockdown in human microvascular endothelial cells. Our study revealed that while VEGF-induced short-term vascular permeability is independent of Akt1, its recovery is reliant on Akt1 and FoxO-mediated claudin expression and tight-junction stabilization.

Jason Zastre, Associate Professor

Paper published with Brian Cummings, Jim Bruckner, and Cathy White; *Toxicol Lett.* 2016 Mar 22;250-251:21-28. doi: 10.1016/j.toxlet.2016.03.006. [Epub ahead of print] Plasma protein binding limits the blood brain barrier permeation of the pyrethroid insecticide, deltamethrin. Amaraneni M1, Sharma A1, Pang J1, Muralidhara S1, Cummings BS1, White CA1, Bruckner JV1, Zastre J2.

PRESENTATIONS

Aaron Beedle, Assistant Professor

Presented "Glycosylation-deficient muscular dystrophy: mechanistic and therapeutic insights" at the Glycoscience Training Program seminar series for the UGA Complex Carbohydrate Research Center on April 13, 2016 in Athens, GA.

Invited session speaker (with co-presenter Joan Monohan Watson). Gave session "Thinking critically about learning: engaging students in metacognitive regulation through active study strategies" at the 2016 University System of Georgia Teaching and Learning Conference: Best Practices for Promoting Engaged Student Learning on April 14, 2016 in Athens, GA.

Beedle lab graduate student Steven Foltz gave an invited short talk "Daily rapamycin improves muscle function and histology in fukutin-deficient mice" and poster presentation at the 2016 Developmental Biology Alliance spring retreat on April 23, 2016 in Athens, GA.

Christopher Bland, Assistant Clinical Professor

"Antimicrobial Stewardship: Current Landscape and the Role of a Pharmacist". Given for One Health Club (pre-professional students) in Athens, GA on 4/20/16, with **Virginia Fleming, clinical assistant professor**

Brian Cummings, Associate Professor

Sumitra Pati (Graduate Student) and Brian S. Cummings presented "Cocaine-Induced Alterations in Blood Lipids for the Study of Addictive Behavior" at the 2016 Experimental Biology Meeting, April 4th in San Diego, CA.

Presented "Blood Lipids as Diagnostic and Prognostic Indicators of Drug Abuse and Addiction" for Grand Rounds to the Department of Internal Medicine at St. Mary's Hospital, Athens, GA.

Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor

Presented the following at the NGF meeting 2016 in Monterey CA

Modulation of p75NTR restores reparative angiogenesis and prevents retinal neovascularization in ischemic retinopathy

Presented Inducible expression of endothelial proNGF as a mouse model for retinal microvascular dysfunction.

Also gave an oral talk entitled Imbalance of proNGF/NGF and its implications in diabetic retinopathy

Eileen Kennedy, Assistant Professor

Gave an invited talk at Experimental Biology 2016 for the ASPET session entitled Chemical Biology as an Engine for Drug Discovery, "Developing novel chemical biology strategies to synthetically disrupt protein-protein interactions," April 2-6, 2016, San Diego, CA.

Kalen Manasco, Clinical Associate Professor

Presented "Infectious Diseases" at the Pediatric Pharmacy Preparatory Review Course during American College of Clinical Pharmacy Updates in Therapeutics. Phoenix, Arizona, April 2016

Had poster presentation on Relationship between small colony variant Staphylococcus aureus and exposure to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole in pediatric cystic fibrosis patients with Hayley Hodgson, Pharm.D. candidate at the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia April 29, 2016.

Russell May, Clinical Professor

New Drug Update 2016: A Formulary Approach" University Hospital Medical Staff Continuing Education Program, April 21, 2016, Augusta, GA,

"New Drug Update 2016: A Formulary Approach", 2016 Family Medicine and Primary Care Symposium, April 21, 2016, Augusta, GA,

Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor

Poster: Norton MA, Young A, Gieber C, Smith T, Walton K, King M, Lugin Y, Morgan K, Buprenorphine/Naloxone Addiction in a Pharmacist as a Result of Migraine Self-treatment; Presented at College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists Annual meeting, Colorado Springs, Colorado, April 18, 2016.

Presented The Medical Aspects of Abuse and Addiction to the UGA Athletic Association administration leadership as a part of the Athens Area Commencement Center's development of a prevention and wellness program for student athletes.

Presented Marijuana and Cannabinoids 2016 at Center Point, Gainesville High School, Gainesville, Georgia to 9-12 grade students asking questions about today's marijuana and if legalization will make marijuana safer to use. (Recorded session for future YouTube presentation).

Mandi Murph, Associate Professor

Gave an invited lecture, "Precision Medicine" to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on Friday, April 22, 2016.

Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor

Presented a poster at the Experimental Biology 2016 conference in San Diego, CA on April 3rd entitled "Pak1-TRAF6 pathway regulates TGFβ1-induced epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition"

George Zheng, Associate Professor

Zheng group graduate students and postdocs gave five poster presentations at the Southeast Enzyme Conference held in Atlanta on April 16, 2016.

OTHER NEWS**David Chu, Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus**

Chu and Ram C Mishra attended the 29th International Conference on Antiviral Research which was held in San Diego CA at Hilton La Jolla, Torrey Pines during April 17-21, 2016.

Chu family foundation awarded travel grants to seven researchers of the Women in Science Program of the International Society of Anti Viral Research.

Brian Cummings, Associate Professor

Claimed his second Championship Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences bowling trophy at the second inaugural Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Bowling Championship. First runner up was **Houjin Cai** followed by **Scott Pegan**.

