AWARDS/HONORS

Aaron Beedle, Assistant Professor
Served as a reviewer for the Muscular Dystrophy Association Scientific Advisory Committee grant review panel, May 21-22, 2015, Chicago, IL.

Dr. Catherine Bourg and Gin Fleming, Clinical Assistant Professors
Awarded $2,000 through the Faculty Achievement in Classroom Teaching (FACT) grant program to implement new teaching strategies in the Disease State Management series for second-year students.

Trisha Branan and Anthony Hawkins, Clinical Assistant Professors
Awarded $1500 through the Faculty Achievement in Classroom Teaching (FACT) grant to implement new teaching strategies in the Critical Care Pharmacy elective for third-year students.

Trisha Branan, Clinical Assistant Professor
Selected to the first ACCP Research Institute Mentored Research Investigator Training (MeRIT) Program, a two-year longitudinal program to begin July 2015.

Ewan Cobran, Assistant Professor
Accepted to Owens Institute of Behavioral Research (OIBR) Grantsmanship Development Program (previously OIBR Mentoring Program) 2015-2017

Cindy Davenport, Administrative Associate I, Regulatory Affairs, Gwinnett
Named Employee of the Year 2014

Also noted for service to College were: Five years - Leah Costyn, research professional I; Janet Fowler, administrative associate II; Cindy Davenport, administrative associate I; Susan Herda, admissions counselor I; and Wei Jia, research professional II; 10 years - Renee Dobbs, student affairs professional; and Linda Duncan, lab tech II.

Stephanie Phan, Clinical Assistant Professor
Awarded $500 through Faculty Achievement in Classroom Teaching (FACT) grant to develop and implement new methods in a psychiatry elective

Lilian Sattler, Interdisciplinary Assistant Professor
Accepted to the Owens Institute of Behavioral Research (OIBR) Grantsmanship Development Program (previously OIBR Mentoring Program) 2015-2017.

Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor
Invited to the grant review panel of the “Infection, immunity and Lung diseases” section of the “Italian Ministry of Health”, Italy.
Amber Clemmons, Clinical Assistant Professor, with David DeRemer, Clinical Associate Professor, and Stephen Clark, Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor (former UGA-GRU PGY2 Oncology Resident)


Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor

Silencing p75NTR prevents proNGF-induced endothelial cell apoptosis and development of acellular capillaries in rat retina.

The study was published in Molecular Therapy: Methods and Clinical Development.

The main findings that overexpression of the nerve growth factor precursor (proNGF) is capable of inducing cell death in a p75NTR-dependent manner of the small capillaries of rat retina resulting in ischemia, a hallmark of several ischemic retinal diseases including diabetic retinopathy, retinopathy of prematurity and retinal vein occlusion. Targeting proNGF or p75NTR can be further developed for the treatment of these blinding diseases.

Invited review article: Molecular Mechanisms of diabetic retinopathy: potential therapeutic targets.

The article was published in Mid. Eas. Afr. J. Ophthalmology.

The article provides a current update on the main pathways that are engaged in the pathology of diabetic retinopathy including oxidative stress and inflammation.

Susan Fagan, Jowdy Professor


Eileen Kennedy, Assistant Professor


Beth Phillips, Rite Aid Professor, and Catherine Bourg, Clinical Assistant Professor

Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor

Tumor necrosis factor-α (TNFα) and thrombospondin-1 (TSP-1) are well-known mediators of inflammation. However, a causal relationship between TNFα stimuli and TSP-1 expression in endothelial cell stress, and the underlying mechanisms has not yet been investigated. Our study demonstrates the novel role of TNFα in inducing inflammatory stress response in hMEC through Akt- and P38 MAPK-mediated expression of TSP-1, independent of NFκB signaling.


Interstitial lung disease is associated with severe pulmonary vascular remodeling, peripheral vascular rarefaction and fibrosis, thus limiting lung function. We investigated the role of the Akt pathway and its downstream molecular mechanisms in pulmonary fibrosis in mice, and determined the therapeutic benefits of the Akt inhibitor triciribine for the treatment of pulmonary fibrosis in mice. Whereas Akt1 deficiency in mice protected from chronic hypoxia-induced peripheral vascular pruning, hyperactivation of Akt1 induced focal fibrosis. Triciribine inhibited hypoxia- and TGFβ-induced pulmonary vascular rarefaction and fibrosis. Mechanistically, we found that Akt1 modulates pulmonary remodeling via regulation of thrombospondin1 (TSP1) expression. TSP1−/−mice were resistant to Akt1-induced pulmonary fibrosis. Our study provides the pre-clinical data on the potential benefits of the Akt inhibitor triciribine for the treatment of interstitial lung disease.

PRESENTATIONS

Jim Bruckner, Professor, and Cathy White, Associate Professor
Presented their research findings on potential effects of pyrethroid insecticides on children’s health to the U.S.EPA Scientific Advisory Panel in Washington, DC, from May 17 – 20.

Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor
Presentations at Annual Research on Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2015 in Denver, CO: Inducible Overexpression of Endothelial ProNGF as A Mouse Model to Study Retinal Microvascular Dysfunction; High fat diet dysregulates microRNA-17-5p and enhances retinal TXNIP expression: Role of ER-stress; and Modulation of P75NTR protects against ischemic retinopathy: Possible contribution of mesenchymal stem cells

Dexi Liu, Professor and Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences

(Poster) Mohammed Al Saggar, Qian Yao and Dexi Liu. Hydrodynamic Cell Delivery for Assessment of Tumor Growth and Drug Sensitivity in Different Organs and Microenvironment

(Poster) Hao Sun, Yongjie Ma, Mingming Gao, Mohammad Al-Saggar, Yahya Al Hamhoom and Dexi Liu. Assessment of IL-15/sIL-15Rα Gene Therapy on Lewis Lung Carcinoma Growing in Mouse Lung, Liver and Kidneys

(Poster) Mingming Gao, Yongjie Ma, Kexiu Song, Hao Sun and Dexi Liu. Recapitulating the Triglyceride-lowering Effect of Cold Exposure by Overexpression of Fibroblast Growth Factor-21 Gene

(Poster) Chunbo Zhang, Leping Li and Dexi Liu. Transcription Factor Binding Site in Plasmid Regulates Persistence of Transgene Expression in Mouse Liver

(Poster) Tsutomu Kanefuji, Takeshi Yokoo, Takeshi Suda, Kunihiko Sawada, Yoshinori Arai, Hiroyuki Abe, Kenya Kamimura, Dexi Liu and Shuji Terai, Impact of Injection Volume on Hydrodynamic Delivery To the Liver in Mice


(Poster) Yuji Kobayashi, Kenya Kamimura, Hiroyuki Abe, Masato Ohtsuka, Hiromi Miura, Takeshi Yokoo, Tsutomu Kanefuji, Takeshi Suda, Guisheng Zhang, Masanori Tsuchida, Yutaka Aoyagi, Dexi Liu, Shuji Terai, Effect of Fibrotic Tissue on Liver-targeted Hydrodynamic Gene delivery


Kalen Manasco, Clinical Associate Professor

Beth Phillips, Rite Aid Professor