Michael G. Bartlett, Interim Assistant Dean for Non-Traditional Education and Outreach
Currently Professor of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences and Director of the new Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences degree program, he will become the Interim Assistant Dean for Non-Traditional Education and Outreach, effective July 15, 2013. Bartlett will oversee the administration of the continuing pharmacy education and outreach in the College due to the departure of former NTEO Director Paul Brooks, who has taken a position as UGA's Associate Vice President for Public Service and Outreach.

Catherine Bourg, Clinical Assistant Professor
Selected for participation in the UGA 2013 - 2014 Teaching Academy Fellows Program, which is an early career mentoring program.

Brian Buck, Clinical Associate Professor
Received the UGA Student Career Development Award after the UGA Career Center conducted its annual Graduate Survey and identified Buck as “faculty who had a significant and positive impact on their career decision making process.” He received a Certificate for his contributions to students from Scott Williams, Executive Director of UGA Career Center.

Received a National Service Appointment for a second term as a member on ASHP Section on Clinical Specialists and Scientists Section Advisory Group (SAG) on Preceptor Skills Development for 2013-14.

Joan Monahan Watson, Assistant Dean for Academic and Strategic Initiatives
Currently an academic professional with the University of Georgia Vice President for Instruction, she will join the College of Pharmacy on August 1, as the new Assistant Dean for Academic and Strategic Initiatives. Her position will assist the Dean on a wide range of issues relating to the College's programs and implementing and evaluating new strategies that are developed in line with academic/programmatic long-range plans. She will assist the College's sites in Athens, Albany, Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah. Watson was formerly on the faculty at Virginia Tech where she was recognized for her dedication to student-centered inquiry, her respect for the diverse backgrounds and learning needs of her students, and her commitment to engendering an awareness and appreciation of lifelong learning through her pedagogy and practice.

New Faculty
Houjian Cai and Y. George Zheng
Joining the Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences; Cai is formerly a research assistant professor of Hematology and Oncology at Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina; Zheng previously had a joint appointment as an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and in the Department of Biology at Georgia State University, Georgia.
Henry Young, Associate Professor
Is joining the faculty of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy; currently he is associate professor in the Social and Administrative Sciences Division, School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin – Madison

Promotions
Christina DeRemer is now a Clinical Associate Professor and Somanath Shenoy is an Associate Professor

GRANTS

Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor
Received $25,180 for second year funding from the American Heart Association for study of the role of TXNIP in mediating microvascular inflammation and dysfunction
Received $15,750 in additional funding from the National Institutes of Health of study of molecular mechanisms of diabetic retinopathy

Susan Fagan, Jowdy Professor of Pharmacy
Received $25,180 from the American Heart Association for second year funding for study of mechanisms of vascular protection of angiotension receptor blockade after stroke
Received $17,863 in additional funding from the National Institutes of Health for study of mechanisms of vascular protection after ischemic stroke

Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor
Received $299,880 from the National Institutes of Health for study of protein kinase B (AKT)-mediated pathway regulating endothelial-barrier function

Jason Zastre, Assistant Professor
Received $176,888 from the National Institutes of Health for study of adaptive regulation of vitamin B1 transport

PUBLICATIONS

Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor
Publication by a graduate student Mohammed Abdelsaid et al in Journal of Antioxidant and Redox Signal. The title is “TXNIP is required for VEGF-mediated Angiogenic signal in endothelial cells.” The study demonstrate for the first time that extreme increases in antioxidant defense can be critical to the physiological function of VEGF and prevent repair of blood vessels and that achieving a balanced redox state is important for the normal function of blood vessels.

Raj Govindarajan, Assistant Professor
A study titled ‘Pharmacological Reversal of Histone Methylation Presensitizes Pancreatic Cancer Cells to Nucleoside Drugs: In Vitro Optimization and Novel Nanoparticle Delivery Studies’ was accepted for publication in PLoS ONE journal.
Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor
Moderator in National Meetings:
Moderator for a session “Neuro-and Vascular Dysfunction in Diabetic Retinopathy” Scientific Session of American Diabetes Association in Chicago, IL

Presented in ADA scientific sessions “Imbalance of NGF/proNGF ratio as a biomarker of diabetic retinopathy”

Moderator for a session “Physiological and Reparative Angiogenesis in ischemic retina” Annual meeting for ARVO, Seattle, WA

Presentations in annual meeting of ARVO, Seattle, WA:
Azza El-Remessy presented “Vascular protective effects of Candesartan in ischemic retinopathy”

Islam Mohamed (graduate student) presented “Role of TXNIP in High fat Diet-induced Inflammasome Activation in Retinal Endothelial Cells”

Barbara Mysona (post-doc) presented “Role of proNGF/p75NTR mediated RhoA activation in diabetes-induced BRB breakdown”

Ahmed Shanab (post-doc) presented “Knocking Down p75NTR Expression Prevents Retinal Acellular Capillary Formation In ProNGF-Overexpression Model”

Keith Herist, Clinical Associate Professor
Presented a 1.5 hour CE on HIV Update for 2013: The Pharmacist’s Perspective at the Georgia Pharmacy Association Annual Convention, Omni Amelia Island Plantation, Fernandina Beach, FL. June 23, 2013.

Cory Momany, Associate Professor
Had a paper, entitled “The DNA-Binding Domain of BenM Reveals the Structural Basis for Recognition of a T-N11-A Sequence Motif by LysR-Type Transcriptional Regulators,” accepted to Acta Crystallographic section D, a journal that has a very high impact factor of 14.1. This is higher than the impact factor of PNAS (9.681) and is the highest ranked paper for biophysics and crystallography. The paper identifies protein-DNA interactions that are broadly important for the largest class of transcriptional regulators in bacteria, the LysR-type transcriptional regulators (LTTRs). LTTRs regulate important processes in bacteria that include amino acid synthesis, carbon dioxide assimilation, nitrogen fixation, and antibiotic resistance, among many others.

George Zheng, Associate Professor
Jim Bruckner, Professor
Attended the initial meeting of the U.S. EPA Sciences Advisory Board’s Hydraulic Fracturing Research Advisory Committee in Washington, DC. This committee is responsible for advising the EPA on the most appropriate approach to assess the extent of groundwater contamination the U.S. and potential adverse health effects of hydraulic fracturing fluids. These fluids are commonly pumped down oil and gas wells to fracture rock formations in order to increase the release and recovery of oil and gas.

OTHER NEWS

Johnna Hodges, Assistant Director, Regulatory Affairs and Clinical Trials Graduate Program
Delivered a paper at the Distance Learning Administration Conference on Jekyll Island, entitled “Accessibility Considerations for Building an Online Degree Program” with Janet Sylvia, UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences and Web Accessibility Group Leader, and Paul Brooks. The paper was also published in the Distance Learning Administration Annual.

George Zheng, Associate Professor
Gave an invited talk titled “Biochemical Insights of Histone Arginine Methylation” at 89th FAME Conference in Tampa, Florida.

Gave an invited talk titled “Selective Histone Acetyltransferase Inhibitors for Cancer Therapy” at GTC 3rd Epigenetics in Drug Discovery Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.