AWARDS/HONORS

**James Bruckner, Professor**
Reappointed to the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Erik Dennison, Student Affairs Professional II**
Received the College's STAR award for the second quarter of 2014, recognizing staff members who have demonstrated STAR qualities – service, teamwork, attitude and reliability

**Steven Foltz, graduate student in Beedle’s lab**
Won a student travel award for his poster presentation “Abnormal intracellular signaling in Fktn-deficient dystroglycanopathy muscle” at the New Directions in Biology and Disease of Skeletal Muscle conference, July 2, 2014 in Chicago, IL.

**Abdelrahman Fouda, graduate student**
Awarded a $300 travel award from the Graduate School to attend the American Heart Association’s High Blood Pressure Research 2014 Scientific Sessions, Sept. 9-12, 2014, in San Francisco, CA.

**Ashley Hannings, Public Service Assistant**
Accepted into the University of Georgia's 2014-2015 Teaching Academy Fellows Program

**Dexi Liu, Professor and Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences**
NIH Study Section Participation as member, NIH Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, and Bioengineering F05-D(21) Fellowship Panel, July 14-15, 2014.

**Michael Neville, Clinical Associate Professor**
Served as co-moderator for “Pharmacy Practice Section: Maintaining Faculty and Student Wellness in a Stressful Academic Environment” and for “Joint Session: Biological Sciences and Pharmacy Practice Sections: The Critical Interplay Between Basic and Clinical Sciences Integration” at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Annual Meeting in Grapevine, Texas. July 27, 2014

**Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor**
Received the American Legion Award for 2014, which is awarded in a competition among researchers at the VA Medical Center in Augusta. American Legion was chartered and recognized by Congress and is the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization. Their funds are used to fund research at the VA and the award is given once per year.

GRANTS

**Houjian Cai, Assistant Professor**
Received a National Institutes of Health grant for $299,000 to study targeting myristoylation of SRC family kinases for inhibition of prostate tumoring
**Scott Pegan, Associate Professor**
Received $9 as upward revision in funds to $251,074 from the National Institutes of Health for study of origin of the innate immunity suppression caused by nairovirus' protease activity (adjusted from May RxNews) and $31,466 from NIH for study of molecular probes for a votu from CCHFV using a flurogenic peptides

**Arthur Roberts, Assistant Professor**
Received $165,000 from the American Heart Association for study unraveling cardiovascular drug-drug interactions with the human MDR1 transporter

**Jason Zastre, Associate Professor**
Received a grant from the American Cancer Society for $792,000 to study for role of vitamin B1 in hypoxia mediated malignant progression

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Michael Bartlett, Interim Assistant Dean, Non-traditional Education and Outreach**

**Brian Cummings, Associate Professor**
PUBLISHED “Epigenetic Changes in p21 Expression in Renal Cells after Exposure to Bromate” with Scholpa NE (current student), Zhang X (former student), Kolli RT (current student) and Cummings BS in Toxicological Sciences. 2014 Jul 11.
This study showed that bromate, a disinfection by-product commonly found in source waters, induced epigenetic changes in a cell cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor called p21. These epigenetic changes occurred at concentrations commonly detected in water supplies.

**Dexi Liu, Professor and Head, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences**
Summary: This is an invited review summarizing current progress and future perspectives in gene therapy for treatment of obesity.

Ran Cui, Mingming Gao, Shen Qu and Dexi Liu (2014) Overexpression of superoxide dismutase 3 gene blocks high-fat diet-induced obesity, fatty liver and insulin resistance. Gene Therapy, doi:10.1038/gt.2014.64
http://www.nature.com/gt/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/gt201464a.html
Summary: This study demonstrates that transfer of superoxide dismutase 3 gene (Sod3) into mice blocks high fat diet-induced obesity, fatty liver and insulin resistance. Mechanistic studies reveal that the preventive effect of Sod3 gene transfer is achieved by suppressing expression of pro-inflammatory genes in adipose tissue including F4/80, Tnfa, Cdi1c, Mcp1 and Il6, and by increasing expression of anti-inflammatory genes such as adiponectin. In the liver, high levels of superoxide dismutase activity in animals enhanced expression of the genes responsible for energy expenditure including Cpt1α, Cpt1β, Pgc1α, Pgc1β and Ucp2. These results suggest that overexpression of the Sod3 gene through gene transfer is an effective approach in preventing diet-induced obesity and obesity-associated complications.

**Somanath Shenoy, Associate Professor**
Our study demonstrated the complexity in the molecular signaling pathways that becomes a bottleneck in determining the right choice of drug for enhancing recovery of heart following a myocardial infarction. ‘Akt’, a molecule essential to prevent heart muscle cell (cardiomyocyte) death during the early stages following cardiac ischemia, can augment fibrosis, impair the heart function and block quick recovery, which may eventually lead to cardiac failure. Our study is one of the many, which demonstrate that drugs that are good for post-ischemic
reconditioning of the heart during the early stages may not hold good, instead may worsen the condition in the later stages, and vice versa. It is time to develop new treatment strategies and treat patients who has suffered a myocardial infarction using a ‘time window’ approach. This study, performed in collaboration with Cleveland Clinic is published in the journal “Laboratory Investigation”: Full text of the article can be obtained from: http://www.nature.com/labinvest/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/labinvest201495a.html
This study was also featured in the “MDLinx” website and was invited for an exclusive author commentary which can be accessed at: http://www.mldlinx.com/pathology/news-article.cfm/5414750


Did anyone know blood pressure lowering medications could fight against Prostate Cancer as well? Our research shows it does! This study recently published in the “Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics” demonstrated that Angiotensin receptor blockers such as candesartan, a commonly used blood pressure medication can fight against prostate cancer by cutting its blood supply off, thus reducing the tumor perfusion and depriving the tumors with nutrition and growth factors. Candesartan is very effective on prostate cancer growth inhibition even when used at sub-hypotensive doses. Our study showed a novel, blood pressure independent, role for angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) to check on prostate cancer. Full text of the article can be obtained from: http://jpet.aspetjournals.org/content/early/2014/07/02/jpet.114.216382.abstract

PRESENTATIONS

**Aaron Beedle, Assistant Professor**
Presented “Magnetic Resonance versus Histological Imaging of Dystrophic and Acutely Injured Skeletal Muscle: Evaluation of MRI as an Outcome Measure for Therapeutic Trials in Muscular Dystrophy Mice” at the New Directions in Biology and Disease of Skeletal Muscle conference, July 1, 2014 in Chicago, IL.

**Ashley Hannings, Public Service Assistant**
Presented “Injecting Immunization Updates into Community Practice” at the Smith Drug Annual Continuing Education & Trade Show in Savannah, GA on July 25, 2014, with Dee Dee McEwen, Public Service Associate

**Linda Hughes, Public Service Assistant**
Hughes LD, Welch LH, Hannings AN, Fulford M. Relationship between StrengthsFinder 2.0 Leadership Domains and Student Pharmacist Perceived Capabilities to Perform Leadership Skills. AACP Annual Meeting, Grapevine, TX, July 2014.


**Lori Duke, Assistant Deane for Experience Programs**
Presented “How professional staff can enhance faculty efficiency in experiential education offices.” (co-presenter with April Staton, MEd, Betty McCullough, BS, and Kathy Schott, MS). American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Annual Meeting. Grapevine, TX, July 29, 2014.


Duke LJ, McEwen DW, Parham RL, Welch LH, Hughes LD. Application and Interpretation of Background Check Information during the Admission Process for PharmD Applicants. AACP Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX, July 2014.
Michael Neville, Clinical Associate Professor
Presented two posters at the AACP Annual Meeting in Grapevine, Texas: “A Pharmacy Academic APPE Improves Outcomes in a College of Education Course Focused on Chronic Illness,” (with Dee Dee McEwen) and “Teaching Pharmacy Students to Better Understand and Communicate With Spanish Speakers”

Marjorie Phillips, Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Georgia Regents Univeristy, COP WOS
Presentations at Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists meeting at Amelia Island by residents, adjunct and WOS faculty:
  Sarah Evans, PGY2 Oncology Pharmacy Resident/Graduate Student, Georgia Regents
Health System and UGA College of Pharmacy
  “HIV Management Overview”

Christina DeRemer, Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice WOS, Georgia Regents Medical Center Augusta and Jessica Richardson, PharmD* Georgia Regents

Medical Center Augusta *
  Eighth Joint National Committee (JNC 8) Guideline for the Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults – Pro/Con Panel Review (2 hours)

  Arpita Shah*, Georgia Regents Medical Center Augusta *
  “Oncology Emergencies”

*Drs Richardson & Shah are UGA College of Pharmacy Preceptors whose WOS Faculty Applications are still pending…..

Lindsey Welch, Public Service Associate

Co-recipient (with Mike Fulford) of the AACP Excellence in Assessment Award for the work of the Professionalism Task Force. Our work was presented in a special session: “Evaluating Professionalism in the Culture and Curriculum of a Pharm.D. Program.” (co-presenter with Mike Fulford, Ph.D.) AACP Annual Meeting, Grapevine, TX, July 2014.


George Zheng, Associate Professor
Gave an invited presentation entitled “Chemical Tools for the Protein Arginine Methyltransferases” at the FASEB Conference on Biological Methylation: Regulation of Chromatin, Epigenetics, and Disease at Nasu, Bahamas, July 6-11th, 2014.