

Rx News

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

AWARDS/HONORS

Christopher Bland, Clinical Assistant Professor

Named Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (FIDSA). Fellowship in IDSA honors those who have achieved professional excellence and provided significant service to the profession of infectious diseases. Four pharmacists nationally achieved Fellow status this year.

James Bruckner, Professor

Served as a peer reviewer for the "Toxicological Profile for 1-Bromopropane" for the U.S. ATSDR/Centers for Disease Control. This is a comprehensive document on the toxicology and environmental exposure to this chemical. The document serves as the basis for federal guidelines for maximum safe exposure levels.

Ewan Cobran, Assistant Professor

One of three researchers this year to receive a Georgia Regents University (GRU) Cancer Center/ American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant and just completed an extremely competitive course offered by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). These two achievements recognize and support Ewan's research program in health disparities, expand his translational approach, and will make him more competitive in resubmitting his NIH grant

David DeRemer, Clinical Associate Professor, and Dianne May, Clinical Professor

Named Fellows of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP). Fellowship recognizes excellence in the practice and science of clinical pharmacy. It is the top award, achieved by less than 5% of the ACCP membership, that is bestowed to individual members who have demonstrated sustained contributions to the organization and exceptional performance in clinical practice and /or research. DeRemer and May will be recognized as Fellows ("FCCP") at the ACCP Global Conference Awards Ceremony in San Francisco on Sunday October 18

Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor

Appointed as editorial board member of Journal of Neuro Inflammation

Sonja Halder, Senior Accountant

Named for Second Quarter 2015 STAR award

Kalen Manasco, Clinical Associate Professor

Elected as Chair-elect of the Pediatrics PRN at American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)

Student National Pharmaceutical Association

Received Region 1 and 2 meeting award for hosting an outstanding SNPhA regional meeting

GRANTS

James Franklin, Associate Professor

Received \$75,000 from National Institutes of Health for study of bax, caspases and oxidative stress in the aging brain

Cory Momany, Associate Professor

Received \$66,450 from the National Institutes of Health for studying from RNA sequences to tertiary structure, accurate predictions through backbone K-trees

PUBLICATIONS

Kalen Manasco, Clinical Associate Professor

Published Clemmons AB, Hoge S, Cribb A, and Manasco KB. Development and implementation of a writing program to improve resident authorship rates in American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy September 2015;72:S53-57 (with CAP faculty, Amber Clemmons, UGA graduate and former GRU/UGA PGY1 resident Stephanie Hoge, and UGA graduate Ashley Cribb).

Mandi Murph, Associate Professor

Published cellular deficiency in the RGS10 protein facilitates chemoresistant ovarian cancer. Shelley B Hooks and Mandi M Murph. Future Med Chem. 2015 Aug 21:1-7. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26293348

Lakshman Segar, Associate Professor

Pyla R, Pichavaram P, Fairaq A, Park MA, Kozak M, Kamath V, Patel VS, Segar L. Altered energy state reversibly controls smooth muscle contractile function in human saphenous vein during acute hypoxia-reoxygenation: Role of glycogen, AMP-activated protein kinase, and insulin-independent glucose uptake. Biochemical Pharmacology 2015; 97: 77-88 (Issue 1, September 2015).

PRESENTATIONS

Catherine Bourg, Clinical Assistant Professor

Presented "The Great Balancing Act: Balancing Students and Residents on Rotation" at the National Pharmacy Preceptors Conference (NPPC). Washington, D.C. August 21, 2015

Brian Cummings, Associate Professor

Presented "Lipidomics as a Tool for the Prediction of Drug-Induced Behavioral Changes" to the Department of Drug Discovery and Development at Auburn University.

Along with graduate student, Ramya Kolli, presented "Epigenetic Mechanisms Mediating Alterations in the Expression of Cyclin-Dependent Kinase Inhibitors Induced by Nephrotoxicants : Targeted DNA Methylation Analysis" at the 2015 Gordon Research Conference on Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Toxicity

Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor

Presented "The New Alcohol, Heroin, and Marijuana Standards - The Drugging of America 2015" to the National Conference of Federal Probation and Pretrial Officers Association in Phoenix, Arizona;

Presented " Marijuana Standards 2015" to the Georgia School of Addiction Studies, Savannah, Georgia.

Beth Phillips, Rite Aid Professor

Presented Residency Program Design and Conduct Workshop, "Update from ASHP and the Commission on Credentialing" and "Highlights of the New (2014) PGY1 Residency Accreditation Standards and Training," all at the National Pharmacy Preceptors Conference (NPPC). Washington, D.C. August 21, 2015.

Lakshman Segar, Associate Professor

Segar and his graduate students (Noha Shawky and Arwa Fairaq) attended 'Vasculata 2015' meeting at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA on August 3-6, 2015. Presentations included the following:

Shawky N, Pichavaram P, Segar L. Sulforaphane inhibition of injury-induced neointima formation in western diet-fed obese mice is associated with decreased plasma leptin, improved insulin sensitivity, and diminished leptin-induced VSMC proliferation.

Shawky N, Pichavaram P, Segar L. Sulforaphane inhibition of PDGF-induced VSMC proliferation is associated with disruption of mTOR-raptor complex: Implications toward suppression of neointima formation.

Fairaq A, Segar L. AdipoRon, a small molecule adiponectin receptor agonist, inhibits vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation independent of AMPK activation.

Presented a poster entitled: "Glycogen depletion during hypoxia results in enhanced AMPK phosphorylation and diminished smooth muscle contractility in human saphenous vein" at the Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Meeting (BCVS/AHA 2014 Scientific Sessions) held in Las Vegas, NV, July 14-17, 2014.

OTHER NEWS

Marjorie Phillips and Jody Rocker, WOS, MCG

Interviewed for front page article in Augusta Chronicle on importance of the Pharmacy Residency training at Georgia Regents University, <http://chronicle.augusta.com/node/606296#.VboUKjLnE60.email>

EVENTS

The UGA Center for Drug Discovery will hold a daylong conference on Thursday, November 19 at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. The conference will feature three plenary speakers, lunch (free with registration), and a poster session with awards for best graduate student and postdoc entries. Plenary speakers will be:

- Dr. P. Jeffrey Conn, Lee E. Limbird Professor of Pharmacology and Director of the Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery, Vanderbilt University. "Allosteric modulators of GPCRs as a novel approach for treatment of CNS disorders." Co-sponsored by the UGA Neuroscience Program.
- Dr. Kim Lewis, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Biology and Director of the Antimicrobial Discovery Center, Northeastern University. "The Quest for Novel Antibiotics." Co-sponsored by the UGA Department of Infectious Diseases.
- Dr. John L. Magnani, Chief Science Officer and Vice President of GlycoMimetics Inc. Title TBA. Co-sponsored by the UGA Cancer Center, "Glycomimetic Drugs: An Untapped Source of Novel Therapeutics Now in Clinical Trials for Hematologic Malignancies".

Additional details and a link for registration will be available soon.