Rajgopal Govindarajan, Assistant Professor
Received $74,250 from the National Institutes of Health for epigenetic therapy with 3-deazaneplanocin and gemcitabine for pancreatic cancer

Somanath Shenoy, Assistant Professor

In this study, funded by the Wilson Pharmacy Foundation of the UGA College of Pharmacy in 2011, we investigated the effect of TGFβ1 on the survival and proliferation of invasive prostate (PC3) and bladder (T24) cancer cells. Our study indicated that TGFβ1 decreased cell viability and induced apoptosis in invasive human PC3 and T24 cells via activation of p38 MAPK-JNK-Caspase9/8/3 pathway. These effects were independent of any change in pro-survival Akt kinase activity. We postulate that TGFβ1 pathway may be utilized for specifically targeting urological cancers without inflicting side effects on normal tissues


In this study, once again funded by the Wilson Pharmacy Foundation of the UGA College of Pharmacy in 2010, we reported that simvastatin simultaneously modulates intrinsic and extrinsic pathways in the regulation of prostate cancer cell apoptosis in vitro and in vivo, and render reasonable optimism that statins could become an attractive anti-cancer agent.
Aaron Beedle, Assistant Professor
Presented the following at the STaR Conference:
Ball CE and Beedle AM. Purification of Fukutin Binding Partners for Advancement of Muscular Dystrophy Research. Southern Translational Education and Research Conference, September 2012, Augusta, GA.

Melick GA and Beedle AM. Analysis of Muscle Fiber Type Specification in Mice with Dystroglycanopathy-Type Muscular Dystrophy. Southern Translational Education and Research Conference, September 2012, Augusta, GA.

Foltz SJ, Melick GA, Fortunato MJ and Beedle AM. Activation of the AKT/mTOR Pathway in Young Dystroglycanopathy Mice. Southern Translational Education and Research Conference, September 2012, Augusta, GA.


David DeRemer, Clinical Associate Professor
Presented the following at the STaR Conference


Sally Huston, Assistant Professor
Student Angie Zhou presented “Patient perspectives on new and current oral anticoagulants” at the STaR Conference

Mandi Murph, Assistant Professor
Received a travel award to present her work at the STaR conference: MicroRNA-30c-2* expressed in ovarian cancer cells suppresses growth factor induced cellular proliferation and downregulates the oncogene BCL9

Molly Altman, a graduate student in Mandi Murph’s laboratory, also received a travel award to present her work at the STaR conference: Regulator of G-protein signaling 5 reduces Hey-A8 ovarian cancer cell proliferation and extends survival in a murine tumor model

Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor

The Dilemma of Treating Chronic Pain in the Addicted Patient- A Panel Discussion, Georgia Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Initiative, Atlanta, Georgia;
OTHER NEWS

College of Pharmacy investigators won five out of 10 travel awards for the STaR Conference. Other travel awards not already noted were:
Sarah Evans, PharmD student with mentor Amber Bradley
Anna Goc, postt doctoral fellow with mentor Somanath Shenoy
Bradley Hanberry, graduate student with mentor Jason Zastre

Somanath Shenoy, Assistant Professor
Following posters were presented during the STaR conference on September 7-8, Augusta, GA
Maha Abdalla et al, Protein Kinase B (AKT) is integral for ASMA expression in myofibroblast differentiation and pulmonary vascular remodeling in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

Ahmad Al-Azayzih et al, TGFβ1 inhibits invasive prostate and bladder cancer cell function via modulation of non-canonical pathway

Belal Al-Husein et al, Simvastatin inhibits micrometastasis of invasive prostate cancer cells via inhibition of integrin AVB3 interactions with endothelial ICAM1

Brian C. Griffin et al, Invasive cancer cells cross-talk with stromal fibroblasts in the modulation of prostate cancer cell function

Robert C. Newsome et al, Effect of dasatinib on TGFβ-induced fibroblast-to-myofibroblast differentiation

Fei Gao et al, Long-term activation of AKT in response to VEGF and angiopoietin-1 enhances endothelial-barrier function via inhibition of glycogen synthase kinase-3

Ann Goc et al, Unlocking the code of 14-3-3-RAC1-PAK axis in prostate cancer

Ann Goc et al, AKT-mediated intergrin BETA3 activation controls prostate cancer cell migration and invasion

Ann Goc et al, Simultaneous modulations of the intrinsic and extrinsic pathways by simvastatin in

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Homecoming tailgate and reunions for the Classes of 2007, 2002, 1997, 1992 and 1987 will be held on the morning of Saturday, November 3, at the College. All are invited to attend. For registration information contact Kim Hamby, Director of Alumni Affairs, at 706-542-4536.

Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor
Has joined research consortium to study The Management of Chronic Pain in Addicted Patients with:
Drs. Nazario Villasenor M.D. and Janene Holladay M.D., Spine Care and Pain Management Center, Athens, Georgia; Dr. Susan Blank M.D., Addiction Healing Center, Lawrenceville, Georgia; Dr. Gilbert Chandler M.D., Thomasville, Georgia; and Dr. Grant White Ph.D., Brain Science Center, Alpharetta, Georgia.