

Rx News

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

AWARDS/HONORS

Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor

Served as Ad Hoc grant reviewer on the study section "Hypertension and microcirculation" at the National Heart and Lung Institute in DC.

Served as abstract reviewer for the annual meeting of the Society of Redox Biology and Medicine

Scott Pegan, Associate Professor

Panelist at MDJunior's First Global Youth Health Summit at Emory University

Marjorie Shaw Phillips, Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice (WOS) for UGA at Georgia Regents Medical Center in Augusta and a voting member of the FDA Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee participated in two joint Advisory Committee meetings assessing the safety and efficacy of two new opioid analgesics (narcotic pain relievers) in different tablet formulations intended to provide abuse-deterrent properties

Gurvinder Singh Rekhi, Academic Faculty Associate

US patent issued for "Controlled Release Compositions Comprising a Combination of Isosorbide Dinitrate and Hydralazine Hydrochloride". US 8,992,973 B2 March 31, 2015. Inventors – Gurvinder Singh Rekhi, Richard Sidwell and Sharon Hamm

US Patent Application Publication for "Controlled Release Compositions Comprising a Combination of Isosorbide Dinitrate and Hydralazine Hydrochloride". US 2015/0174077 A1 June 25, 2015. Inventors – Gurvinder Singh Rekhi, Richard Sidwell and Sharon Hamm

US Patent issued for "Abuse Resistant Pharmaceutical Compositions". US 9,132,096 B1 September 15, 2015. Inventors – Gurvinder Singh Rekhi and Richard Sidwell.

Y. George Zheng, Associate Professor

Served as an ad hoc grant reviewer for National Science Foundation (NSF).

Served as an ad hoc grant reviewer for the Research Corporation for Science Advancement.

Served as an ad hoc grant reviewer for Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong.

GRANTS

Houjian Cai, Assistant Professor

Received \$337,500 from the U.S. Department of Defense for project titled Dietary Saturated Fatty acids Promote SRC Kinase-mediated Prostate Tumor Progression

Phillip Greenspan, Associate Professor

Funded recently as the Co-PI on projects being conducted for the Georgia Commodity Commission for Pecans and the Georgia Commodity Commission for Peaches.

Scott Pegan, Associate Professor

Received supplemental funding for three years in the amount of \$147,725 from the National Institutes of Health for the project titled Origin of the Innate Immunity Suppression Caused by Nairovirus' Protease Activity

PUBLICATIONS

James Franklin, Associate Professor

Published Bax and caspases regulate production of mitochondria-derived reactive species in neuronal apoptosis: Lack of a role for depletion of cytochrome c from the mitochondrial electron transport chain in *Biochemistry and Biophysics Reports*, with Rebecca A. Kirkland

Mandi Murph, Associate Professor

Suppression of the GTPase-activating protein RGS10 increases Rheb-GTP and mTOR signaling in ovarian cancer cells. Altman MK, Alshamrani AA, Jia W, Nguyen HT, Fambrough JM, Tran SK, Patel MB, Hoseinzadeh P, Beedle AM, Murph MM. *Cancer Lett.* 2015 Aug 28. pii: S0304-3835(15)00541-8. doi: 10.1016/j.canlet.2015.08.012. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26319900

Michael Neville, Russ Palmer, Deborah Elder, and Michael Fulford

Published "Evaluating the Effects of Flexible Learning about Aseptic Compounding on First-year Students in a Pharmacy Skills Laboratory" in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*

PRESENTATIONS

Aaron Beedle, Assistant Professor

Student presentations at the 2015 STaR Conference in Athens, GA:

Foltz SJ, Patel A, Peissig KB and Beedle AM. Therapeutic targeting of aberrant AKT/mTOR signaling in Fktn-deficient muscle.

Fortunato MJ, Ball CE, Hollinger K, Patel NB, Modi JN, Rajasekaran V, Nonneman DJ, Ross JW, Kennedy EJ, Selsby JT and Beedle AM. Rabbit monoclonal antibodies for the detection of α -dystroglycan core protein.

Wang YM, Hekatyar SK, Foltz SJ and Beedle AM. Evaluation of MRI for phenotypic assessment in a mouse model of muscular dystrophy.

Azza El-Remessy, Associate Professor

Presented "Why I want to be a Vision Scientist" in the career fair of Stevens Creek Elementary school.

Eileen Kennedy, Assistant Professor

Invited Oral Presentation, "Dissecting AKAP signaling complexes," 4th International Workshop on cAMP signaling, PKA and phosphodiesterases, Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey, September 3-5, 2015

Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor

Presented The Pharmacology of Medical Cannabinoids to the Tri-District Conference of the United States Federal Judicial Circuits at Callaway Gardens, Georgia.

Presented The Psychopharmacology of Substance Use Disorders: The Anti-Reward Brain System to the Mid-America Pharmacy Conference and Expo at Kansas City, Missouri.

Presented Reefer Madness: The Science of Leaf Marijuana and Medical Cannabinoids
To The Blunt Truth-Will Marijuana Become Legal in 2016? Conference in Greenville, South Carolina.

Presented Forensic Marijuana: Cannabis Impairment Measurements at the Marijuana DUI Investigations- DRE Edition Green Lab Conference in Denver, Colorado

Y. George Zheng, Associate Professor

Presented an invited talk titled "Isoform-Selective Inhibitors Targeting Protein Arginine Methyltransferases" at 2015 Chinese Medicinal Chemistry Symposium, at Lanzhou, China.

OTHER NEWS

The 2015 Southern Translational Education and Research (STaR) Conference focused on Inflammation in Disease and Health and included state-of-the-art topics in clinical and translational science as well as opportunities for attendees to showcase their research and network to develop regional collaborators. Excellence in clinical and translational science was recognized during the meeting through the STaR Awards listed below.

2015 STaR Young Investigator Award Finalists:

Mingming Gao

Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia

Title: TREATMENT OF OBESITY BY FGF21 GENE TRANSFER

Shannon P. Quinn

Departments of Computer Science and Cellular Biology, University of Georgia

Title: QUANTITATIVE DEFINITION OF LATENT CILIARY MOTION PHENOTYPES

Jesse R. Schank

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Georgia

Title: NUCLEAR FACTOR B ACTIVITY IS INCREASED BY ALCOHOL REWARD CONDITIONING

Lisa M Shollenberger

Department of Infectious Diseases and Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases, University of Georgia

Title: VACCINE SELF-ASSEMBLING IMMUNE MATRIX ENHANCES VACCINE RESPONSES IN THE ABSENCE OF PROINFLAMMATORY MOLECULAR ADJUVANTS

2015 STaR Young Investigator Award Winner:

Hitesh Handa

College of Engineering University of Georgia

Title: NOVEL NITRIC OXIDE RELEASING MATERIALS FOR PREVENTION OF INFECTION AND THROMBOSIS IN BLOODCONTACTING DEVICES

2015 STaR Graduate Student Award Winner:

Sally Elshaer

Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics, College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia

Title: DELETION OF P75NTR PROTECTS AGAINST PERIPHERAL AND RETINAL ISCHEMIA: POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF MESENCHYMAL STEM CELLS

2015 STaR Post-Doctoral Fellow Award Winner:

Robin Webb

Departments of Regenerative Bioscience Center, Animal and Dairy Science

Title: EXOSOMES WITH CELL SIGNALING CAPABILITIES CAN BE ISOLATED FROM NEURONAL CELLS

STaR Travel Award Winners:

Martha I. Betancur

Regenerative Bioscience Center, ADS Complex, The University of Georgia

Title: CHONDROITIN SULFATE GLYCOSAMINOGLYCAN HYDROGELS SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE BFGF RETENTION AND NEURAL STEM CELL SELF RENEWAL 4 WEEKS POST TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (Abstract #4)

Courtney Daczowski

Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences, University of Georgia

Title: DEVELOPMENT OF VACCINE CANDIDATES THROUGH ABLATION OF VIRAL EUBIQUITINASE AND DEISGYLASE ACTIVITIES (Abstract #8)

Wael S. Eldahshan

University of Georgia, Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics

Title: ANGIOTENSIN TYPE 2 RECEPTOR STIMULATION WITH COMPOUND 21 IMPROVES STROKE OUTCOME IN FEMALE RATS (Abstract #11)

Hamzah Mansoura

GRU/UGA Medical Partnership

Title: ENDURANCE INDEX AS NON-INVASIVE CLINICAL MUSCLE FATIGUE TEST (Abstract #20)

Islam Osman

Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics, University of Georgia College of Pharmacy; Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center

Title: PIOGLITAZONE, A PPARG AGONIST, ATTENUATES PDGF-INDUCED VASCULAR SMOOTH MUSCLE CELL PROLIFERATION THROUGH AMPK-DEPENDENT AND AMPK-INDEPENDENT INHIBITION OF MTOR/P70S6K AND ERK SIGNALING (Abstract #21)

Daniel D. Shill

Department of Kinesiology, University of Georgia

Title: IMPACT OF ACUTE EXERCISE ON ANGIOGENESIS- AND INFLAMMATION-RELATED GENE EXPRESSION IN CIRCULATING ANGIOGENIC CELL SUBPOPULATIONS (Abstract #24)

Abdelrahman Y Fouda

Program in Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center and University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

Title: INVOLVEMENT OF THE CONTRALESIONAL ANGIOTENSIN TYPE 2 RECEPTOR IN COMPOUND 21 MEDIATED FUNCTIONAL RECOVERY AFTER STROKE (Abstract #35)

Program in Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center and University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

Title: THE ANGIOTENSIN TYPE II RECEPTOR AGONIST, COMPOUND 21, PROVIDES NEUROPROTECTION THROUGH INTERLEUKIN 10 UPREGULATION (Abstract #36)

EVENTS**13th Annual Dawgtoberfest: Rx for Good Health**

The College of Pharmacy is celebrating American Pharmacists Month with the 13th Annual Dawgtoberfest: Rx for Good Health, on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, from 12:00 pm – 3:00pm. The event will be an afternoon of health promotion and relaxation at the Pharmacy South building. Sponsored by UGA Parents and Families Association, the event will include free health screenings and free food. Flu shots will also be offered for the low price of \$20.

Waters Lecture Scheduled

The 2015 Kenneth L. Waters Lecture will be presented at the College of Pharmacy on November 4 at 3:30 p.m. in Pharmacy South 101. William A. Zellmer, B.S. in Pharmacy, M.P.H, will lecture on "The Perils of Ignoring Pharmacy's Deepest Threat." Zellmer currently serves as a consultant, writer, and speaker on strategic and professional issues in pharmacy practice and education, reflecting a career-long interest in advancing pharmacy as a vital health professional. Based on his writings and lectures, many have called him a thought leader on issues facing the profession of pharmacy.

Center for Drug Discovery

The UGA **Center for Drug Discovery** will hold a day-long 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".