In the Spotlight

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Susan Fagan Named University of Georgia Distinguished Research Professor

Susan Fagan, Albert W. Jowdy Professor, Assistant Dean and Associate Department Head of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy, is one of only three professors at the University to receive the title of Distinguished Research Professor this year. The honor is bestowed upon faculty who are internationally recognized for their original contributions to knowledge and whose work promises to foster continued creativity in their discipline.

Fagan is an outstanding leader in basic stroke research and an expert in stroke therapeutics. She was one of the investigators in a landmark clinical trial that led to the widespread use of the drug Activase as an acute treatment for embolic stroke. She is recognized by other scientists and clinicians as one of the few Americans and international leaders who continues to translate novel basic research into new treatment strategies for acute stroke.

Along with her group of collaborators, she is on the cusp of establishing vascular protection as a tactic to improve the devastating morbidity and mortality associated with stroke, which affects more than 800,000 individuals annually in the U.S. alone. In addition to the development of novel treatments, Fagan is currently exploring new therapeutic targets in the brain blood vessels to enhance recovery and improve outcomes for stroke patients.

Fagan was formerly on the faculty at Wayne State and participated in clinical trials that assessed the effect of Tissue Plasminogen Activator (tPA), a clot buster that was approved for use in acute stroke patients in 1996. She moved to Georgia in 1999 in order to better integrate her research and clinical work by setting up a translational research lab at the College’s Clinical Pharmacy Program at the Medical College of Georgia and the Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta. Since 2003 her work has been steadily funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and the Veterans Affairs Merit Review.

Professor Emeritus Chung “David” Chu is the only other Distinguished Research Professor in the College of Pharmacy; he was named in 1998.

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