September 17, 2012

Winners Named in STaR Conference

Five out of nine winners in this year’s Southern Translational Education and Research (STaR) Conference represented the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. “Cancer Therapy: Making it Personal” was the topic of the four-hour continuing education program sponsored by College of Pharmacy and Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU). Around 130 people participated and 64 abstracts were presented.

The program focused on improving human health through scientific discoveries that can be translated into practical applications. Such discoveries typically begin at “the bench” with basic research, in which scientists study disease at a molecular or cellular level and then progress to the clinical level, or the patient’s bedside.

Keynote speakers included Howard McLeod, Fred Eshelman distinguished professor and director of the Institute for Pharmacogenomics and Individualized Therapy at the University of North Carolina School of Pharmacy; and Samir Khleif, director of the GHSU Cancer Center.

The conference 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 collaborations. Excellence in clinical and translational science was recognized during the conference through graduate student, post-doctoral fellow, young investigator awards.

The winners were:

STaR Young Investigator award:
Winner: S. Priya Narayanan, Ph.D., Vascular Biology Center, Georgia Health Sciences University
Runner-up: Raj Govindarajan, Ph.D., Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences, University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

STaR Postdoctoral award:
Winner: Barbara Mysona, Ph.D., Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics, Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy, University of Georgia College of Pharmacy
First Runner-up: Jigar Bhagatwala, MBBS, MPH, Department of medicine, diabetes and obesity discovery institute (DODI), Georgia Health Sciences University
Second Runner-up: Anna Goc, Ph.D., Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics, Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy, University of Georgia College of Pharmacy

STaR Graduate Student award:
Winner: Rui Wang, Cancer Center, Georgia Health Sciences University
First Runner-up: Sherif Hafez, Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics, Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy, University of Georgia College of Pharmacy
Second Runner-ups: Mary Zimmerman, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Georgia Health Sciences University and Sahar Soliman, Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics, Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy, University of Georgia College of Pharmacy