

# Rx News

A Monthly Newsletter  
of The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy  
May 2009

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## AWARDS/HONORS

### **Robert Arnold, Assistant Professor**

Invited to be a member of a National Institutes of Health Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group for 2009-10, Neuropharmacology & Imaging Study Section, Santa Monica, CA.

## GRANTS

### **Robert Arnold and Brian Cummings, Assistant Professors**

Received a National Institutes of Health/NIBIB grant for \$408,271 for a two-year study of the "sPLA2 Selective Degradation of Nanoparticles." The primary objective of this grant is to determine the effect of secretory phospholipase A2 on the degradation of lipid based nanoparticles.

### **Robert Arnold, Assistant Professor**

Receipt of a National Institutes of Health Shared Equipment Grant, as a co-investigator with Emeritus Professor David Chu, for \$500,000 for a MRI/MRS for Small Animal Models of Disease. The primary objective of this grant was to obtain funds to purchase a 7T small animal MRI/MRS, which will be installed in the Coverdell building in early 2010.

### **Michael Bartlett, Professor**

National Institutes of Health shared instrument grant for \$500,000 has been funded for the purchase of an Electrospray Ionization Time-of-Flight Ion Mobility Mass Spectrometer for Drug Discovery

### **Tony Capomacchia, Associate Professor**

Received \$4,000 from the Sloan Foundation for minority Ph.D. recruitment and retention in pharmaceutical biomedical sciences

### **David Chu, Professor Emeritus**

Received \$511,613 from the National Institutes of Health for a continuation study of biotransformation of anti-HIV prodrugs

### **Brian Cummings, Assistant Professor**

Received \$107,425 as a continuation grant from Joseph Cotruvo and Associates for PBPK model for bromate

### **Daniel Forrister, Clinical Assistant Professor**

Received a 2009-10 Scholarship of Engagement grant for \$8,000 from the UGA Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach for a project entitled, "Pharmacy Student Engagement in Delivering Health Care Services to Residents of Archway Partnership Counties.

**Rajgopal Govindarajan, Assistant Professor**

Received \$36,875 from Emory University for a human equilibrative nucleoside transporter-1 (NENT-1) and human concentrative nucleoside transporter-1 (HCNT-1): Their modulation of gemcitabine efficacy in advance head and neck cancers

**Shelley Hooks, Assistant Professor**

Received \$50,000 from the Georgia Cancer Coalition for study of mechanism of RGS regulation of ovarian cancer cell growth and migration

**PUBLICATIONS****James Cooper, Professor Emeritus**

Published a CE review of "Medication interventions to prevent falls in the older adult" in Pharmacy Today and the Journal of the American Pharmacy Association

**Susan Fagan, Jowdy Professor and Assistant Dean for MCG Programs**

Published "Early atorvastatin reduces hemorrhage after acute cerebral ischemia in diabetic rats" in May issue of the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics; epub ahead of print

**Mandi Murph, Assistant Professor**

Published "Expression of autotaxin and lysophosphatidic acid receptors increases mammary tumorigenesis, invasion, and metastases" in June issue of Cancer Cell

Published "LPAR1 (lysophosphatidic acid receptor 1) 9q31.3" in Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology and Haematology.

**Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor**

Published "From DisGrace To Grace: The Journey of Professional Shame for the Profession of Pharmacy- A Formula for Disaster; Prescription" in The Newsletter of Oklahoma Pharmacists Helping Pharmacists, Vol.4

**PRESENTATIONS****Azza El-Remessy, Assistant Professor**

Presented five posters at the Association of Research on Vision and Ophthalmology meeting: "Activation of ERK and p38 MAPK, but not JNK, Occurs Exclusively in Retinal Microglia in Experimental Diabetes;" "Decreased Nitric Oxide Bioavailability in Diabetic Retinopathy: Involvement of Arginase Activity;" "Early Intervention of Tyrosine Nitration Prevents Vaso-Obliteration and Neovascularization in Ischemic Retinopathy;" "Na<sup>+</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> Exchanger-1 Inhibition Counteracts Diabetes-Induced Cataractogenesis and Retinal Oxidative Stress and Apoptosis;" and "Epicatechin Prevents Gliosis and Neuronal Death in Diabetes: Critical Role of MMP-7"

**Marjorie Shaw Phillips**

Presented "A Proactive Approach to Medication Safety" at the MCG Physician Assistant 2009 Homecoming Update as part of Physician Assistant CME Primary Care Update, Health Sciences Building

Presented "A Proactive Approach to Medication Safety" at the 44th Annual Primary Care and Family Medicine Symposium, Medical College of Georgia

**Duska Franic, Associate Professor**

Invited Presentation of "Health outcomes and interdisciplinary research" to the Mylan School of Pharmacy faculty Duquesne University at the Oglebay Resort West Virginia

"Psychometric properties of four Kiswahili translated disease specific patient reported outcome measures" presented at the 14th Annual International ISPOR Meeting, Orlando in May and published in Value in Health

**Charles McDuffie, Public Service Associate****Jeff Sanford, Senior Public Service Associate****Trina von Waldner, Public Service Associate**

Presented "Optimizing Medication Therapy Management through Entrepreneurship," a 40-hour practice based continuing pharmacy education activity in partnership with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The program included 32 hours of live instruction and eight hours of home study utilizing WebCT. The program ran March 28 through May 17, 2009, with an enrollment of 15 pharmacists and business partners.

**Merrill Norton, Clinical Associate Professor**

Keynote presentation: "Pain and The Recovering Pharmacist" at the Ohio State University and Ohio Pharmacists Recovery Organization, Columbus, Ohio;

Presented Student Wellness and Drugs on Campus, University of Alabama Student Health Services, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Presented Keynote address: "Illicit Drugs, Gangs, and Intervention- The Adolescent Brain " at the U.S. Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration Conference, Piedmont College, Athens, Georgia

Presented Keynote address: "Psychotropic Medications and the Adolescent Brain-2009", at the Alabama NAMI Conference, Birmingham, Alabama.

**OTHER NEWS****James Bruckner, Professor**

Participated in a meeting of Underwriter Laboratories Expert Review Panel in Chicago held in Chicago, IL in May. This panel evaluates adverse health effects of chemicals released from various devices, including water treatment systems, dialysis machines, plastic and rubber tubing, etc.

Participated in a meeting of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists TLV Chemical Substances Committee in Cincinnati, OH. This committee sets national and some international standards for exposure to industrial chemicals in occupational settings.

Attended a meeting of the Committee on Toxicology of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in Washington, DC, as well as a symposium entitled "Toxicity Pathway-Based Risk Assessment". The NAS symposium explored incorporation of molecular biology into predicting toxicity and cancer risks of chemicals.

**Brian Buck, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Residency Program**

Chaired the recent 40th Southeastern States Residency Conference (SERC), in which pharmacy residents from 9 southeastern states and Puerto Rico presented their residency research project results. Nearly 600 pharmacists attended SERC, which is one of seven regional residency conferences in the US. It was established in 1970 as the first such forum in which pharmacy residents and leaders in the profession could network and share good ideas to advance practice. Every SERC has been held in Athens, but due to tremendous growth, the conference moved this year to the Classic Center, after 39 years at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. Buck led the SERC Advisory Committee, which includes members of several health care institutions across the southeast including Tad Gomez and Marjorie Phillips from the Medical College of Georgia, and our own Continuing Education Department. Without the support and outstanding service provided by Dr. Paul Brooks, Sis Budd, and Jennifer Green, SERC would not continue to be recognized as the "model" for all other regional residency conferences. Next year's SERC will be held at the Classic Center on April 29-30, 2010. The College of Pharmacy and its affiliated residency programs will have an all-time high of 12 residents presenting at the 2010 meeting. To learn more about SERC, please go to [www.SERCpharm.com](http://www.SERCpharm.com) "