

Pharmacology & Toxicology

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Boonshoft
School of Medicine
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Pharmacology
and Toxicology

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CHAIR'S CORNER



The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology newsletter is designed to keep our alumni, the Boonshoft School of Medicine, and Wright State University apprised of the happenings in the department.

The newsletter can be found on the departmental website: <http://medicine.wright.edu/pharmacology-and-toxicology>

For this issue, we will be highlighting the Earl H. Morris Endowed Lectureship. To join the departmental mailing list to receive an electronic version, or to provide suggestions as to content, please contact Ms. Catherine Winslow at Catherine.Winslow@wright.edu.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES



Professor Norma Adragna-Lauf Retires

It is with mixed feelings that we announce the retirement of Norma Adragna-Lauf, Ph.D. A faculty member at Wright State University since 1985, Dr. Adragna-Lauf has impacted our institution, our department, and scores of students and faculty she has mentored. Please see the Spotlight section of the Fall 2015 newsletter for more details about our special colleague. Dr. Adragna-Lauf and her husband, Professor Emeritus Peter Lauf, M.D., have relocated to Louisville to enjoy the next stage in their careers, which involves spending more time with children and grandchildren. To honor our colleagues, an Adragna-Lauf Award has been established, which will be awarded annually to the top departmental graduate student.

We will miss this "power couple," who has impacted the department and university for many decades!

Dr. Michael Kemp joins faculty as assistant professor

We are thrilled to announce that Michael Kemp, Ph.D., former research assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology, has been hired as assistant professor following a nationwide search. A Dayton native, Dr. Kemp has established himself as an expert in DNA damage and repair. He has recently been awarded his first five-year R01 grant (2/01/2019 to 1/31/2024) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The title of his grant is: *DNA damage response kinase signaling in non-replicating human cells and tissues*. These

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DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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We look forward to many years of working with this gifted colleague!

exciting studies build upon his expertise in DNA damage and his very clinically relevant ideas that could protect non-cancerous tissues from agents such as chemotherapy. Dr. Kemp also serves as a co-investigator on another NIH grant in which he is exploring

the effects of circadian rhythms on DNA repair. He has also been invited to serve on a National Institutes of Health study section, a rare feat for a junior faculty member.

Distinguished Professor Robert Murphy awarded the 2019 Earl H. Morris Lectureship

The 2019 Earl H. Morris Endowed Lectureship was held on March 27, 2019. Robert C. Murphy, Ph.D., distinguished professor of pharmacology, emeritus, University of Colorado, Denver, presented *Mass Spectrometry and Lipidomics: Tools for Lipid Biochemistry*. Please see the Spotlight section in this issue for more details on this special award.

New studies begin in the Pharmacology Translational Unit



Dr. Travers presenting Dr. Murphy with the Earl H. Morris Endowed Lectureship plaque.

One of the goals of the department is to foster translational studies to facilitate the process through which discoveries at the laboratory bench can be brought to the clinic. Moreover, the Pharmacology

Translational Unit (PTU) located in the Wright State Physicians Health Center next to our campus is set up to conduct both translational research studies as well as pharmaceutical clinical trials. Regarding the latter, the PTU is currently conducting almost a dozen pharma-sponsored studies. These include testing a Phosphodiesterase-4

inhibitor in both adults and children with psoriasis, and also two new studies, one of which is testing a topical novel retinoid in adults and children. The other is testing a histamine receptor 4 inhibitor in adults with atopic dermatitis. New studies involving the challenging skin diseases *prurigo nodularis* and *hidradenitis suppurativa* are starting. If you have questions or would like more details, please contact Dr. Travers or PTU Director Elizabeth Cates at 937-245-7500.

Pharmacology M.D./M.S. students busy at the recent Medical Student Research Symposium

We are pleased to announce that our M.D./M.S. class submitted a total of 11 posters at the 11th Annual Medical Student Research Symposium on April 1, 2019.

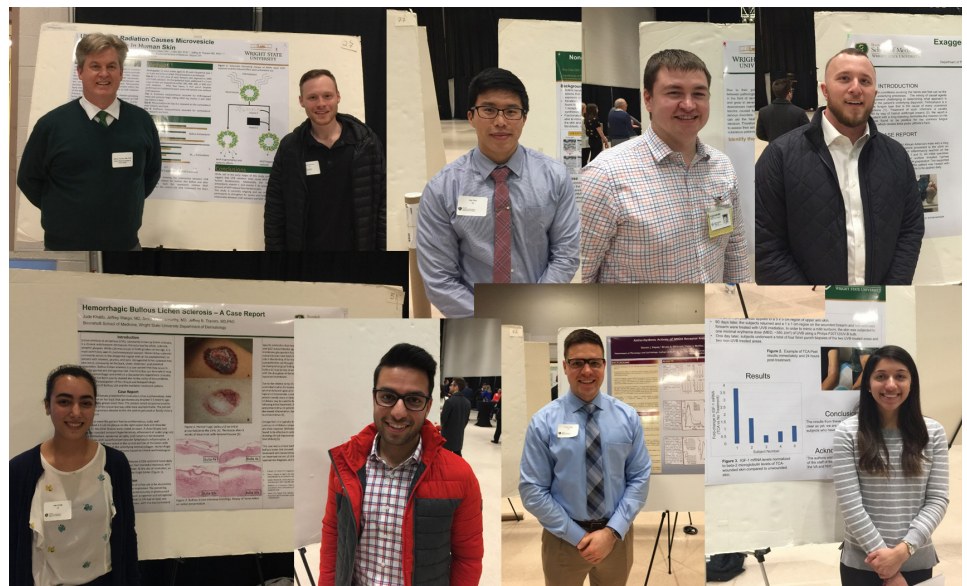
follow-up comparison of untreated arm.

Ryan Gabbard presented *What caused this skin condition: Interactive learning experience*.

Sabina Bashir's poster was entitled, *Effectiveness of trichloroacetic acid peel to restore the appropriate UVB response on geriatric skin*.

Finally, new M.D./M.S. student **Steven Repas** presented *Antiarrhythmic activity of NMDA receptor antagonists in human versus animal models*.

Congratulations to all of our students! Our students represented a high percentage of all the student presentations.



Dr. Travers and students Cameron, Roy, Ryan, Rob, Jude, Jaree, Steven, and Sabrina. Not pictured are Benita and Michael.

Cameron McGlone presented: *Ultraviolet B radiation causes microvesicle particle release in human skin*.

Jude Khatib presented *Hemorrhagic bullous lichen sclerosis: a case report*.

Michael Wilson and **Benita Wu** presented *Wounds resulting from non-malignant hematologic disease: a case series and literature review*.

Robert Hoopes presented *Exaggerated immune reactions to Trichophyton fungus results in an inflammatory tinea pedis*.

Roy Chen presented *Fractional thermolysis for forearm actinic keratosis: Six-month*

KUDOS



Dr. O is like one of her fictional characters - but real!

Dr. Terry Oroszi, who just published a fiction thriller, *Operation Stormfront: From Weatherman to Wall Street*. Dr. Oroszi was recently in Washington,

D.C., where she briefed congressional staff members from the Armed Forces Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Dr. Yong-jie Xu, whose laboratory had two abstracts at the Midwest DNA Repair Symposium in St. Louis, Missouri. One was *Depletion of the anti-silencing protein Epe1 rescues the DNA replication checkpoint defect in fission yeast lacking the inner nuclear membrane protein Lem2*, presented by Dr. Wozniak. The other was *Genetic screen of two rqh1 mutants with a compromised Rad3(ATR) kinase signaling in the DNA replication checkpoint of fission yeast*, by Dr. Ahamad.

Dr. Mike Kemp, who was inducted into the 2019 Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomic Society Newly Independent Investigators Engagement Program. He also gave an invited lecture at the Florida International University Biomolecular Sciences Institute.

Major Kelley Williams, adjunct professor, was promoted to the rank of Major this year. He has 17 years of active service with the Army, 10 of which are in the

Goes to show good things come to those who wait.

CBRN/WMD community. The theme of his reception was "When Pigs Fly," his wife's play on the fact that he spent an unusual amount of time as a Captain due to delays for academic work and scientific

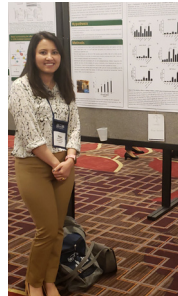


Major Kelley, and his youngest daughter, Ava, who "pinned" the new rank on him.

careers. He is currently working on his Ph.D. while working full-time in the military and teaching the Pharm/Tox CBRN courses.

Mr. Hazem Gammoh, December 2018 M.S. graduate, who has garnered many honors. First, he received the Graduate Student Excellence Award. Mr. Gammoh will attend the 79th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, to be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on September 22-26, 2019, where he will present the paper *Opioid Addiction: The emerging disease threatening our future*. His mentor, Professor Alvarez-Leefmans, guided this work.

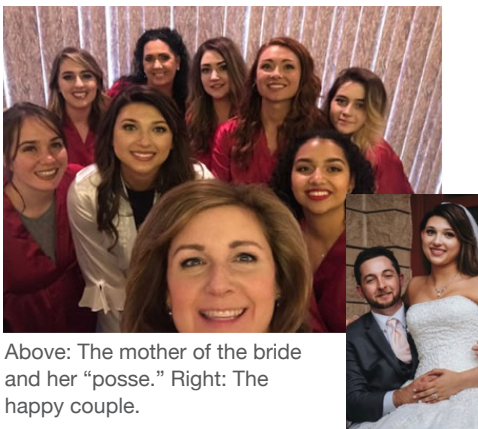
Pariksha Thapa, an M.S. student, who won first-place poster presentation at the Ohio Valley Society of Toxicology meeting held at Purdue University on June 28, 2019. Other students who attended include **Avinash Mahajan, Simon Oyebanji** and **Langni Liu**.



Ms. Thapa and her award-winning poster.



Students Avinash Mahajan, Pariksha Thapa, Simon Oyebanji, and Langni Liu relax between scientific sessions.



Above: The mother of the bride and her "posse." Right: The happy couple.

Ms. Catherine Winslow, departmental administrator and assistant director for the master's program, and her husband Robert, who married their daughter



Hazem, proud parents, and mentor Dr. Alvarez-Leefmans.

Spring 2019 Graduates

Mamdouh Salman A. Alshehri

Haritha Battu

Kruti Amit Calcuttawala

Sri Bhargavi Donepudi

Othman A. F. Eldalal

Anhar Fuad J. Hosawi

Shorooq O. Khader

Nikhitha Musale Krishnamurthy

Likhitha Sai Krothapalli

Alycia M. Lewis

Philip Ndoki

Abdulrahman Mohamad F Shaheen

Dhwani Udaya Shetty

Surabhi Suresh Shetty

Raisa S. Siddique

Summer 2019 Graduates

Madeleine Debrosse

Manasi Suchit Halurkar

Mugdha Arun Jaitpal

Sayali Milind Kadam

Rittu Elsa Samuel

Kavya Shaj

Unmesha Hemant Thanekar

Pariksha Thapa

Ram Mohan Chowdary Vallabaneni

Krishna Tejaswi Veerasuneni

ter Jessica to Jerry Rude. Jessica is known to all, as she was frequently in her mother's office during her undergraduate years and completed an internship in the Pharmacology Translational Unit under the guidance of Director Elizabeth Cates.

Each issue of the departmental newsletter spotlights an individual faculty member or program in the department. For this issue, we are taking the opportunity to spotlight the Earl H. Morris M.D. Lectureship.



Pictured from left: Dr. Jeffrey Travers, Stephan Magnusson, Mark Cargill, Victor Magnusson, Dr. Susan Morris, Dr. Robert Murphy, Dr. Terry Oroszi, Dr. Mariana Morris, June Madden, Thomas Madden, Dr. Norma Adragna-Lauf, and Dr. Peter Lauf.

Established in 2000, this lectureship was endowed by the Morris family in honor of Dr. Earl H. Morris. The Morris family has deep

roots and is a storied name in the Dayton area. The family has a farm which was established in 1818 by William and Priscilla Morris. Of interest, William Morris' father served with General George Washington at Valley Forge and at the Battle of Trenton in the American Revolutionary War.

Born in Bellbrook, Ohio, in 1872, Earl H. Morris graduated from the University of Cincinnati Medical School in 1903. He set up a practice in the Dayton area until his retirement in 1955. His granddaughter is former Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology Chair, Dr. Mariana Morris. Other family members include

Herbert Morris. Both were instrumental in establishing this lectureship.

The Earl H. Morris M.D. Lectureship has provided a wonderful venue to bring

internationally-acclaimed scientists to Wright State University. This year, the awardee was Dr. Robert Murphy, distinguished professor of pharmacology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Professor Murphy is considered one of the most instrumental lipid mass-spectrometrists in the world, and his contributions include unraveling the structures of the slow-reacting substances of anaphylaxis (Leukotrienes C4, D4, E4), as well as important insights into leukotriene B4 and oxidized glycerophosphocholines. Dr. Murphy has authored multiple textbooks and published over 500 research papers.

Other awardees were Suzanne Oparil, M.D., 2000; Paul M. Plotsky, Ph.D., 2002; Rodolfo R. Llinas, M.D., Ph.D., 2003; Salvador Moncada, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc., 2005; Richard M. Caprioli, Ph.D., 2008; Oliver Smithies, D.Phil., 2009; Lydia Aguilar-Bryan, M.D., Ph.D., 2014; Anita Aperia, M.D., Ph.D., 2015.

All of us are so appreciative of the generosity of the Morris family, which has provided this important lectureship.