

Pharmacology & Toxicology

VOL. 7, ISSUE 2

SUMMER - FALL 2020



Boonshoft
School of Medicine
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Pharmacology
and Toxicology

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CHAIR'S CORNER



The Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology has a newsletter designed to keep our alumni, the Boonshoft School of Medicine and Wright State University apprised of the happenings in the department. The newsletter is issued three times per year, and can be found on the departmental website: <http://medicine.wright.edu/pharmacology-and-toxicology>

Each issue contains a "Spotlight" section that highlights a faculty member, colleague or program. For this issue, our Director of Graduate Programs, Dr. Terry Oroszi, will be highlighting the new Clinical Trials Coordination Master of Science program.

To join the departmental mailing list to receive an electronic version, or to provide suggestions for content, please contact

Ms. Catherine Winslow at catherine.winslow@wright.edu

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Dr. Terry Oroszi Chosen for Global Icon Award

Dr. Terry Oroszi received the Woman Icon Award for 2020, part of the third edition of the iWoman Global Awards (iWGA). The iWGA is a global nonprofit, non-governmental organization that celebrates womanhood and excellence. The iWGA promotes the empowerment of

"She is a role model for millions of young girls and women from around the world."

women achievers worldwide, and encourages and supports all women to

come together to build strong networks and support one another for the greater good. Dr. Oroszi was chosen for this prestigious award based on her work combating global terrorism and contributions to education. She was unanimously selected by the iWGA award jury, with representatives from six countries. "She is a role model for millions of young girls and women around the world" according to the iWGA.

We heartily agree that Terry is quite iconic!

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DEPARTMENT UPDATES (con't.)



Dr. Terry Oroszi (highlighted) among the other winners of the iWoman Global Awards 2020.

New Collaborative Grant with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

We are pleased to announce a new Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) award between the Air Force Research Laboratory and the department. This agreement provides

“Our primary objective is to sustain and restore airman health.”

infrastructure to allow Dr. Saber Hussain’s group to have dedicated laboratory space in the department. The funds, \$800,000, also will provide equipment to help foster collaborations. According to Dr. Hussain, “Our primary objective is to develop scientific knowledge and innovative technologies to support advanced medical science and technology to sustain and restore airman health and performance in multifaceted operational environments. This agreement gives us the tools we need to better achieve those goals.” In addition, Dr. Hussain’s group will enhance the educational mission of the department as Dr. Hussain has a long history of training our students.



Drs. Hussain and Travers in the lab.

Talk about a win-win arrangement!

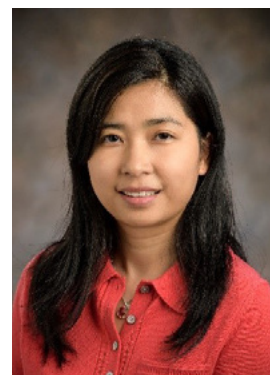
Solid Student Recruitment during the Pandemic

We are happy to announce that even with the coronavirus pandemic resulting in many disruptions, the department was able to recruit a total of 22 students into our Master of Science programs. We also have approximately 30 students who are delaying until early 2021 to initiate their program of study. Luckily, the faculty have been able to convert teaching for the most part to virtual, and they stepped up to offer some fall classes in the spring to accommodate the changes.

New Studies Begin in the Pharmacology Translational Unit

One of the goals of the department is to foster translational studies to facilitate the process where discoveries at the laboratory bench can be brought to the clinic. Moreover, the Pharmacology Translational Unit (PTU) located in the Wright State Physicians building 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 two new studies testing a topical novel retinoid in adults and children and a histamine receptor 4 inhibitor in adults with atopic dermatitis. New studies involving the challenging skin diseases prurigo nodularis and hidradenitis suppurativa have started. We also have a novel study testing if high doses of oral vitamin D can treat psoriasis. In a collaborative study with Dr. Madhavi Kadakia, we also are conducting skin biopsies to test her novel hypothesis that the p63 family of genes are abnormally expressed in this hyperproliferative skin disease. If you have questions or need more details, please contact Dr. Travers or PTU Director Elizabeth Cates at 937-245-7500.

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Dr. Ji Bihl relocates to Marshall University

It is certainly with mixed feelings we announce that Dr. Ji Bihl will be moving to West Virginia to join the faculty at Marshall University. This is a tremendous opportunity for our colleague, especially since she will be near family. For more details about our superb colleague, please see the “Spotlight” section of the Winter-Spring 2017 newsletter.

Wishing you success in your new position!

KUDOS

Dr. Michael Kemp, has been selected as a member of the FASEB Excellence in Science Award Committee.

Appropriate for Dr. Kemp, who is a good judge of excellence!



Emeritus colleague Dr. James Lucot, was awarded the patent "Treatment of Organophosphate Exposure with Triptans". This is his

fourth patent.

Glad to see the fires still burn bright in our emeritus professor.

Drs. Yanfang Chen and Jeffrey Travers received a fantastic 5% score for their NIH R01 grant application on microvesicle particles and UVB radiation. This proposal

also included **Drs. David Cool, Craig Rohan** and **Catherine Sherwin**, from Dayton Children's Hospital, as co-investigators. This proposal takes advantage of the Chen and Travers laboratories as well as the Pharmacology Translational Unit for novel human studies.

Sometimes it does take a village!



Dr. Khalid Elased was the delegate from the WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine to the United States Pharmacopeia (USP). The USP Convention is held every five years and

helps improve public health, patient safety, and access to quality medicines for people around the world. Dr. Elased participated in the USP Virtual Convention Governance on May 4-6, 2020.

Summer 2020 Graduates

Avinash Satyanarayan Mahajan
Venkata Sai Usha Sri Polaki
Yakshkumar Dilipbhai Rathod
Harshal Madhavi Sawant



SPOTLIGHT

Each issue of the departmental newsletter will "spotlight" an individual faculty or program in the department. For this issue, we are taking the opportunity to spotlight one of our newest programs, the Clinical Trials Coordination Master of Science degree option. This is written by **Dr. Terry Oroszi**, director of education.



The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology is proud to announce the new one-year Clinical Trials Coordination (CTC) Master of Science degree option. Despite the last minute approval in summer 2020, we had immediate interest, and accepted two students in fall 2020, and four applications are in the pipeline for spring 2021. When we reached out to Abigail Schmidt, one of our new students, she shared why she decided to be part of this new program, "I chose to pursue the CTC concentration because of the opportunity to gain hands-on experience at the Pharmacology Translational Unit and learn the ins and outs of how clinical trials are conducted to benefit patients. My goal is to become a physician, and I believe the knowledge I'll gain during this concentration will serve me well as I continue to journey through medicine." Alycia Ketter is already in the CTC field and told us she chose the Clinical Trials Coordination

Concentration to further her knowledge and expertise in the field of Clinical Research. She said she wants to contribute to the advancement of medicine.

The students will leave our program with a solid foundation in clinical research, focusing on the protection of research participants' welfare, improving global health, and coordinating academic, government, and industry research studies. The coursework provides an excellent foundation for students who wish to sit for professional certification through organizations such as the Society of Clinical Research Associates (SoCRA) or Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP). Students have the opportunity to assist in clinical research trials with human subjects at the Wright State Physicians Health Center, located on the Wright State University campus, and MetaMedical Research Group, located in nearby Beavercreek, Ohio. With this training our students gain real-world experience applying the principles of Good Clinical Practice (GCP) to active industry and federally funded trials.

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