

## PharmTox Fights COVID-19

### Week of March 30—April 3, 2020 Accolades

#### Grant Submissions Continue During COVID-19

Despite the COVID-19 disruptions, assistant professors Dr. Michael Berquist and Dr. Amanda Stolarz submitted grants targeted to junior faculty members. Dr. Berquist (pictured right) applied for the KL2 Mentored Research Career Development Program offered by the Translational Research Institute. His project is titled “Proteomic profiling of opioid reinforcement”. His multidisciplinary mentoring team includes Drs. William Fantegrossi and Paul Prather (Dept. of Pharm/Tox), Stephanie Byrum (Dept. of Biochem/Mol Biol), and Michael Mancino (Dept. of Psychiatry).



Dr. Stolarz (pictured left) in the Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences submitted a Research Scholar Grant to the American Cancer Society. The application supports early stage investigator-initiated projects across the cancer research spectrum. Dr. Stolarz’s project focuses on the role of ryanodine receptors and oxidative stress in the development of cancer-related lymphedema and evaluates anti-lymphedema therapies.



#### Dr. Brents’ Lab Steps Up to Volunteer!



A shout out to assistant professor, Dr. Lisa Brents (pictured left), who volunteered as a health screener at UAMS on Saturday, March 28. Mr. Brian Parks (shown at right), a PhD student in Dr. Brent’s laboratory, serves on the Quarantine Care Team at First Baptist Church in Little Rock. Brian calls six elderly individuals on a weekly basis to check on them and pray with them.



#### Basnakians Join the Fight!



Dr. Alexei Basnakian (shown at left) brought the first of his donated framed photographs of nature to decorate the department. Keep an eye out for them! They are sure to bring a smile! His wife, Olga (pictured at right) is sewing customized face masks to protect UAMS employees, caregivers and her neighbors. The masks are reusable, autoclavable, washable, have 4 levels of cotton of various colors, and a filter pocket. She hopes to have masks to consumers by the end of the week.



#### Stocked and Reddie

The UAMS food pantry, Stocked and Reddie, is looking for volunteers, and donations of food and money. You can go to their [website](#) to give online.

