

PharmTox Fights COVID-19 Week of April 13-17, 2020 Accolades

Parajuli Selected as Research Academy Scholar



Congratulations to associate professor, Nirmala Parajuli, who was selected as one of six UAMS Research Academy Scholars. This inaugural award is a joint initiative of the UAMS Division of Research and Innovation and the UAMS Translational Research Institute. The program includes the Mentored Grant Writing Program with training from a nationally recognized grant writing expert and mentorship from UAMS faculty with strong track records of federal funding. Program mentors for this new program include professors, Alexei Basnakian and Shuk-Mei Ho, and associate professor Ricky Leung.

New Grant Submissions

Dr. Shuk-Mei Ho, Dr. Ricky Leung and assistant professor Neville Tam submitted an R01 to the NIEHS. The application, "RNA modifications by paternal exposure to arsenic and intergenerational effects on sperm quality," seeks to identify modifications of sperm RNAs that mediate the intergenerational effects of arsenic exposure. Drs. Ho and Leung are co-PIs and Dr. Tam serves as a co-investigator.



Assistant professor Mitchell McGill submitted a proposal for a CTSA inter-institutional pilot project titled "Proteomics exploration of extracellular vesicles as a novel source of liver injury biomarkers". The goals of this application are to determine if serum extracellular vesicles are a viable source of novel liver injury biomarkers in patients and to describe the kinetics of circulating extracellular vesicles after injury.

Laura Ewing Volunteers at Health Department

Graduate student, Laura Ewing, is working at the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) to provide assistance with COVID-19 cases. Currently, she is helping with sample receiving and delivery. She also has been trained to use the Abbott analyzer for screening clinical samples in the future.



Screen Stars

Assistant professors, Nirmala Parajuli, Shengyu Mu and Neville Tam; research technician Shane Shelton; and education specialist Sylvia Stewart (pictured left-to-right below) worked shifts as health screeners at UAMS entrances this past week. Dr. Mitch McGill (pictured earlier) volunteered in the Mobile Triage Follow-Up Call Center on April 8th.



Basnakians Create Masks for Children

Olga Basnakian sewed 80 masks, half of which were given free of charge to UAMS employees, other Arkansans and their children. The new children's mask is about 40% smaller than the adult mask and is available in more than 40 colors and patterns (some examples shown on photo). All masks are washable, constructed of 4 cotton levels with a filter pocket and a nose adjustment.



Stocked and Reddie



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