

PharmTox Fights COVID-19

Week of April 6-10, 2020 Accolades

Manuscript by Drs. Peterson and Hay Accepted by JPET



Congratulations to associate professor, Eric Peterson and former graduate student, Charles "Chuck" Hay. Their manuscript titled "The development and characterization of an scFv-Fc fusion based gene therapy to reduce the psychostimulant effects of methamphetamine abuse," was accepted by the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and will be published in the FastForward section of the online journal.

COVID-19 Grant Submissions

Professor Alexei Basnakian and assistant professor Shengyu Mu submitted proposals for UAMS Time Sensitive Research Funding. Dr. Basnakian's proposal plans to develop a universal anti-viral drug. Dr. Eugene Apostolov, former Pharm/Tox faculty and now a family practice physician, serves as a collaborator.



Dr. Mu's proposal seeks alternative screening reagents and methods for coronavirus testing using saliva samples. Dr. Mu and Dr. Zhiqiang Qin, associate professor of Pathology, also are applying for a COVID-19 Pilot Project from the ACRI to define the virus binding to ACE2 in different cell types.



Dr. Gray Kicks off UAMS fastPACE Course

Nancy Gray, professor of Pharm/Tox and president of BioVentures, LLC, kicked off the 2020 UAMS fastPACE Course. This 4-week biomedical commercialization course, created by FastForward Medical Innovation at the University of Michigan, is designed to help busy researchers and clinicians test the value of early-stage discoveries. There are 8 teams and 14 participants.



Screen Stars

Assistant professor Nirmala Parajuli and Education Specialist, Sylvia Stewart have volunteered at screening stations this week. Dr. Shengyu Mu and research assistant Shane Shelton also have signed up for screening times.



Stocked and Reddie

Thank you to Dr. Nirmala Parajuli for her donation to Stocked and Reddie this week and to Olga Basnakian for volunteering for a 6-hour shift. Stocked and Reddie is looking for volunteers, and accepting donations of food and money. You can go to their [website](#) to volunteer and or give online.

