

PharmTox Fights COVID-19 Week of May 4 - 8, 2020 Accolades

Faculty and GBAs Band Together to Help with Budget

A special thanks to our amazing faculty and Fred Goad for their response to the request for voluntary salary reductions to mitigate the financial impact of Covid-19 in May. Fifteen faculty members and Fred voluntarily reduced salary during May. Dr. Rusch also declined the \$2500 associated with the COM Education Innovation Award she received last week. Because of their generosity, the department was able to limit involuntary reductions in FTE during May. Other faculty across the campus also responded positively to the request for voluntary salary reduction. Additionally, Chancellor Patterson and UAMS senior leadership requested a voluntary 20% salary reduction at the UA Board of Trustees meeting, a request that was approved for the month of May.

Staying Productive in the Lab (Paloma Salazar)

Paloma Salazar, research technician in Dr. Brents' laboratory, has been staying very busy during the pandemic working on GTPyS binding studies using buprenorphine and some of its analogues. In addition, she is finishing her degree online at UALR. Paloma will be awarded a B.S. in chemistry with a minor in mathematics.



"I've been setting aside a couple of days each week to keep up with lectures and assignments for school. Then I spend the remainder of time working on these important binding studies," said Paloma. In her spare time, she is taking care of her new puppy and reading books as well as studying for final exams.



Front Line Worker Kim Hawkins

Housekeeping plays a vital role in protecting faculty, staff and students at UAMS from the COVID-19 virus. These jobs sometimes go unnoticed but are essential to UAMS. Housekeeper Kim Hawkins, who works on floors 2 and 3 of Biomed I, is an unsung hero. Kim, who has been with UAMS for four years, works daily to keep our department clean and safe. Even with her mask, she always has a friendly smile and a kind word for everyone.

"I am honored to be a part of helping UAMS during this fight against Covid-19. My passion for cleanliness is appreciated more than ever since the pandemic. Disinfecting and making sure the building is clean is second nature to me and I thank the department for noticing my value. I truly love the people that I see on a day-to-day basis. Knowing that they appreciate me keeps me working hard and smiling especially during this pandemic. May God continue to bless us through these trying times."

FROM MEMBERS
OF THE
PHARMTOX
DEPT,
STAY
HEALTHY
AND BE
SAFE!

