

PharmTox Fights COVID-19

Week of June 8 -12, 2020 Accolades

White Coats for Black Lives



On Thursday, June 11, Team UAMS members gathered outside the fountain in front of the UAMS Medical Center for the "White Coats for Black Lives" event. Faculty, students, residents and leadership convened for a brief ceremony to acknowledge that UAMS stands against racism of any kind. Education specialist, Sylvia Stewart, snapped this photo of the event.

Drs. MacMillan-Crow, Parajuli and McGill Submit R01



Professor, Dr. Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow submitted a new R01 grant for the NIH June 5 deadline, titled "Mitochondrial dysfunction during renal cold storage and transplantation". The proposal seeks to define a novel signaling pathway in renal mitochondria that may contribute to cold storage-induced renal injury and damage following transplantation. Assistant professors, Dr. Nirmala Parajuli and Dr. Mitchell McGill are co-investigators on the application.



Drs. Peterson, Berquist and Mu Submit R21

Associate professor, Dr. Eric Peterson and assistant professors, Dr. Michael Berquist and Dr. Shengyu Mu, submitted a R21 grant to the NIH for the June 15 deadline. The goal of this exploratory project is to understand the effect of previous exposure to methamphetamine ("meth sensitization") on key psychostimulant, cardiovascular, and blood-brain barrier systems. It also will determine the effect of sensitization on expression levels and localization of a novel anti-METH antibody gene therapy that Dr. Peterson's laboratory is developing to treat methamphetamine abuse.



Department Spotlight: Dr. Galen Wenger

Despite having retired in 2014, emeritus professor, Dr. Galen Wenger, remains active in the department, helping out as needed. "After having been a member of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology faculty for 36 years, it was difficult to just totally walk away from my friends, colleagues, and the institution that I had grown up with," stated Dr. Wenger. "Thus, during my retirement I have enjoyed being able to participate in departmental seminars and student presentations, and provide input to my former colleagues on drafts of manuscripts and grant applications. Since the Covid-19 episode started, my visits to campus have come to a halt, but I recently provided input via e-mail and Zoom session to Dr. Peterson and colleagues on a draft of their R21 application, and I have enjoyed participating in Zoom faculty meetings. On an institutional basis, I am an active member of the UAMS Emeritus Faculty Council, which provides input to the campus leadership based upon the collective institutional history and expertise that this group possesses. I wish you all the best as you navigate these novel times."



Health Screeners Needed

UAMS is asking non-clinical employees to support the institutional efforts to navigate Covid-19 by volunteering for a shift at health screening sites at building entrances across campus. [Click here](#) to see available shifts. The Cancer Institute is of particular interest since the research areas have been asked to fill in any gaps in volunteer shifts at this location.