

PharmTox Fights COVID-19 Week of August 24-28, 2020

Fred Goad Appreciation Day

The department surprised business manager, Fred Goad, with a day of appreciation on Thursday, August 27. Fred, who is always the first person to volunteer to help everyone else, was in charge of health screening at the Cancer Institute for several months. He took many evening and weekend shifts himself while still managing two basic science departments. Recently, his family has experienced some challenges, but fitting of a Navy veteran, he rarely complains and continues to do an exemplary job of making the department a better place to work. Faculty, emeritus faculty, staff and trainees gifted Fred with a card of encouragement and contributed to the purchase of gift cards to his favorite take-out restaurants and Amazon.com. Fred would like to thank everyone for their generosity and the support shown to him and his family.



Department Spotlight: David Henry

David Henry is a fourth year MD/PhD student in Dr. Rhee's lab. When COVID-19 forced graduate students to stay home, he got permission to remain in the lab to finish a series of experiments. Those experiments ended the week that senior graduate students were allowed back on campus, denying David a break! He feels fortunate that COVID hasn't delayed his research and attributes his recent productivity to carefully planning each day's experiments for the entire summer in advance. It was a necessity, as Dr. Rhee has been busy as director of the medical school cardiovascular module, probably on his way to winning his sixth consecutive sophomore Golden Apple award. David isn't flying solo, however. He has worked closely with Drs. Rusch and Mu, who are on his dissertation committee, research technician Kelly Ball and postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Chris Moore. "I am grateful for their guidance," he says. "Whenever I need help, one of them is sure to give me sound advice," he continues. In addition to 60+ hour weeks of experiments in the lab, he is working on a "response to reviewers" document for a manuscript with several co-authors from the department, which he hopes will be accepted very soon. David remarks, "Despite its best efforts, COVID-19 hasn't stifled our lab's productivity. I'm fortunate to be part of such a great team of researchers. Having supportive colleagues has been instrumental in weathering this storm."



Health Screener Recognition

Professor Alexei Basnakian continues to volunteer on weekends as a screener at the Cancer Institute. There are volunteer shifts for September. [Click here](#) to see available shifts.