

PharmTox Fights COVID-19

Week of November 16-20, 2020

Welcome Dr. Hui-Ming Chang



Welcome to professor Hui-Ming Chang, who joined the department this month as professor of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Internal Medicine. Dr. Chang comes to us from the University of Missouri School of Medicine where she co-directed the Center for Precision Medicine. She received her MD from National Taiwan University, and then was awarded the MPH and MS degrees in Epidemiology and Physiology, respectively, from Harvard Chan School of Public Health. She completed her internship at George Washington University Medical Center, her residency at Boston University Medical Center, and clinical and research fellowships at Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Recently, she translated bench findings into a clinical trial to explore a potentially novel therapeutic for doxorubicin cardiotoxicity. The trial will be initiated at UAMS and funded by a 3.48M NIH grant (RO1 HL151993). Prior to joining the U. of Missouri, Dr. Chang worked at the U. of Texas Health Science Center and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Her research interests include onco-cardiology, chemobrain, pain mechanisms and the role of sentrin/sumoylation in cardiovascular diseases. Other areas of expertise include medical education and evidence-based medicine.

Dr. Paul Prather Named Vice-Chair of Department

Professor Paul Prather has been named Vice Chair of the department! Dr. Prather brings proven leadership abilities to the position. He directs the T32 Systems Pharmacology and Toxicology (SPaT) training program; serves as chair of the department's promotion and tenure committee; chairs the faculty search committee; and recently assumed directorship of the Pharmacology, Toxicology and Experimental Therapeutics graduate track. Additionally, he coordinates multiple subprojects in his R01 grant, which is the single largest NIH award in the department. Finally, he has acted as a role model for everyone by juggling all his duties capably and calmly during the Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks to Dr. Prather for agreeing to serve the department in an expanded leadership role!



Brittney Garner Successfully Defends Dissertation



Congratulations to Dr. Brittney Garner, who successfully defended her dissertation on November 13, 2020. Dr. Garner presented "Unrecognized Participation of the Lymphatic System in Medication Side Effects and Development of Salt-sensitive Hypertension" to a virtual audience. Dr. Garner was mentored by professor, Nancy Rusch, and assistant professor, Shengyu Mu. She will become a full-time regulatory specialist/research scientist at NuShores Biosciences, LLC, where she has worked part-time during the last year. NuShores is a bone and tissue regeneration venture and is the global exclusive licensee of bone and tissue regeneration technologies developed at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Drs. Ho and Leung Publication Accepted in EHP

Professor Shuk-Mei Ho and associate professor Ricky Leung are co-corresponding authors of an original research manuscript, "Low Dose Bisphenol A-responsive Genes Predict Survival in Endometrial Cancer: a CLARITY-BPA Study", which has been accepted for publication in the journal, Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP). EHP's impact factor is 8.38 and it is ranked 1st among toxicology journals that publish original research. In the study, Drs. Ho and Leung found that life-long exposure of rats to low-dose bisphenol A (BPA) alters the estrous cycle and uterine pathology, and disrupts a unique gene signature that explains the molecular subtype of endometrial cancer and has predictive value for survival outcomes in the cancer patients. Considering that the general U.S. population still is continuously exposed to BPA today due to excessive use of plastic ware, the findings may shed light on why the endometrial cancer rate has increased during the past two decades.

