

PharmTox Fights COVID-19

Week of December 7-11, 2020

Department Welcomes Cheryl Shelton as Education Specialist



Cheryl Shelton, CMP, will be joining us as Education Specialist on Monday, December 14th. Cheryl has over 30 years of experience in the Hospitality Industry. She recently moved back to Little Rock from Orlando, Florida where she worked for 19 years as a Senior Event Manager at the Orange County Convention Center, the 2nd largest convention center in the United States. She planned and managed the largest and most complex conventions and tradeshows such as AARP, American Association of Cancer Research (AACR), American Helicopter Association, National Education Association (NEA) and others. She has held her Certified Meeting Planners (CMP) designation for 25 years. Due to a family illness, Cheryl transitioned back to Little Rock to be closer to her parents. Upon returning, she rejoined the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau where she was an Event Manager. She enjoys traveling, nature and spending time with family. She is the proud mother of one daughter Victoria. Cheryl is very excited about joining the UAMS team and looks forward to using her talents in becoming an asset to the department.

Dr. Prather and MacMillan-Crow Receive Barton Award

Professors Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow and Paul Prather are the recipients of a Barton Pilot Award. “Characterization of synthetic cannabinoid-induced mitochondrial dysfunction leading to renal injury” is funded for \$25,000 for one year beginning January 1, 2021. K2” and “Spice” are products sold as “synthetic marijuana”; however, contain dangerous synthetic cannabinoids (SCBs). In addition to producing a variety of toxic effects, SCBs induce acute kidney injury (AKI) via unknown mechanisms. The studies funded by this award will test the hypothesis that SCBs induce renal mitochondrial dysfunction via mechanisms involving Cannabinoid Type 1 (CB1) receptor-mediated induction of reactive oxygen species (ROS).



Accepted Collaborative Manuscript with Dr. Basnakian



Professor Alexei Basnakian, in collaboration with the team of scientists led by assistant professor Qinghua Zhou of Jinan University in Guangzhou, China, and professor Norbert Perrimon of Harvard Medical School, co-authored a manuscript which has been accepted to the Nature Communications. The manuscript entitled “Endonuclease G promotes autophagy by suppressing mTOR signaling and activating the DNA damage response” describes the previously unknown role of apoptotic endonuclease G (EndoG) in autophagy in mice, *Drosophila* and *C.elegans*. The study utilized unique apoptotic EndoG inhibitors previously developed by Dr. Basnakian’s team.