

PharmTox Fights COVID-19

Week of February 22-26, 2021

Dr. Rhee Gets High Score on Grant Application



Professor Sung Rhee is co-investigator on a R01 application that received a priority score of 11% at a recent NIH study section. The application titled “Structure/function determinants of puncture wound thrombus formation” proposes to investigate electron microscope images of forming thrombi after jugular venous puncture in mice. Professor Brian Storrie in the UAMS Department of Physiology and Cell Biology is the PI on the application.

Dr. Brents’ Lab Weathers the Blizzard

Kudos to the Brents’ lab for their dedication during the recent wintry weather. Thanks to teamwork, they managed to tend to an experiment that couldn’t wait. The experiment was part of the ABI-ACRI project led by assistant professor Michael Berquist on which assistant professor, Lisa Brents is a co-investigator. They are studying the combined effects of prenatal opioid exposure and early life stress on alcohol consumption during adolescence and corresponding abnormalities of alpha-adrenoceptor expression in the brain. The experiment involves treating pregnant dams with either morphine or vehicle, then fostering their pups to untreated dams as soon as possible after delivery. The winter weather was forecasted to peak right when they were expecting their dams to deliver and if they weren’t able to foster the litters, the animals would have gone unused.



Dr. Berquist and Brents were snow/ice –bound in their respective neighborhoods, but thanks to graduate student Brian Parks and research technician Paloma Salazar and their 4WD vehicles, Dr. Brents was able to get to UAMS in the window between the two snowfalls and then back home after the rat pups were delivered and fostered. “Getting to UAMS felt like such a victory that Brian and I took a picture (*included here*) to commemorate the moment, and I was able to tend to the experiment without any trouble. I camped out in my office for several days, but had everything I needed. UAMS did a great job of taking care of us, including providing three hot meals a day for free, access to showers, and bed linens. After reading about the problems in Texas, I kept thinking of how fortunate I was to be in a warm and safe place. It was quite an experience, and I’m just thankful someone in our group was able to safely get to UAMS to continue the experiment.”

Updated Covid Guidelines

Vaccine distribution at UAMS is moving along with many employees having now received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine. If you have not yet been vaccinated, contact Student and Employee Health Services (SEHS) at 686-6565 or 686-6831 to schedule an appointment.

The CDC and Arkansas Department of Health recently updated quarantine guidelines.

Fully Vaccinated Employees and Students – 14 days after their final dose of vaccine, they are no longer required to quarantine if they do not have symptoms. This applies for three months following the final dose of vaccine. Symptom monitoring with SEHS is still required for 14 days after exposure.

Employees and Students who have Tested Positive for COVID-19 – 14 days after a positive test and with no symptoms of the infection, they are no longer required to quarantine if they do not have symptoms. This applies for three months following the positive test. Symptom monitoring with (SEHS) is required for 14 days after an exposure.

All Other Employees and Students -- May be placed on a 48-hour testing protocol after high-risk exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual who was not a spouse, partner, or child living in the same household. Employees may continue to work if they remain symptom-free, have negative results from PRC COVID test on days 2, 4 and 6 after exposure and complete the SEHS symptom survey twice a day for 14 days.

We would like to remind everyone to remain vigilant even after receiving the vaccine and the number of cases decline. Wear your mask, maintain social distance, avoid large gatherings, and wash your hands frequently. Stay UAMS Strong!