

PharmTox Fights COVID-19

Week of March 1-5, 2021

Samantha McClenahan Awarded F32 Postdoctoral Fellowship



Former graduate student and SPaT trainee, Samantha McClenahan, was awarded a Ruth L Kirschstein F32 Postdoctoral Fellowship from the NIDDK to support her postdoctoral research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Her project titled “Development of small-molecule potentiators of Kir4.1/5.1 potassium channels” focuses on the development and optimization of Kir4.1/5.1 activators and determination of their molecular mechanism of action using a combination of medicinal chemistry, high-throughput screening, site-directed mutagenesis, and electrophysiology. Congratulations on your award, Dr. McClenahan!

Dr. Abdel Fouda Appointed to ARVO Committee

Dr. Abdel Fouda, who will be joining the department soon as a tenure-track assistant professor, was appointed recently to the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Members in Training Committee (MIT) for a three-year term. Dr. Fouda also received the Qais Farjo, MD memorial travel grant to cover registration for the virtual ARVO annual meeting. The title of his meeting abstract is 'Pegylated arginase 1 as a treatment for acute central nervous system (CNS) injury'. Way to go Dr. Fouda!



Wellness Resources — Message from Dr. Rusch

The Covid-19 pandemic is taking a toll on mental health and the UAMS department chairs have been asked to emphasize that resources are available for students and employees feeling the effects of the pandemic or other stressors. Please do not hesitate to take advantage of these services. And again, my cell phone is 501-889-4013 and I'm available 24/7 if anyone needs to touch base. –Nancy Rusch

Student Counseling and Psychiatric Services

Website: <https://studentwellness.uams.edu>

Telephone: 501 686 8408

Counseling and Psychiatric Services for Employees

Counseling: Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Website: <https://eap.uams.edu>

Telephone: 501 686 2588; After hours, call the 24/7 EAP number **800 542-6021**

Psychiatric: Puru Thapa, M.D. thapapurushottamb@uams.edu

Website: <https://faculty.uams.edu/fw-program/>

Telephone: 501 526 8140 (contact: Cheryl Giblin cagiblin@uams.edu)



UAMS MINDFULNESS PROGRAM: <https://mindfulness.uams.edu>

If you are having suicidal thoughts, you can also call the 24/7, free **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)** to talk to trained counselors. You can also use the 24/7 free **National Crisis Text Line**. Simply text **TALK to 741741** to communicate with a trained counselor via text.