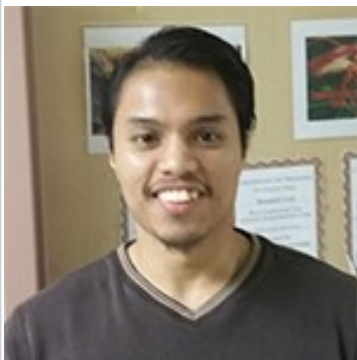


## PharmTox Fights COVID-19 Week of April 19-23, 2021

### Christian Cabanlong Gets a Blue Ribbon!



Congratulations to graduate student Christian Cabanlong on his trainee abstract, which was chosen as a Program Committee Blue Ribbon Pick by the ASPET Program Committee. Christian's poster, "Major metabolites of the synthetic cannabinoid 5F-ADB retain high affinity and full efficacy at CB1 receptors; potential mechanism contributing to enhanced toxicity?" will be displayed during the virtual ASPET Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2021, April 27-30.

The abstract focuses on the synthetic cannabinoid (5F-ADB) associated with a large number of fatalities and abnormal levels of the 5F-ADB metabolite 7 found in postmortem blood. Christian hypothesized that high concentrations of potent and efficacious active metabolites, such as 5F-ADB-M7 and others, accumulate with the parent drug 5F-ADB and produce additive and/or synergistic effects that possibly contribute to fatal intoxication following overdose. Ultimately he found that the metabolites (M2 and M7) were active and functional metabolites that had effects in vivo and exhibited atypical pharmacodynamics. The data suggest that the enhanced, often fatal, effects of 5F-ADB may be due to an accumulation of the parent drug and active, high affinity metabolites acting at CB1 receptors.

### In Memoriam: Dr. Carl Cerniglia

We are saddened to report the death of alumnus Carl Cerniglia on April 9th, 2021. Dr. Cerniglia was an adjunct professor in the department and was active in the training of a number of graduate students at NCTR where he served as the Director of the Division of Microbiology. He was a member of the Senior Biomedical Research Service for the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), a job he deeply loved, leading a group of dedicated, world-renown professionals. He received the FDA Commissioner's Award, the FDA Lifetime Achievement Award, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Outstanding Leader Award for providing mentoring, training, and career advancement opportunities to employees in a diverse workforce.

His leadership on remediating the significant environmental impacts related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico led to his recognition by the American Academy of Microbiology. He also was honored for his scientific contributions in environmental biotechnology; a novel high-molecular-weight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon-degrading bacterial isolate, *immundisolibacter cernigliae*, was named after him. Dr. Cerniglia served as an advisor and expert reviewer at the World Health Organization located in Geneva, Switzerland. Here, he was awarded the Silver Medal for outstanding scientific contributions.



Professor emeritus, Galen Wenger, stated, "Carl was probably one of the best, if not the best, scientist on the staff of NCTR. He had an incredible national and international reputation and was a very prolific publisher in the scientific literature." A graveside service will be held in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. A memorial service also will be scheduled in Little Rock.