

PharmTox Fights COVID-19

Week of May 10-14, 2021

Dr. Parajuli Featured in Local Media



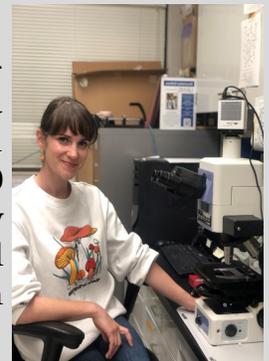
Congratulations to assistant professor, Nirmala Parajuli, who was featured this week in multiple Arkansas publications for the recent award of her new investigator R01 grant from the NIH/NIDDK. The announcement for “Targeting heat shock protein 72 to improve renal function after transplantation” appeared in the digital daily news in “[Arkansas Business](#)” on Monday, May 10. Her five-year, \$2.46 million grant to study a drug therapy that could reduce damage to donated kidneys during cold storage was also featured this week in “[Arkansas Money and Politics](#)”, “[Arkansas Soul](#)” and “[Talk Business and Politics](#)” publications.

“There are about 100,000 patients waiting for kidney transplants, and many of them will die while they are waiting,” Dr. Parajuli stated in one of the articles. “My goal is to reduce the kidney injury caused by cold storage and increase the pool of healthy kidneys available to the people who need them.”

Dr. Parajuli is a UAMS Research Academy Scholar and participated in a grant-writing program funded by the UAMS Office of Research and Innovation and the Translational Research Institute. The program provided mentored training to develop her grant submission. Way to go, Dr. Parajuli, on your well-deserved accolades!

Julia Tobacyk Dissertation Defense

Graduate student and doctor of philosophy candidate, Julia Tobacyk, will defend her dissertation at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 17, 2021. “Developing a novel assay for measuring OMA1 activity and investigating the role of OMA1 in renal cold storage” will be presented virtually (Zoom Meeting ID 922 3810 8065, Passcode 100845). Julia is a graduate student in the Pharmacology Graduate Program and a former scholar in the Systems Pharmacology and Toxicology (SPaT) T32 Training Grant. Her mentor is professor Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow. Good luck, Julia, and we’re looking forward to your talk!



UAMS Now Vaccinating Ages 12 and Up

Earlier this week, the CDC approved the COVID vaccine for children ages 12 and up. This approval follows the Food and Drug Administration’s decision to grant emergency use authorization allowing Pfizer’s vaccine to be administered to this age group. Previously the Pfizer vaccine only was approved for use in people of ages 16 and older.

UAMS’s COVID vaccination clinic at the Centre at University Park at 6401 West 12th Street is now taking appointments and walk-ins for anyone ages 12 and older. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Appointments are available by calling (501) 686-8960.