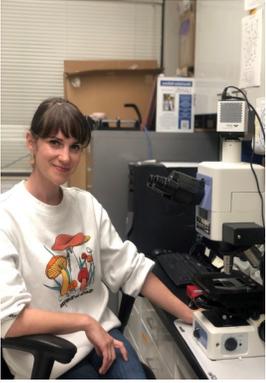


PharmTox Fights COVID-19

Week of May 17-21, 2021

Dr. Julia Tobacyk Successfully Defends Dissertation



Congratulations to graduate student, Julia Tobacyk, who successfully defended her PhD dissertation titled “Developing a novel assay for measuring OMA1 activity and investigating the role of OMA1 in renal cold storage” on Monday, May 17th. Julia was a former scholar of the Systems Pharmacology and Toxicology (SPaT) T32 Training Program and her PhD mentor was professor Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow. As her next career step, Dr. Tobacyk will transition to a postdoctoral fellowship in the lab of assistant professor, Lisa Brents, and will become a scholar in the Health Sciences Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HSIE) Postdoctoral Training Program in July, which is co-directed by professor and chair Nancy Rusch. Way to go Dr. Tobacyk!

A Promotion and Golden Apple for Dr. Sung Rhee

Associate professor, Sung Rhee will move to the rank of Professor effective July 1, 2021. Dr. Rhee joined the department in 2006 as research assistant professor. He entered the tenure track in 2009 as assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 2012. Dr. Rhee has been the recipient of funding from the NIH and American Heart Association (AHA) for his research on the regulation of ion channels in cerebral arteries as it relates to hypertension and stroke. Most recently in 2019, he was awarded a 3-year AHA Transformational Project Award for his proposal titled, "Impaired cerebral collateral dilation in hypertension: Implications for stroke damage and antihypertensive therapy". In addition to his research program, Dr. Rhee co-directs the cardiovascular module for medical students at UAMS, and he has been recognized with numerous campus teaching awards, including the Sophomore Golden Apple award for the **sixth consecutive year in a row!** The Golden Apple Award is given annually at the medical school graduation to one faculty member in each year of the medical school curriculum. Dr. Rhee also was the recipient of this year's Chancellor's Teaching Award for teaching excellence. Congratulations Dr. Rhee!



Vacation Spotlight: Alexei Basnakian



Professor Alexei Basnakian took advantage of time between the end of the spring semester and the start of grant writing season for a little rest and relaxation. During a weeklong vacation to Destin, Florida, Dr. Basnakian took in some snorkeling and deep-sea fishing. “Nothing is more restful than relaxing on the Northwest Florida beaches, or as intense as deep-sea fishing,” stated Dr. Basnakian. The fishing trip proved especially successful as he caught a few mingo snappers, triggerfishes, remoras, horse mackerels, groupers and red snappers. Some had to be released due to regulations but a few found their way to Dr. Basnakian's grill!

