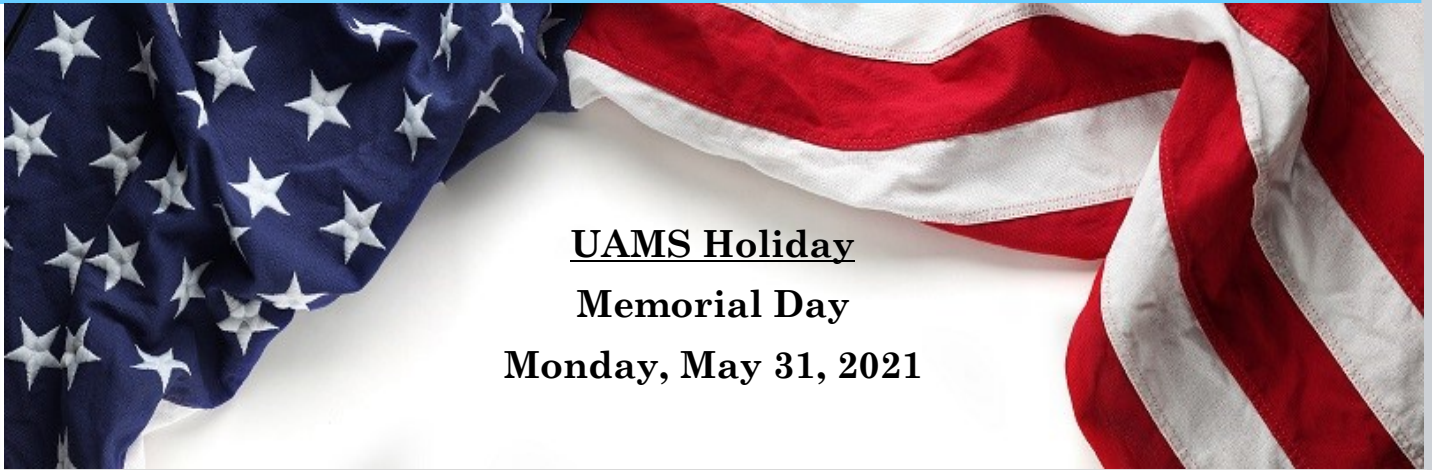


# PharmTox Fights COVID-19

## Week of May 24-28, 2021



UAMS Holiday  
Memorial Day  
Monday, May 31, 2021

### Employee Spotlight: Alex McDonald



This week's employee spotlight is on Alex McDonald, who is a research technician in associate professor Ricky Leung's laboratory. Before joining the department in September 2020, Alex graduated from high school in 2016 near the top of his class and graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in 2020 with a BS in biology and a minor in chemistry.

In addition to research, Alex has a few other skills on his resume. "Growing up, I always loved learning how things were put together. I disassembled many things around my home; sometimes they didn't get reassembled completely," stated Alex. When Alex was old enough, he started helping his grandfather with maintenance around his rental properties. He began working with him officially at the age of 11 or 12, and this was his main job during high school and college. Alex's expertise includes plumbing, electrical, mechanical, automotive, landscaping, carpentry, and a handful of other areas. "I have always said that I can work on anything that does not require a license. I enjoy the challenge of learning how to do new tasks. My favorite project was building an electric guitar from scratch."

### Name the Newsletter!

It's hard to believe that we started this newsletter over a year ago in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic! *Pharm Tox Fights Covid-19* was originally published as a way to share good news and encouragement during a time when we all needed a morale boost. Thanks to the availability of vaccines and declining case numbers, it appears we are finally moving toward the end of the pandemic. Therefore, the name of the newsletter no longer seems entirely relevant and we are looking for ideas on a new name for it. Please send your suggestions to Pam Kahler.

