

PharmTox Fights COVID-19

Week of June 7-11, 2021

In Memoriam: Dr. Nancy Gray



It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Dr. Nancy Gray last week. Dr. Gray died following a short illness on June 2, 2021 surrounded by her family. She was well known across the campus as Director of BioVentures, LLC and was also a professor in our department. Additionally, she served as project faculty on the TRI's Health Sciences Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HSIE) Postdoctoral Training Program.

Dr. Gray had an amazing career beginning with being the first member of her family to graduate college. She received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Bucknell University and her doctorate in medicinal chemistry from the University of Illinois. Dr. Gray had more than 30 years of experience in biomedical industries including medicinal chemistry research, management of pharmaceutical research and development, and business operations. Before coming to UAMS, she worked in various executive roles at Monsanto Corporation, Vaxinnate Corporation, Elan Corporation, and later at the Southern Research Institute in Alabama.

Dr. Gray's research work on central nervous system diseases resulted in three products being accepted for clinical development in five years. She was also instrumental in the development of two marketed second generation antihistamines, Allegra and Xyzal. She is also the inventor on 31 issued U.S. patents and the author of 23 publications.

Dr. Gray and her husband, Steve, were married for 42 years and have two children, Alan and Kristin, and later four grandchildren, of whom she was extremely proud. Even with all her professional success, her favorite title was Grandma.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, June 8 at Ruebel Funeral Home in Little Rock. If you were not able to attend the service, it can be viewed at her [online obituary link](#) at Ruebel-FuneralHome.com.

Name the Newsletter!

We are still taking your ideas to rename this newsletter! *Pharm Tox Fights Covid-19* was originally published in the early days of the pandemic 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. We are compiling a list of suggestions and will be making a decision soon. Please send your ideas to Pam Kahler.

