

PharmTox Weekly Buzz

(A publication of the UAMS Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology)

Week of August 16-20 2021

Dr. Brenda Gannon Joins Faculty



Dr. Brenda Gannon recently was appointed as an Instructor in the Department, although she is working—and will continue to primarily work—as a QA Research Regulatory Specialist III in the UAMS Office of Research Regulatory Affairs. After earning a Graduate Certificate in Regulatory Sciences and Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Toxicology from UAMS in 2014 and 2015, respectively, Dr. Gannon was a postdoctoral fellow at UT Health San Antonio. Following her postdoc, Dr. Gannon served as the laboratory director at Steep Hill Arkansas—a company that became the first private analytical testing facility approved to conduct the mandatory regulatory testing on medical cannabis in the State of Arkansas. In this role, she also provided analytical and consulting services for legally-authorized distributors, licensed producers, and regulators of cannabis and hemp. From 2019-2021, Dr. Gannon served as Assistant Professor in other departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Neuroscience before returning to Little Rock. Her research focuses on characterizing the abuse-related and toxic effects of novel, synthetic CNS-active drugs (including stimulants, cannabinoids, and opioids) using assays of behavioral pharmacology and developing mathematical strategies to evaluate drug mixtures.

Introducing Dr. Mohd Zubair

Please give a warm welcome to postdoctoral fellow Mohd Zubair, who will be working in the laboratory of assistant professor Nirmala Parajuli. Dr. Zubair is a recent applied bioscience graduate from the University of Arkansas Little Rock. "I am excited and looking forward to uncovering the unexplored aspects of cold storage kidney transplant in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology at UAMS. And with amazing people around, I believe this will be the most rewarding chapter of my life," stated Dr. Zubair.



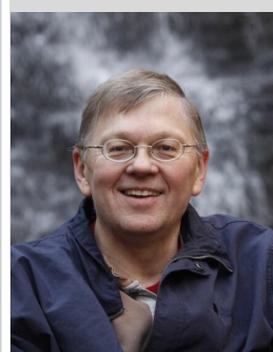
Dr. Chang and Dr. Yeh's Abstract Accepted by AHA



Congratulations to professor Hui-Ming Chang and her husband, Edward Yeh, professor and chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at UAMS on their accepted abstract at the upcoming American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2021 annual meeting. Their abstract, "Prevention of doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity through targeted degradation of topoisomerase 2b" focuses on doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity as a serious complication of cancer therapy. Although this form of cardiotoxicity was recognized 40 years ago, it remains a major clinical challenge today. Doxorubicin

poisons topoisomerase 2a to kill cancer cells, whereas doxorubicin induces cardiotoxicity through topoisomerase 2b. Targeted degradation of topoisomerase 2b by dexrazoxane can prevent doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity in a mouse model.

Remembering Dean Wright



Dean Wright, who worked with professor emeritus Galen Wenger, Dave Wessinger and others in our behavioral pharmacology research group, passed away on August 7th following an extended battle with cancer. Dean leveraged the knowledge he gained in the department into a career at UAMS IT where he continued to support the research community. His career at UAMS spanned 35 years. He was also a pastor from 1984 to 1994 at Oak Grove Church of Christ and officiated services for people and families he knew. Dean's full obituary can be read at <https://www.smithfamilycares.com/obituary/Dean-Wright>