

PharmTox Weekly Buzz

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

Week of August 23-27, 2021

Welcome New Research Technician, Yunping Guo



Please welcome Yunping Guo to the department. Yunping is a research technician in the laboratory of assistant professor Shengyu Mu. She graduated from Rutgers University with her master's degree in biomedical engineering. Her field of research was prediction of isolated systolic hypertension and drug treatment effects related to a patient's arterial compliance based on an electrified vascular model. As part of Dr. Mu's research team, Yunping will explore the biomedical principles behind the computer model of hypertension.

Welcome GPIBS Student, Katie Deck

A warm welcome to Katie Deck, who is a first year GPIBS student interested in pharmacology and toxicology. Katie is doing a rotation in the laboratory of assistant professor Shengyu Mu, and then will rotate in the laboratory of assistant professor Nirmala Parajuli. Katie graduated in Spring 2021 from John Brown University with a degree in biology. She is interested in research that elucidates molecular pathways and their effect on various organ systems in the body, particularly urinary, immune and nervous systems.



FDA Fully Approves Pfizer Vaccine

On Monday, U.S. regulators granted full approval to the Pfizer Inc/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Moderna Inc has completed the real-time review process needed for a full approval for its COVID-19 vaccine in people aged 18 years and above. Moderna's completed submission includes data from a late-stage study that showed 93% vaccine efficacy, even through six months after administration of the second dose. U.S. health officials expect full approval for COVID-19 vaccines will help win over vaccine skeptics and prompt more state and local governments, as well as private employers, to impose vaccine mandates.

Volunteers Needed to Support Clinical Staff

As the Delta variant surges in Arkansas and the number of patients hospitalized with Covid-19 continues to climb, UAMS clinical and support services resources are being stretched thin. The campus has sent out a call for volunteers to help meet immediate needs. Employees who are not clinically trained are asked to help fill gaps in the following support areas. Please consider volunteering a few hours of time over the next few weeks:

- Entrance Screening Stations: [Sign up for a shift.](#)
- Patient Meal Delivery: [Sign up for a two-hour shift any day of the week, either the 7 – 9 a.m. shift or the 5 – 7 p.m. shift.](#)
- Clinical Staff Meal Delivery: Volunteer for a one-hour shift Monday through Friday. [Sign up for the 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. shift or for the 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. shift.](#)
- Housekeeping: Email PCO@uams.edu to get more information.