

PharmTox Weekly Buzz

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

Week of September 20-24, 2021

Amal Shoeib Sets Defense Date and Has Accepted Manuscript



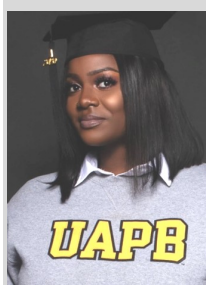
Graduate student Amal Shoeib (mentor: Paul Prather, PhD) will defend her PhD dissertation titled “Characterization of non-canonical cannabinoid receptors in cancer cells: Implications for drug development” on Friday, October 1st @ 9:00 a.m. Amal received her undergraduate degree in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences from Misr International University in Egypt in 2008. She received her master’s degree from Mansoura University, also in Egypt, in 2016.

Additionally, Amal had a first-author manuscript titled “Characterization of cannabinoid receptors expressed in Ewing Sarcoma TC-71 cells as potential targets for anti-cancer drug development” accepted for publication in *Life Sciences*. Dr. Prather, assistant professor Shengyu Mu, and graduate student Lance Benson are co-authors on the paper. The manuscript identifies and characterizes cannabinoid receptors expressed in Ewing Sarcoma, which is an aggressive bone tumor in children and young adults with few therapeutic options that are associated with severe adverse effects.

Welcome Rotating GPIBS Students

Please give a warm welcome to new graduate students rotating in the department. In addition to Katie Deck, who was featured in an earlier edition, we are pleased to have the following students rotating with our faculty.

Laura Osborn is doing her first rotation with associate professor Eric Peterson. Laura is a Little Rock native and graduated from Ave Maria University this past May with a degree in biochemistry. Her previous research experiences focused on enzyme kinetics, crystallization of ionic liquids, and toxicity of ionic liquids. Laura is interested in drug development and toxicology and is looking forward to learning more about it!



Shamyia London hails from Memphis and is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff where she was on the dean’s list for four consecutive years! While studying at UAPB, she gained extensive knowledge of chemistry. She also joined Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., an international, historically African American sorority, and the American Chemical Society. “As a minority student, obtaining a college degree was probably the best decision I have ever made,” stated Shamyia. “I believe that I can be very successful in the research community. I am grateful to be a student here at the university, every day.”

Shamyia is doing her first rotation with assistant professor Nirmala Parajuli.

Emily Robbs is doing her rotation in associate professor Ricky Leung’s laboratory. Emily received her undergraduate degree from Auburn University of Montgomery and her masters in cell biology from the University of West Florida. Her prior research experience included identification of spermatogenesis mutations in *C. elegans* and determining effects of atypical antipsychotics on neutrophils using the model cell line, PLB-985.



Khandoker Usran is a rotating student with assistant professor Abdel Fouada. Usran completed his B.Pharm. degree from North South University in Bangladesh and worked as a faculty member in a private university at the undergraduate level. He also worked as a clinical pharmacist at Apollo Hospitals in Bangladesh. “I chose to come to UAMS because of the experienced and young talented researchers doing fantastic biomedical research, which aligns with my research interest,” he stated. “I am hoping to complete my PhD with great credentials that will pave my way to serve mankind.”