

PharmTox Weekly Buzz

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Amal Shoeib Successfully Defends Dissertation



Congratulations to graduate student Amal Shoeib (mentor: Paul Prather, PhD) who successfully defended her dissertation “Characterization of non-canonical cannabinoid receptors in cancer cells: Implications for drug development” today. Amal joined the department in 2016 after receiving her undergraduate degree in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences from Misr International University in Egypt in 2008 and master’s degree from Mansoura University, also in Egypt, in 2016.

Amal’s plans after graduation are to take a short break that includes a couple of road trips, nature walks, and a long-overdue haircut! She will begin her postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University in mid-November where she will learn innovative approaches to gain insights into mechanisms underlying liver fibrosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. “I am very excited about this opportunity that will allow me to build on my dissertation project in "cannabinoid receptors in cancer" and my master's work in "liver injury" and further delve into downstream signaling pathways using *in vivo* models of liver cancer,” stated Amal. “In addition, living in NYC has been a dream of mine ever since I visited it in summer 2018. I am thrilled about living in the same city where most of my friends are and meeting people from different backgrounds and nationalities. Above all, I am looking forward to living in the Big Apple with all its attractions. However, I will forever cherish and fondly remember all the memories I made here in Little Rock with friends and colleagues. I will also dearly miss the restorative beauty of the natural state, Arkansas.”

Kelly Ball Celebrates 25th Anniversary at UAMS

Kelly Ball, research associate in professor Sung Rhee’s laboratory, is celebrating her 25th anniversary at UAMS. Kelly received her undergraduate degree in biology from Ouachita Baptist University and her master’s degree in microbiology from Western Kentucky University. During her career at UAMS, Kelly has worked with Dr. John Houle in Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences, Dr. Gerald Dienel in Neurology, and Dr. Michael Borelli in Radiology before transferring to Dr. Rhee’s laboratory in 2018.



"Wow, 25 years go by quickly!" stated Kelly. "I have made many friends during my time here and saw a lot of changes to our campus. The number of buildings has doubled! Working in a place where people from all over the world converge to study and exchange ideas is truly a blessing. I wish everyone had that opportunity. My fondest memories are of times I spent talking with my international friends to share stories about our families and experiences. I had the privilege of working for four PIs and I am very thankful for each one and grateful to have been a part of their contributions to science."

Welcome Dr. Sheyang Li



Please welcome research associate, Sheyang Li, who has joined professor Alexei Basnakian’s laboratory. In addition to working in the department, Dr. Li is employed by the Central Arkansas Veteran’s Health System as a microbiologist and as a staff scientist in the UAMS Department of Physiology and Cell Biology.

Dr. Li graduated from Hunan Medical University in 1986 and worked as a physician in China after graduation. He was later accepted into the PhD program at UAMS and received his degree in physiology in 2001. Dr. Li completed his postdoctoral fellowship and worked as a research assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at UAMS until 2014.