

PharmTox Weekly Buzz

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

Week of November 1-5, 2021

UAMS Holiday Reminder

VETERANS DAY



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Fall Back

1 Hour

Sunday, Nov. 7th



InterveXion Therapeutics, LLC Receives \$13.8 Million NIH Award



A drug to counter the effects of methamphetamine will be tested in a phase 2 clinical trial as the only potential treatment of its kind for methamphetamine use disorder. The study, led by UAMS startup biopharmaceutical company InterveXion Therapeutics LLC, is funded by a three-year, \$13.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). InterveXion was established through BioVentures LLC by a UAMS research team that included emeritus professor, Michael Owens, who

retired from the department in 2019. Secondary faculty, professor Brooks Gentry, is the chief medical officer of InterveXion and one of the principal investigators on this award, along with Misty Stevens, who serves as Chief Operating Officer. The drug, IXT-m200, could be the first monoclonal antibody treatment for methamphetamine use disorder and overdose. It received the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Fast Track Designation in 2016 for this purpose. FDA Fast Track Designation facilitates the development and speeds the review of drugs to treat serious conditions and fill an unmet medical need.



Spooky Scientists Celebrate Halloween

Graduate student Brian Parks, his wife, Sarah, and members of his church community group at First Baptist Church in Little Rock sponsored a trunk for their church's Trunk or Treat. The theme was "Spooky Scientists" and they wore matching t-shirts and lab coats for the occasion. They had a "candy van" with a Frankenstein trailer where they handed out treats!