

PharmTox Weekly Buzz

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

Week of October 11-15, 2021

Dr. Chang Invited to Review Polish Grant Proposal



Professor Hui-Ming Chang was recently invited by the National Science Center of Poland to review a grant proposal from Warsaw University of Science and Technology titled “Hybrid human SUMO proteins for selective detection and labelling of SENP proteases”. The National Science Centre (Polish: *Narodowe Centrum Nauki* or *NCN*) is a governmental grant-making agency responsible for providing financial support for the conduct of basic science research in Poland and various programs to assist scientists throughout their careers. Similar to the National Science Foundation in the United States, NCN is the largest grant-making agency in Poland for fundamental research and basic science and collaborates with corresponding agencies worldwide.

Dr. Andrew Morris to Conduct New Biomarker Study

Professor Andrew Morris will be conducting a biomarker study for a newly funded \$10 million NIH project. The work will mostly be conducted through his lab at Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System. Concussions and kids is a project co-led by UCLA’s Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program. The study, which focuses on children between the ages of 11 and 18, will unfold in two phases. The first part will evaluate children with concussions to identify a set of biomarkers predictive of persistent post-concussion symptoms. The next will seek to confirm that these biomarkers accurately predict prolonged symptoms in a second group of children diagnosed with concussions. The goal is to develop a practical algorithm for use in general clinical practice for doctors and other health professionals caring for these youths.



Department Renovations Underway

There are some renovations going on within the department! The old Dark Room (B340) is being converted into a microscope room for Dr. Huiliang Zhang and his research. Dr. Zhang will be using the space to isolate adult mouse/rat cardiomyocytes to evaluate the cell contractility and Ca^{2+} transient imaging upon electrical stimulation. The work on this room should be completed in the next week.



Renovations are also underway to convert the microscope room B308B for Dr. Abdelrahman Fouda. The room will be adapted for darkness, so the windows are being painted and a curtain will be put up next to the new door being installed. Dr. Fouda intends to conduct surgeries and retinal functional studies using electroretinography and optical coherence tomography. This too should be completed in the next week.