

PharmTox Weekly Buzz

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

Week of October 18-22, 2021

Dr. Lisa Brents Serves on NIH Study Section



Assistant professor Lisa Brents recently served on an NIH study section (Molecular Neuropharmacology and Signaling) as an Early Career Reviewer (ECR). The Early Career Reviewer program enables junior faculty to participate in study section review.

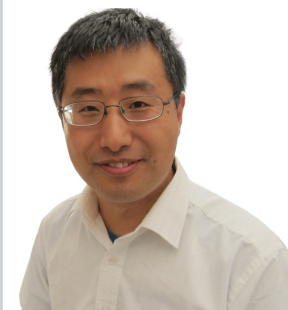
“I was assigned two applications to review as the third reviewer, which I think is the typical number of grants given to ECR reviewers. I voted on every application that was discussed, just like a regular study section member. I highly recommend this for junior faculty who have not served on study section,” stated Dr. Brents. “In addition to seeing the mechanics of the review panel in a way I haven’t previously seen in mock study sections, I benefited from seeing the diverse strategies taken by investigators to answer important research questions, and how the panel evaluated these strategies, what they liked and didn’t like. Also, it was fun!”

Dr. Andrew Morris Publishes Paper on PFAS

Professor Andrew Morris had a manuscript published in September in the *Journal of Chromatography A*. “Direct injection analysis of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in surface and drinking water by sample filtration and liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry” focuses on the development and validation of a method for direct determination of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in environmental water samples without prior sample concentration. The method is faster and less expensive than the solid phase extraction-based approaches and is suitable for routine screening of common PFAS in surface and drinking water. This publication is timely as the White House announced earlier this week a plan to combat PFAS pollution that involves eight agencies taking a comprehensive approach, including a New EPA Roadmap, to address PFAs and advance clean air, water and food.



Dr. Huilang Zhang Co-authors Publication in IOVS



Congratulations to assistant professor Huilang Zhang on having a manuscript he co-authored accepted for publication in *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science (IOVS)*. "An analysis of metabolic changes in the retina and retinal pigment epithelium of aging mice" provides a comprehensive summary of age-dependent metabolic and functional changes in mouse retinas. This body of work adds several layers of additional knowledge to the topic of the physiology of the aging retina.