

THE BUZZ

UAMS

College of Medicine

Pharmacology & Toxicology

A publication of the UAMS Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

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DR. SHUK-MEI HO

"Decades of Impact: Dr. Shuk-Mei ho Fuels Excellence in Environmental Toxicology"

Dr. Shuk-Mei Ho joined the External Advisory Board for the Center of Excellence for Environmental Toxicology (CEET) at the University of Pennsylvania on April 8, 2026. With over ten years of dedicated service to the board, Dr. Ho has provided the strategic scientific leadership necessary to help the Center secure three consecutive first-submission renewals of its NIEHS P30 Environmental Health Sciences Core Center grant. Alongside distinguished director Dr. Trevor M. Penning, Dr. Ho's deep expertise continues to shape the future of interdisciplinary environmental health and toxicology research on a national scale.

"Double Dose of Success"

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Shosha has been selected for the Fall 2026 Faculty Track of the Compass leadership and management training and mentoring program. This prestigious NIH-funded initiative is designed to equip early-career faculty with the management skills and strategic professional development necessary to lead successful research teams and transition to full independence. Adding to this milestone, Dr. Shosha recently received an impressive score on her first R01 grant application (ESI eligible) to the NIH, achieving a 29th percentile and an impact score of 44. These back-to-back achievements highlight the incredible momentum of her research program and her dedication to scientific excellence within the department. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Shosha on these outstanding accomplishments!



DR. ESRAA SHOSHA

"Dissertation Defense"

Join the Graduate Program in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 12:00 PM for Katie McGraw's dissertation defense. Mentored by Dr. Nirmala Parajuli, Katie will present "*Uncovering a Novel Link Between the C5-C5aR1 Axis and IF1 in Renal Mitochondria and Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury*". The presentation will be held in the Rayford Auditorium (Biomed 2, Room 106-2) and via Zoom (ID: 989 9235 0481).



KATIE MCGRAW

"Retinal Connections"

Dr. Abdel Fouda recently delivered an invited talk via Zoom to the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center's Hamilton Eye Institute, presenting his retinopathy research in a session titled "The Road Not Taken: Targeting Efferocytosis as a Novel Route to Retinal Repair". Following the talk, Dr. Fouda met with faculty to discuss future collaborations, including the potential for a regional eye research meeting involving Arkansas, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. Additionally, Dr. Fouda shared his expertise with the UAMS College of Pharmacy, presenting "Novel Translational Targets for CNS Ischemic Injury" with a focus on his ongoing work in retinopathy and stroke research.



DR. ABDEL FOUDA

"NIH Study Section Reviewer"

Dr. Leung has been invited to serve as a scientific reviewer for a National Institutes of Health (NIH) study section evaluating NIDDK Catalyst Award (DP1) applications. This prestigious award is designed to complement traditional grant programs by supporting individual scientists who propose pioneering, transformational studies in areas of interest to the NIDDK's Divisions of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Diseases, as well as Digestive Diseases and Nutrition. Dr. Leung will participate in the review meeting virtually later this May.



DR. YUET-KIN
"RICKY" LEUNG