

“Pharmacology & Toxicology Highlights from Student Research Day”

MARCH 10, 2026

Our students and postdocs demonstrated exceptional research caliber at Student Research Day, with several earning top honors for their work. Christian Mitchell secured a double distinction, placing 2nd in the 3-minute thesis (3MT) finals and 2nd for the Bhuvan Award for Excellence in Biochemistry. Bushra Zaman earned the 3MT People’s Choice Award, while Laura Osborn received 2nd place for the Outstanding Cancer Research Award. Additionally, Mohamed Abdelhamed was awarded 2nd place for his poster presentation. In addition to these recognitions, our department members contributed the following research presentations to the event:

Dr. Carol Morris: CD47/SIRPα Axis as a Potential Therapeutic Target for Traumatic Optic Neuropathy.

Dr. Rami Shahrer: Investigating the Role of the CD5L/CD36 Axis in Efferocytosis Following Retinal Ischemic Injury.

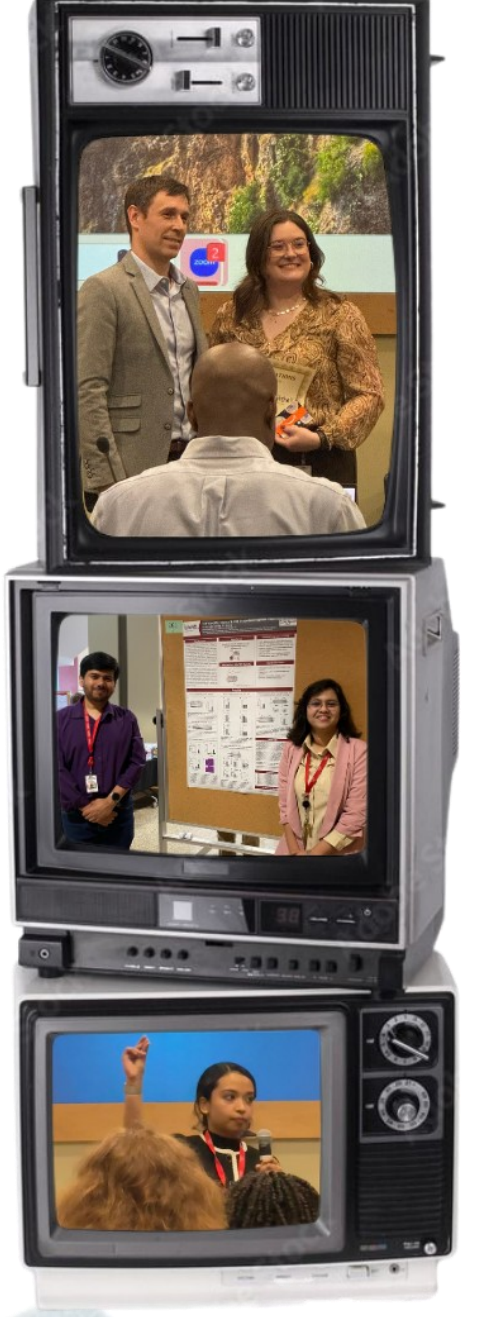
Dr. Priya Yadav (UAPB lab w/ Dr. Devarajan): Nano-emulsified Gamma Oryzanol Exhibits Cytoprotective Effect Against Hydrogen Peroxide Induced Cellular Aging.

Mohamed Abdelhamed: SIRPα/CD47 Inhibition is Neuroprotective in Ischemic Retinopathy and Enhances Efferocytic Function under High-fat Diet.

Debasree Bhadra: Sex-specific Roles of LKB1 in Acetaminophen Induced Hepatotoxicity in Mice.

Laura Osborn: Myelin Degradation as a Driver of Persistent, Exclusive Cold Hypersensitivity in a Model of Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy.

Christian Mitchell: HDAC3/HK2 Axis in Retinal Endothelial Cells as a Driver of Neovascularization.



Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai
DVM, MS, PhD

“Dr. Bhattarai’s New Appointment”

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology congratulates Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai on his upcoming role as Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Utah, beginning June 2026. Since joining Dr. Parajuli’s lab in 2022, Dr. Bhattarai’s work in kidney transplantation led to his promotion to Instructor in 2025. In his new position, he will advance clinical and molecular research using human transplant samples. We thank him for his significant contributions to the department and wish him continued success .

“Chair Candidate Presentation”

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology is pleased to announce Dr. Mu, MD, PhD, as a candidate for the position of department chair. Dr. Mu will deliver a presentation on Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 from 12:00 P.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the Board of Trustees Conference Room (M1/131B) located in the Central Building. During this presentation, he will discuss his candidacy and share his vision for the department. Although a zoom link is available, in-person attendance is preferred.



Dr. Shengyu Mu, MD, PhD

