

UAMS Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology Alumni Newsletter, December 2013



Dear Alumni and Friends,

We hope you had a wonderful Holiday Season, and Happy New Year to you and your families! In a final salute to 2013, we are sending this newsletter from the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, which will update you on department and alumni news from the past year.

Research in the department is bustling and most laboratories have maintained extramural grants despite record-low funding levels at some NIH institutes. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Philip Mayeux and our graduate program directors, the department received a prestigious T32 training grant from the NIGMS. The Systems Pharmacology and Toxicology (SPAT) training grant began in July 2013 and will support two to four Ph.D. students for five years. Dr. Mayeux and Dr. Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow also were awarded a new R01, Dr. Alexei Basnakian received a new FDA subcontract, and Dr. Nancy Rusch received a grant from the American Heart Association.

Our graduate programs continue to be nationally recognized. Christopher Moore was awarded an ASPET Washington Fellowship for 2014 to serve as an advocate for research. Three students received their Ph.D. degrees this academic year and two students were awarded predoctoral training grants from the American Heart Association. Four new students entered our training programs in August and they are off to a strong start! They are guided by our dedicated Graduate Education Committee composed of faculty members Drs. Philip Mayeux, Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow and Paul Gottschall.

Other news from faculty include that Dr. Michael Owens was honored as this year's Dean's Distinguished Faculty Scholar. Dr. William Fantegrossi and his research team received national attention for two publications related to designer drug abuse. Dr. Paul Prather was promoted to Professor and Dr. Jeffery Moran was named Assistant Professor in July 2013. The Department also welcomed a new Assistant Professor in the area of vascular biology, Dr. Shengyu Mu. Finally, Dr. Mayeux was appointed as Vice Chair of the Department. He assumes this role from Dr. Galen Wenger who announced that he plans to retire in June 2014.

Very best wishes as you ring in the New Year!

Galen Wenger, Professor and Alumni Chair
Nancy J. Rusch, Professor and Department Chair

Inside this issue:

<i>Faculty News</i>	2
<i>Faculty Promotions</i>	3
<i>Departmental Grants</i>	4-5
<i>Graduate Program</i>	6
<i>Graduate Recognition</i>	7
<i>Staff Recognition</i>	8
<i>2013 Alumni Updates</i>	9
<i>2012 Alumni Updates</i>	10-11

FACULTY NEWS

Owens Honored as Distinguished Faculty Scholar

Michael Owens, Ph.D., was honored as this year's College of Medicine Dean's Distinguished Faculty Scholar on April 9 (shown with then-Dean, Dr. Debra Fiser). Dr. Owens presented a



lecture titled "Therapeutic antibodies for the treatment of addiction – at the interface of chemistry and biology". In addition to his appointment as Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Dr. Owens directs the UAMS Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies. He also directs the Novel Methodologies and Pilot Studies Program in the Translational Research Institute (TRI) at UAMS. He is a founding partner and the Chief Scientific Officer of InterveXion Therapeutics LLC, a pharmaceutical company focused on developing and bringing to clinical trials monoclonal antibody and vaccine medications to treat methamphetamine addiction. Dr. Owens has mentored faculty

and trainees in the College of Medicine for many years, including four post-doctoral fellows and twelve Ph.D. or MD/Ph.D. students. He was the recipient of the Chancellor's Faculty Teaching Award in 2006, and is actively involved in graduate and medical education.

Fantegrossi Recognized for Publications



The March 2013 cover of *Neuropsychopharmacology* features a manuscript co-authored by Dr. William Fantegrossi, his graduate students Brenda Gannon and Sarah Zimmerman, and Dr. Kenner C. Rice, Chief of the Chemical Biology Research Branch at NIDA. The article characterizes the behavioral effects of a key component of emerging "Bath Salt" drugs of abuse. Despite the seemingly innocuous name, "bath salt" products contain powerful mood-altering substances. Strategic modifications to the chemical structures of illicit substances allowed legal access to bath salt products until very recently. Dr. Fantegrossi and co-authors Dr. Lisa Brents, Dr. Paul Prather, Sarah Zimmerman and Amanda Saffell published another manuscript, which was highlighted on the cover of the September 2013 issue of *The*

Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. "Drug-Drug Interactions of the Synthetic Cannabinoids JWH-018 and JWH-073" characterizes multiple psychoactive synthetic cannabinoids (SCBs), which are frequently used in combination in SCB products known as "K2" and "Spice".

Dr. Shengyu Mu Joins the Department

Dr. Shengyu Mu has joined the Department as an Assistant Professor. He will work on projects focused on vascular diseases with Dr. Philip Palade. Dr. Mu comes to UAMS from the University of Tokyo where he was an Assistant Professor in the Division of Clinical Epigenetics, Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, and a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Nephrology and Endocrinology. His research interests include the pathophysiology of hypertension, renal-related cardiovascular disease, and metabolic syndrome.



FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Mayeux Appointed Department Vice Chair



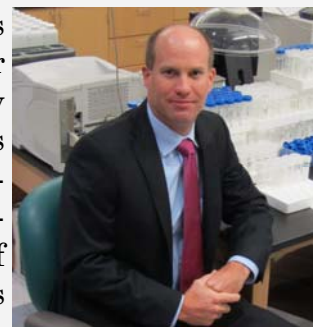
Dr. Philip Mayeux was appointed as the Vice Chair of the Department in August 2013. He assumed this responsibility from Dr. Galen Wenger, who served as the department's Vice Chair since 2006 but will retire in June 2014. Dr. Mayeux has been a faculty member in the department since 1991 after finishing a postdoctoral fellowship in the UAMS Division of Nephrology. In addition to his research and mentoring duties, Dr. Mayeux is also Director of Education for the department, overseeing the Pharmacology and Interdisciplinary Toxicology graduate programs. He served as the Director of the Pharmacology Graduate Program for 10 years and is Director of the ASPET-funded Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program and the new T32 grant from the NIGMS.

Prather Promoted to Professor



Dr. Paul Prather was promoted to the rank of Professor in the Basic Science Tenure Path on July 1, 2013. He joined the department in 1995 as an Assistant Professor, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2002. Dr. Prather has held several NIH grants, mentored six Ph.D. students, served on 16 dissertation committees, and won numerous Red Sashes for medical school teaching.

Moran Named Assistant Professor



Dr. Jeffery Moran was named Assistant Professor in the Department on July 1, 2013. Dr. Moran, who is Branch Chief for Environmental Chemistry at the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), has served as an adjunct faculty and then Instructor for the department since 2008. Additionally, he is an Assistant Professor in the UAMS College of Public Health. He serves as a liaison between UAMS and the ADH and serves as a thesis advisor to UAMS graduate students.

Medical School Curriculum Update

The 2013-14 academic year marks the passing of an era for pharmacology education at UAMS. It will be the final year in which a medical pharmacology course will be included as an independent entity in the medical school curriculum. Beginning with the entering class in August 2013, all discipline-based courses are replaced with organ system-based modules during the first two years of medical school. This will represent a challenge for pharmacology faculty, who will have to learn how to present drug actions and side effects for organ systems potentially not covered yet by the medical curriculum. For example, in February 2014, our faculty will teach CNS pharmacology including general anesthesia to freshman medical students in the "Brain and Behavior Module". However, these students will not have received lectures on the topics of autonomic physiology or autonomic pharmacology. A second challenge in the 2013-2014 academic year is that some pharmacology faculty will participate in two curricula: the traditional medical pharmacology course for the sophomore students and the modular curriculum to freshman students. Suggestions are welcome from academic alumni who may have experienced a similar transition to organ system-based learning at their institutions.

Systems Pharmacology & Toxicology (SPaT) T32



The department was the recipient of a T32 Training Grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Celebrating the award are (left to right): Drs. Philip Mayeux, T32 Director, Curtis Lowery, TRI Director, and Nancy Rusch, Department Chair. UAMS joins 29 pharmacology programs in the country funded by the NIGMS. Trainees of the Systems Pharmacology and Toxicology (SPaT) program are drawn from three Ph.D. graduate programs (Pharmacology, Interdisciplinary Toxicology and Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences).

SPaT students receive didactic training in pharmacology, toxicology, physiology, pharmacokinetics, metabolism, biostatistics, grant writing, the responsible conduct of research, and their laboratory research must involve an *in vivo* model of human disease.

Dr. Philip Mayeux serves as director of the T32 grant, which includes 30 training faculty from the College of Medicine (COM), College of Pharmacy (COP), College of Public Health (COPH), Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) and the FDA funded National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR). The five-year grant supports two students in the first year, and four students are planned for years 2 to 5. The students in the SPaT program receive a \$24,000 annual stipend and full tuition is paid. Additionally, the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI) supports a third SPaT student each year in partnership with the NIGMS.

The first SPaT recipients are (left to right): Ethan Gillett (mentor: Charlotte Hobbs), Emily Coffman (mentor: Steve Post) and Clark Sims (mentor: Philip Mayeux). Gillett and Sims were chosen for SPaT support, while Coffman was chosen as the TRI recipient.

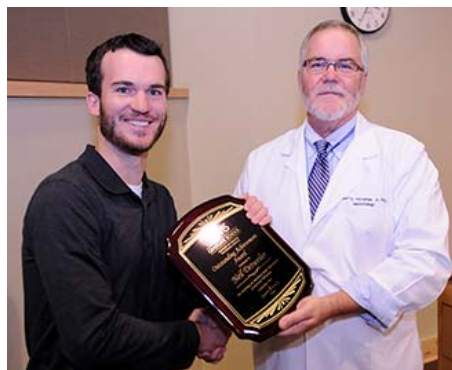


Basnakian receives new Subcontract from ARA



Dr. Alexei Basnakian was awarded a \$150,000 subcontract on an Arkansas Research Alliance (ARA) grant titled "The Impact of Graphene Based Nanomaterials on Public Health" funded by the FDA. This one-year award began October 2013, with the possibility for a two-year continuation period. The project uses new technology developed by the Basnakian laboratory, which allows noninvasive, intravital assessment of toxicity in live cells, tissues and animals. The technology will be used to predict toxicity and potential adverse reactions of nanomaterials and pharmaceutical agents. Basnakian and associates have developed a novel cell-penetrating, DNase-activated, self-quenching near infra-red fluorescent (NIRF) reporter probe to measure DNase activity *in vitro* and *in vivo*. The probe can visualize and quantify DNase activity in solutions (as a high throughput assay) or in cells, frozen tissue biopsy samples and live animals. It is universal, not specific to any particular DNase, cell type, tissue, species or type of cell/tissue injury. The technology has the potential to become the first direct "marker of harm" that is capable of evaluating cytotoxicity in live cells and animals. Its "universality" promises to make it applicable for various types of cell death mechanisms, species, and toxic agents including nanomaterials and pharmaceutical agents.

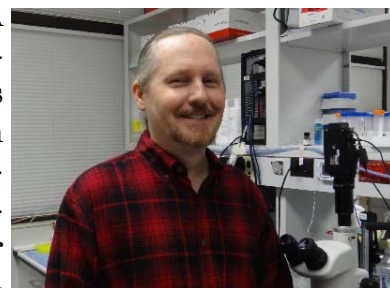
AHA Pre-Doctoral Awards



Two Ph.D. students from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology received pre-doctoral training awards from the American Heart Association in 2013.

Neil Detweiler (mentor, Nancy Rusch) received an award titled “*Targeting the BK channel as vasodilator therapy for pulmonary hypertension.*” Pulmonary hypertension is a rapidly progressing disease with a poor prognosis. One fundamental defect is reduced K^+ current in the pulmonary arterial smooth muscle cells, which causes pathogenic vasoconstriction. Neil’s studies are designed to define the properties of a distinct K^+ channel type in the pulmonary circulation, which may represent a vasodilator drug target. Pictured is Neil receiving an award for excellence from Dr. Bobby McGehee, Dean of the UAMS Graduate School.

Chris Moore (mentor, Sung Rhee) received an award for his AHA grant titled “*Role of PSD95 scaffolding in cerebral vasodilation: Implications for stroke in beta blocker therapy.*” Beta-blockers, drugs that block β -adrenergic receptors (β -AR), are a mainstay feature in the treatment of hypertension. Moore’s study builds on the observation that certain voltage-gated K^+ (K_v) channels and β 1-ARs co-assemble with a scaffolding protein (PSD95) to form a “vasodilator complex” in cerebral arteries. He will determine if the β 1AR-PSD95- K_v vasodilator pathway in cerebral arteries is blocked by β -blocker therapy, resulting in cerebral vasoconstriction and a higher risk of stroke in patients administered β -blocking drugs, even if they achieve normal levels of blood pressure.



Mayeux and MacMillan-Crow receive new R01

Drs. Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow and Philip Mayeux were awarded a new R01 grant from the NIH for “Mitochondrial Injury and Repair in Sepsis-Induced Acute Kidney Injury”. The studies are designed to determine if mitochondrial superoxide triggers mitophagy in the kidney tubules of mouse models of septic shock, but dampens mitogenesis as renal injury progresses. Mitochondria-targeted therapeutic agents will be tested for potential benefit. Drs. Mayeux and MacMillan-Crow predict these agents will reduce mitochondrial superoxide to permit mitogenesis and recovery of renal function.

Sepsis is a serious medical condition characterized by a severe systemic inflammatory response caused by a microbial infection. In the U.S., sepsis causes 215,000 deaths annually and a healthcare burden of \$17 billion. As many as 50% of septic patients develop acute kidney injury (AKI), which increases mortality from 25% to 75% in this patient population. Currently, there are no effective therapies to treat sepsis and clinicians must rely on supportive care usually initiated after the presence of symptoms. The proposal is important from a public health perspective, because it will provide a scientific basis for targeting renal repair as a therapeutic strategy, a neglected area of sepsis research but critically important because even mild AKI is recognized as a significant risk factor for chronic AKI.



OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Our 2012-2013 Ph.D. Graduate Students

Three students graduated from the Department's Ph.D. programs during the 2012-2013 academic year. Pictured from left to right are Krishna Chimalakonda (mentor, Jeffery Moran), who graduated from the Pharmacology program in December 2012; Lisa Brents (mentor, Paul Prather) graduated from the Interdisciplinary Toxicology program in January 2013; and Will Atchley (mentor, Michael Owens) received his Ph.D. in May 2013 representing the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBS) program.



2013 UAMS Research Induction Ceremony

Congratulations to our students, who passed their qualifying exams to become Ph.D. candidates (*l to r*): Ben Lieblong (mentor, Marjan Boerma), Brenda Gannon (mentor, William Fantegrossi), and Lirit Franks (mentor, Paul Prather). They are pictured with their white coats at the UAMS Graduate School Research Induction Ceremony in September.



New Graduate Students for 2013-2014

Four students started Ph.D. Graduate Programs in Fall 2013. Pictured are: Amanda Stolarz, Michael Cozart, Charles Hay, and Lorenzo Fernandes. Stolarz is the inaugural student in a Pharm.D./Ph.D. graduate program at UAMS. She and Cozart are in the Pharmacology program. Hay is enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Toxicology program. Fernandes is a student in the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBS) program.



GRADUATE STUDENT RECOGNITION

Moore awarded ASPET Washington Fellowship

Christopher Moore (mentor, Sung Rhee) was appointed as an ASPET Washington Fellow for 2014. Moore will serve as an advocate to ensure public support and funding for research on Capitol Hill as well as in his home district. Moore received a B.S. in ecology and evolutionary biology from the U. of Arizona and an M.S. in pharmaceutical QA/RA from Temple University. His Ph.D. research focuses on scaffolding protein-mediated control of cerebral blood flow during hypertension and stroke. Before entering graduate school, he worked in drug discovery at Parke-Davis and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.



Seager Braswell Student Research Symposium

The Department held its annual Seager Braswell Student Research Symposium on March 1, 2013. This marked the 15th year for the competition, which features third and fourth year graduate students presenting their research to an audience of faculty, trainees, and research staff. Ten students participated in this year's symposium with each student providing a fifteen minute oral presentation on their research.

In the Senior Competition, Naeem Patil, pictured (top) with mentors Philip Mayeux and Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow, took first place. Runner-up in the Senior Competition was Nisha Nanaware-Kharade (mentor, Eric Peterson). Emily Reichard took first place in the Junior Competition (mentor, Eric Peterson). Shown celebrating their wins (bottom photo) are members of the Peterson Laboratory (*l to r*): Emily Reichard, Dr. Peterson, Guillermo Gonzalez (Research Associate) and Nisha Nanaware-Kharade.



ASPET Awards at Experimental Biology 2013

Asif Pathan (pictured with Dr. Mayeux and mentor, Nancy Rusch) took 2nd place in the Trainee Showcase of the Cardiovascular Pharmacology Division. Nisha Nanaware (mentor, Eric Peterson) won the Graduate Student Best Abstract Award of the Division of Integrative Systems, Translational and Clinical Pharmacology. Jonathan Bauer-Erickson (SURF Student, shown with mentor William Fantegrossi) took 1st place in the Behavioral Pharmacology Division Undergraduate Poster Competition.



STAFF RECOGNITION

Fletcher wins Research Staff Excellence Award

Terry Fletcher, Senior Research Associate in the laboratory of Dr. Nancy Rusch, was honored with a Research Staff Excellence Award at the 2013 Dean's Honor Day on April 30th. Fletcher has contributed to research programs in eight laboratories at UAMS over the past 25 years. For the last six years, he has worked in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology providing technical support for laboratories and maintaining Core equipment. Colleagues noted in his nomination packet that Fletcher sometimes handcrafts small technical items at home at night and appears at work the next morning with the perfect fix for a critical experiment. He wants colleagues to be successful in their research and is active in training graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, medical students and undergraduates.



Reed wins World Championship

Congratulations to Ronald Reed, Research Assistant, whose Pinto gelding "Skippen In The Wind" won the World Champion Pole Bending competition and was recently named Reserve World Champion in the barrel racing division at the Pinto World Championship Show in June.

Ron has worked in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology with Dr. John Crow since 2002 to identify new therapeutics for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).



New arrivals during 2013-2014



The Department had a bit of a baby boom this year with six new arrivals!



- Todd Fite (research assistant, Basnakian lab) and his wife welcomed daughter, **Lilah Ann**, on December 21, 2012.
- Shanthi Vadali (graduate student, mentor Steve Post) and her husband are the proud parents of a baby girl, **Aadhya**, who was born January 10, 2013.
- Asif Pathan (graduate student, mentor Nancy Rusch) and his wife welcomed a son, **Ibrahim**, on February 2, 2013.
- **Cynthia Jiayin** was born February 5, 2013, to Yin Liu (postdoctoral fellow, Palade lab) and her husband.
- Piper Nelson (research technician, Rhee lab) and her husband welcomed a son, **Grant Christopher** on March 8, 2013.
- **Owen Paul** was born April 5, 2013, to Neil Detweiler (graduate student, mentor Nancy Rusch) and Rachel Versluis (research technician, Rusch lab).

ALUMNI and OTHER FRIENDS (2013 UPDATES)

- **Rakhee Agarwal** (Postdoc fellow, Hinson) is relocating to Connecticut with her family.
- **Yevginiy Apostolov** (Faculty) is pursuing his M.D. in the Family Medicine Fellowship program at UAMS.
- **Charles David Allen** (Technician, Singh) was accepted into medical school at UAMS.
- **Will Atchley** (Ph.D., Owens) is completing his residency in the Dept of Internal Medicine at UAMS.
- **Venkata Bhogaraju** (Ph.D., Crow) is a pharmacist in the WalMart Pharmacy in Moses Lake, WA. She just had a baby girl named Rithi Venkat Bhogaraju.
- **Lisa Brents** (Ph.D., Prather) accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. Clint Kilts in the Brain Imaging Research Center of the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute.
- **Kelly Byrnes-Blake** (Ph.D., Owens) reports her consulting business, Northwest PK Solutions LLC, is doing well and her oldest child is turning 10.
- **Yingni Che** (Research Assistant, Owens) is working as a Research Associate for Dr. Sarah Johnson in the UAMS Myeloma Outcomes at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.
- **Krishna Chimalakonda** (Ph.D., Moran) is a Scientist in the Division of Drug Safety Research (DDSR), Center for Drug Evaluation Research (CDER), US FDA.
- **Mita Das** (Faculty) is associate professor in the UAMS Dept of Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology.
- **Linval R. DePass** (Ph.D., Morris) was certified as a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS) and also elected Vice President of the Hispanic Organization of Toxicologists (Society of Toxicology). She is Executive Director, Nonclinical Safety at Direct Corporation.
- **Guillermo Gonzalez** (Research Assistant, Peterson) is working as a research assistant at Janiela Farm Research Campus (Howard Hughes Medical Institute) in Ashburn VA.
- **Matthew Howell** (Ph.D., Gottschall) is a postdoctoral fellow in the Dept of Biomedical Sciences at Iowa State University.
- **Alissa Huberty** (Technician, Palade) is enrolled in the UAMS Physician Assistant Program.
- **Amanda Hunt** (M.S., Basnakian) is a histotechnologist in the UAMS Dept of Internal Medicine.
- **William Hyatt** (Technician, Fantegrossi) was accepted into medical school at UAMS.
- **Sujay Kharade** (Ph.D., Rusch) is a research fellow in the Anesthesiology Research Division at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.
- **Anthony Kiorpes** (Adjunct Faculty, NCTR) is “semi-retired” and living in Minneapolis. He is still lecturing at the University of Minnesota, serving as Associate Editor for *Toxicology and Industrial Health*, and currently serving a 3-year term on council for the American College of Toxicology.
- **Kevin McElhanon** (Technician, Singh) is a graduate student at Ohio State University in Columbus.
- **Piper Nelson** (Technician, Rhee) is working at Providence Veterinary Clinic in Malvern.
- **Paul Nony** (Ph.D., Schnellmann) is a partner at the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, LLC (CTEH).
- **James Oldham** (Ph.D., Cave) retired this year from Johnson & Johnson after 32 years as a Toxicologist/Project Leader in the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors of the company.
- **Kerrey Roberto** (Research Assistant, Palade) is administrator for the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) in the Division of Research at UAMS.
- **Daniela Rueedi-Bettschen** (Faculty) has joined the faculty at University of Mississippi Medical Center as an Instructor in Psychiatry.
- **Bernard Schwetz** (former Director, NCTR) is living in Taiwan and working as the English editor for an academic health center.

ALUMNI and OTHER FRIENDS (2013 UPDATES)

- **Misty Thompson** (Ph.D., Crow) is a postdoctoral fellow at Vanderbilt in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. She has recently been accepted into the Howard Hughes Medical Institute/Vanderbilt University Medical Center Certificate Program in Molecular Medicine.
- **Rachel Versluis** (Technician, Rusch) is enjoying spending time with son, Owen Paul.
- **Barbara Vogt** (Ph.D., Mattison) continues her consulting practice, Tox Focus LLC, which provides product safety support to chemical companies, specializing in compliance with the European REACH chemical management program. As an adjunct assistant professor in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, she is guest lecturing in Jay Gandy's certificate program in Regulatory Sciences.
- **Xiaoying Wang** (Faculty) is a research scientist at the Arkansas Department of Health.
- **Rick Wiese** (Ph.D., Kadlubar) is Head of Production for EMD Millipore in St Charles, Missouri.
- **Sarah White** (Ph.D., Owens) is teaching chemistry at Arkansas Tech University, Ozark.
- **Sherri Wood** (Research Assistant, Owens) retired in December, in time for the holidays.
- **Dmitry Zhdanov** (Postdoc fellow, Basnakian) is a research scientist for the pharmaceutical company BIND RUS LLC, Moscow, Russia
- **Sarah Zimmerman** (Technician, Fantegrossi) is enrolled in the IBS program at UAMS.
- **Piotr and Ludwika Zimniak** (Faculty) are enjoying their retirement in sunny Santa Cruz, California where Piotr continues to pursue his interest in photography.
- **Mark Zorbas** (Ph.D., Owens) is continuing to work on innovative medicines for chronic pain and oncology. He did get a new Harley motorcycle and is thinking he will join a motorcycle gang for fun.

ALUMNI and OTHER FRIENDS (2012 UPDATES)

- **Rais A. Ansari** (Research Assistant, Gandy) is an assistant professor in the Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- **January Baumgardner** (Ph.D., Ronis) is a lecturer at Ouachita Technical College in Malvern.
- **Angela Burke** (Ph.D., Hinson) is a toxicologist with Wil Research Laboratories in Ohio.
- **Danielle Cruthirds** (Ph.D., MacMillan-Crow) is an assistant professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at McWhorter School of Pharmacy, Samford University.
- **Brian Cummings** (Postdoc fellow, Schnellman) is Director of the Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program at the University of Georgia.
- **Helen Cunny** (Ph.D., Slikker) is working for the NIEHS in Research Triangle Park, NC as a project officer in the area of reproductive and developmental toxicology.
- **Jaclyn Daniels** (M.S., McMillan) is a Ph.D. student in the IBS program at UAMS.
- **Greg Davis** (Technician, Wessinger) works for Apple Inc. as an Apple Solutions Consultant. He can be found at Best Buy where he manages the Apple Store.
- **Angela Disch** (Ph.D., Ali) is the clinical event manager in the Quality/Risk/Safety Department at Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith. She is married to Tommy Gray. They have one son, TJ.
- **Gloria Gabriel** (Administration) runs Gigi's Cake Boutique in Sherwood, AR. She is the mother of Ayanna, Maya, Bella and Xavier.
- **Yun Ge** (Ph.D., Light) works at the FDA/CDRH/OIVD as a scientific writer.
- **Stephanie Hastings** (Technician, Stimers lab) is a nurse anesthesiologist at Great Rivers Medical Center in West Burlington, IA. She has four children: Andrew, Ethan, Carter, and Emma.
- **Howard Hendrickson** (Postdoc fellow, Owens) was awarded tenure in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UAMS.

ALUMNI and OTHER FRIENDS (2012 UPDATES)

- **Joseph Hunter Holthoff** (Ph.D., Mayeux) returned to medical school at UAMS.
- **Dinesh Hinenallur** (Ph.D., Rusch) is an instructor at the University of Washington.
- **Scott Jarmer** (M.S., Harbison) is a pathologist in both the rural and urban setting in Wichita, KS.
- **Biny Joseph** (Ph.D., Rusch) is a research scientist at Vernenum Biodesign in New Jersey.
- **Mark Levi** (Postdoc fellow, Crow) is a pharmacologist at the Center for Biologics at the FDA.
- **Xiuli Liu** (Ph.D., Mayeux) is employed as a GI/Liver pathologist on the main campus of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.
- **John C. Lipscomb** (Ph.D., Slikker) was elected as Councilor for the SOT and served as President of the SOT's Risk Assessment Specialty Section last year.
- **Alessandra Milesi-Hale** (Ph.D., Owens) is doing a residency at Arkansas Children's Hospital.
- **Tanecia Mitchell** (Ph.D., MacMillan-Crow) is a postdoctoral fellow at UA-Birmingham in the laboratory of Dr. Victor Darley-Usmar. She is a trainee on the Institutional Training grant focused on kidney related research.
- **Shankar Munasamy** (Ph.D., MacMillan-Crow) is an assistant professor at Qatar University.
- **Edith Adams Parker** (Administration) is an executive assistant in the Dept of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at UAMS.
- **Elina Pathak** (Ph.D., Mayeux) is a research scientist at Reliance Life Sciences in Mumbai.
- **Maheswari Rajasekaran** (Ph.D., Prather) returned to her native India following graduation.
- **Jennifer Gibson Schnellmann** (Ph.D., Schnellmann) is an associate professor in the College of Pharmacy at the University of South Carolina. She has published *Understanding and Conquering Fibromyalgia* and *Southern Ugly: A Memoir of an Unattractive Child*. She and her daughter are collaborating on a new work, *The Devil's Apothecary*, which will be an introduction to toxicology book for teens and tweens.
- **Kathryn Seely** (Postdoc, Mayeux) holds the position of laboratory supervisor in the Arkansas Public Health Laboratory at the Arkansas Department of Health.
- **John Seng** (Ph.D., Gandy/Leakey) is working in the UAMS Research Support Center as a Project Manager Team Leader for Investigator and Student Initiated Research Studies.
- **Jennifer Shoemaker** (Ph.D., Prather) is owner and a science writer with Flourish Medical Writing based in Nashville.
- **Rohit Singal** (Ph.D., Ronis) is working as a research scientist with Sanofi U.S. Inc., in Framingham, MA.
- **Swapnil Sonkusare** (Ph.D., Rusch) is a research associate at the University of Vermont. Swapnil and his wife have a daughter named Aanya.
- **Manish Tiwari** (Ph.D., Mayeux) is a physician and researcher at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.
- **Linda Traylor** (Ph.D., Mayeux) and her family have moved back to Colorado. She still works for The Binding Site, Inc as the Senior Director of Scientific Affairs.
- **Zhen Wang** (Ph.D., Mayeux) is a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. John Hall at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.
- **Luping Wu** (Ph.D., Mayeux) is a regulatory affairs specialist at Ethicon, Inc. (Johnson & Johnson).
- **Linnzi Wright** (Ph.D., Paule) is a research scientist at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense in Maryland.
- **Xinwen (James) Yu** (Ph.D., Kennedy) continues his quest of personalized medicine for cancer therapy while working at Dako, an Agilent company, in CA.

UAMS Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology

www.pharmtox.uams.edu

Nancy J. Rusch, Ph.D., Professor and Chair

Philip R. Mayeux, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair

Jack A. Hinson, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor

Alexei G. Basnakian, M.D., Ph.D., Professor

John P. Crow, Ph.D., Professor

William E. Fantegrossi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Paul E. Gottschall, Ph.D., Professor

Lee Ann MacMillan-Crow, Ph.D., Professor

John C. Marecki, Ph.D., Instructor

Jeffery H. Moran, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Shengyu Mu, M.D., Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor

S. Michael Owens, Ph.D., Professor

Philip T. Palade, Ph.D., Professor

Eric C. Peterson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor

Paul L. Prather, Ph.D., Professor

Sung W. Rhee, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Hamida Saba, M.D., Instructor

Sharda P. Singh, Ph.D., Research Assistant Professor

Joseph R. Stimers, Ph.D., Professor

Galen R. Wenger, Ph.D., Professor

William D. Wessinger, Ph.D., Professor

Fang Zheng, Ph.D., Associate Professor

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Do you have contact information for these alumni?

Adams, Robert Johnson

Adatsi, Felix K

Anthony, Anna

Barfield, Lisa

Baron, Scott

Bever, Ronnie Jo, Jr.

Blackall, Doug

Butler, Mary A. Stromberg

Chapman, John Raymond

Chen, Genfu

Chou, Hsien-Chang

Clevenger, Martha Ann

Cohen, Harold Gene

Cole, Troy W

Cutsinger, Doug

Dauback, Sarah D

Disch, Angela

Driver, Malvin C., Jr, MD

Fadhel, Nawzad

Frame, Lynn T

Gaar or Garr, Kermit A

Garcia, Linta

Griffin, Joseph

Hall, Benjamin H

Hanna, Calvin

Hart, Ronald

Hastings, Stephanie

Henry, Berch Eugene

Huey, Sally

Jerram, David C

Juan, David

Le, Hoa

Li, Erdong

Li, Jin

Lu, Song

Marvin, Peter Michael

Matthews, Anthony Michael

Medlock, Kevin Lawrence

Merritt, James M

Mitchell, Benjamin E

Montague, D. C. Eckman

Morrison, David R

Murphy, Bruce Edward

Partridge, Jennings E

Pesic, Aleksandra

Pesic, Miodrag

Plowchalk, David R.

Rastogi, Santosh

Richtarik, Alfred A

Rock, Tara

Schiefer, Mark Anthony

Schmid, Jack Robert

Selders, Marie

Si, Ying

Stone, William Taylor

Vadlapatla, Rajesh

Vertino, Anthony

Watts, Dennis R

Williams, Richard Franklin