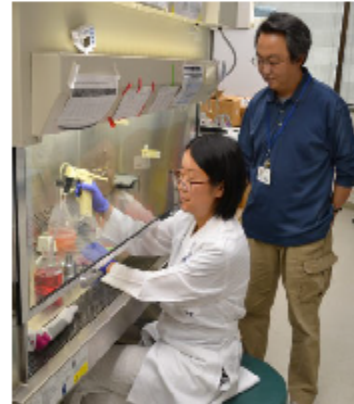


PharmTox Fights COVID-19 Week of March 23-27, 2020 Accolades

Mu Lab Develops Alternative PCR Test

Dr. Shengyu Mu (shown at right) has tested an alternative PCR-based assay to detect COVID-19 using a TRIzol purification kit and the AgPath-ID One-Step RT-PCR reagents sold by ThermoFisher. The protocol was shared with the Department of Pathology as a potential alternative method using available reagents to screen clinical samples.

With the assistance of postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Yunmeng Liu (shown at right), Dr. Mu also organized a list of supplies and equipment in the Department of Pharm/Tox needed by the UAMS clinical laboratory for COVID-19 testing. Donating labs include those of Drs. Basnakian, Leung, Mu, Parajuli, Peterson and Rusch. The department provided a stock of pipettors, vials, screw-cap tubes, bleach, and other items.



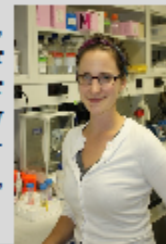
Dr. Basnakian Boosts Morale Through Photos

In response to COVID-19, Dr. Alexei Basnakian (shown at left) has donated eight of his beautiful new photographs of nature, enlarged and framed, to decorate the department. He believes that art is a great strategy for boosting morale. The frames and photo prints have been purchased, and the pictures will be installed within a week. Dr. Basnakian also has offered to donate a fully-equipped desktop should department administrators need it to work remotely from home.

Faculty and Staff Join Health Screening



A shout out to the following department members, who have volunteered their time to serve as patient or employee health screeners: Mr. Fred Goad (shown, far left), Dr. Shengyu Mu, Dr. Mitchell McGill, Dr. Nancy Rusch, and Ms. Sylvia Stewart (shown, left). Additionally, graduate student, Julia Tobacyk (shown, right), has volunteered her time as a phone screener.



Stocked and Reddie

The UAMS food pantry, Stocked and Reddie, is looking for volunteers, and donations of food and money. You can go to their [website](#) to give online. Kudos to Drs. MacMillan-Crow and Rusch for donating funds to support the Stocked & Reddie pantry. Special thanks to Mrs. Olga Basnakian (wife of Dr. Basnakian), who has worked one or two days weekly as a volunteer at Stocked and Reddie since early March.

