

## PharmTox Fights COVID-19

### Week of April 27 - May 1, 2020 Accolades

#### Dr. Brents Submits Manuscript on New Methodology

Assistant professor, Dr. Lisa Brents, research technician and master's student, Saki Fukuda, and M2 student, Hanna Kulbeth submitted a manuscript titled "Automated quantification of opioid withdrawal severity in neonatal rat pups using Ethovision® XT Software" to *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*. It will be considered for publication in a virtual special issue on opioids. The research was led by Hanna Kulbeth, who worked in Dr. Brents' laboratory last summer. Hanna was supported by a NIDA T32 training program directed by Dr. Clint Kilts in the Psychiatric Research Institute.



#### Dr. Rusch wins Educational Innovation Award



Dr. Rusch was recognized with a Dean's Honor Award for Educational Innovation for her leadership of the Health Sciences Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HSIE) postdoctoral training program. The HSIE program is funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at the NIH and is a component of the UAMS Translational Research Institute (TRI). Rusch co-directs the program with Curtis Lowery, MD, director of the UAMS Institute for Digital Health and Innovation.

"Dr. Rusch worked tirelessly on the TL1 component of the CTSA application and recruited a cadre of nearly 70 faculty to support the training of postdoctoral fellows," her nominators wrote. TRI director Laura James, MD, and HSIE co-leaders Nancy Gray, PhD, president of BioVentures LLC, and Kevin Sexton, MD, also lauded Rusch for sharing program concepts with other CTSA hubs, "She is the ideal candidate for this award because of the innovative way she brings entrepreneurial education to the postdoctoral learners at UAMS and has built a sustainable educational team as a resource for these learners".

#### Staying Productive in the Lab (Kelly Ball)

Research associate, Kelly Ball, can be found performing studies every work day in Dr. Sung Rhee's laboratory. For the past two months, she has conducted in vivo experiments and run protein assays to generate data for three different publications. Kelly has unique surgical expertise and knowledge that enables her to establish preclinical models of stroke and bleeding cessation. Kelly's optimism and work ethic are reflected in her response to the question of how she maintains productivity during the Covid-19 pandemic. "Mostly, like so many others during these uncertain times, I try to remain thankful and keep calm and carry on".



#### Staying Productive at Home (Brittney Garner)



For the past year, graduate student, Brittney Garner (co-mentored by Drs. Shengyu Mu and Nancy Rusch) has worked part-time as a regulatory specialist for NuShores Biosciences, LLC. NuShores is a bone and tissue regeneration venture and is the global exclusive licensee of bone and tissue regeneration technologies developed at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

"Luckily, my work with NuShores has been relatively unaltered by the Covid-19 shutdowns," said Garner. "I spend the first part of my day working for NuShores and then take a break before switching over to writing my PhD dissertation. Utilization of UAMS' remote desktop has been a life saver, as I have access to nearly all of the software I need for data analysis and figure generation. My dog, Sadie, also likes to "help" me write. I am happy to report that a couple of weeks ago, I also signed a contract with NuShores to join them full-time as a regulatory specialist/research scientist, contingent upon the completion of my dissertation studies." Congratulations, Brittney!

#### Stocked and Reddie



Stocked and Reddie, the UAMS food pantry, is looking for volunteers, and donations of food and money. You can go to their [website](#) to give online.