

# PharmTox Fights COVID-19

## Week of March 15-19, 2021

### Dr. Nirmala Parajuli Receives New Investigator R01



Assistant professor, Nirmala Parajuli received a new investigator R01 grant from the NIH/NIDDK. "Targeting heat shock protein 72 to improve renal function after transplantation" is funded for five years beginning April 1. The goal of this project is to identify cold storage-mediated pathways leading to proteasome dysfunction and injury after kidney transplantation. Dr. Parajuli will test the hypothesis that cold storage-mediated activation of HSF1 and p38MAPK pathways mediates the upregulation of heat shock protein 72 (Hsp72) and phosphorylation of Rpt6, leading to proteasome dysfunction and injury after transplantation. The aims of this study are: 1) define the mechanism of Hsp72 upregulation and its impact on proteasome dysfunction during renal cold storage and transplantation, 2) delineate the mechanism of Rpt6 phosphorylation/aggregation and its impact

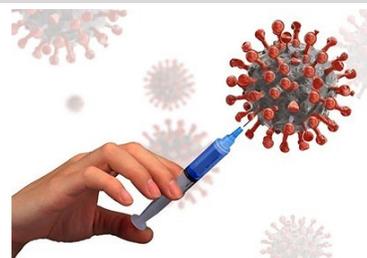
on proteasome dysfunction during renal cold storage and transplantation, and 3) determine the therapeutic utility of the Hsp72 inhibitor HS-72 using both rat and human models of renal cold storage and transplantation.

The department honored Dr. Parajuli's award with flowers, cupcakes and a virtual celebration on March 17, which was attended by faculty, staff and students who have worked with Dr. Parajuli.



### UAMS Honors Employees for Exceeding Expectations

UAMS will honor all employees in March for exceeding the Vision 2029 goals for this fiscal year. Chancellor Patterson stated that Team UAMS not only met the expectations in clinical care, medical education and research, but far exceeded them in spite of operating under a global pandemic. In honor of the outstanding work, employees on payroll prior to March 2, 2020 will receive a one-time lump sum payment at the end of March. Employees making less than \$100,000 will receive the highest percentage (2% of their salary when combined with the one-time payment last December). Those making \$100,000-\$150,000 will receive payments totaling 1.5% and those making  $\geq$  \$150,000 will receive payments equal to 1% of their salary.



### Vaccinations Still Being Offered

If you have not already gotten the Pfizer vaccine, it is still available by appointment at Student and Employee Health. Please call 686-6565 or 686-6381 to schedule an appointment. Vaccinations are offered Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m.