

PharmTox Weekly Buzz

(A publication of the UAMS Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology)

Week of September 13-17, 2021

Pharmacology and Toxicology Annual Fall Reception

Friday, September 24, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m.

This will be a virtual event.

Welcome Katie McGrew, Research Technician



Please give a warm welcome to Katie McGrew. Katie is a new research technician in associate professor Eric Peterson's laboratory as well as a Master's level student in the Graduate Program in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (GPIBS). Katie plans to enroll in the GPIBS PhD program full-time in the next academic year. Her previous research interests have included glycosylation patterns in ovarian cancer, immunotherapy optimization in the setting of multiple myeloma, and retrospective analysis of serine-threonine kinase pharmacologic inhibitors. Katie is branching out into the realm of substance abuse prevention research in her new position!

2021 Research Induction Ceremony

Congratulations to graduate students Lance Benson (mentor, Dr. Shengyu Mu), Brian Parks (mentor, Dr. Lisa Brents) and Joel Vazquez (mentor, Dr. Mitch McGill), who were recognized at the Research Induction Ceremony this week. Joel passed his qualifying exam in 2020 but due to COVID-19, a 2020 Ceremony was not held. Lance and Brian passed their qualifying exams in 2021.



In Memoriam: Dr. Ludwika Zimniak



It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Dr. Ludwika (Wisla) Zimniak. Dr. Zimniak was a research associate professor in the department and worked alongside her husband, professor emeritus, Piotr Zimniak. The Zimniaks joined the department in 2002, and for the next ten years, their VA and NIH-funded research focused on the physiological and toxicological role of lipid peroxidation in obesity and aging. The Zimniaks retired to California in 2012 to be closer to family.

Prior to joining the department, Wisia was an associate of Dr. Thomas Andreoli, the former Chair of Internal Medicine at UAMS, and president of both the American Society of Nephrology and the International Society of Nephrology. She provided marked contributions to seminal studies of chloride transport by the medullary thick ascending limb, which is a major determinant of urinary concentrating and diluting power, and tubuloglomerular feedback in the kidney. Her team identified hallmark electrophysiologic, regulatory, and molecular features of a this chloride channel expressed in basolateral membranes of the medullary thick ascending limb.