

Pharmacology & Toxicology

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Boonshoft
School of Medicine
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

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CHAIR'S CORNER

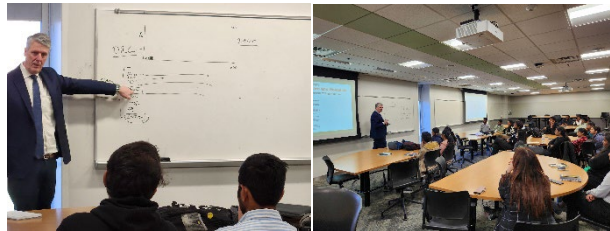


The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology newsletter keeps our alumni, the Boonshoft School of Medicine, and Wright State University apprised of the happenings in the department. The newsletter will be issued three times per year and can be found on the departmental webpage: <http://medicine.wright.edu/pharmacology-and-toxicology>.

Dr. Jeffrey B. Travers Each issue will also contain a "Spotlight" section that highlights a faculty, colleague, or a program. For this issue, we will be highlighting the 2024 Morris Family Endowed Lectureship that featured Tushar Gandhi. To get on the Departmental Mailing list to receive an electronic version, or to provide suggestions as to content, please contact Ms. Catherine Winslow at Catherine.Winslow@wright.edu

Miami Valley Hospital President teaches in Departmental Six Sigma Course

We are pleased to announce that Chad Whelan MD, Premier Health Executive and President of Miami Valley Hospital, provided a lecture for our Six Sigma course. According to faculty course director RC Caldwell, *"Dr. Whelan taught Lean Six Sigma Black and green belt students how Lean Six Sigma (LSS) concepts and techniques can be applied in the medical profession and clinical trials. He showed them the key differences between applying LSS in medical care and manufacturing. Learning early in their career is invaluable so they will not make the mistake of trying to do it the same way as in manufacturing. More importantly, the student now believes that LSS can be used and is essential to the medical field. I cannot convince them of that. Their medical knowledge with LSS tools, such as root-cause analysis, can help future research and technological breakthroughs. They may help to find actual vaccines, like the measles and polio vaccines. The more medical students learn and understand the data analysis process, the better medical care and outcomes for future patients and humanity. Plus, there will be more data than ever before in any generation."* Thanks to Mr. Caldwell for his superb and highly relevant course!



Another example of Departmental classes tapping local talent with real world experiences to enhance our learning environment!

New Class of MS students begin

We are excited to announce that again this year, we were able to recruit a highly talented crop of 24 MS students to the Department's MS program starting Winter 2024. Our new students represented the USA as well as at least four other countries. The Department welcomes students in both Fall and Winter semesters.

Welcome to our new learners! Looking ahead, we hope to someday provide more space to accommodate all of our growth, especially an expanded student area, along with adjunct office space

Dr. Craig Rohan earns top clinical honors

We are pleased to announce that again this year, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology Dr. Craig Rohan was selected as one of Dayton Magazine's Dayton's Best Docs. This is the **third year in a row** for our colleague who is a dermatologist and has a secondary appointment in the WSU Department of Dermatology. Dr. Rohan also provides dermatologic care to our veterans at the Dayton VA Medical Center, and Directs the Pharmacology Translational Unit.



Congratulations to Dr. Rohan whose excellence is certainly consistent!



New Studies Begin in the Pharmacology Translational Unit

One of the goals of the Department is to foster translational studies to facilitate the process where discoveries at the laboratory bench can be brought to the clinic. Moreover, the Pharmacology Translational Unit (PTU) located in the Wright State Physicians Building next to our campus is set up to conduct both translational research studies funded by the NIH and Veterans Administration as well as pharmaceutical clinical trials.

Regarding the latter, the PTU is currently conducting almost a dozen pharma-sponsored studies. These include testing a topical aryl hydrocarbon receptor modulator for psoriasis in children, and a new study testing novel agents for the challenging skin disease hidradenitis. The PTU also is testing an investigational agent for the blistering disease bullous pemphigoid and a promising new agent for skin lupus. We also have a unique self-funded study testing if high doses of oral vitamin D can treat psoriasis. In addition to these studies, we are particularly looking for healthy adults 18-45 years and over age 65 years of age interested in some of our translational studies. Finally, we are particularly interested in recruiting those who are shift workers for a novel NIH-funded study to see if skin responses to sunshine are affected. If questions or for more details, please contact PTU Medical Director Dr. Rohan or PTU Administrative Director Elizabeth Cates at 937-245-7500.

KUDOS Section

Ericson Torralba, MD-MS student, who's abstract "Microwave Ablation versus Surgical Resection versus Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy of Stage IA Non-small Cell Lung Cancer in US Veterans", has been awarded as top abstracts at the Society for Interventional Radiology 2024 meeting. His abstract will be highlighted in the Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology. These studies were supervised by VA physician-investigator Dr. Robert Short.

Another example of the close ties between WSU and the Dayton VA!

Dr. Jeffrey Travers, who, according to the latest (2023) Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research (<https://brimr.org>) was the top NIH-funded WSU researcher with ~\$1.4M in National Institutes of Health funding.



Michael Gilbert, MD-MS student, who was awarded the 2024 Academy of Medicine Student Research Award. Mr. Gilbert amassed Nine publications and Nine presentations in his time as an MD-MS student. And he is threatening to publish several more!

Soon-to-be Dr. Michael Gilbert and his very proud Mother at the AOM Awards Ceremony...

Congratulations to **Mili Bhakta-Yadav**, a PhD student in the Sulentic Laboratory, who was awarded a prestigious Hudson and Weisburger Scholarship from the Society of Toxicology's Women in Toxicology



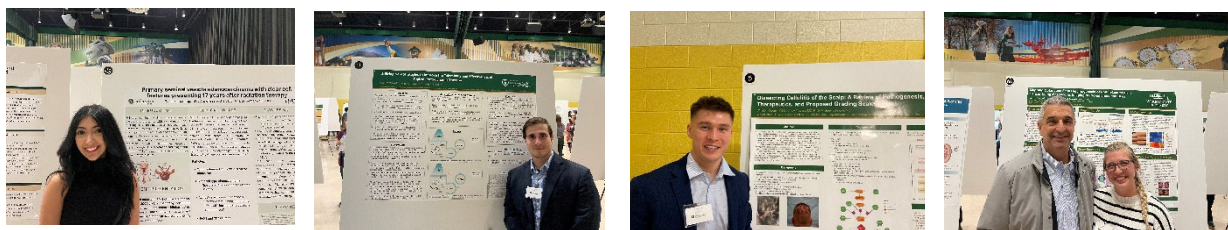
Special Interest Group at the recent SOT Meeting in March 2024. Her first-author manuscript was just published- Bhakta-Yadav, M. S., Burra, K., Alhamdan, N., Allex-Buckner, C. P. & Sulentic, C. E. W. The aryl hydrocarbon receptor differentially modulates the expression profile of antibody isotypes in a human B-cell line. *Toxicol. Sci. : Off. J. Soc. Toxicol.* kfae035 (2024) doi:10.1093/toxsci/kfae035.

Ms. Bhakta-Yadav (far left) and other awardees



Congratulations to **Dr. Terry Oroszi**, who was recently made Vice Chair of the Education and Training Committee of the InfraGard National Board of Directors. Dr. Oroszi has a decorated career in academia and previously served as president of the InfraGard Dayton chapter.

Kudos to the PTOX MD-MS students who presented in the BSOM Student Research Symposium April 4th, 2024. **Garrett Fisher** was selected to provide an oral presentation on his clinical studies testing novel agents to treat photosensitive disorders. Other MS students who presented posters included **Risha Annamraju, Mark Ortenzio, Winston Owens, Rahul Manne, Rebecca Reese** and **Andrea Shugar**, who was joined by her father Dr. Michael Shugar.



Congrats to all our student presenters and faculty mentors who participated!

Spotlight

Each issue of the Departmental Newsletter will “spotlight” an individual faculty or program in the Department. For this issue, we are taking the opportunity to spotlight the 2024 Morris Family Lectureship featuring Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

Tushar Gandhi Lights the Flame of Hope in Dayton

Dayton, Ohio – In January 2024, thanks to the efforts of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Boonshoft School of Medicine, and the Morris family, Dayton, Ohio, welcomed Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. His visit centered on a weekend dedicated to promoting nonviolence. The events, under the banner of "A Season for Nonviolence," aimed to inspire the Dayton community and reignite the city's commitment to peacebuilding.

The centerpiece of the weekend was a special dinner held at the Peace Museum, bringing together Tushar Gandhi, members of the King family, and distinguished guests, fostering dialogue that highlighted the shared legacy of peace championed by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The weekend continued with Tushar Gandhi leading a powerful workshop, "The Flame of Hope," where participants explored nonviolence principles, culminating in a moving ceremony where a symbolic flame was lit to represent enduring hope for a peaceful world. The weekend's highlight was a ticketed community event where representatives from the Dayton Mayor's Office, the County Commission, and Congressman Turner's office made a momentous declaration proclaiming Dayton a "City of Peace," signifying a commitment to fostering nonviolent solutions and building a more peaceful future.

Mr. Gandhi also provided a lecture to the WSU community serving as the Morris family Lecturer. His lecture served to spotlight global health disparities. Provost Thompson provided introductory remarks relating how the WSU environment is heavily influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's teachings. A luncheon was held afterwards for members of the Morris family and WSU faculty colleagues which provided a nice venue to meet with this internationally famous and quite interesting advocate for peace.



Tushar Gandhi's visit served as a powerful reminder of the ongoing pursuit of peace, an ideal that resonates deeply in a world that needs it more than ever. Through his presence, workshops, and the City of Peace declaration, the spirit of nonviolence was reignited within the Dayton community. The legacy of Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi was woven together, inspiring Dayton residents to continue to be leaders and advocates for peace.

The Morris Family, Mr. Gandhi, Organizer Dr. Terry Oroszi, Provost Dr. Amy Thompson, Dr. Jeffrey Travers

For more information on Mr. Gandhi's visit please see the following links

- WSU Newsroom (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbQnCEoBDKU&t=96s>
- WSU Newsroom (article): <https://webapp2.wright.edu/web1/newsroom/2024/02/01/gandhis-greatgrandson-visits-wright-state-gives-lecture-on-health-disparities/>
- Spectrum News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAC6t35ZvWs>
- WDTN-TV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ER7j0LmCtQI>
- Fox45 Dayton 24/7 Now: <https://dayton247now.com/news/local/gandhis-greatgrandson-speaks-on-healthcare-disparity-visits-dayton-peace-museum>



Tushar Gandhi and the Pharmacology & Toxicology family!

We in the Department wish to extend our gratitude for the many collaborators for this event, to include the WSU College of Liberal Arts, Event Services, Division of Inclusive Excellence, Special Collections and Archives, University Center for International Education, Dining Services, Office of Marketing, and Newsroom.



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