CHAIR’S CORNER

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology has started a newsletter to keep our alumni and the Boonshoft School of Medicine and Wright State University apprised of the happenings in the department. This is the fourth newsletter—the first was in the fall of 2015. The newsletter will be issued three times per year, and can be found online: medicine.wright.edu/pharmacology-and-toxicology

Each issue will also contain a “Spotlight” section that highlights a faculty colleague or a program. To get on the departmental mailing list to receive an electronic version, or to provide suggestions as to content, please contact Catherine Winslow at catherine.winslow@wright.edu.

FACULTY NEWS

Faculty retreat focuses on the master’s program

The faculty spent Monday, October 24, meeting at the Wright State University Foundation board room near campus on a retreat that focused on the Pharmacology & Toxicology master’s program. The retreat was led by Dr. Terry Oroszi, director of the M.S. Program, as well as by Dr. Sol Bobst, an adjunct faculty toxicologist from Houston, Texas. Dr. Bobst has had significant experience in teaching toxicology at several institutions and thus brought a wealth of expertise to the retreat. We were also fortunate to have Associate Dean of the Graduate School Dr. William Ayres join us, who provided tremendous institutional knowledge. The faculty reviewed the tremendous growth of the M.S. program and reviewed results of a recent survey of our alumni. The plan moving forward is to grow the M.S. program by 50 percent in the next five years by: 1) expanding the thesis M.S. program to take advantage of the increased numbers of scientists in the department; 2) adding a clinically-oriented track involving the Pharmacology Translational Unit to the Leadership-Administration Program; and 3) expanding the M.D.-M.S. program. Dr. Oroszi and Drs. Ravi Sahu and Yong-je Xu have formed an ad-hoc committee to work on the follow-up issues brought up during the retreat.

Sometimes we must retreat to move forward…

Drs. Ji Bihl and Mauricio Di Fulvio receive American Diabetes Association grants

It is with great excitement we announce that both Drs. Ji Bihl and Mauricio Di Fulvio received ADA grants. These are several-year grants and are very competitive. Dr. Bihl’s grant is designed to test the ability of microvesicles to treat preclinical ischemic stroke in diabetic mice. Dr. Di Fulvio’s grant is designed to define the role of the K+ Cl- transporter KCC2 in islet cell insulin secretion.

Two ADA grants in one department at the same time—How Sweet!

Drs. Di Fulvio and Bihl
Dr. Sulentic transferring to Dr. Kaminski’s lab to complete her Ph.D. training. During her graduate studies, she married Dr. Jon Sulentic, currently an orthopedic and sports medicine physician. She stayed at Michigan State University in Dr. Kaminski’s lab for her postdoctoral fellowship from 1999-2003, funded in part by a National Research Service Award fellowship. With her husband being recruited to a medical practice in Middletown, Ohio, Dr. Sulentic joined the faculty in the department in 2003. She has continued to work in the area of immunotoxicology, specializing in the effects of dioxin on B cells. Dioxin is a chemical famous for being a constituent of Agent Orange. Dr. Sulentic garnered a prestigious Colgate Palmolive Society of Toxicology grant before being funded by a large, five-year R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). More recently, she was awarded a two-year NIH R21 with Dr. Travers to study the immune effects of photodynamic light therapy on humans. She has trained five Ph.D. students and more than 15 master’s students. Though the major focus in her lab has been B-cell immunotoxicology, she has developed novel techniques such as CRISPR gene editing and bioinformatics to provide state-of-the-art approaches to allow her to expand her research questions. In addition, Dr. Sulentic is active in teaching both in the department as well as in the medical school, and serves on multiple committees, including chairing the Wright State University Radiation Safety Committee. She is also an active member of the Society of Toxicology, having served on several committees, and is a past president of the Ohio Valley Society of Toxicology.

Dr. Sulentic clearly enjoys the science, and especially mentoring her students. She relishes the “Ah-Hah moments, where a new research idea arises that turns into a successful research experiment.” When not conducting experiments or classes, Dr. Sulentic enjoys time with her family, including her and Jon’s two daughters, Analise (age 17) and Fiona (age 15). Dr. Sulentic is also a dance and soccer mom and a soccer wife. She loves watching her daughters and husband perform on the stage or the field. She plays soccer herself and is also interested in the arts and history, especially visiting museums and attending regional Jane Austen events.

For Dr. Sulentic, our colleague who is an amazing resource in the department, we are very pleased to highlight you and your efforts!
The following seniors were accepted into graduate level education: Matt Almazan, Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine; Adam Koraym, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine; and Noah Koraym, University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry.

Dr. Karen Mumy, Pharmacology & Toxicology adjunct, has accepted the position as the director of Environmental Health Effects at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Dr. Khalid Elased’s master’s student, Rucha Fadnavis, was awarded first place for her poster presentation at the Women in STEMM Leadership Institute Research Symposium. Dr. Nadja Grobe, Pharmacology & Toxicology adjunct and research scientist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, is a co-author of the poster.

Dr. Elased (l), R. Fadnavis (c), Dr. Grobe (r)

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