



Chair's Corner

The Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology has a newsletter designed to keep our alumni and 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 smart phone app and website:

<http://medicine.wright.edu/pharmacology-and-toxicology>

Each issue will also contain a “*Spotlight*” section that highlights a faculty, colleague, or a program. For this issue, we will be highlighting the recent extravaganza associated with our celebration of the Pharmacology & Toxicology’s 20th Anniversary of the Master’s Program. To get on the Departmental Mailing list to receive an electronic version, to share a *kudos*, or to provide suggestions as to content, please contact Ms. Catherine Winslow at Catherine.Winslow@wright.edu

Department and Faculty News

Successful Celebration October 15th

October was an exciting month for the Department which included celebrating the 20th anniversary of the MS program. We were pleased that the festivities included the Earl H. Morris M.D. endowed lectureship by former alumni Dr. Houda Alachkar. Please see our Spotlight section of this issue for details.



And of course, we got brand new 20th anniversary tee-shirts!

Dr. Saber Hussain Moves into Departmental Space

It is with great excitement that we announce that Dr. Saber Hussain, a noted scientist at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and a long-term faculty of the Department, has now moved a large component of his laboratory to the Wright State University. Funded by a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) for approximately \$800,000, the move to departmental laboratory space in the Medical Sciences Building serves to increase the research and educational collaborations.



Dr. Kemp Awarded a VA Clinical Merit Award and Obtains New Research Space



Special congratulations are in order for Michael Kemp PhD, who has been awarded a Veterans Administration Clinical Merit award. His award, entitled “Mapping DNA Repair and Error-Prone DNA Synthesis in Geriatric Skin” began October 1st, and will run for four years, yielding \$165,000 per year plus \$50,000 in equipment for the first year. This award is designed to characterize the abnormalities in aged skin and how it predisposes to skin cancer. VA Merit Awards are highly competitive, and for a non-clinician to garner a clinical VA Merit is quite unique. To provide more laboratory space, Dr. Kemp’s laboratory will be moving across the hall in the Biosciences II first floor in early 2022.

For more details as to our highly successful colleague, please see the Spotlight Section in the Fall 2019 Newsletter.

Sounds like he might also need a bigger office...

Record Numbers of Masters Students in the Department

We are pleased to announce that the numbers of students in the Department has topped over 100! The faculty have been taking on extra teaching to address these historic numbers of students.

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 as well as pharmaceutical clinical trials. Regarding the latter, the PTU is currently conducting almost a dozen pharma-sponsored studies. These include testing a Phosphodiesterase-4 inhibitor in children with psoriasis, and two new studies testing novel agents for the challenging skin diseases prurigo nodularis and hidradenitis. We also have a novel 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 of age interested in some of our translational studies.

If questions or for more details, please contact Dr. Travers or PTU Director Elizabeth Cates at 937-245-7500.

Congratulations to Our Fall 2021 MS Program Graduates!



Safia Alotibi



Francine Muhora



Brooke Burtis



Dr. Terry Oroszi, who was an invited speaker for the CBRNe Convergence International Meeting in Orlando, FL. Dr. Oroszi’s presentation was voted in the top two, allowing her to participate in a special on-line conference.

Kudos to Dr. Oroszi and one more example of the elevated status of the Department in Homeland Security!



Dr. Alex Carpenter, postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Kemp’s laboratory, who was recently married to Dr. Andy Fassler.

Best Wishes

The Students of Effective Scientific Writing Class, who gave wonderful 10-minute PowerPoint presentations on Friday, December 3rd.



A nice reflection on Professor Alvarez-Leefmans’ guidance for the class!

Outstanding!



Ms. Christine Rapp, who was awarded the **1st Annual Departmental Best Holiday Decoration Award** for her creation – *FedEx Snowman*.



Ms. Catherine Winslow, who garnered first prize at the Annual Ugly Christmas Sweater Party!



This year it wasn’t even close!

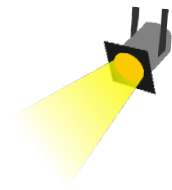


Lois Schneider, who won first prize for guessing the holiday memes game at the BSOM Holiday Party.

(Lois and Dean Valerie Weber)



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 celebration that took place October 15th, 2021, celebrating both the 20th Anniversary of the MS Program as well as the Earl H. Morris M.D. endowed lectureship by former alumni Dr. Houda Alachkar.

The celebrations took place in the Apollo Room in the WSU Student Union Building. The festivities were well-attended and noted speakers included WSU President Dr. Susan Edwards, BSOM Dean Dr. Valerie Weber, both of whom addressed how the MS program is addressing workforce needs for the state of Ohio. Noted colleague Vice Provost Dr. Madhavi Kadakia provided an inspirational talk to our students by describing her career pathway. Vice Provost Dr. Barry Milligan, instrumental in the success of the newer Departmental Programs, also provided his perspectives. Assistant Dean for Medical Education Dr. Amber Todd also provided remarks as to how the programs are integrated nicely into the educational missions of the BSOM. Dermatology Chair Dr. Julian Trevino spoke on how the PTU has impacted patient care and translational research in the region. Multiple alumni and current students also provided their perspectives. Raffle tickets and a silent auction with valuables ranging from US silver eagle silver coins dated 2001 and 2021 to lunch with President Edwards were employed to raise several thousand dollars to fund a new 20th Anniversary Student Scholarship Fund.

To make a donation, please go to the departmental web site:

<https://medicine.wright.edu/pharmacology-and-toxicology/graduate-program-20th-anniversary-celebration-and-2021-earl-h-morris-md-endowed-lectureship>

Finally, it was our tremendous pleasure to highlight Dr. Houda Alachkar, from the University of Southern California School of Pharmacy. Dr. Alachkar’s Morris lecture outlined her exciting NIH-funded studies applying genomic information to the identification and functional characterization of cancer targets. Her lecture outlining the highly translational studies revolving around acute myeloid leukemia were well-received. Morris family member Mark Cargill provided insights into the legacy of the Morris Family and Dr. Earl H. Morris. For more pictures, see the departmental website.



We are greatly appreciative of the participation of all, the generosity of all the donors and the hard work from the Departmental Administrative Staff, in particular Ms. Corinne Thaxton.