

# Pharmacology & Toxicology

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Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

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## CHAIR'S CORNER



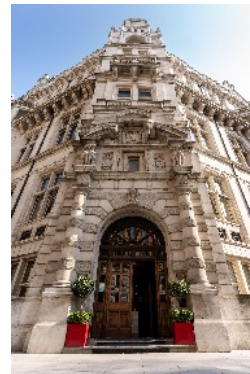
Dr. Jeffrey B. Travers

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>.

Each issue will also contain a "Spotlight" section that highlights a faculty, colleague, or a program. For this issue, we will be highlighting Ms. Christine Rapp, who, as all who is familiar with the Department knows, is not only the manager for my laboratory, she also is the point person for all research issues in the entire department. 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](mailto:Catherine.Winslow@wright.edu)

### Dr. Oroszi Presents at the National Liberal Club in London

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Terry Oroszi, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Pharmacology & Toxicology, recently presented at the National Liberal Club. Her Friday August 18<sup>th</sup> presentation at this August site was entitled, *Profiling the American Terrorist FBI Style*. Dr. Oroszi visited the UK for approximately one week where she met with various dignitaries including from Scotland Yard. She also took this opportunity to obtain additional CBRN training.



National Liberal Club

Congrats to Dr. Oroszi, who is clearly the most recognizable of all our faculty!

## Winter Class of MD-MS Students Began

We are pleased to announce that again this year, we were able to recruit a highly talented crop of MD-MS students to our popular dual-degree program.



*Richard Fox*



*Rita Kamoua*



*Michael Leake*



*Rebecca Reese*



*Youngjun Park*

## Dr. Craig Rohan Chosen Again as one of Dayton's Best Docs



We are excited to announce that again this year, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology Dr. Craig Rohan has been chosen as one Dayton Magazine's Dayton's Best Docs. This is the second 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 directs the Pharmacology Translational Unit (PTU).



*Dr. Craig Rohan*

## Department Updates

### Wonderful Turnover in the Research Apprentice Position

For the last year, the Pharmacology Translational Unit has hired a post-college gap year student to serve as a “research apprentice”. The first one, Ms. Risha Annamraju successfully finished her apprenticeship in June, 2023. Ms. Annamraju now is a 1<sup>st</sup> year medical student here at the Boonshoft School of Medicine. She has been succeeded by Ms. Madison Owens. These two have made considerable progress in the many ongoing translational studies.



*Dr. Travers & Ms. Annamraju*



*Ms. Madison Owens*

### New Studies Begin in the Pharmacology Translation 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 topical aryl hydrocarbon receptor modulator for psoriasis in children, and new studies testing novel agents for the challenging skin diseases bullous pemphigoid and discoid lupus erythematosus. The PTU also is testing a novel agent for atopic dermatitis. We also have a novel 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. If questions or for more details, please contact PTU Medical Director Dr. Rohan or PTU Administrative Director Elizabeth Gates at 937-245-7500.

## Kudos Section

Congratulations are in order to the Sulentic family—Dr. Courtney Sulentic’s husband Dr. Jon Sulentic competed in the European Masters Games in Tampere Finland in August. He earned a team gold medal in the soccer competition and an individual bronze medal in the mountain bike competition. Not to be outdone, their daughter Analise published a manuscript in JACC Case Reports, entitled, “3-Dimensional Modeling Guided Transcatheter Repair of Dehisced Pulmonary Venous Baffle with Gore ASD Device”. Analise is in the process of applying for medical school.



*Dr. Courtney with her Gold Medal-winning husband!*



Kudos to **Dr. Alex Carpenter** of the **Dr. Kemp** lab who garnered 2<sup>nd</sup> place honors for her poster at the Chicago national meeting of the Environmental Mutagenesis and Genomics Society.

Congratulations to **Dr. Ravi Sahu** who is serving on a Department of Defense grant study section. **Dr. Sahu** has also been recruited along with **Dr. Craig Rohan** to serve on the Editorial Board for the Wiley journal Skin Research and Technology.



*Dr. Ravi Sahu*



*Dr. Craig Rohan*

*I believe these kudos should be listed under the “payback” category...*

## Graduates Summer 2023

### *Congratulations to our graduates!*

Meeti Keyur Champaneria  
Harish Chowdary Kothapalli  
Chandana Madala  
Rushi Sanjaykumar Patel  
Joshnayashondha Pravallika Varrey  
Pragathi Rapuru  
Sonal Vijay Rumde

## 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 Ms. Christine Rapp.*



*Christine Rapp  
Research Associate II*

Christine Rapp was born at Miami Valley Hospital, the daughter of Sharon who was an outpatient nurse there at Miami Valley Hospital for 43 years, and her father John who was a Greene County

Deputy Sheriff. Her twin sister Leslie was born 4 minutes before her. Christine also has a younger brother named Robert.

Christine grew up in Bellbrook, OH and states that she has always had an interest in research. She describes that this interest was in part brought on by her interactions with her 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher. After graduating from Bellbrook High School in 1985, she went to Miami University where she was there for 2 ½ years studying zoology before transferring to Wright State University and obtained a biological sciences BS degree in 1990. She then stayed on and completed her master's degree in biological sciences. She worked in the laboratory of Dr. Larry Arlian both as an undergraduate student as well as a master's student. Her studies in the Arlian lab were focused on a subtropical species of house dust mites. Christine described that she actually traveled to Galveston, TX to collect dust mites for her research. She continued working in the Arlian lab for approximately 12 years doing studies including those on scabies mites. During this time, she took a year off for maternity leave and worked part-time. In 2001 she went to work as a laboratory analyst for the company Test America, where she did water quality testing. Ms. Rapp returned to WSU and the Department in 2006 where she worked with Emeritus Professor Dr. James Lucot on the nerve agent Sarin. After three years in the Lucot lab she then started to work with Dr. Dan Organisciak in the Department

of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology researching age-related macular degeneration, in particular, the effects of light and reactive oxygen species on the retina. Luckily, we were able to recruit her back to the department in 2015 when she became laboratory manager for the Travers lab. Her first job in this new role was overseeing the successful move of this lab from Indianapolis to WSU. She has put her research experience on light, ROS, animal use, and handling of challenging chemicals to good use in the Travers lab. In addition to overseeing a >\$1M grant portfolio every year, Ms. Rapp serves as an unofficial point person for essentially all research occurring in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology. In 2022, she became the Laboratory Animal Resource Advisor, which puts her extensive animal experience to good use.

Christine met her future husband Brett working together at the Sugarcreek Ski Hills when she was a senior in high school. They were married at age 22 and they have two children. Their daughter Allison is studying veterinary medicine at Ohio State. Son Ethan works with Brett in the family business, Triad Governmental Systems, Inc. Their company is involved in voter

registration, ballot tabulation and election programming for most of Ohio's 88 counties.

Christine states that she loves her job. She likes people and notes that every day is different --she especially enjoys seeing the progress in students and science. Thankfully, Ms. Rapp also likes the leadership roles that she has accumulated and all of us are highly appreciative of her efforts, which are often exerted behind-the-scenes.

When not involved in research, she enjoys her farm where she raises goats and chickens. She was also involved in 4H as a club advisor for her children and she served as the Greene County poultry committee president for eight years. Her hobbies also include boating and camping, and she is an avid reader. Her favorite topics are thrillers and mysteries, and her favorite author is Stephen King. She is simply thrilled to be the grandmother of Ethan and wife Michaela's one-year old daughter Joanna.

We are all so fortunate to have this source of wisdom and efficiency in our midst and are pleased to spotlight Ms. Christine Rapp and her many accomplishments.



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& Toxicology**

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