Dear Colleagues,

This issue of the newsletter is again full of success stories about our teaching, research and service. The Department of Biomedical Sciences team continues to do very well, and I am proud and grateful to be part of it. During this unprecedented time of distancing, many of us have realized how much we miss seeing the others. I hope and pray that we will soon see the day that this pandemic is under control and we can go back to normal. Until such a time, I am convinced we will continue to fulfill the mission of the college and university and find new ways to use the technology we thankfully have.

Over the past half year, our department has continued to see people join us as well as move on to new opportunities. We welcomed three new faculty, Dr. Schmeichel as Assistant Professor and Drs. Gass and Chandley as Associate Professors. They are an excellent addition to our department to contribute to Pharmacology and Anatomy teaching, and all three brought major grants with them to support their successful research programs. The search committees and staff are especially appreciated for their hard work in getting these new people to us. We also celebrated the promotions of Drs. Duffourc, Hayman and Bradshaw and tenure of Bradshaw. Congratulations are also in order to Sarah Gilham who achieved a major milestone by obtaining her MBA. Our medical and graduate students are continuing to do well, and we are an essential part of their success. Four of our graduate students successfully defended their PhD dissertations and moved on in their careers. After many years in the department, Research Associate Dr. Suman Dalal is moving on to become an Assistant Professor in the Health Science department at ETSU. They and their supervisors are congratulated on their various accomplishments. Lastly, we said farewell to Jerry Keplinger who retired after having served our department for decades. We wish him well in this new phase of his life.

Major successes in our research included new external grants to Drs. Yakubenko and Keasey who both received a 1st percentile score, ranking their proposals among the very best in the nation. Dr. Agrawal won his second R01, which is a great achievement and evidence for his continuing excellent research. Others with new grant funding were Drs. Beaumont/Rodriguez-Gil, Polichnowski and Frasier. Two students in our department, Anna Musket and Cady Forgey, also won awards.

We are undergoing and are expecting major changes in our medical and graduate student curriculum. Please know that I believe we have an excellent team of teachers and staff who are committed to the students and institution and prepare the students well to be our future physicians and scientists. I also believe that you have and are able to meet the challenges of further improving their education. I do hope that you will continue to believe that as well. I wanted to again congratulate and thank all the faculty and staff for how you stepped up and started delivering the medical curriculum online. The preparation took great effort and delivering the lectures and activities is cumbersome, even very tiring, especially for those who do group activities through Zoom. My hope is that you will together continue to stand strong in the face of these challenging times. To quote Dr. Kwagishroch: “Team work makes the dream work”.

Best Regards, Theo Hagg
To my DBMS colleagues,

First, please join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2020 DBMS Staff and Faculty Awards for Teaching Excellence and Innovation. The recipients of the Staff Awards for Teaching Excellence and Innovation were Tonya Ward and Rob Becker. The recipients of the Faculty Awards for Teaching Excellence and Innovation were Diego Rodriguez-Gil and Aaron Polichnowski. To give greater insight into the awardees and their accomplishments, I have included the following excerpts from their nomination packets.

"I am writing to nominate Ms. Tonya Ward, a staff member in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the ETSU Quillen College of Medicine for the Department of Biomedical Sciences Distinguished Staff Award…

Her service to the institution over the years has been unparalleled. And, during this “work from home” period, her value to our teaching program has even been magnified. I could not do what we have had to do over the last several weeks without her expertise, guidance and untiring work ethic. Whether it is a Monday morning at 7:00 am or a Saturday night at 8:00 pm, if I have needed her assistance, she has always made herself available and has enabled us to accomplish the required task. Her dedication to ETSU, Quillen, our teaching programs and our students is an inspiration to all who have the pleasure of working with her…When hired, Tonya had one course for which to perform secretarial work. The course was fairly simple and straightforward, but that has all changed dramatically over time. Due to required curricular modifications, we have lost contact hours and days to teach the course, resulting constant revision of teaching materials. Tonya was always involved with preparing those materials to best serve the student’s needs. When we went to a flipped classroom format about 5 years ago, which required us to develop a whole different system for delivering the course content, Tonya stepped up again to not only assist with material preparation, but to also provide guidance on the best ways to accomplish our objectives. I mention this because Tonya was…a vital, critical, knowledgeable colleague in helping us develop the best program possible.”

“Initially hired in a Coordinator position in 2013, Rob <Becker> hit the ground running. From developing undergraduate internship and post-baccalaureate externship programs to the introduction of a new embalming approach to provide more realistic clinical training experiences, he was taking on responsibilities beyond his original job description. Beginning in 2014, Rob took on the responsibility of tutoring first year medical students in anatomy. Having not taken a formal anatomy course, especially at a graduate level, he independently sought to learn the knowledge that would aid in the educational objectives of the university…Through these successful endeavors, Rob was awarded his first Caduceus award in Spring 2015. Beginning in the Fall of 2015, he began to take on a much more formal role in teaching. Still in the coordinator position, Rob was teaching not only with the anatomy lab courses offered to medical and physical therapy students, but also in the clinical neuroscience wet lab. He also began teaching stations focused on applied clinical anatomy for graduate nursing anesthesia students from Virginia Commonwealth University, a program for which he still teaches each year. As his projects and teaching opportunities continued to expand, he quickly outgrew the role of a lab coordinator and was promoted to manager in January 2018. This promotion was designed to help him continue his roles in teaching and research with the addition of a more administrative role with educational activities within the College of Medicine. He assisted in the development and delivery of a CME series of conferences at ETSU focused on the clinical anatomy of procedural medicine. These offerings are still functioning today and currently consist of five separate conferences per year.”

“He <Dr. Polichnowski> has a succinct easy paced delivery that makes him easy to understand and he has a natural ability to make tricky
From the Desk of...
Dr. Rob Schoborg,
Vice Chair for Education (Cont’d)

Cardiovascular concepts simple. He uses large, simple diagrams with all the fluff removed and it is easy to follow his explanations. His talent is affirmed by being nominated for the “Professor of the Year” Caduceus Award two years running. While his talent is beyond dispute, it is worthwhile to document the amount of effort expended to fulfill a “10% teaching” commitment as listed on his Faculty Activity Report.

- 9 classroom cardiovascular lectures to medical students
- 12 hours in the cardiovascular simulation lab
- Director of the medical student research summer program
- Dissertation committee of Sarah Ray
- Trained 8 medical students in lab research in the last 3 years
- Mentored 6 undergraduates in lab research in the last 3 years
- Participating training for small group experiential learning led by Dr. Abercrombie

Dr. Polichnowski is clearly prepared to invest in the betterment of our educational mission and we are extremely fortunate to have him on board.”

“Dr. Rodriguez-Gil is exactly the kind of person who was meant to be a teacher. In just the most basic concept of what it means to teach, he sets himself apart by being a wonderful lecturer. He was able to communicate clearly and explain difficult concepts in a way that they are understandable to students. He made no assumptions about our prior knowledge and taught concepts that could have easily been overwhelming by starting from the basics and building from there. During lectures, he would use practice questions or just check in with the class to make sure that we were keeping up…He consistently went above and beyond the minimum expectations during lecture and ensured that students were successfully learning. During one class, he used different colored construction paper to explain the embryonic development of the neural tube. For many students, this was the first time that the process fully made sense. It is creative measures like this that make him stand apart from other educators… However, it is not only his lectures that put him on a different level of educators, it is also his dedication to the students. This was evident when AERC sent out our usual mid-course feedback survey - the number one comment we received concerning Dr. Rodriguez is that he genuinely cared about the students, our education as well as us as people. He showed this through his devotion to help students better themselves and his work improving the neuro course. You could always count on Dr. Rodriguez to make time to meet you for additional help or give advice on test taking strategies. Even things that seem simple such as responding to emails very quickly made an impact on students. He always welcomed feedback and would do his best to make changes in response to that feedback, regardless of the extra work it took from him. When students were left confused after a clinical lecture, Dr. Rodriguez took the time to create a note set that explained concepts in a way that was understandable.”

On behalf of myself, Dr. Hagg, and the ad hoc review committee members, I would like to thank Rob Becker, Tonya Ward, Diego Rodriguez-Gil and Aaron Polichnowski for their unflagging efforts on behalf of our graduate, medical, and undergraduate students. We would not be able to accomplish the missions of Quillen College of Medicine and East Tennessee State University without you. Furthermore, I would also like to acknowledge those staff, faculty members, and students who wrote letters of support, constructed the award nomination packets, and served on the ad hoc nomination review committee. Developing nomination packets for these awards, and reviewing them, takes a considerable amount of time and effort – which is much appreciated.

Second, if you will be teaching on-line for the first time in July and have concerns or questions about adapting your teaching to the on-line environment, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to your other colleagues who have previous experience with on-line education. Please also be particularly mindful of your physical and emotional health, as well as that of your colleagues, students, fields and families. In these uncertain and challenging times - particularly given the current need for physical isolation – it is easy to feel like the world around us is falling apart. If you, or others you know, are struggling, I urge you to reach out for help. Always remember, your colleagues are here for you.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your dedication – to our students and to each other.
Recipients of the 2020 DBMS Faculty Awards for Teaching Excellence and Innovation

Dr. Aaron Polichnowski
Dr. Diego Rodriguez-Gil

Recipients of the 2020 DBMS Staff Awards for Teaching Excellence and Innovation

Tonya Ward
Rob Becker

A New Way of Distance Communications
33 Faculty Attended the above Zoom Meeting—Looks Like All Enjoyed this “Virtual Get Together”
“A NEW NORMAL”
THANK YOU! EVERYONE [AND PET FAMILY] FOR SUPPORTING USE OF MASKS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. “A NEW NORMAL.”

THE OFFICE OF LANA COOK, COORDINATOR, BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM, WILL BE TEMPORARILY LOCATED IN B204, BUILDING 178, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

JAMES E. SHEFFEY, MD, Assistant Professor, has been appointed Gross Anatomy Lab Director, effective March 1, 2020. Dr. Sheffey is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and Interim Assistant Surgery Clerkship Director in the Department of Surgery. In his capacity as Gross Anatomy Lab Director, Dr. Sheffey’s duties include the following: “Supervision and evaluation of the anatomy lab manager, lab senior technician, APS workers and volunteer internship and externship program candidates. Oversee care, organization and operation of the anatomy teaching laboratory to support medical student and physical therapy courses, extensive number of 4th year electives, clerkship & resident sessions, and continuing education efforts. Assist with recruiting and educational community outreach programs. Facilitate creation of experiential learning opportunities. Oversee expenses, billing and contracts for laboratory activities. Assist in planning for development of surgical training facility and expansion of applied anatomy programs.” Dr. Sheffey also participates in the COM teaching program. He provides instruction in the Medical Human Gross Anatomy & Embryology course, and the CBL courses.

SARAH GILHAM, Coordinator (Human Resources), graduated ETSU with an MBA degree from the College of Business.

**FUNDING—CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Agrawal Receives $1.85 Million NIH Grant**

Dr. Alok Agrawal received an award for a new R01 grant proposal from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health to further develop his research on a protein that could be used to develop a treatment for pneumococcal infection. **Funding period:** 2/5/2020 - 1/31/2025. **Project Title:** “Complement-mediated anti-pneumococcal functions of C-reactive protein.” **Project Narrative:** C-reactive protein (CRP) is a component of the inflammatory response. CRP functions as an anti-microbial molecule against Streptococcus pneumoniae infection in mice. Our goal is to define how CRP, directly or indirectly, acts on the bacterial surface to kill them and protects mice against infection. Successful completion of this project will reveal how the properties of CRP can be utilized to develop a treatment strategy for pneumococcal infection in humans. In addition, the investigation of CRP-complement factor H interactions proposed in this project may also have implications in other areas of clinical medicine, such as age-related macular degeneration and retinal inflammation.

Dr. Valentin Yakubenko was awarded a grant from the American Heart Association (Grant type: Institutional Research Enhancement Award). Total directs and indirects $154,000 for two years. **Project Title:** “Targeting the product of DHA oxidation as potential substrate for macrophage retention during atherosclerosis.”

Dr. Matt Keasey was awarded an NIH R03 grant with a 1%ile. Total directs and indirects $148,000 for two years. **Project Title:** “Calcitriol for the treatment of brain calcification through upregulation of SLC20A2.”

Dr. Valentin Yakubenko’s master student (Biological Science program), Cady Forgey, received a William Harvey Fraley and Nina M. Fraley Memorial Award. The Award includes $500 that she will apply toward her research project. The title of her project is “Mapping the binding site for the end-product of phospholipid oxidation within integrin aDb2.”

Anna Musket, Graduate Assistant (Biomedical Sciences program) in the laboratory of Dr. Qian Xie was awarded an ETSU Graduate Research Grant for 2020-2021. The Award includes $598 that Anna will apply toward her research project. The title of her project is “Characterization of MET alteration using glioblastoma patient-derived xenograft models.” She will study how MET oncogene alterations in human glioblastoma may indicate sensitivities to MET inhibitors and the underlined molecular mechanisms.
WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS

BROOKE SCHMEICHEL, PhD

Dr. Brooke Schmeichel comes to ETSU from the National Institute on Drug Abuse/Intramural Research Program. Her appointment in The College of Medicine as Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) became effective February 1, 2020. Dr. Schmeichel received her Doctoral Degree in Psychology (Biology, Brain and Behavior) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2012.

Research Interest: “Drug addiction is a chronically relapsing disorder that impacts multiple motivational mechanisms and can be conceptualized as a progression from positive reinforcement (binge/intoxication stage) to negative reinforcement (withdrawal/negative affect stage). One theory of addiction is that the negative emotional state that drives such negative reinforcement is derived from dysregulation of key neurochemical elements involved in the brain stress systems within the frontal cortex, ventral striatum, and extended amygdala. Brain stress response systems are hypothesized to be activated by excessive drug intake, to be sensitized during repeated withdrawal, to persist into protracted abstinence, and to contribute to the development and persistence of addiction. The primary focus of my research is to investigate the role of stress neuropeptide systems, including hypocretin/orexin (HCRT), in compulsive-like drug and alcohol taking. The HCRT system is particularly poised not only as a modulatory factor of the drug-induced stress response, but also plays a role in reward systems and arousal systems that contribute to the motivational aspects of addiction.”

Teaching Interest: In the COM, she would be interested in teaching courses that focus on principles of pharmacology. She is passionate about educating our medical students how to care for those struggling with substance use disorder, and also stressing the importance of responsible prescribing of controlled substances for pain for all patient populations. At the graduate level, she would be interested to teach a special topic course entitled “Neurobiology of Addiction” that would comprise the definitions and neuroadaptational views of addiction, and specify behavioral effects and mechanisms of actions of various drug classes. While I enjoy face-to-face student interactions, she would be interested in teaching online courses to reach students beyond traditional classrooms. It is increasingly important, particularly given the recent pandemic events, to expand the flexibility of when and where students can learn.”

Interests/Personal: Dr. Schmeichel is an UW-Madison alumna and big Badgers fan, so she will always be loyal to the “original” Bucky; sorry ETSU Buc fans! She has a husband and two children, ages 2.5 years and 1 year, who keep her very busy (and tired). As a family, they really enjoy being outdoors and exploring nature. They are excited to be part of the ETSU and Johnson City communities and have felt very welcomed! They moved from the hustle and bustle of Washington D.C. area, so are grateful to take in the more relaxed way of life here in east TN.

JUSTIN GASS, PhD

Dr. Justin Gass comes to ETSU College of Medicine from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, SC, Division of Neuroscience, Department of Psychology. His appointment here at the College of Medicine as Associate Professor (Tenure Track) became effective May 1, 2020. He also has a joint appointment with the VA Research area. Dr. Gass is a former student of ETSU where he received his BS degree in Psychology. He was also Research Assistant in the Department of Psychology at ETSU. He received his MA and PhD degrees in Experimental Psychology at the University of South Carolina in 2006.
WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Gass (Cont’d)

Research Interest:
The focus of his research laboratory is to use translational approaches to study the neuroanatomical adaptations that occur as a result of alcohol use disorder (AUD) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The major goals of his research are to develop translatable animal models of AUD/PTSD comorbidity, identify behavioral deficits and accompanying brain changes, and ultimately prevent and/or recover these deficits through the development or use of currently established treatment compounds.

Teaching Interest:
Dr. Gass’s teaching interests include a number of topics related to neuroscience research. These include drug addiction, neuropsychopharmacology, learning & memory, brain disorders, and statistical analysis.

Interests/Personal:
Both Dr. Gass and his wife grew up here and received undergraduate degrees from ETSU. They have lived in Charleston, SC for nearly 15 years, and are so excited to be back in the Tri-Cities area. They have two little boys who love the mountains!

MICHELLE CHANDLEY, PhD, MPH

Dr. Michelle Chandley joins the Department of Biomedical Sciences effective July 1, 2020, as an Associate Professor. Dr. Chandley has been a member of the ETSU Department of Health Sciences in the College of Public Health for the previous six years where she taught various human health courses. She received promotion to Associate Professor w/Tenure in April 2020. Michelle received her doctoral degree from the COM Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program in August 2008 and completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship with Dr. Gregory Ordway. In 2015 she received her Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Health Services Management and Policy from the College of Public Health at ETSU. Dr. Chandley has also held an Adjunct Assistant Professor status in the Department of Biomedical Sciences since January 2015.

Research Interests:
Dr. Chandley’s research centers around the unique pathophysiology associated with psychiatric disorders including autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and major depressive disorder (MDD). She uses human postmortem brain tissue as well as animal models that represent behaviors of those disorders to determine cell-specific molecular differences that can be identified in unique brain regions. Most recently, she has expanded her investigations to include peripheral markers such as blood cytokines and intestinal bacteria that can possibly influence brain development in the animal models of ASD.

Teaching Interests:
Dr. Chandley comes to the DBMS with experience in teaching human anatomy, neuroanatomy and anatomy/physiology in the Health Sciences Department. Additionally, she has conducted special lectures in the Scientific Communications II course in our department.

Interests/Personal:
Michelle and her husband Tim have two children, Jeffrey and Emma. Michelle is an active member at Carmen Church of God where she currently serves as youth director. Additionally, she is an avid sports fan and particularly enjoys watching basketball or golf.

“A NEW NORMAL”
WORKING FROM HOME
Dr. Tuqua Alkhateeb, a third-year Ph.D. student in East Tennessee State University’s Department of Biomedical Sciences, was selected as a recipient of the Star Research Achievement Award by the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM). The Star Research Award is intended to recognize excellence in critical care research and high-quality original investigative research. Accompanying the award was the opportunity to present her research findings at the SCCM 49th Critical Care Congress held earlier this year.

Tuqua was also a summer student in the laboratory of Dr. Gregory Ordway. [ETSU web site]

Aamir Shaikh Graduated ETSU with a B.S. degree in Microbiology, May 2020. While at ETSU, he completed an honors thesis exploring the role of a novel antidepressant in the treatment of depression, amongst other research projects at the Quillen College of Medicine. Aamir completed his Honors Thesis under the supervision of the research laboratory of Dr. Gregory Ordway. [Photo from ETSU web site]

We welcome Benjamin “Ben” Sawyer as a temporary research assistant to the laboratory of Dr. Brooke Schmeichel. Ben graduated ETSU in May 2020 with a major in Psychology and a minor in Biology. Ben plans to further his education and studies at ETSU.
CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AWARDS 2020

5 Years
Dr. Theodoor Hagg
Dr. Cuihong Jia
Chiharu Lovins

10 Years
Dr. Gary Wright

15 Years
Jennifer Kintner

25 Years
Dr. Rob Schoborg

40 Years
Dr. Thomas Kwasigroch

DBMS CADUCEUS AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR 2020

M1 Outstanding Course of the Year
Cellular & Molecular Medicine
Medical Physiology
Medical Human Gross Anatomy & Embryology

M1 Professor of the Year
Dr. David Johnson
Dr. Tom Kwasigroch
Dr. Aaron Polichnowski
Dr. Antonio Rusinol
Dr. Douglas Thewke

M1/M2 Outstanding College of Medicine Staff
Rob Becker
Dr. Tom Kwasigroch

M2 Outstanding Course of the Year
Medical Pathology
Medical Microbiology & Immunology
Medical Pharmacology

M2 Professor of the Year
Dr. Michelle Duffourc
Dr. Russell Hayman
Dr. Diego Rodriguez-Gil
Dr. Rob Schoborg

ALUMNI NEWS...

Dr. Jessica Slade, who graduated with a PhD from the laboratory of Dr. Rob Schoborg, (in the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program), just started an Assistant Professor position at University of Pikeville in the Biology Department.

Dr. Scott Champney, an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, has recently published a monograph describing 20 years of research on a novel antibiotic target. The paper, published in the January issue of the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, describes the inhibition of bacterial ribosome formation as a unique target for antimicrobial agents. The investigation examined the inhibitory activity of 52 antibiotics in six different microorganisms. The study concluded that inhibition of protein biosynthesis by ribosomes and inhibition of their biogenesis in bacterial cells were equivalent targets. The results were described in 41 research papers and a book edited by Dr. Champney (New Antibiotic Targets, Humana Press, 2008). The investigation was conducted by nine graduate students and seven laboratory technicians. Support for the study came from seven pharmaceutical companies and from the National Institutes of Health.

The department extends our thanks and Congratulations to Dr. Ferslew in receiving this much deserved award, and his dedication to the outstanding teaching, research, and service.
“A NEW NORMAL”

Dr. Michelle Duffourc and Dr. Don Hoover were featured in an article in the most recent issue of The Pharmacologist, the publication for the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, the nation’s premier professional society for pharmacologists. The story focuses upon their efforts to develop and teach their unique Covid19 elective, Back to the Basics: Microbiologic and Pharmacologic Principles of Immunologic and Infectious Disorders. This is a nice bit of positive recognition for Quillen. And, Dr. Duffourc has already received an email from the Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Belmont who wants to talk to her and see if she can help her develop a similar course for her students. [The Pharmacologist, Vol. 62, No. 2, June 2020, p.125]. “This is excellent… thank you for all your hard work in putting this elective together.” ...Dr. Theo Hagg.

REVIEW /STUDY SECTIONS:

Dr. Patrick Bradshaw served as an Ad Hoc member of the NIH Neural Oxidative Metabolism, Mitochondria and Cell Death (NOMD) Study Section held in Washington DC, November 2019.

Dr. Patrick Bradshaw served as an Ad Hoc member of the NIH Neural Oxidative Metabolism, Mitochondria and Cell Death (NOMD) Study Section held in San Diego, CA, February 2020.

Dr. Krishna Singh served on a committee for American Physiological Society (APS) to review 16 Postdoctoral fellowship letters of intent, May 2020.

Dr. Krishna Singh is serving on the Fellowship Committee for the American Physiological Society (APS), 2018-Present.

Dr. Qian Xie will participate as an ESR (early stage reviewer) in the NIH CNBT study section in June 2020. “The Clinical Neuroimmunology and Brain Tumors (CNBT) Study Section reviews applications to investigate immune function and inflammatory factors in the context of disorders of the central nervous system. Most applications target CNS tumors, demyelinating disorders, inflammatory neuropathies or CNS infection. Applications reviewed by CNBT propose levels of investigation combining cellular-molecular in vitro studies with animal models, and ranging from mechanistic to biomarker and imaging studies in human patients.”

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Valentin Yakubenko presented an abstract at the 2020 Annual American Association of Immunologist May 2020. “The α7 nicotinic acetylcholine receptor is an important determinant of monocyte-derived macrophage migration.” [Valentin A Pavlov, Kui Cui, Meghan Addorisio, David L Williams and Valentin Yakubenko]. The meeting was held mostly online due to COVID-19.

Several scientific meetings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Congratulations to Jerry Keplinger, Coordinator, on his retirement after 40+ Years of Service
March 31, 2020
GRADUATE STUDENTS - CONGRATULATIONS

**W. DREW GILL** defended his dissertation in March of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic via Zoom lecture. Drew is presently a postdoctoral fellow at the National Center for Toxicological Research, which is under the auspices of the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) in Jefferson, AR. Drew was a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Russ Brown.

**DONALD NGWA** defended his dissertation in May 2020. He is currently in Johnson City and considering future options and relocation. Donald was a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Alok Agrawal.

**RUDY CHAPMAN** defended his dissertation in July 2020. Rudy accepted a position with Dr. Kathryn Saatman, Spinal Cord & Brain Injury Research Center, University of Kentucky. Rudy was a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Rodriguez-Gil.

**ASMITA PATHAK** defended her dissertation in May 2020. She has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB). Asmita was a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Doug Thewke.
JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS:


JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (Cont’d)


INTERNAL SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Theodoo Hagg, MD, PhD, Professor and Chair, Targeting vascular mechanisms for neuroprotection after stroke, January 28, 2020.

Qian Xie, PhD, Assistant Professor, Overexpression of HGF/MET axis induces, de novo glioma formation in mice, February 11, 2020.

Gerald A. Deehan, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Cue the addition: The long-lasting effects of conditioned cues on the behavioral and neurobiological manifestation of alcohol-seeking. February 28, 2020.

Min Fan, MD, MS, PhD Candidate, Endothelial HSPA12B and Yes-associated protein, cooperatively regulate angiogenesis following myocardial infarction, Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

EXTERNAL SEMINAR SPEAKERS

John R. Barnes, PhD, Research Microbiologist, CDC Influenza Genomics, Team Lead, Atlanta, GA, Portable influenza diagnostics and surveillance – Assessing pandemic risk in the field, February 21, 2020.

Michael Andresen, PhD, Professor, Physiology/Pharmacology, Oregon Health Science University, Portland, OR. Synaptic processing of cranial visceral afferents at the nucleus of the solitary tract, March 9, 2020.