The fall semester is rapidly progressing, and we have been quite busy and have several important upcoming events in the School of Graduate Studies. In late September, we hosted the first Graduate School Showcase that highlighted our PhD programs (page 2). We are excited about the upcoming Research Day on Friday, October 26th, which will feature presentations by graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. In addition, Dr. David Rogers, the 2018 SGSHS Distinguished Alumnus (see below), will give a presentation and visit with our trainees during the Research Day events. The Microbiology and Immunology department is hosting an ASM regional meeting here on campus in early November. Many of our students, trainees and faculty have recently been published, won awards, etc. (page 3), and we have several new additions to the Graduate Faculty (page 2). I continue to be impressed by the accomplishments of our trainees and graduate faculty within the School of Graduate Studies.

**David Rogers, PharmD, PhD**

**2018 SGSHS Distinguished Alumnus**

Dr. P. David Rogers will serve as the Distinguished Alumnus for the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences. Before we honor Dr. Rogers on October 26 at the Graduate School Research Day, we wanted to introduce him here.

**Current positions:** Dr. Rogers holds the First Tennessee Endowed Chair of Excellence in Clinical Pharmacy and is Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine. He also serves as the Vice Chair for Research for the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Translational Science, Director of Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics, and Co-Director of the Center of Excellence for Pediatric Experimental Therapeutics.

**Education:** Dr. Rogers completed his undergraduate work at the University of Memphis, earned a Pharm.D. degree from the University of Tennessee, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He completed an ASHP-accredited Residency in Pharmacy Practice at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis, as well as an ASHP-accredited Residency in Infectious Diseases Pharmacy Practice and Fellowship in Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

**Research:** Dr. Rogers has authored over 100 publications and 140 scientific abstracts to date. The focus of his current work is elucidating the molecular and genetic basis of antifungal drug resistance.

We look forward to honoring Dr. Rogers at the Graduate School Research Day on **October 26**!
On September 20-21, the following faculty members from local and regional universities visited with Ph.D. program directors and faculty in the SGSHS, and learned more about the programs of study in the graduate school. The major goal of this event is to foster relationships in order to maintain and grow the pipeline of candidates for our Ph.D. programs.

**Belhaven University**
- Dr. Reid Bishop rbishop@belhaven.edu
  Professor, Department of Chemistry
- Dr. John Neiswinger jneiswinger@belhaven.edu
  Assistant Professor, Department of Biology

**Mississippi State University**
- Dr. Peter Ryan ryan@provost.msstate.edu
  Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

**Millsaps College**
- Dr. Kurt Thaw thawak@millsaps.edu
  Associate Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience

**Jackson State University**
- Dr. Maria Begonia maria.fatima.begonia@jsums.edu
  Professor, Department of Biology

**Mississippi College**
- Dr. Nathan Tullos natullos@mc.edu
  Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences

**University of Louisiana Monroe**
- Mr. John Herrock herrock@ulm.edu
  Instructor, School of Basic Pharmaceutical and Toxicological Sciences

**University of Southern Mississippi**
- Dr. Moe Elasri mohamed.elasri@usm.edu
  Professor and Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Affairs

**University of Mississippi**
- Mrs. Kelli Hutchens kellih@olemiss.edu
  Advisor, Health Professions Advising Office

**Tougaloo College**
- Dr. Jinghe Mao jmao@tougaloo.edu
  Dean, Natural Science Division

**Xavier University of Louisiana**
- Dr. Camellia Okpodu cokpodu@xula.edu
  Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

**Neuroscience**
- Sally Huskinson, PhD
  Dr. Huskinson’s research interests include behavioral pharmacology of drug abuse, the impact of environmental variables on drug choice, and abuse potential assessment.

- Christopher Spankovich, AuD, PhD, MPH
  Dr. Spankovich’s research interests include the pathophysiology and prevention of acquired hearing deficits.

**Clinical Anatomy**
- Audra Schaefer, PhD
  Dr. Schaefer’s research interests include student study strategies and self-directed learning in anatomical sciences.

**Biomedical Sciences**
- Abelardo Medina, MD
  Dr. Medina’s research interests include management of burn patients and reconstructive surgery in trauma and microsurgery.

**Nursing**
- Johnnie Sue Wijewardane, PhD
  Dr. Wijewardane’s research interests include psychometric testing and valid, reliable admissions measurements.

- William Pruett, PhD
  Dr. Pruett’s research interests include the use of mathematical modeling to study the cardio-renal axis, machine learning for data interpretation, and visualization of high dimensional data sets for pattern recognition.

**Experimental Therapeutics & Pharmacology**
- Mark Cunningham, PhD
  Dr. Cunningham’s research interests include preeclampsia, renal-cardiovascular physiology, and the RAAS pathway.
Hypertension

Dr. Amaral also presented her research at the Center of Excellence in Perinatal Research (CEPR) Pilot Grant in Chicago last month. Bhuvaneswari Gurumurthy (Biomedical Materials) received the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Fall Focused Symposium Travel Award, to attend the meeting in Bethesda, MD this November. Olivia K Travis (Experimental Therapeutics & Pharmacology) presented her research at the American Heart Association (AHA) Council on Hypertension in Chicago last month. Gwen Davis (Physiology & Biophysics) received an AHA Predoctoral Fellowship following a 10 week Summer Engineering Internship at Medtronic. Victoria L. Wolf (Physiology & Biophysics) received an AHA Predoctoral Fellowship for her research entitled “Impact of immunosuppression on estrogens, hypertension, and the kidney during autoimmune disease.” Subhi Talal Younes (Physiology & Biophysics) received an AHA Predoctoral Fellowship for his research entitled “The role of anti-angiogenic factors in cerebral dysfunction of preeclampsia.”

Dr. Cassie Chandler (graduate of Neuroscience) has accepted a postdoctoral research position at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Lorena Amaral (Experimental Therapeutics & Pharmacology) was awarded a project on the Mississippi Center of Excellence in Perinatal Research (CEPR) Pilot Grant. Dr. Amaral also presented her research at AHA Council on Hypertension in Chicago last month.

Recent Publications


Send your requests/suggestions for the next issue to Dr. Hanna Broome (HJBroome@umc.edu) or Dr. Justine Dees (JLDees@umc.edu)