

The **GRADUATE** *bulletin*

Latest news from the School of Graduate Studies in the Health Sciences

Word from the Dean

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.***



Dr. Joey Granger

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!**

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Important Dates

OCTOBER 19

COPD LECTURE: MILLSAPS B.A.P. ALUMNI

OCTOBER 26

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESEARCH DAY

NOVEMBER 2-3

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY
SOUTH CENTRAL BRANCH MEETING

NOVEMBER 5

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING BEGINS



GRADUATE SHOWCASE RECAP

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

Southern Arkansas University

Dr. Pablo Bacon pablobacon@saumag.edu

Assistant Professor, Biology

Jacksonville State University

Dr. Lori Hensley lhensley@jsu.edu

Professor, Biology

Tougaloo College

Dr. Jinghe Mao jmao@tougaloo.edu

Dean, Natural Science Division

University of Mississippi

Mrs. Kelli Hutchens kellih@olemiss.edu

Advisor, Health Professions Advising Office

Xavier University of Louisiana

Dr. Camellia Okpodu cokpodu@xula.edu

Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

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 Tullus natullus@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

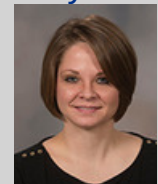
Recent additions to

GRADUATE FACULTY

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.



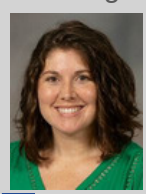
Christopher Spankovich, AuD, PhD, MPH

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.



Nursing

Johnnie Sue Wijewardane, PhD

Dr. Wijewardane's research interests include psychometric testing and valid, reliable admissions measurements.



William Pruett, PhD

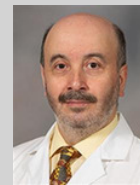
Dr. Pruett's research interests include the use of mathematical modeling to study the cardio-renal axis, machine learning for data interpretation, and visualization of high dimensional data sets for pattern recognition.



Biomedical Sciences

Abelardo Medina, MD

Dr. Medina's research interests include management of burn patients and reconstructive surgery in trauma and microsurgery.



Experimental Therapeutics & Pharmacology

Mark Cunningham, PhD

Dr. Cunningham's research interests include preeclampsia, renal-cardiovascular physiology, and the RAAS pathway.



Trainee **KUDOS**

Katherine Cranston (M2) will present data collected during the Medical Student Research Program (Dr. Abigail Gamble's lab) at the **Mississippi Public Health Association Meeting** in October.

Kartikeya Jodha (*Biomedical Materials*) received the North American Travel Award from the **Academy of Dental Materials**, to attend the conference in Brazil this October.

Bhuvanewari 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.

Faculty **KUDOS**



Dr. Barbara Alexander, Professor of Physiology and Biophysics, received the **2018 Harriet Dustin Award** at the AHA Council on Hypertension meeting. This award recognizes female investigators who have made outstanding contributions in the field of hypertension.

Dr. Alexander earned her **PhD in Biochemistry** here at UMMC in the School of Graduate Studies. She transitioned to the **Department of Physiology and Biophysics** for her post-doctoral fellowship, and has remained an integral part of the department over the years. Dr. Alexander is active in a number of national and international research organizations, and she has been an author on over **90 publications**.

Alumni **KUDOS**



We would like to welcome back **Dr. Kristin Weaver** as Assistant Professor of Pediatric Neurosurgery in the Department of Neurosurgery!

A bit of background information about Dr. Weaver:

- **MD/PhD** program at UMMC in Department of Anatomy
- **Residency** in Neurological Surgery at the University of Florida
- **Fellowship** at Shriners' Hospital for Children in Philadelphia (Pediatric Deformity), and at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (Pediatric Neurosurgery)

We are thrilled to have Dr. Weaver back at UMMC!

Recent Publications

- Beloate, L. N., & Coolen, L. M. (2018). Effects of Sexual Experience on Psychostimulant- and Opiate-Induced Behavior and Neural Plasticity in the Mesocorticolimbic Pathway. *Int Rev Neurobiol*, 140, 249-270.
- Challagundla L, Reyes J, Rafiqullah I, Sordelli DO, Echaniz-Aviles G, Velazquez-Meza ME, Castillo-Ramírez S, Fittipaldi N, Feldgarden M, Chapman SB, Calderwood MS, Carvajal LP, Rincon S, Hanson B, Planet PJ, Arias CA, Diaz L, Robinson DA. (2018). Phylogenomic Classification and the Evolution of Clonal Complex 5 Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in the Western Hemisphere. *Front. Microbiol.* 9:1901.
- Gordy, X., Jones, E., & Bailey, J. (2018). Technological Innovation or Educational Evolution? A Multi-disciplinary Qualitative Inquiry into Active Learning Classrooms. *J of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, 18(2), 1-23.
- Gurumurthy, B., Griggs, J. A., & Janorkar, A. V. (2018). Optimization of collagen-elastin-like polypeptide composite tissue engineering scaffolds using response surface methodology. *J Mech Behav Biomed Mater*, 84, 116-125.
- Hasan, M. H., Davis, L. E., Bollavarapu, R. K., D., M., Parmar, R. C., & Tandon, R. (In Press). Dynamins are required for efficient cytomegalovirus maturation and envelopment. *J Virol*.
- Kuiper, L., & Coolen, L. (In Press). Compulsive sexual behavior in humans and preclinical models. *Curr Sex Health Rep*.
- Syed, M., Ball, J. P., Mathis, K. W., Hall, M. E., Ryan, M. J., Rothenberg, M. E., . . . Romero, D. G. (2018). MicroRNA-21 Ablation Exacerbates Aldosterone-Mediated Cardiac Injury, Remodeling and Dysfunction. *Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab*.
- Torres, F. E., Adams, K., Seed, M., Romero, D., & Yanes, C. L. (2018). Long Lasting Androgen-induced cardio metabolic effects in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome. *J Endocr Soc*, 2(8), 949-964.
- Williams, S. R., Thompson, K. L., Notebaert, A. J., & Sinning, A. R. (2018). Prosection or Dissection: Which is Best for Teaching the Anatomy of the Hand and Foot? *Anat Sci Educ*.
- Wright, R. T., Hayes, D., Sherwood, P. J., Stafford, W. F., & Correia, J. J. (2018). AUC measurements of diffusion coefficients of monoclonal antibodies in the presence of human serum proteins. *Eur Biophys J*.
- Wright, R. T., Hayes, D. B., Stafford, W. F., Sherwood, P. J., & Correia, J. J. (2018). Characterization of therapeutic antibodies in the presence of human serum proteins by AU-FDS analytical ultracentrifugation. *Anal Biochem*, 550, 72-83.
- Zai-Rose, V., West, S. J., Kramer, W. H., Bishop, G. R., Lewis, E. A., & Correia, J. J. (In Press). Effects of Doxorubicin on the Liquid- Liquid Phase Change Properties of ELP. *Biophys J*.
- Zamarripa, C., Edwards, S., Qureshi, H., Yi, J., Blough, B., & Freeman, K. (2018). The G-protein biased mu-opioid agonist, TRV130, produces reinforcing and antinociceptive effects that are comparable to oxycodone in rats. *Drug Alcohol Depend*, 192, 158-162.