Research Highlighted in OVCR 2016 Annual Report

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research released its 2016 Annual Report, highlighting the research accomplishments of UIC faculty, trainees, and centers. Highlights include a $5M Federal grant from the Department of Education to increase the number of Latino students graduating with STEM degrees, a $17.7M NIH grant to CCTS for translational research, $45M in funding to the Illinois Precision Medicine Initiative Cohort Program Consortium for personalized medical care, and a $10M NIH/NCCIH grant to the College of Pharmacy to study the safety and efficacy of botanical dietary supplements for women's health. Our UIC Botanical Center is one of only three such centers to be funded by the NIH’s Office of Dietary Supplements and one of only two funded Centers for Advancing Natural Products Innovation and Technology for the five-year funding cycle that begins this year.

Getting to know our faculty members

Congratulations on new research funding!

Our faculty continue to succeed in competing for research funding!

Simon Pickard (left) received funding from the EuroQol group for his project "US Valuation Study of the EQ-5D-5L".

Scott Franzblau (right) was awarded a Catalyst Grant from the Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC) for his project "A Novel Antibiotic Strategy Exploiting Metabolite Self-Toxicity".
Research by **Dima Qato** (left) has been posted in approximately 1,500 hospitals and emergency rooms across the United States. Dr. Qato’s work on interactions between drugs and supplements in the elderly is featured in the “Physician’s Weekly” poster that will be displayed at institutions such as Duke University Medical Center, Johns Hopkins, Penn Medicine, Northwestern University, and many others. See the article [here](#).

**Maria Barbolina** (center) work on ovarian cancer was highlighted in a UIC news article. Barbolina and colleagues studied a cell-surface fractalkine receptor that is expressed in the majority of ovarian cancer cases. They found that lowering production of this receptor in mouse models inhibited tumor metastasis to nearby sites of the peritoneal wall, bowel or liver. Read the news story [here](#).

**Glen Schumock** (right) spoke as an invited lecturer at the 22nd Congress of the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists held in Cannes, France. The title of his presentation was "How to develop a business plan for clinical pharmacy services". See details of the talk [here](#).

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**Spotlight on our Trainees**

**Graduate Students Give Back**

The [Graduate Student Council](#) in conjunction with the [American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists](#) (AAPS), has expanded their involvement within the STEM and Chicago communities. Students have volunteered at homeless shelters, acted as mentors for UIC College Prep in collaboration with [Tiffany Bumpers](#) through the Urban Health Program, prepared dinner through the Ronald McDonald House on Thanksgiving, and volunteered as judges at the Chicago Public School Science Fair.

**Top Pictures: Chicago Public School Science Fair Judges:**

Taha Taha (Petukhov), Ben Richardson (Moore), Loru Delgado-Rivera (Thatcher), Sezen Meydan (Mankin), Lauren Gutgesell (Thatcher), Vanessa Nepomuceno (Murphy), Rachel Knopp (Thatcher), Emily Rue (Van Breeman), Sue Lee (Thatcher)

**Bottom Picture: Ronald McDonald House Thanksgiving Dinner (using donated food and money from the CoP food drive):**

Taha Taha (Petukhov), Vanessa Nepomuceno (Murphy), Jessica Cleary (Sanchez), Peter Sullivan (Orjala), Weilun Chen (Burdette), Kyle Mangano (Sanchez), Bryan David (Moore), Rebecca Kent
Artemis Gogos receives AMA Seed Grant

MSTP Student Artemis Gogos (Federle lab) received a Foundation Seed Grant from the American Medical Association (AMA). The Seed Grant Research Program encourages medical students, physician residents, and fellows to enter the research field and conduct basic science projects. Artemis' grant will help fund her project "Exploring the Role of a S. Pyogenes Quorum Sensing System on Adherence and Invasion of Tonsillar Epithelial Cells".

Alexandria Young earns NIH NRSA

MSTP student Ally Young (Burdette Lab) earned a Ruth L Kirschstein National Service Award (NRSA) for MD/PhD students from the NIH. This fellowship will fund her doctoral research on "FemKube, the Human Female Reproductive Tract-on-a-chip, as a Platform for Studying High Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer and Developing Novel Cancer Chemotherapeutics".

Miaoran Ning Highlighted in AAPS Magazine

BPS student, AAPS UIC Chapter chair, and AAPS Foundation Graduate Student Fellow Miaoran Ning (Jeong lab) has her research featured in the April edition of the AAPS Newsmagazine. Miaoran is researching the molecular basis of inter-individual variability in CYP2D6-mediated drug metabolism. Read the full news article here.

More Research News

UIC/NIH Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements Research Pilot Project Award Program Open

The UIC/NIH Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements Research is soliciting proposals for its Pilot Project award program.

PURPOSE
The awards are intended to provide investigators with the resources needed to develop preliminary data about a research hypothesis, with the expectation that awardees will subsequently develop fully formed extramural research applications for peer-review on the basis of data generated through this award. The UIC Botanical Center is focused on the selection, mechanism of action, safety and efficacy of botanicals used for women's health. Pilot Project research should complement the Center research themes.
SCOPE
Applications should outline plans to study botanicals that are used for or have the potential use for human health, including but not limited to botanicals available as dietary supplements.

Research programs might:
1) identify and characterize new botanicals
2) assess the bioavailability and bioactivity of botanical components
3) conduct pre-clinical evaluations of botanicals

Research must be completed within one year and funding is not renewable. The following will be considered outside the scope of this Pilot Project solicitation and will not be reviewed:
1) screening studies
2) studies designed to assess the variability of botanical ingredients in consumer products
3) clinical trials

ELIGIBILITY
The goal of the pilot project program is to provide junior researchers or those investigators new to botanical research the opportunity to develop preliminary data leading to independent, fundable research grant applications.

AWARD
The recipient of the Pilot Project Award will receive $25,000 with no F&A permitted.

SUBMISSION PROCESS
Applicants are required to submit NIH-style proposals on form PHS 398 electronically to Dr. Tonsing-Carter by May 1, 2017. The package (excluding biosketches and references) should not be greater than 6 pages.

Read more about the program here.

UICentre is Seeking New Collaborations

The UICentre provides support for a range of translational science activities including seed funding, consultation, project management, and research components for collaborative small molecule drug discovery. Support has varied depending on the mix of research needs for each project, ranging from $10-65k or up to $100k if internal resources are also costed. In 2017, UICentre will favor funding HTS for discovery of small molecule hits for biomedically relevant targets. In the spirit of the Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC) HTS award program that is no longer active, UICentre will provide matching funds for projects demonstrating availability of a bioassay that is suitable for HTS. For a brief overview of HTS assay criteria and technology, please look here.

Important Dates/Upcoming Events

MIKI Meeting
04/07-04/09/2017
University of Minnesota

Experimental Biology Annual Meeting
04/22-04/26, 2017
McCormick Place Convention Center

Vahlteich Bridge Funding
04/28/17 (Due date)

UICentre/NIH Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements Research Pilot Project Award Program
05/01/2017 (Due Date)

College of Pharmacy Commencement
05/04/2017 @ 7:30 pm
UIC Forum

Responsible Conduct of Research Workshop Seminar - Human Research Subjects Ethics
Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education

Joanna E. Burdette, PhD, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education
John L. Nitiss, PhD, Assistant Dean For Research
Hyunyoung Jeong, PhD, Director of Graduate Education
Lindsey E. McQuade, PhD, Director, Research & Graduate Resources