November 2016

Getting to know our faculty members

Rockford Campus Welcomes Kevin Rynn as new Vice Dean

Dr. Kevin Rynn, PharmD, will be rejoining the College of Pharmacy as the Vice Dean for Rockford campus starting January 1, 2017. Dr. Rynn is currently the Vice Dean and Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science's College of Pharmacy. Dr. Rynn's research focuses on the role of the pharmacist in emergency medicine and clinical toxicology, specifically overdose management and benefits of pharmacy services to emergency departments. Dr. Rynn will replace Dr. John Niiss as the interim Vice Dean, who we would like to thank for his time and efforts to improve Rockford campus student experiences through his many initiatives during his tenure.

Congratulations to our Faculty Awards Recipients

Five College of Pharmacy faculty members were honored on October 26 at the 2015-2016 Faculty Award Reception hosted by the Provost's office and Office of Faculty Affairs. Melissa Badowski, Judy Bolton, Henri Manasse Jr., Edith Nutescu, and Daniel Touchette were recognized for their significant external awards. Jim Wang received his University Scholar Award, which identifies outstanding members of the UIC faculty. Dean Jerry Bauman was honored as a UIC Distinguished Professor, which recognizes faculty who have made a significant impact upon their field through scholarship, creativity, and leadership.

Congratulations on new research funding!
Our faculty continue to succeed in competing for research funding!

Mike Federle (left) and co-I Jennifer Chang received an R01 grant from the NIH/NIAID for their project "Mechanisms of Pheromone-Controlled Lysozyme Resistance and Surface Display of Streptococcus Pyogenes."

Scott Franzblau (center) was awarded two grants, one from the Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC) with co-Is Celerino Abad-Zapatero, Farahnaz Movahed Zadeh, and Nina Wolf for their project "High-Throughput Screening and Validation of Inhibitors Against M. Tuberculosis Class II FBPase", and one as a subcontract from the NIH/NIAID with co-I Young Jeong (right) for their project "Design, Syntheses and Studies of Novel Antituberculosis Agents."

View the full funding news.

Faculty in the News

A letter by Dean Jerry Bauman was published in the Journal Standard in response to an earlier article by the publication on the College of Medicine expansion at the Rockford campus. Dean Bauman elaborated on the impact of the campus on the Rockford community, and praised faculty and student research at that site.

Read the full letter in the Journal Standard here.

A research article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) from the lab of Shura Mankin and Nora Vazquez-Laslop was highlighted in a UIC News story in the Health & Medicine Section. The research elucidates how some widely prescribed ribosomal-targeting antibiotics disrupt protein synthesis only at specific checkpoints, as opposed to being universal inhibitors, as once thought.

Read the UIC News story here and the research article here.

As first reported in the June/July newsletter, Greg Thatcher, founding director of the UICenter, was named 2015 Innovator of the Year by the UIC Office of Technology Management (OTM). The Innovator of the Year Award recognizes researchers who have advanced their inventions toward commercialization. The award includes a $3,500 prize and a plaque, which is prominently displayed in the hallway of the OTM.

Read the UIC news story about Dr. Thatcher and his award here.

Spotlight on our Trainees

Patrick Zueger named a Paul D. Doolen Graduate Scholar for the Study of Aging

Patrick Zueger (Pickard lab) has been named a Paul D. Doolen Graduate Scholar for the Study of Aging. Patrick is one of only two awardees in the University of Illinois System for 2016-2017. The objective of the Doolen Scholarship is to facilitate the study of aging by providing scholarships to two outstanding graduate students. These scholarships are made possible by an endowment from the Retirement Research Foundation to honor the late Mr. Paul D. Doolen, a long-time member of the University of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors.
Yilun Sun & Alexandria Young Give Platform Talk at Chicago Cancer Biology Retreat

Yilun Sun (Nitis lab) and Alexandria Young (Burdette Lab) were selected to give platform talks at the inaugural Chicago Cancer Biology retreat, which was a collaboration between Northwestern, University of Chicago, and UIC. Yilun’s presentation was titled “Targeting DNA repair pathways to enhance the anti-cancer activity of topoisomerase II inhibitors” and Ally’s was called “Phyllanthusmins, a potential new class of natural product chemotherapeutic, for use in the treatment of ovarian cancer.”

More Research News

Miscellaneous from around the College

The College of Pharmacy was awarded a new institutional training grant, the Pharmacology Industry Internships for PhD Students (PIIPS) Award, funded by the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET). Only three programs in the country received funding for such a program. Under director Joanna Burdette and coordinator Lindsey McQuade, the award will fund graduate students to intern at pharmaceutical companies over the summer, where they will gain experience in the industry, learn new skills, develop professionally, and make valuable contacts with industry leaders. Applications for the program will open this winter.

Read the press release from ASPET here.

The 6th Annual Image of Research Competition was a success! We received 173 votes, and the winning image (left) was “The Light of Hope Against Tuberculosis” by Mary Choules (Pauli lab). Mary describes her image as such: “The crystallized form of a cyclic peptide in an NMR tube found to be a potential anti-tuberculosis drug lead. The crystals radiate out from the center much like a star, while light catches the golden yellow and reflects it back to the table as a spark of light within the shadow. The shadow represents the worldwide fight against tuberculosis, while the glimmer of light is the hope of new therapies. Currently, tuberculosis is ranked as the number one infectious disease killer worldwide. Through continuous drug discovery programs like the Institute for Tuberculosis Research (ITR) we can help to shine the light of hope on this deadly disease.” Second prize went to Maryam Muhammad & Sylvia Kunakom (Eustaquio lab) and third prize to Shuai Wang (Bolton lab). Check out the College of Pharmacy Facebook page for the “Image of the Week” news feature that showcases one new image submitted to this year’s competition per week.

Applications are opening December 1 for the Summer 2017 Riback PharmD Summer Research Fellowship. Please help us spread the word to motivated P1 and P2 PharmD students interested in research careers in biomedical sciences. Details about the program and the flyer can be downloaded from our website. Letters of Intent are due 03/06/17 and full applications close 03/20/2017.

More College News.
Save the Date!
Research Day is Friday, February 10, 2017

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Donald McDonnell from the Duke University School of Medicine. Dr. McDonnell is the Glaxo-Wellcome Professor of Molecular Cancer Biology and Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology & Cancer Biology. In addition, he serves as Co-Director of the Women's Cancer Program within the Duke Cancer Institute. His research is focused on the genetic and pharmacologic dissection of the nuclear receptor superfamily of ligand-regulated transcription factors and, more specifically, on defining the mechanism of action of those nuclear receptors whose expression and/or activity is implicated in the pathogenesis of breast and prostate cancer. His lecture is entitled: "Mechanism-based discovery of new therapeutic targets in the estrogen receptor signaling pathway in breast cancer." Tentative schedule and more information can be found on the Research Day website.

Miscellaneous from around the Campus

The Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) announced the new Associate Director for Research for the Biomedical Informatics Core. Ed Barbour, MS, has a BS in Computer Science from Oakland University, Rochester, MI, an MS in Bioinformatics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is currently a PhD candidate in Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics at the University of Michigan. Previously he directed the Informatics Core at The Rockefeller University in New York.

More CCTS news.

Important Dates/Upcoming Events

NIH Mock Review Session
Thursday, 12/08 @ 10:00 am
SPH-P1, Auditorium Rm. 109

College Holiday Party
12/12 @ 2:30 pm
PHARM 2N Suite

Responsible Conduct of Research Workshop Seminar - Responsible Authorship
Wednesday, 01/11/2017 @ 12:00 pm
AOB 307 C (OVCR Conference Room)

ASPET Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)
Wednesday, 02/01/2017 (Application Due Date)

College of Pharmacy Research Day
Friday, 02/10/2017
College of Pharmacy - multiple rooms

Riback PharmD Summer Research Fellowship
Monday, 03/06/2017 (LOI Due Date)
Monday, 03/20/2017 (Application Due Date)

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

View All College of Pharmacy Events