



July 2018

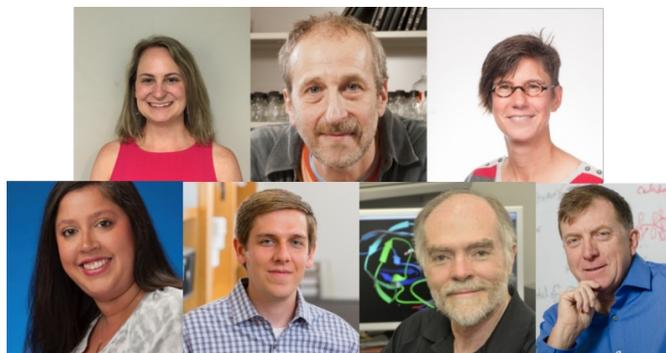
Getting to know our faculty members

Have Research-Related News?



If you or a lab member have research-related news or awards you would like to see highlighted in the monthly newsletter, please email the details to Lindsey at lmquade@uic.edu by the 26th of August for the next edition of the Research Newsletter!

Congratulations on New Research Funding



[Joanna Burdette](#) (top left) and [Steve Swanson](#) (University of Wisconsin, Madison) received a P01 subcontract from Ohio State University for their project "Discovery Of Anticancer Agents Of Diverse Natural Origin".

[Shura Mankin](#) (top middle) received a Conference Support grant from the NSF for the 2019 Ribosome Meeting.

[Lisa Sharp](#) (top right) received a grant from the Edward Hines Jr Veterans Administration Hospital for her project "Improving Veteran Health by Increasing Dental Stewardship of Antibiotics and Opioids".

[Laura Sanchez](#) (bottom left) and co-I [Rachel Dutton](#) (UCSD) received funding from the NSF for their project "Collaborative Research: Chemical and genetic mechanisms driving microbial interactions in a model microbiome".

Three CoP faculty had projects selected for funding by the Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC). [Zack Bulman](#) (bottom, middle left) and co-PI [Alan Hauser](#) (Northwestern) had their project, "Carbapenem-Resistant *K. pneumoniae* Genomic Biomarkers that Predict Poor Outcomes", selected for the Catalyst award. [Mike Johnson](#) (bottom, middle right) and co-PI [Leslie Fung](#) (Chemistry) had their project, "Establish Animal Efficacy Proof of Concept for Highly Active Antimicrobial Leads", selected for the Accelerator award. [Greg Thatcher](#) (bottom right) had his project, "A Novel BET Inhibitor for Breast Cancer Combination Therapy", also selected for the Accelerator award.

Faculty Awards



[Katie Suda](#) (left) was presented with the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy ([AACP](#)) Social and Administrative Sciences Section ([SAS](#)), Best Research Publication Award. Her winning publication, "Opioid Dispensing and Overlap in Veterans with Non-cancer Pain Eligible for Medicare Part D", can be read [here](#).

[Jan Engle](#) (right) has been selected as a 2018-2019 University of Illinois System President's Executive Leadership Program ([PELP](#)) Fellow. PELP is a unique professional development program designed to broaden participants' understanding of higher education issues and to strengthen their leadership skills related to overseeing a public institution at the university or system level.

Faculty in the News



[Doug Thomas](#) (left) and [Debra Tonetti](#) (right) were both highlighted by the [UI Cancer Center](#) this month. The Thomas lab was featured for their work on epigenetic pathways that control specific phenotypes in cancer cells. The aim of the research is to learn how cancer cells become drug resistant, with the goal of using this knowledge to test new drugs to target or reverse drug resistant phenotypes. Specifically, the Thomas lab is investigating whether drugs that can alter chromatin structure by modifying histones, highly conserved basic proteins that act as spools around which DNA winds to form chromatin, are a viable option to treat aggressive cancers. Read the full story [here](#).

The Tonetti lab, in collaboration with the [Thatcher](#) lab, is testing a new drug (TTC-352) that has the potential to help women whose breast cancer has stopped responding to hormone therapy. The drug is a selective estrogen mimic that causes complete tumor regression, but unlike tamoxifen, it may reduce the risk of uterine cancer development. About two thirds of breast cancers are ER-and/or PR-positive cancers, meaning they contain cells with receptors for the estrogen and/or progesterone hormones. For these cancers, high estrogen levels help the cancer cells grow and spread. Hormone therapy is considered to be highly effective at fighting ER-positive breast cancer, but nearly 50 percent of the women who undergo this type of treatment still develop a resistance to the medication and experience a recurrence. The Phase 1 clinical trial is currently open at four sites throughout the US, with a fifth site opening soon. Read the full story [here](#).

Spotlight on our Trainees

Ryan Hitzman earns NRSA



CBS student Ryan Hitzman ([Bolton lab](#)) received a [Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Individual National Research Service Award](#) from the NIH/NCCIH for his project "Botanical Modulation of AhR-ERa by Crosstalk Inhibitors Promotes Estrogen (E2) Detoxification".

Mary Choules highlighted in Nature Reviews

PharmD/PhD student Mary Choules ([Pauli lab](#)) had a publication selected for editor's choice in the Journal of Organic Chemistry, which was subsequently featured as a Research Highlight by Nature Reviews Drug Discovery. Read the article [here](#) and the highlight [here](#).



More Research News

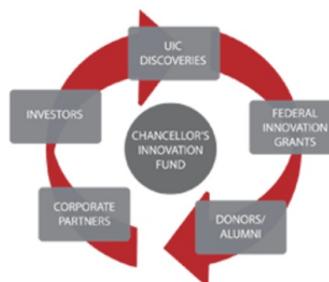
CoP hosts Third Annual Mass Spec Day



On July 20, 2018, [Laura Sanchez](#), [Stephanie Cologna](#) (Department of Chemistry), and their students and postdocs hosted the third Annual Chicago [Mass Spectrometry Day](#). It was an educational and networking event for students in the Chicagoland area, as well as an opportunity to highlight exciting mass spec applications that are occurring locally. The morning sessions were early career scientist talks presented and attended by students and postdocs only. The afternoon began with an MS Primer and Facility tour, followed by the keynote lecture ("Targeting the Next Generation of Mass Spectrometry Instrumentation Development"), which was presented by Dr. [Theresa Evans-Nguyen](#) (University of South Florida).

OTM Offering Proof of Concept Awards

The Office of Technology Management ([OTM](#)), in partnership with [IllinoisVENTURES](#) is inviting new UIC [Chancellor's Innovation Fund Proof of Concept Award](#) applications, with pre-proposals due August 17, 2018 at 5 pm CST. Funded proposals have the potential to receive funding of up to \$200,000 over 2 phases of funding. Final award amount will be determined by scope of work of milestones to be completed with the input of the review committees. To be eligible for funding, projects must be based on a UIC invention that has been disclosed to the Office of Technology Management. For instructions on submitting a Pre-Proposal Application and to download a Pre-Proposal Application Form, please visit the UIC Chancellor's Innovation Fund [website](#). All Pre-Proposal Application submissions must be sent to pocsubmission@uic.edu. The UIC Chancellor's Innovation Fund (CIF) was established at UIC by the Office of the Chancellor in partnership with IllinoisVENTURES to support the commercialization of technology developed by UIC faculty, staff and students based on UIC research. Up to \$5M has been committed for the program which positions UIC as a leader in transforming discoveries originating inside universities into useful products and services that benefit society and generate economic impact.



Important Dates/Upcoming Events

[4th Annual SURF Riback Mini Symposium](#)

Thursday, 08/02/2018

MBRB 3rd Floor Lobby

[Pharmapalooza](#)

Wednesday, 08/22/2018

MBRB Lawn

[Illinois Ignite](#)

Thursday, 09/27/2018

Big10 Conference Center, Rosemont, IL

[Research Day](#)

Friday, 02/08/2019

College of Pharmacy, various

[View All College of Pharmacy Events](#)

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