



November 2018

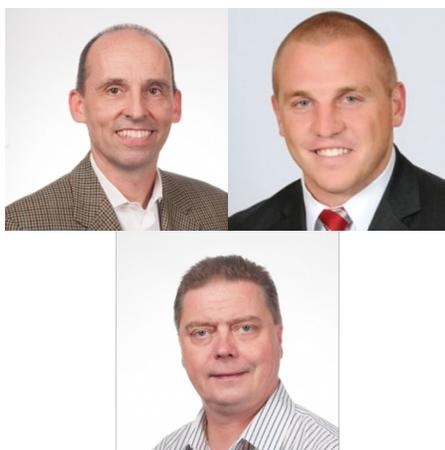
## Getting to know our faculty members

### 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 [lmcquade@uic.edu](mailto:lmcquade@uic.edu) by the 26th of December for the next edition of the Research Newsletter!

### Congratulations on New Research Funding



[Guido Pauli](#) (top left) and Botanical Center co-Is received supplemental funding for their projects "Single laboratory validation of UHPLC-MS/MS assays of red clover and milk thistle" and "Sex-differences in Distribution and Bioactivity of Phytoestrogen containing Botanical Dietary Supplements".

[Eric Wenzler](#) (top right) and co-I David Butler received a grant from Shionogi & Co Ltd for their project "Cefiderocol Clearance during *in vitro* Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy."

[Guido Pauli](#) and [Jimmy Orjala](#) (bottom) renewed a T32 grant from the NCCIH/NIH for their training program "Research Training in Natural Product Complementary and Integrative Health."

## Todd Lee named Head of Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes, and Policy



Professor [Todd Lee](#) has been appointed head of the Department of Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes and Policy (PSOP), after 11 months as interim head. Todd's research focuses on patient outcomes from the use of medications with interest in both safety and costs and the intersection of the two disciplines. He has conducted both observational and interventional research across a variety of therapeutic areas including COPD, asthma, diabetes, cancer, and mental illness with particular interest in understanding the impact of the co-occurrence of multiple chronic conditions. Todd has held several administrative positions prior to this one, including Co-Director of the Center for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics Research, and Associate Head for Research in PSOP.

## Faculty in the News



The research of [Debra Tonetti](#) (top left) and [Greg Thatcher](#) (top right) was highlighted by the Cancer Center this month. Their compound G1T48, licensed to biopharmaceutical company G1 Therapeutics, has entered into Phase 1/2a clinical trial. The drug was demonstrated to be more potent in preclinical trials than fulvestrant - the only selective estrogen receptor degrader (SERD) approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat hormone receptor positive metastatic breast cancer in postmenopausal women, according to representatives at G1 Therapeutics. About 70 percent of breast cancer patients have estrogen receptor positive (ER+) tumors. Tamoxifen and aromatase inhibitors - both of which are considered endocrine or hormone therapy - represent first-line treatment for ER+ patients. However, up to 50 percent of these patients either do not respond to the treatment or acquire resistance within five years of therapy. G1 Therapeutics had been interested in licensing a SERD drug but had not found one that they thought would succeed. But after reviewing the pre-clinical data for G1T48, the company believed it was the one.

[Simon Pickard](#) (bottom left) was quoted in a recent Chicago Sun-Times article on the future of brick and mortar pharmacies in Chicago. "I would imagine it's inevitable that traditional brick-and-mortar pharmacies become less prevalent," he (Simon) said. More and more drugs will be dispensed by pharmacists working in high-volume pharmacy centers that send patients medicine via mail. This was in response to the newest Walgreens that opened in the West Loop last month, the only Chicago store without a pharmacy in it. Read the full article [here](#).

The work of [Dima Qato](#) (bottom right) has resulted in new legislation being introduced into the US House of Representatives. U.S. Representative Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.) introduced H.R. 6717, the "Depression Side Effect Labeling Awareness Act of 2018." This legislation would amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and require that drugs with an increased risk of suicide or depression have a prominent label detailing those side effects. The legislation was in response to Dima's JAMA [article](#) this summer, "Prevalence of Prescription Medications With Depression as a Potential Adverse Effect Among Adults in the United States". Read more about the bill [here](#).

## Faculty Awards

Two UIC faculty, including [John Nitiss](#) were named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science ([AAAS](#)), an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers. [Wonhwa Cho](#), (Chemistry) and John are among 416 members in the 2018 cohort to have been awarded this honor by AAAS because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. The researchers will be honored at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the 2019 AAAS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

John was selected to become a fellow for his contributions to the study of topoisomerase targeting anti-cancer drugs and the development of yeast systems for studying anti-cancer drugs and other small molecules. His Rockford-based laboratory uses a combination of genetic and biochemical tools to understand the action of anti-cancer agents. John's hallmark approach has been to use yeast as a model system to precisely define the pathways responsible for cell killing and drug resistance, and to apply insights obtained with yeast to *in vitro* biochemical systems and to mammalian cells.



## Spotlight on our Trainees

### Olivert Mbah & Fnu Qurratulain Present at MECC



Two undergrad researchers in the [Movahed Zadeh](#) lab, Olivert Mbah and Fnu Qurratulain, presented a poster at the 38th Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference ([MECC](#)) conference on October 20th, 2018. Their poster was entitled "Crystallization study of inositol Monophosphatase, a bifunctional Enzyme from *M. smegmatis*"

Olivert Mbah (right) also received the UIC Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Award ([CURA](#)) for Fall 2018/Spring 2019 to continue her work in the Movahed Zadeh lab.

### Jessica Tang Receives Forensic Science Foundation Student Scholarship Award

Forensic Sciences student Jessica Tang ([Hall lab](#)) was selected as one of the recipients of the 2019 Forensic Science Foundation Student Scholarship Award. The award covers cost of registration to attend the American Academy of Forensic Sciences ([AAFS](#)) 71st Annual Scientific Meeting that will be held February 18-23, 2019 at the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MA. At the meeting, Jessica will present her paper entitled "Tracking DNA Loss in Forensic Touch Samples".



## Itzel Lizama-Chamu wins Poster Award



[L@s GANAS](#) Research Fellow Itzel Lizama-Chamu ([Sanchez lab](#)) won an 'Outstanding Poster Presentation in Microbiology' award in the Microbiology discipline at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students ([ABRCMS](#)). The title of her poster was 'Chemical Communication of a Natural Cheese Rind Fungus with *Pseudomonas* vs. *E. coli*'

## Yukuang Guo awards American Heart Association Fellowship

Yukuang Guo ([Jeong lab](#)) received a 2-year American Heart Association ([AHA](#)) [Predoctoral Fellowship](#) for his project titled "The role of gut bacteria in tacrolimus disposition." The AHA fellowship is to enhance the integrated research and clinical training of promising students who are matriculated in pre-doctoral or clinical health professional degree training programs and who intend careers as scientists, physician-scientists or other clinician-scientists, or related careers aimed at improving global cardiovascular health.



## More Research News

### Image Competition Voting Open



The [8th Annual Images of Research Competition](#) is over! First prize went to Karol Sokolowski & Alec Thompson, Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences, for their image "Unexpected Results". From the authors:

"The agarose gel in this image is a common characterization tool used in most laboratory settings but was accidentally frozen in the fridge due to a malfunction in the temperature gauge.

The gel was removed with a layer of thin ice over it in the formation of this beautiful design. My laboratory uses polymer engineering techniques in order to create controlled drug release systems which we hope will be administered to wound victims to speed up the process of healing utilizing the body's immune system. Using gels like these, allow for us to portray our results in the laboratory setting to advance the field of controlled release formulations."

Second prize went to Yukuang Guo, Department of Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy, for his image "Oxygen-Free World", and third prize went to Matthew Dean, Department of Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy, for his image "Metastasis". See all images in high resolution [here](#).

## Important Dates/Upcoming Events

### [How to Apply for a CATS Award](#)

Wednesday, 12/05/2018 @ 1-2 pm  
COMRB 3175

### [Responsible Conduct of Research Workshop Seminar - Authorship](#)

Wednesday, 12/12/2018 @ 12-1 pm  
AOB Room 307C

[DPI Seed Funding Program Deadline](#)

Friday, 01/18/2019

[Research Day](#)

Friday, 02/08/2019

College of Pharmacy, various

[View All College of Pharmacy Events](#)

## *Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education*

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