



October 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 November for the next edition of the Research Newsletter!

Congratulations on New Research Funding



[Lisa Sharp](#) (top left) PI [Brian Ziebart](#) (Computer Science), and co-Is [Barbara DiEugenio](#) (Computer Science), [Ben Gerber](#) (Medicine), and [Bing Liu](#) (Computer Science) received an NSF grant for their project "SCH: The Virtual Assistant Health Coach: Learning to Autonomously Improved Health Behaviors".

[Simon Pickard](#) (top right) received funding from the EuroQol group for his project "Extending the QALY project in the United States".

[Mike Koronkowski](#) (bottom left), PI [Valerie Gruss](#) (Biobehavioral Health Science), and co-Is [Susan Altfeld](#) (School of Public Health), [Ashish Ansal](#) (Family Medicine), [Katya Cruz Madrid](#) (Geriatrics), [Mementoona Hasnain](#) (Maternal & Child Health), [Tanjeev Kaur](#) (Geriatrics), [Christopher Mitchell](#) (Social Work), [Laura Perry](#) (Family Medicine), [Elizabeth Peterson](#) (Occupational Therapy), and [Alana Steffen](#) (Health Systems Science) received a grant from the US Dept of Health & Human Services (HRSA) for their project "Enhancing Primary Care with an Interprofessional Geriatric Program: Empowering and Educating Healthcare Professionals, Patients, Families, Caregivers and Communities".

[Surrey Walton](#) (bottom right), PI [Geri Donenberg](#) (Medicine), and co-Is [Erin Emerson](#) (School of Public Health), [Sally Freels](#) (Epidemiology/Biostatistics), and [Aerika Loyd](#) (Education) received a UG3 award from the NICHD/NIH for their project "Multilevel Comprehensive HIV Prevention for South African Adolescent Girls and Young Women".

Welcome New Faculty



[Steve Seung-Young Lee](#) earned his Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Hongik University, his Masters in Materials Science and Engineering from Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, and his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Purdue University, working with Dr. Ji-Xin Cheng on nanomedicines for cancer chemotherapy. He then did a postdoc with Dr. Stephen J. Kron at the The University of Chicago, before he joined the Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences at UIC. The Lee Lab focuses on understanding how the tumor immune microenvironment (TIME) impacts PK/PD of therapeutic antibodies and how they can target the TIME to enhance therapeutic effects.

Faculty in the News



The research of [Laura Sanchez](#) and [Joanna Burdette](#), originally published in [ACS Central Sciences](#), has been featured by the [UI Cancer Center](#) and [C&E News](#). The study demonstrates that cancer cells in the fallopian tube affect normal chemical signaling between reproductive tissues and stimulate the release of norepinephrine, a small molecule hormone, from the ovary. Their data suggests that the cancer cells take over the communication between the fallopian tube and the ovary to create an environment that is more hospitable to its growth, and that the increased norepinephrine levels cause cancer cells to migrate from the fallopian tube to the ovary.

Read the original article [here](#).

Faculty Awards

The National Academy of Medicine ([NAM](#)) has selected PSOP Professor [Dima Qato](#) to serve as its 2018 [Fellow in Pharmacy](#). The NAM Fellowship allows early-career health science scholars to participate in evidence-based health care or public health studies that affect the health of the American people. Through direct involvement in health- and medicine-related work of involvement in health- and medicine-related work of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (the National Academies), the fellowship prepares young investigators to contribute to the future direction of health care throughout their careers while also accelerating their career development. During her two-year term as a fellow, Qato will collaborate with researchers, policy experts, and clinicians from across the country in support of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's mission to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions related to science, technology, and medicine.



Spotlight on our Trainees

Omar Perez earns ACCP RI Futures Grants



P4 PharmD student Omar Perex (left) ([Bulman Lab](#)) received a [RI Futures Grant](#) from the American College of Clinical Pharmacy ([ACCP](#)). The ACCP Foundation Frontiers Fund supports pharmacy researcher development and pharmacy research advancement. Through the Foundation's Futures Grants program, the Foundation Board of Trustees is especially interested in supporting the development of research skills among student, trainee, and early-career ACCP members with a goal of establishing sustained interest and careers in pharmacy research. Omar will work on "Treatment Strategies for Ceftazidime-Avibactam Resistant KPC-Producing *K. pneumoniae*" with this award.

Alexandria Young receives AACR Scholar in Training Travel Grant

MSTP Student Ally Young ([Burdette lab](#)) received a [Scholar-in-Training Award](#) from the American Association for Cancer Research ([AACR](#)). Since its inception in 1986, the AACR Annual Meeting Scholar-in-Training Award program has provided more than 4,580 grants to young investigators and has received support from more than 55 cancer research foundations, corporations, individuals, and other organizations dedicated to the fight against cancer. Scholar-in-Training Awards are highly competitive and recognize outstanding young investigators presenting meritorious proffered papers at the AACR Annual Meeting.



Nina Wolf gives Invited Talk



ITR Postdoc Nina Wolf ([Franzblau](#) and [Cho](#) labs) was invited to give a talk at the [38th Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference](#) on October 20, 2018 at Northwestern University. The MECC features oral presentations by graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and a few faculty (mostly assistant professors) from the region. Nina's talk was entitled "High-resolution structure of ClpC 1-rufomycin provides framework to design and optimize anti-TB lead"

Jonathan Bisson delivers Workshop

Visiting Research Assistant Professor Jonathan Bisson ([CENAPT](#)) was invited to give 3 workshop courses at the [6th Latin American NMR School](#) in Bogotá, Colombia, as a representative of the Center for Natural Product Technologies.



Jessica Cleary awarded Travel Stipend



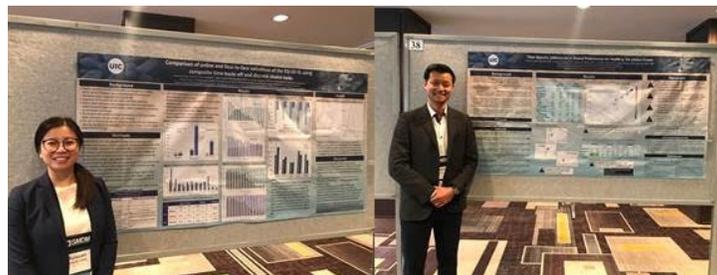
MCP Student Jessica Cleary ([Sanchez lab](#)) was selected to receive a travel stipend for the [ASMS 2018 Fall Workshop on Metabolomics Informatics](#) to be held in San Francisco November 29-30. The American Society for Mass Spectrometry ([ASMS](#)) Fall Workshop "Metabolomics Informatics" is designed to provide a broad perspective on the state of data processing in metabolomics by leading experts in the field.

Melissa Galey receives Graduate College Student Presenter Award

MCP Student Melissa Galey ([Sanchez lab](#)) received a [Student Presenter Award](#) from the Graduate College. The Graduate College offers funds to deserving students to defray expenses associated with travel to present original research or scholarly work. Qualifying presentations must be at a meeting or conference of a nationally or internationally recognized scientific or scholarly society.



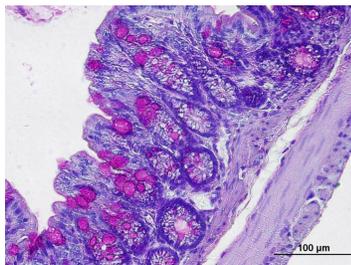
Ruixuan Jiang and Ernest Law awarded the Lee B. Lusted Student Prize



PSOP student Ruixuan Jiang and alum Ernest Law ([Pickard lab](#)) were both awarded the [Lee B. Lusted Student Prize](#) for outstanding presentations of research from the Society for Medical Decision Making ([SMDM](#)) at their Annual Meeting. They both won in the category of Patient and Stakeholder Preferences and Engagement where only two awards were given out. Ruixuan's poster was entitled "Comparison of online and face-to-face valuations of the EQ-5D-5L using composite time trade-off and discrete choice tasks" and Ernest's was "Time-Specific Differences in Stated Preferences for Health in the United States".

More Research News

Image Competition Voting Open



The [8th Annual Images of Research Competition](#) voting period is open! This competition offers COP trainees the opportunity to submit digital images created over the course of their research and was open to any student enrolled in one of the COP programs or postdoc currently working in the College. Anyone in the college is welcome and encourage to vote between 10/17 - 11/09. First prize is a \$150 Amazon gift card, to be awarded on or after November 12, 2018.

College Hosts Internship Events for Graduate Students



The [AAPS UIC Student Chapter](#) hosted a "Career Panel Discussion: Alternative Industry Career Paths for Scientists" with AbbVie representatives on October 9, 2018. Five PhDs from AbbVie discussed the career encounters that led them to where they are professionally. Another representative from AbbVie shared current postdoc positions within the company with the over 50 students from Chicago and Rockford campuses (Pharmacy, Bioengineering, Medicine, Chemistry, Math) and outside universities (Rush, Loyola) that attended. The floor was then open for a Q & A session, which provided a great opportunity for students to network with the professionals from AbbVie and receive career advice.

On October 25, 2018, the Summer Industry Internship Round table was held to provide information about internships to graduate students. Teresa McNally, Medical Writer and Consultant, with Whitsell Innovations (WI) discussed medical writing as a career and provided an overview of the company's internship program. WI is a woman owned, full service medical and scientific writing company focusing on the needs of the pharmaceutical, biotech, and device industries. Following the WI presentation, three current graduate students who who recently interned at pharmaceutical companies shared their experience during a round table discussion. Our "industry experts" answered questions about applying for internships, the interview process, and much more.

Important Dates/Upcoming Events

[8th Annual Image Competition](#)

10/17/2018 - 11/09/2018 (Voting period)

[Responsible Conduct of Research Workshop Seminar - Financial Conflict of Interest](#)

Wednesday, 11/14/2018 @ 12-1 pm

AOB Room 307C

[Research Day](#)

Friday, 02/08/2019

College of Pharmacy, various

[View All College of Pharmacy Events](#)

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