October 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the monthly research update. Our goal is to share news, events and our successes and keep everyone informed. Please e-mail Martina Vaskova with any material you would like to see included in future issues.

Visit our Website

Getting to know our faculty members

Congratulations to our Faculty Awards Recipients

On October 21, 2015, eleven faculty members were honored at a Provost Faculty Awards Reception. Nine were recognized as recipients of significant external awards and presented with awards by Mitra Dutta, Vice Chancellor for Research: Chun-Tao Che, Stephanie Crawford, Michael Federle, Harry Fong, Henri Manasse, Edith Nutescu, Hayat Onyuksel, Simon Pickard, and Glen Schumock. Vice Chancellor Barbara Henley present Teaching Recognition Award to Birget Jaki. And Gregory Thatcher received Graduate Mentoring Award from Dean Karen Colley of the Graduate College.

Read more.

New NIH R01 cancer grant for Dr. Alan Kozikowski

This project aims to exploit common feature of malignancies, i.e. elevated levels of homologous recombinational (HR) DNA repair proficiency. By specifically targeting the central HR protein RAD51, it will develop drug candidates that either exert single-agent anti-cancer activities or sensitize tumors to existing oncology treatments. Dr. Kozikowski is collaborating with Phil Connell at the University of Chicago.

See more funding news.
FDA Accepted New Drug Application for Amphora™ as a Contraceptive

Amphora (clinically known as Acidform) is a non-hormonal contraceptive gel that creates a hostile environment to sperm by maintaining a low vaginal pH and blocking sperm function. Amphora was originally developed by the Topical Prevention of Conception and Disease (TOPCAD) Program in Chicago by Dr. Don Waller and a team of Rush investigators. It was licensed to Instead, Inc. (now Evofem, Inc.) in 2002 and approved by the FDA as a lubricant in 2004. Amphora recently completed a Phase III contraceptive clinical trial and Evofem, Inc. filed a New Drug Application (NDA) for Amphora's use as a non-hormonal vaginal gel contraceptive with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Read more.

Henri Manasse Receives Award from FIP

Henri R. Manasse Jr PhD ScD, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes and Policy received the Joseph A. Odis Award for Exceptional Service during the opening session of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress for Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Dusseldorf, Germany on October 1, 2015. Dr. Manasse was recognized for his many contributions to the organization.

Read more.

Spotlight on our Trainees

UIC Pharmacy graduate programs ranked #9 by students

The rankings are based solely on ratings and reviews from current or recent graduate students posted on graduateprograms.com.

Program rankings, compiled using data gathered between September 1, 2012 and September 30, 2015, encompass reviews posted by more than 75,000 students participating in over 1,600 graduate programs nationwide. Ratings are based on a 10 star system (with 1 being the worst and 10 being the best). UIC ranked as #9 with 8.87 stars.

Read more.

CBC Postdoctoral Research Grants awarded to Binh Chu and Laura Cook
Binh Chu (Brian Murphy Lab, on the left) and Laura Cook (Mike Federle Lab) have both been awarded postdoctoral grants from the Chicago Biomedical Consortium. Congratulations to our postdocs and their mentors!

Read more.

Chancellor’s Undergraduate Research Award goes to six students in the College

Six undergraduate students working in our labs received the Chancellor’s Undergraduate Research Award for both Fall 2015 and Spring 2016. They are (left to right): Sun Choi (Brian Murphy Lab), Shilpa Kolachina (Laura Sanchez Lab), Demi Chae (Joanna Burdette Lab), Adela Lupas (Edith Nutescu Group). Not pictured are James Dominguez (Rick Gemeinhart Lab) and Sarah Khan (Monsheel Sodhi Lab).

Read more.

ISPE is the newest student chapter in the College

The Department of Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes and Policy (PSOP) of the College of Pharmacy has formed a Student Chapter of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE) at UIC. Current president is Wan-Ju Lee and Gregory Calip, PharmD, MPH, PhD, serves as a faculty advisor.

Read more.

More Research News

UIUC 2015 Award of Merit Goes to Beth Woods

The university-wide Award of Merit recognizes outstanding employees who exhibit service, commitment and dedication. Beth Woods will be honored at the Employee Award Ceremony on November 10.

“Beth Woods is an amazingly efficient, productive and inventive leader of the CBS (CPB) administrative team. She never hesitates to take on new challenges and is constantly advancing her knowledge and skills. She has been providing the most friendly and accommodating help to all the members of the CBS ‘family’ - from undergraduate students and high school interns to the faculty members. Center would not be the same without her!” Dr. Shura Mankin, Director of the Center for Biomolecular Sciences (formerly CPB)

Read more.
Help us recruit undergrads into 2016 summer program

We are currently accepting applications for the 2016 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, an ASPET-funded program in the College. Please help us spread the word both at UIC and in greater Chicago area. Details about the program and flyer can be downloaded from our SURF website.

Read more.

Important Dates/Upcoming Events

**Hospira/Pfizer R&D Professional Development Program Presentation**
10/27/15 at 9:30 am
134-3

**LOI for the CRB/OVCR Pilot Grant Deadline**
10/27/15 at noon

**Future of Research Chicago Conference**
10/29/15 8 am - 7 pm
Prentice Hospital Conference Center, Northwestern University

**Treating Women Differently: The Case for Sex-Based Medicine**
10/30/15 11:30 am - 5:30 pm
Prentice Hospital Conference Center, Northwestern University

**COP Website Town Hall Meeting**
11/3/15 12:30 pm
134-3

**CBC HTS Supplemental Grant Deadline**
11/11/15

**Grad Student/Postdoc Seminar**
11/12/15 5 pm

**Career Seminar: PharmD/PhD Industry Career Panel**
11/17/15 12:30 pm
134-3

**Career Seminar: How to Succeed in an Interview**
11/19/15 12 pm
MBRB Auditorium

**Career Seminar: College Teaching Bootcamp**
11/20/15
MBRB Room 1152

**Image Competition Submission Deadline**
11/21/15

**UIC Strategic Plan Update--Town Hall Meeting**
11/30/15 3 pm
Student Center East

**Save the Date: College of Pharmacy Research Day**
Friday 2/26/16

**View all College of Pharmacy Events**