Getting to know our faculty members

Hyunyoung (Young) Jeong named new Director of Graduate Education

Young Jeong has been appointed as the new Director of Graduate Education (DGE). The DGE works closely with the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education to coordinate and oversee the college Masters and PhD programs as well as the clinical fellows and postdoctoral research associates. She will also work closely with our departmental Directors of Graduate Studies to ensure the optimum graduate experience.

Congratulations on new research funding in CBS/UICentre/MCP!

Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy faculty representing the Center for Biomolecular Sciences & UICentre continue to succeed in competing for research funding!

Michael Johnson (top left) received funding from the Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC) for his project "Identification and Development of Small Molecules that Inhibit the VraSRT Operon, Which Maintains Oxacillin Resistance in Methicillin-Resistant S. Aureus (MRSA)". Michael Federle (top center), in collaboration with Matthew Neiditch from Rutgers University, earned an NIH R01 grant for his project "Molecular Mechanisms of Regg Receptor Regulation by Pheromones and Inhibitors." Shura Mankin & Nora Vazquez-Laslop (bottom left & center, respectively) were awarded an NSF grant for their project "Specific Interactions with the Nascent Peptide" and an NIH grant for their project "Context-Specific Action of Antibiotics Targeting the Catalytic Center of the Bacterial Ribosome". More NIH funding (via the NCI) was granted to Joanna Burdette (bottom right) for her project "Pax2 Loss in Fallopian Tube Lesions and Strategies for Restoration in Serous Cancer". Greg Thatcher (top right) and his collaborator Lijun Rong from the College of Medicine received an STTR grant for their project "4-Aminopiperidines as Novel Anti-Influenza Agents".

View the full funding news.
Congratulations on new research funding in CPR/PSOP!

Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes & Policy faculty representing the Center for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomic Research earned prestigious large-scale grant funding!

Lisa Sharp (top left), with her co-PI Ben Gerber from the College of Medicine and co-investigator Jessica Tilton (top center) of Pharmacy Practice earned a grant from the NIH/NIDDK for their project "mHealth for Diabetes Adherence Support", which investigates the use of text messaging in helping patients comply with diabetes medications. Todd Lee (bottom center) and Lisa Sharp are co-investigators with Min Joo from the College of Medicine on an AHRQ grant to conduct a 3-year clinical trial with the purpose of finding ways to reduce diagnostic error and improve safety for patients with a diagnosis of COPD and asthma in an underserved primary care ambulatory setting ("Reducing Diagnostic Error to Improve Patient Safety in COPD and Asthma: A comparative effectiveness trial (REDEFINE Study)"). Edith Nutescu (right) is the consortium co-investigator and UIC site PI on a new 5-year grant entitled "Precision Medicine-African American Cardiovascular Pharmacogenetics CONsortium (ACCOuNT): Discovery and Translation." The group will develop a model for the discovery, translation and implementation of precision medicine in African Americans that will lay the ground work for continued investment and growth in minority pharmacogenomics.

Read more about each award here, here, and here.

College Hosts First Annual Chicago Mass Spec Day

On July 22, 2016, Laura Sanchez and Stephanie Cologna (Department of Chemistry) hosted the first 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 scientists talks attended by students and postdocs only. The keynote was presented by Dr. Peter Nemes of George Washington University.

See pictures from the event here.

Faculty in the News

Research regarding the role of enriched hops extract in the prevention of breast cancer from Judy Bolton's lab was highlighted in a news article over the summer. The Bolton lab found that the compound 6-prenylnarigenin activates a detoxification pathway in breast cancer cells that is linked to reduced risk of the disease.

Read full story here.

Spotlight on our Trainees

Chris Saffore receives the Martin Luther King Jr.
Scholarship

Dr. Chris Saffore, PharmD (1st year PSOP student & fellow in the UIC-Takeda Fellowship in Health Outcomes Program through the UIC Center for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmaceconomic Research (CPR)) was the recipient of one of the 2016 MLK Jr. Scholarships from UIC. The scholarship is to recognize underrepresented students who have demonstrated high academic achievement and have shown a commitment to civil rights and social justice through community service.

Read more.

Rockford Students win Travel Awards for Conferences

Jing Li (left) & Matthew Summerlin (center) (Hanakahi lab) have been selected for student travel awards to attend the 47th annual Environmental Mutagen and Genomics Society meeting in Kansas City, MO, September 23-28, 2016. Both students have been invited to give oral presentations.

Yi Lun Sun (right, Nitiss lab) received an NSF travel award to attend the Gordon Conference on DNA topoisomerases in Biology and Medicine, where he also presented his research at the Gordon Research Seminar preceding the conference.

Read more.

Jenny Guadamuz named a Health Policy Research Scholar

Jenny Guadamuz (Qato lab) has been selected by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to be a Health Policy Research Scholar. Jenny will join 40 scholars from across the country to collaborate and innovate to solve persistent challenges and advance a Culture of Health—one that places well-being at the center of every aspect of life.

Read more.

Gabriella Szewczyk awarded NRSA Predoctoral DMD/PhD Fellowship

Gabriella Szewczyk (Federle lab) received an NRSA F30 Predoctoral Fellowship to support her DMD/PhD work on "Virulence Outcomes Pertaining to Streptococcus Mutants' Social Interactions"

Read more.

PSOP Students take 2nd Place in ISPOR Competition

Ernest Law, Ruixuan Jiang, Kibum Kim, and Kellyn Moran took second place out of 40 teams at a worldwide competition hosted by the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. They were tested on their knowledge of
Summer Research Training Programs end with the 2nd Annual Mini Symposium

On August 4, 2016, the ASPET SURF (top) and Riback (bottom) Fellows presented their research during the 2nd Research Mini Symposium. Four other summer researchers also participated in the event this year. A group of volunteer judges made up of graduate students, postdocs, and fellows selected winners in each main category:

- Jennifer Diaz (Eustaquio lab), top SURF presenter
- Elnaz Azimzadeh (Mankin/Vazquez-Laslop labs), top Riback presenter
- Ali Alobaidi (Nutescu lab), top presenter overall in session 1
- Sofia Cavalcante (Sanchez lab), top presenter overall in session 2

Photos from the event can be found [here](#).

Rockford Campus Hosts New Summer Scholars Program

The College of Pharmacy in Rockford has started a new program to provide opportunities for students entering in the P1 year to participate in research. P1 students Phuong Dung Luong (Nitiss lab) and Xinyi (Cindy) Li (Hanakahi lab) were the first participants.

Read an interview with Cindy (right) about her experience [here](#).

Meet the Incoming 2016 Graduate Students

We welcomed our incoming graduate students on August 19, 2016 at the Annual Pharmapalooza Picnic. Not sure who the new students are in your department? Check out this [link](#) for pictures of our 2016 graduate student class! Big thanks to Elizabeth Modrzyk, Tonya Kuzmis, Arletta Harris, and Dan Lu for the pictures!
This fall, Nathan Brown, Marianne Palczewski, and Zamia Siddiqui (all Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy) join our PharmD/PhD class, bringing the total of current students to eight.

To meet the PharmD/PhD students click [here](#).

To learn more about the PharmD/PhD program, click [here](#).

More Research News

Miscellaneous from around the College

The [6th Annual Images of Research Competition](#) is open!

This competition offers COP trainees the opportunity to submit digital images created over the course of their research and is open to any student enrolled in one of the COP programs or postdoc currently working in the College. Image [submission](#) is open until 10/17, and voting will take place from 10/19-11/09. First prize is a $150 Amazon gift card, so submit for your chance to win today!

The [UIC/NIH Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements](#) is issuing a call for applications for their [Research Pilot Project Program](#). Pilot awards ($25,000) are intended to provide promising new investigators, or established investigators new to botanical research, the opportunity to generate sufficient preliminary data to support the submission of competitive (peer-reviewed) botanical research applications. Application due date is 11/03.

[Hospira/Pfizer](#) will be on campus on Tuesday, October 25 for a seminar on their R&D Professional Development Program (PDP). Graduate students and postdocs interested in the program and careers in industry in general are encouraged to attend. The agenda will be as follows:

- 9:30 - 10:30 am: Seminar & Overview of the Program (PHARM 134-3, Rockford E226)
- 10:30 - 11:30 am: Q & A session (PHARM 134-3, Rockford E226)

Breakfast will be served on Chicago campus.

In addition, from 12:30 - 4 pm that same day, Hospira will be conducting interviews for the PDP program. Candidates should be senior (soon to be graduating) students and postdocs with the following qualifications:

- Graduate degree in pharmaceutical sciences, chemistry, biomedical/chemical engineering, or an equivalent discipline
- Strong interpersonal skills with demonstrated leadership ability
- Relevant research, work experiences, or internships
- Passion for learning and pursuing a career in the health care industry
- Academic achievement as demonstrated by research publications, presentations, or equivalent
* Excellent communication, critical thinking, and problem solving skills

If you are interested in applying, the deadline for applications is **Tuesday, October 11** (no applications will be accepted after this date). To apply, submit your resume to [here](#) (Job ID: 1036631). Applicants chosen for interviews will be informed by email. Please note, if you have any questions they should be directed to RandDPDP@pfizer.com and you should include “UIC” in the subject heading.

More College news.

## Miscellaneous from around the Campus

**ORS Web** the new web-based document delivery system, is live and has replaced paper submission of ORS-related documents. To register for training, see the [OVC R calendar](#).

**UIC Chancellor’s Innovation Fund (CIF)** Proof of Concept Awards program is a two-phase program that awards up to $185,000 per project to advance technology originating at UIC. Pre-proposal due date is 09/30 @ 5 pm.

**CCTS Pilot Grant Program** serves to advance translational research by funding a combination of broad translational and multidisciplinary projects in targeted priority areas such as pediatric research, community based research, health information technology, focused drug discovery, and population health. Funding is available up to $30,000 per year. Letter of intent due date is 09/30.

More [OVC R news](#).

## Important Dates/Upcoming Events

**6th Annual Image Competition**  
09/13 - 10/17 (Image Submission)  
10/19 - 11/09 (Voting Period)

**UIC Chancellor’s Innovation Fund Proof of Concept Awards**  
Friday, 09/30 @ 5:00 pm (Pre-proposal Due date)

**CCTS Pilot Grant Program**  
Friday, 09/30 (LOI Due date)

**Deadline to Apply for Hospira/Pfizer R&D PDP Program**  
Tuesday, 10/11

**Poster Printing Workshop**  
Friday, 10/14 @ 11:00 am  
SPH-P1, Rm 1136

**Developing Your Grant Budget**  
Tuesday, 10/18 @ 10:00 am  
SPH-P1 Rm 1136

**Cancer Center Research Forum**  
Tuesday, 10/18  
Student Center West

**Hospira/Pfizer Career Day**  
Tuesday, 10/25 at 9:30 am  
College of Pharmacy - 134-3 (Rockford E226)

**2016 NIH Regional Seminar**  
10/26-28  
Chicago Palmer House

**Precision Health Forum 2016**  
10/28 @ 8:30 am  
SCE Third Floor

**UIC/NIH Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements Research Pilot Project Program**  
11/03 (Application due date)

**14th Annual CBC Symposium: Genetics of Neurological and Psychiatric Disorders**  
11/11 at 9:00 am  
The University of Chicago - Ida Noyes Hall
NIH Mock Review Session
Thursday, 12/08 @ 10:00 am
SPH-P1, Auditorium Rm. 109

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

View All College of Pharmacy Events

Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education

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