



Agonist

The Official Newsletter for the
Graduate Program of
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Amarillo, Texas



UPDATE FROM DR. AHSAN



The past two semesters, spring and summer, have been a very busy and exciting time for our program. Six students defended their doctoral dissertations—four in spring (Abir, Brijesh, Nina and Parul) and two in summer (Noami and Sharad). Congratulations to all! The convocation on May 10, 2014 turned out to be a day of celebration for the Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences. This academic year (2013-2014) our program produced the largest number of doctoral graduates—eight students received doctoral degrees in pharmaceutical sciences—from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Let's send our best wishes to all of our newly minted pharmaceutical scientists—Abir, Chris, Nina, Parul, Moon, Kaushik and Ameya! This year's convocation was radiant with pharmaceutical sciences success. Dr. Shahriar 'Abir' Absar, our graduate, received the 2014 GSBS Outstanding Graduate Student Award. As a recipient of this award, Abir gave a talk at the convocation ceremony and led the graduation parade—an outstanding accomplishment for our program and for Abir. Great Job Abir! We also celebrated the receipts of travel awards by our graduate students and teaching awards by graduate faculty. Eight students received travel awards from various professional societies; some of them received multiple awards. Drs. Stoll, Snyder and Miller received the Graduate Teaching Team of the Year award, and Dr. Karamyan received the Graduate Mentor of the Year Award. Cheers to our students and faculty! In summer, we hosted ten pharmacy and undergraduate students from TTUHSC, TTU, WTAMU and other colleges in Colorado and Arkansas as interns. These interns enjoyed learning about pharmaceutical research and meeting our faculty and graduate students. We were able to attract one summer intern, Shyanne Paige, to apply for admission to our Graduate Program. Good luck with your application for admission, Shyanne! This year we welcomed Dr. Sami Nazzal as our Home Coming Alumni Speaker. The students enjoyed meeting someone who walked over the same hallways as theirs before becoming a tenured associate professor. On a sad note, Dr. Mehvar, a long-serving and highly respected Graduate Faculty, left our program to lead a department of pharmaceutical sciences at a new pharmacy school in California. Dr. Mehvar will be missed by our students, faculty and school administration, but we wish him much success in his new job as a Department Chair. We have had two wonderful semesters of success and celebration.

Fall 2014 Issue 14

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GPPS Welcomes Alumni Speaker



GPPS welcomed home Dr. Sami Nazzal as the third annual homecoming alumni speaker. On March 26, 2014, **Sami Nazzal**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics, of the School of Pharmacy, University of Louisiana at Monroe, presented, **"What they didn't teach you in graduate school: surviving a career in academia"**. Dr. Nazzal graduated Summer of 2002 under the tutelage of Dr. Mansoor Khan.

GPPS OFFICE - TTUHSC SOP Bldg, Suite 217; FAX 356-4021

Dr. Fakhru Ahsan, Graduate Program Advisor, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences: 414-9235

Teresa Carlisle, Graduate Program Coordinator: 414-9329

Susan King, Graduate Student Advisor: 414-9330

Dr. Tom Abbruscato, Associate Dean for GSBS, Chair & Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences: 414-9234

Agonist is published every fall and spring semester by the Graduate Program of Pharmaceutical Sciences (GPPS). For updates and new information, e-mail Susan at susan.king@ttuhsc.edu.

Spring 2014 Graduates

Md. Shahriar Absar
Lab of Dr. Fakhru Ahsan

Dissertation Presented
November 1, 2013

"Stealth Protein and Lipid Based Nanoconstructs of tPA for Site Specific Thrombolysis"



Brijeshkumar Patel
Lab of Dr. Fakhru Ahsan

Dissertation Presented
November 22, 2013

"Inhalable Polymeric Particle Based Drug Delivery Systems for Combination Therapy in Asthma"



Nina Blakeman
Lab of Dr. Margaret Weis

Dissertation Presented
March 14, 2014

"Inhibiting Fatty Acyl-CoA Synthetase in the Endothelial Cell Modifies eNOS Regulatory Mechanisms"



Parul Gupta
Lab of Dr. Sanjay Srivastava

Dissertation Presented
March 20, 2014

"Targeting HER2 in breast cancer"

Summer 2014 Graduates

Naomi Wangler
Lab of Dr. Vardan Karamyan

Dissertation Presented
June 3, 2014

"Identification of Membrane Neurolysin as the Non-AT1, Non-AT2 Angiotensin Binding Site, and Development of Approaches to Study its (Patho)Physiological Significance in the Brain "



Sharad Sharma
Lab of Dr. Ming-Hai Wang

Dissertation Presented
June 20, 2014

"Chemoresistance Acquired by Breast Cancer Cells in Response to Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor BMS-777607: Molecular Mechanism and Therapeutic Implications "



Fall 2014 DISSERTATIONS

Kamrun Nahar
Lab of Dr. Fakhru Ahsan
Friday, August 22, 2014 at 1:00pm
AMA SOP 107
ABI SOP 1130
LUB HSC 2C101

Subhasree Nag
Lab of Dr. Ruiwen Zhang
Friday, September 26, 2014 at 1:00pm
AMA SOP 335
ABI SOP 2601
LUB HSC 2C101

Nilesh Gupta
Lab of Dr. Fakhru Ahsan
Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 1:00 pm
AMA SOP 107 / ABI SOP 2601 / LUB HSC 2B485

Jun Liu
Lab of Dr. James Stoll
Friday, October 10, 2014 at 1:00 pm
AMA SOP 335 / ABI SOP 2200 / LUB HSC 1C111

Manoj Banjara
Lab of Dr. James Stoll
Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 9:00 am
AMA SOP 335 / ABI SOP 2200 / LUB HSC 2C101

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CONVOCATION MAY 10, 2014

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Shahriar 'Abir' Absar (Sp 2014) - was hooded by Dr. Fakhru Ahsan



Dr. Michael Blanton presented Abir with the 2014 GSBS Outstanding Graduate Student Award



Abir addressed graduates and attendees at the GSBS Convocation ceremony for 2014



Chris Adkins (Su 2013) - was hooded by Dr. Quentin Smith



Nina Blakeman (Sp 2014) - was hooded by Dr. Margaret Weis



Parul Gupta (Sp 2014) - was hooded by Dr. Sanjay Srivastava



Brijesh Patel (Sp 2014) - was hooded by Dr. Fakhru Ahsan



Md. Mamunur Rashid (Su 2013) - was hooded by Dr. Vardan Karamyan



Kaushik Shah (Su 2013) - was hooded by Dr. Thomas Abbruscato

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NEW STUDENTS for FALL 2014



(back row): Srinidhi Jayaraman, Ahasanul Hasan, Ismail A Walbi, Ronak Patel;
(front row): Nehal Gupta, Hanumantha Rao Madala, Sushanta Sarkar

Nehal Gupta, BPharm
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, India
Lab: Dr. Junxuan (Johnny) Lu

Ahasanul Hasan, BPharm, MPharm
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Lab: Dr. Fakhrul Ahsan

Srinidhi Jayaraman, BTech in Biotechnology
Anna University, India
Lab: Dr. Vardan Karamyan

Hanumantha Rao Madala, BPharm, MS
Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY
Lab: Dr. Kalkunte S. Srivenugopal

Ronak Patel, BPharm
Nirma University, India
Lab: Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad

Sushanta Sarkar, BPharm, MPharm, MS
Lamar University, Beaumont, TX
Lab: Dr. Ruiwen Zhang

Ismail A Walbi, BPharm, MS
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Lab: Dr. Ruiwen Zhang

2014 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition
November 2-6, 2014
San Diego Convention Center
San Diego

**UPCOMING
CONFERENCES**

BMES
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY™
Advancing Human Health and Well Being™

2014 Annual Meeting
October 22-25, 2014
Bioengineering Innovations to Catalyze
Affordable Health Care

Henry B. Gonzalez
Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas

John A. White
Annual Meeting Chair
john.white@utah.edu

Susan Margulies
Program Chair
smargulie@soas.upenn.edu

www.bmes.org

San Antonio

35th Annual Meeting
November 9-12, 2014
Orlando, Florida

**AMERICAN
EPILEPSY
SOCIETY**

2014

DECEMBER 5-9, 2014

5th Biennial North American Regional Epilepsy Congress
Seattle, Washington • Washington State Convention Center

GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR PROGRAM - SPRING 2014

1/15/14—**Faculty Speaker: Fakhru Ahsan**, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Graduate Program Advisor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, TTUHSC, Amarillo — “Information Regarding the New Qualifying Exam Format Being Proposed by Graduate Faculty/GPC Members and a Brief Discussion About PowerPoint Presentations”

1/22/14—**Nilesh Gupta** — “Self-Assembled Lipidic Micelles for Respiratory Drug Delivery”

01/29/14—**Pooja Naik** — “Impact of Cigarette Smoke Extracts from Regular, Reduced Exposure and Low Nicotine Products on Blood Brain Barrier Endothelial Cells”

2/05/14—**Rajiv Balyan** — “Capecitabine Metabolism and Distribution in Preclinical Mouse Models of Breast Cancer Brain Metastases”

2/12/14—**Kamrun Nahar** — “Nitric Oxide (NO) Donor as an Alternative to Inhaled NO in PAH”

2/19/14—**Subhasree Nag** — “Preclinical Pharmacology of a Novel Small Molecule Anti-MDM2 Anti-Cancer Agent”

2/26/14—**Alejandra Fernandez** — “Effect of Triheptanoin Feeding on Spontaneous Seizures of Pilocarpine-Induced Epileptic Mice”

3/05/14—**Debasish Basak** — “Thiol Modification-Induced Reactivation of Mutant p53 (R273H) by a Nontoxic Stabilized Glutathione Disulfide”

3/12/14—**Faculty Speaker: Zonghan Dai**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, TTUHSC Amarillo — “Regulation of Actin Dynamics by Abl Interactor Proteins”

3/19/14—**Vindhya Edpuganti** — “Effect of Hepatic Ischemia Reperfusion Injury on the Disposition of Cytochrome P450 Metabolites of Arachidonic Acid in Rat Livers”

3/26/14—**Alumni Speaker: Sami Nazzal**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, University of Louisiana at Monroe, LA — “What They Didn’t Teach You in Graduate School: Surviving a Career in Academia”

4/2/14—**Sukesh Voruganti** — “RYBP as a Novel Tumor Suppressor”

4/16/14—**Shikha** — “Impact of Cigarette Smoke Extracts on BBB Endothelial Cells Under Altered Glycemic Conditions”

4/16/14—**Tanvirul Hye** — “Targeting HER2-Positive Breast Cancer Brain Metastases Using Drug Loaded Nanoemulsion”

4/23/14—**Guest Speaker: Milton Brown**, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Edwin H. Richard and Elisabeth Richard von Matsch Endowed Chair in Experimental Therapeutics, Director, Center for Drug Discovery and Development, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, DC — “Discovery of HDAC Shuttling Inhibitors as Radiation Sensitizers and Anti-Cancer Agents”

4/30/14—**Sharad Sharma** — “mTOR Inhibition: A Route to Escape BMS-77607 Induced Chemoresistance in Breast Cancer Cells”

5/7/14—**Raktima Bhattacharya** — “Effects of Targeted Delivery of NF κ B Decoys on Markers of Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury in a MCAO Model”

Alok Ranjan presented at the April 2014 annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and gained an invitation to apply for the St. Jude National Graduate Student Symposium (NGSS) in his final academic year. He also has the opportunity to be considered for a postdoctoral fellowship position at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Heidi Villalba was the keynote speaker on May 1, 2014 at the annual academic banquet hosted by non-profit civic organization “Los Barrios de Amarillo” with the theme of “Success, make it happen”. The event was to honor high school seniors recognized for their academic success, and students from the School Districts of Amarillo, Borger, Canyon and River Road were encouraged to reach their education goals and add value to their lives by overcoming various challenges in their background.

News Clippings!
“Extra, extra, read all about it!”

Alok Ranjan presented in May 2014 at the annual meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists - National Biotechnology Conference (AAPS-NBC) in San Diego, CA, and was one of a very few chosen to have his research work posted on their AAPS-Blog website. The post, dated May 20, 2014, drew some very positive input from other researchers in related areas. The research blog, titled “Antipsychotic Drug Suppresses Breast Cancer Metastasis to Brain”, was authored by Alok Ranjan, Parul Gupta, and Sanjay K. Srivastava.

PUBLICATIONS

≈**Absar S**, Kwon YM, Ahsan F. "Bio-responsive delivery of tissue plasminogen activator for localized thrombolysis." *J Control Release*. 2014 Mar 10;177:42-50. Epub 2014 Jan 10.

≈Allan M. Prior, Man Zhang, **Nina Blakeman**, Palika Datta, Hung Pharm, Qian Chen, Lindon H. Young, Margaret T. Weis, Duy H. Hua. "Inhibition of long chain fatty acyl-CoA synthetase (ACSL) and ischemia reperfusion injury". *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters*. 2014 Feb 15;24(4):1057-61. Epub 2014 Jan 13.

≈Pramanik KC, **Fofaria NM**, **Gupta P**, Srivastava SK. "CBP-mediated FOXO-1 acetylation inhibits pancreatic tumor growth by targeting SirT". *Mol Cancer Ther*. 2014 Mar;13(3):687-98. Epub 2014 Jan 13.

≈**Fofaria NM**, Kim SH, Srivastava SK. "Piperine Causes G1 Phase Cell Cycle Arrest and Apoptosis in Melanoma Cells through Checkpoint Kinase-1 Activation". *PLoS One*. 2014 May 7;9(5):e94298. eCollection 2014.

≈**Gupta N**, **Patel B** and Ahsan F. "Nano-Engineered Erythrocyte Ghosts as Inhalational Carriers for Delivery of Fasudil: Preparation and Characterization." *Pharm Res*. 2014 Jun;31(6):1553-65. Epub 2014 Jan 22.

≈**Gupta N**, **Patel B** and Ahsan F. "Pulmonary and Nasal Drug Delivery" in Ashim K. Mitra Eds., *Drug Delivery*, Jones and Bartlett Learning LLC, Burlington, MA. (in publication). [Book Chapter]

≈**Gupta P**, Kim B, Kim SH, Srivastava SK. "Molecular targets of isothiocyanates in cancer: Recent advances." *Mol Nutr Food Res*. 2014 Feb 10. [Epub ahead of print].

≈**Gupta P**, Srivastava SK. "Inhibition of Integrin-HER2 signaling by Cucurbitacin B leads to in vitro and in vivo breast tumor growth suppression". *Oncotarget*. 2014 Apr 15;5(7): 1812-28.

≈**Gupta P**, Srivastava SK. "HER2 mediated de novo production of TGFβ leads to SNAIL driven epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition and metastasis of breast cancer." *Mol. Oncol*. 2014 Jun 18. pii: S1574-7891(14)00130-6. [Epub ahead of print].

≈Qhattal HS, **Hye T**, **Alali A**, Liu X. "Hyaluronan Polymer Length, Grafting Density, and Surface Poly(ethylene glycol) Coating Influence in Vivo Circulation and Tumor Targeting of Hyaluronan-Grafted Liposomes". *ACS Nano*. 2014 Jun 24;8(6):5423-40. doi: 10.1021/nn405839n. Epub 2014 May 15.

≈**Miah MK**, Shaik IH, Bickel U, Mehvar R. Effects of hepatic ischemia-reperfusion injury on

the P-glycoprotein activity at the liver canalicular membrane and blood-brain barrier determined by in vivo administration of rhodamine 123 in rats. *Pharm Res*. 2014 Apr;31(4):861-73. Epub 2013 Sep 25.

≈Jiang-Jiang Qin¹, **Subhasree Nag**¹, Wei Wang, Jianwei Zhou, Wei-Dong Zhang, Hui Wang, Ruiwen Zhang. (1. Joint first author). "NFAT as cancer target: Mission possible?" *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*. 2014 Jul 26. pii: S0304-419X(14)00062-6. doi: 10.1016/j.bbcan.2014.07.009. [Epub ahead of print]

≈**Nahar K**, **Absar S**, **Patel B**, Ahsan F. Starch-coated magnetic liposomes as an inhalable carrier for accumulation of fasudil in the pulmonary vasculature. *Int J Pharm*. 2014 Apr 10;464(1-2): 185-95. Epub 2014 Jan 21.

≈**Naik P**, **Fofaria N**, **Prasad S**, Sajja RK, Weksler B, Couraud PO, Romero IA, Cucullo L. "Oxidative and pro-inflammatory impact of regular and denicotinized cigarettes on blood brain barrier endothelial cells: Is smoking reduced or nicotine-free products really safe?" *BMC Neurosci*. 2014 Apr 23;15(1):51.

≈**Patel B**, **Gupta N**, Ahsan F. "Aerosolized Montelukast Polymeric Particles - An Alternative to Oral Montelukast - Alleviate Symptoms of Asthma in a Rodent Model." *Pharm Res*. 2014 Jun 17. [Epub ahead of print]

≈Sajja RK, **Prasad S**, Cucullo L. "Impact of altered glycaemia on blood-brain barrier endothelium: an in vitro study using the hCMEC/D3 cell line." *Fluids Barriers CNS*. 2014 Apr 5;11(1):8.

≈Palmiotti CA, **Prasad S**, **Naik P**, Abul KM, Sajja RK, Achyuta AH, Cucullo L. "In Vitro Cerebrovascular Modeling in the 21st Century: Current and Prospective Technologies". *Pharm Res*. 2014 Aug 7. [Epub ahead of print]

≈**Sharad Sharma**, HP Yao, Yong-Qing Zhou, Ruiwen Zhang and Ming-Hai Wang. "Prevention of BMS-777607-Induced Polyploidy/Senescence by mTOR inhibitor AZD8055 Sensitizes Breast Cancer Cells to Cytotoxic Chemotherapeutics." *Mol Oncol*. 2014 May;8(3):469-82. Epub 2014 Jan 2.

≈Qin JJ, Jin HZ, Huang Y, Zhang SD, Shan L, **Voruganti S**, **Nag S**, Wang W, Zhang WD, Zhang R. "Selective cytotoxicity, inhibition of cell cycle progression, and induction of apoptosis in human breast cancer cells by sesquiterpenoids from *Inula linearifolia* Turcz". *Eur J Med Chem*. 2013 Oct;68:473-81. Epub 2013 Aug 11.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS



Society of Toxicology * March 23-27, 2014 * Phoenix, AZ

- ♦ **R. Balyan**, H. R. Thorsheim, R. Samala, Q. R. Smith. "Distribution of Capecitabine and its Metabolites 5'-Deoxy-5-Fluorocytidine, 5'-Deoxy-5-Fluorouridine, and 5-Fluorouracil in a Preclinical Mouse Model of Brain Metastases of Breast Cancer".
- ♦ **Neel M Fofaria** and Sanjay K Srivastava. "Novel Role of STAT-3 in Anoikis Resistance and Tumor Cell Metastasis".
- ♦ **Pooja Naik**, Neel Fofaria, Shikha Prasad, and Luca Cucullo. "Role of Oxidative Potential Versus Nicotine in Tobacco Smoke-Induced BBB Toxicity: Genomic and Proteomic Assessment of BBB Endothelial Dysfunction".

American Association for Cancer Research * April 5-9, 2014 * San Diego, CA

- ♦ **Neel M. Fofaria** and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Novel role of STAT-3 in anoikis resistance and metastasis in melanoma cells in vitro and in vivo".
- ♦ **Neel M. Fofaria** and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Inhibition of STAT-3 by piperlongumine induces anoikis, prevents tumor formation in pancreatic cancer in vitro and in vivo".
- ♦ **Parul Gupta** and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "A unique cross-talk between HER2 and sonic hedgehog signaling promotes anoikis resistance in breast cancer cells" and "Molecular link between HER2 and epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer".
- ♦ **Parul Gupta** and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Molecular link between HER2 and epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer".
- ♦ **Alok Ranjan**, Parul Gupta and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Penfluridol, an antipsychotic drug suppresses breast cancer metastasis to brain by inhibiting HER2/Akt/MMP signaling axis in a novel in vivo metastasis model". [LATE BREAKING PRESENTATION]
- ♦ **Alok Ranjan** and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Repurposing antipsychotic drug Penfluridol for cancer treatment".
- ♦ **Alok Ranjan**, Ashlee Birkenfeld, Jianyu Lu, Duy Hua and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "GS-19, a novel GSK inhibitor suppresses the growth of pancreatic cancer cells by inhibiting EGFR/AKT/STAT-3 signaling".



Experimental Biology * April 26-30, 2014 * San Diego, CA

Nina Blakeman and Margaret T. Weis. "The Interplay Between eNOS Palmitoylation and Phosphorylation: The Triacsin C Effect".

American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, National Biotechnology Conference
May 19-21, 2014
San Diego, CA



Neel Fofaria and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Novel Role of STAT-3 in Anoikis Resistance and Tumor Cell Metastasis".

Nilesh Gupta, Brijeshkumar Patel, and Fakhru Ahsan. "Targeted Inhalable Liposomes Containing and Progression of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension Authors".

Parul Gupta and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Targeting a molecular mechanism of resistance to suppress paclitaxel resistant breast cancer cells".

Alok Ranjan, Parul Gupta and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Penfluridol, an antipsychotic drug suppresses breast cancer metastasis to brain".

FOCiS 2014
JUNE 25-28, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Spotlight on Translational Immunology

Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies
June 25-28, 2014 * Chicago, IL



Gordon Research Conference, Barriers of the CNS
June 15-20, 2014
New London, NH

Pooja Naik and Luca Cucullo. "Role of Nrf-2 in cigarette smoke-induced BBB impairment: Low nicotine is not equal to Low Toxicity".

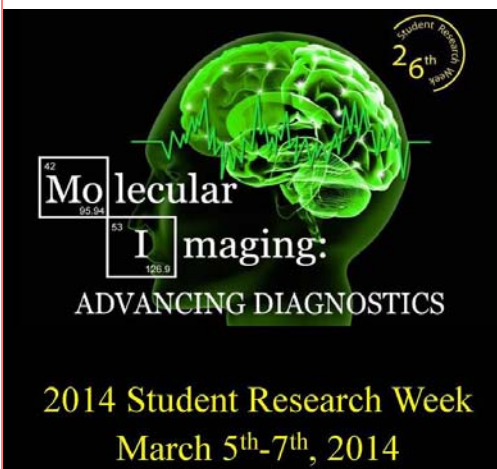
Jon A. Weidanz, **Raghavender Chivukula**, Oriana Hawkins, William H. Hildebrand, and Devin B. Lowe. "Using a Humanized T Cell Receptor Mimicking (TCRm) Antibody for Targeting Breast and Ovarian Cancer".

Raghavender Chivukula, Yikyeung Yu, Oriana Hawkins, Ted Hansen, and Devin B. Lowe, Jon A. Weidanz. "T cell Receptor Mimic Targeting of the CEA peptide/HLA-A2 Complex in a Metastatic Model of Breast Cancer".



American Thoracic Society
May 16-21, 2014
San Diego, CA

Nilesh Gupta and Fakhru Ahsan. "Nanolipogels Containing Superoxide Dismutase and Fasudil: A Novel Dual Drug Delivery Approach for the Treatment of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension Authors".



The 26th Annual Student Research Week, sponsored by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences of TTUHSC in Lubbock, had 250 poster entries from junior and senior basic science researchers. Eleven of these were presented by our GPPS students. Two of our students, Manoj Banjara and Alok Ranjan, were also invited to give an oral presentation.

Keynote Speakers included: **Martin L. Chalfie, PhD**, 2008 Chemistry Nobel Laureate, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor, and Chair of Biological Sciences Department at Columbia University; and **Lee Josephson, PhD**, Associate Professor, Department of Radiology at Harvard Medical School and Associate Professor of the Center for Molecular Imaging Research at Massachusetts General Hospital Center.

GPPS PRESENTERS:

Select Student Presentation: Manoj Banjara and James Stoll. "Lipocalin-2 expression and localization in the pilocarpine-induced status epilepticus model of epilepsy."

Select Student Presentation: Alok Ranjan, Parul Gupta and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Penfluridol, an antipsychotic drug suppresses breast cancer metastasis to brain by inhibiting HER2/akt/MMP signaling axis in a novel in vivo metastasis model."

•**Manoj Banjara**, Alejandra Fernandez, Sarah Seth-Willis and James Stoll. "Lipocalin-2 expression and localization in the pilocarpine-induced status epilepticus brain."

•**Kito Barrow**, Jinhui Zhang, Peixin Jiang, Cheng Jiang and Junxuan Lu. "Improving the Efficacy of Taxane Drugs with Methylseleninic Acid in the Treatment of Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer".

•**Raktima Bhattacharya**, Mohammad Islam, Thomas Abbruscato, and Ulrich Bickel. "Targeted Delivery of NF κ B Decoys Protects Brain Endothelial Monolayers Against Hypoxia/ Reoxygenation Injury."

•**Raghavender Chivukula**, Oriana Hawkins, William H. Hildebrand, Devin B. Lowe and Jon A. Weidanz. "Studying T Cell Receptor Mimicking Antibody in Syngeneic Murine Tumor Models".

•**Alejandra Fernandez** and James Stoll. "Effect of a triheptanoin diet on spontaneous seizures of pilocarpine-induced epileptic mice."

•**Neel Fofaria** and Sanjay K Srivastava. "Novel Role of STAT-3 in Anoikis Resistance and Tumor Cell Metastasis."

•**Mohammad R Islam**, Li Yang, Adriano Mollica, Yeon Lee, Victor Hruby and Thomas J Abbruscato. "Peptide and Non-Peptide Based Biphalin Analogs as Potential Neuroprotective Agents in Ischemia Models."

•**Subhasree Ashok Nag**, Jiang-Jiang Qin, Ming-Hai Wang, Wei Wang, John K. Buolamwini, and Ruiwen Zhang. "Ultra-performance liquid-chromatography for rapid analysis of SP-141, a novel experimental anticancer agent, and an initial pharmacokinetics and biodistribution study."

•**Jee Hyun Park**, Chris Adkins, Amit Rawat, Paul Lockman and Ulrich Bickel. "A Novel Mouse Model for Systemic Metastases of Human Breast Cancer."

•**Shikha Prasad**, Pooja Naik, Ravi Sajja, and Luca Cucullo. "Impact of smoking and altered glycemic conditions on BBB endothelial cells: an in-vitro study using HCMEC/D3 cell line."

•**Sukesh Voruganti**, Jiang-Jiang Qin, Wei Wang, Ming-Hai Wang, John K. Buolamwini, and Ruiwen Zhang. "Novel Small Molecule MDM2 Inhibitors for Pancreatic Cancer Therapy."

Thirteenth Annual **School of Pharmacy** Research Days June 5-6, 2014



Over eighty faculty members, graduate students, post-doc's and residents converged to showcase their research at the Amarillo Civic Center Heritage Room in Amarillo, TX during the Thirteenth Annual SOP Research Days, held Thursday, June 5th and Friday, June 6th. Distinguished speaker on Thursday was **P. Michael Conn, PhD**, Senior Vice President for Research, at TTUHSC in Lubbock, TX. Keynote speaker on Friday was **David Boothman, PhD**, Professor, UT Southwestern Medical Center. Podium presentations were given on Thursday and Friday mornings by selected individuals, posters were judged Thursday afternoon, and the annual dinner and social were held Thursday evening at the Amarillo Club. Awards were presented Friday afternoon to complete the event, and four GPPS graduate students gained recognition and were awarded. The TTUHSC Office of Sciences staff and the Research Advisory Committee hosted this event, which is a wonderful opportunity for researchers from all four campuses of the School of Pharmacy to come together and talk about research, building future collaborations and friendships.

Excellence in Research Podium Presentation:

Raktima Bhattacharya, Mohammad Islam, Thomas Abbruscato, Ulrich Bickel. "Targeted Delivery of NFκB Decoys to Brain Endothelial Cells Protects against Hypoxia/Reoxygenation Injury"

Outstanding Poster Presentation Awards:

—> **Junior Graduate Student Category:**

Awards for Biomedical Sciences:

•**Alok Ranjan**, Parul Gupta and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Penfluridol, an Antipsychotic Drug Suppresses Breast Cancer Metastasis to Brain by Inhibiting EGFR/Akt/SNAIL Signaling Axis in a Novel *in Vivo* Metastasis Model"

Awards for Pharmaceutical Sciences:

•**Kshitij Verma**, Tianzhu Zhangb, Trevor Penningb, and Paul C. Trippier. "Synthesis and Antineoplastic Evaluation of Potent and Selective Inhibitors of AKR1C3"

—> **Senior Graduate Student Category:**

Awards for Biomedical Sciences:

•**Alejandra Fernandez** and James Stoll. "Effect of Triheptanoin Feeding on Spontaneous Seizures of Pilocarpine-induced Epileptic Mice"

•**Neel Fofaria**, Sanjay K Srivastava. "Novel Role of STAT-3 in Anoikis Resistance and Metastasis in Melanoma Cells *in Vitro* and *in Vivo*"

•**Neel Fofaria** and Sanjay K Srivastava. "Overexpression of Mcl-1 is Responsible for Resistance to Vemurafenib in Malignant Melanoma"

•**Amer Alali**, Tanvirul Hye, Hussaini Syed Sha Qhattal, Xinli Liu. "Uptake Mechanism of Self-Emulsifying Nanoemulsions in Intracranial Glioblastoma Tumor Model"

•**Manoj Banjara**, Alejandra Fernandez, Sarah Seth-Willis and James Stoll. "Lipocalin-2 Expression and Localization in the Pilocarpine-induced Status Epilepticus Model of Epilepsy"

•**Kito Barrow**, Jinhui Zhang, Peixin Jiang, Cheng Jiang, Junxuan Lu. "Improving the Efficacy of Taxane Drugs with Methylseleninic Acid in the Treatment of Castration-resistant Prostate Cancer"

•**Debasish Basak**, Kalkunte Srivenugopal. "Redox-Based Anticancer Therapeutic Approach Using a Stabilized Glutathione Disulfide: Thiol Modification-induced Reactivation of Mutant p53 (R273H)"

•**Vindhya Edpuganti** and Reza Mehvar. "Altered Disposition of Arachidonic Acid (AA) and its Ctochrome P450 Metabolites in Rat Livers as a Result of Warm Hepatic Ischemia Reperfusion (IR) Injury"

•**Nilesh Gupta**, Crystal Woods, Eva Nozik Grayck and Fakhrul Ahsan. "Inhalable Peptide Decorated Liposomes Containing Superoxide Dismutase and Fasudil Ameliorates Pulmonary Arterial Occlusion and Remodeling in PAH Rats"

•**Parul Gupta** and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "A Unique Cross-talk between HER2 and Sonic Hedgehog Signaling Promotes Anoikis Resistance in Breast Cancer Cells"

•**Tanvirul Hye**, Hussaini Syed Sha Qhattal, Xinli Liu. "Targeting HER2-positive Breast Cancer Brain Metastases Using Lapatinib-loaded Nanoemulsion"

(continued on page 10)

(Research Days, continued from page 9)

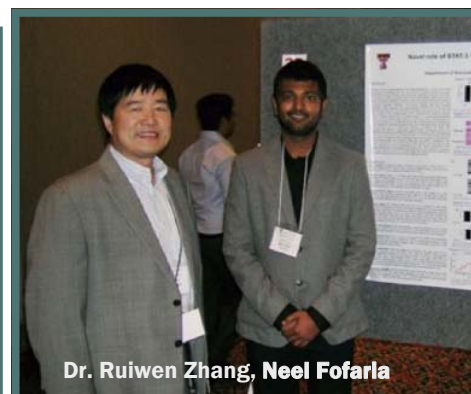
- Mohammad R Islam**, Li Yang, Adriano Mollica, Yeon Lee, Victor Hruby and Thomas J Abbruscato. "Biphalin and its Peptide and Non-Peptide Based Analogs as Potential Neuroprotective Agents in Ischemia Models."
- Nihar Kinarivala**, Fadi Saadeh, Joelle Makoukji, Rose-Mary Boustany, and Paul C. Trippier. "Investigation of Flupirtine Structure-Activity Relationships for the Treatment of Batten Disease"
- Mohammad K. Miah**, Ulrich Bulrich, and Reza Mehvar. "LC-MS/MS Analysis of ¹³C-sucrose in Plasma and Brain of Rats"
- A.G.M. Mostofa**, Liang Feng, Hang-Ping Yao, Ruiwen Zhang, and Ming-Hai Wang. "Anti-RON Antibody-Drug Conjugates in Combination with Chemotherapeutics as a Novel Therapeutic Strategy for Targeted Therapy of Pancreatic Cancers"
- Kamrun Nahar**, Shahriar Absar and Fakhrul Ahsan. "Peptide Decorated Inhalable Nanocarriers of DETA NONOate, a Long Acting Nitric Oxide Donor, for the Treatment of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension"
- Pooja Naik**, Christopher Palmiotti, Amy Taylor, Francy Sinatra, Anilkumar Harapanahalli Achyuta and Luca Cucullo. "Advanced Cerebrovascular Modeling: Pros and Cons of the Most Modern Flow-Capable Platforms"
- Pooja Naik** and Luca Cucullo. "Cigarette Smoke Toxicity at the BBB and Response Mechanisms: Initial View on the Role of nrf2-ARE Response Pathway"
- Pooja Naik** and Luca Cucullo. "Smoking the Blood Brain Barrier: Are Reduced Exposure Cigarette Products Really Safer?"
- Benard Ogola**, Laxmi Iyer, Russell Snyder and Thomas Thekkumkara. "2-Methoxyestradiol Mediated Down-regulation of Angiotensin Type 1 Receptor Transcription in Rat Epithelial Cells"
- Jee Hyun Park**, Chris Adkins, Amit Rawat, Paul Lockman and Ulrich Bickel. "A Novel Mouse Model for Systemic Metastases of Human Breast Cancer."
- Shikha Prasad**, Pooja Naik, Ravi Sajja, and Luca Cucullo. "Additive and Differential Impact of Cigarette Smoke Extracts on Blood Brain Barrier Endothelial Cells under Altered Glycemic Conditions"
- Sharad Sharma**, Liang Feng, Hang-Ping Yao, Ruiwen Zhang, and Ming-Hai Wang. "Therapeutic Activity of Antibody-Drug Conjugates Targeting RON and its Oncogenic Variant RON Δ 160 for Potential Breast Cancer Therapy"



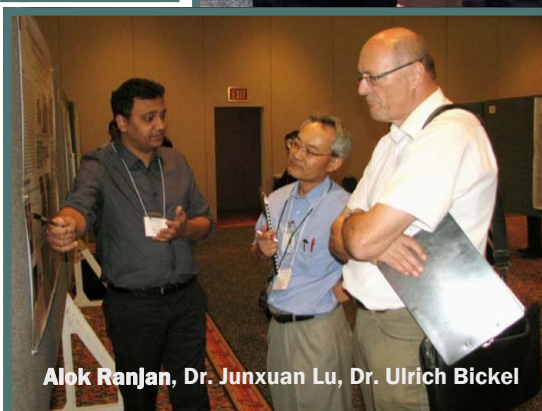
Raktima Bhattacharya,
Excellence
in Research
Podium
Presentation



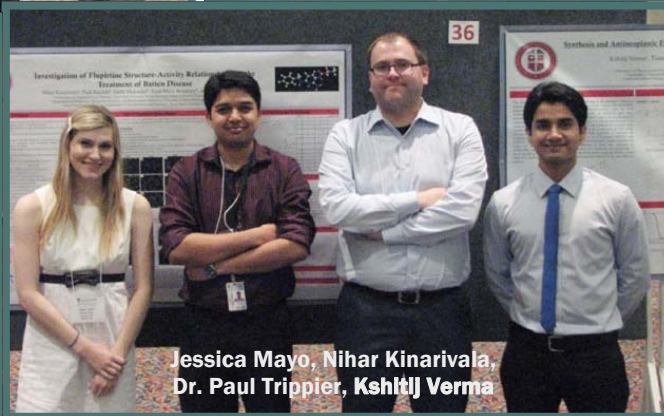
Dr. Kalkunte Srivenugopal, Alejandra Fernandez,
Dr. Fakhrul Ahsan, Benard Ogola



Dr. Ruiwen Zhang, Neel Fofarla



Alok Ranjan, Dr. Junxuan Lu, Dr. Ulrich Bickel



Jessica Mayo, Nihar Kinarivala,
Dr. Paul Trippier, Kshitij Verma

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**SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT
Honors for Students, Faculty & Staff**

April 25, 2014
Graduate Student Association at Amarillo
Award Ceremony



Rashed presented Dr. Reza Mehvar with the "Graduate Teacher of the Year (Pharmacokinetics)" award.



Dr. Vardan Karamyan was presented with the "Graduate Mentor of the Year" award.



GSAA President, Md. Rashedul 'Rashed' Islam, was presented the "Outstanding GSAA Student of the Year 2013-2014" award by Vice-President, Neel Fofaria.



Dr. James Stoll and Dr. Russell Snyder were presented with the "Graduate Teaching Team of the Year (General Biochemistry)" award. (Dr. Harold Miller also on team.).



Parul Gupta was recognized for the GSBS Dean's Scholar Award.

Special Recognition was given for **First Author Publications** to:

**Shahriar 'Abir' Absar
Vindhya Edpuganti
Nilesh Gupta
Parul Gupta
Subhasree Nag
Kamrun 'Shumi' Nahar
Sharad Sharma**

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Raktima Bhattacharya: Mary Lou Clements-Mann Endowed Scholarship. August 2014.

Raghavender S. Chivukula: Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Translational Research Interest Group (TRIG), TTUHSC, SOP. April 2014

Alejandra Fernandez: Outstanding Poster Presentation Award, Thirteenth Annual SOP Research Days, TTUHSC, Amarillo, TX. June 2014

Neel Fofaria: Graduate Student Travel Support Award, Society of Toxicology. March 2014.

Neel Fofaria: Society of Toxicology ASIO 2014 Graduate Student Award. March 2014.

Neel Fofaria: Eli Lilly Graduate Symposium Award, for American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, National Biotechnology Conference, San Diego, CA. May 2014

Neel Fofaria: Outstanding Poster Presentation Award, Thirteenth Annual SOP Research Days, TTUHSC, Amarillo, TX. June 2014

Neel Fofaria: Mary Lou Clements-Mann Endowed Scholarship. August 2014.

Nilesh Gupta: AMGEN travel award for American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, National Biotechnology Conference, San Diego, CA. May 2014

Nilesh Gupta: Third Annual Global Academic Competition for Life Science Leaders of Tomorrow, co-sponsored by Catalent Applied Drug Delivery Institute and American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, 1-of-5 first-place cash prizes (\$2,000). May 2014

Parul Gupta: AMGEN travel award (\$500) for American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, for National Biotechnology Conference, San Diego, CA. May 2014

Parul Gupta: Mary Lou Clements-Mann Endowed Scholarship. August 2014.

Pooja Naik: Graduate Student travel support award (\$1,000.00 stipend), to attend 53rd Annual Meeting of Society of Toxicology in Phoenix, AZ. March 2014

Alok Ranjan: AMGEN travel award (\$500) for American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, National Biotechnology Conference, San Diego, CA. May 2014

Alok Ranjan: Outstanding Poster Presentation Award (\$150), Thirteenth Annual SOP Research Days, TTUHSC, Amarillo, TX. June 2014

Kshitij Verma: Outstanding Poster Presentation Award (\$150), Thirteenth Annual SOP Research Days, TTUHSC, Amarillo, TX. June 2014

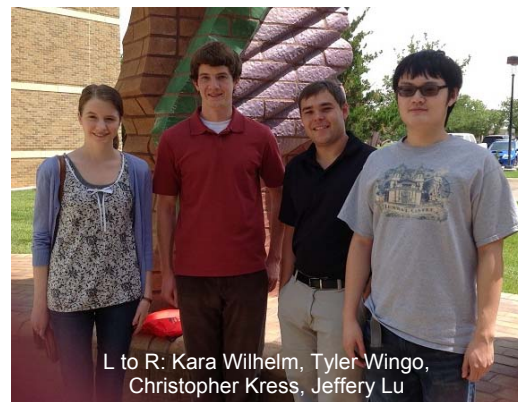
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This year, the ten-week 2014 Amarillo Biomedical Research Internship ran simultaneously with the Translational Research Interest Group Student Intern (TRIG SI) program. Ten ABRI and twelve TRIG interns were working in various SOP labs in Amarillo and Abilene. Significant presentations were given to both groups throughout the summer by SOP faculty and staff. The ABRI and TRIG program each concluded Thursday and Friday, July 31 and August 1, respectively, with a brief summary by Dr. Fakhru Ahsan of the Graduate Program. Dr. Ahsan presented awards to the ABRI interns, who also enjoyed a luncheon with parents, faculty, graduate students and staff. Interns presented their project research via power point — ABRI on Thursday, and TRIG on Friday.



ABRI interns:

- »Kara Barber ~ Dr. Xinli Liu, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- »Sadie Dierschke ~ Dr. James Stoll, Biomedical Sciences
- »Christopher Kress ~ Dr. Margaret T. Weis, Biomedical Sciences
- »Taylor Liles ~ Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- »Jeffery Lu ~ Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Biomedical Sciences
- »Jessica Mayo ~ Dr. Paul Trippier, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- »Shyanne Page ~ Dr. Fakhru Ahsan, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- »Madison Schackmuth ~ Dr. Jon Weidanz, Immunotherapeutics/ Biotechnology
- »Kara Wilhelm ~ Dr. Fakhru Ahsan, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- »Tyler Wingo ~ Dr. Quentin Smith, Pharmaceutical Sciences



L to R: Kara Wilhelm, Tyler Wingo, Christopher Kress, Jeffery Lu

TRIG interns:

- »Vi Bui ~ Dr. Junxuan Lu, Biomedical Sciences
- »Levi Campbell ~ Dr. Shanna James, Pharmacy Practice
- »Jacquelyn Glockner ~ Dr. Rachel Basinger, Pharmacy Practice
- »Ira Gupta ~ Dr. Jeanie Jaramillo, Pharmacy Practice
- »Caleb Hamargren ~ Dr. Quentin Smith, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- »Adriana Palacios ~ Dr. Ulrich Bickel, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- »Huy Pham ~ Dr. Quentin Smith, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- »Guann Yong ~ Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Biomedical Sciences
- »Chance Hill ~ Dr. Nishil Desai, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- »Grant Petersen ~ Dr. Irene La-Beck, Immunotherapeutics & Biotechnology
- »Halima Sani ~ Dr. Laurence Wood, Immunotherapeutics & Biotechnology
- »Koby Vasek ~ Dr. Maciej Markiewski, Immunotherapeutics & Biotechnology



L to R (back): Huy Pham, Caleb Hamargren, Levi Campbell
L to R (front): Jacquelyn Glockner, Adriana Palacios, Vi Bui, Guann Yong

L to R (back): Guann Yong, Caleb Hamargren, Huy Pham, Levi Campbell, Tyler Wingo

L to R (front): Kara Wilhelm, Jacquelyn Glockner, Adriana Palacios, Vi Bui, Christopher Kress, Jeffery Lu



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(Continued on page 14)

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Naomi Wangler
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*For more detailed information on an alumni OR for any changes/additions, please contact the Graduate Program Office.

GSAA BULLETIN BOARD

Social & Service Events:

- *Lights-Out Miniature Golf — January 25
- *International Potluck Party — February 22
- *Hockey Night — March 8
- *Colorado Ski Trip — March 21-23, 2014
- *1990's Costume Party — April 11
- *March of Dimes March for Babies — April 23
- *Panhandle Gunslingers — May 3

GPPS students participated in (Spring 2014):

- *Faculty & Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Planned Community Events (for Fall 2014):

- *Salvation Army Soup Kitchen Aide
- *Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House in Amarillo
- *American Heart Association Walk
- *American Heart Association Cookout Event

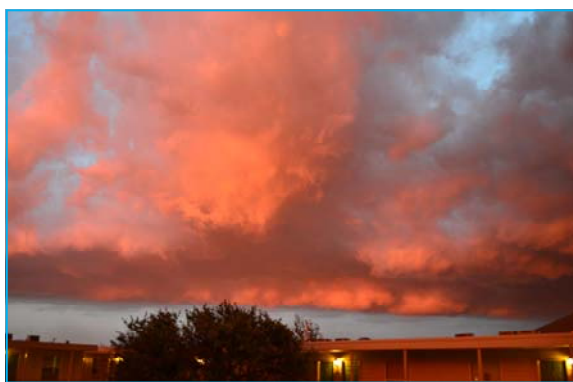
GSAA Officers for 2014-2015:

President, **Neel Fofaria**; Vice-President, **Shikha**;
Treasurer, **Laxmi Iyar**; Secretary, **Heidi Villalba**;
Student Senate Representative, **Benard Ogola**;
Historian, **Nihar Kinarivala**; International
Student Representative, **Jee Hyun Park**.



2014-2015 Officers of the Amarillo AAPS Chapter

Chair - Nilesch Gupta
Chair-Elect - Neel Fofaria
Vice-Chair - Jahidur Rashid
Treasurer - Alok Ranjan



Amarillo evening sky, contributed by Rashed Islam



Colorado skies, contributed by Rashed Islam

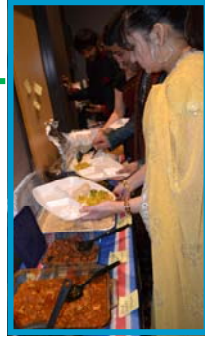
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GSAA Events



Lights Out Miniature Golf



International Potluck Dinner



Colorado Ski Trip

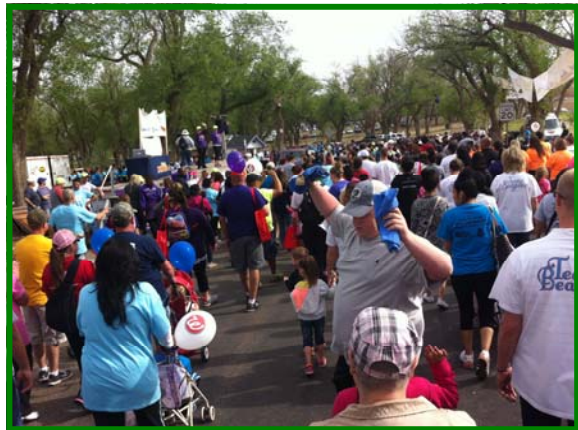
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more **GSAA Events**



Staff Appreciation Luncheon
Dr. Mehvar's Farewell

March
of
Dimes
*
March
for
Babies



Congratulations!



Born to Veronica and
Benard (Ben) Ogola
on 01/09/2014,
Moses Ogola,
9.147 lbs, 21.75"



Born to **Wei Wang**
and Jianwen Cheng
on 02/11/2014,
Victor Andrew Cheng,
8 lbs 5 oz, 20.8"



Born to Ujwala
and **Ramakrishna**
(R.K.) Samala
on 06/09/2014,
Vishnu Samala,
6.1 lbs, 19"



Born to **Nikita**
Mirajkar and
Hemant Naikare
on 06/10/2014,
Ritu Naikare,
7 lbs 8 oz, 19"



Born to **Fancy Thomas**
and Manu Purushotam
on 07/05/2014,
Kabir, baby boy,
2.75 kg, 48cm