

# Agonist

Official Newsletter for the  
Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
Amarillo, Texas



Spring 2019  
Issue 23

## UPDATE FROM DR. AHSAN

In the fall, we welcomed three new students, Sounak Bagchi, Shiva Hadi Esfahani, and Shafikur Rahman, to our Ph.D. program. These new students have been making good progress in their studies and lab work, so we hope to see them continue to do well. This spring, we are also glad to receive three new Ph.D. students into our program. Tanya Chhibber, Oshin Miranda, and Abdul Shaik have all enthusiastically grasped hold of everything thrown at them, and appear to be off to a very good start. In October, Laxmi Iyer and Ronak Patel successfully defended their respective Ph.D. doctoral dissertations and are now getting started in their new careers. We congratulate them both in their success, and we wish them the very best in their new endeavors!



We benefited in August from the expertise of our guest speaker, Dr. Andrew M. Harned, who is an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry on the Texas Tech University Lubbock campus. Our students were given beneficial information from his talk, "Old, New, Borrowed and Blue: Stereoselectivity in Complex Molecular Synthesis". Then, in November, we had another guest speaker, Dr. Stephen Wright, a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine here on our TTUHSC Amarillo campus, who offered helpful insight in his talk on "Mucin 1 Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell Therapy of Cancer". We are privileged to have these knowledgeable colleagues be so willing to come and take time out so they can offer up-to-date insights for our students.

Recently this fall, we received news that Mr. Ali Keshavarz, one of our Ph.D. students, has been selected to receive the International Foundation for Ethical Research (IFER) Fellowship for his project. This fellowship, funded by the National Anti-Vivisection Society, will be for \$12,500 per year over two years.

Our students continue to go beyond their required obligations in the class and the lab, offering their time and energy to help with extra activities to benefit those around them. From volunteering with national and community service organizations locally, to participating in campus organizations which combine the skills of our various medical areas, and even in offering a hand to decorate our building and make it a more cheerful environment, they show their ongoing willingness to uplift and assist others. We encourage them in this attitude of promoting improvements in areas where they are able.

### **GPPS OFFICE - TTUHSC School of Pharmacy, Suite 217; FAX 356-4021**

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

**Teresa Carlisle**, Graduate Program Coordinator: 414-9329

**Susan King**, Graduate Student Advisor: 414-9330

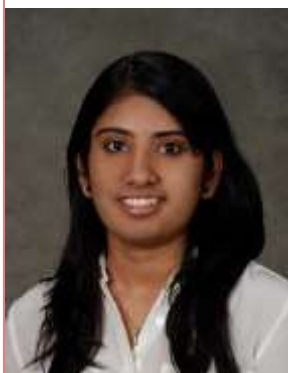
**Dr. Tom Abbruscato**, Associate Dean, GSBS; Chair/Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences: 414-9234

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

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## FALL 2018 GRADUATES



**Laxmi Iyer, Ph.D.**  
Lab of Dr. Thomas  
Thekkumkara

**Dissertation Presented**  
October 5, 2018

"Contrasting Effects of  
Tannic Acid on Angiotensin  
Type 1 Receptor and Low-  
Density Lipoprotein Recep-  
tor: A Mechanistic Insight  
into French Paradox"



**Ronak Patel, Ph.D.**  
Lab of Dr. Abraham  
Al-Ahmad

**Dissertation Presented**  
October 19, 2018

"Modeling the healthy and  
diseased blood-brain bar-  
rier in-vitro using patient-  
specific induced pluripotent  
stem cells"

## Spring 2019 DISSERTATION & THESIS DEFENSES

### Srinidhi Jayaraman

Doctoral Dissertation Defense  
Lab of Dr. Vardan Karamyan  
Friday, February 15, 2019 at 12:30pm  
AMA SOP 335 / LUB HSC 1C111 / ABSOP 1130

### Shyanne Page

Doctoral Dissertation Defense  
Lab of Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad  
Friday, March 1, 2019 at 12:30pm  
AMA SOP 335 / LUB HSC 1C111 / ABSOP 1130

### Kinzie Sherrill

Master's Thesis Defense  
Lab of Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad  
Friday, March 15, 2019 at 12:30pm  
AMA SOP 335 / LUB HSC 1C111 / ABSOP 1130

### Nehal Gupta

Doctoral Dissertation Defense  
Lab of Dr. Sanjay Srivastava  
Friday, March 22, 2019 at 3:00pm  
AMA SOP 335 / LUB HSC 1C111 / ABSOP 1130

## NEW STUDENTS for Spring 2019



### Tanya Chhibber

BPharm, MPharm  
Panjab University  
India  
Lab: Dr. Rahul Dev Jayant

### Oshin Miranda

MS Pharmacology  
University of Minnesota  
USA  
Lab: Dr. Fakhru Ahsan

### Abdul Shaik

MS Pharmaceutical Sciences  
St. John's University  
USA  
Lab: Dr. Fakhru Ahsan

(L-to-R): Oshin Miranda, Abdul Shaik, Tanya Chhibber

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**Graduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences Class of 2018-2019**

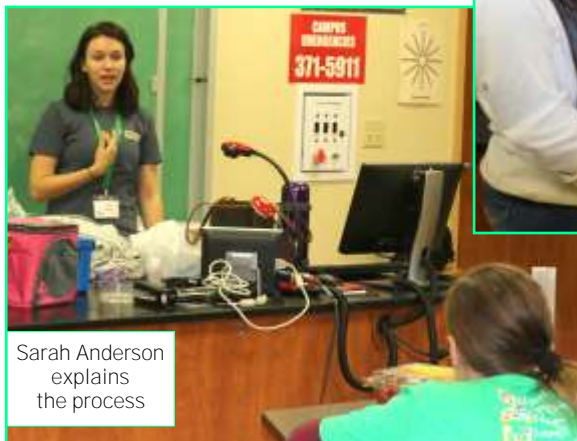
**WiSE - Women in Science Endeavors**

by Daniela Rolph

Women in Science Endeavors (WiSE) is a yearly conference in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for middle-school girls in the Amarillo area. Girls participate in hands-on experiments and demonstrations led by women who work in these disciplines. The goal of the conference is to encourage girls to consider and pursue careers in STEM fields. This year's conference, titled "I STEM," was held on November 10th, 2018 on the campus of Amarillo College. TTUHSC graduate students Shyanne Page and Daniela Rolph joined School of Pharmacy alumna Amanda 'Mandy' Whiteside (class of 2015) to lead a workshop in which the girls made face masks to apply compounding techniques to everyday applications. Moreover, graduate student Sarah Anderson, together with Pharmacy students Princy John and Tabitha Thompson, led a workshop about molecular biology in which girls extracted DNA from strawberries.



Daniela, Shyanne & Mandy answer questions



Sarah Anderson explains the process



**Amanda "Mandy" Whiteside,**  
Shyanne Page, Daniela Rolph

## GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR PROGRAM - FALL 2018

**08/17/18 - Faculty Speaker: Abraham**

**Al-Ahmad, Ph.D.**, Asst. Prof., Pharmaceutical Sciences, TTUHSC SOP Amarillo - Seminar course overview.

**08/24/18 - Srinidhi Jayaraman** - "Allosteric modulation of peptidase neurolysin activity by small molecules"

**08/24/18 - Shyanne Page** - "Wnt of change: determining the effect of the Wnt/ $\beta$ -Catenin pathway on healthy and ischemic blood-brain barriers"

**08/31/18 - Guest Speaker: Andrew M. Harned, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, TTU Lubbock - "Old, New, Borrowed and Blue: Stereoselectivity in Complex Molecule Synthesis"

**09/07/18 - Hossameldin 'Hossam' Abdelrahman** - "3D Printing of Tablets with Distinct Drug Release and Absorption"

**09/14/18 - Abdullah Al Shoyaib** - "Angiogenic Proteins and Motor Function Recovery after Delayed Exercise in Photothrombotic Mouse Model of Ischemic Stroke"

**09/28/18 - Snehal Raut** - "Cell-laden hydrogel-based 3D-printed multilayer circular structures to model pulmonary sarcoidosis"

**10/05/18 - Laxmi Iyer, Doctoral Dissertation Defense** - "Contrasting Effects of Tannic Acid on Angiotensin Type 1 Receptor and Low-Density Lipoprotein Receptor: A Mechanistic Insight into French Paradox"

**10/12/18 - Fatema Tuz Zahra, Oral Qualifying Exam** - "Role of IL-17 in lymphatic-associated pathologies: Potential involvement of the RhoA-ROCK pathway"

**10/12/18 - Md. Ashraf-Uz-Zaman** - "Synthesis and evaluation of novel DAT inhibitors"

**10/19/18 - Ronak Patel - Doctoral Dissertation Defense** - "Modeling the healthy and diseased blood-brain barrier in-vitro using patient-specific induced pluripotent stem cells"

**10/26/18 - Thamer Albekairi, Oral Qualifying Exam** - "Evaluation of Spermine Effect as a Potential Neurovascular Protection Strategy for Both In-Vitro and In-Vivo Stroke Models"

**10/26/18 - Nehal Gupta** - "Atovaquone: An anti-protozoal drug for management of metastatic and resistant breast cancer"

**11/02/18 - Bader Huwaimel - Oral Qualifying Exam** - "Design, Synthesis and Structure-Activity Relationship Study of Lonidamine Analogs as Mitochondrial Respiratory Complex II Inhibitors and Evaluation of Anti-Cancer Activity"

**11/02/18 - Md. Sanaullah Sajib** - "Cancer-Endothelial Cell Interplay During Metastasis"

**11/09/18 - Ahmed Morsy - Oral Qualifying Exam** - "Raloxifene and its Analogs in the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease by Inhibiting ABAD Activity"

**11/14/18 - Guest Speaker: Stephen Wright, M.D.**, Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, TTUHSC Amarillo - "Mucin 1 Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell Therapy of Cancer"

**11/16/18 - Daniela Rolph - Oral Qualifying Exam** - "A stem cell-based osteoimmunologic approach for the treatment of osteoporosis"

**11/16/18 - Ahmed Alobaida** - "S-nitroso-N-acetylpenicillamine (SNAP) versus spermine NON-Oate, two nitric-oxide donors, in the treatment of pulmonary hypertension"

**11/28/18 - Yoon Jung Lee** - "Reviewing potential mechanisms of the anticonvulsant effect of physical activity in a chronic epilepsy model-corneal kindling"

**11/30/18 - Ali Keshavarz** - "Two-compartment tissue-chips to model PAH-induced right ventricular hypertrophy"

**11/30/18 - Ekram Chowdhury** - "Isoflurane anesthesia may increase the permeability of the blood-brain barrier by acting on membrane lipids"

**12/07/18 - Faisal Alamri** - "SNRI (Atomoxetine) and SSRI (Fluoxetine) treatment enhance motor recovery after photothrombotic stroke in mice"

**12/07/18 - Sreedhar Reddy Suthre** - "RON Receptor Tyrosine Kinase as a Therapeutic Target for Eradication of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: Efficacy of Anti-RON ADC Zt/g4-MMAE"

*"Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school."*

*~ Albert Einstein ~*

## PUBLICATIONS

~Ashraf-Uz-Zaman M, Sajib MS, Cucullo L, Mikelis CM, German NA. Analogs of penfluridol as chemotherapeutic agents with reduced central nervous system activity. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett*. 2018 Dec 15;28(23-24):3652-3657. Epub 2018 Oct 24

~Gupta P, Gupta N, Fofaria NM, Ranjan A, Srivastava SK. HER2-mediated GLI2 stabilization promotes anoikis resistance and metastasis of breast cancer cells. *Cancer Lett*. 2019 Feb 1;442:68-81. Epub 2018 Oct 26.

~Verma K, Gupta N, Zang T, Wangtrakuldee P, Srivastava SK, Penning TM, Trippier PC. AKR1C3 Inhibitor KV-37 Exhibits Antineoplastic Effects and Potentiates Enzalutamide in Combination Therapy in Prostate Adenocarcinoma Cells. *Mol Cancer Ther*. 2018 Sep;17(9):1833-1845. Epub 2018 Jun 11.

~Morsy A, Trippier PC. Amyloid-Binding Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ABAD) Inhibitors for the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease. *J Med Chem*. 2018 Nov 30. [Epub ahead of print]

~Rolph DN, Deb M, Kanji S, Greene CJ, Das M, Joseph M, Aggarwal R, Leblebicioglu B, Das H. Ferutinin directs dental pulp-derived stem cells towards the osteogenic lineage by epigenetically regulating canonical Wnt signaling. *Biochim Biophys Acta Mol Basis Dis*. 2018 Nov 6. pii: S0925-4439 (18)30435-6. [Epub ahead of print]

~Kaspiris A, Sajib MS, Zahra FT, Chronopoulos E, Savvidou OD, Mikelis CM. Role of angiogenesis in bone regeneration. *Bone Regeneration: Concepts, Clinical Aspects and Future Directions*, 87-150, Nova Science Publishers, August 2018. [Book Chapter]

~Sajib MS, Mikelis CM. DNA Repair Response Adaptors: Novel Targets for Vasoproliferative Retinopathy? *Thromb Haemost*. 2019 Jan 8. [Epub ahead of print]

~Sifat AE, Vaidya B, Kaisar MA, Cucullo L, Abbruscato TJ. Nicotine and electronic cigarette (E-Cig) exposure decreases brain glucose utilization in ischemic stroke. *J Neurochem*. 2018 Oct;147(2):204-221. Epub 2018 Oct 18.

~Sifat AE, Vaidya B, Villalba H, Albekairi TH, Abbruscato TJ. Neurovascular unit transport responses to ischemia and common coexisting conditions: smoking and diabetes. *Am J Physiol Cell Physiol*. 2018 Sep 12. [Epub ahead of print]

~Sivandzade F, Prasad S, Bhalerao A, Cucullo L. NRF2 and NF- $\kappa$ B interplay in cerebrovascular and neurodegenerative disorders: Molecular mechanisms and possible therapeutic approaches. *Redox Biol*. 2018 Nov 28;21:101059. [Epub ahead of print]

~Suthe SR, Yao HP, Weng TH, Hu CY, Feng L, Wu ZG, Wang MH. RON Receptor Tyrosine Kinase as a Therapeutic Target for Eradication of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: Efficacy of Anti-RON ADC Zt/g4-MMAE. *Mol Cancer Ther*. 2018 Dec;17 (12):2654-2664. Epub 2018 Oct 1.

~Villalba H, Shah K, Albekairi TH, Sifat AE, Vaidya B, Abbruscato TJ. Potential role of myo-inositol to improve ischemic stroke outcome in diabetic mouse. *Brain Res*. 2018 Aug 27. pii: S0006-8993(18)30449-9. [Epub ahead of print]

Decorating our building for Christmas was a joined effort, and the "M&M guys" received a bit of friendly help from some of our graduate students.



Behnaz Lahooti with some of the "M&M" reindeer

Yoon Jung Lee,  
Behnaz Lahooti,  
Farzane Sivandzade,  
Rachel Hudson,  
with Rudolph  
the red-nosed  
"M&M" reindeer

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

### **Md. Ashraf-Uz-Zaman:**

◆ Graduate Student Travel Support Award {\$1,400}, 58th Annual Meeting of SOT, Baltimore, MD; March 2019. [selected Nov'18]

### **Ekram Chowdhury:**

◆ Travelship Award, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists [sponsored by Lonza Group], AAPS PharmSci 360, Washington, D.C.; November 2018  
 ◆ Best Abstract Award, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists "PharmSci 360", Washington, D.C., November 2018

### **Kumari Itishree "Iti" Kaushik:**

◆ Young Investigator Travel Fellowship Award, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Symposia on Cancer Research: "The Leading Edge of Cancer Research", Houston, TX, October 2018

### **Ali Keshavarz:**

◆ International Foundation for Ethical Research (IFER) Fellowship, funded by the National Anti-Vivisection Society, project titled, "A micropattern-engraved two-compartment tissue-chip as a non-animal model for studying right-ventricular hypertrophy induced by pulmonary arterial hypertension" (selected October 2018)

◆ Best Abstract Award, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists "PharmSci 360", Washington, D.C., November 2018, for abstract titled "Capturing, counting and identifying CECs: a potential diagnostic marker for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension"

◆ Best Abstract Award, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists "PharmSci 360", Washington, D.C., November 2018, for abstract titled "An isolated perfused rat lung model for studying controlled and targeted release of fasudil, an anti-PAH drug, from peptide grafted liposomal formulations"

◆ Travelship Award, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists [sponsored by Lilly], AAPS "PharmSci360", Washington, D.C., November 2018

### **Taylor Liles:**

◆ Full Tuition Scholarship from Howard Hughes Medical Institute to attend "Surgical Techniques in the Laboratory Mouse" Workshop, Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME; September 2018.

### **Shyanne Page:**

◆ American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP) 2018 Experimental Pathologist-in-Graduate Training (EPIGT) Merit Award, ASIP Pathobiology for Investigators, Students, and Academicians (PISA), Ann Arbor, MI; October 2018

### **Ronak Patel:**

◆ Full-Tuition Scholarship, sponsored by Howard Hughes Medical Institute for Education and National Institute of Health's National Institute on Aging, for "Improving Preclinical Translation of Alzheimer's Disease Research" short course, Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME; October 2018.

### **Sharavan Ramachandran:**

◆ Young Investigator Travel Fellowship Award, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Symposia on Cancer Research: "The Leading Edge of Cancer Research", Houston, TX, October 2018.

### **Snehal Raut:**

◆ Full-Tuition Scholarship sponsored by Howard Hughes Medical Institute to attend "Improving Preclinical Translation of Alzheimer's Disease Research" course, Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Main; October 2018.

### **Md. Sanaullah Sajib:**

◆ Young Investigator Travel Fellowship Award, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Symposia on Cancer Research: "The Leading Edge of Cancer Research", Houston, TX, October 2018.

### **Sreedhar Reddy Suthre:**

◆ Best Abstract Award, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists "PharmSci 360", Washington, D.C.; November 2018

◆ American Association of Indian Pharmaceutical Scientists Award, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists "PharmSci 360", Washington, D.C.; November 2018

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS



**American Heart Association - Hypertension Joint Scientific Sessions - Council on Hypertension and Council on Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease**  
Chicago, IL \* Sept. 6-9, 2018

**Laxmi Iyer**, Yong Zhang and Thomas Thekkumkara. "Mechanistic Insight into Tannic Acid Mediated Angiotensin Type 1 Receptor and PCSK 9 Down-Regulation" [Podium Presentation]

**Lone Star Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology**  
Austin, TX \* Sept. 7, 2018



**Sreedhar Reddy Suthe**, Hang-Ping Yao and Ming-Hai Wang. "RON Receptor Tyrosine Kinase as a Therapeutic Target for Eradication of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: Efficacy of Anti-RON ADC Zt/g4-MMAE " [Oral Presentation]



**Biomedical Engineering Society**  
Atlanta, GA \* Oct. 17-20, 2018

**Ali Keshavarz**, Taslim Al-Hilal, Wei Li, Fakhru Ahsan. "A micropattern-engraved two-compartment tissue-chip as a model for studying right ventricular hypertrophy induced by pulmonary arterial hypertension" [Oral Presentation]

**American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP), Pathobiology for Investigators, Students & Academicians (PISA)**  
"Molecular Mechanisms of Disease: Tissue Homeostasis, Immune Responses, and Cancer"  
Ann Arbor, MI \* Oct. 20-22, 2018



**Shyanne Page**, Mikaelan Cucciare-Stulligross, Sarah Faress, Abraham Al-Ahmad. "WNT of Change: Determining the Effect of the Wnt/ $\beta$ -Catenin Pathway on the BBB during Ischemic/Re-Oxygenation Stress"



**American Society of NeuroRehabilitation**  
San Diego, CA \* Nov. 1-2, 2018

**Abdullah Al Shoyaib**, Faisal F. Alamri, Abbie Biggers, Srinidhi Jayaraman, Fakhru Ahsan, Taslim A. Al-Hilal, Vardan T. Karamyan. "Exercise-Dependent Upregulation of Angiogenic Proteins and Motor Function Recovery after Photothrombotic Stroke in Mice"

**Society for Neuroscience (SfN)**  
San Diego, CA \* Nov. 3-7, 2018

**M. Hossain**, A. Sifat, T. Abbruscato, N. A. German. "Discovery of novel class of opioid receptor antagonist to overcome the opioid crisis"



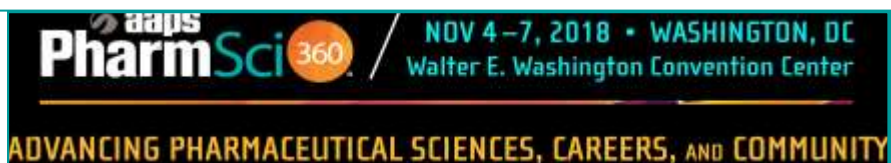
**SOCIETY for NEUROSCIENCE**

**Ali Sifat**, Bhuvaneshwar Vaidya, Mohammad Kaiser, Luca Cucullo, Thomas Abbruscato. "Nicotine and E-Cig Exposure Alters Brain Glucose Utilization in Ischemic Stroke"

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

**American Association of  
Pharmaceutical Scientists**  
Washington, D.C.  
Nov. 4-7, 2018



**Hossam Kadry**, Soham

Wadnap, Taslim A. Al-Hilal, Changxue Xu, and Fakhru Ahsan. "On-Demand and Point-of-Care Printing of Tablets for Sustained Drug Delivery and Personalized Dosing"

**Ahmed Alobaida**, Taslim Al-Hilal, Ahsan Fakhru. "Long-acting PLGA microparticles of SNAP, a NO donor, for a protracted reduction of pulmonary arterial pressure in PAH"

**Md. Ashraf-Uz-Zaman**, Md. Sanaullah Sajib, Constantinos Mikelis, Nadezhda German. "Optimization of Penfluridol for use in Lung Cancer Therapy"

**Ekram Chowdhury**, Franz Hack, Behnam Noorani, Dagmar Fischer, Ulrich Bickel. "Synthesis and Characterization of Biotinylated Hydroxyethyl Starch-Polyethyleneimine Conjugates Having Potential for Targeted Delivery of Oligonucleotides"

**Ekram Chowdhury**, Behnam Noorani, Faleh Alqahtani, Nianxi Zhao, Irene La-Beck, Ulrich Bickel. "Increased Blood-Brain Barrier Permeability Associated with Isoflurane Anesthesia may be Mediated by the Alteration of Lipid Membranes"

Faleh Alqahtani, **Ekram Chowdhury**, Raktima Bhattacharya, Reza Mehvar, Ulrich Bickel. "Passive Permeability of the Blood-Brain Barrier to [<sup>13</sup>C]Sucrose Compared in Young Male and Female Mice" [presented by Chowdhury]

**Nehal Gupta** and Sanjay Srivastava. "Repurposing Atovaquone, an Anti-Protozoal Drug for Management of Breast Cancer by inhibiting HER2/ $\beta$ -catenin Signaling"

**Ali Keshavarz**, Taslim A. Al-Hilal, Wei Li, and Fakhru Ahsan. "Capturing, counting and identifying CECs: a potential diagnostic marker for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension" [Oral Presentation]

**Ahmed Morsy**, Paul C. Trippier. "Synthesis and Structure-Activity Relationship Studies of AG18051 and its Analogs in the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease by Inhibiting A $\beta$ -ABAD Interaction"

**Sreedhar Reddy Suthi**, Hang-Ping Yao and Ming-Hai Wang. "RON-Targeted Antibody-Drug Conjugate Therapy Ablates Cancer Stem Cells and Induces Long-Term Tumor Regressions in Preclinical Models of Triple Negative Breast Cancer". American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists – "PharmSci 360", Washington, DC; November 2018. [Oral Presentation: Rapid Fire]

**American Epilepsy Society \* New Orleans, LA \* Nov.30-Dec.4, 2018**

**YoonJung Lee**, Alejandra Fernandez, James Stoll. "Anticonvulsant effects of physical activity in a mouse chronic corneal kindling model"



**Thompson Park,  
Amarillo, Texas**  
(during GSAA picnic)

photo by Sounak Bagchi, GPPS  
Graduate Student and Research Assistant  
in the lab of Dr. Rahul Dev Jayant



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2018 AAPS ANNUAL TTUHSC SOP  
ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECEPTION  
November 6 — 5:30-7:30PM  
Marriott Marquis (Headquarter Hotel),  
Washington, D.C.



(L-to-R): Shuhua Bai, Chandan Thomas,  
Dr. Fakhrul Ahsan



(L-to-R): Ahmed Morsy, Dr. Quentin Smith



(L-to-R): Sharad Sharma,  
Vivek Gupta, Kshitij Verma



(L-to-R): **Jee Hyun 'Jinni' Park, Nehal Gupta, Md. Shahriar 'Abir' Absar, Ekram Chowdhury, Sreedar Reddy Suthe**



(L-to-R): Ahmed Alobaida, Ekram  
**Chowdhury, Md. Jahidur 'Jahid' Rashid**



(L-to-R): **Vivek Gupta, Kshitij Verma, Teresa Carlisle, 'Jahid' Rashid, Sharad Sharma, Sreedhar Suthe, Alok Ranjan, 'Abir' Absar**

**Student Research Week (SRW)**

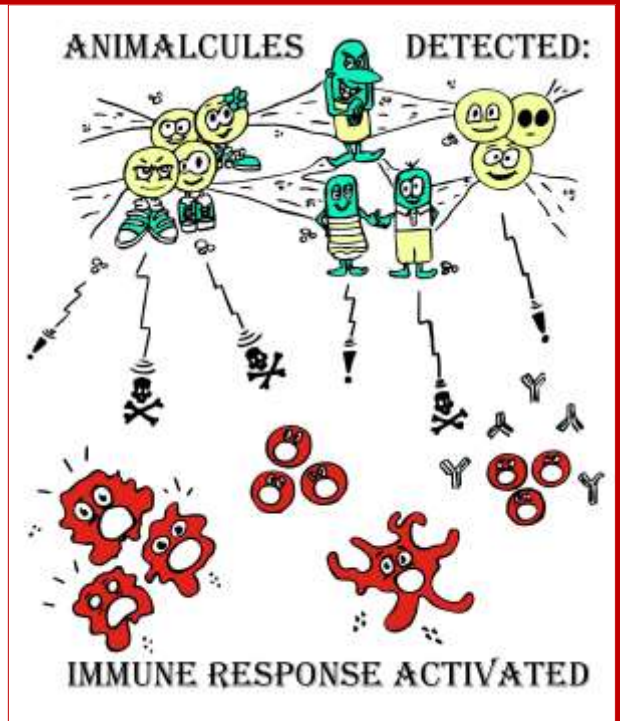
is an interdisciplinary event organized every year by **Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) students** at TTUHSC Lubbock. The main objective of **SRW** is to showcase research from TTUHSC and local area college students, residents, and clinical fellows in order to build a platform for interaction. SRW provides an opportunity for students to present and explore new research and to foster interactions between students and faculty. It is one of the largest events at TTUHSC, including over 300 participants. Now in its **31st year**, the theme for this upcoming SRW is **“Animalcules Detected: Immune Response Activated”**, which aims to connect the complex immune responses that occur when the body comes into contact with various microorganisms. This year’s SRW is scheduled to take place **March 19-22, 2019**, with a vendor show, poster competition, and keynote addresses.

**Keynote Speakers** featured at the event will be:

- \* Dr. Polly Matzinger
- \* Dr. Marvin Whiteley

For more information, go to:

<http://www.ttuhsu.edu/biomedical-sciences/student-research-week/default.aspx>



SPRING CONFERENCES



Mitochondria in Aging and Age-Related Disease (J2)  
Keystone, CO \* Jan. 13-17, 2019



**AACR** American Association for Cancer Research  
Atlanta, GA \* Mar. 29—Apr. 3, 2019



Division of Medicinal Chemistry

American Chemical Society—MEDI  
Orlando, FL  
Mar. 31 – Apr. 4, 2019

**EB** Experimental Biology  
Orlando, FL  
Apr. 6-9, 2019

**CRS** Controlled Release Society  
Valencia, Spain  
July 21-24, 2019

**ISN** International Society for Neurochemistry

**ASN** American Society for Neurochemistry  
The Latest in Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology

ISN-ASN MEETING  
Montreal, Canada  
August 4-8, 2019

## ALUMNI DIRECTORY

**2001**

Vikas Agarwal, Ph.D.  
Director, New Product Development  
Taris Biomedical  
[vaqarwal@tarisbio.com](mailto:vaqarwal@tarisbio.com)

Sivakumar Vaithiyalingam, Ph.D.  
Review Chemist/Staff Fellow  
Division of Chemistry  
OPS/CDER/FDA  
Rockville, MD  
[Sivakumar.vaithiyalingam@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Sivakumar.vaithiyalingam@fda.hhs.gov)

**2002**

Sami Nazzal, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Pharmaceutics  
TTUHSC SOP  
Dallas, TX  
[sami.nazzal@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:sami.nazzal@ttuhsc.edu)

**2003**

Paul Lockman, Ph.D.  
Professor and the Douglas D.  
Glover Endowed Chair  
Dept. Basic Pharm. Sci., SOP  
and the Assoc. Dir. for  
Translational Res.  
West Virginia University HSC  
Morgantown, WV  
[prlockman@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:prlockman@hsc.wvu.edu)

**2004**

Fatima Mustafa, MS, RPH  
Rite Aid  
State College, PA 16801  
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Anitha Palamakula, Ph.D., R.Ph.  
CDER/FDA  
Rockville, MD  
[anitha\\_100@yahoo.com](mailto:anitha_100@yahoo.com)

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FDA  
Silver Springs, MD  
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Mohammad Nutan, Ph.D.  
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Dept. of Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Rangel College of Pharmacy  
Texas A&M HSC  
Kingsville, Texas  
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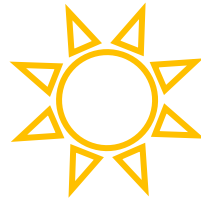
\*For more detailed information on  
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# Alumni Photo Album

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**Benard 'Ben' Ogola with Yoon Jung Lee, who got to visit with Ben's family while in New Orleans for AES.**



Baby Audrey — born to **Md. Shahriar 'Abir' Absar and Kamrun 'Shumi' Nahar** this past fall



**A happy "hello" from Ben and his son, Moses!**



## GSAA BULLETIN BOARD

### GSAA students participated Fall 2018 in:

*September*

- \* Back to School Picnic at Thompson Park
- \* Habitat ReStore — setup
- \* Journal Club

*October*

- \* American Heart Association — Amarillo Heart Walk
- \* Laser Tag

*November*

- \* Bowling
- \* Eveline Rivers Christmas Project — Gift Wrapping
- \* Journal Club

*December*

- \* Christmas Party

### Social & Community Events Planned for Spring 2019:

*January*

- \* Fundraiser
- \* Movie Night

*February*

- \* Journal Club

*March*

- \* Ski Trip
- \* High Plains Food Bank Garden

*April*

- \* Ramp building
- \* International Night

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**GSAA Events**



BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
PICNIC — THOMPSON PARK



Habitat ReStore setup:  
Students helped Habitat for Humanity set up their reuse store, which sells donated home improvement items to the public at a fraction of retail prices.

... more GSAA Events



American  
Heart  
Association  
~~~  
Amarillo  
Heart Walk



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... more GSAA Events



Laser Tag  
—  
Game Night



Bowling Night



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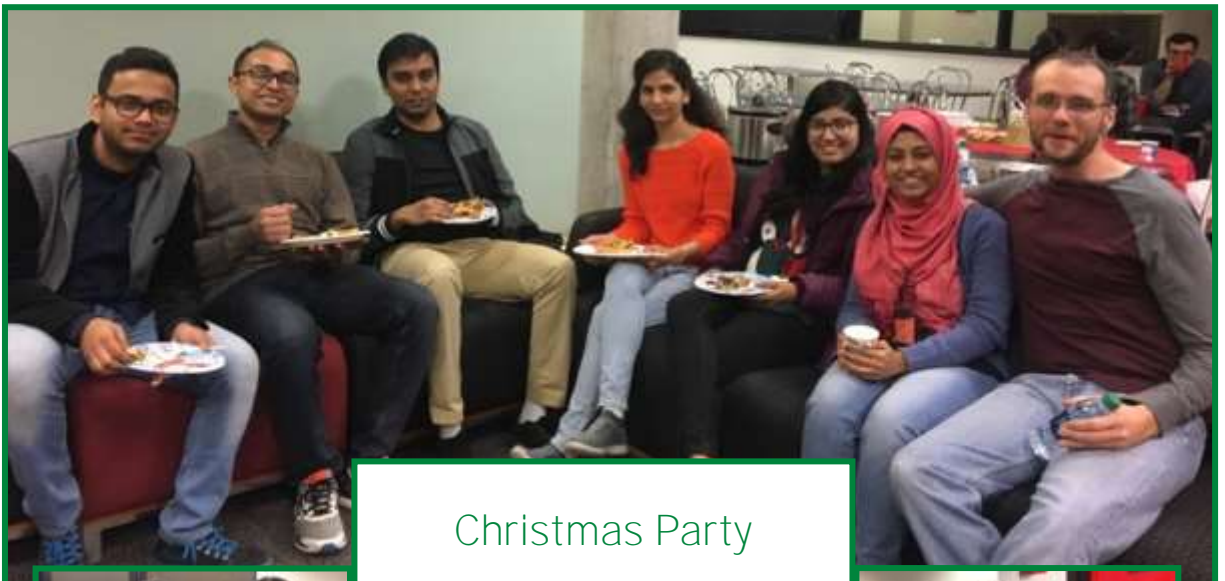
... and more GSAA Events



Eveline Rivers  
Christmas  
Project

\* ~ \* ~ \* ~ \*

Gift Wrapping



Christmas Party

