UPDATE FROM DR. AHSAN

We started this past fall by greeting six new students, and closed the semester by saying "goodbye" to five students who defended their PhD dissertations between August and October. Our six new students were Ahasanul, Ismail, Ronak, Nehal, Hanumantha Rao and Sushanta; let's wish them all the best during their stay in our program. Kamrun, Subhasree, Nilesh, Jun and Manoj became doctors last fall and began the next phase of their career. Congratulations to all the newly minted doctors! We look forward to welcoming our new graduates back on May 9th at the graduation ceremony in Lubbock. Last November, we hosted our alumni and friends with an evening reception during the AAPS meeting in San Diego; our graduate school alumni and ex-faculty members from all over the country have graciously attended this social event. Thank you, alumni, for your support! As in previous fall semesters, the presence of TTUHSC SOP at various national meetings was hard to miss: our GPPS students presented their research at five national meetings, and have received numerous travel awards from various scientific societies. The award from the American Heart Association of the Pre-Doctoral Fellowship to Pooja merits special note: Pooja is the second student, after Dr. Absar, to receive a nationally competitive fellowship of such merit. Congratulations to Pooja and to her mentor, Dr. Cucullo! On top of academic events, our students participated in many organized community, fund-raising and social events, including the Women in Science Endeavors, the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, skating and bowling. They have also helped improve collaboration between our GSAA and other student organizations, combining their efforts and benefiting the community, our campus’s pharmaceutical academics and the professional future of all concerned. (Even our art gallery shows the positive effect of combining talents and blending perspectives.) On a more personal level, we are delighted to welcome three new members to our TTUHSC SOP family: one brand new bride (Munmun, Kowser’s wife) and two brand new babies (Emma born to the Trippiers, and Jeffrey born to the Jiangs). Thus, the fall semester has had all the events that an American university family might have: graduations, new admissions, farewells, a reception, academic success stories, a wedding, and the birth of new babies!
FALL 2014 GRADUATES

Kamrun Nahar, PhD
Lab of Dr. Fakhrul Ahsan
Dissertation Presented
August 22, 2014
“Respirable and Targetable Particulate Delivery Systems for PAH Therapy”

Subhasree Nag, PhD
Lab of Dr. Ruwen Zhang
Dissertation Presented
September 26, 2014
“Preclinical Pharmacology of a Novel Small Molecule MDM2 Inhibitor as Anti-cancer Agent”

Nilesh Gupta, PhD
Lab of Dr. Fakhrul Ahsan
Dissertation Presented
October 7, 2014
“Homing-Peptide Equipped Cellular and Lipidic Carriers for Inhalational Delivery of anti-PAH Drugs”

Jun Liu, PhD
Lab of Dr. James Stoll
Dissertation Presented
October 10, 2014
“Characterization and phototaffinity labeling of the low-affinity choline transporter”

Manoj Banjara, PhD
Lab of Dr. James Stoll
Dissertation Presented
October 15, 2014
“Lipocalin-2 Expression in Neuroinflammatory Models: Observations and Mechanisms of its Expression”

NEW STUDENTS for Spring 2015

Yousuf Ali
Lab: Dr. Margaret Weis

Anwar Hossain,
Lab: Dr. Nadezhd (Nadia) German

Shyanne Page
Lab: Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad

Ali Sifat
Lab: Dr. Thomas Abbruscato

Sreedhar Reddy Suthe
Lab: Dr. Ming-Hai Wang

Rajpal Vangala
Lab: Dr. Sanjay Srivastava

SPRING 2015 DISSERTATIONS

Raktima Bhattacharya, Lab of Dr. Ulrich Bickel
Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 3:00 pm
AMASOP 335 / ABISOP 1130 / LUBHSC 1C111

Rajiv Balyan, Lab of Dr. Quentin Smith
Friday, March 13, 2015 at 1:30 pm
AMASOP 335 / ABISOP 1314 / LUBHSC 1C111

Pooja Naik, Lab of Dr. Luca Cucullo
Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 3:00 pm
AMASOP 107 / ABISOP 1314 / LUBHSC 1C111
Women in Science Endeavors (WiSE) hosts a science, technology, engineering and mathematics conference for middle school girls every year. The girls participate in hands-on activities and experiments involving various scientific concepts to motivate them to pursue careers in science-related fields. This year, the event's theme was “Girls Can't What?”, and it took place at Amarillo College on November 8th, 2014.

Graduate students Alejandra Fernandez and Pooja Naik, along with pharmacy student Amanda Whiteside, conducted a workshop on surfactant chemistry where the girls understood the science and importance of surfactants. The middle school girls were then able to apply these concepts while making their own scented shower gels. The workshop was successful and the girls left knowing that science can be fun.
GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR PROGRAM - FALL 2014

08/20/14 - Manoj Banjara - “Characterization of Neuroinflammation Induced by Pathogen- and Non-Pathogen-Associated Molecular Patterns”
08/22/14 - Kamrun Nahar, Doctoral Dissertation Defense - “Respirable and Targetable Particulate Delivery Systems for PAH Therapy”
08/27/14 - Subhasree Nag - “NFAT as Cancer Target: Mission Possible?”
09/03/14 - Neel Fofaria - “Overexpression of Mcl-1 induces resistance to BRAFV600E inhibitor therapy in melanoma”
09/10/14 - Md Rashadul Islam - “Neuroprotective function of biphain peptide and non-peptide analogs in models of ischemia”
09/24/14 - Guest Speaker: Michaela Jansen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Cell Physiology and Molecular Biophysics, TTUHSC, Lubbock - “The intracellular domain of pentameric ligand-gated ion channels”
09/26/14 - Subhasree Nag, Doctoral Dissertation Defense - “Preclinical Pharmacology of a Novel Small Molecule MDM2 Inhibitor as Anticancer Agent”
10/01/14 - Md. Kowser Miah - “Determination of Blood-Brain Barrier Permeability Using Sucrose”
10/08/14 - Alejandra Fernandez - “Anticonvulsant Effects of Voluntary Exercise in Mouse Seizure Models”
10/10/14 - Jun Liu, Doctoral Dissertation Defense - “Characterization and photoaffinity labeling of the low-affinity choline transporter”
10/22/14 - Kito Barrow - “Taxanes and Methylenic Acid for the Combinational Therapy of Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer”
10/29/14 - Nihar Kinarivala - “Repurposing Flupirtine for the Treatment of Batten Disease”
11/12/14 - Guest Speaker: Carla Lacerda, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, TTU, Lubbock - “Valvular Cell Transformation Due to Mechanical Stresses in the Extracellular Environment”
11/19/14 - Sukesh Voruganti - “Polycomb Group Proteins as Target for Cancer Therapy”
12/03/14 - Kshitij Verma - “Selective AKR1C3 Inhibitors as Potential Leads for the Treatment of Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer and Acute Myeloid Leukemia”

PUBLICATIONS

Araj Balyan: Travel Award, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), Pharmacokinetics, Pharmacodynamics and Drug Metabolism (PPDM) Section, San Diego, CA. November 2014.

Alejandra Fernandez: Young Investigator Travel Award, American Epilepsy Society (AES), Seattle, WA. December 2014.

Nilesh Gupta: Travel Award, Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES), San Antonio, TX. October 2014.

Nilesh Gupta: Graduate Student Research Award in Biotechnology, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, San Diego, CA. November 2014.

Md. Rashedul Islam: Travel Award, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS), Natraceutical and Natural Products Focus Group (NNPFC), San Diego, CA. November 2014.

Md. Abul Kaisar: Student Travel Award, American College of Toxicology (ACT). November 2014.

Pooja Naik: Predoctoral Fellowship, American Heart Association (AHA), SouthWest Affiliate (SWA). December 2014.

Alok Ranjan: Syngenta Fellowship Award in Human Health Applications of New Technologies, Society of Toxicology (SOT). December 2014.


Shikha: Student Travel Award, American College of Toxicology (ACT). November 2014.
Biomedical Engineering Society  
October 22-25, 2014  
San Antonio, TX  

• Nilesh Gupta, Crystal Woods, Eva Nozik-Grayck, Fakhrul Ahsan. "Targeted Liposomes Containing Superoxide Dismutase and Fasudil Reduces Chronic Symptoms in PAH Rats".

TTUHSC GSBS  
Faculty & Student Retreat  
September 12, 2014  
Lubbock, TX  

Alejandra Fernandez and James Stoll. "Effect of Triheptanoin Feeding on Spontaneous Seizures of Pilocarpine-Induced Epileptic Mice". [Podium Presentation]

Alejandra Fernandez and James Stoll. "An Anaplerotic Diet Reduces Spontaneous Seizures in Pilocarpine-Induced Epileptic Mice".

American College of Toxicology  
November 9-12, 2014 * Orlando, FL  

• Md. A. Kaisar, Shikha Prasad, Pooja Naik and Luca Cucullo. "Protecting the BBB from tobacco smoke damage using popular antioxidants supplements: Is it really working?"

• Shikha Prasad, Pooja Naik, Md A Kaisar, Ravi Sajja and Luca Cucullo. "Cigarette Smoke-Induced BBB Toxicity Under Normal and Altered Glycemia: Proteomic Assessment of BBB Endothelial Dysfunction".

Lone Star Regional Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (LSSOT)  
November 13-14, 2014 * Austin, TX  

Pooja Naik, Ravi Sajja and Luca Cucullo. "Tobacco Smoke Induced Inflammatory Response at the Blood Brain Barrier Endothelium: A Comparative Analysis of Full Flavor vs Reduced Nicotine Products.

American Epilepsy Society  
December 5-9, 2014 * Seattle, WA  

Alejandra Fernandez and James Stoll. "A 35% Triheptanoin Diet Reduces Spontaneous Electrographic Seizures in Pilocarpine-Induced Epileptic Mice".
CONCLUSION PRESENTATIONS (cont’d)


Vindhya Edpuganti and Reza Mehbar. "Phospholipase A2 Drives the Changes in Hepatic Disposition of Arachidonic Acid (AA) and its Cytochrome P450 (P450) Metabolites after Warm Hepatic Ischemia Reperfusion (IR) Injury in Rats".

Nilesh Gupta, Crystal Woods, Eva Nozik-Grayck, Fakhrul Ahsan. "Targeted Liposomes Containing Superoxide Dismutase and Fasudil Reduces Chronic Symptoms in PAH Rats".


Jun Liu and James Stoll. "Novel Choline Analogs to Study the Low-Affinity Choline Transporter".


Pooja Naik and Luca Cucullo. "Impact of Cigarette Smoking on Blood-Brain Barrier ABC and SLC Transporters: Implications for Pharmacotherapy in Chronic Smokers".

Jahidur Rashid, Kamrun Nahar, Fakhrul Ahsan. "Combination of Rho-Kinase Inhibitor and Nitric Oxide Donor for the Treatment of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension".

2014 ANNUAL AAPS TTUHSC SOP ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECEPTION

November 4 — 5:30-7:00pm
San Diego Marriott
Marquis and Marina, Solana Room
San Diego, California
Spring/Summer CONFERENCES

American Society for Neurochemistry
The Latest in Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology
46th Annual Meeting
March 14-18, 2015 * Atlanta, GA

American Chemical Society
249th National Meeting & Exposition
March 22-26, 2015 * Denver, CO

San Diego, California
54th Annual Meeting and ToxExpo
March 22-26, 2015

American Association for Cancer Research
ANNUAL MEETING
2015 | PHILADELPHIA
APRIL 18-22, 2015
PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION CENTER
PHILADELPHIA, PA

2015 AAPS
National Biotechnology Conference
June 8-10, 2015
San Francisco Marriott Marquis
San Francisco

Inaugural
Blood-Brain Barrier
New Understanding, Strategies and Tools for Delivering Therapy to the Brain
June 10-11, 2015
Westin Boston Waterfront, Boston, MA

TTUHSC Amarillo School of Pharmacy
Fourteenth Annual Research Days Conference
~~~ June 11-12, 2015 ~~~
Amarillo Civic Center ~ Heritage Room
Each year, Student Research Week (SRW) provides a platform for students and faculty across the Texas Tech system and regional universities to showcase their research. This is a golden opportunity for various science disciplines to come together and interact in a professional environment, to facilitate exchange of ideas, promote their excellent research facilities and stimulate collaborations, together, progressing towards the advancement of science. The theme for the 2015 SRW is “Host-Microbe Interactions: Exploring Worlds Within”. Keynote speakers on March 10-13, 2015, will be: Steven Reed, Ph.D., Founder, President & Chief Scientific Officer of Infectious Disease Research Institute and Eugene Change, M.D., Martin Boyer Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Chicago.

The ten-week 2015 Amarillo Biomedical Research Internship Program will begin May 26 and run through July 31. Application Deadline: March 15, 2015.

Interested undergraduate students are encouraged to apply. Contact Teresa Carlisle by e-mail at Teresa.Carlisle@ttuhsc.edu.

Double rainbow over Blue Creek near Lake Meredith, from Shyanne Page

Sunset on the homestead, from Shyanne Page

Shyanne’s garden pics
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(Continued on page 11)
GPPS students participated (Fall 2014) in:
* Bowling
* American Heart Association, Heart Walk
* Barbeque Picnic
* Palo Duro Canyon Zipline
* Halloween Bash
* Ice Skating
* Clothing Drive, Salvation Army
* South Plains Food Bank Drive
* Salvation Army Thanksgiving Crafts
* Salvation Army Christmas Crafts
* Dr. Weis’s Holiday Party

Planned Community Events:
* March of Dimes, March for Babies
* Salvation Army Volunteer Service

2013

- Snehal Padhye, Ph.D.
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2014

- Mohammad Kowser Miah
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  in Dhaka, Bangladesh

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- Mohammad Kowser Miah
  married
  Fahima Akter Munmun
  on 08/04/2014
  in Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Born to Shannon and Paul Trippier
  on 08/27/2014,
  Emma Grace Trippier,
  8 lbs 11 oz, 21”
Spring 2015, Issue 15

GSAAGSAA

Events

Bowling Night

American Heart Association Heart Walk

Ice Skating Party