

Agonist

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



Fall 2019
Issue 24

UPDATE FROM DR. AHSAN

This past spring, Srinidhi Jayaraman, Shyanne Page, and Nehal Gupta each defended their Ph.D. doctoral dissertation, and Kinzie Sherrill defended her M.S. master's thesis. Laxmi Iyer, Md. Abul Kaiser, Ronak Patel and Heidi Villalba each defended their Ph.D. doctoral dissertation earlier in 2018, and we were able to celebrate with Nehal, Laxmi, Srinidhi, Kaiser, Ronak and Heidi at our convocation ceremony in May 2019. This summer, Nausheen Syeera, Racheal Akwii and Juan Valdez also each defended their M.S. master's thesis. We hope for great success for each and everyone one of these in their future careers.



Three new students – Tanya Chhibber, Oshin Miranda and Abdul Shaik – joined us this spring, and three more – Praneetha Panthagani, Sabrina Rahman Archie and Siavash Shahbazi Nia – joined us in the summer. This fall, our Amarillo program welcomed six new students – Yeseul Ahn, Yashwardhan Yogendra Ghanwatkar, Chanakya Deepak Patil, Iqra Pervaiz, Sadisna Shahi and Sree Pooja Varahachalam – and Racheal Akwii rejoined us as a Ph.D. student. In addition, we launched a new Abilene branch of our program, which includes eight more new students – Trevor Anderson, Elizabeth Daugherty, Shreyas Gaikwad, Md. Rakibul Islam, My Nguyen, Mariam Oladejo, Ashok Silwal and Amanda Wooster. We are pleased to see this new expansion take off, and we anticipate its growth and success.

We have recently seen two especially significant articles published in very high-impact journals. Dr. Hiranmoy Das co-authored an article published March 2019 in **Autophagy**, titled "KLF2 (kruppel like factor 2 [lung]) regulates osteoclastogenesis by modulating autophagy". Dipranjan Laha was first-author, and Moonmoon Deb was the additional co-author. Ali Keshavarz of my lab was first-author of an article published August 2019 in **Molecular Pharmaceutics**, and Ahmed Alobaida, Ivan F. McMurtry, Eva Nozik-Grahck, Kurt R. Stenmark, and I were co-authors on the article, titled "CAR, a Homing Peptide, Prolongs Pulmonary Preferential Vasodilation by Increasing Pulmonary Retention and Reducing Systemic Absorption of Liposomal Fasudil". Our students and faculty have had many publications this year and have been very productive.

We were pleased to welcome Dr. Sharanya Vemula back as our alumni speaker this year. She is a clinical scientist and medical writer for the Clinical Research Department of Fresenius Medical Care North American in Waltham, Massachusetts. She gave a talk titled "Drug Discovery and Development – Exploring the Opportunities," and it was very good of her to share her expertise with our students.

We also welcome another one of our alumni, Dr. Kaci Bohn, who is back on campus as a new faculty member. She is now an Associate Professor with the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and will certainly do a fine job in teaching current students.

GPSS OFFICE - TTUHSC Jerry H. Hodge 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

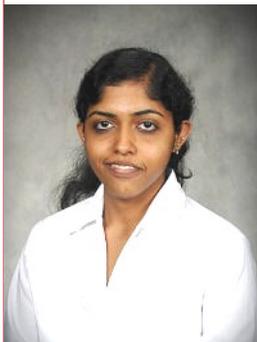
Dr. Tom Abbruscato, Associate Dean, GSBS; Chair/Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences: 414-9234

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

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Spring 2019 Graduates



Srinidhi Jayaraman, Ph.D.
 Lab of Dr. Vardan Karamyan
Dissertation Presented
 February 15, 2019
 "Discovery of small-molecule allosteric modulators for endopeptidase neurolysin"



Shyanne Page, Ph.D.
 Lab of Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad
Dissertation Presented
 March 1, 2019
 "Restoring the Blood-Brain Barrier Following Ischemic Stroke Injury: Investigation of the HIF-1 and Wnt/ β -Catenin Pathways as Potential Targets"

Kinzie Sherrill, M.S.
 Lab of Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad

Thesis Presented
 March 15, 2019

"A Review of Glucose Homeostasis in Diseases at the Blood-Brain Barrier"



Nehal Gupta, Ph.D.
 Lab of Dr. Sanjay Srivastava

Dissertation Presented
 March 22, 2019

"Atovaquone, an anti-protozoal drug for the management of primary, resistant and metastatic breast cancer"



Summer 2019 Dissertations & Theses

<p>Nausheen Syera Lab of Dr. Vardan Karamyan June 4, 2019, 10:00 AM AMA SOP 335 / ABSOP 1130 / LUB HSC 1C102</p>	<p>Racheal Akwii Lab of Dr. Constantinos Mikelis June 7, 2019, 11:00 AM AMA SOP 335 / ABSOP 1130 / LUB HSC 1C111</p>	<p>Juan Valdez Lab of Dr. Paul Trippier June 19, 2019, 10:00 AM AMA SOP 335 / ABSOP 1130 / LUB HSC 1C100</p>
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Convocation
 May 11, 2019



Nehal Gupta was hooded by Dr. Sanjay Srivastava



Laxmi Iyer was hooded by Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara

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Angonist

Convocation
May 11, 2019
(cont'd)



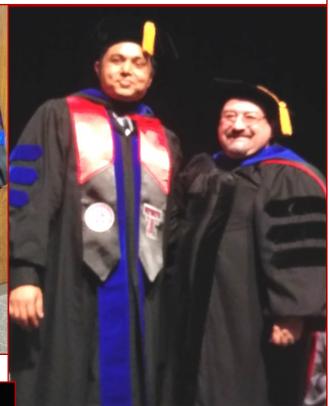
(front, L-R) Nehal Gupta, Shyanne Page, Laxmi Iyer, Ronak Patel; (back, L-R) Srinidhi Jayaraman, Heidi Villalba, Md. Abul Kaisar



Srinidhi Jayaraman was hooded by Dr. Vardan Karamyan



Md. Abul Kaisar was hooded by Dr. Luca Cucullo



Shyanne Page was hooded by Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad



Ronak Patel was hooded by Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad



Heidi Villalba was hooded by Dr. Thomas Abbruscato



(front, L-R) Ronak Patel, Srinidhi Jayaraman, Nehal Gupta, Heidi Villalba, Shyanne Page, Laxmi Iyer, Dr. Thomas Thekkumkara; (middle, L-R) Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Dr. Thomas Abbruscato, Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad, Md. Abul Kaisar; (back, L-R) Dr. Vardan Karamyan, Dr. Luca Cucullo

NEW AMARILLO STUDENTS for SUMMER 2019

Praneetha Panthagani, B.Pharm., M.Pharm.
Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, India
Lab: Dr. Fakhru Ahsan

Sabrina Rahman Archie, B.Pharm., M.Pharm.
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Lab: Dr. Luca Cucullo

Siavash Shahbazi Nia, B.Pharm., M.Pharm.
Rajiv Gandhi Univ. of Health Sciences, Karnataka, India
Lab: Dr. Nadezhda German



[back, L-R] Praneetha Panthagani, Sabrina Rahman Archie, [front] Siavash Shahbazi Nia

NEW AMARILLO STUDENTS for FALL 2019



[front, L-R] Iqra Pervaiz, Yashwardhan Ghanwatkar, Chanakya Patil, Sadisna Shahi
[back, L-R] Sree Pooja Varahachalam, Yeseul Ahn

Yeseul Ahn, B.S.
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Lab: Dr. Ulrich Bickel

Racheal Akwii, BS, MS
Texas Tech University HSC, Amarillo, TX
Lab: Dr. Constantinos Mikelis

Yashwardhan Ghanwatkar, B.Pharm
Savitribai Phule Pune University, India
Lab: Dr. Thomas Abbruscato

Chanakya Deepak Patil, B.Pharm.
Savitribai Phule Pune University, India
Lab: Dr. Ulrich Bickel

Iqra Pervaiz, B.S., M.S.
Bangor University, Great Britain
Lab: Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad

Sadisna Shahi, B.Pharm.
Kathmandu University, Nepal
Lab: Dr. Nadezhda German

Sree Pooja Varahachalam, B.Pharm.
Osmania University, India
Lab: Dr. Rahul Dev Jayant

NEW ABILENE STUDENTS for FALL 2019

Trevor Anderson, B.S., M.S.
Texas Tech University HSC, Abilene, TX
Lab: Dr. Devin Lowe

Elizabeth Daugherty, B.S.
Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX
Lab: Dr. Magdalena Karbowiczek

Shreyas Gaikwad, B.Pharm., M.S.
Bharati Vidyapeeth, India
Lab: Dr. Sanjay Srivastava

Md. Rakibul Islam, B.Pharm., M.Pharm.
North South University, Bangladesh
Lab: Dr. Irene La-Beck

My Nguyen, B.S.
Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical Univ., India
Lab: Dr. Dipongkor Saha

Mariam Oladejo, B.Pharm.
Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
Lab: Dr. Laurence Wood

Ashok Silwal, B.S., M.S.
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL
Lab: Dr. Maciej Markiewski

Amanda Wooster, B.S.
Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX
Lab: Dr. Devin Lowe



[front, L-R] Md. Rakibul Islam, Amanda Wooster, My Nguyen, Mariam Oladejo
[back, L-R] Shreyas Gaikwad, Ashok Silwal, Beth Daugherty, Trevor Anderson

GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR PROGRAM - Spring 2019

01/18/2019 — **Md. Yousuf Ali** — “Cytokine-stimulated iNOS Expression Requires Long-Chain Fatty Acyl CoA Synthetase (ACSL)”

01/18/2019 — **Carl “Joey” Greene** — “Use of Stem Cell Product for Chronic Wound Healing”

01/25/2019 — **Kumari “Iti” Kaushik** — “Repurposing neuroleptic drug for brain tumor therapy”

01/25/2019 — **Sharavan Ramachandran** — “Pimavanserin suppresses pancreatic tumor growth and resistance to gemcitabine by inhibiting Akt/Gli1 signaling”

02/01/2019 — **Ali Sifat** — “Effects of Maternal E-Cigarette Use on Offspring Cognitive Function and Hypoxic Brain Injury”

02/08/2019 — **Md. Anwar Hossain** — “Development of Selective Kappa Opioid Receptor Antagonists for the Treatment of Chronic Neuropathic Pain”

02/08/2019 — **Kinzie Sherrill** — “A Review of Glucose Homeostasis in Diseases at the Blood-Brain Barrier”

02/15/2019 — **Srinidhi Jayaraman, Doctoral Dissertation Defense** — “Discovery of small-molecule allosteric modulators for endopeptidase neurolysin”

02/22/2019 — **Racheal Akwii** — “Role of RhoA on Ang2-induced endothelial cell migration”

02/22/2019 — **Nausheen Syera** — “An Insight into the Unique Model of Ischemic Stroke: The Ferric Chloride Model”

03/01/2019 — **Shyanne Page, Doctoral Dissertation Defense** — “Restoring the Blood-Brain Barrier Following Ischemic Stroke Injury: Investigation of the HIF-1 and Wnt/ β -Catenin Pathways as Potential Targets”

03/08/2019 — **Behnam Noorani** — “Development of a LC-MS/MS-based method for the simultaneous use of mannitol and sucrose as markers of blood-brain barrier integrity”

03/15/2018 — **Kinzie Sherrill, Master’s Thesis Defense** — “Determining the Effects of the Ketogenic Diet on Blood-Brain Barrier Function Using Human-Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells”

03/15/2019 — **Juan Valdez** — “Small-Molecule ABAD Inhibitors for Alzheimer’s Treatment”

03/22/2019 — **Nehal Gupta, Doctoral Dissertation Defense** — “Atovaquone, an anti-protozoal drug for the management of primary, resistant and metastatic breast cancer”

03/29/2019 — **Derek Barthels** — “Use of Dental Pulp Stem Cells to Modulate Neuroinflammation”

03/29/2019 — **Saeideh Nozohouri** — “Anti-Edematous Effect of Neurolysin”

04/05/2019 — **Thamer Albekairi** — “Ischemic Brain Transport and Neuroprotective Properties of a Potent Opioid Receptor Agonist, Biphalin”

04/05/2019 — **Behnaz Lahooti** — “High Throughput method for non-viral gene delivery”

04/12/2019 — **Angelica Carmona** — “Repurposing Flupirtine and Retigabine for the Treatment of Batten’s Disease”

04/19/2019 — **Aditya Bhalerao** — “Tobacco Smoke and HIV-1 gp120-Induced Toxicity - Implications for Blood-Brain Barrier Integrity”

04/19/2018 — **Abdullah Al Shoyaib** — “Combining Voluntary Exercise with Epigenetic Targets for Stroke Recovery in Mice”

04/26/2019 — **Alumni Speaker, Sharanya Vemula, Ph.D.**, Clinical Scientist/Medical Writer, Clinical Research Department, Fresenius Medical Care North America, Waltham, MA — “Drug Discovery and Development Exploring the Opportunities”

05/03/2019—**Ahmed Morsy**—“Design, synthesis and evaluation of 17beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase inhibitors”

05/08/2019—**Rachel Hudson**—“Development of a Novel Antibody-Drug Conjugate Targeting MET Receptor Tyrosine Kinase for Cancer Therapy”

05/08/2019—**Farzane Sivandzade**—“Assessing the Protective Effect of Rosiglitazone Against Electronic Cigarette/Tobacco Smoke-Induced Blood-Brain Barrier Impairment”

“The aim of argument, or of discussion, should not be victory, but progress.” Joseph Joubert

PUBLICATIONS

- A**
- ≈**Akwii RG, Sajib MS, Zahra FT**, Mikelis CM. Role of Angiopoietin-2 in Vascular Physiology and Pathophysiology. *Cells*. 2019 May 17;8(5). pii: E471
- ≈Vijayan M, **Alamri FF, Al Shoyaib A**, Karamyan VT, Reddy PH. Novel miRNA PC-5P-12969 in Ischemic Stroke. *Mol Neurobiol*. 2019 Apr 5. [Epub ahead of print]
- ≈**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 N**, Gupta P, Srivastava SK. Penfluridol overcomes paclitaxel resistance in metastatic breast cancer. *Sci Rep*. 2019 Mar 25;9(1):5066.
- ≈**Kadry H**, Wadnap S, Xu C, Ahsan F. Digital light processing (DLP) 3D-printing technology and photo-reactive polymers in fabrication of modified-release tablets. *Eur J Pharm Sci*. 2019 May 17;135:60-67. [Epub ahead of print]
- ≈**Kaushik I, Ramachandran S**, Srivastava SK. CRISPR-Cas9: A multifaceted therapeutic strategy for cancer treatment. *Semin Cell Dev Biol*. 2019 May 4. pii: S1084-9521(18)30118-6. [Epub ahead of print] Review.
- ≈**Keshavarz A, Alobaida A**, McMurtry IF, Nozik-Grayck E, Stenmark KR, Ahsan F. CAR, a homing peptide, prolongs pulmonary preferential vasodilation by increasing pulmonary retention and reducing systemic absorption of liposomal fasudil. *Mol Pharm*. 2019 Jun 13. [Epub ahead of print]
- ≈**Lee Y**, Money K, Elliott, A. Sugammadex compared with Neostigmine/Glycopyrrolate: An Analysis of Total PACU Time, Responsiveness, and Potential for Economic Impact. *INNOVATIONS in Pharmacy*. 2019;10(3):1-12.
- ≈Reddy PH, Swerdlow RH, Culberson J, Kang D, Mitchell TL, Smith Q, Suneja S, Ory MG, Kumar S, Vijayan M, **Morsy A**, Arandia G, Lawrence JJ, George E, Oliver D, Pradeepkiran JA, Yin X, Reddy AP, Manczak M, Cengiz P, Karamyan VT, Kandimalla R, Kuruva CS, Willms J, Ramasubramanian B, Sawant N, Burugu D, Boles AN, Lopez V, Carrasco R, Aguirre C, Thompson S, Blackmon J, Ament C, Wang R, Stephens ER, Hoang B, Bass K, Trippier PC, Hornback C, Kottapalli P, Kottapalli KR; Center Biotechnology and Genetics Core Facility, Oddo S. Current Status of Healthy Aging and Dementia Research: A Symposium Summary. *J Alzheimers Dis*. 2019 May 17. [Epub ahead of print]
- ≈**Nozohouri S**, Salehi R, Ghanbarzadeh S, Adibkia K, Hamishehkar H. A multilayer hollow nanocarrier for pulmonary co-drug delivery of methotrexate and doxorubicin in the form of dry powder inhalation formulation. *Mater Sci Eng C Mater Biol Appl*. 2019 Jun;99:752-761. [Epub 2019 Feb 2.]
- ≈**Page S, Patel R, Raut S**, Al-Ahmad A. Neurological diseases at the blood-brain barrier: Stemming new scientific paradigms using patient-derived induced pluripotent cells. *Biochim Biophys Acta Mol Basis Dis*. 2018 Dec 26. pii: S0925-4439(18)30495-2. [Epub ahead of print] Review.
- ≈**Page S, Raut S**, Al-Ahmad A. Oxygen-Glucose Deprivation/Reoxygenation-Induced Barrier Disruption at the Human Blood-Brain Barrier is Partially Mediated Through the HIF-1 Pathway. *Neuro-molecular Med*. 2019 Mar 26. [Epub ahead of print]
- ≈Prasad S, **Ramachandran S, Gupta N, Kaushik I**, Srivastava SK. Cancer cells stemness: A doorstep to targeted therapy. *Biochim Biophys Acta Mol Basis Dis*. 2019 Feb 26. pii: S0925-4439(19)30071-7. [Epub ahead of print] Review.
- ≈Hossian AKMN, Muthumula CMR, **Sajib MS**, Tullar PE, Stelly AM, Briski KP, Mikelis CM, Matthaiolampakis G. Analysis of Combinatorial miRNA Treatments to Regulate Cell Cycle and Angiogenesis. *J Vis Exp*. 2019 Mar 30;(145).
- ≈**Sajib MS**, Mikelis CM. DNA Repair Response Adaptors: Novel Targets for Vasoproliferative Retinopathy? *Thromb Haemost*. 2019 Mar;119(3):358. Epub 2019 Jan 8.
- ≈**Sifat AE**, Vaidya B, Villalba H, **Albekairi TH**, Abbruscato T.J. 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, Bhalerao A**, Cucullo L. Analysis of the Mitochondrial Membrane Potential Using the Cationic JC-1 Dye as a Sensitive Fluorescent Probe. *Bio Protoc*. 2019 Jan 5;9(1). pii: e3128.
- ≈**Sivandzade F**, Cucullo L. Assessing the protective effect of rosiglitazone against electronic cigarette/tobacco smoke-induced blood-brain barrier impairment. *BMC Neurosci*. 2019 Apr 4;20(1):15.
- ≈**Sivandzade F, Bhalerao A**, Cucullo L. Cerebrovascular and Neurological Disorders: Protective Role of NRF2. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2019 Jul 12;20(14). pii: E3433.
- ≈Yao HP, Feng L, **Suthe SR**, Chen LH, Weng TH, Hu CY, Jun ES, Wu ZG, Wang WL, Kim SC, Tong XM, Wang MH. Therapeutic efficacy, pharmacokinetic profiles, and toxicological activities of humanized antibody-drug conjugate Zt/g4-MMAE targeting RON receptor tyrosine kinase for cancer therapy. *J Immunother Cancer*. 2019 Mar 14;7(1):75.
- ≈**Zahra FT**, Choleva E, **Sajib MS**, Papadimitriou E, Mikelis CM. In Vitro Spheroid Sprouting Assay of Angiogenesis. *Methods Mol Biol*. 2019;1952:211-218. [Book Chapter]
- ≈Kastana P, **Zahra FT**, Ntenekou D, Katraki-Pavlou S, Beis D, Lionakis MS, Mikelis CM, Papadimitriou E. Matrigel Plug Assay for In-Vivo Evaluation of Angiogenesis. *Methods Mol Biol*. 2019;1952:219-232. [Book Chapter]
- ≈**Zahra FT**, Sajib MS, Ichiyama Y, Akwii RG, Tullar PE, Cobos C, Minchew SA, Doçi CL, Zheng Y, Kubota Y, Gutkind JS, Mikelis CM. Endothelial RhoA GTPase is essential for in-vitro endothelial functions but dispensable for physiological in-vivo angiogenesis. *Sci Rep*. 2019 Aug 12;9(1):11666.
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AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

♦Faisal Alamri:

—Travel Award, Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, American Heart Association's International Stroke Conference, Honolulu, HI; February 2019.

♦Md Ashraf-Uz-Zaman:

—Graduate Student Travel Support Award, Society of Toxicology 58th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD; March 2019.
—Travel Award, American Chemical Society — Division of Medicinal Chemistry, Orlando, FL; Mar/Apr 2019

♦Ekram Chowdhury:

—Graduate Student Travel Support Award, Society of Toxicology 58th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD; March 2019.
—Boehringer Ingelheim Award for Excellence in Biotherapeutic Safety, Society of Toxicology — Biotechnology Specialty Section, SOT, Baltimore, MD; March 2019.
—Phonathon Scholarship, TTUHSC Student Government Association, Spring 2019.
—Travelship, American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, International Brain Barriers Society Workshop on Novel Approaches Targeting Brain Barriers for Effective Delivery of Therapeutics, Herndon, VA; Apr/May 2019.

♦Nehal Gupta:

—Immuno-Oncology Innovation Award, from Miltenyi Biotec, American Association for Cancer Research, Atlanta, GA; Mar/Apr 2019.

—Graduate/Postdoctoral Travel Award, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL; April 2019.

—Cayman Travel Grant Award, Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL; April 2019.

♦Kumari Itishree Kaushik:

—Second Place Winner, Pharmaceutical Sciences & School of Pharmacy Student Division, Student Research Week, TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Lubbock, TX; March 2019.

—Cayman Travel Grant Award, Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL; April 2019.

♦Ali Keshavarz:

—International Foundation for Ethical Research Fellowship, funded by the National Anti-Vivisection Society [selected Oct'18, applied Spring 2019].

—Abstract Scholarship, Assembly on Pulmonary Circulation, American Thoracic Society International Conference, Dallas, TX; May 2019.

♦Sharavan Ramachandran:

—Excellence in Research Award, Society of Toxicology, Stem Cells Specialty Section, SOT 58th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD; March 2019.

—Student Travel Award, Society of Toxicology—Comparative & Veterinary Specialty Section, SOT 58th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD; March 2019.

—Dharm V Singh Carcinogenesis Graduate Student Endowment Award, Society of Toxicology — Carcinogenesis Specialty Section, SOT Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD; March 2019.

—Graduate Student Award, Association of Scientists of Indian Origin, Society of Toxicology 58th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD; March 2019.

—First Place Winner, Pharmaceutical Sciences and School of Pharmacy Student Division, Student Research Week, TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Lubbock, TX; March 2019.

—First Place Winner, Lubbock Economic Development Alliance Commercialization Award, Student Research Week, TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Lubbock, TX; March 2019.

—Travel Scholarship, American Association of Indian Scientists in Cancer Research — Legacy Immigration Scholarship Committee, American Association for Cancer Research, Atlanta, GA; Mar/Apr 2019.

—Graduate/Postdoctoral Travel Award, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL; April 2019.

—Cayman Travel Grant Award, Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL; April 2019.

♦Md Sanaullah Sajib:

—Graduate Student Travel Support Award, Society of Toxicology 58th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD; March 2019.

—Graduate/Postdoctoral Travel Award, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL; April 2019.

—Third Place Winner, Pharmaceutical Sciences and School of Pharmacy Student Division, Student Research Week, TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Lubbock, TX; March 2019.

♦Ali Sifat:

—Dean's Scholars Award 2019, TTUHSC Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, selected January 2019.

—Mentoring Network Travel Award, American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL; April 2019.

—Selected for participation in American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Mentoring Network: Coaching for Career Development, Experimental Biology; April 2019.

♦Sreedhar Reddy Suthe:

—Dharm V. Singh Carcinogenesis Graduate Student Endowment Award, Carcinogenesis Specialty Section, Society of Toxicology, March 2019.

—Graduate Student Award, Association of Scientists of Indian Origin, Society of Toxicology, March 2019.

♦Fatema Tuz Zahra:

—Graduate/Postdoctoral Travel Award, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL; April 2019.

—Cayman Chemicals Award, Experimental Biology, Orlando, FL; April 2019.

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS



Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology, Mitochondria in Aging and Age-Related Disease (J2) * Keystone, CO * Jan. 13-17, 2019

***Ahmed Morsy**, Laura Aitken, Frank J. Gunn-Moore, Paul C. Trippier. "Inhibition of the Mitochondrial Enzyme Amyloid-Binding Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ABAD) by AG18501 and its Analogs in the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease"

**American Heart Association - International Stroke Conference
Honolulu, Hawaii * February 6-8, 2019**

Faisal F. Alamri, Abdullah Al Shoyaib, Anisha Paul, Srinidhi Jayaraman, Thiruma V. Arumugam, Vardan T. Karamyan. "SNRI atomoxetine and SSRI fluoxetine promote motor recovery after photo-thrombotic stroke in mice"



**Women's Cardiovascular and Brain Health 2019 Symposium
University of North Texas Health Sciences Center
Fort Worth, TX * February 22, 2019**

Shyanne Page, Mikaelan Cucciarre-Stulligross, and Dr. Al-Ahmad. "Wnt of Change: Determining the Effect of the Wnt/ β -Catenin Pathway on the BBB during Ischemic/Re-Oxygenation Stress" [**Podium Presentation**]

Society of Toxicology * Baltimore, MD * March 10-14, 2019

***Md. Ashraf-Uz-Zaman**, Md. Sanaullah Sajib, Constantinos M. Mikelis, Nadezhda A. German. "Design, Synthesis, and Evaluation of Novel Penfluridol Analogs with Optimized Toxicity"

***Ekram Ahmed 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"

***Sharavan Ramachandran** and Sanjay Srivastava. "Pimavanserin, a novel Anti-parkinson drug suppresses pancreatic tumor growth by inhibiting Akt/Gli-1 signaling axis"

***Md. Sanaullah Sajib**, Fatema Tuz Zahra, Jee Hyun Park, Paul Tullar, Sanjay K. Srivastava, Ulrich Bickel, and Constantinos M. Mikelis. "Inhibition of Endothelial RhoA-ROCK pathway blocks cancer metastasis"

***Farzane Sivandzade** and Luca Cucullo. "The Protective Effect of Rosiglitazone against Electronic Cigarette/Tobacco Smoke Induced Cerebrovascular Toxicity"

***Sreedhar Reddy Suthe**, 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"

***Zahra, Fatema Tuz**, Sajib M.S., Ichiyama Y., Tullar P., Kubota Y., Mikelis C.M. "Participation of Endothelial Small GTPase RhoA in Embryo Development and Retinal Angiogenesis"



**American Association for Cancer Research
Atlanta, GA * March 29 - April 3, 2019**

***Nehal Gupta**, and Sanjay Srivastava. "Oxidative stress by proguanil suppresses breast tumor growth" [**Podium Presentation**]

***Itishree Kaushik**, Alok Ranjan, Blake Schwettmann and Sanjay K Srivastava. "Repurposing neuroleptic drug for brain tumor therapy"

***Sharavan Ramachandran** and Sanjay Srivastava. "Pimavanserin suppresses pancreatic tumor growth and resistance to gemcitabine by inhibiting Akt/Gli1 signaling"

***Md. Sanaullah Sajib**, Fatema Tuz Zahra, Jee Hyun Park, Paul Tullar, Sanjay K. Srivastava, Ulrich Bickel, and Constantinos M. Mikelis. "Inhibition of Endothelial RhoA-ROCK Pathway Blocks Cancer Metastasis"

***Sreedhar Reddy Suthe**, Yao HP, Weng TH, Hu CY, Feng L, Wu ZG, Wang MH. "Therapeutic Efficacy, Pharmacokinetic Profiles, and Toxicological Activities of Humanized Antibody-Drug Conjugate Zt/g4-MMAE Targeting RON Receptor Tyrosine Kinase for Cancer Therapy"

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)

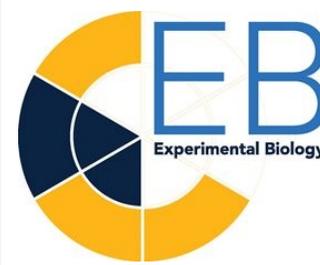


Division of
Medicinal
Chemistry

American Chemical Society - Division of Medicinal Chemistry
Orlando, FL * March 31 - April 4, 2019

*Md. Ashraf-Uz-Zaman, Md. Sanullah Sajib, Constantinos M. Mikelis, Nadezhda A. German. "Novel Diphenylbutylpiperidine Analogs to Treat Lung Cancer"

Experimental Biology
Orlando, FL * April 6-9, 2019



*Yousuf Ali, Margaret Teresa Weis. "Cytokine-stimulated iNOS Expression Requires Long Chain Fatty Acyl CoA Synthetase (ACSL)"

Nehal Gupta and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Antimetastatic potential of Atovaquone against triple negative breast cancer: Involvement of the integrin-FAK-Src pathway" [Podium Presentation]

*Itishree Kaushik, Alok Ranjan, Blake Schwettmann and Sanjay K Srivastava. "Repurposing neuroleptic drug for brain tumor treatment"

*Saeideh Nozohouri, Srinidhi Jayaraman, Bhuvaneshwar Vaidya, Vardan Karamyan, Thomas Abbruscato. "Effect of neurolysin on cellular edema during ischemic stroke"

Shyanne Page, Heidi Villalba, and Abraham Al-Ahmad. "Determining the effect of the WNT/b-catenin pathway on the ischemic blood-brain barrier in vitro and in vivo" [Podium Presentation]

Sharavan Ramachandran and Sanjay Srivastava. "Pimavanserin tartrate: A potential drug for pancreatic cancer therapy in future" [Podium Presentation]

*Md. Sanullah Sajib, Fatema Tuz Zahra, Jee Hyun Park, Paul Tullar, Sanjay K. Srivastava, Ulrich Bickel, Constantinos M Mikelis. "Endothelial RhoA Regulates Breast Cancer Metastasis"

*Md. Sanullah Sajib, Fatema Tuz Zahra, Jee Hyun Park, Paul Tullar, Sanjay K. Srivastava, Ulrich Bickel, and Constantinos M. Mikelis. "Role of Endothelial RhoA in Melanoma and Lung Cancer Trans-Endothelial Migration and Metastasis"

*Ali Sifat, Saeideh Nozohouri, Heidi Villalba, Bhuvaneshwar Vaidya, Thomas Abbruscato. "Maternal E-Cig Use Can Enhance Offspring Susceptibility to Hypoxic-Ischemic Brain Injury"

*Zahra FT, Sajib MS, Ichiyama Y, Akwii R, Tullar P, Kubota Y, Mikelis CM. "Involvement of Endothelial Small GTPase RhoA in Angiogenesis In Vitro and In Vivo"



American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and
International Brain Barriers Society (Co-Sponsor) Workshop
"Novel Approaches Targeting Brain Barriers
for Effective Delivery of Therapeutics"
Herndon, VA * April 29 - May 1, 2019

*Ekram Chowdhury, Franz Hack, Behnam Noorani, Dagmar Fischer, Ulrich Bickel. "In-Vitro Characterization and Targeted Delivery of Hydroxyethyl Starch-Polyethyleneimine-Based Polyplexes using a Transferrin Receptor Antibody"

*Snehal Raut, Ronak Patel and Abraham Al-Ahmad. "Alzheimer's-related conditions on the blood-brain barrier (BBB)"

National Cancer Institute at
the National Institutes of Health
Graduate Student Recruitment Program
Bethesda, MD * May 7-8, 2019



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
Graduate Student Recruiting Program

*Md. Sanullah Sajib, Fatema Tuz Zahra, Jee Hyun Park, Paul E. Tullar, Sanjay K. Srivastava, Ulrich Bickel, Constantinos M. Mikelis. "Inhibition of Endothelial RhoA-ROCK Pathway Blocks Cancer Metastasis"

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (cont'd)



International Society for Aerosols in Medicine at
American Thoracic Society — International Conference
Dallas, TX * May 17-22, 2019

Ahmed Alobaida, Fakhru Ahsan. "Inhaled PLGA Particles of Spermine Nonoate, Nitric Oxide Donor, as a Promising Targeted Therapy to Reduce Pulmonary Arterial Pressure in PAH"
[Podium Presentation]

***Ali Keshavarz, A. Alobaida, F. Ahsan.** "CAR, A Homing Peptide, Prolongs Pulmonary Preferential Vaso-dilation by Increasing Pulmonary Retention and Reducing Systemic Absorption of Liposomal Fasudil"



North American Vascular Biology
Organization — Lymphatic Forum
Austin, TX * May 30 - June 1, 2019

***Akwii RG, Zahra FT, Sajib MS, Gibson K, Tullar P, Mikelis CM.** "Angiopoietin 2 (Ang2)-induced lymphatic endothelial cell migration is dependent on RhoA activation"

Cerebral Vascular Biology * Miami, FL * June 25-28, 2019

***Ekram Chowdhury, Faleh Alqahtani, Behnam Noorani, Md Sanaullah Sajib, Constantinos M Mikelis, Reza Mehvar, Ulrich Bickel.** "Blood-brain barrier permeability of [¹³C]sucrose in young adult and aged mice"

***Behnam Noorani, Ekram Ahmed Chowdhury, Srikumar Krishnamoorthy, Changxue Xu, Abraham Al-Ahmad, Ulrich Bickel.** "Fabrication and characterization of 3D-printed microvascular structures based on hydrogel as a blood-brain barrier model"

CEREBRAL VASCULAR BIOLOGY



www.cvb2019.com

13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CVB2019
MIAMI

June 25th – 28th



North American Vascular Biology Organization — Vasculata
Milwaukee, WI * July 15-18, 2019

***Zahra FT, Sajib MS, Ichiyama Y, Akwii RG, Tullar P, Kubota Y, Mikelis CM.** "Involvement of endothelial small GTPase RhoA in basic endothelial cell functions, embryo development and retinal angiogenesis"

Gordon Research Seminar and Conference
Salve Regina University, Waterville Valley, NH * August 3-9, 2019

***Fatema Tuz Zahra, Md Sanaullah Sajib, Vasileios Oikonomou, Mohd Nazmul Hasan Apu, Racheal Akwii, Paul Tullar, Michail S Lionakis, Constantinos M. Mikelis.** "Role of small GTPase RhoA in basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF)-induced angiogenesis"



Novartis Quantitative Sciences
Academia-to-Industry Hackathon
Cambridge, MA * August 12-23, 2019

Ekram Ahmed Chowdhury, Faleh Alqahtani, Behnam Noorani, Md Sanaullah Sajib, Constantinos M Mikelis, Reza Mehvar, Ulrich Bickel. "Blood-brain barrier permeability of [¹³C]sucrose in young adult and aged mice"

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The 31st Student Research Week, hosted by the students of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center campus in Lubbock, was held **March 19-22, 2019**. Student Research Week is an annual inter-disciplinary event to showcase their research and build a platform for interaction.

Dr. Brandt L. Schneider, GSBS Dean, stated that the event "was an outstanding, week-long display of excellent scientific presentations by our students. I was extremely impressed by their accomplishments, enthusiasm and creativity." This year's theme of "Animalcules Detected: Immune Response Activated", aiming to connect the complex immune responses which occur when the body comes into contact with the various micro-organisms, showcased two main guest speakers:

Marvin Whiteley, Ph.D., Professor, Bennie H. & Nelson D. Abell Chair in Dept. of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Anice Lowen, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology, Emory University School of Medicine.

Lubbock Economic Development Alliance Commercialization Award (LEDAC) Winner:

First Place: Sharavan Ramachandran

Pharmaceutical Sciences and School of Pharmacy Division Winners:

First PI: Sharavan Ramachandran **Second PI:** Itishree Kaushik **Third PI:** Md. Sanauallah Sajib

Select Student Podium Presentations:

Shyanne Page, Heidi Villalba, and Abraham Al-Ahmad. "Determining the effect of the WNT/b-catenin pathway on the ischemic blood-brain barrier in vitro and in vivo"

Ali Sifat, Saeideh Nozohouri, Heidi Villalba, Bhuvaneshwar Vaidya, Thomas Abbruscato. "Maternal E-Cig Use Can Enhance Offspring Susceptibility to Hypoxic-Ischemic Brain Injury"

Poster Presentations:

Racheal Akwii, Zahra F.T., Sajib M.S., Gibson, K., Tullar P., Mikelis C.M. "Small GTPase RhoA participates in Angiopoietin 2-induced lymphatic endothelial cell migration"

Thamer Albekairi, Bhuvaneshwar Vaidya, Ronak Patel, Abraham Al-Ahmad, Thomas Abbruscato. "A mechanism of biphalin transport across the blood-brain barrier during ischemic stroke"

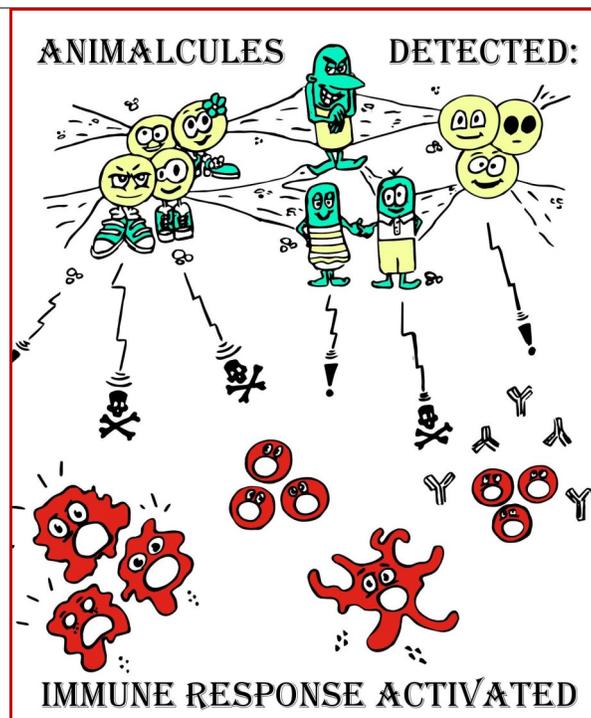
Sounak Bagchi and Rahul Dev Jayant. "Combinatorial multifunctional therapy for the treatment of NeuroHIV"

Ekram Chowdhury, Faleh Alqahtani, Behnam Noorani, Md Sanauallah Sajib, Constantinos M Mikelis, Reza Mehvar, Ulrich Bickel. "Blood-brain barrier permeability of [¹³C]sucrose in young adult and aged mice"

Anwar Hossain, Wei Li, Kendra Rumbaugh, Nadezhda A. German. "Design and synthesis of dual-acting quorum sensing inhibitors to suppress the virulence program of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*"

Kimari "Iti" Kaushik, Alok Ranjan, Blake Schwettmann and Sanjay K Srivastava. "Repurposing neuroleptic drug for brain tumor therapy"

Yoon Jung Lee, Alejandra Fernandez, James Stoll. "The anticonvulsant effect of physical activity differs between sexes in the mouse corneal kindling model"



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The 31st Student Research Week (cont'd)

Poster Presentations (cont'd):

Yoon Jung Lee, Alejandra Fernandez, James Stoll. "The anticonvulsant effect of physical activity differs between sexes in the mouse corneal kindling model"

Saeideh Nozohouri, Srinidhi Jayaraman, Bhuvaneshwar Vaidya, Vardan Karamyan, Thomas Abbruscato. "Effect of neurolysin on cellular edema during ischemic stroke"

Sharavan Ramachandran and Sanjay K. Srivastava. "Repositioning of novel anti-psychotic drug for pancreatic cancer treatment"

Snehal Raut, Ronak Patel and Abraham Al-Ahmad. "Alzheimer's-related conditions on the blood-brain barrier (BBB)"

Daniela Rolph, Moonmoon Deb, Suman Kanji, Manjusri Das, Matthew Joseph, Reeva Aggarwal, and Hiranmoy Das. "Ferutinin-treated dental pulp-derived stem cells express osteogenic markers and may attenuate osteoclastogenesis in a murine model of osteoporosis"

Md. Sanaullah Sajib, Zahra FT, Akwii RA, Park JH, Tullar PE, Srivastava SK, Bickel U, Mikelis CM. "Activation of endothelial RhoA during cancer cell trans-endothelial migration in metastasis"

Farzane Sivandzade and Luca Cucullo. "Assessing the Protective Effect of Rosiglitazone against Tobacco Smoke and Electronic Cigarette Induced Oxidative Stress Damage at the Blood Brain Barrier"

Zahra F.T., Sajib M.S., Ichiyama Y., Akwii R., Tullar P., Kubota Y., Mikelis C.M. "The endothelial small GTPase RhoA regulates angiogenesis in certain pathological conditions"

**SCHOOL OF PHARMACY CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT
Graduate Student Association in Amarillo**

**May 10, 2019 Award Ceremony
Honors for Students, Faculty & Staff**



Daniela Rolph, GSAA Secretary, presented awards during the ceremony.



Yoon Jung Lee received the "Outstanding GSAA Student of the Year" award for 2018-2019.



Ali Sifat was recognized for having received the "GSBS Dean's Scholar" award for 2018-2019.



Dr. Constantinos Mikelis received the "Graduate Faculty Mentor of the Year" award, and the "Graduate Teacher of the Year" award for "Experimental Design and Biostatistics".



The "Graduate Teaching Team of the Year" award for "Physiology-Based Pharmacology" was presented to **Dr. Ulrich Bickel, Dr. Luca Cucullo, Dr. Vardan Karamyan, Dr. Kalkunte Srivenugopal, and Dr. Margaret Weis.**

Amarillo Biomedical Research Internship 2019 began its annual ten-week program this year on May 28th with **six** ABRI interns working in various School of Pharmacy labs in Amarillo, and **three** in Abilene. Significant presentations from different backgrounds and perspectives were given throughout the summer by School of Pharmacy faculty and staff. Graduate Program Advisor, Dr. Fakhru Ahsan, finished with a brief summary of the Graduate Program. The program concluded August 2nd with a luncheon for ABRI interns, parents, faculty, graduate students and staff, with each of the interns being presented a certificate, and then giving a podium presentation of their respective research.

ABRI Interns

- » **Collin Blackwell** ~ Dr. Nadezhda German, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- » **Pierce Daly** ~ Dr. Maciej Markiewski, Immunotherapeutics & Biotechnology
- » **Anthony Harwell** ~ Dr. Rahul Dev Jayant, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- » **Dawson Miller** ~ Dr. Thomas Abbruscato, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- » **Claire Shudde** ~ Dr. Irene La-Beck, Immunotherapeutics & Biotechnology
- » **Nadin Suleiman** ~ Dr. Fakhru Ahsan, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- » **Sahithi Tirumala** ~ Dr. Ulrich Bickel, Pharmaceutical Sciences
- » **Connor Wallace** ~ Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Immunotherapeutics & Biotechnology
- » **Michelle Wittler** ~ Dr. Abraham Al-Ahmad, Pharmaceutical Sciences



(back, L-R) Michelle Wittler, Sahithi Tirumala
(front, L-R) Dawson Miller, Collin Blackwell, Anthony Harwell

~ ~ ~ PHOTO ALBUM ~ ~ ~



Congratulations to Sharavan Ramachandran and Iti Kaushik! They were married in May 2019.



Congratulations to Dr. Paul Trippier and his wife, Shannon, on the birth of a baby girl!

Welcome to Abigail Hope.

Congratulations to Anwar Hossain and his wife, Shamima, on the birth of a baby boy!



Welcome to Shahzaib Arshan!

ALUMNI DIRECTORY

2001

Vikas Agarwal, Ph.D.
CIMA Labs
Brooklyn Park, MN

Sivakumar Vaithiyalingam, Ph.D.

Review Chemist/Staff Fellow
Division of Chemistry
OPS/CDER/FDA
Rockville, MD

2002

Sami Nazzal, Ph.D.
Professor
Dept. of Pharm. Sci.
TTUHSC SOP, Dallas, TX

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

2004

Fatima Mustafa, M.S., R.Ph.
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State College, PA

Anitha Palamakula, Ph.D., R.Ph.
CDER/FDA
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Associate Professor
Dept. of Pharm. Sci.
Rangel College of Pharmacy
Texas A&M HSC
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2005

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Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.
Pennington, NJ

Ragini Vuppugalla, Ph.D.
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University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, OK

Haritha Mandula, Ph.D.
FDA
Derwood, MD

Jagan Mohan Parepally, Ph.D.
FDA
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2006

Young Tag Ko, Ph.D.
Gwangju Inst. of Science &
Tech.
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Virginia University School of
Medicine, Director of Faculty
Affairs and Academic Initia-
tives, WVUHSC,
Director of Scientific Dev.,
West Virginia Clinical &
Translational Science Institute
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Cornelia Kiewert, Ph.D.
Stiftslnikum Mittelrhein gGmbH
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2007

Chaitanya Chimalakonda, M.S.
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Jennifer Paulson, Ph.D., Pharm.D.
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2009

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2010

Erika Wisdom, M.S.
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iness
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National Nuclear Sec. Admin.
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**Venkateswaran Chitham-
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(Continued on page 15)

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2012**Prabodh Kandala, Ph.D.**

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2013**Hussaini Syed Sha Qhattal, Ph.D.**

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Prog.
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(Continued on page 16)

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(Continued)

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**For changes to the Alumni Directory, please email: Teresa.Carlisle@ttuhsc.edu*

GSAA/AAPS BULLETIN BOARD

GSAA Officers for 2019-2020:

President: **Daniela Rolph**
Vice-President: **Derek Barthels**
Treasurer: **Yoon Jung Lee**
Secretary: **Sarah Anderson**
Historian: **Abdul Shaik**



2019-2020 Officers of the Amarillo AAPS Student Chapter

Chair ♦ **Md. Sanaullah Sajib**
Chair-Elect ♦ **Ahmed Alobaida**
Vice-Chair ♦ [tbd]
Treas./Sec. ♦ **Behnam Noorani**

GSSA Members Participated Sp'19 in:

- *January**
Fundraiser (to benefit injured student)
Movie Night
- *February**
Journal Club (two times)
High Plains Food Bank (sorting food items)
Laser Tag
- *March**
Ski Trip to Ruidoso, NM
High Plains Food Bank Garden
- *April**
Texas Ramp Project — Build-a-Ramp
International Night

Community Service & Social Events Planned for F'19:

- *September**
Back-to-School Picnic at John Stiff Park
Medication Cleanout (participation)
- *October**
Halloween Party
11th Annual Panhandle Cancer Cure Foundation
Support our Survivors 5k & 1Mile Fun Run/Walk
- *November**
Roller Skating
Eveline Rivers Christmas Project ~ Gift Wrapping

GSAA Events



HIGH PLAINS FOOD BANK



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GSAA Events (cont'd)



LASER
TAG
&
GAME
ARCADE



SKI TRIP



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**GSAA Events
(cont'd)**



**INTERNATIONAL
NIGHT**

