

Graduate Affairs & Research

MAY 2006



COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

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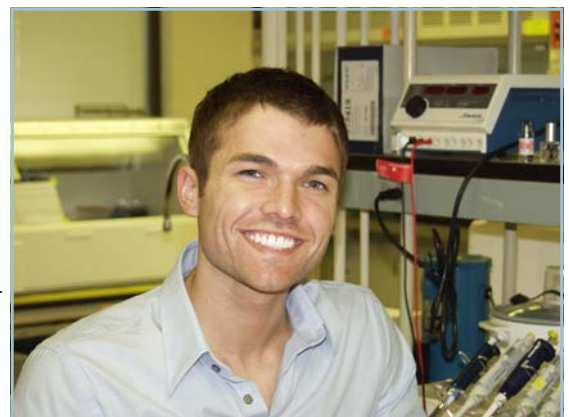
Dr. Gallucci receives funding on new research

Dr. Gallucci recently received an RO3 award from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health (NIAAA, NIH). The two year award is \$100,000 in direct costs and will be active from April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2008. The name of the research is "Gender Differences in Liver IL-6R Expression."

An RO3 is considered a small grant award mechanism. It is designed for very targeted areas of research which can be accomplished with a restricted budget in a smaller timeframe.

When asked about this research, Dr. Gallucci explained that his laboratory is investigating why women have worse alcoholic liver disease as compared to men. It looks like it has something to do with increased inflammation in the liver. The lab has found a specific inflammatory gene (interleukin 6 receptor) is increased in the livers of alcohol consuming female rats as compared to males. He hopes to find out why this gene is upregulated in females, and perhaps manipulate its function to see if that will decrease alcoholic liver damage.

Congratulations to Randle Gallucci and Christopher Turpin (P3) who received a Gateway to Research Scholarship (\$5000 for June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007) from the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education (AFPE) to support Chris' research training in Dr. Gallucci's laboratory.



Dr. Gallucci also has an RO1 award from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health (NIGMS, NIH) entitled, "Identification of an IL-6 induced keratinocyte motogen." This is a five year award, and this past year May 1, 2005 through April 30, 2006 marked the third year of this research.

Graduate Students Receive Awards and Recognition



Jennifer Gass (P2), received a Binfang Memorial Scholarship and a Mosier Scholarship at the Pharmacy Banquet on April 8. Jennifer is a dual degree, Pharm.D./M.S. student, and her faculty advisor is Dr. T. Kent Teague, Department of Surgery, OU-Tulsa.

Kelly Williamson received a Graduate Student Travel Award from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET), to attend the annual meeting in San Francisco.

Kelly presented a poster entitled "*HPLC-ECD bioanalysis of tocoferol and CEHC variants in plasma of patients with diabetic hypertension.*"

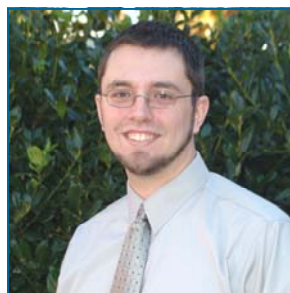
Kelly's faculty advisor is Dr. Kenneth Hensley, of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF).



Preeti Tendolkar received the Outstanding Dissertation Award from the OUHSC Graduate College. Preeti's dissertation is entitled, "*Enterococcus faecalis* biofilms: Analysis of the roles of enterococcal surface protein, Esp, and a newly identified genetic locus." Preeti's doctoral advisor is Dr. Nathan Shankar.

Preeti is currently living in the San Francisco area with her husband, Ajay, and is seeking a postdoctoral position.

G.T. Dolan (P3) received the inaugural H. Richard Shough scholarship for outstanding performance by a dual degree, Pharm.D./M.S. student, at the Pharmacy banquet on April 8. G.T.'s faculty advisor is Dr. Nathan Shankar.



Gautam Damera successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on April 28.

The title of Gautam's dissertation is "Molecular mechanisms of mucus hypersecretion in chronic airway obstructive diseases."

Gautam's faculty advisor is Dr. Gordon Sachdev.

Dr. Damera has accepted a postdoctoral position at the University of Pennsylvania. Congratulations, Gautam!

Yun Liu successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on April 21.

The title of Yun's dissertation is "Stimulant effects of cocaine induced Fra-2 and sigma-1 receptors in brain regions involved in addiction and reward: Evidence from behavioral, gene and protein expression studies"

Yun's faculty advisor is Dr. Rae Matsumoto.

Dr. Liu has joined her husband, Joshua, in the San Diego area, and is seeking a postdoctoral position.



Did You Know?

Effective June 1, 2006, R03 and R21 NIH applications must be submitted electronically on the new SF424 forms?

Effective immediately, all remaining R03, R21, R21/R33, R33, and R34 announcements that have not been updated are expired.

Complete information can be found at:
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-06-068.html>



Dr. Nathan Shankar receives award

Congratulations to Dr. Nathan Shankar, who received the Regent's Award for Superior Research and Creativity at the April 24 Faculty Awards ceremony at OUHSC. He also recently received notice that he has been accepted for the 2006-2007 Academic Leadership Fellows Program, sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Dr. Shankar hopes to use this experience to provide greater leadership in graduate education and research in the academic pharmacy setting.

Dr. Shankar currently serves as Principal Investigator for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

(NIAID)-NIH funded project, "Role of *E. faecalis* Esp in biofilms and UTI."

Although the ability of *Enterococcus faecalis* to cause serious disease is well recognized, not much is known about enterococcal virulence factors that contribute to pathogenesis. For instance, factors that may influence the ability of enterococci to colonize host tissues, translocate across epithelial barriers or survive in grossly different host environments are poorly understood. Dr. Shankar's laboratory is interested in the identification of potential virulence determinants in *E. faecalis* that may play a role in enterococcal pathogenesis, with particular emphasis on enterococcal surface components. Their long term interest is in the development of novel therapeutic approaches to treat serious enterococcal infections by targeting bacterial components that aid the bacteria in causing disease.

Special Seminar on Monday, May 22



"Institute of Biomedical Sciences and Technology (IBMST): A glimpse into the future of interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research" presented by Dr. Steven R. Goodman. The seminar is slated for noon in BRC 109.

Dr. Steven R. Goodman is Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology and Director of IBMST at the University of Texas at Dallas. UT Dallas created IBMST with Dr. Goodman as Director in response to a new paradigm of research in which teams of scientists from multiple fields work together on interdisciplinary research. Ninety researchers from several Texas universities have already come together in IBMST. Dr. Goodman is visiting OU-HSC, OU-

Norman, and Oklahoma State University to discuss IBMST and to ascertain interest locally to conceivably broaden the membership of IBSMT in Oklahoma.



More News You Can Use Regarding Grants & Contracts

Service as Promotional Speaker for Private Industry

Frequently the Office of Research Administration (ORA) receives proposed contracts for University employees to serve as promotional speakers for private companies—most often pharmaceutical companies. Please keep in mind that University employees may serve as *educational* speakers, but not as promotional speakers. Promotional speakers are defined as those speakers who promote a particular product or service.



University Regents' policy prohibits the use of University resources, including employee time, and the University name for the promotion of goods or services. In addition, any use of the University's name or symbols in advertising or promotional materials may be made only with special permission of the Vice President for Public Affairs. Employees who agree to promote goods or services in their professional capacity are in

violation of University policy.

In addition, University employees are state employees and, as such, are governed by the State's conflict of interest rules. Those rules do not permit the use of state funds to promote private industry, nor do they allow state employees to use their positions for private gain. Violations of state conflicts of interest rules can result in fines, payable by the individual, and/or jail time.

Given the University's status as a public institution and the importance of presenting an image that is unbiased, professional, and respectful of its role as a steward of the resources entrusted to it, it is important that University employees not agree to provide any professional services that compromise, appear to compromise, or have the potential to compromise or appear to compromise their professional judgment, research results, or the like. Any action otherwise is a violation of University policy and state conflicts or interest rules.

Employees serving in educational speaking roles provide an important service to the community and their profession, and we encourage them to continue this service. University policy requires that contracts for employees to serve as educational speakers be routed through ORA for negotiation and authorized signature.

—Joseph J. Ferretti, Sr. Vice President and Provost
—Joseph L. Waner, Vice President for Research

Laboratory equipment maintenance

It is understood that equipment in labs will need periodic maintenance, annual calibrations and unexpected repairs. Most of the time, this type of maintenance is handled by a service unit request (SUR) to either the Site Support Biomed Shop or through Radiation Safety.

In most cases, this is considered a department overhead cost expense, not a grant award expense. The SUR then needs to be signed by your department chair, not the principal investigator.

The only exception to the rule is if you purchased a piece of equipment specifically on a grant award and that the equipment is used solely for that award's research.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Paula Meder at 271-6593, ext. 47271.

Presbyterian Health Foundation (PHF) Grant Application Deadlines

The deadline date for the PHF Seed and Bridge grant applications has been set for June 21, 2006. Information, guidelines and forms are available on the ORA website at: <http://w3.ouhsc.edu/ORA/grants/presby-forms.htm>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Paula Meder at 271-6593, ext. 47271.

Welcome Julie Scott!

Welcome to *Julie Scott*, who transferred into the Graduate Program from the Department of Cell Biology. Julie is a doctoral student in the laboratory of Dr. W. Michael McShan.



Slight Changes in Fringe Benefit Calculations

If you are calculating personnel costs on a grant or a contract, be sure to double-check the fringe benefit rates effective July 01, 2006. Even though the change is small, it does make a difference in regard to budget calculations. Please check the ORA website for further information: <http://w3.ouhsc.edu/ORA/grants/orafringerates.htm>

Updates on OUHSC information

As you fill out form pages related to contracts and grant applications, you invariably come across requests for information regarding assurances and agreements. Please keep in mind that the dates for these items do change, and are posted on the ORA website. For instance, the IRB Assurance # now has an expiration date of 09/28/08. The

DHHS F&A Rate Agreement Date is now March 14, 2006. When you access the ORA website, search for OUHSC news. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Paula Meder.

