Welcome

Pharmacology as a modern field exists to lay the groundwork for discovery and development of the next generation of therapeutics. Pharmacology merged long ago as a basic science discipline from attempts to discover how the age-old remedies and poisons exert their effects on man. The scope of pharmacology has expanded greatly over the last decade to incorporate many new approaches such as computer-assisted drug design, protein engineering, genetic screens, and the use of novel drug delivery vehicles including viruses and artificial cells. Indeed, today the science of pharmacology would be nearly unrecognizable to its predecessors.

There is a continuing societal need for pharmacologists who understand the underpinnings of modern therapeutic strategies. These individuals will find careers within academic, pharmaceutical and governmental laboratories to develop and study tomorrow’s drugs. Eighteen departmental faculty work with approximately 90 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and staff on a variety of research targets that include epilepsy, cardiovascular and muscle diseases, and drug abuse. How cells regulate important signal transduction molecules such as melatonin, the P450 metabolizing enzymes, protein kinases, intracellular scaffolding proteins, and central glutamate receptors are additional topics for study. Collaborative research projects with faculty in clinical departments such as Neurology, Psychiatry, Ophthalmology, and Medicine enhance our research and training environment.

Raymond Dingledine, Ph.D. Chairman

Institute of Medicine Elects School of Medicine Research Dean, Pharmacology Chair

(NewDesignWorld Press Center) - The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has elected Raymond J. Dingledine, PhD, to its new class of 65 leading health scientists. Dingledine is Executive Associate Dean for Research and Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology in Emory University School of Medicine.

Election to the IOM is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service. Dingledine’s election brings Emory’s IOM membership to 22.

“We are extremely proud of Dr. Dingledine and his election to this prestigious and influential organization,” says Wright Caughman, MD, interim CEO of Emory’s Woodruff Health Sciences Center. “Ray has been a national scientific leader for many decades and this honor underscores his stature in medical research.”

For more on this article go to: http://www.newdesignworld.com/press/story/197819

Congratulations

Matthew Randolph
winner of name the Pharmacology Newsletter (Graduate student in Dr. Pavlath’s lab)
Pharmacology Investigators join the NCI effort to target glioblastoma.

Emory's Chemical Biology Discovery Center has been selected by the National Cancer Institute for a $1.5 million task order to study genomic alterations in glioblastomas, the most deadly of adult brain tumors. Emory is one of only two centers funded for this task.

Pharmacology investigators are major contributors of the new program. Haian Fu, PhD, is the principal investigator of the NCI grant, Director of the Emory Chemical Biology Discovery Center. Other Pharmacology investigators in the NCI brain tumor genomics program includes Yuhong Du, Cheryl Meyerkord, Cau Pham, Satra Nim, Xiaoqian Chen, Min Qui and Brian Revennaugh.

To discover new cancer targets, this program aims to reveal cancer associated protein-protein interactions. Drugs will be developed in the future that can disrupt those protein-protein interaction networks.

Emory is part of the NCI's Chemical Biology Consortium, which is focusing on a new national effort to convert genomic information into new therapies. Despite the fact that first draft of the human genome was completed 10 years ago, this information's impact on diagnosing and treating disease has yet to be realized, and the NCI is working to glean more practical benefit from genomics data. For more information go to:


Dr. Edward Morgan has been named as a Georgia Cancer Coalition (GCC) Distinguished Cancer Scholar. Dr. Morgan’s expertise in drug metabolism and his impressive accomplishments in molecular pharmacology are recognized by the GCC, which is working to support the Emory Chemical Biology Discovery Center (ECBDC) and its operation as a member of the NIH National Cancer Institute’s Chemical Biology Consortium (CBC). Dr. Morgan will lead the compound metabolism and molecular pharmacology effort in the ECBDC to accelerate the identification of high value hits for the CBC’s cancer drug discovery program.
**NEWS**

**Luciano Apponi** received a 3 year Development Grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Association starting 1/1/10. His paper is in press: Loss of nuclear poly (A)-binding protein 1 causes defects in myogenesis and mRNA biogenesis. Apponi LH, Leung SW, Williams KR, Valentini SR, Corbett AH, Pavlath GK. (Pavlath's lab)

**Christopher Vellano** - received the PhRMA Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Award. (John Hepler’s lab)

**Di Sha** will run Locomotive half marathon on September 19th and Atlanta Half Marathon on Thanksgiving Day. (Li/Chin’s lab)

**Jennifer Hurst-Kennedy** and **Jeanne McKeon** will attend ASCB meeting in December. (Li/Chin’s lab)

**Jennifer Hurst-Kennedy**, a FIRST Fellow, starts teaching at Morehouse College. (Li/Chin’s lab)

HyeKyung Kim, undergraduate mentored by **Jennifer Hurst-Kennedy** and **Dr. Lih-Shen Chin** received Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE) Fellowship. (Li/Chin’s lab)

**Jonathan Havel** (Haian Fu’s lab) received the Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA Predoctoral Fellowship from NIH. (Fu’s lab)

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**Sammy Lee** and **Dr. Lian Li** will attend Biochemistry and Cell Biology of ESCRTs in Health and Disease meeting in Oct. Dr. Li will give an oral Presentation.

**Birth Announcement:**

Zenggang Li and his wife welcomed the birth of their son, Bokang Li, born July 13 at Emory Hospital. His 6 years old sister is very excited to have a little brother.


**Dr. Thomas Kukar** participated in the Alzheimer’s Association Breakthrough Ride, riding 156 miles from Oklahoma City to Wichita, KS starting August 19.

This was a bike ride across America from San Francisco to DC to 1) help raise funds for Alzheimer's disease (AD) research and 2) raise awareness about AD to help make it a national priority. We raised $115,000 and collected over 100,000 signatures along the way and delivered them to Congress on September 21st.

More info: [http://alzbreakthroughride.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=419319&lis=1&kntae419319=45F6EFE5D5C1545BF96B5A8C3C9BD9898](http://alzbreakthroughride.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=419319&lis=1&kntae419319=45F6EFE5D5C1545BF96B5A8C3C9BD9898)


**Pharmacology Halloween Costume Contest Winners**


**SPOTLIGHT: Patrick Reynolds**

(postdoc Li/Chin’s lab) played at the Kavarna Coffee Shop in Oakhurst, October 15, 2010, with his band “The Wallbangers”. Their next show will be at the Tin Roof Cantina on December 3, 2010. Patrick and the band have been together a year and a half.
NEW FACES

Thomas Kukar, PhD., Assistant Professor and Associate Consultant, comes from the Mayo Clinic, College of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience.

Dr. Kukar is currently working with transgenic mouse models of neurodegeneration with a focus on developing treatments for Alzheimer’s disease. In joining Pharmacology, Dr. Kukar will also work with the Emory Department of Neurology and Center for Neurodegenerative Disease.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Haian Fu, Ph.D., named Director of the Drug Discovery and Developmental Therapeutics Center at Emory University Winship Cancer Institute

The primary mission of the Winship Cancer Institute Drug Discovery and Developmental Therapeutics (DDT) Program is to foster a collaborative team research environment to promote molecular target interrogation for cancer drug discovery and to facilitate translational clinical trials for effective therapeutic development. To achieve this goal, the program is organized with the following focuses: (i) To validated oncogenes/oncoproteins and novel oncogenic pathways for cancer drug discovery. (ii) To carry out mechanism-driven clinical trials for cancer drug development to rapidly move new agents to patients and (iii) To multimodality.

Second hat for our chair: Executive Associate Dean for Research

Raymond J. Dingledine, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology in Emory University School of Medicine, has been named the school’s Executive Associate Dean for Research. He also will continue to serve as chair of pharmacology, a role he has held since 1992 when joining Emory from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Dingledine brings considerable experience to his new position, having served as interim executive associate dean for research in the School of Medicine. He has co-authored two highly successful research strategic plans and currently is spearheading the development of the school’s new research strategic plan.

“Ray Dingeldine’s leadership in program building, funding initiatives and "ordination of research space through out the School of Medicine, as well as his leadership skills and ability to bring consensus on projects crossing multiple departments and schools has been demonstrated repeatedly," says Thomas J. Lawley, MD, dean, Emory University School of Medicine. "His vision, energy and expertise have served the School of Medicine well and I am confident will continue to do so in the future.”

POSTDOC CORNER...

NEW - Postdoctoral Connection

September 13, 2010, the postdoc’s came together to host their first meeting.

Committee members: Di Sha, Cheryl Meyerkord, Robert Raike and Coordinator, Olga Rivera.

Postdoc will hold meetings every 2nd Friday of the month in room 5052 Rollins Research Center, 1:00 pm. Postdoc’s if you would like to present contact:

Di Sha— dsha@pharm.emory.edu;
Cheryl Meyerkord—cheryl.meyerkord@emory.edu; or
Robert Raike—rraike@emory.edu

Coming Soon

New Pharmacology Website...

Workstations for students / Research Specialist to alleviate the overcrowding in some labs. Renovation area, by the freight elevator. For more information contact Olga Rivera.

To submit an article for the newsletter or website contact Olga Rivera at orivera@pharm.emory.edu. Thank you!