

PHARMSCI DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

October 2018

OUR DEPARTMENT

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Our Department newsletter will be distributed to departmental faculty monthly, or once every two months. The purpose of the newsletter is to announce the achievements of faculty and their lab members in research, teaching, and service in a timely and succinct manner. The newsletter is meant to be a simple listing of your achievements and newsworthy events, so detailed elaborations are not necessary.

The Department newsletter is designed to be complementary to the School of Pharmacy's Event Notification. Please continue submitting your newsworthy events through the School of Pharmacy's Event Notification via the School of Pharmacy Intranet (<https://intranet.pharmacy.pitt.edu>).

Please submit your items to Karen Wagner by email (kbw17@pitt.edu).

PUBLICATIONS

Caritis SN, Hauspurg A, **Venkataramanan R**, Lemon L. Defining the Clinical Response to 17-alpha hydroxyprogesterone Caproate. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2018 Aug 29. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 30171841.

Shah M, Xu M, Shah P, Wang X, Clark SM, Costantine M, West HA, Nanovskaya TN, Ahmed MS, Abdel-Rahman SZ, **Venkataramanan R**, Caritis SN, Hankins GDV, Rytting E. Effect of CYP2C9 Polymorphisms on the Pharmacokinetics of

Indomethacin During Pregnancy. *Eur J Drug Metab Pharmacokinet*. 2018 Aug 29. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 30159654.

Ensor CR, Goehring KC, Iasella CJ, Moore CA, Lendermon EA, McDyer JF, Morrell MR, Sciortino CM, **Venkataramanan R**, Wiland AM. Belatacept for maintenance immunosuppression in cardiothoracic transplantation: The potential frontier. *ClinTransplant*. 2018 Jul 29; e13363. [Epub ahead of print] Review. PMID: 30058177.

Sin SH, Eason AB, Bigi R, Kim Y, Kang S, Tan K, Seltzer TA, **Venkataramanan R**, An H, Dittmer DP. Kaposi's Sarcoma-Associated Herpesvirus Latency Locus Renders B Cells Hyperresponsive to Secondary Infections. *J Virol*. 2018; 92(19). pii: e01138-18. PMID: 30021906.

Zhang H, Kalluri HV, Bastian JR, Chen H, Alshabi A, Caritis SN, **Venkataramanan R**. Gestational changes in buprenorphine exposure: A physiologically-based pharmacokinetic analysis. *Br J Clin Pharmacol*. 2018; 84(9):2075-2087. PMID: 29873094.

Ryu RJ, Easterling TR, Caritis SN, **Venkataramanan R**, Umans JG, Ahmed MS, Clark S, Kantrowitz-Gordon I, Hays K, Bennett B, Honaker MT, Thummel KE, Shen DD, Hebert MF. Prednisone Pharmacokinetics During Pregnancy and Lactation. *J ClinPharmacol*. 2018; 58(9):1223-1232. PMID: 29733485.

Hauspurg A, Lemon LS, Serra AE, Sharma S, **Venkataramanan R**, Caritis SN. Impact of Obesity on the Rate of Recurrent Spontaneous Preterm Birth in Women Treated with 17-alpha Hydroxyprogesterone Caproate. *Am J Perinatol*. 2018; 35(9):809-814. PMID: 29294501.

Matthew G. LaPorte, James C Burnett, Raffaele Colombo, Stacie L. Bulfer, Celeste Alvarez, Tsui-Fen Chou, R. Jeffrey Neitz, Neal Green, William J. Moore, Zhizhou Yue, Shan Li, Michelle R. Arkin, Peter Wipf, and **Donna M. Huryn**. Optimization of Phenyl Indole Inhibitors of the AAA ATPase p97. *ACS Med Chem Lett*. 2018 Sept 18. DOI: 10.1021/acsmchemlett.8b00372.

Xu, J., Zhao, W., Sun, J., Huang, Y., Wang P., Wenkataramanan, R., Yang, D., Ma, X., Rana, A., and **Li, S**. Novel glucosylceramide synthase inhibitor based prodrug micelles for delivery of anticancer agents. *Journal of Controlled Release* 2018; 288: 212-226. PMID: 30223045.

Chen, Y., Sun, J., Huang, L., Lu, B., and **Li, S**. Improved cancer immunochemotherapy via optimal co-delivery of chemotherapeutic and immunomodulatory agents. *Molecular Pharmaceutics* (Manuscript accepted).

Carr, C. E., Khutsishvili, I. **Gold, B.** and Marky, L. A. Thermodynamic stability of DNA duplexes comprising the simplest T → dU substitutions, *Biochemistry*, 2018 Sep 17. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 30185020.

Rathod S, Ramsey M, Relling MV, Finkelman FD, **Fernandez CA**. Hypersensitivity Reactions To Asparaginase In Mice Are Mediated By Anti-Asparaginase IgE And IgG And The Immunoglobulin Receptors FcεRI And FcγRIII. *Haematologica* [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 30237274.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Donna Huryn was an invited speaker at the 256th American Chemical Society meeting. Boston. August 21, 2018. The title of her presentation was "*Discovery, Optimization, and Characterization of Allosteric Inhibitors of the AAA ATPase p97, An Emerging Cancer Target.*"

Donna Huryn was the keynote speaker at the Vanderbilt Institute of Chemical Biology/ Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center Retreat. Nashville, TN. September 19, 2018. The title of her talk was "*Discovery, Optimization and Characterization of Allosteric Inhibitors of the AAA ATPase p97.*"

Raman Venkataramanan presented a talk at CDC. Atlanta, Georgia. August 31, 2018. The title of his presentation was "*PBPK modeling in pregnancy and potential application to prophylaxis and treatment of Plague in pregnancy.*"

Maureen Reynolds was a co-author on two presentations at the 13th annual international conference on Child and Adolescent Psychology. Kuching, Malaysia. August 6-8, 2018. The title of the presentations were "*Boldness, Meanness, and Disinhibition Traits in Adolescence: Structure and Longitudinal Trajectories into Young Adulthood*", and "*Does Child Maltreatment Account for Heterogeneity in the Development of Psychopathic Traits?*". Co-authors were Carlo Garofalo and Joshua Weller, Tilburg University, Dept. of Developmental Psychology, the Netherlands.

Song Li was an invited speaker at the ACS Fall National Meeting. Boston. August 19-23, 2018. The title of his presentation was "*Immunostimulatory Nanocarriers for Cancer Immunochemotherapy*".

Song Li was an invited speaker at Purdue University School of Pharmacy. West Lafayette, IN. August 27, 2018. The title of his presentation was "*Multifunctional Nanocarriers for Improved Cancer Therapy*".

GRANTS

Raman Venkataramanan

Project Title: Pharmacologically-based Strategies for Buprenorphine Treatment During Pregnancy

Funding Agency: NIH/NICHD

Grant number: 1R01HD096796-01

Period: 09/17/2018 – 05/30/2023

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Steve Caritis)

Raman Venkataramanan

Project Title: Improving peripheral nerve regeneration and functional return by sustained local delivery of tacrolimus with an injectable hydrogel applied along the length of the nerve.

Funding Agency: American Foundation for Surgery of the Hand

Grant Number: Not available

Funding Period: 09/01/2018 – 09/01/2020

Role: Co-PI

Maureen Reynolds

Title: University of Pittsburgh PA Studies MAT Training Program

Funding agency: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment

Grant number: 1 H79 TI081668-01

Funding period: 9/30/2018 – 9/29/2021

Role: Co-Investigator (PI: David Beck)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Donna Huryn participated in the Editorial Board meeting of Organic Reactions, Wiley Press. August 20, 2018. Boston.

The department has received \$1,500 on October 3, 2018 towards sponsoring a lectureship in recognition of **Donna Huryn's** work on the Board of Editors of Organic Reactions.

Wen Xie was an *ad hoc* Reviewer for an NIH NCI Program Project (P01) Special Emphases Panel (ZCA1 RPRB-J). September 24-25, 2018.

Raman Venkataramanan served as an advisory board member for the CDCs' Prophylaxis and Treatment of Plague in Pregnant Women' meeting in Atlanta August 30-31, 2018.

Shilpa Sant was an *ad hoc* reviewer for grant applications for Breast Cancer Now, London UK in September 2018.

GRADUATE DISSERTATION DEFENSE

PhD Candidate: Xiang Zhou

Primary Advisors*: Robert Gibbs (Pharmacy) and Gretchen Haas (Psychiatry)

Thesis title: *Clinical Significance of Adenosine Signaling Deficit in Schizophrenia Pathology: From Theoretical Foundation to Symptomatology*

Date: September 27, 2018

(*Xiang Zhou was supervised by Dr. Jeffery Yao before Dr. Yao passed away in March 2018)

PhD Candidate: Jing Li

Primary Advisor: Lisa Rohan

Thesis Title: *Leveraging Mucoadhesive Thiomers and PLA-Based Polymers to Design Biodegradable Extended Release Vaginal Films for HIV Prevention*

Date: October 2, 2018