Analia S. Loria, PhD has joined the University of Kentucky’s Molecular & Biomedical Pharmacology faculty. Dr. Loria holds a Ph.D. from the University of Murcia, Spain, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine. She conducted her thesis work under the mentorship of Dr. Javier Salazar where she studied the role of the angiotensin pathway during development in the rat kidney and how this influences cardiovascular disease in adults. As a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Jennifer Pollock’s lab at Georgia Regents University in Augusta, Dr. Loria studied the molecular mechanisms of stress-mediated increases in blood pressure both acutely and chronically. Her continued research interests are focused on the cardio-renal mechanisms of blood pressure regulation and how behavioral stressors sensitize these pathways. Dr. Loria has received several awards including the 2011 Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow in the Vascular Biology Center.

Welcome new & returning Molecular & Biomedical Pharmacology faculty

Frederique Yiannikouris, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Molecular & Biomedical Pharmacology, was selected by the American Heart Association's Council for High Blood Pressure (HBPR) as one of the three finalists for the Harry Goldblatt Award for New Investigators. Yiannikouris presented her work at the HBPR 2013 Scientific Sessions in New Orleans. Sept. 11-14. This prestigious award recognizes a new, independent investigator who has significantly contributed to the understanding of the causes of hypertension and related cardiovascular disease.

Robin Shoemaker, GCNS doctoral candidate in Dr. Cassis' lab gave an oral presentation at the HBPR 2013 Scientific Sessions.

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Dr. James Flesher, cont. Dr. Flesher, who was a founding faculty member of the Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology, focused his presentation on his many years of research on the clinical modifications that activate carcinogenic capacity of PAHs. Much of his lecture highlighted the controversial development of his theory of carcinogenic activation and its competition with a rival and more widely accepted theory. Dr. Flesher served with Patton’s 3rd Army in WWII, and it was joked that his battle experience was helpful in preparing him for the next 50 years of academic warfare. However, Dr. Flesher presented persuasive evidence on why the leading theory was likely wrong and on why his theory was more consistent with the data. Given Dr. Flesher’s tenacious commitment to pursuing and testing these theories over the years, it seems highly possible that Dr. Flesher’s views will garner more support as further research is conducted. His lecture provided illuminating insights into the history and competitive nature of scientific investigation, as well as the molecular bases of carcinogenic activation. [by Philip W. Landfield, Ph.D.]

Yiannikouris/Shoemaker cont.
Shoemaker’s abstract had been selected as one the top four scoring for trainees and she was given a travel award to present her research at the New Orleans 2013 Scientific Sessions.

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Dr. Michael Piasek and Dr. Hollie Swanson

Piascik, Swanson receive first round APAT grants
Michael Piasek, Ph.D. and Hollie Swanson, Ph.D., Department of Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology, COM, were among the first round of recipients for grants awarded by Academic Planning, Analytics and Technologies (APAT). Piasek and Swanson were recognized for the course PHA 621, Principles of Drug Action, which will receive $1,500 from APAT. In May 2013, APAT announced a new program, inviting University of Kentucky faculty to partner with APAT to explore opportunities presented by the use of an active learning platform. APAT is providing one-year grant funding for the development of courses integrating LectureTools, an interactive, Web-based student response, note-taking and inquiry tool that improves student attentiveness and engagement in lecture. These modified courses will ideally transform classroom interaction and engage students with the instructor via an additional integration of their laptops, tablets, and cellphones, regardless of class size.