



Molecular & Biomedical Pharmacology News

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Manuscripts

Sims JT, Ganguly SS, Bennett H, **Friend JW**, Tepe J, **Plattner R**. *Imatinib reverses doxorubicin resistance by affecting activation of STAT3-dependent NF- κ B and HSP27/p38/AKT pathways and by inhibiting ABCB1*. PLoS One. 2013; 8(1): Epub 2013 Jan 31

Papaya RS, **Shi T**, **Piascick MT**, Naga Prasad SV, Perez DM. *α 1A-Adrenergic Receptors Regulate Cardiac Hypertrophy In Vivo Through IL-6 Secretion*. Mol Pharmacol. 2013 Feb 12.

Blomkalns AL, Gavrila D, Thomas M, Neltner BS, Blanco VM, Benjamin SB, McCormick ML, Stoll LL, Denning GM, Collins SP, Qin Z, Daugherty A, **Cassis LA**, Thompson RW, Weiss RM, Lindover PD, Pinney SM, Chatterjee T, Weintraub NL. *CD14 Directs adventitial macrophage precursor recruitment: role in early abdominal aortic aneurysm formation*. J Am Heart Assoc. 2013 Mar 8;2(2).

Chen X, Lu H, Rateri DL, **Cassis LA**, Daugherty A. *Conundrum of angiotensin II and TGF- β interactions in aortic aneurysms*. Curr Opin Pharmacol. 2013 Mar 12.

Hoyt RE, Speakman RO, Brown DR, **Cassis LA**, Silcox DL, Anigbogu CN, Randall DC. *Chronic angiotensin-II treatment potentiates HR slowing in Sprague-Dawley rat during acute behavioral stress*. Auton Neurosci. 2013 Mar;174(1-2).

Dong C, Yuan T, **Wu Y**, Wang Y, Fan TW.M, Miriyala S, Lin Y, Yao J, Shi J, Kang T, Lorkiewicz P, St Clair D, Hung MC, Evers MB, Zhou BP. *Loss of FBP1 by Snail-Mediated Repression Provides Metabolic Advantages in Basal-like Breast Cancer*. Cancer Cell. 2013 Mar 18 (Vol 23,3)

Molecular & Biomedical Pharmacology Successes Past & Present



Joseph G. Wettstein, who received his PhD in Pharmacology in 1983 from the University of Kentucky, played a critical role in the discovery of one of the few drugs available for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. While at UK Dr. Wettstein studied opioid and nicotine biology under

the mentorship of William Martin and he has gone on to have quite a successful research career. (cont. p2).

Donna Weber participated in the Collaborating Across Borders (CAB) IV conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, June 12-14. Dr. Weber received an award from the Office of the Dean to attend the event that brings together healthcare professionals and researchers from Canada and the United States in a venue that provides scholarly dialogue and productive networking. CAB IV is the fourth joint conference of this kind and Dr. Weber presented a workshop on inter-professional education, training and practice.

Frederique Yiannikouris has been awarded a Science Development Grant (SDG) from the American Heart Association (AHA) for her project: "Adipocyte PRR contributes to obesity induced hypertension and insulin resistance." (cont. p 2)



Congratulations New PhDs

Dr. Abdelghaffar Salous successfully defended his dissertation on April 15: "Characterization of plasma lysophospholipid elimination in a murine model."

Dr. Nicki Baker in Dr. Cassis lab successfully defended her dissertation on May 28: "Poly-chlorinated biphenyl ligands of the aryl

hydrocarbon receptor promote adipocytemediated diabetes." diate melanoma invasion and metastasis."

Dr. Sourik Ganguly in Dr. Rina Plattner's lab successfully defended his dissertation on May 29: "Molecular mechanisms by which c-Abl and ARG me-

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Olivier Thibault presents at Gordon Research Conference

Dr. Olivier Thibault was invited to present his research at the 2013 Gordon Research Conference on Oxidative Stress and Disease held in Les Diablerets, Switzerland, April 14-19. The Conference theme of "Metabolic-Inflammatory Axis in Brain Ag-

ing and Alzheimer's Disease" brought together distinguished investigators at the forefront of their field. Thibault's contribution was a discussion of his research on the effects of thiazolidinediones, a high fat diet and intranasal insulin on cognitive decline with aging. He presented his findings in a paper titled "Peripheral metabolic dysregulation and its impact on the brain: focus on calcium."

Yiannikouris continued

The purpose of SDG is to support promising beginning scientists. Awards are given for a four-year period to provide enhanced funding to professional personnel working on the research program of an established scientist, such as Dr. Cassis who has mentored Yiannikouris for the past six years. SDG funding is intended to help researchers like Yannikouris "bridge the gap between completion of research training and readiness for successful competition as an independent investigator."

Wettstein continued

Joseph Wettstein is vice president and head of Functional Neuroscience at Roche in Basel, Switzerland.

Wettstein completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School and served there as an instructor. At Harvard he conducted research on the behavioral and physiological actions of psychoactive drugs in nonhuman primates. Joining the biopharma commercial sector he first worked with Jouveinal in Paris, France and later Aventis in New Jersey. It was at Aventis that Wettstein was instrumental in developing teriflunomide, an orally-active immunomodulatory drug

that is now prescribed for patients with multiple sclerosis under the trade name, Aubagio. Aubagio was recently introduced into the US market as a treatment for MS. Wettstein is now vice president and head of Functional Neuroscience at Roche in Basel, Switzerland. He oversees pre-clinical research activities designed to discover new drugs for patients with neuropsychiatric disorders. His research team has brought forward a number of potentially new

drugs into clinical development including a glycine reuptake inhibitor (bitopertin) for negative symptoms in schizophrenia, a negative modulator of mGlu2 for depression and a negative modulator of GABA-A for Down syndrome. Wettstein's research focuses on the mechanistic causes of mental illness and how to leverage this knowledge into better medicines for patients.

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**WELCOME
New Graduate Students**

Left to right:

Yasir Al-Siraj in Dr. Cassis lab
Shaniya Maimaiti in Dr. Thibault's lab,
Kendra Staggs in Dr. Blalock's lab.

