

News & Events

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CHAIR'S CORNER

On April 9, 2009, the Department lost a good friend. Gerard L. (Jerry) Gebber passed away after a short fight with brain lymphoma. His extended family, including Sue Barman, was at his side.

Jerry was trained at the University of Michigan in the early 1960's along with an impressive group of autonomic cardiovascular scientists. His colleagues included Mike Brody and Ben Zimmerman, among others. Jerry went on to do post-doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania and an Instructorship at Tulane University. In 1966, Ted Brody asked him to come to Michigan State University as one of the founding faculty at the new medical school. He rose through the ranks to Professor Emeritus of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Physiology, and the Neuroscience Program.



Jerry's contributions to the department were significant. He helped establish the intellectual foundation of the department and the medical school. Jerry's high standards of excellence helped many of us become better scientists. More importantly, his prodding and probing questions taught our students to be more critical of their own work. Jerry also contributed to the emergence of the study of neural mechanisms as an important factor in blood pressure control. He was recognized world-wide for his study and understanding of neural networks related to sympathetic nervous

system regulation of blood pressure. His science was always important to him. He could only consider retirement if he still had an opportunity to work in the laboratory.

We will all miss Jerry. He touched the lives of many as a dedicated educator, a meticulous investigator, and source of all kinds of knowledge. His quest for excellence lives on through the students he trained and the scientific legacy that he left with us. Goodbye, Jerry, and thank you for making our world more interesting.



Link to Jerry Gebber published articles.

The family suggests donations be made in Jerry's memory to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, PO Box 4072, Pittsfield MA 01202 or <http://www.lls.org>.

Thank you!

A special thank you to the following individuals for their invaluable help in making the Holiday Party happen:

*Erika Boerman-gifts for the children
Sachin Kandlikar-DJ
Kevin Beggs & Carolyn - decorations and drinks
Marni Goodwin- Santa and Mrs. Claus*

HIGHLIGHTS



J.R. Haywood appointed Interim Assistant Vice President for MSU Regulatory Affairs

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies tapped the PhmTox Chair, Dr. Joseph R. Haywood, to a key position in the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA). His new duties include oversight of human research protection, animal welfare regulations, and institutional review boards. Though the new duties are considerable, the transition was smoothed by placing long-time professor, Jim Galligan, PhD as Associate Vice-Chair of the Department's academic affairs.

The Vice President of Research & Graduate Studies, Ian Gray, and Dr. Haywood are quoted in the recent Research News article *New staff and developing partnerships enhance human subjects protections*.



Stephanie Watts Earns Bowditch Award for Work on Hypertension

Professor Stephenie W. Watts was been awarded the 2008 Henry Pickering Bowditch Memorial Award for early-career achievement. Selected by the American Physiological Society (APS) President, and it is awarded to a regular member of the APS (under the age of 42) for original and outstanding accomplishments in the field of physiology.

Dr. Watts has focused her research on whether serotonin plays a role in high blood pressure. For further information on this topic, you can download the APS Podcast The Mystery of Serotonin & Hypertension at: http://media.libsyn.com/media/lifelines/Episode_6__The_Mystery_of_Serotonin__Hypertension_1.mp3



William Jackson elected President of the Microcirculatory Society

Professor William Jackson has been elected as President of the Microcirculatory Society, Inc., which was founded in 1954 to encourage the exchange and dissemination on th microcirculation. Their website can be found at: <http://microcirc.org>

NEW FACES

Welcome Summer 2009 online PSM students!

The Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology is welcoming a new class of Professional Science Masters students this summer! The following students were accepted into the program for the Summer 2009 semester:

- Robert Borders (OH) - B.S. Wildlife Management, Ohio University
- Sheketta Brown (MS) - B.S. Biological Sciences, University of Southern Mississippi
- Sara Cummins (United Kingdom) - B.S. Pharmaceutical Sciences, Purdue University
- Megan Elflin (MI) - BS Biology, University of Michigan; MS Biochemistry, Texas A&M
- Jonathon McClain (MI) - B.S. Fisheries & Wildlife, Michigan State University
- Terry Nguyen (WA) - B.S. Science/Life Science, Pennsylvania State University
- Ann Parker (OH)- A.S., Veterinary Technology / B.S. Natural Sciences, University of Cincinnati

This brings the total number enrolled in the program to 40. The summer labs course (PHM 832) has 11 enrollees - which means that our first graduates may be as early as Fall!



STEPHEN STOFFLET

Stephen Stofflet recently joined the staff of the Academic Office to provide support for the rapidly growing online PSM program, Lifelong Education Students, as well as assuming the editorship of the Department newsletter.

With a background that includes not only clerical skills, but also graphic design, marketing, film /audio/video/media production as well as web design, Stofflet has a diverse professional background. Highlights include: inventory control manager for Blockbuster Entertainment Corp Distribution Center (where he supervised the development of their UK database); video / film producer ("The Internet Video" - 1994); more recently, he served as Communications Director for a non-profit organization in West Michigan (developing print and digital publications).

Stofflet is married with 3 children; his wife, Katie, is employed by Graduate Medical Education, Inc., a consortium that coordinates the MSU Internal Medicine Residency P

You can reach Steve at: Telephone: (517) 884-0409, email: stoffle1@msu.edu

Web conferencing (via ooVoo): <http://webvideocall.oovoo.com/callme/sstofflet/273>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/SteveMSUPhmTox>

Upcoming Events



29 April: SEMINAR, Dr. Dana Dolinoy, Environmental Health Sciences, Univ of Mich, Bisphenol A, baby bottles, and broccoli: Environmental and nutritional epigenetics. B448 Life Sciences Building, 12-1:00 pm



6 May: SEMINAR, Dr. Vasantha Padmanabhan, Developmental Programming of Reproductive and Metabolic Dysfunction. Flyer.pdf Noon, B448 Life Sciences Bldg.

16 June: Ice Cream Social - Pharm/Tox Library (B448-449, Life Sciences Bldg)

27 June - 2 July: Society of Toxicologic Pathology Annual Mtg, Washington DC.

3 July: University Closed.



Ice Cream Social

When: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 - 12 Noon

Where: Phm/Tox Library (B448-B449 Life Sciences Bldg.)

Come and welcome all the new faces to the department, socialize with colleagues, and just simply enjoy some MSU ice cream on a summer day!

SERVICE & OUTREACH

MSU Toxic Avengers Team

Raced for the Cure April 26!

Many members of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology participated as a team in the *Race for the Cure* this year. Last year the team raised a total of \$976 for breast cancer research. Early reports on this year's run indicates that the total amount of money raised this year, may exceed \$325,000 overall.

Please join us in this annual community outreach opportunity and help support this national effort to improve women's health. For additional information, please contact Colleen Hegg at hegg@msu.edu



Marine Corps Toys for Tots - Thank you!

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations this year to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots and Greater Lansing Foodbank.

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology in conjunction with the National Food Safety and Toxicology Center were able to collect a tremendous amount of food items and toys to help the local community. With times being tough, every little bit always helps.

We would like to end with a challenge for the Department for next year: we would like to see everyone to collect enough food and toys to not only fill the car once, but 2 times with items for the respective charities. It is a worthwhile cause and very appreciated by all. Thanks to everyone again!



Sincerely,
Carrie Northcott, Anne Dorrance and Colleen Hegg

STUDENT AWARDS



Kandlikar Receives 2009 SEBM Mentoring Award

Sachin Kandlikar received the 2009 Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine (SEBM) Mentoring Award, presented at the Experimental Biology meeting the week of April 13, 2009 (http://www.sebm.org/pdf/2009_Mentoring_Program_Awardees.pdf). Kandlikar visited Dr. John Osborn's laboratory at the University of Minnesota via this program.



Pappas Receives National Research Service Award from NINDS

Sam Pappas was recently honored by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to receive the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA), a competitive pre-doctoral fellowship that started March 1, for 3 years. For more information: <http://phmtox.msu.edu/news/index.html>



Boerman Receives SEBM, ASPET, Zweifach Awards

Erika Boerman received the SEBM 2009 Young Investigators award (<http://www.sebm.org/investigator09.html>). In addition, she also received Cardiovascular Section Research Recognition Award, the ASPET Graduate Student Travel Award (http://www.aspet.org/public/news/2009_Award_winners.html) and the Microcirculatory Society Zweifach Student Travel Award (<http://microcirc.org/NEWS/Spring%202009%20R1.pdf>).

Cummings Selected as 2009 Veterinary Student Scholar

Katherine Cummings, CVM-11 was selected as a 2009 Veterinary Student Scholar from Morris Animal Foundation to work on a summer project entitled: "Equine Motor Neuron Disease: Function of Motor Neuron Glutamate Receptors." She will join Dr. Atchison's lab for this work, which will be done in collaboration with Drs. Jon Patterson, in Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation, and Betsy Carr in Large Animal Clinical Sciences.



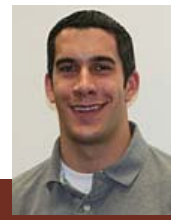
Young Scientist Travel Award

Elizabeth Linder
Postdoc, Watts lab

ASPET Graduate Student Travel Award Winners



Hui Wang
Galligan Lab



Robert Davis
Watts Lab

ACHIEVEMENTS

GRANTS*

* Courtesy of **Research News** published by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.

The following grants were received August 29 to November 19, 2008

Atchison, William D; Pharmacology & Toxicology CVM; \$35,817; Neurotoxic Mechanism of Methylmercury Poisoning; NIH/PHS

Barman, Susan M; Pharmacology & Toxicology CHM; \$209,638; Blood Pressure Control by Forebrain and Brainstem Neurons; NIH/PHS

Dorrance, Anne M; Pharmacology & Toxicology COM; \$100,000; The Effects of Life-Long Obesity on the Cerebral Vasculature; Amer Diabetes Association

Galligan, James; Pharmacology & Toxicology CHM; \$26,000; The Expression and Properties of TRPV1 in Normal and Hypertensive Rats; Amer Heart Association

Ganey, Patricia E; Pharmacology & Toxicology CVM; Zacharewski, Timothy; \$351,137; Gene Expression in Drug-Inflammation Models as Predictive of Idiosyncratic ADRS; NIH/PHS

Goudreau, John L; Neurology & Ophthalmology COM; \$13,518; Randomized, Double-Blind, Active (Pramipexole 0,5 Mg TID) and Placebo Controlled, Efficacy Study of Pramipexole Given; Univ of Rochester

Goodman, Jay I; Pharmacology & Toxicology COM; \$175,000; Altered DNA Methylations in Carcinogenesis; R J Reynolds Tobacco Company

Northcott, Carrie A; Pharmacology & Toxicology COM; \$249,000; Paraventricular Nucleus Signaling Mechanisms in Hypertension; NIH/PHS

Watts, Stephanie W; Pharmacology & Toxicology COM; Irina Szaszi; \$26,000; Vascular Reactive Oxygen Species Metabolism and Its Influence on Venomotor Tone and Hypertension; Amer Heart Association

Watts, Stephanie W; Pharmacology & Toxicology COM; Linder, Aurea Elizabeth; \$52,992; A Serotonergic System in Veins: Physiology, Pharmacology and Function; Amer Heart Association

TECHNOLOGY

e-Paper and Digital Textbooks



Is technology about to transform the realm of academic textbooks? It appears this may be happening (note the three textbooks utilized in the Pharm/Tox program shown below—all are now available in the Kindle format.)

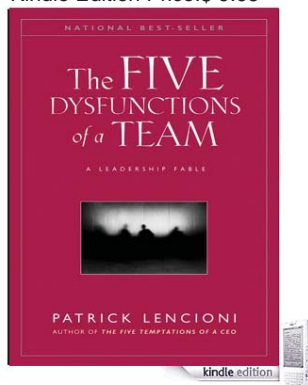
What's a Kindle? A new way of experiencing media; books, magazines, newspapers, audiobooks and more. This hardware/software was developed by amazon.com as a method of distribution that allows you to wirelessly download purchased items in a matter of

minutes directly to the device (via Amazon Whispernet, using the Sprint EVDO network - without a fee).

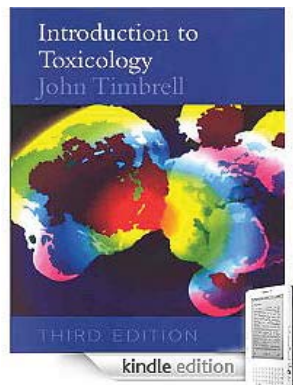
The Kindle operates without a computer, provides free internet access to Wikipedia, has page notation capability (you can electronically “dog-ear” a page, and add your own notes), is capable of storing over 1,500 books, and comes with a battery that can last up to a week on one charge.

In addition, amazon.com released a free iPhone application that will allow you to read your purchased books - switching between the Kindle and the iPhone via WhisperSynch (stop reading in one device, pick up in the same place in the other). For a complete overview of the Amazon Kindle, visit <http://www.amazon.com/kindle>

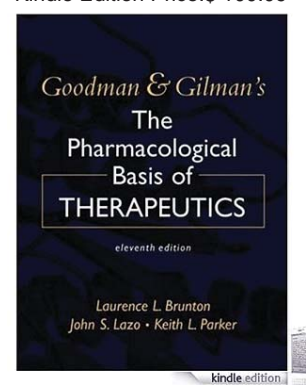
Print Edition Price: \$ 24.95 list
Kindle Edition Price:\$ 9.95



Print Edition Price: \$ 99.95 list
Kindle Edition Price:\$ 31.96



Print Edition Price: \$ 163.00 list
Kindle Edition Price:\$ 100.09



Angel Software Upgrade Planned for May

Angel Course Management software will be upgraded to a new version Thursday, May 14, 2009 through Friday, May 15, 2009. The service will be unavailable during this time. Special sessions are being planned to familiarize the faculty / staff that support online instructional efforts. For additional information, please visit: <http://help.angel.msu.edu/upgrade>