**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

**Big Projects Take Big Planning**

Collaboration in the workplace is vital for success. Michigan State University recognizes this and created “Strategic Partnership Grants” (SPG for short) to help provide resources for departments to create collaboration projects. Pharmacology & Toxicology in conjunction with the departments of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, Plant Biology, and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology was recently awarded an SPG grant to pursue research in relation to Plant-Inspired Chemical Diversity. This grant will allow for an interdisciplinary group of investigators (shown above) to apply genomic approaches to generate libraries of novel cyclic peptides and terpenoid compounds, and then carry out anti-cancer & anti-microbial screening. The group will hire two postdocs to help with the identification, production, and analysis. The long term goal of the SPG grant is to create a unique library of 1280 novel compounds and identify leads for unmet medical needs.

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**Our Newest Ph.D. Graduates**

- **Theresa A. Lansdell, Ph.D.**
  - Degree Awarded: Pharmacology & Toxicology - Environmental Toxicology
  - Department: Pharmacology & Toxicology & Environmental Toxicology
  - Ph.D. Program Join Date: Jan. 2013
  - Mentor: Dr. Keith Lookingland

- **Sophia Kaska, Ph.D.**
  - Degree Awarded: Pharmacology & Toxicology - Environmental Toxicology
  - Department: Pharmacology & Toxicology & Veterinary Medicine
  - Ph.D. Program Join Date: Sept. 2012
  - Mentor: Dr. Michelle Mazei-Robison

- **Brittany Winner, Ph.D.**
  - Degree Awarded: Pharmacology & Toxicology - Environmental Toxicology
  - Department: Pharmacology & Toxicology & Environmental Toxicology
  - Ph.D. Program Join Date: Sept. 2012
  - Mentor: Dr. Keith Lookingland

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**PROMOTION!!**

Cheryl Rockwell Associate Professor with Tenure

Dr. Cheryl Rockwell has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. Dr. Rockwell joined Pharmacology & Toxicology in 2011, equally distributing her time between College of human medicine & College of Vet Med. Dr. Rockwell received her Ph.D. in Pharmacology & Toxicology from Michigan State University in 2005, making her return in 2011 a homecoming of sorts. Her research interest focuses on the mechanisms that regulate immune cell polarization and activation as well as the subsequent downstream immune responses.
**New Grants:**

- **Studies of BET Inhibitor INCB054329 in KC and KPC Mouse Models of Pancreatic Cancer.** Awarded to: Dr. Karen Liby. Sponsor: Incyte Corporation. Award Amount: $126,000.

**Blast from the Past:**

**Guess Who?**

Can you tell who this distinguished Pharmacology & Toxicology Professor is?

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**New Hires**

**Julie Detwiler**

- **How long have you been at MSU:** 39 years.
- **What’s your favorite thing about MSU:** I’ve always loved the way MSU treats its Faculty & Staff!
- **Favorite Dish:** Anything with Raspberries
- **Dream Vacation:** A private beach in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula
- **Tell us a fun fact about yourself:** I’m an avid Texas Hold’em poker player, and I play regularly with a group of friends on Friday nights.

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**PharmTox QuickNotes**

- **We will be updating our alumni database this fall.** Look for an email from Julie Detwiler which will have you fill out your newest information.
- **We have a photographer coming in during our October 18th Faculty meeting (12pm, B448) to take a department faculty photo. Meet in B448 promptly at noon and we will walk together to the photo location.**
- **We have a lot more news to share, look for the additional new hires, grants, and other information in our Annual News Release at the end of November!**