



New Faculty Member Spotlight: Isola Brown

Dr. Isola Brown, PhD Alum from 2017, joined our department as Director of Masters Programs on March 1st. We sat down with Dr. Brown to get her thoughts on her new position.



What is your vision for our two master programs moving forward?

I am excited to be stepping into the leadership role of our online programs, which have a long history, and even stronger reputation, on campus and in the Pharmacology and Toxicology fields. My primary goal is to build on that reputation and increase the reach and visibility of our programs nationally and internationally. Improved and strategic marketing of our programs will also allow us to recruit, support, and educate a diverse and inclusive student population. Additionally, there have been several recent advancements in the area of online education, particularly around technologies and best practices. I would like to implement some of these practices to allow us to continue to deliver high-quality knowledge, in an accessible, flexible, and innovative way.

What are some things you learned while away from MSU that you will bring to your new position?

So much! My training since leaving MSU (which included teaching through a pandemic!) has taught me the importance of being adaptable. Leading the online programs will require a lot of flexibility - no two days will look the same - and I'm grateful for past training that taught me to pivot. I also learned the importance of building (and using) your network to figure things out. Even when I was away from MSU, I was never truly "away" because I always could call on former professors and grad school colleagues with questions about anything! I look forward to calling on those same folks again, plus the people I have met in other positions, to help me transition into this new role.

What's the best advice you were ever given? Who was it from?

My older sister told me "Don't always be the smartest person in the room, or you'll never learn anything new". As a self-proclaimed life-long learner, I embody this by doing three simple things: 1) being open to listening and learning, 2) being around people who I can learn something from, and 3) asking questions when there is something I don't know or want to know more about. My sister's advice hasn't failed me yet!

Student Publication: Lyndsey Reich

The rexinoid V-125 reduces tumor growth in preclinical models of breast and lung cancer is my first first-author paper and was published in Scientific Reports in January. Since losing my father to multiple myeloma in 2016, I have set my sights on building a career that would allow me to help develop new therapeutic agents and establish a rapport with the patients who would stand to benefit from them. In my 6th year of the DO-PhD program, I am finally starting to feel like a young physician scientist.



This publication is an exciting one for the Liby lab, as it is our first publication featuring the novel RXR agonist V-125. This compound's efficacy in a mouse model of breast cancer and a model of lung cancer is a promising indication that RXR agonists have potential value in diverse clinical settings. The data showcased in this paper also demonstrate that the *in vitro* screening paradigm developed in the Liby lab is a reliable method to select candidate RXR agonists that perform well *in vivo*. My current studies are focused on the mechanisms of action of RXR agonists, utilizing gene expression data to investigate the similarities and differences in mechanisms across this drug class. We are particularly interested in the ability of these drugs to modulate the immune system to produce an anti-tumor response.

PharmTox Alumni Event

Summer, 2022: MSU PharmTox Alumni Event - Featuring our Kenneth E. Moore Distinguished Alumnus Award Seminar with Dr. Andrew King (Fink Lab, 2008) who is currently Chief Scientific Officer with Chinook Therapeutics, Inc. Look for more details in our next monthly newsletter.



PharmTox Family Updates



Wyatt Boothby-Shoemaker (Bernard Lab) has matched for his dermatology residency at Henry Ford Health System. Wyatt joined the Bernard Lab in 2017 and was first author on the published manuscript titled "[*The Relationship Between Leptin, The Leptin Receptor and FGFR1 In Primary Human Breast Tumors*](#)".

Yolanda Simpson (Previously with Copple Lab) served as one of our summer American Society For Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) students. She recently was accepted to U Penn's Post-Bac Program and is on the final interview list with a program at John Hopkins University!



Society Of Toxicology Award

Dr. Jonathan Diedrich received the Carcinogenesis SS Environmental Carcinogenesis Merit Award for Postdoctoral Researchers at the Society of Toxicology meeting last week. This award is made possible by the Environmental Carcinogenesis Research Fellowship Fund of the SOT Endowment. Award applicants must be working in the field of environmental carcinogenesis, and they must integrate emerging sciences such as genomics, transcriptomics, epigenetics, metabolomics, microbiomics, and exposomics into their studies to define mechanisms of susceptibility to and prevention of carcinogenesis.

PharmTox Upcoming Events

Friday, April 8th @ 9am: Drug Discovery Seminar with Anne Di Sante (MSU Technologies)
"Intellectual property and what it means for your research initiatives and commercialization opportunities"
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99829704233> Passcode: 839433

Friday, April 15th @ 9am: Drug Discovery Seminar with Dr. Neera Tewari-Singh (MSU PharmTox)
"Therapeutic Targets To Counteract Skin Injuries From Vesicating Agents"
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99829704233> Passcode: 839433

Wednesday, April 27th @ 12pm: PharmTox Seminar with Dr. Kim Dodd (MSU Veterinary Diagnostic)
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/91308098611> Passcode: phmtox

PharmTox Publications

[The Rexinoid V-125 Reduces Tumor Growth In Preclinical Models Of Breast And Lung Cancer.](#)
Reich LA, Moerland JA, Leal AS, Zhang D, Carapellucci S, Lockwood B, Jurutka PW, Marshall PA, Wagner CE, **Liby KT**. Sci Rep. 2022 Jan 7;12(1):293. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-04415-0. PMID: 34997154 Free PMC article.

[A Negative Feedback Loop And Transcription Factor Cooperation Regulate Zonal Gene Induction By 2, 3, 7, 8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-Dioxin In The Mouse Liver.](#)
Yang Y, Filipovic D, **Bhattacharya S**. Hepatol Commun. 2022 Apr;6(4):750-764. doi: 10.1002/hep4.1848. Epub 2021 Nov 2. PMID: 34726355 Free PMC article.

[Cell Cycle Checkpoints And Beyond: Exploiting The ATR/CHK1/WEE1 Pathway For The Treatment Of PARP Inhibitor-Resistant Cancer.](#) Gupta N, Huang TT, **Horibata S**, Lee JM. Pharmacol Res. 2022 Mar 5;178:106162. doi: 10.1016/j.phrs.2022.106162. Online ahead of print. PMID: 35259479 Review.

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