

Catching Up With Malique Jones (Tykocki Lab)

Histamine receptors rapidly desensitize without altering nerve-evoked contractions in murine urinary bladder smooth muscle (see below), is my very first peer-reviewed research publication from the Tykocki Lab. As a young Black woman scientist, I have spent a lot of time processing what it means to accomplish success while navigating academia. It has been difficult to celebrate at times because my sense of belonging has not followed the victories of overcoming each milestone to refer to myself as a scientist. However, this publication is confirmation that my scientific inquiries have merit.



B. Malique Jones

This publication has fueled my interest in investigating inflammatory agents that disrupt urinary bladder smooth muscle contractions via the activation of G Protein Coupled Receptor (GPCR) signaling pathways. In addition, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of how disruption of GPCR signaling pathways impacts the immune response to subsequently cause dysfunction. My long-term research interests involve exploring the physiological mechanisms and ramifications of non-IgE mediated mast cell degranulation and histamine release to develop effective therapeutics for diseases that arise from acute and chronic mast cell activation.

Dr. Prokop's Winning Ways!



Dr. Jeremy Prokop

Dr. Jeremy Prokop, an assistant professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Pharmacology and Toxicology, has had a truly excellent start to this year. He received funding from the Michigan Sequencing Academic Partnership for Public Health Innovation and Response ([MI-SAPPHIRE](#)), a program supported by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Jeremy is leading a team of scientists from MSU and Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids. This team will work on sequencing viruses to stay a step ahead of COVID-19 variants; they will synthesize this information to determine if new variants alter virus function. The tools this team builds will not just help with the current pandemic;

they will help detect and evaluate future viruses and pathogens. This grant also has a significant educational component in that Jeremy will be teaching undergraduate and graduate students across the state the basics of bioinformatics. Training is a significant focus of the Prokop lab, with projects such as this one and those funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) yielding 75 undergraduate and graduate trainee authorship spots in peer-reviewed manuscripts.

Jeremy's innovative work is being recognized by others, including the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET). This coming month he will receive the Early Career Award from the ASPET Division for Translational and Clinical Pharmacology. The award will be presented at the ASPET Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The ASPET press release states: "Dr. Jeremy Prokop received this award due to his work in integrative biosciences and precision medicine that uses computation tools to gain mechanistic insights from genomic data."

Department Publications From January & February 2022

[Endothelial Ion Channels And Cell-Cell Communication In The Microcirculation](#). **Jackson WF**. Front Physiol. 2022 Feb 8;13:805149. doi: 10.3389/fphys.2022.805149. eCollection 2022. PMID: 35211031

[Histamine Receptors Rapidly Desensitize Without Altering Nerve-Evoked Contractions In Murine Urinary Bladder Smooth Muscle](#). **Jones BM**, Mingin GC, **Tykocki NR**. Am J Physiol Renal Physiol. 2022 Mar 1;322(3):F268-F279. doi: 10.1152/ajprenal.00355.2021. Epub 2022 Jan 24. PMID: 35073211

[Click here to see the other papers published so far this year](#)

Save The Dates

Drug Discovery Seminar - Dr. Sachi Horibata (MSU PharmTox). **3/18/22**
[ZOOM LINK](#) Passcode: 839433

PharmTox Seminar - Dr. Li Zhou (Henry Ford HS). **3/23/22**. [ZOOM LINK](#) Passcode: phmtox

Drug Discovery Seminar - Dr. Jagadananda Ghosh (Henry Ford HS). **3/25/22**. [ZOOM LINK](#) Passcode: 839433

Department News

New PharmTox PhD Students 2022:

- Caitlin Wilson (**Watts Lab**)
- Emma Wabel (**Watts Lab**)
- Oluchukwu Okoyeocha (**Tewari-Singh Lab**)
- Ariana Ponton-Almodovar (**Horibata & Bernard Lab**)
- Bassel Abdalla (**Abramovitch Lab**)

New Grants:

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (**Dorrance, Barman**) ASPET. \$27,000

Advancement of MSU-42011 For Treatment Of CTCL and NF (**Liby**) Michigan Economic Development Corporation. \$40,000