

# PHARMTOX QUARTERLY

PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY QUARTERLY  
May 31, 2019- PQ N. 06

## PharmTox Faculty Updates



### Dr. John Goudreau - COM Associate Dean For Research

Dr. John Goudreau has been named Associate Dean for Research with the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University. Additionally, he will co-direct the DO/PhD training program- a combined degree program which trains students to become physician scientists. Along with these additional responsibilities, Dr. Goudreau serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology and the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology.

Dr. Goudreau received his Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) and PhD in Neuropharmacology from MSU COM in 1995 working with Dr. Kenneth Moore for his PhD. He became an MSU Faculty member in 2001. [Read more on Dr. Goudreau.](#)



### Dr. Jay Goodman - Retirement & PhRMA Award

Dr. Jay Goodman has retired after dedicating 48 years to the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology. He joined our Department in 1971, when we were just the Department of Pharmacology. He has been an excellent representative for our Department as a researcher, instructor, and member of the community. Dr. Goodman's outstanding career has also been recognized by the PhRMA Foundation, who awarded him earlier this year with The Award in Excellence. [Read more on Dr. Goodman's career and award.](#)

A retirement symposium was hosted April 1st to honor the career and contributions of Dr. Jay Goodman.

## Upcoming Department PhD Defenses

With five Thesis Defenses on the schedule, Pharmacology & Toxicology has a very busy summer! We broadcast all of our seminars; find connecting information on our [Department website](#). In the middle of our webpage we list our upcoming events. Click on the title of each for more information.

June 26: Bridget Seitz (Watts Lab)

July 15: Vincent Shaw (Neubig Lab)

July 16: Alberto Perez-Medina (Galligan Lab)

July 19: Kibrom Alula (Galligan Lab)

August 2: Huijie "Jade" Feng (Neubig Lab)

## PharmTox Student Updates



### Kevin Baker, PhD Student: John A. Penner Endowed Research Assistantship Awardee

Kevin Baker, Luyendyk Lab, received the John A. Penner Endowed Research Assistantship for the academic year 2019-2020. The award includes a stipend of \$31,500, health insurance, and 100% of all tuition and fees. When asked what this award means to him, Kevin replied "Dr. Penner was a highly distinguished doctor that did a phenomenal service to Michigan State University, as is seen by the numerous honors and awards that he achieved during his career. I am incredibly humbled to receive a fellowship named after him. [Read more about Kevin and his award here.](#)

### Vanessa Benham, PhD Student: Lansing State Journal Publication

Vanessa Benham, Bernard Lab, authored a fantastic article for Lansing State Journal, which received publication all the way up to USA Today! Titled "Obesity poised to overtake smoking as leading preventable cause of cancer", the article discusses obesity in America and how it is connected to 13 kinds of cancer including: ovarian, thyroid, uterine, and more. The likeliest culprit? Belly fat. [Read more at Lansing State Journal.](#)



## PHARMTOX QUICKNOTES

### Pharmacology Colloquium 2019

Our Faculty and Students are heading to The University of Toledo June 21st, 2019 for the 46th Annual Pharmacology Colloquium. Michigan State University, The University of Michigan, University of Toledo, and Wayne State University get together for poster and oral presentations with each university taking turns rotating as the host. We have over 30 representatives from the department attending this year!

### Drug Discovery Seminars

If you are interested in some cool science, check out our [Drug Discovery website](#) where we have begun to upload our recorded Drug Discovery seminars. We've uploaded two of our most recent seminars including a very informative funding opportunities seminar with an NIH representative. Our Drug Discovery invitees include both academia & industry speakers to give us a well rounded seminar program. Make sure to check back during the fall when our seminar series start up again.

### PharmTox Picnic 2019

Our annual "Fall Kickoff" picnic is scheduled for Saturday, August 24th beginning at 4pm. Food service will begin at 5pm. Location is Hartrick Park (3685 Hulett RD, Okemos, 48864). We welcome all of our alumni and friends to join us for food and games. Meat, buns, pop, and water provided. Bring a dish to share and catch up with your MSU Pharmacology & Toxicology cohorts!

## Five Questions with Dr. Peter Cobbett

### What is your best piece of advice?

To undergraduate students: You only get this opportunity once, don't waste it.

To graduate students: do "science at the bar" - when you are at a meeting, don't go to dinner or to the bar with other MSU students or faculty but take advantage of the opportunity to meet with scientists from other institutions...These are the people who may have a post-doc available for you when you need one, or may be on a job search committee, or may be on a committee reviewing your grant application, or may have that unique antibody or drug that you need to complete a study...and then stay in touch.

To younger faculty colleagues: it's my impression that what matters most to your success at MSU is not just the research funds that you bring to MSU but how you make MSU and this department look to the outside world.



### What is one thing on your bucket list?

I'm going to be greedy and have two things in my bucket. First, to be able to attend the high school graduation of all of my grandchildren while still sufficiently compus mentis to know which one is graduating and which ones are not - my youngest two grand children are both two years old, so I guess the last graduation is probably in May 2035. Second, to go shrimping with my brother one more time on the island of Jersey - look for it on a map - on a beautiful summer's day in late summer on the lowest of low tides.

### What do you find most exciting about your job?

Two things, in no particular order, as a teacher. First, seeing "the lights turn on" for students when I'm lecturing on some topic that is difficult to understand. Second, realizing half way through a lecture that there's a better way to tell students about some topic that I'm teaching them.

### How do you spend your free time?

My favorite free time is spent at the lake-side cottage that my wife and I purchased nearly two years ago. Whether the lake is quiet in winter time - with just a few ice fishermen and a couple of snowmobiles - or noisy in summer - boats and jet-skis and noise, and family members - the place is instantly relaxing for me even if I actually spend time working or corralling grandchildren.

### What would be the title of your memoir?

"Good Teachers Have More Class Than Other People" because I like to think that I am a good teacher and because it's a nice play on words. Thank you for this question, perhaps I will write a memoir after all!!

## *Blast from the past*



Can you identify the Pharmacology & Toxicology Faculty member pictured in the photo?

Questions or comments? Something you'd like to share? Send us an email! We would love to hear from all of our alumni and friends. The more updates and news we get from our alumni, the more news and updates we will include in our communications!

Department Email: [PHM@MSU.EDU](mailto:PHM@MSU.EDU)



### New Grants:

**Nrf2, immune cells and lung cancer.** Awarded to: Dr. Karen Liby. Sponsor: National institutes of Health. \$1,761,055.

**Bladder Blood flow and vascular contractility regulate bladder function.** Awarded to: Dr. Nathan Tykocki. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health. \$236,830.

**Chemerin Knockdown as a treatment for obesity-associated hypertension.** Awarded to: Dr. Stephanie Watts. Sponsor: American Hearth Association. \$299,997.

**Novel Retinoids (Retinoid X Receptor (RXR) Agonists) for Oncology.** Awarded to: Dr. Karen Liby. Sponsor: Michigan Strategic Fund. \$225,260.

**Afferent renal nerves, renal inflammation, and hypertension.** Awarded to: Dr. Greg Fink. Sponsor: National institutes of Health via University of Minnesota. \$78,667.

**Identification of enteric nerve circuits controlling gut motility DFI proposal.** Awarded to: Dr. James Galligan. Sponsor: Michigan State University. \$50,000.

**Mechanistic action of statins for skin cancer prevention.** Awarded to: Dr. Jamie Bernard. Sponsor: Michigan State University. \$45,000.