Honors & Awards

Congratulations to Bryan L Holloman, a doctoral student in the Nagarkatti lab, who was a recipient of the 2020 Alumni and Dean’s Distinguished Service Awards announced on 8/21/2020. Bryan was awarded the Community Service Award by Dr. Les Hall, Dean UofSC School of the Medicine (SOM) at a virtual celebration held on October 8, 2020. Bryan was one of only eighteen individuals to be recognized for their contributions to the health care field and their service to the SOM at the annual Alumni and Dean’s Awards Ceremony. Bryan was chosen for this award as he is a decorated Army veteran and entrepreneur, his research in the Nagarkatti lab, and his involvement in social justice initiatives and societal needs.

Michal Claire Williams, an undergraduate in the laboratory of Dr. Philip Brandon Busbee, was awarded a South Carolina Honors College SURF Grant. Her grant application proposes to investigate the role of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor in different cell types during Indole-3-Carbinol (I3C)-mediated attenuation of colitis disease severity and microbial dysbiosis.

Graduating Class of 2020 medical student John Plante was the recipient of the Stefan Mironescu Memorial Award for Excellence in Pathology, which each year is given to the graduating student who had the highest-grade average in the second year Medical Pathology course.

Graduating Class of 2020 medical student Kristen Logan attained a residency position in the Department of Pathology of Duke University Medical Center in the 2020 National Residency Matching Program (NRMP).

Dr. Ioulia Chatzistamou will serve as a Co-I for the 1R21CA252360-01 NCI/NIH grant awarded to Dr. Hexin Chen in biological sciences. The title of the two-year award is “Nanoparticle-delivered miR-489 rejuvenates anthracycline-based chemotherapy”.

Dr. Ioulia Chatzistamou will serve as a Co-I on an award from the South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) received on June 24th, 2020 (PI: Kiaris, H). The title of the award is “Further Development of CCL8 Antibodies for the treatment of cancer, COVID19 and immune related pathologies. Maturation & Prototyping Matching Grant”. Period of Support: 2020-21.

Dr. Ioulia Chatzistamou is an inventor of two patents awarded to UofSC: The titles of the inventions are:

Dr. Ioulia Chatzistamou was invited to serve on the Editorial Board of the journal, Translational Oncology.

Dr. Kandy Velázquez and Dr. Brandon VanderVeen received an R43 from the National Center for Integrative and Complementary Health (NCCIH) entitled: Development of Quercetin to Treat Muscle Wasting Disorders (1R43AT011171-01). This is a 1-year grant in the amount of $299,998.

Matthew Noneman (Velázquez Lab) was awarded a Science Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) from the Honors College. The award is entitled: Characterization of spontaneous pain in colorectal cancer.
Dr. Carole Oskeritzian received an R21 grant from the NIH National Cancer Institute in the amount of $400K on the “Development of a noninvasive, rapid and affordable method for early detection of colorectal cancer”.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian was nominated to serve as a South Carolina Academy of Science Councillor.

Narendra P Singh, PhD, received a Laboratory Travel Award from the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) to attend the AAI Meeting in Hawaii from May 8-12, 2020 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Alkeiver Cannon, a graduate student from Nagarkatti lab, submitted an abstract which was selected as third place winner ($150) of the student competition by Drug Discovery Toxicology Specialty Section at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA, March 15-19, 2020. The meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Congratulation to the Nagarkatti lab! The American Association of Immunologists – AAI cited their article “AhR Activation Leads to Massive Mobilization of Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells with Immunosuppressive Activity through Regulation of CXCR2 and MicroRNA miR-150-5p and miR-543-3p That Target Anti-Inflammatory Genes” by Neamah Wurood, Narendra Singh, Hasan Alghetaa, Osama Abdulla, Saurabh Chatterjee, Brandon Busbee, Mitzi Nagarkatti and Prakash Nagarkatti as the #12 most-read article in the Journal of Immunology in May 2020. You may view the full list of most-read article at www.jimmunol.org/MostRead August 1, 2020.

Juhua Zhou, PhD received a Laboratory Travel Award ($1500) to attend the American Association of Immunologist (AAI) meeting in Honolulu, HI, scheduled to take place on May 8-12, 2020. The meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Dr. Culpepper (Nagarkatti lab) was awarded the American Association of Immunologist (AAI) Trainee Abstract Award for her abstract: Culpepper CD, Wilson MK, Nagarkatti PS, Nagarkatti, M. Epigenetic regulation of C-Kit1° FcERla+ mast cells by cannabidiol during staphylococcal enterotoxin B-induced liver injury. The meeting scheduled to take place in Honolulu, HI, on May 8-12, 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19.

Congratulations to our newest PMI graduates completing their dissertation defenses:

- Alexander Sougiannis, Ph.D., Murphy lab
- Amira Mohammed, Ph.D., Nagakatti lab
- Rasha Aldulhamza, Ph.D., Testerman lab

Congratulations to the following students who received NIH Diversity Supplement Awards on R01 grants to Drs. Mitzi Nagarkatti, Prakash Nagarkatti and Angela Murphy:

- Alkeiver Cannon, Nagarkatti lab, - AhR Ligands in Epigenetic Dysregulation of T cells
- Bryan Holloman, Nagarkatti lab, -AhR Ligands in Epigenetic Dysregulation of T cells
- Sierra McDonald, Murphy lab, - Emodin as a chemopreventive agent for breast cancer

**News & Updates**


USA Today featured Prakash Nagarkatti, PhD in an article titled: “Data, data and more data is what will make a coronavirus vaccine safe, says USA TODAY’s vaccine panel”. USA TODAY’s expert panel sees steady progress toward a safe and effective COVID vaccine, urge public’s patience as trials proceed and data comes in, by Elizabeth Weise, and Karen Weintraub, 9/17/2020. [https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/health/2020/09/17/covid-vaccine-update-experts-say-were-over-halfway-there-need-data/5805725002/](https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/health/2020/09/17/covid-vaccine-update-experts-say-were-over-halfway-there-need-data/5805725002/)


“When a COVID Vaccine is Developed, Will People Take It?” was the title of the NPR, South Carolina Public Radio broadcast with Tut Underwood, interviewing Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti, September 2, 2020. https://www.southcarolinapublicradio.org/post/when-covid-vaccine-developed-will-people-take-it


USA TODAY featured Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti along with USA TODAY’s expert panelist in the article “Experts see progress on a COVID-19 vaccine, but worry about who gets it first and how it gets to them”. Public confidence in effectiveness and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines must be established for battle against the pandemic to succeed. The article was featured 8/26/20 by Elizabeth Weise and Karen Weintrab. https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/health/2020/08/25/covid-vaccine-race-experts-steady-progress-worry-logistics-distribution/3389988001/

Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti was featured by the State’s reporter Lucas Daprile, titled “USC researchers think THC in marijuana may be able to treat deadly COVID complication” August 28, 2020. The article discussed was published in Frontiers in Pharmacology, the British Journal of Pharmacology and the International Journal of Molecular Sciences. https://www.thestate.com/news/coronavirus/article245321785.html


Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti reviewed grants for the NIH Systemic Injury by Environmental Exposure (SIEE) Study Section as a standing member from June 30 – July 1, 2020. In June of 2020, we welcomed new Business Manager, Elizabeth Caulder who joined us from the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, located at the Arnold School of Public Health. Elizabeth brought with her over five years of experience navigating and managing the administrative procedures necessary for the successful operation of an applied research department at the University of South Carolina.
Dr. James Catroppo attended the following UofSC Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) workshops:

- Hands-On Blackboard Collaborate Small Group Session
- Classroom Behavior in the COVID-19 Environment: A Practical Guide
- Digital Accessibility Open Forum: Ask The Experts. Committing To A More Inclusive Digital Campus
- 3D’s of Virtual Course Development
  - Preparing For Virtual Instruction: What’s Next
  - Virtual Teaching Best Practices
  - Deliver: Teaching a Virtual Course
  - Develop: Building a Virtual Course
  - Design: Planning a Virtual Course
- Blackboard Collaborate Ultra
- Developing Your Fall Syllabus. Part 1: Review, Revise, Realign
- Developing Your Fall Syllabus. Part 2: Planning, Particulars, Production
- Teaching Online Best Practices
- Remote Teaching: Best Practices for Improving Live Class Meetings
- Tea and Empathy
- Small Changes, High Impacts in Integrative and Experiential Learning
- Tips for Teaching an Asynchronous Online Course

Dr. James Catroppo attended the following International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE) webinars:

- The Disappearing Pathology Instructor
- Partnering with Medical Students to Discover Educational Solutions for On-Line Learning
- The Future of MedEd Conferences

Dr. James Catroppo attended the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE) 24th Annual Meeting/#IAMSE20 Virtual Conference “Envisioning the Future of Health Sciences Education”.

Dr. Traci Testerman will serve as Associate Editor for the journal BMC Gastroenterology.

Dr. Traci Testerman was interviewed by WIS TV for a story entitled “How effective are masks? A simple test offers some answers” [https://www.wistv.com/2020/08/27/how-effective-are-masks-simple-test-offers-some-answers/](https://www.wistv.com/2020/08/27/how-effective-are-masks-simple-test-offers-some-answers/)

Dr. Ioulia Chatzistamou was invited as a reviewer for the NIH Study Section: Rapid Investigation of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2) and Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) PAR-20-177, PAR-20-178, June 30th and August 14th, 2020.

Patrice Cunningham, a Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) Student, joined the lab of Dr. Velázquez in August 2020. Patrice’s research will be investigating the role of macrophages on cancer cachexia. She is one of eight students accepted this year at USC PREP (NIH-R25).

Aman Sumal, M2 Medical Student, joined the lab of Dr. Velázquez in August 2020. Aman’s research will be investigating the antinociceptive mechanism of Ojeok-san in dorsal root ganglia.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian attended the two-part American Association for Cancer Research Virtual Annual Meeting in April 27-28 and June 22-24, 2020.


Together with over 60 colleagues from around the world, Dr. Carole Oskeritzian was invited to participate in the Allergy Chat in Lockdown Virtual Meeting, organized by Dr. Toshi Kawakami, MD, PhD, La Jolla Institute for Immunology, CA, on May 18, 20 and 22, and designed to provide an international platform to exchange ideas and spark future collaborations.
Dr. Carole Oskeritzian served as a grant reviewer for the Development Research Project program of the South Carolina IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (SC INBRE) last June.

Dr. Angela Murphy served as a reviewer for NIH/NCI Transition to Independence awards on June 10th and 11th, 2020.

### Publications


---

**Figure of the article is featured on the cover of CEPP; Volume 47, October 2020**


Presentations


Singh NP, Chandler Z, Ezeanya N, Nagarkatti P, Nagarkatti M. Resveratrol mediates regulation of genes through microRNAs in the gut epithelial cells that may play a role in the gut health and amelioration of EAE in mice. Annual Meeting of American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Meeting, May 8-12, 2020, Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.


Culpepper, C.D., Miranda, K., Wilson, K., Nagarkatti, P.S., and Nagarkatti, M. Epigenetic regulation of C-Kit1⁺ FcERla⁺ mast cells by cannabidio during staphyloccocal enterotoxin B–induced liver injury. Annual Meeting of American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Meeting, May 8-12, 2020, Honolulu, Hawaii. This abstract was accepted for an oral presentation. The meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.


Dopkins, N., Wilson, K., Miranda, K., Nagarkatti, P. and Nagarkatti, M. Efficacy of cannabidiol treatment in experimental MS is due to immunosuppressive activity of myeloid cells in CNS downregulating recruitment of CD4+T cells, proinflammatory chemokines and gasdermin D expression. Annual Meeting of American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Meeting, May 8-12, 2020, Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.
