



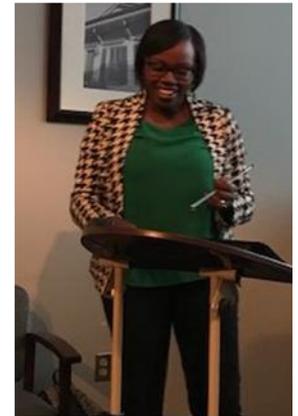
Physiology News



October - December 2018 · Volume 1 · Issue 2

A message from the Chair

As we welcome 2019 we find time to reflect over our accomplishments during the past year and to dream about the goals we set our intentions on for this year. I trust you have all had a peaceful and joyful time to share with family and friends over the holidays and that you find yourselves energized to continue our path to EXCELLENCE! 2018 was a great year for our department. Over 90% of our faculty had extramural funding of some sort, and we saw several trainees (Stielper, Fucich) and junior faculty (Souza) secure funding as well. We had the chance to reconnect with some of our trainees who have continued successfully on their path (Dogget and Mathis) and welcomed new trainees into our department (Cucinello, Templeton). I am pleased with the Wellness initiative and believe that slowly it will permeate to others bringing joy, health, and mindfulness to their lives. From a personal perspective, 2018 was a year full of joyful events culminating in Alex and Kristin's wedding in Antigua, Guatemala.



2019 will be a challenging year. The renewal of the CARC is due on April 16th. So, from now, I extend a blanket PLEASE, THANK YOU, and SORRY! For all the times when I know anxiety will take over my manners. In closing, I reiterate how much I enjoy working with you, how much your wellbeing and success means to me, and my sincere desire to provide support for you to achieve your goals.

Best wishes for a successful 2019!
Patricia

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Recognition

LSUHSC was chosen to join the Aquifer Sciences Initiative Pilot School Program, an effort spearheaded by **Dr. Maureen Basha**, who is Co-Investigator.

In November 2018, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) presented the 2018 Distinguished Service Member Award to **Dr. Michael Levitzky**.

Drs. Elizabeth Avegno and Lucas de Souza were promoted to Instructors of Physiology in November 2018!



Adrienne McGinn was selected to receive the 2018 Roheim Award, presented in December at the department's holiday party (left).



Graduate students from the Department of Physiology did an outstanding job at Graduate Research Day on November 2, 2018. The

Chancellor's Award was presented to **Dr. Allyson Schreiber** (above), **Van Ninh** was the winner of the 10-minute talk (right), and **Jessica Cucinello** was a poster award winner (below).



Grants

Taylor Templeton submitted her F31 application to NIAAA on December 8, 2018.

Dr. Marcus Weera's F32 application received a strong score.

Publications

Albrechet-Souza L and Gilpin NW. The predator odor avoidance model of post-traumatic stress disorder in rats. *Behavioural Pharmacology*, 2019 (in press).

Harman JC, Guidry JJ, and Gidday JM. Comprehensive characterization of the mouse retinal proteome: Using discovery-based mass spectroscopy to decipher the total proteome and phosphoproteome. *Molecular Vision* 24:875-889, 2018.

Moreno M, Decara J, Pavon FJ, Stouffer DG, **Edwards S**, Serrano A, Suárez J, Parsons LH, Rodríguez de Fonseca F. Cannabinoid dependence induces sustained changes in GABA release in the globus pallidus without affecting dopamine release in the dorsal striatum: A dual microdialysis probe study. *Addiction Biology* 23(6):1251-1261, 2018.



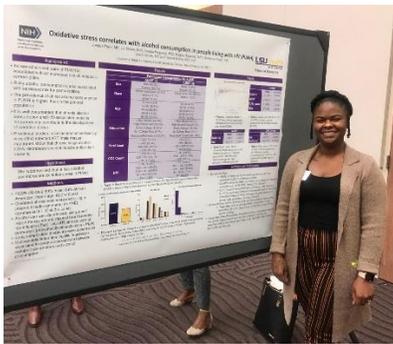


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Schreiber, AL, McGinn MA, Edwards S, Gilpin NW. Predator odor stress blunts alcohol conditioned aversion. *Neuropharmacology* 144: 82-90, 2019.

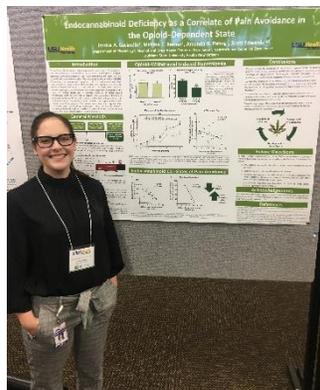
Presentations

Dr. Liz Simon presented a seminar titled “Epigenomic mechanisms of alcohol-induced impaired muscle regeneration” in the Genetics Seminar Series in September, 2018.



Jonquil Poret presented a poster (left) titled “Oxidative stress correlates with alcohol consumption in people living with HIV (PLWH)” at the Network of Minority Health Research Investigators (NMRI) South Regional Workshop in Nashville, TN on Nov 1-2, 2018.

On Nov. 2, 2018, **Jessica Cucinello** presented a poster (right) and a 3-Minute



Thesis (left) titled “Endocannabinoid Deficiency as a Correlate of Pain Avoidance in the Opioid-Dependent State” at Graduate

Research Day.

Dr. Patricia Molina presented talks titled “Alcohol interaction with HIV disease: Translational approach to understanding mechanism & comorbidities” (18th International National Hispanic Science Network Conference in Rockville, MD on October 5, 2018) and “Alcohol & metabolic dysregulation in HIV mechanisms underlying risk for comorbidities” (School of Medicine Dean’s Research Seminar Series, LSUHSC, December 12, 2018). She was also the Pioneer in Addiction Research Award Lecturer at the Frontiers in Addiction Research and Pregnancy meeting, Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA, on October 12, 2018. Dr. Molina gave a plenary talk titled “Impact of alcohol on HIV disease progression” at the Frontiers in Translational Medicine Conference, Institute for Translational Research in Biomedicine at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan on November 16-17, 2018.



Above: Dr. Molina at the Institute for Translational Research in Biomedicine at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Dr. Nick Gilpin gave invited lectures at Marquette University: “Traumatic stress alters brain CRF signaling & alcohol drinking” and at Texas A&M University: “Central amygdala mediates alcohol withdrawal hyperalgesia” in October, 2018.



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Dr. Scott Edwards presented talks titled “Neuropathological Mechanisms of Alcohol, SIV, and Antiretroviral Therapy” (NeuroHIV and NeuroHIV and Alcohol Abuse (NHAA) Meeting, October 31, 2018); “Central Reinforcement Center Correlates of Pain Avoidance Behavior in Opioid vs. Alcohol Dependence” (American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) Meeting, December 9, 2018); and “Neuroscience of Opioid Use Disorder/Addiction” (Addressing Opioid Abuse and Addiction Among APRN Providers, LSUHSC Continuing Nursing Education, December 14, 2018).

Zachary Stielper gave a talk titled “Traumatic Brain Injury Alters Endocannabinoid Proteins in the Basolateral Amygdala of Alcohol Drinking Rats” at the ADACE Retreat in December 2018.

Dr. Marcus Weera gave a talk titled, "The Role of Central Amygdala Signaling in a Rat Model of Traumatic Stress" at ADACE in December, 2018.

Dr. Lucas Albrechet-Souza gave a research talk: “The predator odor model of post-traumatic stress disorder in rats” at Fresno State-CA in November, 2018.

Professional Service

Dr. Michael Levitzky served as SACSCOC Chair of Offsite Accreditation of 3 Universities in November.

Dr. Gilpin attended the Neurotoxicology and Alcohol Study Section meeting in October.

Notable Events

Gilpin Lab contract started with Cohen Veterans Biosciences group; the project is being led by **Dr. Lucas Albrechet-Souza**.

The Wellness Committee is continuing wellness activities this semester:

- Yoga will take place on Mondays, 4:30pm, MEB 7101 (by the Biochem Office)
- Meditation will take place on Thursdays, 12:15pm, MEB 7204 (Gold Conference Room)
- Monthly walks will be held, dates TBD. Keep an eye out for email invitations.

The Wellness awards for Fall 2018 went to:

- 1) Dr. Danielle Levitt-Budnar
- 2) Dr. Elizabeth Avegno
- 3) Dr. Laurie Byerly

Katie Adler was accepted to medical school (early decision) here at LSUHSC!

Van Ninh's manuscript on the cardiac effects of prenatal alcohol exposure has been accepted by *Cardiovascular Toxicology*.



Above: Send-off for **Dr. Udita Datta** who was with the department for approximately 1 year. We wish her the best of luck in her new position.

The Department of Physiology held its annual holiday celebration at the home of **Dr. Patricia Molina** on December 16, 2018.

In December, **Dr. Scott & Kim Edwards** went hiking & drinking along the southern Appalachian Trail in north Georgia (pictures next page).



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Images of the Appalachian Trail (above) and the Habersham Winery (below) from the Edwards' trip.



Above: Physiology Trainees attended the 2018 Purple and Gold Gala.

Health

