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BioMolecular Sciences

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Vision

We are a department of leaders in inter-disciplinary life sciences dedicated to improving human and environmental health through education, biological and chemical research, and committed service.

Mission

Our mission is to drive innovation through combined excellence in the disciplines of Pharmacognosy, Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacology, and Environmental Toxicology in order to understand and improve human and environmental health. We will provide positive impacts to our school, the state of Mississippi, and the world, via education and mentored research at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels, and through our leadership in inter-disciplinary chemical and biological sciences.

Faculty and students in our four divisions conduct research and educational activities broadly in the following areas:

Environmental Toxicology seeks to identify and resolve problems related to environmental health.

Medicinal Chemistry designs and synthesizes biologically active compounds based on structure activity relationships.

Pharmacognosy isolates and discovers the functions of natural products.

Pharmacology identifies the mechanisms of action and molecular targets of biomedical compounds.



Graduate Student Awards and Recognitions

Virginia Dolores Cantu Fellowship – Miguel De Leon

Inducted into Rho Chi – Moneerah Alqahtani, Maali Alshammari, Zhi "Selina" Cheng, Mohammed Hawwal, Cellas Hayes, Mehjabeen Hossain & Benjamin Sawyer

Anne S. Chatham Fellowship in Medicinal Botany – Hayley Prescott

Graduate Student Council Research Grants – Tomayo Berida, Benjamin Sawyer, Alaa Qrarefa, Salahuddin Mohammed & Mohammed Ahmed

Mini Grant for Teaching Assistants – Maggie Craze

Ole Miss ACSA Scholarship Award – Tomayo Berida

UM Graduate School Ambassadors – Maggie Craze & Tonia Aminone

Diversity Incentive Award, UM Division of Diversity & Community Engagement – Tonia Aminone

Faculty Awards and Recognition

P1 Teacher of the Year – James Stewart

P2 Teacher of the Year – Noa Valcarcel

UM Faculty Achievement – David Colby

Cumberland Pharmaceuticals, Inc. – Joshua Sharp

Rho Chi initiates – Noa Valcarcel & Vitor Pomin

25 Years of Service – Marc Slattery & John Rimoldi

Department Achievements for 2020 – 2021

Over 50 poster/podium presentations at regional, national and international conferences by faculty, research scientists and graduate students

55 publications • 3 patents

Members of the Faculty



Kristie Willett, *Chair Etox & Pcol*



Nicole Ashpole *Pcol*



Paul Boudreau *Pcog*



David Colby *Med Chem*



Robert Doerksen *Med Chem*



Deborah Gochfeld *Etox*



Ikhlas Khan *Pcog*



Hoang Le *Med Chem*



Jing Li *Med Chem*



Dale Nagle *Pcog*



Jason Paris *Pcol*



Vitor Pomin *Pcog*



John Rimoldi *Med Chem & Etox*



Gregg Roman *Pcol*



Courtney Roper *Etox*



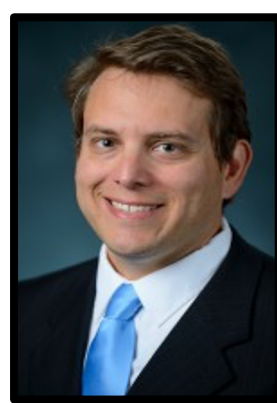
Samir Ross *Pcog*



Sudeshna Roy *Med Chem & Pcog*



Ziaeddin Shariat-Madar *Pcol*



Joshua Sharp *Pcol*



Marc Slattery *Pcog & Etox*



James Stewart *Pcol*



Cole Stevens *Pcog*



Noa Valcarcel-Ares *Pcol*

Faculty Awarded Grants

Joshua Sharp & Samir Ross – NIH, GlyCORE: Glycoscience Center of Research Excellence

Sudeshna Roy & Robert Doerksen – NIH, Target-based chemotherapeutics development against Mycobacterium tuberculosis

Courtney Roper – SOT, Undergraduate Faculty Research

Joshua Sharp – NIH, Molecular Structure Determination by Mass Spectrometry and Computational Modeling

BMS Contributors: Ashpole, Paris, Rimoldi, Roman & Willett – NIH, NPN COBRE Phase III Center

Nicole Ashpole & Jason Paris – NIH, Anti-inflammatory Effects of Novel Minor Cannabinoids & Terpenes on Cellular & Murine Models of HIV & HIV Proteins

Kristie Willett – NIH, Mechanisms of developmental & reproductive toxicity from preconceptional BaP exposure

Nicole Ashpole – NIH, Influence of the Receptor for Advanced Glycation End Products on Healthspan

Joshua Sharp – NIH, Structural Analysis of the Mannose 6-Phosphate Receptors

Deborah Gochfeld & Kristie Willett – USM/MDEQ/U.S., DOT, Impacts of water quality on oyster development to inform oyster reef restoration and sustainability on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

Hoang Le – ACS, Ole Miss, ACS Scent Club: Home Distillation of Local Fragrances

2021 Distinguished Graduate Student Awards

Charles Hufford – Hayley Prescott

William Benson – Maggie Craze

Edith Pritchard – Salahuddin Mohammed

Marvin Davis – Cellas Hayes

Outstanding Pharmacognosy – Hanan Albatineh

Outstanding Medicinal Chemistry – Maali Alshammari

BMS Student Adv. Excellence – Salahuddin Mohammed



Dr. Joseph Sam had a vision of offering a graduate program in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. His vision was to develop a program that would train and educate future scientist in the field of drug development and discovery. The success of our graduate program can be attributed to the quality of its faculty and students. Yet no one has contributed more to the spirit and inspiration of these efforts than Dr. Joseph Sam.

G. Michael Wall, Ph.D.

SVP & CSO at Nacuity Pharmaceuticals, Inc. & VP, Pharmaceutical Dev. at Sound Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Medicinal Chemistry in PhD Class of 1988 – PhD advisor: John K. Baker

