News & Updates:

Dr. Catropppo was promoted from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor. Congratulations Dr. Catropppo!

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian served as a reviewer for the NIH/NIAID Immunology IMM-S10B Study Section on June 24, 2016 in Arlington, VA.

Dr. Pirisi-Creek chaired the June, 2016 meeting of the IRG Review Panel for the American Cancer Society in Atlanta, June 14-15, 2016.

Dr. Udai Singh served on the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Immunity and Host Defense Study Section as an ad-hoc member on June 2-3, 2016.

Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti served on the NIH Systemic Injury by Environmental Exposure (SIEE) Study Section meeting held June 23-24, 2016 in Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Angela Murphy was invited to serve as an associate editor for the journal Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise. This is the flagship journal for the American College of Sports Medicine. Featured topics include: sports medicine practice, physiology, epidemiology, biodynamics, and physical fitness and performance.

Dr. Narendra Singh served on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) “National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) 2016/10 ZAT1 SM (42) Study Section meeting” held on July 28, 2016.

Dr. Pirisi-Creek made presentations at, and contributed to the organization and implementation of the SC INBRE “Academic Leadership Workshop” designed and organized for SC INBRE by Drs. Martine LaBerge and Edie Goldsmith, and held at the USC SOM on June 16-17, 2016.

Nabihah I. Kumte, a rising sophomore majoring in Public Health and from the Honors College at USC, joined Dr. Carole Oskeritzian’s Laboratory in May 2016. After 2 months in the lab, she presented a poster entitled “Mast cells may contribute to angiogenesis in pre-symptomatic atopic dermatitis” at the USC Undergraduate Summer Symposium held on July 28 at the USC Alumni Center. Nabihah was the only rising sophomore to present. She will continue her research in the Oskeritzian Lab for another year, with Dr. John W. Fuseler as her co-mentor.

Dr. Udai Singh served on the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP), Department of Defense pre-application panel reviewing Inflammatory Bowel Disease grant applications (July 4th, 2016) and Interstitial Cystitis grant applications (August 30th, 2016).

Dr. Swapan Ray served as an International Expert Reviewer of brain tumor grants submitted to the Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship funding program for strategic basic research, Brussel, Belgium.

Ariana Miskin, an Honors Student at the University of South Carolina worked with Dr. Narendra Singh over the summer (May 15-July 31, 2016).

Dr. Pirisi-Creek, as NAIPI Treasurer, contributed to the organization and management of the 2016 Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE), held in Washington, DC, June 26-29, 2016.
Michael Hobensack joined the Oskeritzian Lab as an RPMS student over the summer. Michael presented his exciting work entitled “Angiogenesis and mast cells in precancerous prostate” in the Graduate Student Seminar Series on August 31.

Dr. Udai Singh served on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Small Business: Digestive Science ZRG1 DKUS-N (10) Special Emphasis Panel as an ad-hoc member on July 7, 2016.

Drs. Pirisi-Creek and Goldsmith organized and held the SC INBRE 2016 Symposium at the USC School of Medicine, with about 70 posters and 160 participants, on Saturday, August 27, 2016.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian chaired the Allergy 1 Session at the 2016 International Congress of Immunology, held in Melbourne, Australia on August 21-26.

Dr. Swapan Ray served as an External Expert Reviewer of 2 book proposals for Academic Press/Elsevier Publisher.

Dr. Udai Singh chaired a session on “Cytokine, Interferon and Inflammation 4” at the International Congress of Immunology held in Melbourne, Australia on August 25, 2016.

Dominique Jackson (Claflin University, Orangeburg), a recipient of a NIH R25 funded grant on Aging, worked with Dr. Narendra Singh from June 1, 2016 to July 31, 2016.

Dr. Pirisi-Creek took the Gyrotonic Pre-Training course (6-day intensive, hands-on training in the Gyrotonic Expansion System discipline, preluding to Foundation training and subsequent Apprenticeship and Certification) in June, 2016.

**Honors & Awards:**

Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti has been named a Fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences. The title of Fellow of the Academy is bestowed for an exemplary record of professional accomplishments.

Dr. Kandy Velazquez has received a diversity supplement from the National Cancer Institute in the amount of $206,862. The project is entitled "Cachexia in ApcMin/+ mice: The role of IL-6". This award will support Kandy for two years during which time she will be mentored by Dr. Angela Murphy (PMI) and Dr. Jim Carson (Exercise Science).

Dr. Udai Singh and Dr. Narendra Singh received travel awards from the American Association of Immunology (AAI) to attend the International Congress of Immunology held in Melbourne, Australia on August 21-26, 2016.

Dr. Berlin Londono received a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Collaborative Research Grant to study the role of human C5a in modulating the Jack/STAT pathway in Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. This research is in collaboration with Dr. Dimopoulos of Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Gregorio Gomez was awarded a ‘2016 Careers in Immunology Fellowship’ from the American Association of Immunologists. The award will help support his graduate student Cody McHale conduct research on a project entitled "Mechanism of mast cell desensitization: Role of adenosine receptors”.

Dr. Udai Singh received a Core Facility Travel Award from COBRE/NISBRE to attend the IDeA symposium held in Washington, DC on July 26-27, 2016.

Dr. Susan Steck (Epidemiology), Dr. Angela Murphy (PMI), and Dr. Zeid Keilani (Clinical Surgery) received a pilot grant in the amount of 40K from the Center for Colon Cancer Research to study “Diet, Obesity and the gut microbiome: Implications for cancer health disparities”.

Dr. Udai Singh received a travel award from the American Association of Immunology (AAI) to attend the AAI Annual Meeting held in Seattle, WA on May 13-17, 2016.
(Honors & Awards continued)

One of the histopathology figures of the article “Endoplasmic Reticulum stress is associated with the pathogenesis of Pemphigus Vulgaris” by Mihailidou C, Katsoulas N, Panagiotou E, Farmaki E, Sklavounou A, Kiaris H, and CHATZISTAMOU I, in the journal Experimental Dermatology (Sep; 25 (9):731-3 2016) was featured on the cover of the September, 2016 issue.

Taryn Cranford (Murphy Lab) received a $1500 travel scholarship to attend “Promise, Precision, and Practice: A Workshop on CRISPR/Cas Gene Targeting in Mice” from The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME.

Publications:


**Presentations:**


Singh NP, Singh UP, Nagarkatti M and Nagarkatti PS. Resveratrol ameliorates lupus by epigenetic modulation of Foxp3 and IL-17 genes resulting in differential regulation of regulatory T cells and Th17 cells. NIH, NIGMS Sixth Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE), Washington, D.C., June 2016.


Singh NP, Singh UP, Nagarkatti M and Nagarkatti PS. Flow Cytometry and Cell Sorting Core Facility at University of South Carolina COBRE on Dietary Supplements and Inflammation. NIH, NIGMS Sixth Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE), Washington, D.C., June 2016.

Singh NP, Singh UP, Price RL, Nagarkatti M and Nagarkatti PS. High fat diet induces microRNA that target T cell homeostasis and macrophage phenotype to sustain chronic inflammation. NIH, NIGMS Sixth Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE), Washington, D.C., June 2016.

Enos RT, Velázquez KT, McClellan JL, Cranford TL, Nagarkatti M, Nagarkatti PS, Davis JM, Murphy EA. High-fat diets rich in saturated fat protect against azoxymethane/dextran sulfate sodium-induced colon cancer. NIH, NIGMS Sixth Biennial National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence (NISBRE), Washington, D.C., June 2016.

Alghetaa HFK, Mohammed AK, Zumbrun EE, Elliot D, Nagarkatti P and Nagarkatti M. Epigenetic-immunological axis of resveratrol-mediated amelioration of acute lung injury. Presented at the International Congress of Immunology (ICI), Melbourne, Australia, August 21-26, 2016.


Chitrala KN, Guan H, Busbee B, Gandy A, Ganewatta MS, Tang C, Nagarkatti PS and Nagarkatti M. Deletion of DC44 leading to amelioration of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis results in altered gut microbiome profile and short-chain fatty acid production. Presented at the International Congress of Immunology (ICI), Melbourne, Australia, August 21-26, 2016.

Busbee P, Nagarkatti M and Nagarkatti PS. Natural dietary indole, indole-3-carbinol, prevents gut microbiota dysbiosis during murine TNBS colitis induction, effectively alleviating colitis associated symptoms. Presented at the International Congress of Immunology (ICI), Melbourne, Australia, August 21-26, 2016.

Singh NP, Singh UP, Nagarkatti PS and Nagarkatti M. Resveratrol-induced myeloid-derived suppressor cells attenuate experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis by regulating microRNA profile. Platform Presentation at the International Congress of Immunology (ICI), Melbourne, Australia, August 21-26, 2016.


Bader JE, Velázquez KT, Enos RT, Cranford TL, Davis JM and Murphy EA. Macrophage depletion decreases inflammation and tumorigenesis in the AOM/DSS mouse model of colon cancer. The American Association of Immunologists Annual Meeting (AAI), May 13-17, 2016, Seattle, WA.

Singh UP, Mehrpouya-Bahrami P, Bam P, Singh NP, Murphy EA, Price RL, Nagarkatti M, Nagarkatti PS. High fat diet induces microRNA that target T cell homeostasis and macrophage phenotype to sustain chronic inflammation. Presented at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) meeting held in Seattle, WA on May 13-17, 2016.

Dr. Pirisi-Creek presented the (invited) keynote lecture for the West Virginia INBRE Summer Symposium at WVU, in Morgantown, West Virginia, on July 25, 2016. The title of her presentation was “HPV-mediated transformation of human cells: \textit{in vitro} and \textit{in vivo}”.

Tonya Colpitts gave a talk entitled “Dengue infection of human skin mast cells and effects on microvascular dermal endothelial cells” at the Gordon Conference in Girona Spain in July.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian was invited to give a talk entitled “Local remodeling, mast cell activation and sphingosine-1-phosphate elevation precede atopic dermatitis” at the 2016 International Congress of Immunology, August 21-26, Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Narendra Singh was invited to present research work in a Seminar on Environment and Health organized by Queensland University of Technology (QUT) on August 29, 2016.

McHale C, Deppen J, Gomez G, Shirley D. Human skin mast cells constitutively express gp130 and functional IL-6 receptor. Presentation at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) meeting held in Seattle, WA on May 13-17, 2016.

Becker W, Nagarkatti P, Nagarkatti M. Allogeneic skin transplantation triggers unique miRNA signature profiles in CD4+ T cells with potential therapeutic implications. Poster presentation at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) meeting held in Seattle, WA on May 13-17, 2016.

Miranda K, Mehrpouya-Bahrami P, Nagarkatti P, Nagarkatti M. Anti-inflammatory role of cannabinoid receptor type 1 antagonist AM251 in high fat diet-induced obesity – a focus on microRNAs. Presentation at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) meeting held in Seattle, WA on May 13-17, 2016.

Mehrpouya-Bahrami P, Zumbrun EE, Fahran Z, Nagarkatti, P, Nagarkatti M. Netrin-1 mediates macrophage retention in adipose tissue through AGAP-2 interaction with the dependence receptor UNC5B via miR-762 and miR-346. Presentation at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) meeting held in Seattle, WA on May 13-17, 2016.

Gandy, KA, Nagarkatti M, Nagarkatti P. Differential epigenetic regulation of encephalitogenic T cells in relapse-remitting and chronic-progressive mouse models of multiple sclerosis. Presentation at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) meeting held in Seattle, WA on May 13-17, 2016.

Dr. Gregorio Gomez presented a poster at a conference of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) entitled “IgE and Allergy, 50 Years & Onward” in West Palm Beach, FL. The title of his poster was “Adenosine is a negative regulator of human mast cells”.