Congratulations to the following faculty from our department who were recently promoted:

- Dr. Narendra Singh was promoted from Research Associate Professor to Research Professor
- Dr. Udai Singh was promoted from Research Assistant Professor to Research Associate Professor and
- Dr. Carol McMahon was promoted from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor

Dr. Udai Singh has served as an ad-hoc member on the following study sections at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) over the last several months:

- "Cellular and Molecular Immunology A" study section
- "Cellular and Molecular Immunology B" study section
- "Diabetes and Kidney Disease Special Emphasis Panel"

Dr. Delecia LaFrance was an Invited Speaker at the American Society for Clinical Pathology's Annual meeting this past September. Dr. LaFrance's presentation was entitled: "Many Faces of Pathology as a Career".

Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti served on the VA “Neurobiology B” grant review panel in December.

Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti chaired the NIH, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Botanical Research Centers Study Section for review of P50 grants in September.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian served as an ad-hoc member on the NIH "Innate Immunity and Inflammation" (III) Study Section this past October.

Dr. Angela Murphy gave an invited talk on Complementary and Alternative Medicine at the Health Symposium in Orangeburg SC in November.

Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti chaired the NIH INBRE grant review panel in December.
A recent publication from Venkatesh Hegde et al., from Nagarkatti’s lab (Journal of Biological Chemistry 2013; 288(52):36810-26) on the effect of marijuana THC on microRNA in the induction of myeloid-derived suppressor cells was profiled on the cover of JBC on the Dec 27th, 2013 issue. The findings were also highlighted in articles in news media such as The State Newspaper, Science Daily, Med News Today, The Guardian Nigeria and San Francisco Chronicle. Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti was interviewed on the significance of this exciting research by the Brazilian magazine called SAÚDE (translates to ‘HEALTH’), which is a major magazine about health, nutrition and wellness from Brazil and published by the largest publishing house in Latin America. The study was co-authored by Sunil Tomar, Austin Jackson, Roshni Rao, Xiaoming Yang, Udai Singh, Narendra Singh, Prakash Nagarkatti and Mitzi Nagarkatti.

Swati Tomar, of Dr. Pirisi-Creek's lab, defended her Ph.D. dissertation on October 31, 2013. Dr. Swati Tomar is currently exploring postdoctoral opportunities in Singapore. Congratulations Dr. Tomar!

Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti chaired the NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Natural Products grant review meeting in September.

Dr. Angela Murphy served on the NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine educational panel study section in October.

Dr. Udai Singh is currently serving as an editorial board member for the following journals:

⇒ Journal of Immunology and Clinical Research
⇒ BMC Immunology
⇒ Annals of Clinical Pathology
⇒ Austin Journal of Clinical Immunology

Dr. Narendra Singh recently served as an international peer reviewer for the grants awarded by Nazarbayev University, Government of Kazakhstan.

Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti served on the Systemic Injury by Environmental Exposures Special Emphasis Panel for the National Institutes of Health in October.

Austin Jackson from the Nagarkatti lab defended his doctoral thesis and is currently pursuing a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Health Sciences Center. Congratulations Dr. Jackson!

In October 2013, Dr. Delecia LaFrance was certified as Diplomate of the American Board of Pathology in Molecular Genetic Pathology.

Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti continues to serve on the EPA Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Scientific Advisory Panel that met in December.

Dr. Lucia Pirisi-Creek was invited to serve on two SPORE review panels for NIH in February, 2014.

Dr. Narendra Singh gave an invited talk at Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL.
• Dr. Carole Oskeritzian delivered an invited seminar on "Lipid Mediator Sphingosine-1-Phosphate and Mast Cells: Complicit Partners in Allergic Responses" at Furman University Greenville, SC, on November 22, 2013. During her visit to Furman, she also gave a lecture in BIO-470 Immunology.

• Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti was invited to serve on an NIH/NCI SPORE grant review panel in February 2014.

• In October 2013, Dr. Delecia LaFrance assumed the role of Molecular Diagnostics recruiting partner for the American Society for Clinical Pathology’s Webinars and On-demand Webcasts (WOW) Committee.

• Dr. Narendra Singh is currently serving as an editorial board member for the following journals:
  ⇒ Journal of Immunology and Clinical Research
  ⇒ Annals of Clinical Pathology

Publications


• Chen Y, Pirisi L, Creek, K.E. Ski protein levels increase during in vitro progression of HPV16-immortalized human keratinocytes and in cervical cancer. Virology 2013; 244:100-108.


“Impossible is not a scientific term.”
-Vanna Bonta


- Steiner JL, Davis JM, McClellan JL, Guglielmotti A, Murphy EA. Effects of the MCP-1 synthesis inhibitor bindarit on tumorigenesis and inflammatory markers in the C3(1)/SV40Tag mouse model of breast cancer. *Cytokine* 2013; In Press.

- Mahoney SE, Davis JM, Murphy EA, McClellan JL, Pena MM. Dietary quercetin reduces chemotherapy-induced fatigue in mice. *Integrative Cancer Therapies* 2013; In Press.


Yvon Woappi of Dr. Pirisi-Creek’s laboratory was selected as the winner of the Basic Science section at the 2013 Carolina Women’s Health Forum that was held on October 24th. Yvon also received the fall 2013 Genius Award from 3D Biomatrix for his work involving 3D cell culturing techniques.

Jamie McClellan, a Ph.D. student in Dr. Angela Murphy’s laboratory, received a student award from the American Institute of Cancer Research for her paper on ‘Treadmill running influences polyp burden and immune regulation in the ApcMin/+ mouse model of intestinal tumorigenesis’ that was presented at the Annual Meeting in November.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian received an R13 award from NIH/NIGMS to support the 48th Annual South Eastern Regional Lipid Conference (SERLC) that she was chairing in Cashiers, NC, from November 13-15th. This conference was also supported by USC and many corporate sponsors.

Catherine Dong, who is mentored Dr. Venkatesh Hegde, received a travel award from the Science Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) Program to present her work at the Sigma Xi research conference in North Carolina.

**Presentations**


