FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 24, 2012

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American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Announces New Investigator Award Recipients

Awards Provide Start-Up Funding for New Faculty Research Projects

Alexandria, VA—The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) today announced the recipients of the 2011-2012 New Investigator Awards (NIA). The Awards support new faculty research in multidisciplinary areas such as biological sciences, chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, pharmacy practice, and social and administrative sciences. This year’s 18 Award recipients are investigating topics as diverse as medication self-management, treatment for cocaine addiction and withdrawal, and the impact of Medicare payment cuts on treatment choices and patient outcomes.

"The NIA program at AACP provides seed money for new faculty investigators to establish their very first independent pilot research project," said Dr. Vincent Lau, vice president of research and graduate education at AACP. "The Award supports new faculty interested in generating meaningful research data and also provides them with the initial funding they need to approach other potential funders to support their research. This year, we were pleased to have an exceptionally strong field of applicants. We believe that each of the award winning projects has great potential to inform pharmacy science and improve healthcare."

The 2011-2012 New Investigator Award recipients are:

- Mamoun M. Alhamadsheh, University of the Pacific, Harnessing Transthyretin to Inhibit Extracellular Receptor-Ligand Interactions;
- Benjamin E. Blass, Temple University, Novel GLT-1 Upregulators for Treatment of Cocaine Addiction and Withdrawal;
- Kelly E. Caudle, University of Cincinnati, Transcriptional Regulation of Fluconazole Susceptibility in Candida Parapsilosis;
- Teresa M. Cavanaugh, University of Cincinnati, Bone Fractures in Pediatric Renal Transplant Patients;
- Julianne M. Hall, Campbell University, Endocrine Disruptors Promote Adipogenesis and Fat Storage via Activation of PPARγ;
- Pradeep K. Karla, Howard University, Modulation of MRP Drug Efflux for Improved Ocular Drug Delivery;
- Rahul Khanna, The University of Mississippi, Relationship Between Health Utility and Burden Among Caregivers of Autistic Children;
- Sean King, Union University, The Influence of Functional Health Literacy on Quality Patient-Pharmacist Communication;
- Andrea L. Kjos, Drake University, Impact of an Innovative, User-Centered Technology on Medication Self-Management;
Benedict (Shek Hang) Law, North Dakota State University, *Biocompatibility Studies of Peptide-based Nanofiber*;

Emily Martin, Wayne State University, *Influenza & Obesity: A Prospective Study of Patient Outcomes and Antiviral Resistance*;

Susan L. Mercer, Lipscomb University, *Meperidine Analogs as Novel Analgesics Lacking P-glycoprotein and CYP3A4 Interactions*;

Xiaoyun (Lucy) Pan, West Virginia University, *The Effect of Medicare's Payment Cuts on Treatment Choice and Outcomes*;

Alejandro Pino-Figueroa, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences-Boston, *Cannabinergic Mechanism of Action of Alkamides from Lepidium Meyenii (Maca)*;

A. Mary Vilay, The University of New Mexico, *Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole Loss in Modeled Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy*;

Ruth L. Vinall, California Northstate University, *Combining Bcl-2 Inhibition with miR-34a Treatment to Improve Bladder Cancer Outcomes*;

Ashley Woodruff, St. John Fisher College, *PK/PD Profiling of Extended Infusion Piperacillin/Tazobactam in Patients with Obesity*; and

Peisheng Xu, South Carolina College of Pharmacy, *DNA and siRNA Hybrid Nanoparticle for Targeted Colon Cancer Therapy*.

For more information about the New Investigator Awards program, including program guidelines and contacts, please visit [http://www.aacp.org/career/grants/Pages/NewInvestigatorsProgramforFaculty.aspx](http://www.aacp.org/career/grants/Pages/NewInvestigatorsProgramforFaculty.aspx).

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**About AACP**

Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) is a national organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators. Comprising 124 accredited colleges and schools of pharmacy with more than 6,000 faculty and 60,000 students, AACP is committed to excellence in pharmacy education. Visit [www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org) to learn more and stay connected with the Association on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/aacp), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aacp) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/aacp).