Yinan Hua receives her PhD Degree at the Fall 2014 Commencement. Also seen in the picture are Dr. Joseph Steiner, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, Dr. David L. Jones, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dr. Tami Benham-Deal, Interim Associate Vice president for Academic affairs (please see page 7 for details).

Editorial

10th Anniversary and Change of Guard

This year the Center for Cardiovascular Research and Alternative Medicine (C-CRAM) celebrated its 10th anniversary. Located in the pharmacy building, CCRAM comprises of participating faculty from campus-wide (Animal Sciences, Kinesiology and Health, Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, and Veterinary Science). The initiatives of the CCRAM was to foster research and enhance collaboration among scientists in the field of cardiovascular research and alternative medicine at the University of Wyoming. This included original research activity, grant application, education and teaching, and scholarly exchange. Thanks to the tireless commitment and support of the founding directors of the Center Drs. Jun Ren and Bruce Culver, the Center has made great strides over the past decade. Establishment of the new interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program in 2010 came as an impetus to the CCRAM researchers, making it easier to recruit quality graduate students to their labs. The Deans of the School and College supported Center by providing graduate assistantships and research support. The Center also benefitted by the research support from the INBRE program. To view the progress of the Center over the past years please visit: http://www.uwyo.edu/pharmacy/research/ccram-newsletters-archive/index.html. This year was no exception - CCRAM researchers published articles in top-tier scientific journals, presented papers at national and international meetings, received research funding, hosted visiting scientists, and mentored graduate students, all of which is summarized in this issue of our newsletter.

I have had the privilege of serving as the Director of the Center for the past 5 years. I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and encouragement during this exciting period. Dr. Guanglong He, Assistant Professor, School of Pharmacy has kindly agreed to take charge as the director starting January 2015. Dr. He is a cardiovascular researcher of repute, and I am certain CCRAM will reach greater heights under his able leadership.

- Sree Nair
CCRAM researchers published in top-tier journals such as the Journal of American College of Cardiology, Diabetes, Hypertension and the Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology


43. Xu X and Ren J. Macrophage migration inhibitory factor (MIF) knockout preserves cardiac homeostasis through alleviating Akt-mediated myocardial autophagy suppression in high-fat diet-induced obesity. *Int J Obes (Lond)* 2014, in press.


Meetings Attended/Abstracts


8. Ren J. “Mitochondrial aldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH2) and cardiovascular health”, *The 3rd International Cardiovascular Conference*, Wuhan, China, October 2014.


Book Chapters

Guest Lectures
2. Guo W, “Gene Alternative Splicing and Heart Failure” Department of cardiology at Xijing Hospital, Fourth Military Medical University, Xi’an, China, 2014.
6. Thyagarajan B, A toxin in need is non-toxic in deed: Anti-nociceptive potential of botulinum neurotoxin A. Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai, India, June 30, 2014
9. Thyagarajan B, Targeting TRP channels: A TR(i)P through heat and cold to treat pain and degenerative diseases, Dept. of Neuroscience, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, CO, March 25, 2014

Grant Funding
3. Nair S, (Collaborators: Dr. Derek Smith and Dr. Jun Ren) Pilot Clinical Study of GlycacareTM on Obese Overweight Subjects, Agency: Sabinsa Corp, Period 01/01/2014-06/30/2015, Amount: $41,870.00
5. Thyagarajan B, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Annual Meeting 2014 Travel Award ($1000.00), Grapevine, TX
6. Thyagarajan B, Mountain West Clinical Translational Research - Infrastructure Network 2014 Travel Award ($1200.00), Las Vegas, NV

Travel Award

Dr. Guo’s lab received two Travel Awards at 5th Biennial NISBRE meeting. NISBRE is the National IDeA (Institutional Development Award) Symposium for Biomedical Excellence that showcases the scientific and training accomplishments of the IDeA program of NIGMS (the National Institute of General Medicine). IDeA develops scientific centers of excellence and trains biomedical scientists in the IDeA eligible states. NISBRE is the Biennial National IDeA meeting that was held in Washington DC at the Omni Shoreham Hotel from last week on June 16-18, 2014. On this 5th Biennial NISBRE meeting, over 400 abstracts were submitted. Total 10 Young Investigator Travel awards and 10 Student Travel Awards were awarded based on rating and peer review of submitted abstracts. Dr. Zhiyong Yin who currently is a postdoc in Dr. Guo’s lab received the Young Investigator Travel Award and Chaoqun Zhu who currently is a graduate student in Dr. Guo’s lab received the Student Travel Award. Both of their posters were highlighted posters at this meeting too. Picture: Dr. Wei Guo (center) with Drs. Zhiyong Yin and Chaoqun Zhu.
Grant Review
Dr. Wei Guo has been appointed as a peer review member of Cardiac Bio Reg-BSc16 Committee for the American Heart Association (AHA). Dr. Guanglong He serves as the Research Advisory Committee Member for the AHA’s Southwest Affiliate (2014-16) and Study Section member for the AHA’s National Center Study Section (2007-date). Dr. Sree Nair served as an ad-hoc reviewer for the Government of Ontario Early Researcher Award (2014), Diabetes UK-Grant 2013-14) and the Mitacs Elevate Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program, Montreal, QC (2014).

New Members
CCRAM welcomes new members Tiantian Zheng, BMS graduate student (Dr. He’s Lab); Xing Qin, Visiting Scholar from Xi’an Military Hospital (Dr. He’s Lab), Li Cao, Postdoctoral fellow (Dr. He’s Lab); Xiangwei Liu, Visiting PhD student form Fudan University (Dr. Ren’s Lab).

Farewell
Drs. Xihui Xu (Advisor: Dr. Jun Ren) and Yinan Hua (Advisor: Dr. Sree Nair) who graduated with a PhD degree form the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program received post doctoral offers from Dr. Chung and Puretollano’s labs (at the NHLBI, NIH) respectively. CCRAM wishes them well in their new endeavor.

Awards
Past CCRAM trainees Drs. Fuling Luo, Maolong Dong, Wei Ge and Yingmei Zhang each won a NSFC grant award in Summer 2014. Newly joined exchange visitor Dr. Xiangwei Liu won the 1st prize for Young Physician Scientist at the Great Wall Cardiology Conference. Dr. Yingmei Zhang won the second prize for Young Physician Scientist at the Oriental Cardiology Conference.

Invited Speakers
CCRAM hosted the following speakers in 2014: Dr. Henk L. Granzier, Professor of Physiology, Norville Endowed Chair Molecular Cardiovascular Research Program, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, title: “Role of Titin in Muscle Function and Disease”, April 1, 2014; Zhong J, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University, Title: “Cellular mechanisms of volume overload induced heart failure”. Sept 10, 2014; Ge Y, Director and Assistant Professor of Human Proteomics Program, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, title: “Top-down disease proteomics of myofilaments for understanding heart failure” Dec. 2nd, 2014.

PhD Award (continued from page 1)

Dr. Hua has published 22 research papers many of which appeared in high-impact journals including Diabetes, Hypertension, Aging Cell, BBA-Molecular Basis of Disease, Journal of Molecular Cell Biology, Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology, Obesity, Free Radical Biology and Medicine, Diabetologia, and the Journal of Nutrition. She received several awards including the American Association of the Outstanding Overseas PhD Graduate Award from the Chinese Government (2012), he Indian Pharmacists Association Research Award (2013) and the College of Health Sciences Student Research Grant. She has presented her work in various national and international meetings including the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. She is will take up a post-doctoral position at the NIH starting January 2015. Photo: Yinan Hua (center) with Dr. Sree Nair (advisor) and Dr. Jun Ren (co-advisor) at the 2014 UW CHS Fall Commencement (other committee members were Dr. Suanne Clark, Dr. Meijun Zhu and Dr. Jennifer Jo Thomas).