Dr. Swapna Asuthkar
Dr. Swapna Asuthkar gave an invited talk at the Department of Biomedical Science - University of Illinois at Rockford. Her talk entitled “Role of B7-H3 in medulloblastoma growth and angiogenesis” was presented on March 20th, 2019.

Dr. Stephen M. Lasley
• Dr. Stephen Lasley attended the Society of Toxicology annual meeting from March 10-14 in Baltimore, Maryland.
• Dr. Stephen Lasley co-authored the following three papers:

Dr. Krishna Veeravalli
Dr. Krishna Veeravalli gave an invited talk at the University of Houston in Houston, Texas. His talk entitled “The detrimental role of MMP-12 in brain injury after ischemic stroke” was presented on March 30th, 2019.

Dr. Eleonora Zakharian
Dr. Zakharian organized the workshop entitled “Designing and Implementing Strategies to Prevent and Recover from Burnout” that was held on March 4th 2019, at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society, Baltimore, MD, BPS-2019: The Baltimore Conventional Center, Baltimore, MD.

The workshop was organized under the auspices of the Committee for Professional Opportunities for Women (CPOW) with participation of Drs. S. Bondos, S. Kohout, E. Mace, E. Sanchez, and E. Zakharian.

Lead panelist: Eleonora Zakharian, Ph.D
Guest speakers:
  ▪ Vasanthi Jayaraman, Ph.D., Professor at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
  ▪ Kenton J. Swartz, Ph.D., Senior Investigator at the Molecular Physiology and Biophysics Section, The National Institute of Health – NINDS
Dr. Zakharian was invited to co-chair the TRP channels platform session held on March 6th at the 63rd Annual Biophysical Meeting Baltimore, MD.

- Dr. Zakharian was also invited to give a talk entitled “TRPM8 regulates sexual reward and satiety” on March 6th at TRP channels platform held at the 63rd Annual Biophysical Meeting Baltimore, MD.

- On behalf of the Committee for Professional Opportunities for Women (CPOW) committee, Dr. Zakharian participated in announcing the travel awardees at the Award Ceremony conducted on March 2nd at the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society, Baltimore, MD.

- Dr. Zakharian’s abstract entitled “TRPM8 regulates sexual reward and satiety” was selected by the Biophysical Society to be highlighted in the press release on March 1st 2019. [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2019-03/bs-saa022119.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2019-03/bs-saa022119.php)
  - This work was done in the collaboration with:
    - Dr. Baskaran Thyagarajan, M.Pharm., Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics and Neuroscience, School of Pharmacy, University of Wyoming, and
    - Dr. Daniel Llano, M.D., Ph.D., an Associate Professor at the Beckman Institute, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

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**PUBLIC RELEASE: 1-MAR-2019**

**Sex and aggression in mice controlled by cold-sensor in brain**

*When it comes to sex and aggression in mice, a cold-sensor tells the brain when 'enough is enough!'*

**BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY**

BALTIMORE, MD - Testosterone is blamed for sex drive and aggression, but it also appears to be critical for telling the brain “enough!” when it comes to those behaviors. A molecule called TRPM8 (pronounced trip M-8) embedded in the surface of some cells seems to be responsible for sending these cues in response to testosterone. Without these cues, male mice become dangerously aggressive and have an insatiable appetite for sex. This research, by Eleonora Zakharian and colleagues at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, will be presented at the 63rd Biophysical Society Annual Meeting, to be held March 2 - 6, 2019 in Baltimore, Maryland.

TRPM8 was long ago identified as a cold-temperature sensor, but a few years ago Zakharian wondered what it was doing in high levels in the prostate, which never experiences enough cold to activate it. She then published that TRPM8 is actually a rapid testosterone signaling receptor, so her lab’s next step was to find out what happens to mice in its absence. They tested mice without the TRPM8 gene, and observed that the males were violent and hypersexual—showing increased mountings and engaging sexually long after a normal mouse would.

"The mice without TRPM8 are so aggressive, we found that we cannot keep them in the same cage, unlike normal mice, which live together," Zakharian explained.
Stop by the UICOMP Lobby display case to see the American Women Physicians in World War 1 exhibit and join us April 29th for the film.

The American Medical Women’s Association Student Interest Group and the Library of the Health Sciences are hosting an exhibit and a documentary film showing. The AMWA SIG will host a showing of the 15-minute documentary in Room A200-A on April 29th – showings at 5:30 and 6:45 with discussion in-between. The exhibit will be in the lobby from now through April 29th.

When the US Government denied women physicians entry into the Medical Corps, many of them joined volunteer organizations to provide care to soldiers and civilians overseas, including these women from the American Women’s Hospitals (AWH).

Photo courtesy of Drexel University, College of Medicine, Archives & Special Collections

HUMAN RESOURCES
Please welcome our new employees

Janelle Provine,
Network Engineer, CIS

Susan Grebner,
Public Information Coordinator,
Advancement/Community Relations

MAY IS OPEN ENROLLMENT

Information regarding open enrollment will soon be released by the State (CMS); watch for information from CMS and university announcements later in the month. If you make any changes you must do so in the MyBenefits website: https://mybenefits.illinois.gov/account/login/MustAuthLogin#/login

Please call MyBenefits if you have any issues with the login process: 844.251.1777

Reminder...this is not a university login (NetID/password).

Benefit resources: https://www.hr.uillinois.edu/benefits/

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Megan Hobson
April Day
Carmen Howard
Joe Naidnur

Kristin Lenover
Kimmi Walker
Tristyn Cornish

April Rosen
Janice Tamplin
Jeanne Reddy

Mary Sierra
Becky Holthe
Kimberly Rodgers

If your birthday is not listed and you wish to have it added, please contact Shannon at sdoerr@uic.edu.

A detailed birthday list may be found on the “PUBLIC” drive in the Focus Newsletter Folder, as well as past issues of the Focus in the Focus Newsletter Folder.
April 2019

Check out the CSEC Webpage:
Stop by the Civil Service Employee Council (CSEC) Webpages to see who your CSEC Representatives are, and to learn about CSEC activities at [http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu/csec/](http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu/csec/)

CSEC Class of 2018-2019
Michelle De Sutter
Shannon Doerr
Diana Farrar
Terry Flynn
Kira Healey
Josefina Martinez
Shelby Miller
Kim Montgomery
Christie Perry
Marti Sokolowski
Meg Tomlins
Debby Tucker
Tina VanYzendoorn
Stacey Webb
Karen Wyman

CSEC OFFICERS
President: Kira Healey, kira@uic.edu
Vice-President: Meg Tomlins, mtomlins@uic.edu
Treasurer: Marti Sokolowski, martisok@uic.edu
Secretary: Shelby Miller, smille59@uic.edu

TO GET THE NAME OF YOUR CSEC REP, CONTACT
Shelby Miller, Smille59@uic.edu

Personal Enrichment Event offered by your Civil Service Employees Council
Tango Dance
Friday
April 12th, 2019
5:00—6:30 pm
UICOMP Cafeteria
Dance Instructors
Vlad Niculescu & Constance Qstop
Free!

This workshop will give you the foundation of Tango dancing. We will focus on teaching the basic timing, steps, and simple patterns. Partners are welcome, but not required.

RSVP with your name to Christina Constantinidou at cconstan@uic.edu
WHO’S WHO in the CSEC
Meet Tina VanYzendooorn

Hi! My name is Tina VanYzendooorn. I started at UICOMP in April 2017 as an Office Manager in the Pediatrics Department. Currently, I am an Administrative Aide – still in Pediatrics. This is my first year on the Council, where I am learning so much about UICOMP. My husband, Mike, and I are recent transplants to Peoria, having relocated from Chicago in 2015. My favorite times revolve around family (grandchildren!) and friends, recounting the joys in our lives and celebrating new things to come.

March 29 Fresh Food Drive at UICOMP

Hello! It is with great thanks that we can share that the collection for the March Fresh Food Drive at UICOMP gathered 163 lbs of fresh fruits and vegetables! The Loaves and Fishes food pantry was very grateful for the donation. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The March Bounty

The next Fresh Food Drive will be Friday, April 26th. The collection location will be announced at a later time.

Thank you, on behalf of CSEC (Civil Service Employee Council), UICOMP Healthy Kids U., and the Good Food Recovery Program.

This ‘N’ That

- When you buy a bag of popcorn from the CSEC, for just 50¢ a bag, you have a delicious popcorn treat AND help raise funds for a good cause!
- Donate to our Fresh Food Drive to help local residents have healthy food options.
- Volunteer opportunities will be announced in these pages throughout the year.

Community Chest

The Community Chest is a fund that supports civil service staff members facing any kind of hardship. You may nominate yourself or a co-worker by sending an email request to Shelby smille59@uic.edu or Kira kira@uic.edu. If we can help pay your electric bill or buy the tire that blew because all your money has gone to medical bills, for example, then the fund can assist.
Who has gone “above and beyond” to help you with a work project or has done something that made your day? Recognize that special co-worker’s contribution with a statement of appreciation published in the newsletter and a certificate that will be sent to them on your behalf. Nominate your special co-worker by sending the details about why they are a “Class Act” to Shelby Miller at smille59@uiuc.edu.

Sara Sihrer and Eileen Lash—Laboratory Animal Caretakers
As members of UICOMP’s 900 hour weekend/holiday/vacation animal round only coverage staff, Sara and Eileen are committed to UICOMP’s mission to “Lead Collaboration to Improve Health” and doing their part to keep our animals healthy. Both Sara and Eileen enjoy being part of something bigger than themselves, taking great pride in their contributions to the advancement of medical research. They are dedicated to helping discover treatment and cures of all kinds of ailments, conditions and cancer, and communicating daily with our research staff regarding their project animals. Eileen also owns a motorcycle shop, as well as working at UICOMP. We deeply appreciate Sara and Eileen’s sacrifice of time and energy, as rounds must be conducted 365 days a year. We appreciate them more than we could ever say!!! Thank you....and God bless you all of your days!

Angela Daniels, Laboratory Animal Care Supervisor, RLAT
Laboratory Animal Care Facility

Debbie Haeger — Office Support Associate
I would like to recognize Debbie Haeger as being a “Class Act” here at Positive health Solutions. Debbie is our Office Support Associate, who is also the receptionist for case management. Debbie is the first smiling face our client seeing when coming into case management, and her attitude and charisma set the standard for the type of service that is provided by our agency. Debbie makes our client feel welcome, and if they are having a bad day, she takes time to talk to them and see how she can help make their day just a little bit better. Debbie has many job duties, and wears many hats; but she is always willing to provide case management the support they need to do their job. Debbie also fills in for our clinic front desk, ensuring that there are no interruptions in care to our clients. Debbie has taken on extra responsibilities, such as Team Enrichment, identifying ways to boost morale throughout the agency. Debbie’s contributions sometimes go unnoticed, which is why I wanted to take a moment to say thank you for all that you do for our department and me. Not only are you a “Class Act” but you are a valuable part of our team!

Bruce Broughton
Medical Case Manager
April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

The blue pinwheel has become a national symbol for child abuse prevention. The pinwheel reminds us that all children deserve the chance for healthy, happy and full lives. These UICOMP co-workers have partnered with the Pediatric Resource Center to plant a “Pinwheel Garden” during the month of April. Thank you for helping raise awareness that will make a difference today and change a life tomorrow.

Run (or Walk) to Fight Child Abuse!
Gather your co-workers, make a team and sign up today for the Kick Abuse at Kickapoo 5K Trail Run and 1 mile Walk April 20th 2018, 8:30am start
go.uic.edu/KickAbuse5K
Click on the UICOMP Teams button on the left side of the registration page
Team with the most participants WINS (bragging rights)
100% of proceeds benefit the PRC, providing child-friendly, specialized medical exams to abused & neglected children in central Illinois
USE CODE UICOMP19 to Save $5
Contact Amanda Franklin at PRC with questions: 624-9595 or aerwin@uic.edu

SHARE WITH US....  Let us know who in your family is graduating in May. Send your graduation announcements to sdoerr@uic.edu
Please submit information for the May issue by April 26 to sdoerr@uic.edu.

April showers bring…..

Think Green!
Only Print When Necessary.

...May flowers