



December 2017

## DEPARTMENT NEWS



Please join us for the holiday festivities!

**UICOMP Holiday Breakfast: December 6, from 7:30-9:00 am**

**Unit parties: December 14, from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

## CANCER BIOLOGY & PHARMACOLOGY

### PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Chelluboina presented the poster below at the *Sfn's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Neuroscience 2017*, November 11-15, 2017, Washington, D.C.

Chelluboina B, Nalamolu KR, Klopfenstein JD, Wang DZ, Pinson DM, Verravalli KK. The progression of post stroke brain damage as function of stages of chronic kidney disease.

### PUBLICATIONS

Chelluboina B, Nalamolu KR, Klopfenstein JD, Wang DZ, Pinson DM, Verravalli KK. Mesenchymal stem cell treatment prevents post-stroke dysregulation of matrix metalloproteinases and tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases. *Cell Physiol and Biochem* 2017; 44: 1360-1369.

### •SERVICE

Dr. Verravalli gave a talk on "Drug development and regulation" at Bradley University, Peoria, IL. October 31, 2017.

### •NEW EMPLOYEE

We have a new employee in our department. Please welcome Dr. Tetyana Duka:

My major area of scientific interest has always been in the field of neuroscience and incorporates research topics dealing with different aspects of the function of the nervous system, both under normal conditions and during different diseases.

I earned my doctoral degree from Kiev's National University in Ukraine and the Ukraine Academy of Sciences. I awarded, during my PhD, several prestigious fellowships and travel awards from either FEBS, FENS, The International Society of

Neurochemistry (ISN), the Swiss National Foundation for Scientific Research or the Neurobehavioral Genetics Society, to extend my training in various European cities such as Prague, Berlin, Oslo.

After pursuing a research fellowship at the Ruhr–University Bochum in Germany, I was a visiting pre-doctoral researcher in molecular and cellular neuroscience at Singapore General Hospital in Singapore. Since then I have pursued neuroscience research at Georgetown University and the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where I served as a postdoctoral fellow (2003-2006), a staff research scientist (2009-2012) and research faculty (2013-2014 and 2015-2017). I also managed molecular biology, biochemistry and electron microscopy projects in the department of neurosurgery at the Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

Given my interests in the molecular basis of neurodegenerative disorders, I accepted an invitation from Prof. Ken Fukuchi in November 2017 to become a research investigator in his laboratory here in the Department of Cancer Biology and Pharmacology at the University Of Illinois College of Medicine. In that capacity, I continued work on the molecular mechanisms underlying the development of AD and began studying aspects of microglial functions and the role of miR-34a in the pathogenesis of AD and to develop new preventive and therapeutic strategies for AD.

#### Areas of Investigation

- Parkinson’s Disease and Alzheimer’s Disease/Dementia
- Molecular and Cellular Neuropathology
- Neurodegeneration
- Signal Transduction
- Brain Metabolism
- Synapse Physiology

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Please welcome new employees....



Angela Bowden, Instructional Development Specialist, Academic Affairs



Jessica Kammeyer, RN, Positive Health Solutions



Amber Hoadley, Office Administrator, Neurology/Neurosurgery



Marcia Vincent, CMA, Positive Health Solutions

THE UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE MAY BE FOUND AT:

<https://www.hr.uillinois.edu/leave/holidays/> (click on Chicago on the right side)

THE 2018 PAYROLL SCHEDULES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE:

<http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu/hr/>



## SHARING...GIVING



Reminder: The Shared Pool was established to provide assistance to (eligible) employees who have exhausted all accumulated sick leave and, if applicable, vacation leave with the opportunity to receive additional leave days when a disability claim is pending before the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). Please review the details in NESSIE; if you wish to donate a day(s) you must process in NESSIE:

[https://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu/cf/leave/index.cfm?Item\\_id=1358&rlink=1194](https://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu/cf/leave/index.cfm?Item_id=1358&rlink=1194)

## FLEX SPENDING PARTICIPANTS

Please review the instructions regarding submitting a claim for reimbursement and obtaining an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) during claim delays.

University communications on MCAP Reimbursements (during claim delays)

<https://uofi.uillinois.edu/blog/view/1418/537195?count=1&ACTION=DIALOG&sort=asc>

Flex spending resources (includes instruction on MCAP reimbursement while waiting for an EOB)

<https://www2.illinois.gov/cms/benefits/stateemployee/pages/flexiblespendingaccounts.aspx>

Claim Delay website:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/cms/benefits/stateemployee/pages/qchpqcdpclaimpaymentdelay.aspx>

For additional questions on submitting MCAP claims, please contact ConnectYourCare at 888.469.3363.

## NEWS RELEASES

Be sure to check out the News Releases on the website: <http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu/news>

Contact: Dave Haney, 309.671.8404

## December Birthdays



Diana Warneke

Mary Jean Dzurisin

Nicole Alwan

Joellyn Doty

Jan Fiscus

Tracey McCormick

Holly Rademaker

Chris Johnson

Diana Farrar

Stephanie Sampson

Jennifer Martin

Cheryl Perry

Ginger Light

Kristi Hasty

Mary Jo Montgomery

Barbara Staggs

Marti Sokolowski

Allyson Finger

If your birthday is not listed, and you wish to have it added, please contact Shannon at [sdoerr@uic.edu](mailto:sdoerr@uic.edu).

**The deadline for submission of information for the January issue is January 4.**

**Send your submissions to Shannon at [sdoerr@uic.edu](mailto:sdoerr@uic.edu).**

# Civil Service Employee Council News

December 2017



## Be Santa's Helper!

Come to the Stocking Stuffer Store in the Grand Prairie Mall on Dec. 17, 2:30-5:30 and have fun assisting children with purchasing Christmas gifts for family members. We have 14 spots to fill, 2 cashiers, 2 greeters and 10 shoppers. Get with a friend and contact Shelby Miller at [smille59@uic.edu](mailto:smille59@uic.edu) or 655-7712 to sign up. You'll have a blast!



### CSEC Class of 2017-2018

Mike Bachmann  
Christina Constantinidou  
Dennis Driscoll  
Diana Farrar  
Terry Flynn  
Kristi Hasty  
Kira Healey  
Nicolette Lovingood  
Shelby Miller  
Joe Newcomb  
Brad Norrell  
Christie Perry  
Cindy Skender  
Kathy Slater  
Tiara Thomas



*Are you onsite and interested in joining the fun?*  
Contact Kira Healey at [kira@uic.edu](mailto:kira@uic.edu).

### CSEC OFFICERS

**President:** Kira Healey,  
[kira@uic.edu](mailto:kira@uic.edu)  
**Vice-President:** Kathy Slater,  
[kj Slater@uic.edu](mailto:kj Slater@uic.edu)  
**Treasurer:** Christina Constantinidou, [cconstan@uic.edu](mailto:cconstan@uic.edu)  
**Secretary:** Shelby Miller,  
[Smille59@uic.edu](mailto:Smille59@uic.edu)

**CAN'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF YOUR CSEC REP? CONTACT**  
Shelby Miller, [Smille59@uic.edu](mailto:Smille59@uic.edu)



On December 7, we are hosting a popcorn sale. Half the proceeds raised will be donated to the Pediatric Gastroenterology Parent Advisory Council to help them create care packages for kids with IBD to make their stay at CHOI a little more comfortable. Enjoy a tasty treat and help a good cause.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Proceeds from the popcorn sales go to fund the **Community Chest**, which 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](mailto:smille59@uic.edu) or Kathy [kj Slater@uic.edu](mailto:kj Slater@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.



## Thank You!



Thank you to all who donated socks and undies that were given to our neighbors at the Dream Center. Michelle and Sherri were so appreciative of our donations that they gave "big time" hugs to Cindy Skender and Sandi Blasingim who delivered them for us. Virtual hugs to you all for donating to help ease the days of the residents of the Dream Center.



....and *thanks* for buying TurkeyGrams for your fantastic coworkers! You thanked your co-workers and donated \$254.79 to the South Side Mission, putting smiles on many faces.

## WHO'S WHO in the CSEC



### Meet Kira Healey, Council President

My name is Kira Healey and I am currently serving as the Civil Service Employees' Council President. I work as a staff clerk for the St. Jude Midwest Affiliate Clinic. I am very passionate about family and am expecting my fifth child in early December this year. I enjoy spending time with my husband and children, and our two fur babies. I believe in making the world a more positive place and try to remember to share a smile with everyone I meet.

## IT IS TIME TO STRIKE OUT INTO THE NEW YEAR AT LANDMARK LANES!

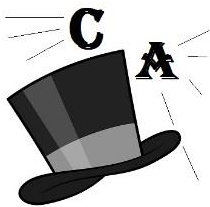
Join our Bowling League for fun and get to know your fellow co-workers!

- Every Wednesday @ 5:30pm for 8 weeks
- January 10<sup>th</sup>- February 28<sup>th</sup>
- \$10/week or \$80 total
- Bowling ball and shoe rental included in weekly cost
- At least 3 people needed per team



This event is sponsored by your CSEC. Email Joe Newcomb [josephln@uic.edu](mailto:josephln@uic.edu) with team information and questions. Landmark Lanes is located at 3225 N Dries Ln, Peoria, IL 61604.

## *Class Act Nominations*



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 him/her on your behalf.

Nominate your special co-worker by sending the details about why s/he is a "Class Act" to Shelby Miller at [smille59@uic.edu](mailto:smille59@uic.edu).



**Giving our donation check to the South Side Mission.**

**THANK YOU!**



## Happy Holidays

“This is my wish for you: peace of mind, prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams, joy to fill your holidays!” ~D.M. Dellinger



**Think Green!**  
**Only Print When**  
**Necessary.**

