CANCER BIOLOGY & PHARMACOLOGY

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Zakharian presented their work, entitled “Structure-function relationship of the thermosensitive TRP Channel TRP1 from the Alga *Chlamydomonas Reinhardtii*” at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society, in San Diego, California. The session was held on February 18, 2020.

A collaborative project of Dr. Zakharian and Dr. Sobolevsky from Columbia University was presented as a platform talk, entitled “Structural basis of temperature sensation by the TRP channel TRPV3” at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society, in San Diego, California. The session was held on February 16, 2020.

Dr. Zakharian was an invited mentor-panelist at Rapid Networking, at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society, in San Diego, California. The session was held on February 17, 2020.

DEAN’S OFFICE

Dear UICOMP Civil Service Staff,

We live in unprecedented times! The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all our lives in numerous ways. In the midst of it all, I am truly amazed and humbled by the resilience and adaptability of the staff at UICOMP. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the work we do and the services we provide, and time and again, we have leaned on you to embrace the transition and help us continue our important work in new and innovative ways. Once again, you step up to the challenge and carry on, providing the same support, structure and connectedness.

Thank you for your service, dedication and professionalism. UICOMP is a better place because of all of you. This year Staff Appreciation Week will have a much different feel, but the deep, unwavering support of the staff remains unchanged.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of UICOMP, I encouraged by the story of Midge Parks, the very first employee hired by the Peoria School of Medicine (what would later become UICOMP). Midge was the administrative secretary to the Dean’s Office and supported Dean Cotsonas, our first dean. Interestingly, Midge was hired before the Dean and before any faculty member. Our first employee was not a physician.
and not a teacher. Our first employee was administrative support staff. This is testimony to the value of
the role you play, and the essential service you provide.

Strategic, symbolic or coincidence, I believe Midge Parks, UICOMP’s first employee, profoundly symbolizes
your significant role in the work of the College. You provide a framework of support, structure, and con-
ectedness that allows our faculty to teach, our learners to learn, our patients to receive care, and our
researchers to discover. You are integral to the work we do, and your service is valued and appreciated.

During this time of ambiguity and transitions, UICOMP continues. Together, we continue our work to
“Lead Collaboration to Improve Health.” Thank you for the instrumental role you play in that, and I look
forward to celebrating your service and dedication and extending my gratitude in person to each of you
later in the year.

Stay healthy and be strong,
Meenakshy Aiyer, MD, MACP
Interim Regional Dean

LIBRARY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

No matter where you are working from, we at the Library of Health Sciences of Peoria want to remind
you that we are available to help you with your information needs. If you have questions regarding your
research or need help finding an article, send an email to libpref@uic.edu.

You can also use the chat box at the bottom right hand corner of LHSP’s homepage to ask library-related
questions. It is staffed by the UIC Library faculty, staff, and graduate assistants.

Here are a few online resources to browse for professional development or curricular content:
• Free Resources from Publishers during COVID 19 Emergency—https://researchguides.uic.edu/free
• Mobile Medicine @ UIC—https://researchguides.uic.edu/MobileMed
• RefWorks and Other Citation Management Tools—https://researchguides.uic.edu/refworks
Please welcome our new employees

Tiffany Dimmick, Office Manager, CIS

Hanna Drowns, Office Support Specialist, IM Residency

Kerrie Wright, Reimbursement Coding Specialist, Medical Billing

Molly Graham, Medical Social Associate, PHS

May is Open Enrollment

Information regarding open enrollment will be released by the State (CMS) as time nears; 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/

Reminder to Benefit Eligible Employees with dependent coverage.... if you have not provided documentation of eligible dependents please do so by the deadline (details below). The auditors can answer all questions (if documentation is required for this audit timeframe); letters were sent directly to those who are required to submit documentation (I do not have access). Contact information in below announcement.

If you do not submit required documentation dependents will be terminated.

—-Continued next page
Take Action - You must respond to this audit if:

- You cover one or more dependents on a State health insurance plan, AND
- You received an audit mailing to your home from HMS Employer Solutions (HMS) in early March.

No Action Needed - You are not subject to this audit if:

- The only dependent(s) you cover is(are) biological or adopted children who were previously verified during the 2015 audit.

Unsure?

- If you have not yet received the HMS mailing and you cover dependents (other than children verified in the 2015 audit), contact HMS at 855-424-0850 and let them know that you have not received your letter.

If you already submitted your documents, you may call HMS or log on to the HMS site to check the status of your submission.

I need to take action, now what?

- When is the audit deadline? You must provide dependent documentation to HMS by April 25, 2020. While your letter from HMS states an April 2 deadline, they are allowing a grace period until April 25, 2020.

- How do I respond? Carefully read the letter from HMS for instructions on how to submit your completed verification form and legible copies of documents. HMS has the following ways to provide dependent documentation:
  - Mobile upload via computer or mobile device (including smartphones) at VerifyOS.com
  - Fax to 877-223-8478
  - Mail copies of documents (allow 7-10 days) to HMS, P.O. Box 165308, Irving TX 75016-9923

Other Questions?

This dependent eligibility audit is being conducted by the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS). CMS requires that all questions be directed to HMS, and not to CMS or the University of Illinois System. If you have questions about the audit or require assistance with documentation, please contact HMS at 855-424-0850.
CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES COUNCIL

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For your CSEC rep’s contact information, email Stephanie at slhull@uic.edu
You may also direct inquiries to csec@uic.edu

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK
Courtesy of the Civil Service Employee Council
Coming This Fall

What’s buzzin’, cuzzin’? You’ll flip your lid when we tell you that UICOMP’s annual Staff Appreciation Week (SAW) is still on the books! We’re jazzed that the fun has just been postponed till a niftier time. The dates have changed, but the plans for our soiree have not! It’ll be the ginchiest! We’re not just layin’ on the apple butter, either. All you dollies, dream boats and cool cats have it made in the shade because we want our UICOMP staff to know we think you’re the bee’s knees. We’ll chow down on classic soda shop grub—ice cream sundaes and old-fashioned sodas—and cut a rug to the tunes of the dudes from Dueling Pianos. It’s gonna be a gas!

The theme of our shindig is Rockin’ the ’50s because UICOMP is 50 this year. Put on your cheaters, brush off your leather jackets, poodle skirts and saddle shoes and beat feet to Ravina-on-the-Lake. Their banquet room is Drop. Dead. Gorgeous. It’s radioactive!

Stay tuned for the latest info on our upcoming bash.

Email Diana at dfarrar@uic.edu with questions.
CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES COUNCIL—2

LUCKY CHARMS & LITERACY

The Lucky Charms you bought not only told your co-workers that you think they are wonderful, but CSEC was able to donate funds to further the cause of literacy thanks to your efforts. The Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Center gratefully received our donation of $275. Thank you for participating!

BOOK DONATIONS

CSEC also headed up a book drive for children in March. Because of extenuating circumstances, we are extending the book drive through to the end of April. Contact your CSEC rep for details. And thank you for helping children learn to read. Research shows that reading to young children (ages 6 months to 5 years) not only provides healthy together time for parents and children, it also offers many lifelong benefits including increased vocabulary, curiosity, and memory; positive associations with books and reading; and opportunities to build listening skills.


Early Childhood Literacy - AAFP
HUMAN RESOURCES

Best wishes to employees with April birthdays!

Meg Hobson
April Rosen
Mary Sierra
April Day
Kimmi Walker
Madison Ludolph
Meghann McKown
Janice Tamplin
Becky Holthe
Tristyn Cornish
Carmen Howard
Jeanne Reddy
Kimberly Rodgers
Joe Naidnur

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

April Fool's Day

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

The deadline for article submissions for the May issue of The FOCUS is April 28. Send articles to Shannon sdoerr@uic.edu.

THINK GREEN
Only print when necessary