



Faculty Forum

Departmental Spotlight

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

<http://louisville.edu/medicine/departments/pharmacology>

Leah J. Siskind, Ph.D.

Associate Professor



Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Description and Demographics

History: The Department was first named in 1909 Physiology and Pharmacology, the name changed to Pharmacology in 1941, and renamed to Pharmacology and Toxicology in 1978

Chair: **David Hein, Ph.D.**, Professor and Dept. Chair, Vice Provost for Academic Strategy

-Appointed Chair on August 1, 1997, Just Completed his **Third** Chair Review

Department Leadership:

- **J. Christopher States, Ph.D.**, Professor and Vice Chair for Graduate Education and Director of Graduate Programs, Associate Dean for Research
- **Gavin Arteel, Ph.D., FAASLD**, Professor and Associate Chair for Research
- **Brian Ceresa, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment

Composition of the Department:

- **23 primary faculty**: 12 Professor, 6 Associate Professor, 3 Assistant Professor, 2 Instructor
- **53 secondary faculty, 12 Adjunct Faculty, 9 Emeritus Faculty**
- **53 Active Matriculated Graduate Students**
- **Standing Committees**: Graduate Student Affairs and Curriculum; Graduate Student Admission and Recruitment; Teaching Evaluation; Seminar; SIBUP/Grievance; Events; Wenzhou Medical & Jilin University Task Force
- **International Ph.D. Partnerships**: **Wenzhou Medical University**, **Jilin University**, **Cairo University** **Ain Shams University**



Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Department Contribution to the SOM four planning pillars Education

Graduate Program:

J. Christopher States, Ph.D., Vice Chair for Graduate Education and Director of Graduate Programs

Brian Ceresa, Ph.D., Director of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment

Graduate Student Affairs and Curriculum Committee: Drs. States, Ceresa, Arteel, Siskind, and Clark

Graduate Student Admission and Recruitment Committee: Drs. Ceresa, States, Chen, and Wise

53 Active Matriculated Graduate Students

- 28 are PhD candidates, 5 are Masters level terminal (3 are applying to PhD), 8 masters candidate on the way to PhD., 2 of the active graduate students are enrolled in the joint MD/PhD program
- 11 Active Matriculated Graduate Students are from International Partnerships with Wenzhou, Jilin, and Cairo Universities
- [2015: 4 Ph.D. and 8 M.S. degrees awarded](#) [2016: 5 Ph.D. and 7 M.S. degrees awarded](#)
- 286 Degrees Awarded to Date

Departmental Courses: Pharmacology and Dental Therapeutics, Pharmacology to 2nd year students in Dental Hygiene Program, Basic Pharmacology to Undergraduates, lectures that are part of the 2nd year thread in Medical School Curriculum, [12 Graduate School Courses](#)

[R25: NCI Cancer Education Program \(PIs: Hein and Kidd\)](#)

[T32: Environmental Health Sciences Training Program \(PI: Arteel\)](#)

T35: Summer Environmental Health Sciences Training Program (PI; Prough)

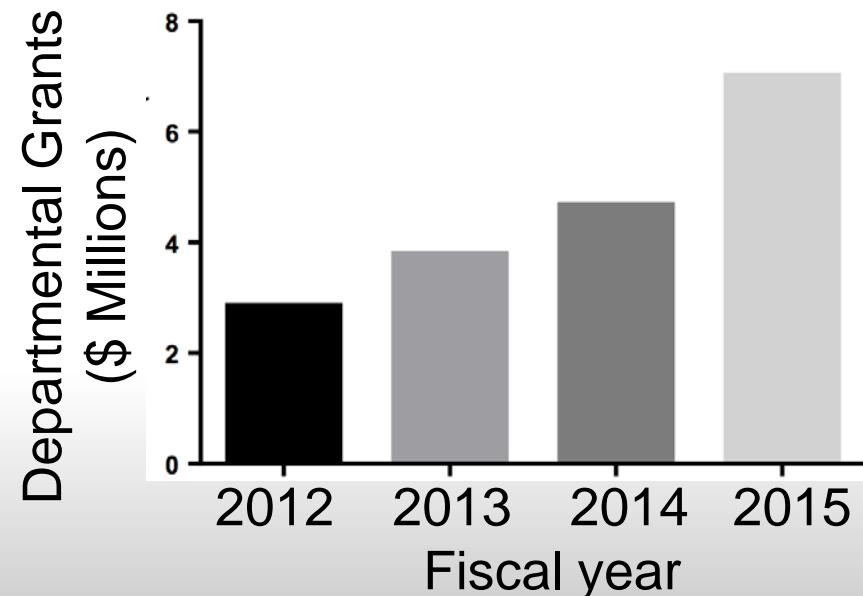


Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Department Contribution to the SOM four planning pillars

Research

- **2016:** 7.2 Million Dollars in Grant Funding
- **Active Grants:** 12 R01s, 3 R21s, 1 R03, 1 R25, 1 R33, 1 R43, 1 R44, 1U19, 1U01, 2 EXCITE grants, 1 K01, 4 DOD grants, 4 Helmsley Foundation grants, 2 Coulter Awards, 3 KY Lung Cancer Grant, 1 NIH Eureka Grant, 2 Jewish Heritage Foundation for Research Excellence Grants, 1 Army Research Grant, 3 Industry Contracts, 1 T32, 1 T35, 4 Other Foundation Awards
- **2015:** 78 peer reviewed publications by primary faculty and students
- **2016:** 85 peer reviewed publications by primary faculty
- **Invited Speakers** Nationally and Internationally
- Service to the NIH CSR
- **Editors** of Books and Editorial Board Members of High Profile Journals
- Prestigious Local, Regional, National, and International **Travel Awards**





Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Department Contribution to the SOM four planning pillars

Clinical Care

- Education of Medical and Dental Students, R25 NCI Cancer Education Program
- Clinical Trials and Translational Research (Drs. Gupta and Palmer)

Center for Predictive Medicine

Plant-Based Pharmaceutical Program Unit

- OCRP research facility moved to UofL HSC and established the Biopharmaceutical Research Unit
- Kenneth Palmer (Director), Nobuyuki Matoba and Joshua Fuqua foundation faculty
- Two biologic products moving into first-in-human clinical trials
- Building a new 2,600 square foot bio-manufacturing facility on HSC to accommodate a pipeline of new vaccines and therapeutics from ongoing projects in the Center for Predictive Medicine



***Nicotiana* plants are used
as hosts for rapid scale-up
of expression of clinical
grade peptides and
vaccines**



Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Department Contribution to the SOM four planning pillars

Community Engagement

- Scientist Ambassador Program
- Beer with a Scientist Program: Next Seminar is Wednesday February 15th 8-9 pm at Against the Grain, Dr. Friedland, Professor in the Department of Neurology, “How Bacteria in Your Belly Can Affect Your Brain”
- Big Brother Big Sisters of Kentuckiana
- Lincoln Foundation's Whitney Young Scholars Program
- R25 NCI Cancer Education
- Volunteers at Cancer Survivors Luncheon/ P





Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology

Interesting Fact about the Department

2016 Department Awards:

- Professor **John Wise** received the Society of Toxicology Education Award
- **Dr. Pritesh Kumar**, PhD 2015, founder and CEO of PhytoSciences Inc., a company developing advanced medicinal cannabis-based therapeutics
- Several Graduate Students Received High Competitive Travel Awards: Dominique Jones, Laila Al-Eryani, Jeremy Chen, Samantha Carlisle, Hongxue Shi, Aaron Neely, Nichole Jackson
- **Dominique Jones** PhD (mentor Dr. Kidd) received the SOM Diversity Award
- **Nichole Jackson** and **Dominique Jones** each received fellowships from the Southern Regional Education Board to support the duration of their graduate studies.
- **Doug Saforo** (Mentors: Drs. Siskind and Beverly) was awarded the UofL Outstanding Graduate and Professional Student Award and was one of only four people world-wide to receive a highly prestigious Keystone Conference Travel Award
- **Nathan Wainscott** (mentor Dr. States) received a ASPET Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship
- **Cierra Sharp** (mentors Dr. Siskind and Beverly) was the recipient of the Kidney STARS Award (\$800) from the American Society of Nephrology, was the Ohio Valley Society of Toxicology Givaudan Awardee (\$1200), and is the sole UofL nominee for application for the F99/K00 fellowship
- **Tess Dupre** (mentor Dr. Siskind) received the Department's KC Huang Most Outstanding Graduate Student Award
- **Zimple Kurlawala** (mentor Dr. Beverly) received Spatola Endowed graduate Research Fellowship through IMD3
- Graduate Students won several top awards at Research!Louisville

