Honors & Awards

Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti was honored with the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Distinguished Toxicology Scholar Award at the 61st Annual SOT Meeting, March 27-31, 2022. He presented “Unraveling the Mystery of AhR: From Suppressor T Cells to Epigenome and Microbiome”.

Dr. Kiesha Wilson, Nagarkatti lab, was the recipient of NIH MOSAIC K99-R00 grant award. Project Title: “Role of macrophages in CBD mediated attenuation of SEB-induced ARDS”. The grant is a K99/R00 funded through the NIH Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC) program. The institution is the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS).

Alkeiver Cannon, Nagarkatti lab was the Graduate Student Award winner in the Biomedical Sciences section (BMSC) at UofSC Discover Day, April 22, 2022.

Dr. Kiesha Wilson, Nagarkatti lab, was the Postdoctoral Scholar Award winner (poster session B) in the BMSC section at UofSC Discover Day, April 22, 2022.

Dr. Taylor Carter, Nagarkatti lab, was the Postdoctoral Scholar Award winner (poster session C) in the BMSC section at UofSC Discover Day, April 22, 2022.

Khadija Kakar, one of the Fulbright students from the Nagarkatti lab has been selected from UofSC to attend a ceremony and reception in Washington, DC for Bono, U2 lead singer and co-founder of ONE and (RED) who is going to be awarded the Fulbright Prize for International Understanding on March 31, 2022. Khadija hails from Pakistan and has been doing charitable work using her personal funds for >8years to fight against poverty affecting literacy and plans to build an organization towards this goal.

Dr. Angela Murphy received an ASPIRE I grant from the UofSC Office of the Vice President for Research (VPR) in the amount of $15,000 for research on ‘Challenging the current chemotherapy treatment paradigm for obese individuals’.

Sierra McDonald (Murphy lab) received an honorable mention for her presentation on ‘Surgical wounding accelerates tumor growth and metastasis in a murine breast cancer model’ at the 37th Annual W. Morgan Newton Research Symposium.

Mitchell NeSmith (Murphy lab) received an honorable mention for his presentation on ‘The effects of emodin on chemotherapy-induced skeletal muscle atrophy’ at UofSC Discover Day, April 22, 2022.

Elizabeth Caulder, PMI Business Manager, was nominated and received the 2022 Exceptional Research Service Award from the UofSC VPR office.

Yvonne Hui received a 2022 Exceptional Research Service Award, a new peer-nomination-based awards program honoring outstanding research support staff members across the UofSC System. Yvonne was presented her award by the UofSC VPR, Dr. Julius Fridriksson during a ceremony followed by a dinner reception held on April 5.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian received the Outstanding Oral Presentation Award at the 2022 World Congress in Cancer Research and Therapy, held in a hybrid format in Paris, France on April 25-26.

Nour Shams (Dr. Velázquez Lab) received the Senior Thesis Award for his work on the efficacy of CBG as an analgesic in a mouse model of neuropathic pain.
Yvone Shametaj (Dr. Velázquez Lab) was granted the Senior Thesis Award for her work on the involvement of TFG alpha receptors on tumor burden in a mouse model of colorectal cancer.

Dr. Velázquez research proposal entitled, ‘Skeletal muscle macrophage manipulation in a model of cancer cachexia’ was selected for funding by the Veterans Affairs Health Care System.

Dr. Swapan Ray’s undergraduate research student, Amanda Manea, who is an Honors College junior with Mathematics and Biological Sciences double-major, has been named the 2022 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar of UofSC. This scholarship, the most prestigious award in the country for natural science, engineering, and mathematics undergraduates, is awarded in recognition of their exceptional work and commitment to research careers.

Dr. Swapan Ray's Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Nadia Al-Sammarraie, has been honored as the recipient of the 2022 New Investigator Award in the James E. Clyburn Health Disparities Poster Session at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center on April 14, 2022.

Dr. Archana Saxena (mentor: Dr. Philip Brandon Busbee) received a 2022 UofSC ASPIRE award for her project titled “Role of AhR in colonic epithelial cell (CEC)-mediated regulation of the IL-22 receptor expression during colitis". Congratulations, Dr. Saxena!

Chandani Mitchell, a Ph.D. graduate student in Dr. Philip Brandon Busbee's lab, received a 2022 UofSC SPARC award for her project titled ‘Role of AhR in IL-22 secretion by Rorc-expressing cells during indole-3-carbinol treatment of colitis’. Congratulations, Chandani!

Dr. James F. Catropppo was nominated for Teacher of the Year and Pearls of Wisdom speaker by the Students of the UofSC School of Medicine M2 Class of 2024, April 6, 2022.

Dr. James F. Catropppo was awarded the honor of delivering the Pearls of Wisdom address by the Students of the UofSC School of Medicine M2 Class of 2024, April 20, 2022.

Dr. Alexa Gandy was named the Teacher of the Year by the M2 - Class of 2024, April 20, 2022.

Dr. Carole McMahon was awarded the AMWA Kay McFarland Women's Health Award, April 20, 2022.

**News & Updates**

Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti gave testimony at the SC State Legislature on April 4, 2022, on legalizing marijuana for medical use. [https://scstatehouse.gov/video/schedule.php](https://scstatehouse.gov/video/schedule.php)


Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti served on the panel reviewing grants for NIH/NIEHS “CCRP (Chemical Countermeasures Research Program) Initiative: Chemical Threat Agent-induced Pulmonary and Ocular Pathophysiological Mechanisms” on March 15, 2022.

Dr. Angela Murphy gave an invited presentation on ‘Obesity’s Impact on Colorectal Cancer and Response to Therapy’ at the University of Alabama NIDDK-funded Nutrition and Obesity Research Center on January 18, 2022.

Dr. Angela Murphy served as a reviewer for ZCA1 SRB-A (M1) SEP-2 for NCI R03 and R21 grants focused on cancer immunology and immunotherapy on February 3-4, 2022.

Dr. Angela Murphy served as a reviewer for NIH/NCI Transition to Independence awards on February 16-17, 2022.

Dr. Angela Murphy served as a reviewer for NIH/NIDDK Nutrition and Obesity Research Centers on March 14, 2022.
Dr. Angela Murphy gave a presentation in the College of Nursing at UofSC on ‘Influence of Diet on Inflammatory Processes in Cancer’ on April 6, 2022.

Elizabeth Caulder, PMI Business Manager, was invited to serve as a member of a new rapid response team tasked with the review and improvement of the Research Grant hiring process.

With Women in Science and Medicine (WISaM) Co-Chair Kinsey Meggett and committee members, and in partnership with the Culture and Climate Committee, Dr. Oskeritzian organized and facilitated the inaugural 2022 Spring Forum for Advocacy, a lunch-and-learn event held on April 21 attended by over 40 UofSC SOMC Students, Staff and Faculty members.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian served as a grant reviewer for the Swiss National Science Foundation, Division of Biology and Medicine, Bern Switzerland, on January 10, 2022.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian was invited to serve on the Editorial Board of Frontiers in Immunology as a Review Editor, Autoimmune and Autoinflammatory Disorders.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian was an invited Speaker and Session Chair at the 2022 World Congress in Cancer Research and Therapy, held in a hybrid format in Paris, France on April 25-26, 2022.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian served as a judge for oral presentations in the Environmental Sciences and Behavioral Sciences (Psychology and Sociology) sessions at the 2022 South Carolina Junior Academy of Science Annual Meeting held on April 2, 2022, at the UofSC Aiken.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian served as a judge for Graduate Students poster presentation at the 2022 Discover UofSC Research Day, held on April 22.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian was invited to join a discussion panel at the joint EMBRN International Mast Cell and Basophil Meeting and International Eosinophil Society Meeting held virtually on January 26, 2022.

Dr. Carole Oskeritzian was invited to serve as a UofSC SOM representative on the selection committee for the Townsend Lecture Series entitled the ‘Impact of Biology on Society’. Established over 20 years ago, this lectureship is overseen by the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Emma Patton (Dr. Velázquez lab) accepted a job offer working in the forensic lab at the State Law Enforcement Division of South Carolina.

Patrice Cunningham officially joined the Velázquez Lab as a Ph.D. student.

Nour Shams (Dr. Velázquez lab) graduated from UofSC with a concentration in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Yvone Shametaj (Dr. Velázquez lab) graduated from UofSC and is starting the MD program at SOMC.

Matthew Noneman (Dr. Velázquez lab) graduated from UofSC with a concentration in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Dr. Velázquez was invited to review R15 grants on the Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group of Infectious Diseases and Immunology.

Dr. Velázquez reviewed a manuscript for the Journal of Cachexia, Sarcopenia, and Muscle.

Dr. Swapan Ray served as a Judge for the poster presentations at the 94th Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Academy of Science at UofSC Aiken. April 2, 2022.

Dr. Swapan Ray participated as a reviewer for the graduate student poster presentations at the annual Discover Day, UofSC, April 22, 2022.

Dr. Swapan Ray was a grant reviewer for the ORAU (Oak Ridge Associated Universities) Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Awards Program, 2022.

Dr. Swapan Ray was the Academic Editor for the peer-reviewed paper recently published in Brain Sciences, ‘Is Interstitial Chemotherapy with Carmustine (BCNU) Wafers Effective against Local Recurrence of Glioblastoma? A Pharmacokinetic Study by Measurement of BCNU in the Tumor Resection Cavity.’ Brain Sci. 2022, 12, 567. https://doi.org/10.3390/brainsci12050567
Dr. Philip Brandon Busbee served on the NIH review panel NIH Digestive Sciences Small Business Activities Special Emphasis Panel (ZRG1 DKUS B) on March 17, 2022. He was asked to continue to work for this review panel for the July 21-22, 2022 meeting.

Dr. Philip Brandon Busbee, as a past recipient of the 2021 ASPIRE Track I award, served on the UofSC ASPIRE II Review Panel on April 19, 2022.

Dr. Philip Brandon Busbee served as a reviewer for the SC INBRE Furman Fellowship grants on February 4, 2022.

Karthik Gourishetti, Ph.D. joined Dr. Bhere’s lab as a postdoctoral fellow in January 2022. He joins us from University of Indiana where he worked as a research fellow.

Dr. James F. Catroppo attended the following webinars and workshops:

- University of South Carolina Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) workshop “Leading Good Classroom Discussions” (15 April 2022)
- American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC)/Fundamental Role of Arts and Humanities in Medical Education (FRAHME) “Art of Diagnosis” Virtual Forum (6 April 2022)
- International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE) Webcast Audio Seminar (WAS) “Strategies for Incorporating Self-Directed Learning into Basic Sciences Education” (31 March 2022)
- International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE) Webcast Audio Seminar (WAS) “Towards Integrated Medical Education: Getting the Best Out of Interdisciplinary Teacher Teams and Leaders” (24 March 2022)
- University of South Carolina Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) workshop “Empowering Communication” (22 February 2022)
- University of South Carolina Libraries webinar “Copyright in the Classroom” (1 February 2022)
- University of South Carolina Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) workshop “Developing Quality Formative Assessments” (24 January 2022)
- International Association of Medical Student Educators (IAMSE) webinar “Integrating Basic Science in the Clerkships: Innovative Strategies and Persistent Challenges” (20 January 2022)
- International Association of Medical Student Educators (IAMSE) webinar “Practical Tips for Connecting With Students” (18 January 2022)
- University of South Carolina Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) workshop “Closing the Assessment Loop: How to Leverage Assessment Results to Improve your Academic Program” (13 January 2022)

The Medical Student Interest Group (MSIG) for Pathology, with faculty advisor Dr. Catroppo and M2 Class Officers, Ms. Maelee Williamson and Ms. Megan Martin, offered the following noon lunch talks (with Starbucks and Chick-Fil-A gift cards, as well as Medical Laboratory Professionals Week promotional pens distributed to all attendees):

10 February 2022 Dr. Jerad Gardner of the Geisinger Medical Center on “A Day in the Life of a Pathologist” and “How Facebook (and a Rare Cancer) Changed my Life”.

29 March 2022 Dr. Michael Prystowsky, Chair of the Association of Pathology Chairs’ Undergraduate Medical Education Committee and Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, on “Medical School to Practicing Pathologist”.
**Publications**


Busbee PB, Bam M, Nagarkatti M, Nagarkatti PS. Dysregulated p53 in PTSD patients results in downregulation of miRNA let-7a that promotes an inflammatory Th17 phenotype. Front Immunol. 2022 Jan 4;12:815840.


**Presentations**


Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti and Dr. Mitzi Nagarkatti hosted the 2022 Annual Meeting NIH Center for Dietary Supplements and Inflammation, COBRE Phase 2, Virtual External Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The presenters from PMI were:

- Dr. Jason L. Kubinak, Target Faculty: Humoral Immunity Regulates Bile-Acid-Induced Immune Tolerance in the Small Intestine.
- Dr. Philip Brandon Busbee, Target Faculty: AhR expression on specific immune cells and colonic epithelial cells essential for I3C-mediated protection against colitis.
- Dr. Xiaoming Yang, Pilot Project: Role of IncRNA AW112010 in inflammation.

Also presenting at the COBRE meeting, Dr. Kiesha Wilson, NIH Mosaic K99-R00 grant awardee:

- Dr. Kiesha Wilson, K99 Project: Role of macrophages in CBD mediated attenuation of SEB-induced ARDS’.

Kakar K. Regulation of Neuroinflammation by Delta-8-Tetrahydrocanabinol in an Experimental Model of Multiple Sclerosis. Biomedical Graduate Student Seminar Series. March 21, 2022.


