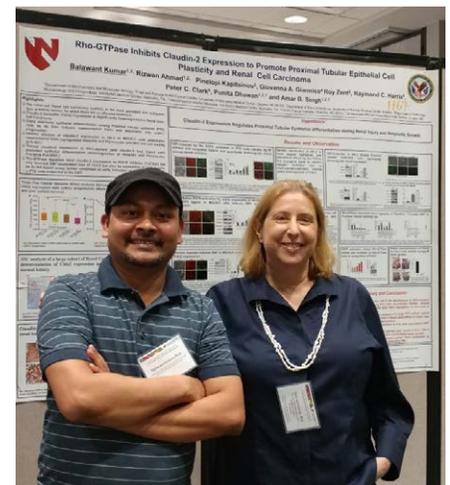


Holland Regenerative Medicine Newsletter

The Holland Regenerative Medicine Program Spring Symposium

The Holland Regenerative Medicine Spring Symposium was held on May 30, 2019 at the Scott Conference Center on the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) campus. The event was attended by more than 130 members of our local research community. The evening events included eight guest speakers from UNO, UNL and UNMC and an interactive poster session. Opportunities such as this are critical to foster collaborations across the various campuses.

Thank you to all who presented and attended. We look forward to seeing you again next year.



(Photo Credit: Brenda Blair)

Faculty Highlights – Awards



Jingwei Xie, Ph.D., pictured with James Turpen, Ph.D.

(Article courtesy of Tom O'Connor, UNMC public relations)

One of UNMC's rising research stars, Jingwei Xie, Ph.D., received the Chancellor Emeritus Harold M. Maurer, M.D. and Beverly Maurer Scientific Achievement Award on April 29 at the 17th Annual Spring Tribute Luncheon for the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures (NCLC) at Happy Hollow Club. The award is named after the Maurers, who have been longtime supporters of UNMC's research enterprise. Dr. Maurer served as UNMC chancellor from 1999 – 2014. Beverly Maurer is an active board member for the NCLC.

A biomedical engineer, Dr. Xie is an associate professor and research scientist in the UNMC Department of Surgery-Transplant and is part of the Mary and Dick Holland Regenerative Medicine Program. His research is aimed at gaining a better understanding of materials and cell/tissue interaction and for developing a better design of biomedical devices/materials for use in health care. He also is involved in the development of novel formulations for local drug delivery.

James Turpen, Ph.D., a member of the NCLC board who retired from UNMC in 2017 after serving as professor in the UNMC Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Anatomy and as associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, presented the award to Dr. Xie. Dr. Turpen said, "Dr. Xie epitomizes the goal of this award, which is to recognize outstanding mid-career faculty whose research has the potential to lead to lifesaving cures."

In 2017, he also received a four-year, \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the nanofiber-based local delivery of immunomodulating compounds for prevention of surgical site infections (SSIs). The nanofiber sutures contain vitamin D, which is thought to be able to induce production of an infection-fighting peptide at the surgical site. If proven successful in transgenic mice, the nanofiber sutures could represent an important advance in the prevention of SSIs, a multi-billion dollar challenge each year in the United States.

Dr. Xie is currently working with Mark Carlson, M.D., professor, surgery-general surgery, to try to develop a hernia mesh, which would allow human tissue to grow into the mesh and form firm attachments to it. In essence, the body would absorb the material, thus reducing the risk of infection and strengthening the native tissue. The team will test the mesh in porcine models in hopes of heading toward FDA testing and approval.



If you have any news or upcoming events that you would like featured in the next edition of the in-house *Holland Regenerative Medicine Newsletter*, please send the information to tara.szymanskibird@unmc.edu



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