2013 CCRAM Award for Xihui (Alex) Xu

CCRAM presents an annual research award for the outstanding CCRAM researcher based on a points system taking into account the publications, journal impact factor, presentations, awards etc. This year’s recipient of the award Xihui (Alex) Xu has to his credit 11 papers published/accepted in top-tier journals including *Cardiovasc. Res.*, *Hypertension*, *Autophagy*, *J. Mol. Cell Cardiol.*, and *J. Am. Heart Assoc.*. He had presented three posters at the 2013 AHA Scientific Sessions (Dallas) and an oral presentation in the Third Biennial Western Regional IDEA Conference (Hawaii). He is also the recipient of this years ACRE-CnAHA Symposium award (second prize) and the BCVS-AHA Travel grant. Alex also successfully defended his PhD thesis in 2013 and has the distinction of the first graduate student form the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program.

The C-CRAM award was established in 2004 and the past recipients are: Sreejayan Nair and Feng Dong (2005), Xiaoping Yang (2006), Min Du (2007), Ji Li (2008), Heng Ma and Meijun Zhu (2009); Tuerdi Subati and Yingmei (Megan) Zhang (2010), Yinan Hua (2011); Yingmei (Megan) Zhang (2012).

**Photo:** Alex with his dissertation committee members Drs. Bruce Culver, Jun Ren (Alex’s advisor), Sreejayan Nair, and Enette Larson Meyer.
Twenty six of the 51 research papers published in 2013 appeared in journals with impact factor 5 or above


Research Papers Published in 2013


Manuscripts Under Revision/Accepted/in Press


7. Xu X, Roe ND, Weiser-Evans MCM, Ren J. Inhibition of mTOR with rapamycin reverses hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in mice with cardiomyocyte-specific knockout of PTEN. *Hypertension*, in press.


EPSCoR INBRE Undergraduate Fellowship

Sidney Ren (Prepharmacy; Mentor: Alex Xu), Benjamin Pacheco (Pharm D, Mentor: Jun Ren), Ellen Sloan (Sophmore; Mentor: Jun Ren); Songlin Cai (PharmD, Mentor: Sree Nair), Dawn Davison (PharmD: Mentor: Sree Nair).

**AJP Podcast**

Evgeniy Panzhinskiy successfully defended his PhD thesis in May and graduated from the Molecular and Cellular Life Sciences Graduate Program. In the picture he is seen (third from right) with his committee members Drs. Jun Ren, Bruce Culver, David Fay, Mark Stayton, and Sree Nair (advisor). Evgeniy is currently a post-doctoral fellow in University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Alex Xu is the first graduate student form the new Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program, seen here with his advisor Dr. Jun Ren.

**Graduation**

**Other News**

Jun Ren received 2013 American Diabetes Association Research grant award on “Obesity and Autophagy”.

** Alex Xu and Yinan Hua received research awards at the CHS Grand Rounds.

** Former CCRAM researchers Maolong Dong, Megan Zhang, Fuling Luo and Henry Ma each received major NFSC research grants based on continuation work from their training at the University of Wyoming.

** Yinan Hua received the overseas outstanding PhD graduate award from the Chinese Government. She also won the AAiPS (American Association of Indian Pharmacists Association) research award for 2013. Yinan defended her PhD thesis in December—she is the second student to graduate from the BMS program.

Alex Xu won AHA travel award and AHA/ACRE presentation award (2nd place).

** Megan Zhang and Jun Ren received provincial international collaborative grant to work on obesity.

** Journal editorships: BBA Mol Basis Dis (Jun Ren, Megan Zhang), Patent Endo Metab Imm Drug Disc (X Xu, Jun Ren), Curr Pharm. Design (Megan Zhang, Jun Ren).

** Elected to editorial boards: Cardiovascular Diagnosis Therapy (Megan Zhang, Jun Ren), Vasc Pharmacol (Jun Ren), World Journal of Cardiology (Jun Ren), Translation Med (Jun Ren).


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**Productive Year!**

CCRAM researchers Rui, Qiurong, Lifang and Yinan with their newborns.