

Inaugural UGA Conference on Drug Discovery April 4, 2007

The Inaugural UGA Conference on Drug Discovery, held at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, represented a history making day for the Center for Drug Discovery (CDD) and the University of Georgia. Over 110 faculty, postdoctoral associates, graduate students and staff participated in the daylong event, which featured three keynote speakers in the antiviral, anticancer and antimicrobial areas.



Dr. Vasu Nair, Director of the UGA Center for Drug Discovery (l) gave brief remarks on the creation of the Center and its approval by the Board of Regents in March 2005. He also outlined the mission of the CDD. Dr. David Lee, Vice President for Research (r), officially opened the conference.



Presentations were made in Masters Hall at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education.



Dr. Nair is pictured with (left to right) keynote speakers Dr. Alice M. Clark (second from left), Vice Chancellor for Research and Sponsored Programs at the University of Mississippi, who spoke on "The Evolution of Antimicrobial Drug Discovery and Development;" Dr. Stephen Fesik (third from left), Divisional Vice President of Cancer Research, Abbott Laboratories, who talked about "Discovery of Bcl-2 Family Inhibitors for the Treatment of Cancer;" and Dr. Clifton E. Barry, III (right), Head of the Tuberculosis Research Station, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who spoke on "Challenges and Opportunities in Tuberculosis Drug Discovery."



The luncheon was attended by 100 faculty, staff and students. Pictured above are (standing) Dr. Deborah Strong, Department of Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Sciences, and Dr. Nair. Seated are (l to r) staff members Heather Berryman and Karen Scoville from the Department of Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Sciences and Robyn Ansley, UGA Center for Drug Discovery.



At the luncheon, Dr. Nair recognized Dr. Gordhan Patel, former Vice President for Research, and Dr. Svein Oslashie (center), Dean of the College of Pharmacy, for their vision in planning for the establishment for the CDD. Dean Oslashie spoke about how this was a momentous event for the CDD and the University of Georgia and added general remarks about drug discovery. Pictured with the Dean are (l) Dr. Fred Quinn,

Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases who introduced keynote speaker Dr. Barry (r).



The poster session in the afternoon was attended by most of the participants with 42 posters (limit imposed by availability of poster boards) presented on a broad range of topics in the chemistry and biology of drug discovery by faculty, graduate students, postdoctoral associates and technical staff.



Poster award winners pictured with the Poster Committee members are (l to r) Santiago Lima from the Department of Chemistry who was awarded Best Graduate Student Poster Presentation; Dr. Brian Cummings; Dr. Roberto Docampo; Brianna Peterson, Department of Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Sciences, who won Honorable Mention Graduate Student Poster Presentation; Dr. Warren Beach; Dr. Megan Macnaughtan, Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, who was awarded Honorable Mention Postdoctoral Poster Presentation; and Dr. Xiahui Ma, Department of Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Sciences, who won Best Postdoctoral Poster Presentation.