Congratulations!

Provost Teresa K. Woodruff, has recently been named a recipient of one of the Endocrine Society’s 2021 Laureate Awards — Gerald D. Aurbach Award for Outstanding Translational Research — top honors that recognize the highest achievements in the endocrinology field.

Dr. Woodruff is ranked the 7th world infertility expert by ExpertScape. This ranking is achieved through analyzing data gathered via PubMed based on 18,002 articles published on fertility since 2010.

Dr. Asgi Fazleabas was selected as one of the three University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2020 College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) Alumni Association ACES Career Achievement Award recipients. The ACES Career Achievement Award was established in 2017 and recognizes graduates from the UIUC’s College of ACES who have had exceptional professional achievement and/or made extraordinary humanitarian contributions. Dr. Fazleabas received his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Jae-Wook Jeong was named one of the 2019 Mary Kay Foundation Cancer Research Grant recipients. He is working to identify the molecular signature of recurrent endometrial cancer in women. This research will help identify which patients are at highest risk for relapse and develop ways to suppress recurrence in endometrial cancer. He is driven by a desire to fill the gap in medical research for women’s health and find effective treatments for cancers affecting women.
Welcome

Please join us in welcoming our new faculty to our department!

Provost Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D., is an internationally recognized expert in ovarian biology and, in 2006, coined the term “oncofertility” to describe the merging of two fields: oncology and fertility. Woodruff holds more than 10 U.S. Patents and was elected to the National Academy of Inventors (2017). She has been active in education not only at the professional level but also with high school students. To this end, she founded the Oncofertility Saturday Academy (OSA), one of several high school outreach programs that engages girls in basic and medical sciences. For this work, she was awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mentoring in an Oval Office ceremony by President Obama (2011).

Dr. Steven Ondersma joins us from the Departments of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences and Obstetrics & Gynecology at Wayne State University. His primary interest is in computer-delivered assessment and motivational interventions for substance use and other risk factors among pregnant and postpartum women. He is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Division 37), former Editor of the journal Child Maltreatment, and a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers. He has served as an invited presenter for numerous NIH topical meetings as well as for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Institute of Medicine. He has been PI on multiple NIH/CDC research grants focusing on the development and validation of novel screening techniques and technology-based brief interventions.

Dr. Bin Gu received his Ph.D. in Cell Biology from the College of Life Sciences at Zhejiang University in China in 2013. There he discovered the expression and function of the Autoimmune Regulator (Aire) gene in embryonic stem (ES) cells. In 2013, he moved to Toronto for his postdoctoral training in Dr. Janet Rossant’s Lab in SickKids Hospital. During his postdoctoral training, he continued to study the function of Aire in early mouse embryos and revealed a novel function of Aire in mitotic spindle assembly in ES cells and early embryos, and provided a plausible explanation for the fertility defect in AIRE mutant APECED patients and Aire knockout mice. Recently, Dr. Gu has developed 2C-HR-CRISPR, a transformative technology for complex genome editing in mice.

Dr. Cara Poland has joined us from Spectrum Health Medical Group. Dr. Poland was trained in internal medicine at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan and in addiction medicine at Boston Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. She has an interest in educating healthcare providers and providers-in-training to improve care for patients with substance use disorders and alcohol use disorders through her work on MI CARES and with various professional organizations. She is the Past President of the Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine. She is the medical director of addiction medicine at Spectrum Health and collaborates with other providers in Spectrum Health’s GREAT MOMs program to treat pregnant women with substance use disorders.
Open Enrollment and MSU Benefits Fair

MSU Open Enrollment
MSU Benefits Open Enrollment will be held from October 1 – 31, 2020. During this time, eligible MSU employees can re-evaluate their benefit needs and make changes to benefits selections.

- Faculty and Academic Staff Guide to Open Enrollment
- Support Staff Guide to Open Enrollment

Virtual Benefits Fair
The Virtual Benefits Fair offers an opportunity to get the answers and assistance you need to complete Open Enrollment. Learn more at the link below.

- Virtual Benefits Fair: while we cannot have our usual in-person benefits fair this year due to COVID-19, we are offering a Virtual Benefits Fair with curated resources from our benefits vendors and opportunities to ask questions. The fair will take place from October 12 - 16, with MSU HR staff and benefits vendors available to answer questions live via chat on Thursday, October 15 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, October 16 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Flu Vaccine at MSU Pharmacy
Pharmacist-administered flu vaccines offered at the MSU Health Care Pharmacy. By appointment or at drive-through events.

Upcoming Events

October 1-31, 2020 — Open Enrollment
October 7, 2020 — Flu Shot Clinic, Grand Rapids — Trowbridge Lot, 10a-2p — Sign up: https://flu.vna.org | Clinic ID: 505 | Passcode: 8TMyfte
October 14, 2020 — Webinar, presented by Abbvie, Dr. Jessica Shepherd, MD — Webinar Registration
October 22, 2020 — MSU IQ Leica Microsystems Center of Excellence Virtual Grand Opening — virtual ribbon cutting ceremony and brief remarks from MSU and Leica Microsystems dignitaries! Meeting Registration.

Travel
International and Domestic travel, has been suspended indefinitely. Should essential travel arise, please contact Jenna French (French21@msu.edu) for direction.
Grants

- Jennifer Johnson (PI), Cris Meghea (PI), Lee Anne Roman (Co-PI) and Kelly Strutz (Co-PI) received an R01 grant by the NICHD for $3,944,351. This community-partnered study will scale a community, provider, and system-level intervention to reduce African American maternal morbidity and mortality disparities in two Michigan counties (Genesee and Kent) and will test the intervention using data from all Medicaid insured women who deliver in Michigan from 2016-2019 and 2021-2024 (approximately 540,000 births, including 162,000 births to African American women).

- Jennifer Johnson (PI) was awarded an R01 grant by the NICHD for $3,358,550 for a project titled: IPT for major depression following perinatal loss. The project will run from 8/1/2020 through 7/31/2025.

- Jae Wook Jeong (PI) was awarded an R01 grant by the NICHD for $2,657,839. Dr. Jeong and his team will be studying the molecular mechanisms of endometrial progesterone resistance. The project dates of the award are 8/15/2020 through 4/30/2025.

- Cris Meghea (PI) and Kristie Foley (PI) from Wake Forest University received an R21 grant to research a Smartphone Intervention for Pregnancy Smoking Cessation with Peer Support. The project period runs from 8/6/2020 through 7/31/2022. The team was awarded $380,865 for this project.

- Kelly Strutz (Co-I) and Cara Poland (Co-I) were awarded $810,786 for their ongoing MDHHS project State Opioid Relief for Use Disorders. This project will run from 10/1/2020 through 9/30/2021.

- MDHHS awarded Lee Anne Roman (PI) and her team $634,434 for their project Strong Beginnings: Care Improvement for African American and Latina Women. The project period for this grant award is 10/1/2020 through 9/30/2021.

- Cris Meghea (Subaward-PI) was awarded an $106,921 HRSA Grant. The objectives of this project are to facilitate national implementation and adoption of non-hospital, community-focused maternal safety bundles and to collect and analyze structure, process, and outcome data to drive continuous improvement in the implementation of non-hospital community-focused maternal safety bundles.

Presentations

- Ryan M. Marquardt, Tae Hoon Kim, Jung-Yoon Yoo, Ho-Geun Yoon, Ripla Arora, and Jae-Wook Jeong (2020) Endometrial Epithelial ARID1A Loss Causes Defects of Uterine Receptivity and Endometrial Gland Function. SSR Virtual Annual Meeting (Trainee Research Poster Competition: Pre-Doctoral Finalist)

Published Research


Meghea CI. 2020. Impact of ENDS use on cigarette smoking frequency and intensity among young adult smokers. JAMA Network Open. Forthcoming

Published Research cont.


Do you have exciting news to share? Grants, recent publications, presentations?
Please email information to French21@msu.edu