



Dale Abrahamson, PhD

Recipient of the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award ~ “The Jayhawk”

“He provided an excellent role model as a mentor, leader, and researcher for department members at all levels. He is extremely supportive, yet doesn’t meddle in our day-to-day activities.”

Julie Christianson, PhD ~ Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

“Dr. Abrahamson has such a warm, approachable and very unimposing mentoring style. This example of generosity and selflessness as a mentor is etched in my mind, and something I hope to pass on. Science is like a mountain range, with so many valleys, and at my career stage, with still so many peaks to reach. Importantly while in the valleys or during the climb, Dale is always on the sidelines cheering me on to the next”.

Pamela Tran, PhD ~ Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

“Dale has a fantastic mentoring style – he’s always calm, unapologetically positive and supportive. His critiques on grantsmanship were always constructive and positive – he would frequently distill them down to a few actionable items to focus on. Dale is the first person I think of to seek advice on matters related to my career – or for advice regarding mentoring my own students.”

Irfan Saadi, PhD ~ Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

“He showed genuine interest in me as a person and in what was going on in my personal life. It was obvious to me that he was interested not only in my success as a graduate student, but even more so as a person”

Gregory Vanden Heuvel ~ PhD, Western Michigan University

“He has seamlessly served as an advisor, cheerleader, enthusiastic promoter, and kind colleague. I could not have asked for a more supportive advocate as I grow my research program. Importantly, I have always felt that Dr. Abrahamson believed in me and anticipated my success. His genuine concern, positive attitude, and interest in each of us highlights the kind of colleague would like to be. I greatly value Dr. Abrahamson’s mentorship and hope for many years of continued collaboration.”

Prachee Avasthi, PhD ~ Assistant Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

“My career transitions from a postdoc to a research assistant professor into a tenured faculty member unfolded under Dale’s guidance, and I could always count both on his support and frank evaluations. As a department head, Dale created a department culture which is collaborative and inclusive.”

Andras Czirok, PhD ~ Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

“If there were more mentors like him, there would undoubtedly be more scientists who stay and succeed within the academic pipeline.”

Francesca Duncan, PhD – Northwestern University

“Dale has taught me how to mentor a junior faculty through his mentoring style on myself. He gave an excellent model by demonstrating his mentoring of a junior faculty through constant positive comments and encouragement with few but critical comments to guide the faculty in the right direction.”

Hiroshi Nishimune, PhD ~ Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

“He challenges me to network, ensures I am aware of the resources available to me and genuinely cares about me and my career development. Dale is easy to talk to and is always available. He understands and values my unique faculty position and supports my various endeavors.”

Lisa Harlan-Williams, PhD ~ Research Assistant Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

“As a long-time mentee of Dale, I can think of no more deserving candidate. He excels at mentoring and promoting the careers of junior faculty, and continues to mentor them as they become more established. He is quick to recognize the value of service and teaching, as well as the quality of one’s research.”

Brenda Rongish, PhD ~ Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

Steven Weinman, MD, PhD

Recipient of the 2019 Excellence in Mentoring Award



"I believe that Dr. Weinman is a perfect example of the ideal mentor, he gives his time generously, he puts in the deep and thoughtful analysis to make interactions with him worthwhile and he helps his mentees to develop scientifically in ways that few other mentors do. I do not know of any other individual at KU who has been so consistently willing and able to provide the hard thinking and critical scientific guidance to junior faculty members embarking on an independent grant-funded research career."

**Udayan Apte, PhD, DABT ~ Associate Professor,
Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, & Therapeutics**

"His input is insightful, clear and helpful and really does have a major impact on the success. Dr. Weinman is an outstanding and selfless individual who is held in the highest regard by his mentees. He is one of those rare individuals who is truly able to put the interests of his mentees first. Not all successful scientists are able to do this, and it shows a real selfless dedication to career development on his part."

Matthias Salathe, MD ~ Peter T. Bohan Professor and Chair, Department of Internal Medicine

"Steve proved to be a highly dedicated and altruistic mentor for young scientists at KUMC. It was in this mentoring capacity where Steve clearly excelled. He was available for advice from specific scientific problems to general career guidance. In addition, he read, critiqued and offered suggestions for improvement for all grants of his mentees and beyond. This resulted in major improvements and ultimately funding for most applications."

**Hartmut Jaeschke, PhD ~ University Distinguished Professor and Chair,
Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, & Therapeutics**

"Dr. Weinman has taught me how to be a scholar, a scientist, and a mentor. He has taught me the importance of professionalism and integrity, and in doing so, what it means to not only be a good academic scientist but also a good citizen. He accomplishes this through his instruction but more importantly, his example"

Ann Wozniak, PhD ~ Research Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

"I feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Weinman. Dr. Weinman has set an excellent example for us to follow on how to mentor students and junior faculty."

Wen-Xing Ding, PhD ~ Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, & Therapeutics

"Dr. Weinman is an outstanding mentor and leader whom you can trust and never replace with. Most importantly, he is exceedingly amiable and highly cooperative with all researchers and administrators."

Tomoo Iwakuma, MD, PhD ~ Professor, Department of Cancer Biology

"Dr. Weinman has gone above and beyond to support, challenge and motivate me as a mentee. I appreciate that he has been able to strike a nice balance between letting me work independently, while always being available to help troubleshoot, help design experiments, and address any problems that arise. His feedback, whether in experimental design or grant application, has always been truthful, constructive, and nonabrasive."

Winston Dunn, MD ~ Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

"He showed strong commitment, support and enthusiasm as my mentor, and it was his broad knowledge and superior experience and wisdom in mentoring that made him an outstanding mentor. As a mid-career faculty, I still see him as the go-to person whenever I need advice."

Tiangang Li, PhD ~ Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, & Therapeutics

"I feel that Dr. Weinman's characteristics of selflessness and generosity are reflected through many actions including his identification of candidates who are simply in need of mentoring. I feel it is important to note that Steve helped me grow on personal levels as well, encouraging my confidence and transition into independent investigation. I credit my growth as an investigator over the past three years at KUMC to Dr. Weinman's influence and mentorship."

Deepika Polineni, MD ~ Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine

"What characterizes him as a mentor is the way he always encourages you to follow your own research interests, his support when you have your paper rejected or after a negative grant review, and the considerable amount of time he spends to critique the grants and manuscripts you write."

Irina Tikhanovich, PhD ~ Research Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine



David Lisbon, MD

Recipient of the 2019 Achievement Award for Mentoring Residents

“Dave has been a powerhouse of mentoring in creating, developing, and leading the Emergency Medicine residency program at KUMC. Without his outstanding leadership and mentorship, we would not have the highly successful program that we have. His commitment to developing the next generation of compassionate Emergency Medicine physicians and success in mentoring many years of graduates has been greatly beneficial as well as inspirational.”

Bradley Barth, MD ~ Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine

“Dr. Lisbon has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment of support and service as Program Director to the Emergency Medicine Residency program over the past 8 years. Dr. Lisbon's dedication to the residents of the program has consistently superseded the requirements of a standard program evaluation. He has been devoted to mentoring residents to be the best they can be, and to help them identify and achieve their goals”

Chad Cannon, MD ~ Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine

“There is one piece of advise Dr. Lisbon gave me that still strikes me on a daily basis. We are exposed to hundreds of new complex patient problems every week. There is no one clinical scenario that is ever exactly like the one before. Dr. Lisbon told me at one point to always “trust in my training”. I still repeat this in the back of my head on a daily basis. I hope that my patients can feel the confidence Dr. Lisbon has blessed me with and that they also feel the same warmth and trust that I felt under Dr. Lisbon's care.”

Erin Lawson, MD ~ Resident, Department of Emergency Medicine

“What I encountered in Dr. Lisbon, was a mentor who was instead invested in the overall growth and development of young physicians. He knew he was doing good for the community, but he knew this would come secondarily after he advocated for the learners under his watch. To this day, when I have a patient who I can tell does not actually have an acute medical condition, but instead needs simple reassurance and comforting, I inform my residents that the patient requires some “Lisboning.”. They all know that this means to focus on the bedside manner and warmth that Dr. Lisbon exudes without effort. Dr. Lisbon doesn't just mentor medical students and residents into becoming great physicians. He inspires them to pay forward their experience and skills to the young learners in front of them.”

Brad Jackson, MD ~ Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine

“Throughout my years in residency, I always looked forward to shifts with Dr. Lisbon. He had seemed to perfect his interactions with residents. He had a way of guiding me without being overbearing. His idealism in a department that had many vulnerable patients was inspiring. Residency is a period where a resident decides what kind of physician he or she wants to become. Dr. Lisbon was the type of doctor I want to become like. Emergency Medicine needs idealists like Dr. Lisbon.”

Nicholas Pallo, MD ~ Resident, Department of Emergency Medicine

Congratulations 2019 Mentoring Awards Winners!