

## **COMP Recognizes Three Members with COMP Distinguished Faculty Awards**

For the past two years, COMP has recognized faculty members for their accomplishments in Research & Scholarship, Teaching & Education, and Leadership & Service. The 2016 COMP Distinguished Faculty Award recipients are Dr. Xiaoning Bi (Research & Scholarship), Dr. Gerald Thrush (Teaching & Education) and Dr. John Pham (Leadership & Service). They were recently recognized by Dr. Paula Crone, Dean of COMP, during Faculty Recognition and Celebration ceremonies held in Pomona and Lebanon, respectively.

Dr. Xiaoning Bi, the recipient of COMP Distinguished Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship, earned her MD degree from Binzhou Medical University and PhD in Neurobiology from the University of Southern California. She joined COMP in 2006 and is currently a Professor of Physiology and Daljit S. and Elaine Sarkaria Endowed Professor of Neuroscience. Since joining WesternU, Dr. Bi has co-authored over 40 research articles in high impact journals. Dr. Bi's research focusses on Angelman syndrome, neurodegeneration and synaptic plasticity. Her research has been cited over 4,400 times with an h-index of 28. She is regularly invited to present her research at Universities in US and overseas, and at various international conferences and symposia. She also serves as a reviewer for numerous journals and funding agencies. In addition to these activities, Dr. Bi has mentored and continues to mentor postdoctoral fellows and students from our DO, MSBS and MSMS programs. It is noteworthy that Dr. Bi has received over \$3,000,000 in grant funding during the past 10 years.

Dr. Gerald Thrush, the recipient of the COMP Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching and Education, graduated with a PhD in immunology from Wayne State University and received his postdoctoral training at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Before joining COMP as a Professor of Immunology in 2006 Dr. Thrush was a highly acclaimed educator at Cal State University San Bernardino, where he was awarded the Golden Apple Award for teaching. Currently, he is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Dr. Thrush has taught students in WesternU's DO, DPM, DMD, OD and MSMS programs, and has been the course director for five different courses. He has been consistently rated as an outstanding teacher by students and peers, and his counsel is frequently sought by all COMP students during their pre-clinical curriculum. Dr. Thrush's contributions toward enhancing COMP students' learning experience and his expertise in innovative curricular delivery methods have made him a role model for his colleagues. He has been a prolific educational researcher and has made numerous presentations in national and international educational conferences. He was the finalist for the outstanding oral presentation award at the International Association of Medical Science Educators in 2016.

Dr. John Pham, the recipient of the COMP Distinguished Faculty Award for Leadership and Service, earned his DO degree from Des Moines University, and completed a Family Medicine residency at Eastmoreland Hospital in Portland. He joined COMP-NW as an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine in 2011, and is currently the Vice Chair of the Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Pham has served COMP in the classroom, the clinic and various student clubs. His leadership is evident from his contributions to Admissions Committee, Students Performance Committee, Awards Committee and University Mentorship Taskforce. Dr. Pham has been active in local, regional and national organizations such as

Lebanon Strawberrians, Oregon Vietnamese Community Association, Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation, Osteopathic Physicians Society of Oregon, United Healthcare Services External Medical Advisory Board, and American Osteopathic Association.