SWOSU's Khan Receives \$336,254 Research Award

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Dr. Faruk Khan (second from left), associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, has received a \$336,254 research award from the National Institutes of Health to develop new anti-malarial medications. With Khan are (from left): Dr. Dennis Thompson, interim dean, SWOSU College of Pharmacy; Dr. Prince Amoyah, postdoctoral research assistant; and SWOSU Provost Dr. Blake Sonobe.

Dr. Faruk Khan, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, has received a \$336,254 award from the National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center for a research project entitled "Cyclen-based Novel Antimalarial Agents."

The award will fund the research project for two and one-half years.

Current anti-malarial medications are losing their effectiveness against drug-resistant malarial strains, and many have toxic effects on humans as well. The project goal is to develop new anti-malarial medications, derived from an earlier discovery Dr. Khan made regarding cyclen-quinoline analogs, which will be safer and more effective.

Dr. Khan will be collaborating with Dr. B.L. Tekwani, professor of pharmacology and the principal scientist at the National Center for Natural Products Research at the University of Mississippi. Two SWOSU students will be selected to assist with the research. Dr. Khan has also hired a full time postdoctoral research assistant to assist in this project.

For questions about the grant, please contact Dr. Khan at 580.774.3064 or by email at <u>faruk.khan@swosu.edu</u>.