THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY
AND MOLECULAR GENETICS

News Letter #4 (July 2010)

Faculty News

Funding Update:

v Dr. Gaponenko received a 4-year grant from the National Cancer Institute.

v Dr. Frolov received a 5-year Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Scholar grant.

v Dr. Hay received one of seven UIC Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) 2010 Pilot Grant awards.

v Dr. Ackerman is a co-recipient (with Dr. Glenn Furuta, UCD) of a new grant from the Thrasher Research Foundation.

Other News:

v Congratulations to the following faculty on their Academic Promotions:
   o Dr. Maxim Frolov
   o Dr. Arnon Lavie
   o Dr. Brad Merrill
   o Dr. Toru Nakamura

v Dr. Bernard Friedenson was an invited speaker at an international conference on breast cancer and served as chairman of a session on breast cancer immunology. The conference was held in Shanghai, China, April 22-28, 2010.

v Dr. Ackerman was awarded the 2010 David Parkin Visiting Professorship at the University of Bath, UK.

General News

v 3rd BMG Retreat: Our third Departmental Retreat will take place at the Grand Geneva resort in Lake Geneva, WI on August 1-2, 2010. All members of the Department are invited to share knowledge, ideas, and perspectives through seminars, poster sessions, and social events. A big ‘Thank You’ to Dr. Merrill for organizing it again! (The faculty is offering the students and postdocs the opportunity to beat them at soccer this year!!!)
We welcome the following New Employees:

- Preeth Alumkal (Research Specialist – Ackerman Lab)
- Abul Islam (Visiting Scholar – Benevolenskaya Lab)
- Jing Li (Research Specialist – Raychaudhuri Lab)
- Julian Nomme (Postdoctoral Research Associate – Lavie Lab)
- William Richter (Research Specialist – Benevolenskaya Lab)

University of Bath (UK) Honors Biochemistry Program Placement Students:

- Our department has been participating in this work-study program for ~12 years. For 2010, the following students have joined our department:
  - Victoria Hale (Simonovic Lab)
  - Laura Jacobs (Benevolenskaya Lab)
  - Edward Law (Tyner Lab)
  - Rosalind Norkett (Gaponenko Lab)

Dr. Noorain Akhtar (postdoc - Ackerman lab) submitted an abstract to the annual Digestive Disease Week meeting, May 1-4, 2010 in New Orleans, LA.

The 4th Annual Robert H. Costa Memorial Lecture was held on April 21, 2010. Dr. Stephen Duncan, Director, MCW Program in Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology, Medical College of Wisconsin, presented a seminar titled “Pluripotent Stem Cells in the Study of Liver Development and Disease”.

BMG Departmental Seminar Series was quite successful last year. We hosted 21 seminars by experts in their respective fields, including Dr. Ada Yonath who was one of the recipients of Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2009! Some of the seminars were co-hosted with other departments such as Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, Dept. of Biological Sciences and UIC Cancer Center.

BMG Website: Remember to visit often our departmental web site at: http://www.uic.edu/com/bcmg

- A link for Graduate Program has been added which provides a lot of useful information for the program including:
  - Program Overview
  - Required Forms for Yr1, Yr2 and Yr3+ students
  - Semester schedules
- We are adding a new link: Recent Departmental Publications
  - Updated every 6 months
  - Please send information on publications from your lab published since Jan. 2010, to Abdul Khan
**Student News**

**Awards:**
- Dannielle DeWaal (Benevolenskaya Lab) received a 2 year Predoctoral Fellowship from the American Heart Association.
- Jackson Hoffman (Merrill Lab) received the Chancellor’s Supplemental Research Fellowship. The award is given to graduate and professional students that show exceptional promise for future multidisciplinary research and creative activity in their fields of interest.
- The following students were awarded the prestigious Dean’s Scholar award from UIC Graduate College for 2010-2011 academic year.
  - Aaron Ambrus (Frolov Lab)
  - Nilotpal Roy (Raychaudhuri lab)

**Presentations:**
- Sang-Min Jeon (Hay Lab) attended keystone symposium - metabolism and tumor progression (March 12-17, 2010, Vancouver) and gave an oral presentation (short talk) in plenary session as well as poster presentation. He also received keystone symposia scholarship.

**Thesis Defense:**
- Congratulations to the following students who successfully completed their Thesis Defense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lab</th>
<th>Thesis Defense</th>
<th>Future Plans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lyne Khair</td>
<td>Nakamura</td>
<td>1/6/10</td>
<td>Postdoc, UMASS Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Brauer</td>
<td>Tyner</td>
<td>3/9/10</td>
<td>Research Fellow, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center, University of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dragana Kopanja</td>
<td>Raychaudhuri</td>
<td>3/12/10</td>
<td>Postdoc, UIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ming-Fong Lye</td>
<td>Lavie</td>
<td>3/15/10</td>
<td>Postdoc, UIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakxmi Subramanian</td>
<td>Nakamura</td>
<td>4/6/10</td>
<td>Postdoc, Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell Biology, University of Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saugata Hazra</td>
<td>Lavie</td>
<td>6/7/10</td>
<td>Postdoc, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Congratulations to Lyne Khair (Nakamura Lab) and her husband who welcomed their baby boy, Daniel Saker, on January 28, 2010!
No one should approach the temple of science with the soul of a money changer.  ~Thomas Browne

DNA was the first three-dimensional Xerox machine.  
~Kenneth Boulding, "Energy and the Environment

Facts are not science - as the dictionary is not literature.  ~Martin H.

The capacity to blunder slightly is the real marvel of DNA. Without this special attribute, we would still be anaerobic bacteria and there would be no music.  ~Lewis Thomas

The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds the most discoveries, is not "Eureka!" (I found it!) but "That's funny..."  ~Isaac Asimov

An experiment is a question, which science poses to Nature, and a measurement is the recording of Nature's answer.  ~Max Planck, Scientific Autobiography and Other Papers, 1949

I have had my results for a long time: but I do not yet know how I am to arrive at them.  ~Karl Friedrich Gauss

My mother made me a scientist without ever intending to. Every other Jewish mother in Brooklyn would ask her child after school, "So? Did you learn anything today?" But not my mother. "Izzy," she would say, "did you ask a good question today?" That difference - asking good questions - made me become a scientist.  ~Isidor Isaac Rabi

The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.  ~Isaac Asimov, Isaac Asimov's Book of Science and Nature Quotations, 1988
It was on a short-cut through the hospital kitchens that Albert was first approached by a member of the Antibiotic Resistance.

No, it is my wife’s turn to be first author on your paper.
I'd rather die than allow stem cell research.

Funny you should say that...

I like the new format. But the Power Play option scares me!

We call him mouse model of PI.
We received him from a lab in U.S.

...runs in our family. My father and grand-father are also working as postdocs.

He grew up so much while I was in Cell culture room!

Two months is a long time.