Faculty News

Funding Update:

- Congratulations to the following PIs on successful competitive renewals:
  - Dr. Gettins: 2R01GM54414-19 grant for next 5 years
  - Dr. Hay: 2R01CA090764-11 grant for next 5 years
  - Dr. Raychaudhuri: 5R01CA077637-12 grant for next 4 years

- Dr. Benevolenskaya signed an exclusive License Agreement to provide genomewide data and reagents developed in her lab with Constellation Pharmaceuticals, a leading biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the development of novel therapeutics in the emerging field of epigenetics. Constellation also provided her with a research grant to test some of the compounds that have been developed already.

- Dr. Ackerman received a 3-year American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED) Research Initiative and HOPE Research Grant.

Other News:

- Dr. Colley is appointed as Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the UIC College of Medicine.

- Dr. Colley was featured in Winter 2011 issue of Illinois Medicine (a publication of U of I College of Medicine & Medical Center) for being one of seven women selected from UI College of Medicine since 1995, for the prestigious Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program.

- Dr Kaplan was an invited speaker at the FASEB Summer Conferences "Trace Element Micronutrients: Basic and Applied Research" and "Transport ATPases in Biology and Medicine" in July 2010. He also presented a lecture on the mechanisms of copper transport in human cells at the international meeting on Membrane Biophysics at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysics, Frankfurt, Germany.

- Dr. Lau was an Invited speaker at the FASEB Summer Conference on Thrombospondins, July 2010. Title: Extracellular matrix signaling in inflammation and wound healing. Dr. Lau also delivered Plenary Lecture at the Biennial Meeting of the American Society for Matrix Biology, Oct. 2010. Title: Matricellular proteins in cellular senescence and wound healing.
Dr. Ackerman is presenting a Lecture at the University of Bath, UK on March 16, 2011 as part of David Parkin Visiting Professorship. Title: Eosinophils - Master Regulators of Tissue Microenvironments: Lessons from Basic and Translational Studies, Mentorship, String Theory and Back.

Dr. Gettins retired after more than 17 years of service. He has been granted Emeritus status by the university.

A special liver issue of the International Journal of Biochemistry & Cell Biology (published in November 2010) was dedicated to Dr. Robert Costa and contained many contributions from Dr. Costa’s associates in liver research.

- Please note the 5th Costa Memorial Lecture will take place on May 18, 2011 and will be given by Professor Michelle C. Barton, PhD, Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Co-Director, Center for Stem Cell and Developmental Biology, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center.

For further information on Costa Memorial Lecture please click on the link below:
http://www.uic.edu/com/bcmg/Symposium/RobertCosta.html

General News

BMG Retreat

- Our 3rd Departmental Retreat took place at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva, WI on August 1-2, 2010. This was a new location and time (Summer) compared to previous retreats. Once again, it was a great success and everyone had a great time. A big ‘Thank You’ to Dr. Merrill for organizing it again!
  - The students beat the faculty 5-2 in the soccer match… their first victory!
  - Congratulations to Jackson Hoffman (Merrill lab) for winning the Poster Prize

Dr. Merrill would like to thank all of you who helped him set up the retreat and those who participated in it.

New Employees

- We welcome the following New Employees:
  - Megan Kiefer (Research Specialist – Raychaudhuri Lab)
  - Ganapathi Bhat (Research Assistant Professor – Raychaudhuri Lab)
  - Shaumick Bhattacharjee (Visiting Scholar – Raychaudhuri Lab)
  - Andre Campos (Visiting Research Specialist – Gettins Lab)
Awards

- Dragana Kopanja (Raychaudhuri Lab) won Honorable Mention for COM Research 2010 poster presentations in 'Postdoctoral Fellows and Residents' category, held on November 12, 2010. Total of 180 abstracts were submitted and presented as posters and were judged by 35 faculty volunteers.

- Xiao-Ding Peng (Hay Lab) was awarded a grant from International Cooperative Research & Development Projects at Haidian District, Beijing, China; in partnership with Beijing Cellonis Biotechnologies Co., Ltd, P.R. China.

- Mary Truscott (Frolov Lab) was selected to attend Cold Spring Harbor Workshop on Leadership in Bioscience, in Feb. 2011. It was the first of its kind offered at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories and focused on techniques, situations and challenges that relate specifically to leading and managing in the scientific workplace.

Student News

We welcome the following new students:

- Indra Elangovan
- Akshay Pandey (transferred from UIC Dept. of Bioengineering)
- Maoyu Peng (rejoining the dept. in Tyner Lab)
- Nathan Roberts
- Danielle Rudesill
- Rachel Schmidt
- Brian Shy (MD/PhD student, Merrill Lab)
- Alexandra Vilkova

Awards:

- Krushna Patra (Hay Lab) received a 3 year Predoctoral Fellowship from the US Department of Defense.

- Joseph Zapater (Colley Lab) received Individual Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from NIH. This extremely competitive and prestigious predoctoral fellowship provides full funding for 5-years.

- Congratulations to the following students, who were winners of poster presentations in 'Graduate, MD-PhD, and other combined degree students' category from COM Research 2010, held on November 12, 2010. Total of 180 abstracts were submitted and presented as posters and were judged by 35 faculty volunteers.
  - Gold medal prize: Joseph Zapater (Colley Lab)
  - Honorable Mention: Sherwin Abraham (Gaponenko Lab)
  - Honorable Mention: Bryan Rea (Summer Internship – Ackerman Lab)
Presentations:

- Joseph Zapater (Colley Lab) is accepted to the Glycobiology Gordon Research Conference to be held May 8-13, 2011 in Lucca, Italy.

Other News:

Congratulations to the following Newly Weds!

- Krushna Patra (Hav Lab) got married on 12/14/10.
- Mike Beshiri (Benevolenskaya Lab) got married on 12/18/10.
- Indra Elangovan (Rotation Student) got married on 12/30/10.

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>Fei Yi</td>
<td>Merrill</td>
<td>9/10/10</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow, Salk Institute, San Diego, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Pereira</td>
<td>Merrill</td>
<td>9/24/10</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University, New York, NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deirdre Foley</td>
<td>Colley</td>
<td>10/14/10</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow, UIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Nicolay</td>
<td>Frolov</td>
<td>11/12/10</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherwin Abraham</td>
<td>Gaponenko</td>
<td>1/14/11</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University, Stanford, CA</td>
</tr>
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After a party for getting a PhD degree, one of graduate students says to colleagues: "Henceforth I will go only to funerals and not to graduation parties."
"Why’s that?" ask the others.
"At funerals nobody asks, "Are you the next one?"
One thing I have learned in a long life: that all our science, measured against reality, is primitive and childlike and yet it is Science is simply common sense at its best that is, rigidly accurate in observation, and merciless to fallacy in logic.

*Thomas Henry Huxley (1825-95)*

*English biologist.*

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**Boswell:** But, Sir is it not somewhat singular that you should happen to have Cocker's *Arithmetic* about you on your journey?

**Dr. Johnson:** Why, Sir if you are to have but one book with you upon a journey, let it be a book of science. When you read through a book of entertainment, you know it, and it can do no more for you; but a book of science is inexhaustible.

*James Boswell (1740-95)* Scottish author, biographer of Samuel Johnson.
Basic research is like shooting an arrow into the air and, where it lands, painting a target.
-- Homer Burton Adkins (1892-1949, American organic chemist)

The graduate student's prayer (with apologies)

Our professor, who art in tenure,
Hallowed by thy grant.
Thy method come. They experiment be done,
in lab as it is in textbooks.
Give us this day, our daily enzyme.
And forgive us our contamination,
as we forgive our collaborators.
And lead us not into chemistry,
but deliver us from physics:
For thine is the laboratory, and the method,
and the glory, for ever.
Amen.
Contrary to what Asimov says, the most exciting phrase in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' or 'hmm....That's funny....,' it's 'Your research grant has been approved.'
- John Alejandro King, a.k.a. The Covert Comic

Do you have to take sick leave? We have a grant deadline.