Faculty News

Funding Update:

- Congratulations to the following PIs for receiving new NIH grants:
  - Dr. Ackerman - R01 FD004086-01A3 (Multi PI with UCD) for 4 years
  - Dr. Gaponenko (PI) and Dr. Ackerman (Co-I) – 1R21HL118588-01 for 2 years
  - Dr. Hay successfully renewed R01 AG016927-16 for next 5 years.

Other News:

- Congratulations to Dr. Sojin Shikano on his Academic Promotion.
- Dr. Nissim Hay has been awarded the honorary title of University Distinguished Professor.
- Dr. Ackerman and collaborators from Univ. of Colorado, Denver, have successfully set up and obtained initial funding for a company, EnteroTrack, LLC, to commercialize their patented Esophageal String Test (EST) for the diagnosis and management of patients with Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE), an increasingly diagnosed immune-mediated food-allergic disease of both children and adults.
- Dr. Chakraborty coauthored a book "Bugging Cancer: Daring to dream" by Ananda Chakraborty and the Chicago Onco-group (available through Amazon), published in February, 2014.
- Dr. Nakamura was an invited session co-chair at the following meetings:
  - Telomeres and Telomerase Cold Spring Harbor Meeting, May 2013
  - EMBO Conference 7th International Fission Yeast Meeting, June 2013
- Dr. Simonovic was an invited speaker at:
  - Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, UIC, March 21, 2013
  - Department of Biochemistry and Medicinal Biochemistry, UIUC, April 4-6, 2013
  - The 9th International Symposium on Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases, Hakone, Japan, Oct. 6-11, 2013
Dr. Lau was invited to the following:

- Invited speaker and session chair: at the 7th international CCN workshop, Nice, Oct 16-19, 2013

Dr. Hay was invited to the following:

- Keynote speaker: Symposium on Nutrition and Cancer Prevention, University of Nebraska, Omaha, April 2013
- Invited Speaker: Banbury meeting on Biguanides and Neoplasis, Banbury, Cold Spring Harbor, Oct. 6-9, 2013

Dr. Chakraborty presented a paper on "Breast cancer and patent issues" in International Conference on Health, Environment and Industrial Biotechnology called BIOSANGAM 2013 in Allahabad, India, November 20-23, 2013

The following faculty was awarded COM-UHP Director’s Award for excellence in teaching, leadership and service & commitment to student success:

- Dr. Michael Caffrey
- Dr. Krishna Chakrabarty
- Dr. Tom Henderson
- Dr. Yee-Kin Ho
- Dr. Jim Vary

The 8th Costa Memorial Lecture took place on October 30, 2013 and was presented by Dr. Scott Friedman from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Faculty in the news:**

Dr. Hay (8/1/13)
http://news.uic.edu/blocking-key-enzyme-in-cancer-cells-could-lead-to-new-therapy

Dr. Caffrey (10/23/13)

Dr. Frolov (11/25/13)
https://news.uic.edu/dysfunctional-mitochondria-may-underlie-resistance-to-radiation-therapy

Dr. Friedenson (12/3/13)
https://news.uic.edu/mutations-of-immune-system-found-in-breast-cancer

Dr. Ackerman (1/2014)
General News

- Dr. Klavs Dolmer (Gettins Lab) – received a 2 year research grant from Alpha-1 Foundation to study the polymerization mechanism of the Z-variant of Alpha-1 PI. Congratulations!

BMG Retreat:


A big ‘Thank You’ to Dr. Simonovic for organizing it again! Like past retreats, everyone had a good time. Total 62 members of the department attended and 10 seminars & 30 posters were presented. Posters were presented in two sessions, and all attending faculty and postdocs participated in poster judging.

Congratulations to the following poster winners:

- 1st place - Aleksandar Antanasijevic (Caffrey Lab)
- 2nd place - Ben Hitchinson (Gaponenko Lab)
- 3rd place - Joan Kim (Segev Lab)
- Honorable mentions: Gaurang Bhide (Colley Lab) and Jacob Choi (Lau Lab)

Once again, students won the soccer match 11:4. At half time, the score was 7:1, the Faculty threatened half way in the second half 7:4, but students closed the game in style!

Dr. Simonovic would like to thank everyone that helped set up the retreat and those who participated.

New Employees:

- We welcome the following new employees:
  - Damiano Fantini - Postdoctoral Research Associate (Raychadhuri Lab)
  - Mathew Francis - Visiting Research Associate (Lavie Lab)
  - Nguyễn Hiền Anh - Postdoctoral Research Associate (Lavie Lab)
  - Uddalak Majumdar - Postdoctoral Research Associate (Segev Lab)
  - Arya Sobhakumari - Postdoctoral Research Associate (Hay Lab)
  - Jana Ognjenovic - Postdoctoral Research Associate (Simonovic Lab)

University of Bath, UK, Department of Biology and Biochemistry Program Placement Students:

Our department has been participating in this work-study program for ~13 years. For 2013-14, the following student has joined our department:

- Alice Hoyle (Nakamura Lab)
Student News

We welcome the following new students:

- Rachael Farhat
- Georgina Mancinelli
- Anu Puppala
- Jenny Zhang

Awards:

- Aleksandar Antanasijevic (Caffrey lab) was selected by the Chicago Biomedical Consortium (CBC) to be a member of the CBC Scholars
- Priya Mathur (Tyner Lab) won 1st place for graduate students in life sciences for poster presentation at the UIC Student Research Forum held on April 16, 2013
- Akshay Pandey (Raychaudhuri Lab) won third-place in Graduate College’s sixth annual “Image of Research” competition for “Crystals: Clarity in Refraction.” This year, 77 images were entered from graduate researchers in 35 departments throughout the campus.

Presentations:

- Rachel French (Simonovich Lab) presented a poster at The 10th International Symposium of Selenium Biology and Medicine 2013 (Berlin, Germany, Sept. 14-18, 2013)
- The results from Rachel French and Malgorzata Dobosz-Bartoszek (both – Simonovic Lab) were presented at the 18th Annual Meeting of RNA Society, Davos, Switzerland, June 11-16, 2013
- Ya-Ting (Nakamura Lab) presented a poster at the 7th International Fission Yeast Meeting in London, UK, June 2012

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>Current position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Zapater</td>
<td>Colley</td>
<td>May 30, 2013</td>
<td>3rd year medical student at UIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristin Ivy</td>
<td>Kaplan</td>
<td>June 28, 2013</td>
<td>Medical Science Liaison Actelion Pharmaceuticals US, Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wan-Ni Yu</td>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>Oct. 31, 2013</td>
<td>Postdoc - UIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumeyye Yar</td>
<td>Solero</td>
<td>Nov. 1, 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maoyu Peng</td>
<td>Tyner</td>
<td>Nov. 25, 2013</td>
<td></td>
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News about past graduates & postdocs:

Postdocs:
- Dr. Huijun Yu (Kaplan Lab) recently secured a position of Assistant Professor at Soochow University, China.

Graduates:
- Yu Zheng (2012, Tyner Lab) HHMI research fellow in Dr. Daniel Haber's lab at Harvard University.
- YoungShim Lee (2012, Gaponenko lab) is helping her husband to set up a lab at Konkuk University (S Korea) where he is a newly appointed Assistant Professor.
- Jessica Celigoy (2011, Caffrey Lab): After finishing her PHD thesis, Jessica has worked for two local biotech firms as a scientist at Active BioMaterials and HumanZyme.
- Fei Yi (2010, Merrill Lab) was recently a contributing author on manuscripts published in Nature and Cell Stem Cell. This was for work when Fei was a postdoc in Dr. Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte's lab at The Salk Institute. Fei recently moved to Stanford as a postdoc in Dr. Tom Sudhof's lab. Dr. Sudhof was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 2013.
- Saugata Hazra (2010, Lavie Lab) has been offered a position of assistant professor at one of eminent institutes of India, Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee.
- Sherwin Abraham (2010, Gaponenko lab) went to Stanford University for his postdoc. Brian Kobilka (Nobel laureate) and Merritt Maduke were his mentors. In 2013 Sherwin got a Research Scientist position at Cirrus Pharmaceuticals.
- Jayita Sen (2007, Caffrey Lab): After a postdoc period, Jayita became the Project Manager /Clinical Research Coordinator at Newton Wellesley Hospital/Partners HealthCare.

Confused about your career path?
Check out:
http://myidp.sciencecareers.org
Congratulations to the following newly weds!!!!

- Rachel Schmidt (Simonovic Lab) married Zachary French on June 1, 2013

Congratulations to the following proud parents!!!!

- Brian Shy (Merrill Lab) and his wife Kimberly welcomed their baby girl, Penelope (Penny) Ann on April 24, 2013
YOUR THESIS COMMITTEE

Also known as an impossibly difficult group to get together in one room but also nevertheless hold your future in their hands depending on their ability to reach a civilized consensus.

Your Professor
Simultaneously your biggest ally and your worst enemy. Will be the first to suggest you do more work.

The Guru
Only here for the free cookies. Don't forget to bring cookies.

The Adversary
Has bitter rivalry with your Professor and will argue the exact opposite view. Work this to your advantage.

The Strawman/woman
Nice guy. No opinions.

The Assistant Professor
Still doesn't believe just a few months ago they were on the other side just like you. Pretends to be an adult.

NONE OF THEM WILL ACTUALLY READ YOUR ENTIRE THESIS.

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WHERE YOU SIT IN CLASS/SEMINAR
And what it says about you:

Mid-Center: "Bring it on."

Nearest Exit: Uncommitted

Back Row: "Too cool for school"

Front Row: Teacher's pet wannabes

Second-row sleepers: Good intentions, bad narcolepsy

Against the wall: "I'm sensitive. Please ignore me."

Proximity to Lecturer:

X = How much you care

How sleepy you are

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**Average time spent composign one e-mail**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professors: 1.3 seconds</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes. (Send)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do it. (Send)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See attached. (Send)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. (Send)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grad Students: 1.3 days**

**Dear (P) Prof. Smith,**

I was wondering if perhaps you might have possibly gotten the chance to potentially find the time to maybe look at the draft paper that I am attached in just in case. I am aware you might not have any get to what ever, so don't hesitate to say no.

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- Reduce your On-lab Footprint.

This Paper made from 30% post-published material

- Switch to Alternative Fuel Sources.
- Eat local.

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DID YOU GET MY E-MAIL?
WHAT E-MAIL?
THE ONE I SENT LAST WEEK.
LET ME CHECK MY JUNK FOLDER.

Ah, here it is...
Along with all your emails from the last six months.

MY EMAILS ARE AUTOMATICALLY GOING INTO YOUR JUNK FOLDER?
YOU CAN DO IT AUTOMATICALLY?

BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO BECOMING A PHD STUDENT, YOU MUST LEARN ABOUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN A PHD STUDENT'S LIFE:
IT SURROUNDS US; IT BINDS US TO ALL THINGS; IT FLOWS THROUGH US. IT GIVES US LIFE...

Y-YOU MEAN THE F-F?
THAT'S RIGHT.
FREE FOOD. THERE! CAN YOU SMELL IT?

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