

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

NOTES

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Annual Retreat

The **Departmental Retreat** date is set for **Friday, September 28**. Be on the look out for more details about this event.

Congratulations

Gayathri Rajan, Research Technician in Dr. Edenberg's lab and her husband welcomed a baby girl on June 17th. The little one weighed just 3 lbs 7 oz, and everyone is doing fine.



Fubo Liang and his wife **Jiao** (formerly of Biochemistry) welcomed an 8 lb 6 oz baby boy named **Tony** on July 10th. Congratulations!

Welcome New Faculty Member



Hua Lu, Ph.D.
Professor

Dr. Lu joins the department from Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, OR. He has been named the first Daniel and Lori Efroymson Professor of Oncology at Indiana University School of Medicine.
Office location: MS 1021D
Office phone: 278-0920
Lab location: MS 1017
Lab phone: 278-0892

Awards

Cheers to **Millie Georgiadis** for receiving the 2007 Trustee Teaching Award.

Congrats to **Mark Goebel** for receiving a Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) Faculty award.

Congratulations to **Jeanette McClintick** for receiving the 2006 Pao-Lo Yu Award. This award is given to the highest academically-ranked Ph.D. student graduating from the Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics.

David Wilkes has been awarded the 2007 Association of Professors of Medicine Diversity Award. This award recognizes individual meritorious achievement in improving diversity at a medical school.

Kudos to graduate students, **Lan Huang, Christopher Lux, Rajarajeswari Muthukrishnan, Katherine Pawelczak, Monique Pierre** and **Sarah Shuck** for receiving the IUSM Travel award to be applied toward conference travel.

Fall 2006 students have joined lab groups!

- Souvik Dey joined Ron Wek's lab
- Lacey Dobrolecki joined Linda Malkas' lab
- Jonathan Howard joined Jeremy Sanford's lab
- Sowmya Jairam joined Howard Edenberg's lab
- Sara McNeil joined Samy Meroueh's lab
- Lakshmi Reddy Palam joined Ron Wek's Lab
- Patricia Pick-Franke joined Clark Wells' lab

Grants and Fellowships

Kudos to **Maureen Harrington** who received an RSFG for her project titled “Development of Therapeutics for the Treatment of Sepsis”. She also received a BRG pilot award for “Identification of SIMPL dependent genes”.

Robert Harris received a Showalter Professorship for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. He also received a research award from the Ajinomoto Company for the project “Exploratory study on the metabolic and neurological defects induced by chronically reduced BCAA levels”. Congrats!

Samy Meroueh has received a Biomedical Research Grant for his project titled, “Inhibition of the Staphylococcus aureus Sortase A Transpeptidase as a Strategy for the Development of Antimicrobial Agents”. Well done!

Congratulations to **Paresh Sanghani** for receiving an NIH R21 grant for his project, “Inhibition of S-nitrosogluathione reductase for the treatment of asthma”. Bravo!

Congrats to **Yuichiro Takagi** for receiving an American Heart Association national grant for his project, “Mechanism of Transcription Activation by the Head Module of Mediator Complex”. He also received a Showalter Trust Award titled, “Mediator Complex for Transcription Regulation”. Kudos!

Cheers to **Debbie Thurmond** for receiving an RSFG titled, “Regulation of Sustained Insulin Release via a Novel Cdc42 Signaling Pathway”.

Clark Wells recently received several awards: a Dept. of Defense grant for “The Impact of Estrogen Induced Expression of Rich1 on Breast Tumor Malignancy”; a Biomedical Research Grant for his project, “Transcriptional and post-transcriptional control of the Cdc42 RhoGAP Rich 1 in Breast Tumor Cells”; a Showalter Research Award for “Identifying the Molecular Mechanisms by which Nephrin and CD2AP Regulate Kidney Filtration”; and an RSFG award for “The Impact of Estrogen Induced Expression of Rich1 on Breast Tumor Malignancy”. Well done!

Howard Edenberg received a MERIT award on his NIAAA R01 grant “Structure and Expression of Mammal ALC Dehydrogenase Genes”. Congratulations!

Mu Wang was awarded a grant from the Ataxia Telangiectasia Children’s Project for his project, “Quantitative Proteomic Analysis of Fibroblasts from Ataxia-telangiectasia Patients Using LC/MS-based Label-free Method”. Cheers!

Ron Wek received a competing renewal for his NIH R01 project “Metabolic stress responses an eIF2 kinase GCN2”. Kudos!

Yong Luo, a post-doc in Dr. Zhang’s lab, received a Lungs for Life postdoctoral fellowship from the IU Cancer Center. Lungs for Life is a nonprofit organization created in March 2004 with the goal of reducing the burden of lung cancer by providing knowledge and support through education, prevention and research.

Grad student **Elisabeth Lasater** received an American Heart Association pre-doc fellowship for her project “Dissecting Neurofibromatosis Type 1 Related Vacuolopathy”. Cheers!

Biochemistry Annual Family Picnic



Friday, September 21st

Eagle Crest Group Picnic Area

(Directions are available in the Biochem Office)

Bring your family and a dessert to share and join us ~ rain or shine ~ for an afternoon of food, family, and fun!

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Schedule of Events

1:00 Lunch ~ BBQ Catered by Smokey Bones
Please bring a dessert or other covered dish to share!

3:30 Annual Faculty vs. Students Softball Game

New People in Biochemistry



Pete Baenziger
Lab Assistant
Dunker Lab



Brandon Downing
Lab Assistant
Wek Lab



ZhongXing Jiang
Post-Doc
Zhang Lab



Jesse Bright
Lab Assistant
Dunker Lab



Dyann Segvich
Research Technician
DePaoli-Roach Lab



Christopher Smitson
Lab Assistant
Hudmon Lab

Not Pictured

Mushui Dai
Asst. Research Professor
Lu Lab

Kelley Krizek
Lab Assistant
Sanford Lab

Kevin Plummer
Lab Assistant
Georgiades Lab

Jennifer Brown
Lab Assistant
Dunker Lab

Shide Liang
Post-Doc
Dunker Lab

Yan Xiong
Post-Doc
Lu Lab

Hong Fang
Research Technician
Edenberg Lab

Jingwei Meng
Post-Doc
Dunker Lab

In Memoriam

Dr. Frank Gurd, former Distinguished Professor of the Biochemistry Department in Indianapolis and of the Chemistry Department in Bloomington, recently passed away. He had long been retired and lived in Albuquerque, NM for quite awhile.

Correction

Rachel Mullen is a member of Simon Rhodes' lab rather than Reuben Kapur's lab.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to **Oun Kheav** of the DNA Sequencing Facility on the recent loss of his father.

Publications

Brown, D.P.G.; Gokmen-Polar, Y.; **Jiang, L.**; Tan, J.; **Ringham, H.**; Janecki, D. J.; Qi, G.; **Witzmann, F. A.**; Sledge, G. W. Jr.; **Wang, M.** (2007) A comparative proteomic study to characterize the vinblastine resistance in human ovarian cancer cells. *Proteomics – Clinical Applications*. 1, 18-31.