

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

NOTES

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Welcome 2 New Faculty Members!



Charlie Dong, Ph.D.



Hyun-Suk Lim, Ph.D.

Charlie (Xiaocheng) Dong and Hyun-Suk Lim joined the Department in October 2008.

Charlie's area of study is in diabetes, specifically gene regulation by hormones and nutrients in metabolic and energy homeostasis, as well as transcriptomic and proteomic dissection of metabolic syndrome. He received his Ph.D. in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology in 2002 from Ohio State University. He was appointed as a Postdoctoral Fellow from 2003-2008 at Harvard Medical School in the Joslin Diabetes Center. Charlie's office is in MS 1021D and his lab is in MS 1017A. He can be reached at 278-1097 or xcdong@iupui.edu

Hyun-Suk received his Ph.D. in 2004 from POSTECH in Pohang, Korea. His postdoctoral studies were carried out from 2005-2008 at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical center in Dallas. Hyun-Suk's area of study is in chemical biology and drug discovery as well as identification of small molecules that modulate cellular signaling pathways with an emphasis on protein-protein interactions for use as biological probes and therapeutic agents. He is located in a newly-renovated section of the MS basement with an office in Room 0013D and a lab in Room 0017. The office phone is 274-2458 and the lab phone is 274-2428. His email is limhyun@iupui.edu.

Please join us in welcoming them to our Department!

Open House to honor Retiring Faculty Bill Bosron and Bob Harris

Two outstanding Biochem faculty, **Bill Bosron and Bob Harris**, plan to begin their retirement on January 1, 2009. Bob was Department chair from 1988 until 2004 when he stepped down to focus on his research. Bill served as Interim Dean of the School of Science from June 2005 - April 2008.

In honor of their achievements (too numerous to mention here), the Department plans to have an **Open House** for them together on **Tuesday, December 16 from 4 – 6 p.m. on the first floor of the MS Atrium**. Everyone is welcome. Please join us in congratulating them on many years of service to the School, Department, and University, and to wish them well in their new endeavors.

Holiday Party

Join us at this year's departmental Holiday Party on **Friday, Dec. 12 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the MS atrium!**

Students Rallied for a Win at the 2008

Biochem Family Picnic

Eagle Creek Park Group Picnic Area in northwest Indianapolis was the site of the 2008 Biochem Family Picnic on Friday, Sept, 5, 2008. Cheers to Clark Wells and Andy Hudmon for their help in coordinating this year's event. The crowd of 75 people dined on Smokey Bones Barbeque with a variety of pitch-in side dishes including luscious desserts. In spite of a cool, overcast day, lots of folks gathered for volleyball and Frisbee. Last year's faculty win at the faculty vs. student softball game was not repeated as the students sailed forth with a big win. No broken bones or hospital visits, so all was good! The faculty vowed to regroup for a win next year.

Sigma Xi Graduate Research Competition Award Winners

The annual Sigma Xi Grad Research Competition was held in May 2008 and yielded awards for several Biochem students. In the 2005-07 grad student group, 1st Place went to **Rachel Mullen** of Simon Rhodes' lab and Second Place went to **Vinnie Tagliabracci**. **Jenna Jewell** of Debbie Thurmond's lab received Honorable Mention in that grouping. **Ross Cocklin** of Mark Goebel's lab **won the First Place David M. Gibson Award** in the 2003 Graduate Student Group. Hats off to the students and their mentors for the excellent efforts represented here!

Most Cited Articles in Biochemistry!

Keith Dunker and Bob Harris are included in a list of the most-cited articles from a highly-cited leader in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Visit pubs.acs.org/biochemistry for more information.

Fellowship Award Winner

Grad student **Jenna Jewell** of Debbie Thurmond's lab won a Midwest AHA pre-doc fellowship that started July 1, 2008 for 2 years.

Wedding bells



Las Vegas was the wedding destination of grad students **Vinnie Tagliabracci** (Peter Roach's lab) and **Jenna Jewell** (Debbie Thurmond's lab) on August 8, 2008 (that's 8-8-08!). Family and friends joined them for the nuptials. Congratulations to the happy couple!

In Sympathy

The Department expresses its deepest condolences to **Wil Davis** on the loss of her mother at 99 years old, and to **Sheila Reynolds** on the loss of her nephew, Devon Stone, who was 15.

New Baby



Kristie Goodwin (post-doc in Millie Georgiadis' lab) and her husband, Jeff, made a family of 3 with the birth of their first child, son Todd.

Campus Holidays and Events

Sun. 11/2: **Daylight Savings Time ends** (turn clocks back 1 hour)

Tues. 11/4: **VOTE!**

Thurs. 11/27: **Thanksgiving**

Fri. 11/28: **Day after Thanksgiving**

Fri. 11/12, 12 noon-2 p.m.

BIOM Holiday Party

Tues. 12/16, 4-6: **Open House for Bill Bosron and Bob Harris**

Thurs. 12/25: **Christmas Day**

Thurs. 1/1/09: **New Year's Day**

Biology Faculty Position Opening at Franklin College

Franklin College invites applications for a tenure-track position in biology at the assistant professor level beginning August 2009. The successful candidate will hold a Ph.D. in genetics or a related field with a focus in genetics. Use this link and click on Faculty Positions to get to the page with all of the job postings:

<http://franklincollege.edu/commo n/resources/Employment.cfm>

2008 Biochem Retreat a Success

On Thursday, October 2 in the Med Science atrium, over 60 posters and 150 attendees helped to make the 2008 Biochem Retreat a resounding success! The event kicked off with boxed lunches for all presenters and attendees. At 12:30 we gathered outside the MS Building for an annual departmental photo amidst cool winds on the sunny, early autumn day. The poster session ran from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. with excellent entries from students and post-docs (both of which were eligible for awards), as well as posters from faculty and staff. Lots of new research and hot-off-the-press information was presented.

Everyone enjoyed the improved poster layout where double-sided easels ran down the center of the atrium rather than angling them from the side walls. The poster judges, Tracy Anthony of IU-Evansville, Ken White and David Gilley of Med Genetics, Bart Pederson of IU-Muncie, plus Suk-Hee Lee and Andy Hudmon of Biochemistry) did an outstanding job of whittling down the field of entrants to select the following **poster award winners**:

- **Courtney Tate** of Dave Skalnik's lab
- **Elisabeth Lasater** of Dave Ingram's lab
- **Kirk Staschke** of Ron Wek's lab
- **Vinnie Tagliabracci** of Peter Roach's lab

Each of the winners received a \$100 prize along with a framed certificate. The judges also awarded 2 honorable mention poster awards to grad students Rachel Mullen (Simon Rhodes' lab) and Brandy Akin (Larry Jones' lab). Many thanks to the judges for their hard work and help with this important event.

The Retreat also provided an opportunity to present the **Peggy Gibson Award for Best Student Paper** in 2007-08; that award went to **Jingliang Yan** of Lawrence Quilliam's lab. The **Jack Davis Award for Best Student Seminar** went to **Sulochanadevi Baskaran** of Tom Hurley's lab. Heather Benson, the 07-08 grad student rep, presented the **Robert A. Harris Outstanding Mentor Award to Lawrence Quilliam**. Hats off to all of these award winners!

Dr. Zhang capped the awards presentation with a brief overview of upcoming departmental events.

Kudos to everyone who presented posters and congrats to the award winners. Many thanks to **Tom Hurley and Ron Wek** for organizing this year's Retreat, and to the grad students and office staff for their help in setting up this event.



New People in Biochemistry



Allison Bowers
Research Tech
Harrington's lab



Jie Xu
Vis. Research Associate
Zhang lab



Melissa Pearcy
Financial Affairs Assistant
Biochemistry Office



Bakul Dhagat
Post-doc
Lu lab



Junho Lee
Post-doc
Lu lab



Lina Wang
Vis. Research Associate
Zhang lab



Yu Zhang
Post-doc
Lu Lab



Susan Steele-Moore
Grant Research Coord.
Bioinformatics



Francesco Cardelli
Research Tech
Takagi lab



Jamie Schroeder
Admin. Account Coord.
Biochem Office



Heather Sahn
Research Technician
Wang Lab



Pengfei Wu
Vis. Research Associate
Harris lab

Grants and Fellowships

Cheers to **Tom Hurley** as co-PI on a new NIAAA subcontract award, “Alcohol Metabolism, Primate Evolution and Paleogenetics. An Inclusive Paradigm”.

The following Biochemistry faculty received a **Showalter Trust Awards**:

- **Samy Meroueh** for his project, “Computer-Guided Design of Small Molecules that Block Tumor Invasion and Metastasis”
- **Andy Hudmon** for his project, “Calcium-Dependent Regulation of Cardiac Voltage-Gated Sodium Channels: Mechanisms underlying Abnormal Conduction in Heart Failure”
- **Paresh Sanghani** for his project, “Pharmacological and Cellular Effects of S-nitroglutathione Reductase Inhibition”

Bravo to all!

Bob Harris received a Showalter Professor Award for his project, “Role of PDK4 in Hepatic Steatosis and Insulin Sensitivity”. Congratulations!

Hua Lu was awarded an R01 grant for his project, “Role of Ribosomal Proteins in Regulating c-Myc”. Cheers!

Congrats to **Mark Goebel** as co-PI on an R21 award for the project “New cellular Effectors of Human Papillomavirus E7 activity. He was also given a grant from Xylanco for work titled, Genetic Engineering of Wild-Type *X cerevisiae* to Improve Ethanol Production by Co-Fermentation of D-glucose and D-xylose. Kudos!

My Wang received a grant from the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation for his project, “Biomarker Discovery and Validation in Multiple Myeloma Cells Using Multiple Proteomic Platforms”. Congratulations!

IUSOM Core Pilot Awards were made to these investigators:

- **Tom Hurley**, for “Regulators of Glycogen Synthase”. Cheers!
- **Qi-Zhuang Ye**, for Discovery of Inhibitors of RNA Methyltransferases by High Throughput Screening”. Kudos!
- **Yuro Takagi**, for “Role of Mediator in Hydroxyl Urea (HU) induced gene regulation by micro-array analysis”. Well done!
- **Debbie Thurmond**, for “Generation of an inducible tissue specific Munc18c knockout mouse model”. Bravo!

Cheers to **Maureen Harrington** who received a BRG award for her project titled “Are the effects of SIMPL on hematopoiesis seen in vitro translated in vivo?”

Yuro Takagi also received a PDP award for his project, “Intrinsic Disorders in the Multi Protein Complex, Mediator of Transcription Regulation”. Congrats!