

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology NOTES

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Barth Ragatz retires after quarter century at IUSM- Fort Wayne

On April 18, 2006 **Barth Ragatz**, PhD, retired from the IU School of Medicine after serving as assistant dean and director of the IUSM-Fort Wayne for nearly 26 years. Dr. Ragatz received his PhD from IUSM in 1971 and is a professor of biochemistry, molecular biology, pathology, and laboratory medicine. He moved to Fort Wayne in 1980 after serving as the assistant director at the Northwest Center for Medical Education. Dr. Ragatz later became the director of the Fort Wayne Center for Medical Education, now IUSM- Fort Wayne.

Dr. Ragatz was most recently successful in lobbying the Indiana state legislature for a \$12 million new building to double the research capacity for the center on the IPFW campus. Due to his efforts, they will break ground in early 2007.

Joel Vilensky, PhD, will serve as the interim director of the Fort Wayne center.



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Paresh Sanghani** for receiving a contract with Luitpold Pharmaceuticals with the title of “Metabolic Studies of the Anit-Cancer Drug, DHA-Paclitaxel”

Congratulations to **Reuben Kapur** on the receipt of his new NIH award for the project, Novel Mechanisms of C-Kit Regulation ins Mast Cells”

Cudos go to **Frank Witzmann** for the Air Force award for his project, “Mechanisms of JP-8 Fuel Toxicity in Dermal and Pulmonary Epithelia: Proteomic Analysis”

Congrats to **Merv Yoder** for his new research project through the University of California, Davis, “Project 1 – Role of Endothelial Progenitors in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Expansion”.



Indiana Bioinformatics Conference

Indiana University and Purdue University will be hosting the **Third Indiana Bioinformatics Conference on May 19th and 20th**. The previous events have been overwhelming successes. This conference will be at the Medical Sciences Building on the IUPUI campus with talks in room 326. The conference will feature two invited speakers and a keynote speaker, the later being held Friday evening at the Radisson Hotel. Cost for the day sessions is free, thanks to generous sponsorship, and the Friday evening session will be \$35 per person (includes dinner).

The registration deadline is **May 5th** and is limited to 150. There will be a poster session as well, abstract submission is also due May 5th. A subset (likely five) of the abstracts will be selected for short talks in the Friday morning session.

The website for the event is: <http://evolution.compbio.iupui.edu/BioInfoConf/> **NOTE: If you have registered and never received a confirmation email please revisit the site and register again.**

New People in Biochemistry



Wendy Stiver, Research Tech
(Joyce Hurley's lab)

May Seminars

Biochemistry

5/1 Dr. James Clemens, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. **"Dscam molecular diversity: 38,000 isoforms give neurons a sense of self"** at 4:00 p.m. in MS 326.

5/8 Dr. Tao Pan, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. **"Functional genomics of tRNA"** at 4:00 p.m. in MS 326.

5/10 Luke Dannenberg, Graduate Student, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN. **"Transcriptional regulation of the human class I alcohol dehydrogenase genes"** at 1:30 p.m. in MS 326.

5/15 Dr. Phillip A. Cole, Professor and Director, Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. **"Chemical Approaches to Sorting Out Signaling"** at 4:00 p.m. in MS 326.

5/22 Dr. Fred M. Pavalko, Professor, Cellular and Integrative Physiology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN. **"Cellular Mechanisms of Mechanotransduction"** at 4:00 p.m. in MS 326.

5/25 Angela K. Nevins, Graduate Student, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN. **"The role of Cdc42 and actin in glucose-stimulated insulin secretion from pancreatic beta cells"** at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2006 in MS 326.

Center for Diabetes Research

5/9 Dr. Kyle Sloop, Principal Research Scientist, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN. **"Endocrine Discovery: Future Diabetes Therapies"** at 4:00 p.m. in MF 122A (Daly Center)

5/23 Dr. Robert A. Harris, Distinguished Professor, Showalter Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN. **"The Glucose BCAA Cycle"** at 4:00 p.m. in MF 122A (Daly Center)

Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics

5/4 Dr. Claudio N. Cavasotto, Senior Research Scientist, Molsoft LLC, La Jolla, CA. Candidate for Faculty Position in Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics. **"Computer-based methods in structural biology and drug discovery"** at 2:00 p.m. in MS 326

5/5 James Choy, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry, University of Western Ontario, London. **"Structural characterization and dynamical studies of unfolded proteins"** at 3:30 p.m. in MS 326

5/12 Dr. Alan Friedman, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University Lilly Hall, West Lafayette. **"TBA"** at 3:30 p.m. in MS 326

5/26 Dr. Craig Stewart, Director, Indiana Genomics Initiative University Information Technology Services Indiana University **"TBA"** at 3:30 p.m. in MS 326

Islet Biology Journal Club
Daly Center 122A
4-5:00 p.m.

Dr. Zhanxiang Wang	5/18
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Mother's Day