

Molecular Genetics & Microbiology Graduate Program Newsletter

Spring, 2012 Vol. 5, No. 1



✦ Publications

Chen, H.M., **Rosebrock, A.P.**, Khan, S.R., Futcher, B., and Leatherwood, J.K. 2012. Repression of meiotic genes by antisense transcription and by Fkh2 transcription factor in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*. *PLoS One* 7(1): e29917.

Cheng, J.Z., **Santana, A.**, Khan, S., Salinas, E., Forrest, J.C., Zheng, Y., Jaggi, S., Leatherwood, J., and Krug, L.T. 2012. Tiled Microarray Identification of Novel Viral Transcript Structures and Distinct Transcriptional Profiles During Two Modes of Productive Murine Gammaherpesvirus 68 Infection. *Journal of Virology* 86: 4340-4357.

Klein, K.A., Fukuto, H.S., Pelletier, M., Romanov, G., **Grabenstein, J.P.**, Palmer, L.E., Ernst, R., and Bliska, J.B. 2012. A transposon site hybridization screen identifies galU and wecBC as important for survival of *Yersinia pestis* in murine macrophages. *Journal of Bacteriology* 194(3): 653-662.

Toledo, A., Coleman, J.L., Kuhlow, C.J., **Crowley, J.T.**, and Benach, J.L. 2012. The enolase of *Borrelia burgdorferi* is a plasminogen receptor released in outer membrane vesicles. *Infection and Immunity* 80(1): 359-368.

✦ Comings and Goings

Congratulations to Ying Zheng on the receipt of her PhD degree in December 2011. Ying, a former student in Jim Bliska's laboratory, is a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Hui Hu at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, PA.

DeAnna Bublitz presented her dissertation seminar, "The Inhibitory Effect of *Francisella tularensis* on Endothelial Cells" on April 2, 2012. DeAnna will perform her postdoctoral research on *Rickettsia rickettsii* virulence factors in the laboratory of Dr. Ted Hackstadt at the NIH Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, MT.

The following students have accepted offers of admission and will join our program Fall 2012:

Anand Bhagwat (SBU MSTP student) has joined Dr. Christopher Vakoc's laboratory at CSHL.

Rebecca Bridges; B.S., Microbiology/Molecular Biology, Portland State University

Mel Pilar Espailat; M.S., Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Stony Brook University

Justin Gardin; M.S., Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Stony Brook University is a current student in Bruce Futcher's laboratory

Erik Kopping; B.S., Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Connecticut/Storrs

Tomoki Nomakuchi (SBU MSTP student) has joined Adrian Krainer's laboratory at CSHL

Hiren Patel (SBU MSTP student) has joined Jessica Seeliger's laboratory

Glenn Werneburg (SBU MSTP student) has joined David Thanassi's laboratory

✦ Rotation Laboratories for Current First-Year Students

Lawton Chung: David Thanassi, Jessica Seeliger, Jamie Konopka

Barbara Fallon: Sumita Bhaduri-McIntosh, Adrianus van der Velden, Peter Tonge

Eve Klajbor: Jorge Benach, Laurie Krug, Richard Kew

Benjamin Macaluso: Jessica Seeliger, Jim Bliska, Adrianus van der Velden

✦ Graduate Student-Hosted Seminar Speaker

On Monday April 23, 2012 graduate students in the Molecular Genetics & Microbiology Program will host seminar speaker Dr. Jeffrey Miller from the University of California Los Angeles. Dr. Miller will speak on the topic "Diversity-Generating Retroelements in Phage, Pathogens and the Human Microbiome" at 12:00 noon in Life Sciences room 038. Please contact Kai Wu or Peter Chahales if you would like to meet with Dr. Miller.

✦ Targeted Therapies in Cancer Symposium

The Cancer Center and Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology will be co-sponsoring a symposium, "Targeted Therapies in Cancer", on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 in the Wang Center. The speakers will include Frederick de Sauvage, Ph.D. (Genetech), Anthony John Iafrate, M.D., Ph.D. (Massachusetts General Hospital), Catriona Jamieson, M.D., Ph.D. (University of California, San Diego), Patrick Ma, M.D., M.Sc. (Cleveland Clinic), Frank McCormick, Ph.D. (University of California, San Francisco), and Harald Sontheimer, Ph.D. (University of Alabama, Birmingham).

✦ New Course Offering

The Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology will be offering a new course, beginning fall 2012. Advanced Readings in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology (HBM 695) will be offered in both the fall and spring semesters and will allow interested students in the biomedical graduate programs who have passed their qualifying exam to explore topics in MGM in a journal club-style setting. The area to be covered in fall 2012 is virology; subsequent semesters will explore the areas of bacteriology, mycology/parasitology, and cancer on a rotating basis. Any questions regarding the course may be addressed to Janet Hearing.

✦ Congratulations

Jim Bliska has been elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology in recognition of his scientific achievement and contributions to the field. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Eckard Wimmer for receiving a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from U.S. congressman Tim Bishop. This Certificate recognizes Eckard's outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

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✦ New Training Faculty Members

The Graduate Program in Molecular Genetics & Microbiology is happy to welcome five new training faculty members:

Dr. Maurizio Del Poeta, M.D. Dr. Del Poeta will join Stony Brook University as a Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology in June 2012. Dr. Del Poeta's laboratory is studying the role of sphingolipids in signaling pathways and pathogenesis in *Cryptococcus neoformans*. His laboratory will be located on the first floor of the Life Science Building across the hall from the Krug Laboratory.

<http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/biochemistry/faculty/delpoeta.htm>

Dr. Yusuf Hannun, M.D. Dr. Hannun recently joined Stony Brook University as Professor of Medicine and Director of the Stony Brook University Cancer Center. Dr. Hannun's research focuses on lipid mediators of cancer cell signaling. <http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/happenings/?p=5142>

Dr. Adrian Krainer, Ph.D. Dr. Krainer is a Professor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. His research interests are the posttranscriptional control of gene expression by alternative splicing of pre-mRNA and the spliceosome assembly factor SRSF-1, recently shown by his laboratory to be an oncoprotein.

<http://www.cshl.edu/Faculty/krainer-adrian-r.html>

Dr. Lina Obeid, M.D. Dr. Obeid is a Professor of Medicine and Dean for Research in the Stony Brook University School of Medicine. Dr. Obeid's research group is investigating the role and regulation of sphingolipids in cancer, aging, and inflammation. <http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/happenings/?p=6078>

Dr. Christopher Vakoc, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Vakoc is an Assistant Professor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and his research focuses on the epigenetics of cancer, specifically the way in which epigenetics regulate the cancer state in acute myeloid leukemia. <http://www.cshl.edu/Faculty/vakoc-chris.html>

✦ Increase in Stipend Level

The stipend for MGM graduate students will increase by 2% to \$27,030 effective fall 2012.