

# Molecular Genetics & Microbiology Graduate Program Newsletter

## Spring, 2011 Vol. 4, No. 1



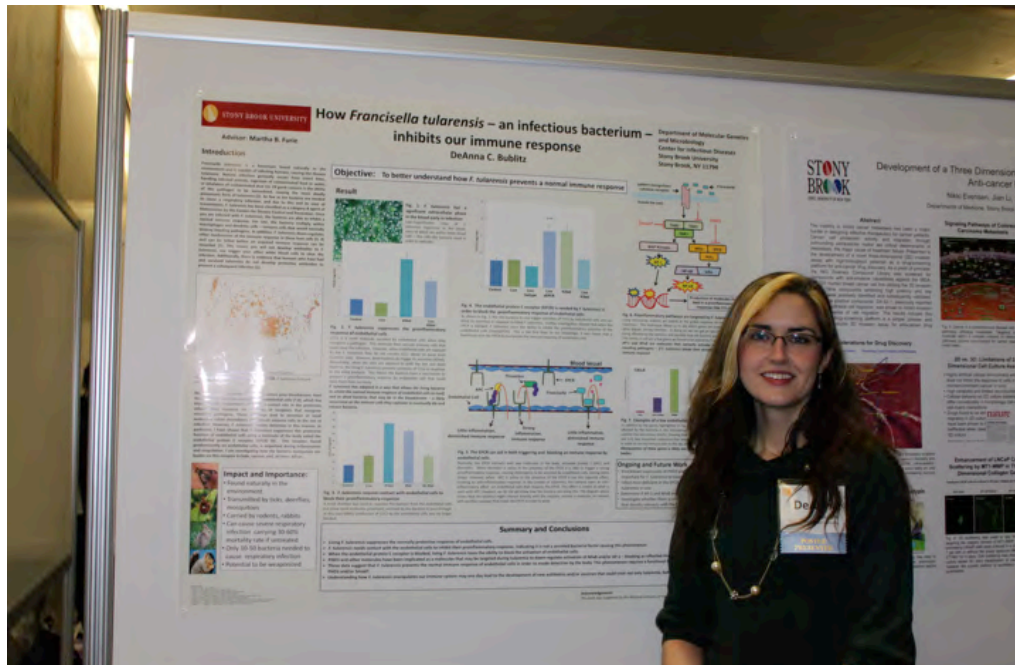
### Publications

Felek, S., Jeong, J.J., **Runco, L.M.**, Murray, S., Thanassi, D.G., and Krukoni, E.S. 2011. Contributions of chaperone/usher systems to cell binding, biofilm formation and *Yersinia pestis* virulence. *Microbiology* 157: 805-818.

**Karen, K.A.** and Hearing, P. 2011. Adenovirus core protein VII protects the viral genome from a DNA damage response at early times after infection. *Journal of Virology*, in press. This paper has been selected as an article of significant interest by the Editors and will be featured in the Spotlight section.

**Navin, N.**, Kendall, J., Troge, J., Andrews, P, Rodgers, L., McIndoo, J., Stepansky, A., Levy, D., Esposito, D., Muthuswamy, L., Krasnitz, A., McCombie, W.R., Hicks, J., and Wigler, M. 2011. Tumor evolution inferred by single-cell sequencing. *Nature*, in press.

### Conference Presentations



DeAnna Bublitz was selected to be one of six Stony Brook University graduate students to represent the campus at the Research that Matters: An Exposition of Graduate Research in SUNY and CUNY Symposium. DeAnna presented a poster describing her work on the interactions between the bacterial pathogen *Francisella tularensis* and endothelial cells at the symposium that was held in Albany on March 8, 2011.

## Honors



Distinguished University Professor and Chair of the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology Jorge Benach has been elected to the rank of Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The AAAS Council elects Fellows based on their distinguished efforts on behalf of the advancement of science. Professor Benach is being honored for his outstanding contributions to the field of infectious diseases and to the national research agenda. Congratulations!

## Retirement



Dr. Eugene Katz, Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, retired in December 2010 after 41 years at Stony Brook University. In addition to his research on the life cycle of the unicellular amoeba *Dictyostelium discoideum*, his many contributions to the University include the establishment of the Graduate Program in Genetics in 1980 and service as Director of that program for many years. More recently, Dr. Katz served as the Director of the Undergraduate Biology Program and was responsible for the significant expansion of the Program.

## Symposium in Honor of Distinguished University Professor Eckard Wimmer

A symposium will be held at Stony Brook University on Friday May 27<sup>th</sup> in honor of Professor Wimmer's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. The symposium, "Viruses Forever", will feature presentations by Drs. Vadim Agol, Michael Rossmann, Akio Nomoto, Bert Semler, Hans Georg Kräusslich, Richard Kuhn, Emilio Emini, Steven Skiena, Steffen Mueller, Sung Key Jang, and Olen Kew. More information regarding the symposium and a registration form may be found on the Molecular Genetics and Microbiology web site at [http://www.mgm.stonybrook.edu/calendar/viruses\\_forever.shtml](http://www.mgm.stonybrook.edu/calendar/viruses_forever.shtml). Please note that there is no registration fee for Stony Brook University personnel.

## New Positions

Dr. Gisselle Medina (Ph.D., 2008) recently finished her postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Dr. Carol Carter and has begun a second postdoctoral fellowship in the laboratory of Dr. Fadila Bouamr at the Laboratory of Molecular Microbiology, NIAID, NIH.

Dr. Nicholas Navin (Ph.D., 2010) has completed his postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Wigler, CSHL and has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Genetics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

## Rotations for 2010-2011

Fall	August 30 - November 26
Winter	November 29 - February 11
Spring	February 14 - May 13

Peter Chahales: David Thanassi, Wali Karzai, James Bliska  
Dane Buenten: Jamie Konopka, Ellen Li, Jessica Seeliger  
Shuqi Yan: Nick Carpino, Bruce Stillman, Bruce Futcher  
Jing Yang: Wali Karzai, James Bliska, Erich Mackow  
Siwei Zhang: Eckard Wimmer, Nicholas Tonks, Erich Mackow