

Molecular Genetics & Microbiology Graduate Program Newsletter

Summer, 2011 Vol. 4, No. 2



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* 85: 4135-4142. This paper has been selected as an article of significant interest by the Editors and is featured in the Spotlight section for this issue.

Navin, N., Kendall, J., Troge, J., Andrews, P., Rodgers, L., McIndoo, J., Stepanky, 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* 472: 90-94.

Zheng, Y., Lilo, S., Brodsky, I.E., Zhang, Y., Medzhitov, R., Marcu, K.B., and Bliska, J.B. 2011. A *Yersinia* effector with enhanced inhibitory activity on the Nk κ B pathway activates the NLRP3/ASC/caspase-1 inflammasome in macrophages. *PLoS Pathogens* 7(4):e1002026.

Conference Presentations

Bublitz, D.C., and Furie, M.B. 2011. Characterizing How *Francisella tularensis* Suppresses the Proinflammatory Response of Endothelial Cells. 111th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, New Orleans, L.A.

Bublitz, D.C., and Furie, M.B. 2011. Characterizing How *Francisella tularensis* Suppresses the Proinflammatory Response of Endothelial Cells. Gordon Conference: Microbial Adhesion and Signal Transduction. Newport, RI.

Crowley, J.T., and Benach, J.L. 2011. Transfer of *Borrelia*-Derived Fluorescent Lipids to Eukaryotic Cells. 111th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, New Orleans, L.A.

DelGiorno, K., and Crawford, H. 2011. The Biology of Cancer: Microenvironment, Metastasis and Therapeutics. Cold Spring Harbor, NY.

Doyle, C.R., Platz, G.J., Mena, P., Benach, J.L., and Thanassi, D.G. 2011. *Francisella tularensis* LVS Inhibits Caspase-3 Activation During Early Stages of Infection in a TolC-Dependent Manner. 111th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, New Orleans, LA.

Hatkoff, M.R, Runco, L.M., Pujol, C., Bliska, J.B., and Thanassi, D. 2011. Role of the Chaperone/Usher Pathways of *Yersinia pestis* in Interactions with Host Cells and Virulence. 111th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, New Orleans, LA.

Honors and Awards



Kate Bell, Graduate Program Coordinator for the Molecular Genetics & Microbiology and Genetics Graduate Programs is the recipient of the 2011 Dean's Award for Excellence in Service to Graduate Education by a Graduate Program Coordinator. This prestigious award has been given annually since 2005 in recognition of outstanding service to a graduate program (two programs in Kate's case!) and consists of a certificate and \$500 award. Kate received the award at the Graduate Awards Ceremony held during the May commencement events. Congratulations!

DeAnna Bublitz received a \$500 travel award to attend the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans, LA.



Congratulations to **Professor Carol Carter** for being awarded the 2011 Faculty Award for Excellence in Diversity. This award is in recognition of her contributions to increasing diversity at Stony Brook University and her mentorship of underrepresented students over the past 36 years. Dr. Carter received the award from President Stanley at the Celebration of Diversity and Academic Excellence Symposium on May 2nd.

Nicholas Carpino and **Wei-Xing Zong** have both been promoted to Associate Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology ~ congratulations!

Christopher Doyle received a \$1500 Distinguished Travel Award from the Graduate Student Organization to present his research at the 111th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in New Orleans, L.A. Chris' paper was selected for a platform presentation as part of the ASM Young Investigator Presentation Series.

Farewell



Dr. Carl Anderson, Biology Chairman at Brookhaven National Laboratory and longtime MGM adjunct faculty member, has announced his retirement from BNL after a distinguished research career that has spanned over 40 years. Carl received a B.A. degree in chemistry and physics from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in microbiology from Washington University. He worked at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory as a Staff Scientist for several years following his postdoctoral training at CSHL and then moved to BNL where he remained ever since. His research interests have included adenovirus host-range restriction, posttranslational modification of viral proteins and the tumor suppressor protein p53, and the role of the DNA-activated protein kinase in non-homologous end-joining DNA repair. Carl and his wife Mary have moved to North Carolina where Carl will continue to conduct research as part of the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics in the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Incoming Students Fall 2011

Please help us welcome the following four students to the program:

Lawton Chung, University of California Irvine (B.S., Biological Sciences)
Barbara Fallon, Cornell University (B.S., Chemistry and Chemical Biology)
Eve Klajbor, Mercyhurst College (B.S., Biochemistry)
Benjamin Macaluso, University of Miami (B.S., Microbiology)

First-Year Students Join Labs

Peter Chahales: David Thanassi's lab
Dane Buenten: Jamie Konopka's lab
Shuqi Yan: Bruce Futcher's lab
Siwei Zhang: Nicholas Tonks' lab

Save the Date!!

The annual retreat held by the Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology will be held this year on Friday October 14th at the Port Jefferson Village Center. As for previous retreats, there will be a series of talks given by faculty members, a poster session, the presentation of graduate student awards and great food!