

Molecular Genetics & Microbiology Graduate Program Newsletter

Summer 2017 Vol. 10, No. 2



2017 Publications

Bouklas, T., Alonso-Crisostomo, L., Szekely, T. Jr., Diago-Navarro, E., **Orner, E.P.**, Smith, K., Munshi M.A., Del Poeta, M., Balazsi, G., and Fries, B.C. (2017). Generational distribution of a *Candida glabrata* population: Resilient old cells prevail, while younger cells dominate in the vulnerable host. *PLoS Pathogens* 13(5): e1006355.

Espaillet, M.P., Kew, R.R., and Obeid, L. (2017). Sphingolipids in neutrophil function and inflammatory responses: mechanisms and implications for intestinal immunity and inflammation in ulcerative colitis. *Advances in Biological Regulation* 63: 140-155.

Li, X., **Burton, E.M.**, and Bhaduri-McIntosh, S. (2017). Chloroquine triggers Epstein-Barr virus replication through phosphorylation of KAP1/TRIM28 in Burkitt lymphoma cells. *PLoS Pathogens* 13(3): e1006249.

McLaughlin, P.A., McClelland, M., Yang, H.J., Porwollik, S., Bogomolnaya, L., Chen, J.S., Andrews-Polymenis, H., and van der Velden, A.W. (2017). Contribution of asparagine catabolism to *Salmonella* virulence. *Infection and Immunity* 85(2): e00740-16.

Naseem, S., Min, K., Spitzer, D., **Gardin, J.**, and Konopka, J.B. (2017). Regulation of hyphal growth and N-acetylglucosamine catabolism by two transcription factors in *Candida albicans*. *Genetics*, in press.

Ostapchuk, P., Suomalainen, M., **Zheng, Y.**, Boucke, K., Greber, U.F., and Hearing, P. (2017). The adenovirus major core protein VII is dispensable for virion assembly but is essential for lytic infection. *PLoS Pathogens* 13(6): e1006455.

Parashar, K., Kopping, E., Frank, D., Sampath, V., Thanassi, D.G., and Carpino, N. (2017). Increased resistance to intradermal *Francisella tularensis* LVS infection by inactivation of the Sts phosphatases. *Infection and Immunity*, in press.

Parrino, S.M., Si, H., Naseem, S., Groudan, K., **Gardin, J.**, and Konopka, J.B. (2017). cAMP-independent signal pathways stimulate hyphal morphogenesis in *Candida albicans*. *Molecular Microbiology* 103(5): 764-779.

Santana, A.L., Oldenburg, D.G., Kirillov, V., Malik, L., Dong, Q., Sinayev, R., Marcu, K.B., White, D.W., and Krug, L.T. (2017) RTA occupancy of the origin of lytic replication during murine gammaherpesvirus 68 reactivation from B cell latency. *Pathogens* 6(1): e9.

2017 Presentations

Burton, E., Koganti, S., and Bhaduri-McIntosh, S. Novel Observations on KAP1/TRIM28 in the context of the Epstein-Barr Virus Lytic Cycle. 17th University of Pennsylvania Herpesvirus Symposium. June 23, 2017.

Medici, N., **Chung, L.K.**, Chae, J.J., and Bliska, J.B. Studies of *Yersinia* Effector-triggered Pyrin Inflammasome Activation in Macrophages. ASM Microbe, June 1 - 5, New Orleans, LA.

Minkah, N.K.*, **Van Skike, N.***, Wu, G., **Benziger, P.T.**, Kara, M., Tibbetts, S.A., Kim-Holzapfel, D., French, J.B., Oldenburg, D.G., White, D.W., and Krug, L.T. Absence of ORF75A, a Member of the Gammaherpesvirus FGARAT Family, Reduces the Specific Infectivity of MHV68 Particles and Impairs Acute Replication and Reactivation from Latency in the Host. 17th University of Pennsylvania Herpesvirus Symposium. June 23, 2017. *Equal contribution.

Minkah, N.K.*, **Van Skike, N.***, Wu, G., **Benziger, P.T.**, Kara, M., Tibbetts, S.A., Kim-Holzapfel, D., French, J.B., Oldenburg, D.G., White, D.W., and Krug, L.T. Absence of the Viral FGARAT ORF75A Reduces the Specific Infectivity of Particles and Impairs Replication and Dissemination of Murine Gammaherpesvirus *in vivo*. 36th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Virology, June 24-28, 2017. *Equal contribution.

Honors & Awards

Congratulations to Erika Orner, a PhD candidate in Bettina Fries' laboratory, on receiving the Young Investigator Award, 10th International Conference on Cryptococcus and Cryptococcosis held March 26-30, 2017 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. This award recognized her outstanding poster entitled "Serial Passaging Provides Insight into Host-Pathogen Interactions and the Direct Effect on Replicative Life Span and Fitness".

First-Year Students Join Labs

Todd Benziger - Thanassi Lab

Nicole Loeven - Bliska Lab

Valeria Montoya - van der Velden Lab

Billy Schutt - Mackow Lab

Kyle Smith - Krug Lab

Incoming MGM Graduate Students - Fall 2017

Timothy Chu, B.A. in Biology from Hofstra University, M.S. in Biotechnology from NYU.

Tyler Normile, B.S. in Biology from St. Josephs College and is currently completing an M.S. in Biology at Hofstra University. Tyler is the recipient of a W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship.

Stephen Guadino, B.S. in Biology from Hofstra University and is currently completing an M.S. in Integrative Biology at Hofstra University. Stephen is the recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship (2016 - 2019) and a W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship.

Xun Lin, B.S. in Biosciences from the University of Science and Technology of China.

Members of the Admissions Committee extend their appreciation to all the faculty and students who participated in the admissions process this year.

Save the Dates

The 39th Annual Retreat of the Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology will be held on Friday October 20, 2017 at the Port Jefferson Village Center. Pawan Kumar is organizing the scientific program this year. All MGM graduate students are expected to attend and present a poster at the retreat. A retreat flyer for posting and sharing is attached.

Rebecca Bridges will defend her dissertation on August 2nd at 1pm in Life Sciences room 038.

Fridays at Four

A new MGM program for graduate student professional development and career planning will debut this year. These monthly meetings will be informal panel discussions and workshops led by MGM graduate students, faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and IREP faculty and staff. All graduate students in the MGM Program are encouraged to participate and graduate students from other programs are welcome. A tentative schedule for the 2017 - 2018 series follows. A separate panel discussion on careers for graduates of biomedical PhD programs is being planned for the spring 2018. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details!

Date	Topic
August 25	Individual Development Plans
September 8	Tips for Giving Seminars and Poster Presentations
October 13	Applying for Fellowships in the Biomedical Sciences
November 10	Building an Educator Portfolio
March 9	Funding Opportunities for Attending Conferences/What Can the GSO Do for You?
April 13	How to Find a Postdoctoral Position
May 11	Scientific Conferences and Networking

Rotation Dates for 2017 - 2018

Fall ~ August 28 through November 22

Winter ~ November 27 through February 9

Spring ~ February 12 through May 4



Molecular Genetics & Microbiology
Annual Department Retreat
Friday October 20, 2017
9:00 am - 5:30 pm
Port Jefferson Village Center

