Mlnews
The E-newsletter of Einstein’s MI Department
Fall 2013
Editors: Teresa DiLorenzo, Arturo Casadevall

A Message from the Editors

Welcome to the eighteenth issue of our departmental newsletter. Thank you for your continued efforts in support of it. Please continue to share your news and photos with us. Happy Fall!

News from the Chair

Although we are deep into the Fall semester, I still want to welcome all of you to the beginning of another academic year. The Fall season is always an exciting time with the arrival of new students and this year is no different. Perhaps nothing epitomizes the end of summer and the return of the academic year as the resumption of our Friday WIPs. Our WIPs are very important for they serve to give our students and postdoctoral fellows a chance to present their work formally and receive feedback. The WIPs are also a major mechanism for disseminating information within our department and institution since attendees can learn what other laboratories are doing. I have been very pleased with the quality of the presentations, which reflects great effort on the part of the speakers. This Fall I have unfortunately missed many WIPs because I have been serving on the chair committee that is looking for a new chair of Medicine and group meetings with applicants take place on Friday.

I want to bring attention to a new lecture series in Immunology being organized by Gregoire Lauvau and Laura Santambrogio that aims to bring distinguished immunologists to Einstein. The series will kick off early next year and I hope that everyone supports this important initiative by attending the lectures and, when requested, meeting with the speakers. We are all grateful to Gregoire and Laura for their efforts to enrich our environment and to promote interactions with leading figures in the field.

As everyone knows, we are living through very difficult times for science. As 2013 comes to an end we are completing a decade of flat budgets and increasingly scarce funds. In the history of the NIH there has never been such a prolonged period of drought and stagnation with regards to science budgets. The crisis in science funding is the result of many causes but I remain optimistic that the current drought will pass for there is strong public support for science. Science is critical for the growth of the economy in the biological century. A paradox is that the funding crisis is occurring at a time of unprecedented opportunity in the biological sciences as we reap the benefits of investments made by prior generations that promise to revolutionize medicine, agriculture and everything that is touched by biology. I believe in better times ahead and when considering getting from here to ‘there’ we need to remain focused on doing the best science possible with the resources that we have.
Honoring Stan Nathenson

The inaugural Dr. Stanley G. Nathenson Memorial Lecture took place on October 16th in the LeFrak Auditorium, which was filled to capacity. Peter Cresswell (Yale School of Medicine) delivered an elegant talk on chaperone functions in MHC class I molecule assembly and peptide binding that Stan would most certainly have enjoyed. The event was organized by Teresa DiLorenzo and Matty Scharff, and it was supported by the Dr. Stanley G. Nathenson Memorial Lectureship Fund, the Departments of MI and Cell Biology, and the Office of the Dean. The Lectureship Fund was established at Einstein to allow us to honor Stan’s memory with a lecture in his name each year. To those who have already contributed to the Fund, thank you! If you have not yet done so, please consider making a donation today. Please see the Summer 2013 MInews for instructions or contact Teresa DiLorenzo.

Where should I publish my work?

If Science and Nature decline your manuscript, how do you decide where to submit it next? Einstein’s library offers a database known as PubsHub that might help you to make this decision. PubsHub contains a description of each journal, including its scope, rejection rate, and average time to acceptance. Convenient links to author guidelines are also included. The 2012 impact factors have recently been added, in case you care about metrics like that :) Why not check it out here http://jandc.pubshub.com.elibrary.einstein.yu.edu/Users/MyPubshub or ask a librarian for assistance?

Second Annual Qualification Jubilation

The second annual Qualification Jubilation was held on October 22nd to honor those graduate students who recently passed their qualifying examination and to present them with their M.S. degrees. The event was held in the Lubin Dining Hall and was well-attended. Fourteen of the 49 honored students were from MI. We congratulate these 14 on achieving this milestone:

Jorge Aguilar (Fries)    Melinda Ng (Chandran)
Rohan Biswas (Chandran)  Kim Ohaegbulam (Zang)
Anthony Bowen (Casadevall)  Christopher Petro (Herold)
Samantha Chalmers (Putterman)  Jennifer Schloss (DiLorenzo)
Jordan Chinai (Zang)      Ekaterina Taneva (Herold)
Steven Kennedy (Porcelli)    Netha Ulahannan (Kim)
Christopher Kerantzaz (Jacobs)  Anna Wec (Chandran)
A New MI Faculty Member!

The Departments of Systems & Computational Biology and MI welcome new Assistant Professor Libusha Kelly. Libusha comes to us from MIT where she trained with Sallie Chisholm. Libusha studies how ecosystem-level genetic variability influences adaptive responses to dynamic environments. She is located in 553B Price. Why not pass by and say hello?

Monday Night Immunology

A monthly Immunology Journal Club is jointly sponsored by the Departments of Pathology and MI. Meetings are held one Monday per month at 5 PM in 714 Belfer and are open to all. A light dinner is served. Please send an e-mail to gayatri.mukherjee@einstein.yu.edu if you would like your name added to the e-mail list for this Journal Club. To read more about it, and to view this season’s schedule, please go here: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/departments/microbiology-immunology/events/journal-clubs.aspx

Please Welcome the New MI Lab Members!

David Ajasin, Graduate Student (Prasad)
Kim Ayoe, Research Technician (Lauvau)
Lara Kleinfelter, Graduate Student (Chandran)
Bianca Schulte, Research Fellow (Diaz-Griffero)

News from the Office

For many of the research grants that were converted to the Banner system, errors were introduced during the conversion process. As a result, it is still difficult for the faculty to obtain accurate and current grant balances. Susan continues to work with Research Finance to correct these errors. Research Finance is in the process of loading the Fiscal Year 2014 budgets into Banner. Hopefully this process will go more smoothly, as it involves the straightforward entry of new data into the Banner system, rather than a conversion from one system to another.

While the faculty has had a break from certifying effort reports during the Banner conversion, this break is now over. The effort certification aspect of Banner was rolled out on October 31st. As before, Susan will pre-review all effort reports and then forward them to the faculty for certification. For the new system, Susan will have 6 weeks to complete her pre-review, and faculty will have 2 weeks to certify. All faculty should have received detailed instructions for the certification process in an e-mail from James Geraghty, Einstein’s Chief Financial Officer. For the current cycle, the deadline for certification is December 13th! If you have not already logged into Inside Track and tried to access Self Service Banner, you should do so as soon as possible, as this will be the path you will use to certify the effort reports. As in the past, Susan and Georgia will be available for assistance during the certification process, if necessary.
News from the Students

Tejas Bouklas (Fries)


Kim Ohaegbulam (Zang)

Kim was invited to be the Keynote Speaker at the Moffitt Cancer Center Student Research Day on August 6, 2013. This was a homecoming of sorts for Kim, as he conducted research at the Moffitt Cancer Center, located in Tampa, FL, while an undergraduate at the University of South Florida Honors College.

Dina Tsukrov (Dadachova)

Dina has been awarded a 3-year American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Robert D. Watkins Graduate Research Fellowship. Congratulations, Dina!

News from the Research Fellows

Dinesh Chandra (Gravekamp)

News from the Associates

**Olisambu Uche** (Flow Cytometry Facility)


**Avanish Varshney** (Fries)


News from the Faculty

**Arturo Casadevall**

Named lectures:

NIAID Kinyoun Lecture, Bethesda, MD. As described on the NIAID website, “the Kinyoun lecture series was established by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1979 to honor Dr. Joseph James Kinyoun, who, in 1887, founded the Hygienic Laboratory, from which the National Institutes of Health (NIH) evolved. Talks highlight research advances in the understanding of infection and immunity and feature invited speakers who are world-renowned experts in their fields.”

Faculty of Science 50th Anniversary Speaker, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Bernard Fields Lecture on Microbial Pathogenesis, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA


Garcia-Solache, M. A., D. Izquierdo-Garcia, C. Smith, A. Bergman, and **A. Casadevall**. 2013. Fungal virulence in a lepidopteran model is an emergent property with deterministic features. *mBio* 4:e00100-00113. *This paper was chosen for “Editors’ Picks 2013.”*


Kartik Chandran

Invited lectures:
University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, March 2013
Michael, Marcia, and Christa Parseghian Scientific Conference for Niemann-Pick Type C
Research, South Bend, IN, June 2013
Horizons in Molecular Biology Symposium, Göttingen, Germany, September 2013

Kartik was named a Harold and Muriel Block Faculty Scholar in Virology. To read more about this honor, go here: http://www.einstein.yu.edu/features/around-campus/254/dr-kartik-chandran-named-block-scholar/

The Chandran Lab welcomes Lara Kleinfelter, our new PhD student.

Congratulations to Melinda Ng, Anna Wec, and Rohan Biswas for passing their qualifying examination!

Regula, L. K., R. Harris, F. Wang, C. D. Higgins, J. F. Koellhoffer, Y. Zhao, K. Chandran, J. Gao, M.


**Kate Dadachova**

Invited talk---Alpha emitting-radionuclides for therapy of cancer and infections, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY.

Kate served on the National Cancer Institute’s Clinical Molecular Imaging and Probe Development (CMIP) study section, the SBIB-W(56) Early Phase Clinical Trials in Imaging and Image-Guided Interventions study section, and on the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Program Project Grant Working Group.


*shared senior authorship


*shared senior authorship

**Teresa DiLorenzo**

Invited conference talk---Identification of type 1 diabetes antigens using HLA-transgenic NOD mice, Humanized Mice in Translational Biomedical Research: Diabetes, Cancer and Beyond, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME, September 2013.

**Claudia Gravekamp**


Claudia served on a National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel, Provocative Questions Group B: Tumor Development or Recurrence (ZCA1 SRLB-R J1 R), October 31-November 1, 2013, Washington, DC.

**Xingxing Zang**

Invited lectures:
Open Innovation Program, Adimab, Lebanon, NH, September 2013
Bortree Lecture, Penn State University, October 2013