



# Fall 2009

# NOVEMBER

## *Announcements*

Our Program hosted the annual Cancer Biology Training Consortium (CABTRAC) meeting October 9-11, 2009 at the Sheraton Sand Key in Clearwater. Over 70 Chairs and Program Directors from Cancer Biology Programs across the country met to discuss issues impacting Cancer Biology as a discipline. Guest speakers included: Tona Gilmer, GlaxoSmithKline; Li-Kuo Su, *Cancer Cell*; Cathee Johnson Phillips, National Postdoctoral Association and William Dalton, Moffitt Cancer Center.

## *Faculty*

**New Cancer Biology faculty members approved:**

- **P.K. Epling-Burnette, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**  
Associate Member, Moffitt Cancer Center  
Associate Professor, DOS

## *Courses*

- **Current Topics in Oncology**  
Gary Reuther and Jiandong Chen are Co-Directors
- **Advances in Cancer Biology**  
Keiran Smalley and Nupam Mahajan are Co-Directors
- **Cancer Biology I**  
Mark Alexandrow is Course Director for this Fall course
- **Cancer Research Techniques**  
John Koomen is the new Course Director
- **Cancer Biology II**  
Sheng Wei will direct this Spring course again
- **Selected Topics – Cancer Genetics**  
This course is being directed by Alvaro Monteiro
- **Selected Topics – Bioethics**  
This Spring course will be directed by Ken Wright
- **Cancer Biology Student Advisor**  
Gary Reuther will continued as Student Advisor for the Program; Dr. Reuther also serves as Course Director for Lab Rotations

# Students

**"Meet the Mentors"** for first year students took place on Friday, August 28, 2009. Entering students met with faculty who would like a Cancer Biology student to join their lab. In between sessions of "Meet the Mentors" a **Student Potluck Lunch** was held from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. Dishes definitely had an international flavor with offerings of fried rice, spring rolls and taquitos among the favorites and the desserts were scrumptious!

## **First lab rotations for new students:**

- Kyle Bauckman – Koomen lab
- Inna Fedorenko – Bepler lab
- Anxhela Gjyshi – Smalley lab
- Courtney Kurtyka – Cress lab
- Vito Rebecca – Chellappan lab
- Kathy Rocha – List lab

## *Teaching Experience*

The Biology Department has openings for Ph.D. students interested in gaining teaching experience in Spring 2010. If you are interested in teaching an undergraduate Biology lab, please send your name to Cathy Gaffney so a list can be forwarded on to the Biology Department. You can contact Jackie Johnson to find out what it was like and the effort/time required. The deadline to contact Cathy is Friday, November 13th.

## *ARCS*

Two separate events for the Tampa Bay Chapter of ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) were held this fall. The first on September 30th at the Lifsey House here on the USF campus resulted in 23 new donors joining the organization. The second event, held at 400 Beach Drive in St. Pete, recruited 28 additional members. This organization will be awarding scholarships to students entering our Cancer Biology Program as well as the Marine Sciences Program, possibly as early as next fall. A special thank you to the following eight students who went to the functions as ambassadors for our Program:

2

0

0

9

- Crystina Bronk
- Michelle Collazo Ruiz
- Jessica Craig
- Brittany Cross
- Nicole Gjertsen
- Lori Griner
- Emily Hopewell
- Valentina Schneeberger

A few pictures from both events:

## USF LIFSEY HOUSE



## 400 BEACH DRIVE, ST. PETE



## *Publications*

**Shruti Desai**, Sophia C. E. Bolick, Michelle Maurin, and Kenneth L. Wright. *PU.1 Regulates Positive Regulatory Domain I-Binding Factor 1/Blimp-1 Transcription in Lymphoma Cells*. The Journal of Immunology, 2009, 183, 5778 -5787

Nagaraj S, **Collazo M**, Corzo CA, **Youn JI**, Ortiz M, **Quiceno D**, Gabilovich DI. *Regulatory myeloid suppressor cells in health and disease*. Cancer Res. 2009 Oct 1;69(19):7503-6.

Valenzuela Javier O, Cristina Iclozan, Mohammad S Hossain, Martin Prlic, **Emily Hopewell**, **Crystina Bronk**, Junmei Wang, Esteban Celis, Robert W. Engelman, Bruce R. Blazar, Michael J. Bevan, Edmund K. Waller, Xue-Zhong Yu, and Amer A. Beg (2009) *PKC $\zeta$  is required for alloreactivity and GVHD but not for immune responses toward leukemia and infection in mice.* J. Clin Invest. In press

*Congratulations Shruti, Michelle, Je-In, David, Emily and Crystina!*

### Reminder

Students should include the Program in the author affiliations of all papers and abstracts. Example: "H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL and the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL".

*Thank you!*

### 2009 Graduate Student Research Symposium:

The following Cancer Bio students submitted abstracts for the poster Symposium & Competition held on Thursday, October 8, 2009 during the second annual **USF Office of Research Innovation and Graduate School Research Week:**

- Neha Kabra, Chen lab
- Shruti Desai, Wright lab
- Emily Hopewell, Beg lab
- Jason Dubovsky, Pinilla lab

*Thank you for your participation!*

### Ponce/MCC Student Exchange

Cancer Biology students will again have the opportunity to travel to Ponce School of Medicine and assist with research projects as part of the ongoing student exchange program between Ponce and the Moffitt Cancer Center. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.

# Upcoming Dissertation Defense

- **Neha Kabra** – Thursday, March 4, 2010. Ferman Family Conference Room. 9:00 a.m.

## Grant Submission

**Kate Bailey**, Seto lab, has applied for an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. Her proposal is titled "Regulation of TATA-box binding protein (TBP)-associated factor functions by SIRT1". Notification of funding will go out late March or early April 2010.

*Good Luck, Kate!*



## Travel

Travel Funds have been provided for the 09-10 academic year. The cap is \$1,000 per student per calendar year. Please contact Cathy Gaffney in the Cancer Biology Office well in advance of your planned trip for the correct procedure to use the funds. Travel items (airfare, hotel or registration fees) must be handled through the Cancer Biology Program office in order to be covered.

*A form, Travel Award Request Form, can be found on the Cancer Biology website by clicking on "Students", then the link "Information and forms for current students click here". This will enable the Program to better track the numerous meetings students attend throughout the year.*