



Fall 2010

October

Announcements

ARCS Scholar



Melissa Price, third year student in Dr. Alvaro Monteiro's lab, is the recipient of the first scholarship awarded to a Cancer Biology student by the Tampa Bay Chapter of the ARCS Foundation, a national organization established to promote advances in science and technology in the United States by providing financial awards to academically outstanding U. S. citizens studying to complete degrees in science, engineering and medical research. Melissa will be honored during an awards luncheon on Friday, October 22 at the St. Pete Yacht Club along with a student from Marine Sciences.

Congratulations, Melissa!

Lori Griner, fourth year student in Dr. Gary Reuther's lab, has had her abstract, "Requirement of Lipid Raft Integrity for Signaling by JAK2-V617F" selected to receive a \$500 ASH Travel Award to attend the annual ASH meeting December 4-7, 2010 in Orlando.

Outstanding, Lori!

CBSO

(Cancer Biology Student Organization)

The CBSO is collaborating with the Moffitt KIP Kidz program and will assist them in promoting science and cancer awareness in underprivileged children through educational outreach projects based at the Moffitt Cancer center as well as the Hillsborough libraries. Members of the CBSO are very excited about this, and think it will be a great opportunity for the Cancer Biology students to make a positive impact on the local community. Also, due to the continued efforts by the CBSO, the opportunity to observe cancer surgeries here at Moffitt will continue this year. The CBSO should be applauded for their volunteerism; their contributions to the community reflect positively on their members and the Cancer Biology Program as well.

You can also see more about the CBSO by visiting their website:

<http://ctr.usf.edu/cbso/> .

Faculty

New Cancer Biology faculty members approved:

- **Yulia Nefedova, M.D., Ph.D.**
Assistant Member, Moffitt Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, DOS
- **Shari Pilon-Thomas, Ph.D.**
Assistant Member, Moffitt Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, DOS
- **Shengyu Yang, Ph.D.**
Assistant Member, Moffitt Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, DOS

Courses

- **Current Topics in Oncology**
Gary Reuther is the course director for the Fall
- **Advances in Cancer Biology**
Keiran Smalley is the course director for the Fall
- **Cancer Biology I**
Mark Alexandrow is Course Director for this Fall course
- **Cancer Research Techniques**
John Koomen is the Course Director this semester
- **Cancer Biology Lab Rotations**
In addition to the Current Topics course, Gary Reuther serves as Course Director for Lab Rotations

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- The **Cancer Biology III, Cancer Genetics** course has moved to the Spring semester this year and will be now be offered on a biannual basis.
- **OR Observation** – Students again have the opportunity to observe surgery with one of seven Moffitt surgeons. Students have been contacted with the requirements for the observation and interested students should email Cathy Gaffney.

Students

First lab rotations for new students:

- **Lou-Ella Alexander** – Celis lab
- **Victoria Bryant** – Monteiro lab
- **Brienne Engle** – Cress lab
- **Jeremy Frieling** – Burnette lab
- **Jianing Fu** – Haura lab
- **Peter Gracheck** – Gabrilovich lab
- **Tom Hayman** – Tofilon lab
- **Ankita Jhuraney** – Monteiro lab
- **Brook Nepon-Sixt** – Fukasawa lab
- **Ted Richards** – Seto lab

Students who have selected labs:

- **Vito Rebecca** – Smalley lab

Meet the Mentors Day

“Meet the Mentors” for first year students took place on Friday, August 27, 2010. New 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 1:15 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. The CBSO coordinated the potluck and cleanup – special thanks to Valentina, Kyle, Vito, Lori, Courtney and all other students who assisted. Dishes definitely had an international flavor with offerings of Palak chicken with coconut rice, Korean and Thai rolls and Ziti Marinara among the favorites and the desserts were delectable!

PICTURES FROM POTLUCK



Jianing and Brienne



Ankita and Victoria



Peter



Melissa, Ankita, Lou-Ella



Nicole, Ted, Peter



Anxhela, Michael



David, Michael, Nicole
& Michelle



Courtney & Jackie



Je-In, Jianing, Valentina

Publications

Jason A. Dubovsky, Daniel Wang, John J. Powers, Emmanuel Berchmans, Matthew A. Smith, Kenneth L. Wright, Eduardo M. Sotomayor, Javier A. Pinilla-Ibarz, (2010). *Restoring the Functional Immunogenicity of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Using Epigenetic Modifiers*. Leukemia Research. *In Press*.

Je-In Youn, Dmitry Gabilovich. *The biology of myeloid-derived suppressor cells: The blessing and the curse of morphological and functional heterogeneity*. Eur J Immunol. 2010. Review, in press.

Corzo CA, Condamine T, Lu L, Cotter MJ, **Youn JI**, Cheng P, Cho HI, Celis E, Quiceno D, Padhya T, McCaffrey TV, McCaffrey JC, Gabilovich DI. *HIF-1 α regulates function and differentiation of myeloid-derived suppressor cells in the tumor microenvironment*. J. Exp. Med. 2010 in press.

Fine tuning chemotherapy to match BRCA1 status. **Melissa Price** and Alvaro N.A. Monteiro - Biochemical Pharmacology, 2010.

Fortenbery NR, Paraiso KH, Taniguchi M, Brooks C, Ibrahim L, Kerr WG. *SHIP influences signals from CD48 and MHC class I ligands that regulate NK cell homeostasis, effector function, and repertoire formation*. J Immunol. 2010 May 1;184(9):5065-74.

Sokol L, Caceres G, **Rocha K**, Stockero KJ, Dewald DW, List AF. *JAK2(V617F) mutation in myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) with del(5q) arises in genetically discordant clones*. Leuk Res. 2010 Jun;34(6):821-3.

Paraiso KHT, **Fedorenko IV**, Cantini LP, Munko AC, Hall MS, Sondak VK, Messina JL, Flaherty KT, Smalley KS. *Recovery of phospho-ERK-activity allows melanoma cells to escape from BRAF inhibitor therapy*. Br J Cancer 2010 Jun 8;102(12):1724-30.

Singh S, **Johnson J**, Chellappan S. *Small molecule regulators of Rb-E2F pathway as modulators of transcription.* Biochim Biophys Acta. 2010 Jul 15. [Epub ahead of print].

Wang J, Basagoudanavar SH, Wang X, **Hopewell E**, Albrecht R, Garcia-Sastre A, Balachandran S, Beg AA. *NF-kappaB RelA subunit is crucial for early IFN-beta expression and resistance to RNA virus replication.* J Immunol. 2010 Aug 1; 185(3):1720-9.

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!

2010 Graduate Student Research Symposium:

The following Cancer Bio students submitted abstracts for the Poster Symposium & Competition which was held on Thursday, October 14, 2010 during the third annual **USF Office of Research Innovation and Graduate School Research Week:**

Nicole Fortenbery: "Lenalidomide modulates Natural Killer cell receptor expression, impairs cytolytic function, and inhibits cellular activation against tumor targets in vitro"

Lori Griner: "Requirement of Lipid Raft Integrity for Signaling by JAK2-V617F"

Jackie Johnson: "Matrix Metalloproteinase genes are regulated by Rb and E2F: Novel Targets for metastatic disease"

Jessica McDaniel: "Mechanism of T cell co-stimulation mediated by thalidomide derivatives"

Thanks for your participation!

Successful Dissertation Defenses Summer 2010

Dr. Shruti Desai, pictured with her Committee, successfully defended her dissertation on May 25, 2010. Shruti has joined the lab of Dr. Ming Tan, Mitchell Cancer Center, University of South Alabama.



From left to right: Committee member Sheng Wei; Major Professor Ken Wright; Shruti; Committee members Doug Cress and Amer Beg and Dissertation Chair Wayne Tam, Weill Medical College, Cornell University

Upcoming Dissertation Defenses

- **Phil Wong** – Tuesday, November 9, 2010.
Couch Auditorium, SRB, 9:30 a.m.
Dissertation Chair: Cyrus Vaziri, Ph.D., UNC Chapel Hill
- **Je-In Youn** – Friday, January 21, 2011
Ferman Family Conference Room, SRB, 9:00 a.m.
Dissertation Chair: Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg,
University of Maryland

Grant Submissions

Kyle Bauckman has applied for an NIH F31 Pre-doctoral Fellowship.

Good Luck, Kyle!



Travel

Brittany Cross, Jiandong Chen's lab, has received a Cancer Biology Travel Award to attend the 15th International p53 Workshop in Philadelphia on October 8-12. Brittany will present a poster detailing her research on p53 and MDM2.

Lori Griner, Gary Reuther's lab, will receive a partial Cancer Biology Travel Award to attend ASH in Orlando December 4-7, 2010. Lori received an ASH Travel Award as well.

Travel Funds have been provided for the 10-11 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.

Cancer Biology/Cell Biology Student Reception

On Thursday, September 2, the Cancer Biology Program hosted a reception for new and returning Cancer Biology and Cell Biology graduate students. Student achievements from the 2009-2010 academic year were acknowledged by Dr. Wright and Dr. Garey. USF Provost John Wilcox, Associate Dean Robert Potter from Arts and Sciences, USF Graduate School Dean Karen Liller and Dr. Jim Garey, Chair of the Department of Cell Biology all attended as did Dr. Tom Sellers, Director of the Moffitt Research Institute and Dr. Julie Djeu, Associate Director of Research Education, Moffitt Cancer Center. Faculty members and students from both Programs enjoyed a hors d'oeuvre and dessert menu.

Pictures from the Reception



Dr. Julie Djeu visits with the new Cancer Bio students
Clockwise from left: Victoria Bryant, Jeremy Frieling,
Lou-Ella Alexander, Jianing Fu, Peter Gracheck, Dr. Djeu
Second year student Kyle Bauckman with back to camera



Dr. Doug Cress, Cancer Biology, chats with Dean Potter



Dean Liller talks with Dr. Ken Wright, Cancer Biology Director



Dr. Wright with Provost Wilcox



From left – Dr. Jim Garey, Dean Liller and Dean Potter



From left: Kathy McGraw, Nicole Fortenbery, Michelle Collazo



Facing camera: Kyle Bauckman. Clockwise from Kyle—
Ted Richards, Brienne Engel, Jeremy Frieling, Lou-Ella Alexander,
Jianing Fu and Peter Gracheck (back to camera)



Lori Griner smiles for the camera. Counterclockwise from Lori:
Brook Nepon-Sixt & Je-In Youn



From left: third year Cancer Bio students Melissa Price,
Jessica McDaniel and Kate Bailey



New Cancer Biology students are asked to stand. From left:
Lou-Ella Alexander, Jianing Fu, Peter Gracheck, Jeremy Frieling
Brienne Engel (back to camera), Victoria Bryant and Ted Richards



Remainder of new Cancer Bio students standing. From left:
Brook Nepon-Sixt, Ankita Jhuraney, Tom Hayman