



Fall 2012

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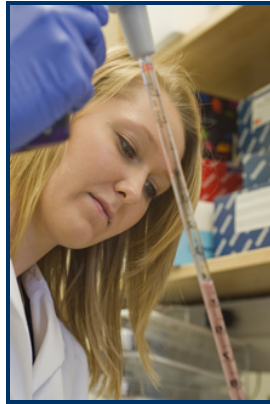
Awards



Melissa Buckley, fifth year student in Dr. Alvaro Monteiro's lab, has been awarded one of the very prestigious and highly competitive **Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral Fellows**. She will receive funding for two years to support her dissertation research involving functional analysis of ovarian cancer predisposition loci.



Anxhela Gjyshi, also from the Monteiro lab, was the recipient of a travel award (\$5000) from the Cancer Post-GWAS U19 Exchange Program which funded two weeks of training in a technique called Chromatin Conformation Capture (3C) in the Matthew Freedman lab at the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center in Boston.



Inna Fedorenko from Dr. Keiran Smalley's lab received a \$1,000 travel award from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories to attend a two week training course focusing on single cell analysis techniques. She utilized her ARCS scholarship to help with the remaining cost of the course.

Inna has also received a \$500 Conference Presentation Grant Program award from the USF Student Government which she will use to attend the Society of Melanoma Research Congress in Hollywood, CA in November.



Valentina Schneeberger received an Outstanding Poster Award during ResearchOne Fourth Annual Graduate Research Symposium 2012.



Vito Rebecca and **Jessica McDaniel** were award winners in the Translational Research Poster category at the 2012 Moffitt Scientific Symposium.

Successful Dissertation Defenses Spring & Summer 2012



Dr. Nicole Fortenbery, pictured above with her committee, successfully defended her dissertation on April 6, 2012. From left to right: Committee member Julie Djeu; Dissertation Chair Robert Wiltrot, Scientific Director for Basic Science Director, Center for Cancer Research, NCI, NIH; Nicole Fortenbery; Committee members Dmitry Gabrilovich and P.K. Epling-Burnette; Major Professor Sheng Wei. Dr. Fortenbery has accepted a position as a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Peter Forsyth, chair of the Department of Neuro-Oncology at the Moffitt Cancer Center.



Dr. Michael Emmons, shown with his committee, successfully defended his dissertation on August 16, 2012. From left to right: Dissertation Chair Larry Boise, Emory School of Medicine; Major Professor Lori Hazlehurst, Michael Emmons; Committee members John Koomen, Mark McLaughlin and Steve Eschrich. Dr. Emmons has joined biotech firm [Modulation Therapeutics](#) here in Tampa.

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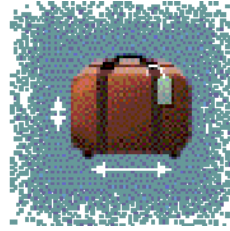
Dr. Jessica McDaniel successfully defended her dissertation on August 24, 2012 and is pictured here with her committee. From left to right: Committee members Javier Pinilla-Ibarz and Sheng Wei; Dissertation Chair Neal Young, NIH; Jessica McDaniel; Major Professor P.K. Burnette; committee members Julie Djeu and Xue-Zhong Yu. Dr. McDaniel has joined the [Technology Commercialization and Knowledge Transfer](#) office at Ohio State University as a postdoctoral licensing analyst.

OTMC Internship



On August 30th, Jarett Rieger and Haskell Adler from Moffitt's Office of Technology Management and Commercialization spoke to postdocs and Cancer Biology students about the licensing and patenting process and an internship opportunity available to interested individuals to work in the OTMC office.

Jessica McDaniel was the first Cancer Biology student to participate in the internship program. A commitment of 4 hours per week is required and interested students should contact Dana Caggia in OTMC via email (dana.caggia@moffitt.org) for an application.



Travel

USF has imposed a spending freeze which currently includes graduate student travel. An update will be sent out as soon as more information is available. Major meetings like ASH and AACR do offer travel awards and students are advised to apply for those if planning to attend either meeting.

*Always 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*, can be found by clicking this link: [Travel Award](#)*

New Faculty

New Cancer Biology faculty members recently approved:

- **Uwe Rix, Ph.D.**
Assistant Member, Moffitt Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, DOS
- **Juan R. Del Valle, Ph.D.**
Assistant Member, Moffitt Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, DOS

Course Instructors – Fall 2012

- **Current Topics in Oncology**
Gary Reuther is course director this Fall
- **Advances in Cancer Biology**
Keiran Smalley is the course director for the Fall
- **Cancer Research Techniques**
John Koomen serves as course director this Fall
- **Cancer Biology I**
Mark Alexandrow returns as course director this Fall
- **Cancer Biology Lab Rotations**
Gary Reuther serves as Course Director for Lab Rotations
- **Bioethics** – Ken Wright is course director for the Fall
- **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

Students who have chosen major professors:

- Jeremy McGuire – Conor Lynch, Ph.D.
- Courtney Schaal – Srikumar Chellappan, Ph.D.

Meet The Mentors Day

On Wednesday, August 29th eleven Cancer Biology faculty members presented their research to the incoming class so the students could make informed choices for lab rotations. Prior to the presentations, current and new students enjoyed a potluck lunch featuring Kapucijners, Coca-cola style chicken wings, Kerazee pasta and some awesome desserts!

Pictures:

First Year Students



From left: January Watters, Brent Kuenzi, Andressa Sodre de Castro Laino, Sridevi Challa, Katie Mishall

Enjoying the pot luck!





Lab Rotations

First years' lab rotations:

- January Watters – Rix lab
- Brent Kuenzi – Mahajan lab
- Andressa Laino – Epling-Burnette lab
- Sridevi Challa – Cheng lab
- Katie Mishall – Chellappan lab

CBSO

The Cancer Biology Student Organization recently held an election with the resulting slate of officers:

President: Vito Rebecca
Vice President: Jeremy Frieling
Secretary: Jeremy McGuire
Treasurer: Courtney Kurtyka
Webmaster: Jianing Fu

For more information on the CBSO and their community outreach projects please visit their website (link has recently changed):

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

Publications

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

Published or in press:

Crystina C. Bronk, Xue-Zhong Yu and Amer A. Beg. *Targeting PKC θ in alloreactivity and graft-versus-host-disease: unanswered questions and therapeutic potential.* Frontiers in Immunology, August 2012 | Volume 3 | Article 259

John JK, **Paraiso KH**, **Rebecca VW**, Cantini LP, Abel EV, Pagano N, Meggers E, Mathew R, Krepler C, Izumi V, Fang B, Koomen JM, Messina JL, Herlyn M, Smalley KS. GSK3 β Inhibition Blocks Melanoma Cell/Host Interactions by Downregulating N-Cadherin Expression and Decreasing FAK Phosphorylation. J Invest Dermatol. 2012 Jul 19. doi: 10.1038/jid.2012.237.

Collazo MM, **Paraiso KH**, Park MY, Hazen AL, Kerr WG. Lineage extrinsic and intrinsic control of immunoregulatory cell numbers by SHIP. Eur J Immunol. 2012 Jul;42(7):1785-95.

Fedorenko IV, Gibney GT, Smalley KSM. *NRAS mutant melanoma: biological behavior and future strategies for therapeutic management.* Oncogene, 2012. Accepted for publication.

Beck D, Niessner H, Smalley K.S.M., Flaherty K, **Paraiso K. H.T.**, Busch C, Sinnberg T, Vasseur S, Iovanna J, Drießen S, Stork B, Wesselborg S, Schaller M, Biedermann T, Bauer J, Lasithiotakis K, Weide B, Eberle J, Schittek B, Schadendorf D, Garbe C, Kulms D and Meier F. *Vemurafenib potently induces endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress and ER stress-mediated apoptosis in BRAFV600E melanoma cells.* Science Signaling, under revision

Bailey, K.M., Wojtkowiak, J.W., Ibrahim Hashim, A., Gillies, R.J. (2012) Targeting the Metabolic Microenvironment of Tumors. Advances in Pharmacology 65, 63-107. Book Chapter

Submitted:

Ribeiro, M.C., Silva A.S., **Bailey K.M.**, Kumar N.B., Sellers T.A., Gatenby R.A., Ibrahim-Hashim A., Gillies R.J. (2012) Buffer Therapy for Cancer. *J Nutr Food Sci.* In submission.

Invited Presentations

Inna Fedorenko – Wistar Melanoma Group, Wistar Institute, July 2012

Inna Fedorenko - Society for Melanoma Research 2012 Congress in Hollywood, California, November 8-11, 2012. Partially funded by award from USF Student Government.

Anxhela Gjyshi - Genetic Associations and Mechanisms in Oncology (GAME-ON): Fifth Plenary Meeting, NIH, July 2012

Poster Presentations

Kim Paraiso – Kim will utilize a portion of her Joanna M. Nicolay Melanoma Foundation award to attend the Society for Melanoma Research 2012 Congress in November and present a poster: *A systems biology approach reveals increased activation of key drivers of tumor cell migration and invasion in vemurafenib resistant melanoma.* **Kim H. T. Paraiso**, Bin Fang, Dale Han, Inna Fedorenko, Jobin John, John M. Koomen, Keiran S. M. Smalley.

Vito Rebecca will also attend the SMR Congress courtesy of a Cancer Biology Travel Award to present his poster: *Akt Inhibition Reinforces the Antitumor Efficacy of Carboplatin and Paclitaxel (CP) in melanomas that are BRAF wild-type by modulating the Balance Between Autophagy and Apoptosis.*

Vito W. Rebecca, Ragini Kudchadkar, Keiran S. M. Smalley.

CMMB/Cancer Bio Welcome Reception

This year's student welcome reception was hosted by CMMB on the seventh floor of the new ISA building. After welcoming speeches by CMMB student Sal Syed and Cancer Bio student Jeremy Frieling, several special guests spoke to the students including Dr. Jack Pledger, Provost Ralph Wilcox, Dean Karen Liller, Dr. Ken Wright and Dr. Les Shaw.

A number of students were recognized during the reception for their achievements in research and for their service to the Tampa Bay community.

Cancer Biology

Kim Paraiso – Outstanding Research Accomplishment Award

Kathy McGraw – CBSO Community Service Award

Jianing Fu – CBSO Community Service Award

CMMB

Whittney Burda – Outstanding Research Award

Kent Seeley – Outstanding Research Award

Alex Barrett – Community Service Award

Wade Borchers – Community Service Award

Pictures from the reception:





Alumni News



Cancer Biology graduate **Dr. Meghan Borysova** has qualified for an NIH Loan Repayment award. Dr. Borysova is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the College of Public Health at USF and is funded by her own DoD grant.