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Announcements

- Former Program Coordinator, Marcie McMahon, has decided to stay home with her new daughter, Maggie. Cathy Gaffney has accepted the position effective April 25, 2005.
- **Yu Pan** became the second graduate of the Program, successfully defending her dissertation, *Modification of MDMX by Ubiquitination and Sumoylation*, on March 23, 2005. Pan received her degree on May 7, 2005 and has accepted a postdoctoral position in the lab of W. Stratford May, Jr., MD, PhD, Professor and Director of Shands Cancer Center at the University of Florida.

Courses

- Current Topics in Cancer Biology
 - Dmitry Gabrilovich has agreed to guide the course for a third year with Hong-Gang Wang as Co-Director. Only second and third year students are required to attend the course.
- Advances in Cancer Biology –
 - Gary Reuther will direct the class for the Fall, replacing Ed Seto who steps down after three years as director. Thank you, Ed.
 - Doug Cress will direct the course for a third time in the Spring.
- Cancer Biology I – Kumar Chellappan will begin his third year as director of this important core course.
- Tools for Cancer Research – Noreen Luetke will begin her fifth year as director! Many thanks to her for continuing to lead this unique course.
- Cancer Biology II – Sheng Wei will become the new director for this course. Bill Kerr is stepping down after devoting three years to the course. Thank you, Bill.

Update

New Course this Fall

- Selected Topics in Cancer Biology: Cancer Genetics – Alvaro Monteiro will direct this new course for the Fall. An excellent choice to fulfill a selective course requirement.

Faculty

- New Cancer Biology faculty members approved Spring/Summer 2005:
 - Xue-Zhong Yu, MD
 - Tuya Pal, MD
 - Patricia Munster, MD



Students

- Fall 2005 incoming class:
 - **Shruti Desai**, University of Pune, India
 - **Emily Goll**, Miami University, Ohio
 - **Danielle Kelsch**, University of Nebraska
 - **Aneliya Velkova**, St. Kliment Ohridski-Sofia, Bulgaria
- Spring 2005:
 - **Michelle Collazo**, Florida Institute of Technology
- “Meet-the-Mentors” Day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2005. That evening, a Welcome Reception and Dinner will be held for all entering and returning students in the Stabile Research Building, David Murphey Conference Room, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.
- This year’s 1st year students have all selected a mentor. They are:
 - **Alyson Fay** with the Monteiro lab
 - **Neha Kabra** with the Chen lab
 - **Meghan Kreeger** with the Guadagno lab
 - **Amy Samec** with the Sotomayor lab
 - **Philip Wong** with the Seto lab
 - **Nicholas Woods** with the Wang lab
- The following students have been admitted to candidacy:
 - **Daniele Gilkes**
 - **Rebecca Kinkade**
 - **Cheryl Meyerkord**
 - **Adam Carie**
- Students in process of finishing Qualifying Exam:
 - **Amy Dedrick** (scheduled for August)

July 2005



Travel Awards

- **Amy Dedrick** will attend the 3rd annual meeting of the *International Society for Stem Cell Research* in San Francisco, June 22 thru June 26.
- **Meghan Kreeger** will attend the *Gordon Research Conference on Molecular & Genetic Basis of Cell Proliferation* in New Hampshire, June 26 thru July 1.
- **Adam Carie and Rebecca Kinkade** will attend the *Gordon Research Conference on Cancer Models & Mechanisms* in Rhode Island, July 24 thru July 29.
- **Cindy LeBron and Daniele Gilkes** will attend the *International MDM2 Workshop* in Konstanz, Germany, September 8 thru 13.

Fellowships

- **Joe Wahle** renewed a predoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association.

Publications

Araya R, Hirai I, **Meyerkord CL**, Wang, HG.

Loss of RPA 1 induces Chk2 phosphorylation through a caffeine-sensitive pathway. FEBS Lett. 2005 Jan 3; 579(1): 157-61.

Sun J, Wang DA, Jain RK, **Carie A**, Paquette S, Ennis E, Blaskovich MA, Baldini L, Coppola D, Hamilton AD, Sebti SM.

Inhibiting angiogenesis and tumorigenesis by a synthetic molecule that blocks binding of both VEGF and PDGF to their receptors. Oncogene. 2005 May 16; [Epub ahead of print]

Grants Submitted

- **Alyson Fay** has submitted a proposal to the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program for the Predoctoral Fellowship entitled "The DNA Damage Response in Breast Cancer: Functional Analysis of the Interaction Between CHK2 and a Regulatory Subunit of Protein Phosphatase 2A.
- **Cheryl Meyerkord** has also submitted a proposal to the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program for the Predoctoral Fellowship entitled "The Role of the Rad9-Rad1-Hus1 Complex in Regulation of DNA Damage-Induced Apoptosis in Human Breast Cancer Cells".

If there are additional grant submissions, please let me know.

Round Table

- **Meghan Kreeger** organized a Round Table discussion/dinner on Thursday, June 9th. Students and faculty aired opinions on a variety of subjects, including career development and guidance, a student lounge, master's alternative, peer tutoring options and journal club attendance for fourth year students and above. A notice will be sent out when the next Round Table is scheduled.

