



Spring 2007

Announcements

- Cynthia LeBron will become the third graduate of the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program. Her dissertation defense will be on Monday, April 2, 2007.



- The Program underwent its first Academic Review this year. Dr. Bill Marzluff from UNC Chapel Hill and Dr. Gary Gallick from University of Texas-M.D. Anderson conducted the review. Their verbal report at the end of the visit was extremely positive.
- The Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program has implemented a Parental Leave Policy to assist students during a maternity leave. The policy has been included in the Student Handbook.
- First year students will receive a annual stipend of \$22,600 (2007-2008); students will also now receive an annual cost of living increase.
- Deborah Kuhn, Cancer Biology's first graduate, has received an ACS post-doctoral fellowship for three years for her project "Development of Immunoproteasome-specific Inhibitors as Anti-cancer Agents". *Congratulations, Deborah!*

C
R
E
A
T
I
V
E
I
N
Q
U
I
R
Y

M

a

r

c

h

Faculty

- New Cancer Biology faculty members approved Fall 2006/Spring 2007:
 - Jin Cheng, Ph.D., DIO
 - Jia Fang, Ph.D., DIO

Students

- Students who have selected their mentor since the last Newsletter:
 - Emily Hopewell – Beg lab
 - Michelle Collazo Ruiz – Kerr lab
 - Je-In Youn – Gabrilovich lab
- Current rotations for First Year students:
 - Brittany Douppnik – Chen lab
 - Nicole Gjertsen – Wang lab
 - Cindy Timme – Yeatman lab
- A Student Round Table was held on Friday, November 17th. Ken Wright and Meghan Borysova reported on the Cancer Biology Chairs and Program Directors Retreat in Asilomar, California this year. Students and faculty discussed the quality of student health insurance, stipend levels and curriculum.
- Several students were recognized during the **Moffitt Scientific Retreat** held on Saturday, February 24. In the Graduate Student category, **Daniele Gilkes** received the first place award; **Becky Kinkade** placed second and **Adam Carie** took third. **Becky** also received an award during USF Health Research Day, Friday, February 23rd. *Photos from the Retreat are featured at the end of the newsletter.*
- Interviews of potential students for Fall 2007 were held on Friday, February 23, 2006. Eighteen potential students interviewed throughout the day and had dinner with current students Friday evening. Applicants also attended the Scientific Retreat.

2007

- To aid students in meeting the graduation requirement of presenting two formal research-in-progress seminars, the Cancer Biology Student Seminar Series (CBSSS) is now held on select Thursdays during the month.

Publications

Gilkes, D. M., and Chen, J. (2007). Distinct roles of MDMX in the regulation of p53 response to ribosomal stress. Cell Cycle 6, 151-155.

Gilkes, D. M., Chen, L., and Chen, J. (2006). MDMX regulation of p53 response to ribosomal stress. Embo J 25, 5614-5625.

Hu, B., **Gilkes, D. M.**, Farooqi, B., Sebti, S. M., and Chen, J. (2006). MDMX overexpression prevents p53 activation by the MDM2 inhibitor Nutlin. J Biol Chem 281, 33030-33035.

Grants Submitted

- **Neha Kabra** has applied for an American Heart Association fellowship and will receive notification in May.
- **Nick Woods** has applied for a National Cancer Center pre-doctoral award and will receive notification in April.

Good Luck, Neha and Nick!

Grants Awarded

- **Nick Woods** is a co-investigator with Dr. Hong-Gang Wang on a grant from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute – 2006 Clinical Innovator Award - for a project titled: "Nicotine induced Src signaling in lung metastasis".
Congratulations, Nick & Dr. Wang!

Photos from Scientific Retreat







