



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Announcements

Linda Seefeldt, Vice President of the ARCS Foundation – Tampa Bay has informed the Program that the chapter will fund its first scholarships in Fall 2010. A Cancer Biology student will receive a three-year scholarship during an awards luncheon tentatively scheduled in October. For more information on ARCS, please visit the website: www.arcsfoundation.org.

Courses

The Bioethics course developed by Dr. Ken Wright last year was offered again this Spring. Many students and postdocs on funded fellowships are required to complete a bioethics course and the course was developed in part to meet this requirement. Cancer Biology first and third year students are required to take the 2 credit hour course. Included among the lectures this year was one with Dr. Caroline Appleyard at the Ponce School of Medicine, made possible via videoconferencing.

Other Program Courses and faculty course directors:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Cancer Biology II | Sheng Wei, M.D. |
| Current Topics in Oncology | Jiandong Chen, Ph.D. |
| Lab Rotations | Gary Reuther, Ph.D. |
| Advances In Cancer Biology Research | Mahajan Nupam, Ph.D. |
| Directed Research | Gary Reuther, Ph.D. |

Faculty

New Cancer Biology faculty approved:

- **Alan List, M.D.**
Executive Vice President & Physician-in-Chief
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute
Professor, Department of Oncologic Sciences
College of Medicine, University of South Florida

Student News

First Year Students

First year students who have selected their lab:

- Courtney Kurtyka – Cress lab
- Kathy Rocha McGraw – List lab
- Anxhela Gjyshi – Monteiro lab
- Inna Fedorenko – Smalley lab
- Kyle Bauckman – Nanjundan lab

CBSO (Cancer Biology Student Organization)

The CBSO has entered a team in the upcoming Miles for Moffitt event in May; to donate to the team and this very worthy cause, click <http://www.active.com/donate/milesformoffitt2010/MPrice99>. You can also see more about the CBSO by visiting their website:

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

New CBSO officers for 2010-2011 are:

President: **Valentina Schneeberger**

VP: **Vito Rebecca**

Sec: **Kyle Bauckman**

Treas: **Lori Griner**

Ponce Summer Research

Three Cancer Biology students will travel to Ponce School of Medicine to spend several weeks in research labs; the students going this year are **Vito Rebecca**, **Kyle Bauckman** and **Anxhela Gjyshi**.

TA Opportunity – The Biology Department at USF contacted Dr. Wright to determine if any Cancer Biology student would be interested in volunteering as a TA in the spring or summer semester. Two students indicated interest and their names were forwarded to the Biology department. Students interested in being a TA in the fall should email Dr. Wright so that he can forward the names to Arts & Sciences.

2009 Poster Symposium, USF Research One Week

The Cancer Biology Program was represented again this year at USF's Office of Research and Innovation's Research One Week.

Emily Hopewell, **Shruti Desai**, **Neha Kabra** and **Jason Dubovsky** were among the 110 entrants this year.

S p r i n g

Dissertation Defenses

On January 14, 2010 **Alyson Freeman** successfully defended her dissertation. Alyson has joined the lab of [Dr. Deborah Morrison](#) at the National Cancer Institute.



Pictured from left to right: Committee member Gary Litman, Dissertation Chair Fred Bunz from Johns Hopkins University, Alyson, Major Professor Alvaro Monteiro and Committee Members Ken Wright and Gary Reuther

Congratulations, Alyson!

On February 24, 2010 **Danielle Yarde** defended her dissertation successfully and has joined the lab of [Stephen J. Russell, M.D., Ph.D.](#) at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.



Pictured from left to right: Committee members Ed Seto, Lori Hazlehurst, Alvaro Monteiro, Danielle, Dissertation Chair Maureen Hoatlin from Oregon Health & Science University, Committee member Michael Schell and Major Professor Bill Dalton

Well Done, Danielle!

On March 4, 2010, Neha Kabra successfully defended her dissertation; Neha has joined the lab of her Major Professor [Jiandong Chen](#) as a postdoctoral fellow.



Pictured from left to right: Major Professor Jiandong Chen, Dissertation Chair James Manfredi from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Neha, Committee members Alvaro Monteiro, Doug Cress and Ken Wright

Outstanding, Neha!

Upcoming Defenses

Shruti Desai, Wright lab, will defend her dissertation on May 25, 2010. More information will be available closer to the defense date.

Publications

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 Apr 2.

Pradhan A, Lambert QT, **Griner LN**, Reuther GW. *Activation of JAK2-V617F by components of heterodimeric cytokine receptors*. J Biol Chem. 2010 Apr 2.

Nagaraj S*, **Youn JI***, Weber H, Iclozan C, Lu L, Cotter MJ, Meyer C, Becerra CR, Fishman M, Antonia S, Sporn MB, Liby KT, Rawal B, Lee JH, Gabrilovich DI. (* equal contribution) ***Anti-inflammatory triterpenoid blocks immune suppressive function of MDSCs and improves immune response in cancer.*** Clin Cancer Res. 2010 Mar 15; 16(6):1812-23.

Velkova A, Carvalho MA, Johnson JO, Tavtigian SV, Monteiro AN. **Identification of Filamin A as a BRCA1-interacting protein required for efficient DNA repair.** 2010, Cell Cycle 2010;9(7):1-13



***One of the images in Ani's article
was selected for the cover!
CONGRATULATIONS, ANI!***



Travel Awards

Emily Hopewell, Beg lab, travelled to the Keystone Symposium February 7-12, 2010 in Keystone, Colorado to present her abstract, "*Evaluating the role of NF- κ B-induced inflammation in tumor-associated immune responses in the lung*".

Jason Dubovsky has received a pre-doctoral travel award from AACR to attend the annual meeting in Washington, DC April 17-21, 2010. He will present his abstract, "*Molecular, epigenetic, and phenotypic repolarization of human T lymphocytes using 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine increases CD8 responsiveness and induces Th1 polarity*".

Jackie Johnson is attending AACR funded by a Cancer Biology travel award. The abstract she will present is titled "*MMP9, MMP14, and MMP15 genes are induced by nicotine in an E2F-dependent manner*".

✳ *The 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.*

Interview Day 2010

Fourteen applicants visited Moffitt on Thursday, March 18, 2010 to interview for a spot in the Program. Nine students were selected for admission in the fall.

Fall 2010 class:

| <i>Student</i> | <i>UG Institution</i> |
|--------------------|---|
| Lou-Ella Alexander | Saxion Hogeschool (BS) Radboud University (MS) |
| Victoria Bryant | University of Bath |
| Jeremy Frieling | New College, Sarasota |
| Jianing Fu | Peking University (BS, MS) |
| Peter Gracheck | Indiana University |
| Tom Hayman | UF; USF (M.D. student) |
| Ankita Jhuraney | Thadomal Shahani (BS) U of Pennsylvania (MS) |
| Brook Nepon-Sixt | USF |
| Ted Richards | Saint Anslem College (BS) Tulane University (MS) |



From left to right: Sarath Peddu, Jeremy Frieling, Meghan Howley, Kimyata Valere, Polly Chuntova, Holly Hamilton, Elizabeth Brown, Shweta Dambal



From left to right: Ted Richards, Peter Gracheck, Kaitlin Werle, Lou-Ella Alexander, Brook Nepon-Sixt, Tom Hayman

Scientific Retreat 2010

Several Cancer Biology graduate students participated in the annual Moffitt Scientific Retreat held on Friday, March 19, 2010. Award winners were: **Shruti Desai, Brittany Cross, Kathy McGraw** and **Emily Hopewell**.

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*From left to right: Cancer Biology grad students **Shruti Desai, Brittany Cross, Kathy McGraw, Emily Hopewell** and Bethanne Bower from Health Outcomes and Behavior*

Pictures from Interview Day & Scientific Retreat



Dr. Monteiro, Dr. Sellers & Dr. Djeu
Welcome the interviewees



Dr. Wright discusses the Program



Vito talks with Kimyata, Meghan & Jeremy



Shweta, Kaitlin, Holly, Peter, Lou-Ella, Jessica and Sarath enjoy lunch



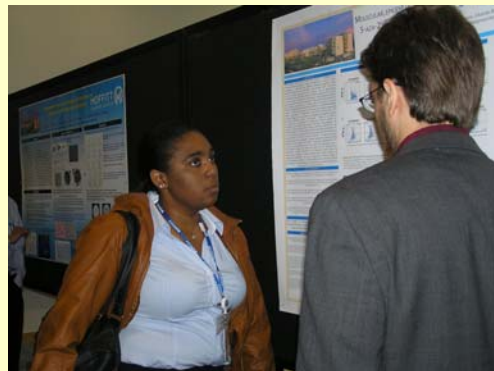
Ankita talks with Emily and Shruti



Applicant & current student dinner



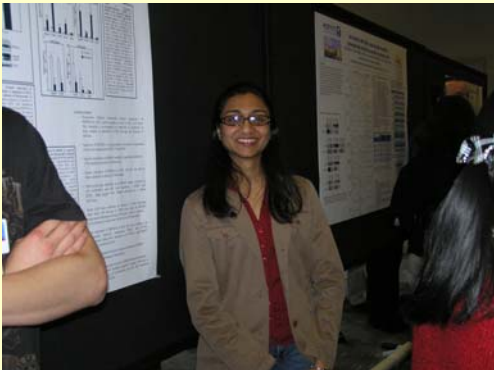
Applicant & student dinner



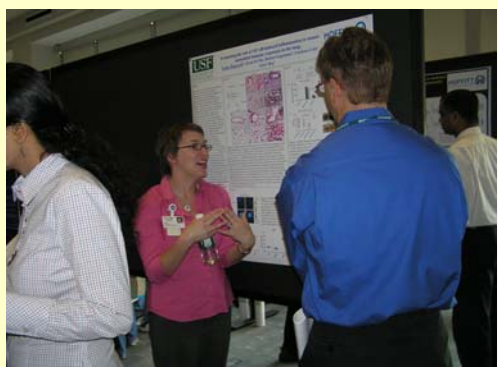
Lou-Ella and Jason discuss his poster



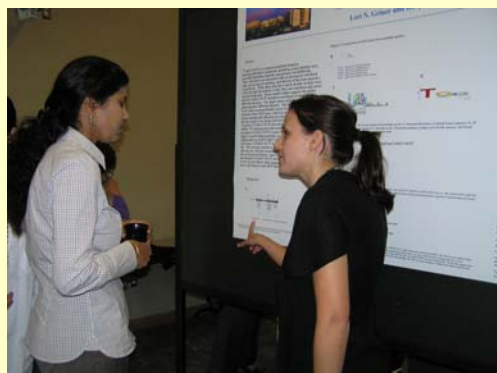
David and Polly view poster



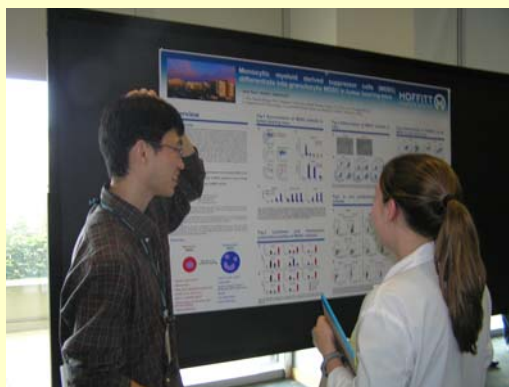
Shruti with her poster



Emily discusses her poster with Dr. Alexandrow



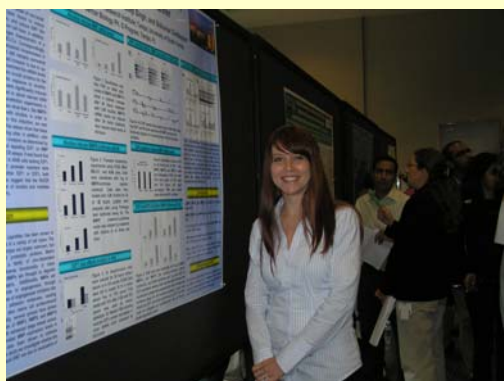
Lori explains her poster



Je-In with his poster



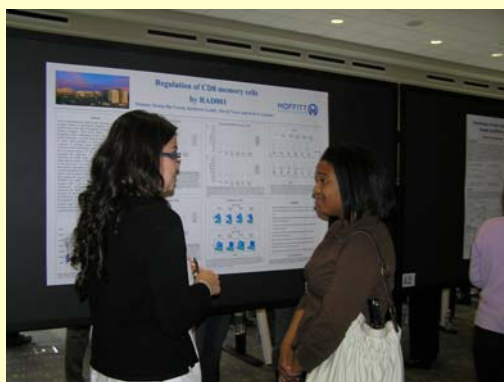
Inna talks about her poster



Jackie smiles next to her poster



Brittany explains her poster to Dr. Hazlehurst



Moffitt postdoc with Kimyata



Lunch at the Retreat



Another lunch table



More students enjoying lunch!