



Spring 2011

Announcements

Upcoming Dissertation Defenses

- **Brittany Cross** – Thursday, May 12, 2011.
Couch Auditorium, SRB, 9:00 a.m.
Dissertation Chair: Zhenkun Lou, Ph.D., Mayo Clinic
- **Aneliya Velkova** – Monday, May 16, 2011
Couch Auditorium, SRB, 9:00 a.m.
Dissertation Chair: William Foulkes, M.B., Ph.D., McGill University

All Cancer Biology students are expected to attend and support their peers.

ASH Awards

Jessica McDaniel received a \$500 travel award to attend the ASH meeting in Orlando in December. She was also selected to give an oral presentation of her abstract titled "Virtual and Physical Analysis of the Proximal T Cell Signalosome Reveals PP2A Inhibition is Important for Co-Stimulatory Function of Immunomodulatory (IMiD®) Drugs".

Lori Griner also received a \$500 travel award for her abstract "Requirement of Lipid Raft Integrity for Signaling by JAK2-V617F".

AACR Awards

Brittany Cross, **Inna Fedorenko** and **Michelle Collazo Ruiz** received awards during the recent AACR Annual Meeting in Orlando. **Brittany** received one of the 2011 AACR Women in Cancer Research Scholar Awards and **Inna** received an AACR Scholar-In-Training Award. **Michelle** won a Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award. **Jackie Johnson** was a finalist in the AACR Women in Cancer Research awards as well.

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USF RESEARCH DAY

Jackie Johnson won \$100 in the Basic Science category during the USF Research Day competition with her poster "Differential Regulation of MMP Promoters By E2F Transcription Factors".

CABTRAC

Student Advisor **Dr. Gary Reuther** and students **Jason Dubovsky** and **Lori Griner** attended the 6th Annual Cancer Biology Chairs and Directors Retreat and the 2010 Cancer Biology Training Consortium Annual Meeting on November 5-7 at the Hilton El Conquistador Resort in Tucson, Arizona. This meeting provides an opportunity for representatives to discuss relevant issues impacting Cancer Biology programs across the country.

Lindau Meeting

Jackie Johnson was nominated through the Oak Ridge Associate Universities (ORAU) by Dr. Karen Holbrook, Senior Vice President of Research at USF for selection to attend the Lindau meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany.

St. Jude

Jackie Johnson has been invited to apply to attend the annual St. Jude Graduate Research Symposium.

Graduate News

Deborah Kuhn, the first graduate from the Cancer Biology program, has received a **K99/R00** Pathway to Independence from the NCI for her work on bortezomib-resistance in multiple myeloma. Deborah is currently an instructor at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center but hopes to transition to tenure-track faculty in the near future.

Scott Freeman is now a biologist with the Office of Orphan Projects at the FDA.

CBSO

On February 14, 2011 CBSO spent the day judging the Regional Hillsborough Science Fair and it was a success. This is the second year members of the CBSO have been invited to judge the Special Awards category for elementary, middle, and high school students.

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Secondly, the CBSO is selling candy bars in Nander's to raise money for their educational outreach project to bring science and experimentation into local elementary schools.

Lastly, CBSO is selling t-shirts with a "Take Charge Against Cancer" theme to show support for the CBSO racing team in the Miles for Moffitt Race this May. All proceeds from the t-shirts go toward the educational outreach project. A contest was held among CBSO members to decide the design for the shirt and Vito Rebecca was the winner!

Shirts cost \$10 and payments can be made in the following locations until May 9:

Valentina Schneeberger- Wu Lab 3rd floor SRB
Vito Rebecca- Smalley Lab 4th floor SRB
Lori Griner- Reuther Lab 3rd floor MRC

To contribute directly to the CBSO Miles for Moffitt team, please click this link:

<http://www.active.com/donate/2011MilesforMoffitt/KBauckm>

To become a member of the CBSO Miles for Moffitt team, click:

<http://www.active.com/running/tampa-fl/florida-bank-miles-for-moffitt-at-usf-2011>
and select the CBSO Team. The rest is self-explanatory.

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

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

Faculty

New Cancer Biology faculty members approved:

- **Andrew Hu, Ph.D.**
Assistant Member, Moffitt Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, DOS
- **Vrushank Davé, Ph.D.**
Assistant Professor, USF Dept. of
Pathology and Cell Biology
Assistant Professor, DOS
- **Conor Lynch, Ph.D.**
Assistant Member, Moffitt Cancer Center
Assistant Professor, DOS

Courses

- **Current Topics in Oncology**
Jia Fang is serving as course director for the Spring
- **Advances in Cancer Biology**
Nupam Mahagan is the course director for the Spring
- **Cancer Biology II**
Shari Pilon-Thomas is the course director for Spring
- **Cancer Biology Lab Rotations**
Gary Reuther serves as Course Director for Lab Rotations
- **Cancer Biology III, Cancer Genetics** course moved to the Spring semester; Alvaro Monteiro remains course director
- **Bioethics** – Ken Wright is course director for the Spring
- **Clinical Trials Workshop** – Doug Cress is the course director for this newly established course
- **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

Second & Third lab rotations for new students:

- **Lou-Ella Alexander** – Wright lab, no third rotation
- **Victoria Bryant** – Alexandrow lab, no third rotation
- **Brienne Engel** – Hazlehurst & Koomen labs
- **Jeremy Frieling** – Bai & Hu labs
- **Jianing Fu** – List & Yu labs
- **Peter Gracheck** – Chen & Sotomayor labs
- **Ankita Jhuraney** – Smalley & Burnette labs
- **Brook Nepon-Sixt** – Alexandrow lab, no third rotation
- **Ted Richards** – Mahajan & Cheng labs

Students who have selected major professors:

- **Lou-Ella Alexander** – Ken Wright
- **Victoria Bryant** – Mark Alexandrow
- **Brienne Engel** – Doug Cress
- **Jianing Fu** – Xue-Zhong Yu
- **Brook Nepon-Sixt** – Mark Alexandrow
- **Ted Richards** – Jin Cheng

Recruitment Day



On Friday, February 25, 2011 the thirteen applicants pictured above participated in the Cancer Biology Interview Day. Six applicants have accepted offers to join the Program in the fall. They are:

Fall 2011

<i>Student</i>	<i>UG Institution</i>
Lisa Blumencranz	USF
Sridevi Challa	Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Jie Chen	Shandong Univ. (BS & MS)
Jeremy McGuire	Florida Gulf Coast Univ.
Kim Paraiso	UF (MS)
Courtney Schaal	UF (BS); USF (MS)

Publications

Cross, B., Chen, L., Cheng, Q., Li, B., Yuan, Z.M., & Chen, J. 2011. *Inhibition of p53 DNA binding function by the MDM2 acidic domain*. JBC. Web. 17 March 2011.

Chen, L., Li, Z., Zwolinska, A.K., Smith, M.A., **Cross, B.**, Koomen, J., Yuan, Z.M., Jenuwein, T., Marine, J.C., Wright, K., & Chen, J. 2010. *MDM2 recruitment of lysine methyltransferases regulates p53 transcriptional output*. EMBO J. v. 29 no. 15, 2538-2555.

Griner, LN and Reuther, GW. *Aggressive myeloid leukemia formation is directed by the musashi 2/numb pathway*. Cancer Biology & Therapy 10:10, 979-982; November 15, 2010.

Paraiso KH, Xiang Y, **Rebecca VW**, Abel EV, Chen YA, Munko AC, Wood E, **Fedorenko IV**, Sondak VK, Anderson AR, Ribas A, Palma MD, Nathanson KL, Koomen JM, Messina JL, Smalley KS. *PTEN Loss Confers BRAF Inhibitor Resistance to Melanoma Cells through the Suppression of BIM Expression*. Cancer Res. 2011 Apr 1;71(7):2750-2760. Epub 2011 Feb 11. *This paper was the subject of a research highlight article in Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology(below):*

Targeted therapies: In melanoma, resistance is futile?

Rebecca Kirk Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology, advance online publication,
Published online 5 April 2011 | doi:10.1038/nrclinonc.2011.37

ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Paraiso, K. H. T. et al. *PTEN loss confers BRAF inhibitor resistance to melanoma cells through the suppression of BIM expression.*

Cancer Res. doi: 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-10-2954

Tumor heterogeneity and strategies to overcome kinase inhibitor resistance in cancer: lessons from melanoma. **Rebecca VW**, Smalley KS. Expert Opin Investig Drugs. 2011 Feb;20(2):137-40.

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"**.

Presentations

ASH December 2010

Lori Griner, Reuther lab:

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

Jessica McDaniel, Burnette lab:

"Virtual and Physical Analysis of the Proximal T Cell Signalosome Reveals PP2A Inhibition is Important for Co-Stimulatory Function of Immunomodulatory (IMiD®) Drugs".

Both Lori and Jessica received travel awards to attend ASH.

AACR April 2011

Kyle Bauckman, Nanjundan lab:

"Role of Autophagic Mediators in the Transition from Endometriosis to Endometriosis-Associated Ovarian Cancers"

Brittany Cross, Chen lab:

"Inhibition of p53 DNA binding function by the MDM2 acidic domain"

Jason Dubovsky, Pinilla lab:

"Epigenetic repolarization of T lymphocytes from chronic lymphocytic Leukemia patients using 5-aza-2-deoxycytidine"

Michael Emmons, Hazlehurst lab:

" α 4 integrin expression is a determinant for activity of the integrin antagonist HYD1 in multiple myeloma cell lines and patient specimens"

Inna Fedorenko, Smalley lab:

“Integrative Phospho-Proteomic and Genomic Analyses Identify AXL As a Potential Biomarker and Therapeutic Target for NRAS-Mutated Melanoma”

Jackie Johnson, Chellappan lab:

“Differential regulation of MMP promoters by E2F transcription factors: Potential role of c-MYC and Id1”

Courtney Kurtyka, Cress lab:

“Targeting the E2F pathway in cancer chemotherapeutics”

Michelle Collazo Ruiz, Gabrilovich lab:

“Characterization of the Relationship between Neutrophils and Tumor Associated Granulocytic Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells” (in cooperation with Je-In Youn)

2011 Moffitt Scientific Symposium:

The following Cancer Bio students were among the top twenty Poster Presentations selected during the recent Moffitt Symposium:

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

Jason Dubovsky: “Epigenetic repolarization of T lymphocytes from chronic lymphocytic leukemia patients using 5-aza-2-deoxycytidine”

Inna Fedorenko: “Integrative Phospho-Proteomic and Genomic Analyses Identify AXL as a Potential Biomarker and Therapeutic Target for NRAS-Mutated Melanoma”

Other students participating in the Symposium included:

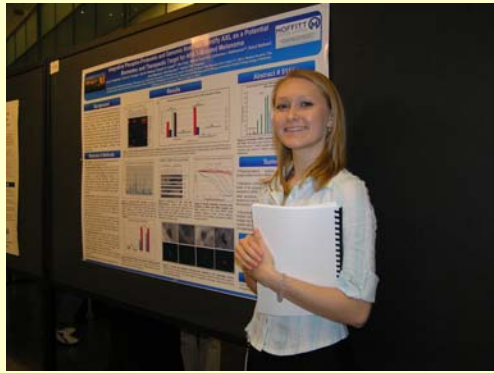
Lori Griner, Jackie Johnson, Kate Bailey, Courtney Kurtyka, Michael Emmons, Je-In Youn (with Michelle Collazo presenting the poster).

Pictures from the Scientific Symposium:

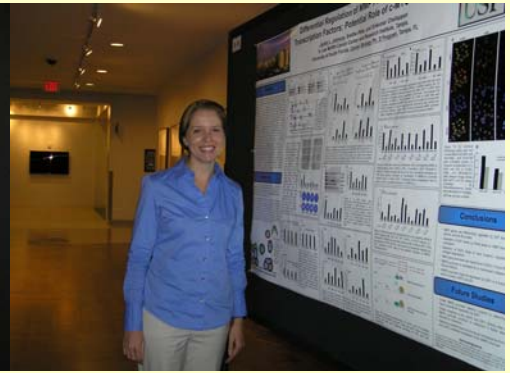


Kate Bailey, Seto lab

Lori Griner, Reuther lab



Inna Fedorenko, Smalley lab



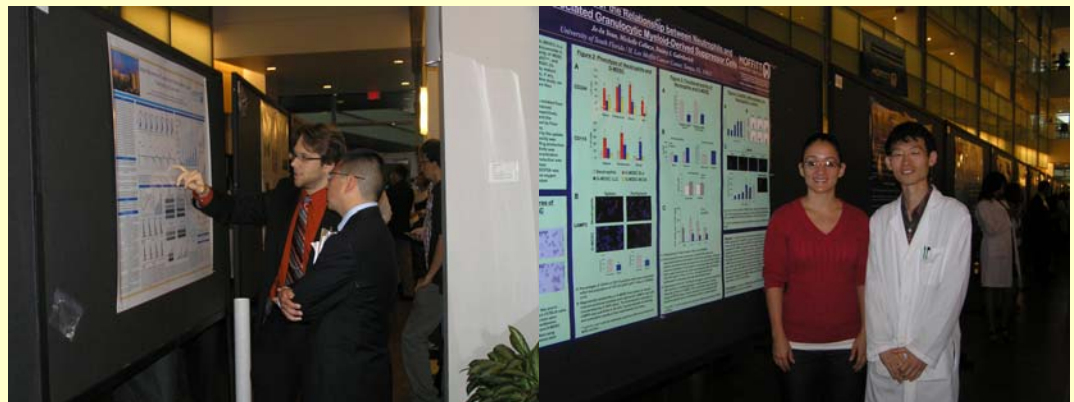
Jackie Johnson, Chellappan lab



Dr. Hazlehurst w/Michael Emmons



Courtney Kurtyka explains her poster



Jason Dubovsky discussed his poster

Michelle Collazo and Je-In Youn

Successful Dissertation Defenses Spring 2011

Dr. Je-In Youn, pictured below with his Committee, successfully defended his dissertation on January 21, 2011. Je-In has accepted a postdoc position with his current mentor, [Dr. Dmitry Gabrilovich](#).



From left to right: Committee member Esteban Celis; Committee member Amer Beg; Dissertation Chair Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg from the University of Maryland Baltimore County; Major Professor Dmitry Gabrilovich; Je-In Youn; Committee member Sheng Wei

Dr. Jason Dubovsky, pictured below with his Committee, successfully defended his dissertation on February 18, 2011. Jason has accepted a postdoc position at Ohio State University in the lab of [John Byrd, M.D.](#), Director of the Division of Hematology.



From left to right: Co-Major Professor Eduardo Sotomayor; Committee member Sheng Wei; Committee member Lori Hazlehurst; Committee member Gary Reuther; Co-Major Professor Javier Pinilla; Jason Dubovsky; Dissertation Chair Neil Kay from the Mayo Clinic

Grant Submissions

Melissa Buckley and **Kate Bailey** have applied for the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for Individual Predoctoral Fellows.

Kate Bailey has also applied for an American Heart Association Predoctoral fellowship; funding notifications go out the end of May.



Travel

Six students, **Kyle Bauckman, Brittany Cross, Jason Dubovsky, Michael Emmons, Jackie Johnson** and **Courtney Kurtyka** received Cancer Biology travel awards to attend the AACR Annual meeting in Orlando in April. All students presented a poster on their research.

Kate Bailey has received a Cancer Biology travel award to present a poster on her research at the upcoming FASEB meeting on HDACs and Reversible Acetylation in signaling and disease. The meeting will be held in Steamboat Springs Colorado in June.

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, can be found by clicking this link:
<http://www.cancerbiology.usf.edu/Forms/Travel Award Request.pdf>*