Jeremy Frielings has been selected as a recipient of an AAAS Mass Media Fellowship. This 10-week summer program places science, engineering, and mathematics students at media organizations nationwide. Fellows use their academic training as they research, write, and report today’s headlines, sharpening their abilities to communicate complex scientific issues to the public.

Jeremy will be assigned to the Raleigh News & Observer after an initial orientation in Washington, DC. Jeremy’s fellowship is sponsored by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, an independent private foundation dedicated to advancing the biomedical sciences by supporting research and other scientific and educational activities. Congratulations, Jeremy!
Natalia Junqueira Sumi, pictured at the recent Moffitt Symposium, has received a $2,000 Travel Grant from the USF Office of Graduate Studies to enable her to attend a meeting outside the United States. Natalia will travel in July to Sicily to attend the Lipari School on Computational Life Sciences where the lectures will focus on algorithms, models, biomedical and biotechnological techniques together with clinical applications. Natalia will also participate in a poster session and share her current graduate research with fellow attendees.

Kamira Maharaj, pictured with her poster at ASH, received an American Society of Hematology Minority Scholar Award during the 2016 ASH meeting held in San Diego in December.
Afua "Chu Chu" Akuffo was invited to speak at her alma mater, Lafayette College, in April. The talk was sponsored by the Department of Biology and the Science Horizons Initiative. She spoke on her journey from her home country of Ghana to Lafayette College, her work at Moffitt and her future plans.

Brent Kuenzi attended a conference for F99 Fellows in Washington DC in January. Brent was one of the 30 awardees for the fellowship which was initiated in 2016.
On January 12, 2017, **Sridevi Challa** successfully defended her doctoral dissertation. She is pictured with her committee and invited chair; from left – Major Professor Mokenge Malafa, Committee member Domenico Coppola, Dr. Challa, Committee member Gary Reuther, invited chair Kounosuke Watabe from Wake Forest, Committee member Eric Lau. Dr. Challa has begun a postdoctoral fellowship in the lab of **Dr. William Lee Kraus** at UT Southwestern Medical School.

**Ashley Basiorka** defended her dissertation on January 17, 2017. She is pictured with her committee; from left – Committee member P.K. Epling-Burnette, invited Chair Daniel Starczynowski from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, Dr. Basiorka, Major Professor Alan List, Committee member Sheng Wei and Committee member Javier Pinilla. Dr. Basiorka has joined the [Prescott Medical Communications Group](#) in Chicago as an Associate Medical Writer.
Jeremy Frieling from Dr. Conor Lynch’s lab, defended his dissertation on April 13, 2017 and will join the Lynch lab as a postdoctoral fellow in July following his AAAS Media Fellowship. Pictured above from left: Committee members Srikumar Chellappan and John Koomen, Major Professor Conor Lynch, Dr. Frieling, invited Chair Florent Elefteriou from Baylor College of Medicine and Committee member Wenlong Bai.

**Faculty**

New Cancer Biology faculty members recently approved:

- **Lixin Wan, PhD**
  Molecular Oncology

- **Kenneth Tsai, MD, PhD**
  Tumor Biology

**Course Instructors - Spring 2017**

- **Current Topics in Oncology - Spring**
  Kiran Mahajan, Course Director

- **Advances in Cancer Biology - Spring**
  David Basanta, Course Director

- **Cancer Biology II**
  Shari Pilon-Thomas, Course Director
Tech Transfer Internship

Moffitt’s Office of Innovation and Industry Alliances offers Cancer Biology students an internship opportunity to work in the OTMC office. Students who participate receive transcript credit for the internship. A commitment of at least 4 hours per week is required and interested students should contact Latanya Scott, Ph.D. at latanya.scott@moffitt.org in the OTMC office. Cathy Gaffney also needs to be notified so students can be registered for the credit hours.

For recent graduates from the Program, OTMC now offers an opportunity to do a one year long internship in their office (6 months with a 6 month extension)—as a way to transition into business from academics. This is a paid trainee position and the contact person would be Haskell Adler, haskell.adler@moffitt.org in the OTMC office.

Third Lab Rotations

Kayla Harrington – Eric Padron lab
Brianna Sellers – Florian Karreth lab
Grace Ward – Keiran Smalley lab
Sweta Dash – Alvaro Monteiro lab

Mentors Selected

Kayla Harrington – Eric Padron lab
Grace Ward – Alan List lab
Wendy Kandell – Daniel Abate-Daga lab
Sweta Dash – Alvaro Monteiro lab
Ilah Bok – Florian Karreth lab
Brianna Sellers – Gina DeNicola lab
**New Student Recruitment**

A group of nineteen applicants visited the Program on February 16-17 to meet with current students, learn about the research being conducted at Moffitt and interview with several faculty. As part of the recruitment, Dr. Brian Ruffell presented a seminar on his current research. The applicants are pictured below followed by shots from the seminar and lunch with current students. Six students were admitted to the Program for Fall 2017 as noted in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>UG Institution</th>
<th>Grad Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bina Desai</td>
<td>University of Pune</td>
<td>Long Island University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payal Goala</td>
<td>Osmania University</td>
<td>Manipal University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacLean Hall</td>
<td>Davidson College</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neel Jasani</td>
<td>K.L.E. College of Pharmacy</td>
<td>Long Island University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sae Bom Lee</td>
<td>Ewha Womans University</td>
<td>Seoul National University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niveditha Nerlakanti</td>
<td>Jawaharlal Nehru Technological Univ</td>
<td>SUNY Albany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The CBSO will host Dr. Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg as a special guest speaker in June. Dr. Ostrand-Rosenberg is a Professor of Biological Sciences and the Robert and Jane Meyerhoff Professor of Biochemistry, University of Maryland Baltimore County. The CBSO will develop her itinerary and act as hosts her during her visit. She will present a seminar "Schizophrenic Myeloid-derived Suppressor Cells: Their Role in Cancer, Obesity, and Pregnancy" on Friday, June 9. Information is available on the digital signs and in the MRI Signals.

**End-of-Semester Picnic**

The CBSO sponsored an end-of-semester picnic on Saturday, May 6 for students and faculty. Fifteen students attended and enjoyed a beautiful day at the Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs. Attendees dined on hamburgers and veggie burgers plus a variety of side dishes. Here’s some pictures:
**Weekly Summer Seminar Series**

Again this summer, the CBSO has scheduled a weekly Summer Seminar Series to provide students with an opportunity to receive feedback from faculty members Eric Lau, Heiko Enderling and Brian Ruffell on their presentation skills. The series starts Monday, June 12th and lasts an hour (9-10 a.m.); location varies. Information has been provided to students; thanks to Shonagh Russell for organizing.

For more information on the CBSO, please visit their website: [http://usfstudentorganizations.orgsync.com/org/cancerbiologystudentorganizationatusf87196/home](http://usfstudentorganizations.orgsync.com/org/cancerbiologystudentorganizationatusf87196/home)

**National Graduate & Professional Student Appreciation Week April 3-7, 2017**

The Cancer Biology PhD Program hosted an Ice Cream Social for the students as part of NGPS Appreciation Week. Students and faculty enjoyed a variety of ice cream flavors and toppings! A big thank you to all the students and their efforts in their labs!
Reminder: Students should include the Program in the author affiliations of all papers and abstracts. Example: "Immunology Program, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL and the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.”

Published or in press since Fall newsletter:


Brent Kuenzi was notified that a manuscript preprint that he co-authored with Eric Welsh and Paul Stewart was highlighted in Nature Blogs and scored in the top 5% most viewed of all research outputs ever tracked by Altmetric.


https://biorxiv.altmetric.com/details/15899180#score

Oral Presentations

Cancer and Bone Society Conference 2017
May 4-6, 2017, Indianapolis, IN


Jeremy Frieling: "MMP Processing of PTHrP Yields a Selective Regulator of Osteogenesis, PTHrP1-17"

Moffitt Symposium 2017
May 4, 2017, Tampa, FL

Rebecca Hesterberg: “Ablation of Cereblon increases T cell anti-tumor immunity”
**Poster Presentations**

**Keystone Symposia:**
*Cell Plasticity within the Tumor Microenvironment*

*January 8-12, 2017, Big Sky, MT*

---

**Chen Hao Lo** (poster presentation & 3 minute poster teaser):
“*Temporal Dynamics of Macrophage Plasticity in Bone-Metastatic Prostate Cancer*”

---

**USF Health Research Day**
*February 24, 2017, Tampa, FL*

---

**Kamira Maharaj** (poster presentation): “*HDAC6 as a therapeutic target in CLL*”
Shonagh Russell: “The Warburg Effect: Protons Suck”

Mengyu Xie: “MEK inhibitors potentiate tumor immune surveillance by enhancing cancer cell response of IFNγ”

Also attending AACR and presenting posters:


Carly Harro: “Two distinct regulatory mechanisms underlie estrogen receptor negative breast cancer susceptibility at the 2p23.2 locus”

Pat Innamarato: “The role of CCL-2 on lymphopenia-induced myeloid derive suppressor cells”
Eleven Cancer Biology students participated in the annual Moffitt Symposium. Rebecca Hesterberg’s abstract was selected for oral presentation as noted above.

**Ella Bok:** “Oncogene-dependent *Induction of the tumor suppressive microRNA miR-29 family*”

**Alycia Gardner:** “*Intratumoral dendritic cells and the anti-tumor immune response*”
Carly Harro: “Two distinct regulatory mechanisms underlie estrogen receptor negative breast cancer susceptibility at the 2p23.2 locus”

Brent Kuenzi: “Characterizing and predicting exceptional sensitivity to Ceritinib and Paclitaxel”

January Watters: “Enhancing Natural Killer Cell Function through Selective Inhibition of Histone Deacetylase 8”
**Pat Innamarato:** “The role of interleukin 6 on the expansion and function of lymphopenia-induced myeloid derived suppressor cells”

**Daniel Lester:** "The role of HLA fucosylation and immune cell interactions in melanoma”

**Melissa Martinez:** “Quantification of Disease Burden and Therapeutic Antibody Levels in Multiple Myeloma Patients”

(not pictured)
Shonagh Russell: “Metabolic Profiling in Complex Tissues”

More pictures from the Symposium:
Research Mentor of the Year
Shari Pilon-Thomas

Shari Pilon-Thomas, left, received the Research Mentor of the Year Award during the Symposium. Recipients are nominated by research trainees and the winner is selected by a panel composed of Cancer Biology graduate students and Moffitt postdocs. Congrats, Shari!
Cancer and Bone Society Conference 2017  
May 4-6, 2017, Indianapolis, IN

Jeremy Frieling (oral presentation): "MMP Processing of PTHrP Yields a Selective Regulator of Osteogenesis, PTHrP1-17"


Jeremy McGuire (poster presentation): “Mesenchymal stem cells promote the evolution of apoptotic resistant prostate cancer in the bone microenvironment”

Chen Hao Lo (poster presentation): “Temporal Dynamics of Macrophage Plasticity in Bone-Metastatic Prostate Cancer”

AAI 2017  
May 12-16, 2017, Washington, DC

Afua Akuffo (poster presentation): “Intracellular protein degradation of BRD4 by dBET1 reveals conserved in vivo cereblon function in human and mouse T-cells”

Rebecca Hesterberg (poster presentation): “Cereblon ablation increases T cell anti-tumor immunity”

Reminder: Students should include the Program in the author affiliations of all posters. Example: “Immunology Program, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL and the Cancer Biology Ph.D. Program, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL”
Immunoology 2017 Capitol Hill Day

Rebecca Hesterberg participated in Immunology 2017 Capitol Hill Day during the AAI Conference. Delegates visited their respective Congressional representatives to advocate for biomedical research and the National Institutes of Health. Rebecca (far right) is pictured with other advocates outside Senator Bill Nelson’s office.

Alumni News

Alumni are welcome to submit news items for inclusion in the newsletter. Please email Cathy at cathy.gaffney@moffitt.org with your news!