



# Summer 2009

CBSO NEWS  
FOR  
FACULTY  
MEMBERS  
AND  
STUDENTS

## *Announcements*

- The annual “**Meet the Mentors**” Day will be on **Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**; faculty interested in mentoring a graduate student should contact Cathy Gaffney, [Cathy.Gaffney@moffitt.org](mailto:Cathy.Gaffney@moffitt.org), to secure a slot on the schedule to give a 15 minute presentation on your research to the six incoming students.
- This year the Cancer Biology Program will host a **Student Potluck Lunch** during “Meet the Mentors” Day so current and new students can have an opportunity to become acquainted! Current students have been contacted to sign up to bring their favorite dish to share.

## *Faculty*

- New faculty members approved Summer 2009:
  - **Nupam Mahajan, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Member, Drug Discovery  
Assistant Professor, DOS

**Welcome, Dr. Mahajan!**

- A PowerPoint slide highlighting the Cancer Biology Ph.D. and Postdoctoral Training Program is available to faculty for insertion into presentations. If you would like to promote these two worthwhile programs, please contact Cathy Gaffney to receive the slide.

## *CBSO News*

The Cancer Biology Student Organization fielded a team of six runners in this year’s Miles for Moffitt event; **Melissa Price** and **Jessica Craig** finished second and fourth respectively in their age group! Congrats!

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## *CBSO Miles for Moffitt team*



Pictured from left to right: Jessica Craig, Melissa Price, Lori Griner, Brittany Cross, Lacy Loos, Alyson Freeman

CBSO has organized a team to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in St. Pete; for more information and to contribute, please visit the team's website:

<http://komensuncoast.kintera.org/2009race/cbso>

The CBSO is currently working on establishing a select number of educational outreach programs for the fall; more information will go out to members soon. Also, a clinical rotation/surgery observation program is being developed; again, more information will go out to students as it becomes available.

## *Dermazone Tour*

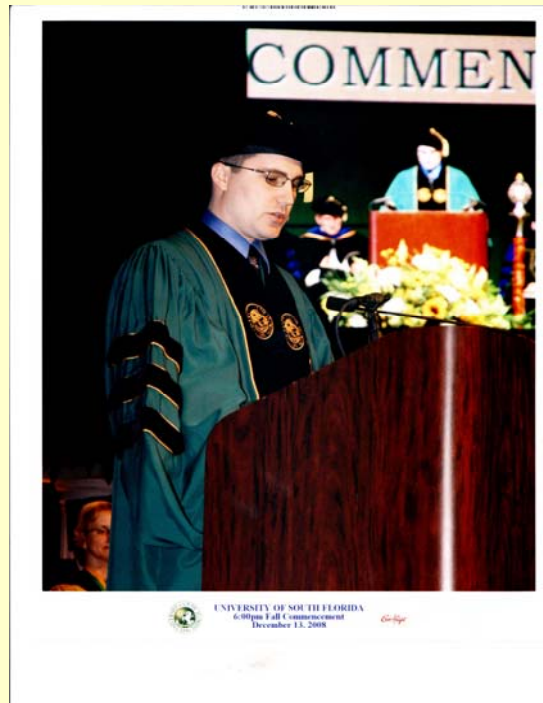
On July 10, two members of the CBSO travelled to St. Pete to tour the laboratories of Dermazone, a health and skin care company. **Brittany Cross** and **Lori Griner** were given a behind-the-scene look at the manufacturing and marketing activities of this company and had a chance to meet board members from the newly forming ARCS chapter for the Tampa Bay area.

## *ARCS Meet & Greet*

ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) is a philanthropic organization founded to provide scholarships to graduate students in science fields. A kick-off event on the USF campus for ARCS is scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Lifsey House on campus and students from our Program will be invited to attend.....a call for volunteers will go out in late August.

2009

## *Students Graduates*



*Dr. Nicholas Woods  
Commencement Speaker  
Fall 2008*

**Nick Woods**, Program graduate and postdoc in the lab of Dr. Alvaro Monteiro, is the recent recipient of a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Florida Breast Cancer Coalition for his project: "Novel Roles of COMMD1 in Breast Cancer Therapy and Response".

**Dr. Woods** has also received a travel grant from the Protein Modules Consortium to attend a meeting in Austria!

### *Outstanding, Nick!*

Another graduate, **Scott Freeman**, currently a postdoc in Dr. Gerald Bepler's lab, has been selected for the Commissioner's Fellowship Program at the FDA. This highly competitive program had over 1,000 applications for 50 slots! The two-year Commissioner's Fellowship Program provides an opportunity for health professionals and scientists to receive training and experience at the FDA. Fellows will train at FDA's new state-of-the-art White Oak campus in Silver Spring, Maryland or at other FDA facilities.

**Dr. Freeman** will be working in the Office of the Commissioner in the Office of Orphan Products Development, which basically works to promote the development of products (drugs, biologics, medical devices) for orphan diseases (diseases which effect 200,000 people or less, which includes many cancers and cancer subtypes).

***Congratulations, Scott!***

## ***Current Students***

Incoming students for Fall 2009:

- **Kyle Bauckman** – University of Florida
- **Inna Fedorenko** – University of South Florida
- **Anxhela Gjyshi** – University of Florida/USF
- **Courtney Kurtyka** – University of South Florida
- **Vito Rebecca** – Lafayette College, New York
- **Kathy Rocha** – University of Florida

Current first year students who have selected their mentor:

- **Melissa Price** – Alvaro Monteiro, Ph.D.
- **Valentina Schneeberger** – Jerry Wu, Ph.D.
- **Crystina Bronk** – Amer Beg, Ph.D.
- **Kate Bailey** – Ed Seto, Ph.D.
- **Melissa Price** – P.K. Burnette, Ph.D.

Second year students who have been admitted to Doctoral Candidacy:

- **Jason Dubovsky** – Pinilla-Ibarz/Sotomayor Lab
- **Lori Griner** – Reuther Lab
- **Jackie Johnson** – Chellappan Lab
- **Michael Emmons** – Hazlehurst Lab
- **David Quiceno** – Gabrilovich Lab
- **Geoff Gordon** – Reuther Lab

## ***PSM-MCC Research Rotations***

Three Cancer Biology students, **Jessica Craig**, **Valentina Schneeberger** and **Melissa Price**, spent several weeks at the Ponce School of Medicine in Puerto Rico conducting research as part of the collaborative efforts funded by the U56 grant. **Melissa** worked in the lab of Dr. Julie Dutil researching hereditary breast cancer in the Puerto Rican population.

**Jessica** and **Valentina** were in the lab of Dr. Caroline Appleyard studying the ability of certain drugs to inhibit the progression of inflammatory bowel disease to colon cancer in a rat model.

## *2009 Poster Symposium USF Research Week*

Students again have the opportunity to participate in the university wide graduate student research symposium sponsored by the USF Graduate School, GPSC and the Office of Research & Innovation.

**Application deadline has been extended to August 28th and the on-line application form can be accessed through this link:**

[http://www.grad.usf.edu/research\\_symposium.asp](http://www.grad.usf.edu/research_symposium.asp)

Cancer Biology had a good showing last year with **Brittany Cross** taking top honors in the Natural Sciences category! Students are highly encouraged to participate again this year!

## *Grant Applications*

**Jackie Johnson**, Chellappan lab, has applied for a DOD Breast Cancer Pre-doctoral Fellowship; her project title is: "Targeting the Rb-E2F pathway for metastatic breast cancer". Notification of funding will become available in the fall. Jackie also applied for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSFGRFP) this year, an award for outstanding first year graduate students.

## *Publications Submitted*

**Dubovsky JA**, Wang D, Powers JJ, Sotomayor EM, Pinilla-Ibarz JA. *Restoring the Functional Immunogenicity of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Using Epigenetic Modifiers*. Submitted to Blood.

***Good Luck, Jason!***

# *Accepted*

**Kabra N**, Li Z, Chen L, Li B, Zhang X, Wang C, Yeatman T, Coppola D, Chen J. *Sirt1 is an inhibitor of proliferation and tumor formation in colon cancer.* J Biol Chem. 2009 May 11.

Nair RR\*, **Emmons MF\***, Cress AE, Argilagos RF, Lam K, Kerr WT, Wang HG, Dalton WS, Hazlehurst LA. *HYD1-induced increase in ROS leads to autophagy and necrotic cell death in multiple myeloma cells.* Accepted- Molecular Cancer Therapeutics.  
(\* donates contributed equally to manuscript)

Zhou J, Cheng P, **Youn J**, Cotter M, Gabilovich D. *Notch and Wnt Signaling Cooperate in Regulation of Dendritic Cell Differentiation.* Immunity. 2009 Jun 19; 30(6): 845-59.

***Congratulations, Neha, Mike & Je-In!***

