



Winter 2008

2008-09-09

Announcements

October was a busy month – three students successfully defended their dissertations!

Congratulations, Scott, Joe & Alfonso!



Congrats, Scott!

Dr. Scott Freeman, pictured with fellow members of the Cress Lab, defended his dissertation on October 15, 2007. Scott has joined the lab of Dr. Gerald Bepler, Division Chief, Thoracic Oncology and 2008 Scientist of the Year, Moffitt Cancer Center.

W i n t e r



Best of Luck, Joe!

- **Joe A. Wahle** defended his dissertation thesis on October 19, 2007; **Dr. Wahle** is pictured at his reception with Program Director, Dr. Ken Wright. Joe has joined the lab of [Dr. Wayne Yokoyama](#), NAS Fellow and Howard Hughes Medical Investigator, Washington University, St. Louis.



CONGRATULACIONES, Idefonso!

- **Idefonso "Alfonso" Vicente-Suarez** defended his doctoral thesis on October 24, 2007. **Dr. Vicente-Suarez**, shown with his mentor, Dr. Eduardo Sotomayor (center) and Dr. Javier Pinilla, has accepted a position in the lab of [Dr. Hilde Cheroutre](#), La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology.

Upcoming Dissertation Defenses:

- **Daniele Gilkes** – Monday, February 25, 2008
 - **Adam Carie** – Monday, March 24, 2008
- **Rebecca K. Davis** – Monday, March 31, 2008

Faculty

- Program Director **Ken Wright** and third year student **Emily Hopewell** traveled to Xavier University in New Orleans in October 2007; an invitation to visit the campus had been extended by Dr. Thomas Wiese for Ken and Emily to meet with a group of students funded in part by an NCI training grant designed specifically to aid diverse students in pursuing a graduate education in the field of cancer biology.
- 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.

Students

First Lab Rotations for First Year Students:

- Jason Dubovsky – Djeu Lab
- Michael Emmons – Alexandrow Lab
- Geoff Gordon – Haura Lab
- Lori Griner – Beg Lab
- Jackie Johnson – Chellappan Lab
- David Quiceno – Sotomayor Lab
- Michelle Smith – Kerr Lab

Second Lab Rotations:

- Jason Dubovsky – Celis Lab
- Michael Emmons – Hazlehurst Lab
- Geoff Gordon – Reuther Lab
- Lori Griner – Reuther Lab
- Jackie Johnson – Haura Lab
- David Quiceno – Beg Lab
- Michelle Smith – Chen Lab

2008

BMT Clinical Experience

Ten Cancer Biology students took part in an overview and tour of the Bone Marrow Transplant Program here at Moffitt in October. Dr. Claudio Anasetti welcomed the group and gave a presentation on the principles and history of bone and marrow transplantation. The group was then given a tour of the BMT facilities by Dr. Scott Eldredge and staff members Christine Siderakis, Renee Smilee and Lenore Rees. Thanks to Nancy Lonetto for helping to organize the visit!

Fellows Multidisciplinary Conference

In November, Cancer Biology students attended the Fellows Multidisciplinary Conference focusing on breast cancer; a clinical experience similar to the one in the BMT Program had to be cancelled due to the departure of Dr. Susan Hoover; hopefully this opportunity can be re-scheduled in the near future.

If there are clinical programs at Moffitt that Cancer Biology students would like to tour, please let me know.

Interview Day

Just a reminder that Interview Day will be Thursday, February 21; volunteers will be needed to meet with the interviewees for lunch and dinner. This year, the dinner will be held at the Columbia Restaurant – Olé! The applicants will also be attending the Scientific Retreat – please make them feel welcome!

Publications

Borysova ME, Cui Y, Snyder M, and Guadagno TM. *Knockdown of B-Raf Impairs Spindle Formation and the Mitotic Checkpoint Arrest in Human Somatic Cells*. Submitted to Oncogene, January 2008.

Kinkade R, Dasgupta P, Carie A, Pernazza D, Carless M, Pillai S, Lawrence N, Sebti S, Chellappan S. *A small molecule disruptor of Rb-Raf-1 interaction inhibits cell proliferation, angiogenesis and growth of human tumor xenografts in nude mice*. Accepted pending revisions – Cancer Research.

D. Pernazza, **J. A. Dubovsky**, T. J. Gauthier, D. L. Gilvary, J. M. Koomen, N. J. Lawrence, J. Y. Djeu. *Pheophorbide a isolated from Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides displays growth inhibitory activity against hepatoma and Docetaxel-resistant prostate tumor cells*. Submitted to Planta Medica.

Grants Submitted

Aneliya Velkova, Monteiro lab, has applied for a DoD Breast Cancer Pre-Doctoral Fellowship and should receive notification sometime in the Fall. Good Luck, Ani!

If there are additional grant submissions or awards, please let me know!



Travel Awards

- **Nicole Gjertsen** enrolled in the 2007 Advanced Course in Immunology sponsored by the AAI and traveled to the University of Minnesota on August 4-9, 2007 to attend.
- **Phil Wong** attended the “Eukaryotic DNA Replication and Genome Maintenance” course at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, September 5-9, 2007.
- **Daniele Gilkes** traveled to the International MDM2 Workshop IV held in Woods Hole, Massachusetts on September 30 – October 3, 2007.

☀ *A new form, 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.*