

### CONGRATS TO OUR AWARDEES!

#### ALEC COURTELIS AWARD

Rosha Poudyal



IDP-BMS student, Rosha Poudyal, a Graduate Assistant in Dr. Michael Kladde's lab and member of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Advanced Concentration, has earned the honor of receiving the prestigious Alec Courtelis award.

The Alec Courtelis Award is given annually to three outstanding international graduate students who meet the following qualifications:

- Currently enrolled in a Master's or Ph.D. program.
- Demonstrates outstanding academic achievement.
- Contributions to the department and college exceed expectations.
- Contributions and service to campus life at UF exceed expectations.
- Involvement in the Gainesville community.

#### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AWARD

MIR HOSSAIN



As a direct result of his accomplishments in his field of study, Mir Hossain has been selected as one of five students to receive the College of Medicine's Outstanding International Student Award.

Over the past four years, Mir has been involved with various activities that have contributed to the mission of the College—to excel in medical research, education and invention.

From the country of Bangladesh, Mir is a Graduate Research Assistant being mentored by Dr. Jörg Bungert as an IDP student with a focus in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. In 2016, Mir has also had the honor of receiving the American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship and is the recipient of the *Wanda and Richard Boyce Award* for outstanding graduate research in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

#### CANCER CENTER DISSERTATION AWARD

Mam Y. Mboge

UF Health Cancer Center Announces the winners for the Inaugural Cancer Center Dissertation Awards. These awards are intended to recognize and support outstanding pre-doctoral candidates who are conducting innovative cancer research. Mam Y. Mboge, a graduate student in the labs of Drs. Susan C. Frost and Rob McKenna, won one of the five awards. Mam is in the Cancer Biology Concentration and presented a 3-minute vignette of her work at the UF Health Cancer Center Research Day on Thursday, November 3, 2016. Mam received a plaque and an award of \$10,000. Mam will also be presenting her work at the Annual AACR meeting in Washington, DC in April of 2017. CONGRATULATIONS!



## BMB SEMINAR SERIES

### BMB FACULTY RESEARCH DISCUSSIONS

The BMB Department hosts a seminar series, Faculty Research Discussions, where the BMB faculty and local researchers are able to present their ongoing research. These discussions provide the perfect platform for networking and increasing our understanding of the depth and breadth of research that is happening around us.

Dr. Linda Bloom (lbloom@ufl.edu) coordinates this seminar series which meets weekly, Wednesdays, 4:00—5:00pm, ARB R3-265.

#### **November Schedule:**

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|--------------|---|
| <b>11/2</b>  | <b>Dr. Christopher Fisher</b> , Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology<br><b>Topic:</b> <i>Herpesvirus HSV-1 and its activation of a DNA damage repair pathway</i>  |
| <b>11/9</b>  | No meeting  |
| <b>11/16</b> | <b>Dr. Michelle Gumz</b> , Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, Hypertension and Renal Transplantation<br><b>Topic:</b> <i>Sex-dependent regulation of blood pressure by the circadian clock protein Per1</i> |
| <b>11/23</b> | Thanksgiving Break  |

Fall 2016/Spring 2017 Faculty Research Discussion seminar schedule may be found [HERE](#).

### CENTER FOR STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

The seminar series of the Center for Structural Biology seeks to provide stimulating discussions with a molecular-structure focus or a focus on the cell and tissue/organism level of biological structure. Dr. Mavis Agbandje-McKenna is the Director for the CSB (mckenna@ufl.edu).

These sessions meet the third Monday of every month in the McKnight Brain Institute, DeWeese Auditorium (LG 101A). The Fall 2016-Spring 2017 schedule may be seen [HERE](#).

#### **Fall Sessions:**

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|--------------|--|
| <b>11/21</b> | <b>Dr. Anna Pyle</b> , Professor, Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Yale University<br><a href="http://bbs.yale.edu/people/anna_pyle.profile">http://bbs.yale.edu/people/anna_pyle.profile</a> |
|--------------|--|

## CENTER FOR EPIGENETICS

The CEG serves as focal point and provides a framework to promote communication, interactions, and collaboration among ~50 investigators in the area of epigenetics who are housed in many different departments within and outside of the COM. It also provides a variety of important services, facilities, training, equipment, and expertise to assist the large number of laboratories engaged in epigenetics-related research. In its role to enhance learning and communication in the area of epigenetics, the CEG organizes the **CEG Seminar Program** featuring special invited speakers from outside the University of Florida. These speakers include some of the most prominent researchers in the field of epigenetics. This academic year, there will be eight guest speakers.

The Director for the Center for Epigenetics is Dr. Thomas P. Yang, (tpyang@ufl.edu). The full schedule of guest speakers may be viewed [HERE](#). These sessions are held in CGRC Room 451A

### **Fall Speakers for CEG:**

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|------------------------|--|
| <b>11/21</b><br>2:00pm | <b>Jia Fang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor</b> , Department of Tumor Biology, Moffit Cancer Center, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL<br><b>Topic:</b> <i>Epigenetic Regulatory Network in Tumor Suppressor Gene Silencing and EMT</i>   |
| <b>11/28</b><br>4:00pm | <b>Zhiguo Zhang, Ph.D., Professor</b> of Pediatrics and Genetics and Development, Institute for Cancer Genetics, Columbia University, New York, NY<br><b>Topic:</b> <i>Onco-histone Mutations Reprogram Epigenome</i>  |
| <b>12/12</b><br>4:00pm | <b>Ken Nephew, Ph.D., Professor</b> , Cellular and Integrative Physiology and Obstetrics & Gynecology; Director, Graduate Education; Assistant Director for Basic Science Research, University of Indiana<br><b>Topic:</b> <i>Targeting the Cancer Epigenome and Cancer Stem Cells</i> |

## BMB JOURNAL CLUBS

### STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY JOURNAL CLUB

**Mondays, 3:00-4:00pm, ARB R3-265**

The Structural Biology Journal Club on Methodologies and Discoveries in Crystallography and Cryo-Electron Microscopy is hosted by Dr. Mavis Agbandje-McKenna (mckenna@ufl.edu) and Dr. Rob McKenna (rmckenna@ufl.edu).

#### **November Schedule:**

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|--------------|--|
| <b>11/7</b>  | <b>Carrie Lomelino</b><br><b>Article Title:</b> Gas-sensitive biological crystals processed in pressurized oxygen and krypton atmospheres: deciphering gas channels in proteins using a novel 'soak-and-freeze' methodology; <a href="#">link to article</a> |
| <b>11/14</b> | <b>No Class</b>  |
| <b>11/21</b> | <b>Akilah (Briana) Murray</b>  |
| <b>11/28</b> | <b>No Class</b>  |

## BMB JOURNAL CLUBS, cont.

### BMB JOURNAL CLUB/BCH 6936

**Tuesdays, 11:45am–12:45pm, ARB R3-265.**

Each week, a student in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Advanced Concentration presents a journal article from the current literature to the group of BMB students, postdocs, and faculty. Senior (4th year and more advanced) students have the option of giving a research seminar or presenting a journal article. One faculty member and one or two students are assigned as “readers” and they are available to answer questions and help with the preparation of the presentation. The readers also provide the student with feedback on the presentation to aid in the development of strong presentation skills and the ability to critically evaluate scientific work.

This Journal Club is facilitated by Dr. Andy Berglund (aberglund@ufl.edu). Schedule for the Fall 2016 semester is posted [HERE](#).

#### **November Schedule:**

- 11/8**      **Jana Jenquin**  
**Article Title:** *A Potent Inhibitor of Protein Sequestration by Expanded Triplet (CUG) Repeats that Shows Phenotypic Improvements in a Drosophila Model of Myotonic Dystrophy*; [link to article](#)  
 Faculty Comments—Dr. Jörg Bungert; Student—Kennon Smith
- 11/15**      **Daniel Downes** (presenting a talk on his research)  
**Topic:** *In vivo analysis of the diametric cerebral metabolic shift caused by cocaine administration and withdrawal*  
 Faculty Comments—Dr. Thomas Mareci; Student—Jana Jenquin
- 11/29**      **Melissa Hale** (presenting a talk on her research)  
**Topic:** TBA  
 Faculty Comments—Linda Bloom; Student—Victoria Fielding

### EPIGENETICS JOURNAL CLUB/GMS 6195

**Thursdays, 12:00–1:00pm, CGRC-351A.**

The Epigenetics Journal Club is facilitated by Dr. Mike Kladde (kladde@ufl.edu) and Dr. Tom Yang (tpyang@ufl.EDU). Details and complete schedule for Fall 2016 semester are posted [HERE](#).

#### **November Schedule:**

- 11/3**      **Collin LeFrois**; Student Reader—Margaret White and Dorian Vargas-Franco  
**Journal Article:** *Twenty-four-nucleotide siRNAs produce heritable trans-chromosomal methylation in F1 Arabidopsis hybrids*; [click here for article](#)
- 11/10**      **Aishwarya Gurumurthy**; Student Readers—Alexandra Gerace and Yang Liu  
**Journal Article:** *PionX sites mark the X chromosome for dosage compensation*; [click here for article](#)
- 11/17**      **Joe Collins**; Student Readers—Yang Liu
- 11/24**      **Thanksgiving Break**

For questions or comments regarding newsletter content, please contact Teresa White, [teresawhite@ufl.edu](mailto:teresawhite@ufl.edu).