

# What's New in Biochemistry

## PERSONNEL NEWS:



After almost 35 years, Dr. BN Singh retired from his Research Assistant Professor position on June 30, 2014. He was appointed Emeritus Research Assistant Professor July 1<sup>st</sup>. BN has continued conducting experiments, writing papers, and interviewing medical school candidates and he also continues to seek extramural funding with his collaborators at Harvard.



Naman Shah completed the PhD degree requirements in Tom Duncan's lab and will be doing a postdoc at Cornell University.

## GRANTS:

Congratulations to Xin Jie Chen who was awarded a second NIH grant entitled "Role of Ant1 Over-expression and Mitochondrial Damage in Progressive Muscle Degeneration" for two years. The first year total award is \$201,250.

## PUBLICATIONS:

Shinsky, S.A., Monteith, K.E., Viggiano, S., and Cosgrove, M.S. (2015) Biochemical reconstitution and phylogenetic comparison of human SET1 family core complexes involved in histone methylation. *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (in press).  
<http://www.jbc.org/content/early/2015/01/04/jbc.M114.627646.full.pdf+html?sid=0eee5b6f-ea43-4c2c-8066-611c8efba77d>

Hoffman, E., McCulley, A., Haarer, B., Arnak, R., and Feng, W. (2015) Break-seq reveals hydroxyurea-induced chromosome fragility as a result of unscheduled conflict between DNA replication and transcription. *Genome Res.* 2015 Jan 21. pii: gr.180497.114. [Epub ahead of print]  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25609572>

## SERVICE WORK:

Wenyi Feng served on Cherry Mae Ignacio's thesis defense committee. It is the first one since her own PhD defense, quite exciting!

## AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Congratulations to Naman Shah for successfully defending his thesis on Friday, January 23rd, 2015. Here's a photo of Naman with his mentor, Tom Duncan, and Tom's wife Letha (she did a great job preparing the reception to celebrate Naman's PhD). In February, Naman will begin a post-doctoral position at Cornell with Dr. Brian VanderVen, Assistant Professor of Microbiology & Immunology. Naman will be studying pathogenesis of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, and we wish him success in his new research field.



Congratulations to Cherry Mae Ignacio who successfully defended her thesis on January 26, 2015.



#### NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI:

We are said to report that Emeritus Professor, Dr. Harvey Penefsky's wife, Dr. Zia Penefsky passed away last month. Harvey and Zia were married for 61 years. Harvey was a Professor in our department from 1988-1995. He retired and became an Emeritus Professor and returned to the Public Research Institute of the City of New York. Zia came with him to Upstate and was an Adjunct Professor in the Pharmacology Department. Zia was 97 years old. Here is a photo of Harvey (center) and Zia (left) at one of our Christmas parties.

