

# What's New in Biochemistry

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

	Renee Bullard joins our graduate program in Dimitra Bourboulia's (adjunct faculty, Urology) lab as a Graduate Assistant.
	Tim DeMarsh completed the SURF program in Wenyi's lab and returned to his undergrad studies at SUNY Cobleskill.
	Isabel Utschig completed the SURF program in Stewart's lab and returned to her undergrad studies at Marquette University.
	Gianni Pannafino completed the SURF program in Bruce's lab and returned to his undergrad studies at LeMoyne College.
	Brooke Hamling completed the SURF program in Xin Jie's lab and returned to her undergrad studies at Syracuse University.

	Xia Xu has left her Instructional Support Associate position in Bruce Knutson's lab to relocate out of state for her husband's job.
	Nancy Walker-Kopp switched from her Sr. Research Support Specialist position in Tom Ducan's lab to an Instructional Support Associate position in Bruce Knutson's lab.
	Daniel DiStefano joins the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Masters Program.
	Thomas Winans joins our Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Masters Program.

## GRANTS:

Congratulations to Steve Hanes and Michael Cosgrove for receiving a three-year NSF grant entitled "Post-Transcriptional Regulation". The direct costs are \$276,729 for the first two years.

## PUBLICATIONS:

Congratulations to Xiaowen Wang from the Chen lab for publishing her paper, entitled "A Cytosolic Network Suppressing Mitochondria-mediated Prostatic Stress and Cell Death", in the July 20<sup>th</sup> online edition of *Nature*. Many of us may remember

the newly discovered suppressor genes that Xin Jie talked about when he came here for job interview in 2007. Finally, the data are now released. Good job, Xiaowen.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature14859.html#auth-2>

Congratulations to Yaxin Liu from the Chen lab for publishing her paper, entitled "Misfolding of Mutant Adenine Nucleotide Translocase in Yeast Supports a Novel Mechanism of Ant1-induced Muscle Diseases", which was published in the June issue of the journal *Molecular Biology of Cell*. This work demonstrated that the misfolding of one single

protein is sufficient to derail protein homeostasis on the membrane, which could have broad implications for genetic disorders with mutations in membrane proteins. Yaxin presented her work at the FASEB Summer Research Conference on Mitochondrial Assembly & Dynamics in Health, Disease and Aging, which was held in May in West Palm Beach, Florida. Keep up with the good work, Yaxin.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25833713>

Blanden, AR, Yu X, Loh, SN, Levine AJ, Carpizo DR. “Reactivating mutant p53 using small molecules as zinc metallochaperones: awakening a sleeping giant in cancer” *Drug Discov Today*. 2015 Jul 20;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26205328?dopt=abstract>

Blanden, A.R. Yu, X., Wolfe, A.J., Gilleran, J.A., Augeri, D.J., O’Dell, R.S., Olson, E.C., Kimball, S.D., Emge, T.J., Movileanu, L., Carpizo, D.R. & Loh, S.N. (2015). “Synthetic metallochaperone ZMC1 rescues mutant p53 conformation by transporting zinc into cells as an ionophore” *Molecular Pharm.* 87, 825-831.

<http://molpharm.aspetjournals.org/content/87/5/825.full?sid=96ad6ed4-6433-43e8-be6d-7415307f60c1>

Liu Y, Yu J, Oaks Z, Marchena-Mendez I, Francis L, Bonilla E, Aleksiejuk P, Patel J, Banki K, Landas SK, Perl A. “Autoimmunity and disease activity may involve the liver in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus” *Clin Immunol*. 2015 Jul 6;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26160213?dopt=abstract>

Shah NB, Duncan TM. “Aerobic growth of *Escherichia coli* is reduced and ATP synthesis is selectively inhibited when five C-terminal residues are deleted from the  $\epsilon$  subunit of ATP synthase” *J Biol Chem*. 2015 Jul 9;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26160173?dopt=abstract>

#### AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

The following attended the Gordon Research Conference: Bioenergetics at Proctor Academy in Andover, NJ from June 21-26, 2015:

Graduate Students: Subhrajit Banerjee, Sergio Couoh-Cardel, Stuti Sharma, Nicholas Stam, and Swetha Devi Velivela

Postdoc: Rebecca Oot

Faculty and Senior Scientists: Patty Kane, Stephan Wilkens, and Tom Duncan

Approximately one-third of the junior investigators who gave poster presentations were invited to give a five minute oral presentation. All of our participants were selected to give an oral presentation. Rebecca Oot received an award for “Outstanding Poster Talk”.

Xin Jie Chen and Xiaowen Wang’s Nature article was highlighted on the July 23-30, 2015 issue of Upstate Online. To read the article, go to: <http://upstateonline.info/static/July23-July302015/blog/story-1/index.html>

Congratulations to Kevin Namitz who passed his qualifying exam in July.

#### PERSONAL NEWS:

Josh Karchin and Jing Bi Karchin, a PhD Candidate in Anatomy & Cell Biology, celebrated their marriage vows on June 14<sup>th</sup> surrounded by their family and friends. Congratulations Jing and Josh!



Thank you to Andrew McCulley who resurrected our departmental picnic with the help of Sandy Jarvis. It was on July 27<sup>th</sup> at Jamesville Beach. The turn out was great even with temperatures close to 90°. Captains, Steve Hanes and Stephan Wilkens, picked teams for the soccer game. The final score was 4-0 with Team Barcelona (Steve Hanes captain) winning.



Soccer game.



Far left: Liam Coyne, Andrew McCulley, Nilda Alicea Velazquez, Stephen Shinsky, Stewart Loh, Kevin Namitz, and Michael Jaskolka at departmental picnic.



From left: Angelina Regue, Renee Bullard, Arijita Chakraborty, and Ashley Canning hanging out at picnic.



Nilda's injury from heading soccer ball while wearing sun glasses, ouch!!

Steve Hanes and friend and professional mountain guide, Jesse Williams, summited two classic peaks in the Canadian Rockies, Mount Athabasca (11,453 ft) in Alberta and Mt. Victoria (11,000 ft, south summit) in British Columbia. Both climbs involved “Alpine Starts” (2:30 am, and 4:30 am, respectively). The climbers returned unscathed and enjoyed hot meals, cold beers, and showers upon their return. (The flag is from the Moutaineer, a climbing shop in the Adirondacks.) He is preparing a slide show at his next YBAG.



Steve Hanes (right) on Mt. Athabasca Summit



Steve Hanes on Mt. Victoria (south summit)

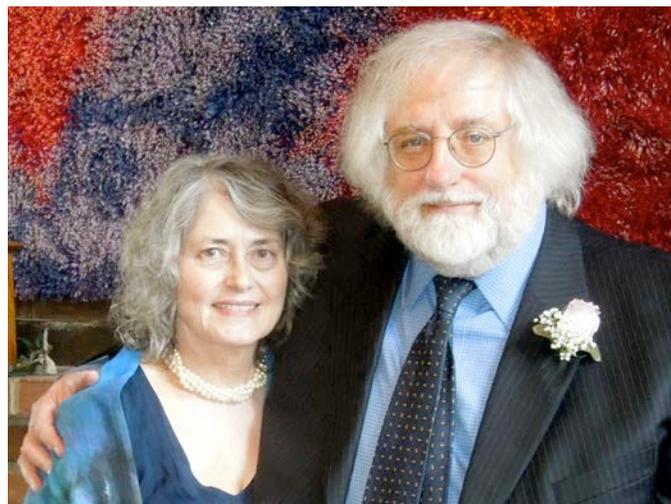
**NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI:**



Dr. Cherry Mae Ignacio accepted a marriage proposal from her boyfriend, Stephen Barry, an Associate Scientist at Bristol Myers Squibb. Congratulations Cherry!

Just before the wedding invitations were to be sent out, Richard Cross and Kathryn decided against having a wedding on October 10<sup>th</sup> with 150+ guests. Instead, to keep it simple, and to allow attendance by the couple who introduced them (Jim and Pat McKillop had a conflict with 10/10) it was decided to have a private wedding at Rich's house with Jim and Pat serving as witnesses on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Rich says that getting married on Bastille Day means that he will never be able to get away with forgetting his wedding anniversary. After a beautiful ceremony conducted by a secular humanist from Ithaca, the officiant, witnesses, and newlyweds headed off to Rosalie's Cucina for dinner taking a long the top layer of their wedding cake (made by Nancy Leotta) to be served as dessert. As per the policy of the

restaurant, with a donation to a cancer society, Kathryn got to commemorate the day by writing on one of the columns in the dining area. Following dinner, the bride and groom enjoyed an overnight stay at Mirabeau, taking advantage of the spa facilities the next day. The official honeymoon will have to wait until the fall because summer was already filled with commitments.



Kathryn Davis and Rich Cross on their wedding day.



Kathryn signing the column at Rosalie's Cucina.



Kathryn and Rich's wedding cake made by Nancy Leotta.

From Makandiwana Shoniwa, Patty Kane's student.  
*"Hello. I am running in the Brooklyn Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon with the Team Brock Run4life. 10 October! This is in conjunction with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (Team in Training). I hope that this will be the beginning of many races to come for a cause I feel very strongly about due to my family history with cancer. All the funds that I raise will go to finding a cure. Help me support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society! Please visit the link below"*

<https://run4life.ca/maka/profile>