



# What's New in Biochemistry

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

	Zahra Motahari completed her PhD degree in Michael Zuber's (adjunct professor) lab.
	Stephen Shinsky completed his PhD degree in Michael Cosgrove's lab. He will be doing his Postdoctoral work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill) in the Department of Biochemistry & Biophysics with Dr. Brian D. Strahl.

	Gourav Choudhary switched from the Pharmacology PhD program to the Biochemistry PhD program. He will remain in Andras Perl's (adjunct) lab.
	Gianni Panafino, 2015 SURF student from Lemoyne College, has returned to Bruce Knutson's lab as a research volunteer.

## GRANTS:

Congratulations to Stewart Loh for receiving a NIH grant entitled "Design of switchable proteins and enzymes". The first year directs are \$205,215 with a subcontract.

Congratulations to Bruce Knutson who received the Sinsheimer Scholar award which is \$150,000 over a three-year period. The project is entitled "Molecular dysregulation of RNA polymerase I transcription in cancer". This award was established to provide funding to individuals who demonstrate potential for making major contributions with respect to the prevention or cure of human disease.

## PUBLICATIONS:

Shinsky, S.A. & Cosgrove, M.S. 2015 Unique Role of the WD-40 Repeat Protein 5 (WDR5) Subunit within the Mixed Lineage Leukemia 3 (MLL3) Histone Methyltransferase Complex. *Journal of Biological Chemistry (JBC)* in press.  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26324722>

Smardon, A.M., Nasab, N.D., Tarsio, M., Diakov, T.T., and Kane, P.M. Molecular Interactions and Cellular Itinerary of the Yeast RAVE (Regulator of the H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase of Vacuolar and Endosomal Membranes) Complex. *Journal of Biological Chemistry (JBC)* 2015 Sep 24  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26405040>

Deranieh, R.M., Shi, Y., Tarsio, M., Chen, Y., McCaffery, J.M., Kane, P.M., and Greenberg, M.L. Perturbation of the vacuolar-ATPase: A novel consequence of inositol depletion. *Journal of Biological Chemistry (JBC)* 2015 Aug 31  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26324718>

Hang LE, Peng J, Tan W, Szakal B, Menolfi D, Sheng Z, Lobachev K, Branzei D, **Feng W**, Zhao X. *Mol Cell*. Rtt107 is a multi-functional scaffold supporting replication progression with partner SUMO and ubiquitin ligases. 2015 Sep 29. pii: S1097-2765(15)00669-3. [Epub ahead of print]  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26439300>

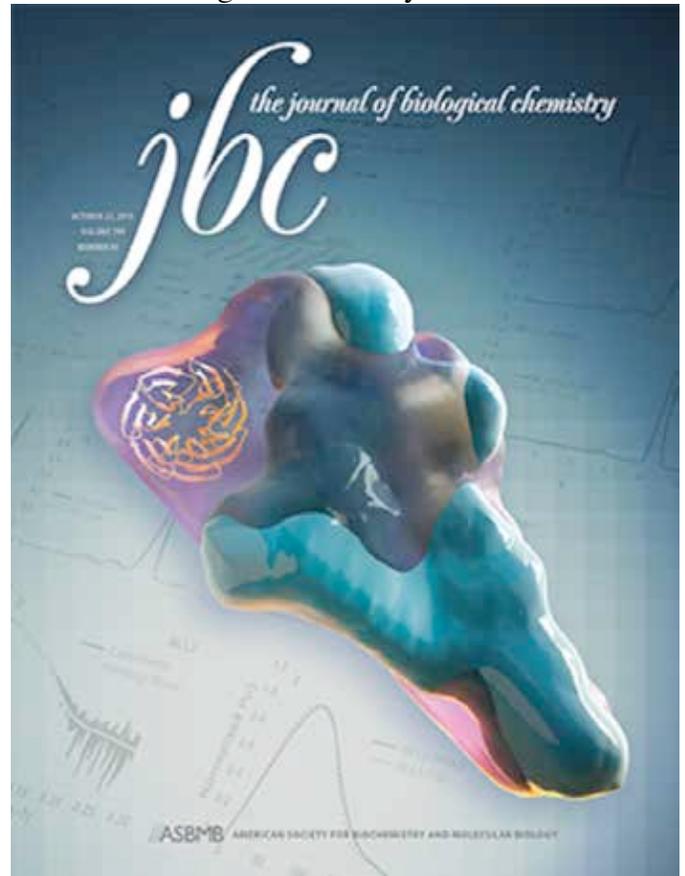
AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Congratulations to Zahra Motahari who successfully defended her thesis on September 10<sup>th</sup>.



Center in blue shirt, Dr. Stephen Shinsky

Michael Cosgrove and Stephen Shinsky's figure from "Unique role of the WD-40 Repeat Protein 5 (WDR5) subunit within the Mixed Lineage Leukemia 3 (MLL3) histone methyltransferase complex" made the cover of the 10/23/15 issue of Journal of Biological Chemistry.



Congratulations to Stephen Shinsky who received Honors for his thesis defense on September 14<sup>th</sup>.



Love this cake!



From left to right: Dr. Nilda Alicea Velazquez, Dr. Stephen Shinsky, Dr. Micheal Cosgrove, Susan Viggiano, and Kevin Namitz

Steve Hanes gave a talk at University of Texas Austin "Ess1, Traffic Cop of the Transcription Cycle." Austin is a really hip town, growing like crazy, and lots of good science at UT-Austin.

**PERSONAL NEWS:**

Sue Viggiano is a grandma for the second time! Her daughter, Emily, had Lena Blossom Saland, on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at 3:26 pm. Lena weighed in at a healthy 9 lbs., 3 oz. Mother and baby are doing well.



Left: Lena, Emily, and big brother, Jack. Right: Lena

**NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI:**

David Turner shared some sad news: “Ruth Chiquet-Ehrismann, who in 1980 came with David Turner from the ETH Zurich to complete her doctoral work at Upstate, died unexpectedly on September 4<sup>th</sup> at her home near Basel, Switzerland. She was 60 years old. Ruth had a distinguished career as a senior group leader at the Friedrich Miescher Institute and as an adjunct professor at the University of Basel. She studied the extracellular microenvironment and the roles of plasma membrane and matrix proteins in development and tumorigenesis. She and her collaborators identified, cloned, and characterized two important protein families: tenascins and tenurins. Ruth is survived by her husband (and occasional collaborator), Matthias Chiquet, another of David's doctoral students, and by her three children.”

From Sheena Li, one of Patty Kane’s graduate students:

“Hi Upstate! I hope everyone is doing well. I guess apple-picking season is in full swing! I am currently a postdoc in Charlie Boone's research team at the RIKEN Institute in Japan. We are working on a highly collaborative project involving researchers from Japan, Canada and the United States, with the

goal of using yeast chemical genomics to assign function to compounds whose mode of action isn't known. So far, we have screened ~13,000 compounds and have assigned high confidence target predictions to around 1500-- and there is still more to come! My work is being supported by a Foreign Postdoctoral Research fellowship from RIKEN.

From Janet Huimei Zheng, one of Stewart Loh’s graduate students:

“Hi Penny,

Hope all is well!

Here is an update from me for the next Biochem newsletter: I became a U.S. citizen on Oct 15th (picture attached)! The naturalization oath ceremony was held at the US District Court for Western Tennessee in Memphis. I legally changed my name to Janet Huimei Zheng and have begun publishing under my "new" name.

Best,  
Janet”

