

upstate gradupdate

training students to become producers of knowledge

february 2015

Communication is a basic tenant of civilization. Poor communication has lead to innumerable arguments, divorces and wars. The ability to communicate rapidly across long distances has also created amazing possibilities and spurred the growth of our society. At times, I think we tend to over communicate through constant texting, Twitter, Facebook and other social media outlets. Timely communication is more important than ever, especially in this world of instant news and an iPhone that never shuts down. We all know the danger of letting that manuscript sit on our desk for too long or submitting that grant too early.

In an effort to better communicate what is happening in the College of Graduate Studies in a timely fashion (and also to brag about the achievements of our students) we have started a monthly newsletter called the "Upstate Grad Update". We hope you find this a quick read, but also an important source of information concerning the many things are students are doing at work and at play. It may provide a conversation starter for your next research collaboration or even spur a new scientific idea. You will find that they are an amazing and diverse group of students that are on the front lines of research here at Upstate.

Please feel free to provide material for inclusion in the next issue to Jennifer Brennan [brennanj@upstate.edu], who is the editor and artist behind the scenes.

we did it!

**A very big CONGRATULATIONS to our
January graduates!**

**Wishing everyone the best of luck
in their new endeavors...**

Dr. Ori Cohen, PhD, Neuroscience

Sponsor: Dr. Stephen Glatt

Title: "Investigating the Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging Signal Using Arterial PCO₂ Modulation"

What's Next: Postdoctoral Associate, Neuroscience Department, Scripps Research Institute, Jupiter, FL

Dr. Edward Doherty, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology

Sponsor: Dr. Andras Perl

Title: "Mitochondrial Electron Transport Chain Activity in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus"

What's Next: Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Medicine (Rheumatology), Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT

Dr. Sonia Iyer, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology

Sponsor: Dr. William Kerr

Title: "The Role of SRC Homology 2 Domain Containing 5' Inositol Phosphatase-1 in Mesenchymal Stem Cells"

What's Next: Postdoctoral Associate, Biology Department, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA

Dr. Kelly Wallace, PhD, Neuroscience

Sponsor: Dr. Wendy Kates

Title: "Structure and Function of the Cingulate in Adolescents with Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome: An Anatomical and Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging Study"

What's Next: Adjunct Instructor, Biology Department, LeMoyne College, Syracuse, NY

Lina Yang, MS, Physiology

Sponsor: Dr. Stephen Faraone

Title: "Autism Spectrum Disorder Traits in SLC9A9 Knock-Out Mice"

What's Next: Data Analysis Internship, University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Global Public Health, CH, NC



Naman alongside his dissertation advisor Dr. Tom Duncan

NAMAN SHAH, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, successfully defended his dissertation on January 23rd. Naman's dissertation advisor is Dr. Tom Duncan. Congratulations, Naman ... Keep up the great work!



Cherry Mae, at right, with her peer mentee and fellow Biochem student Angelina, at left.

CHERRY MAE IGNACIO, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, successfully defended her dissertation on January 26th. Cherry's dissertation advisor is Dr. Frank Middleton. Congratulations, Cherry ... Keep up the great work!

look mom, we've been published!

CONGRATULATIONS AUTHORS!

The following students were listed on a first-author publication in January:

Desai PB, Freshour JR, Mitchell DR. Chlamydomonas axonemal dynein assembly locus ODA8 encodes a conserved flagellar protein needed for cytoplasmic maturation of outer dynein arm complexes. Cytoskeleton [Epub ahead of print] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25558044?dopt=Abstract>

Hess JL, Quinn TP, Akbarian S, Glatt SJ.. Bioinformatic analyses and conceptual synthesis of evidence linking ZNF804A to risk for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet. 168(1):14-35 (2015). <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25522715?dopt=Abstract>

Shinsky SA, Monteith KE, Viggiano S, & Cosgrove MS. 2015. Biochemical Reconstitution and Phylogenetic Comparison of Human SET1 Family Core Complexes Involved in Histone Methylation. J Biol Chem [Epub ahead of print] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25561738>

Tylee DS, Chandler SD, Nievergelt CM, Liu X, Pazol J, Woelk CH, Lohr JB, Kremen WS, Baker DG, Glatt SJ, Tsuang MT; Marine Resiliency Study Investigators. Blood-based gene-expression biomarkers of post-traumatic stress disorder among deployed marines: A pilot study. Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2015 Jan;51:472-94. doi: 10.1016/j.psyneuen.2014.09.024. Epub 2014 Sep 30. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25311155>

And the following students were listed on an article published in January:

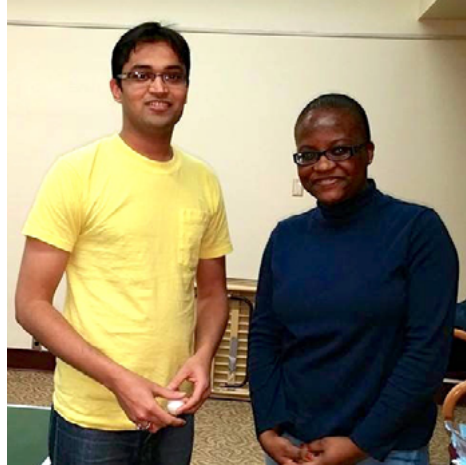
Suarez C, **Carroll RT**, Burke TA, Christensen JR, Bestul AJ, Sees JA, James ML, Sirotkin V, Kovar DR. Profilin Regulates F-Actin Network Homeostasis by Favoring Formin over Arp2/3 Complex. Dev Cell. 2015 Jan 12;32(1):43-53. doi: 10.1016/j.devcel.2014.10.027. Epub 2014 Dec 24. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25543282>

Bestul AJ, Christensen JR, Grzegorzewska AP, Burke TA, Sees JA, **Carroll RT**, Sirotkin V, Keenan RJ, Kovar DR. Fission yeast profilin is tailored to facilitate actin assembly by the cytokinesis formin Cdc12. Mol Biol Cell. 2015 Jan 15;26(2):283-93. doi: 10.1091/mbc.E13-05-0281. Epub 2014 Nov 12. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25392301>

Cai L, Xu G, Shi C, **Guo D**, Wang X, Luo J. Telodendrimer nanocarrier for co-delivery of paclitaxel and cisplatin: A synergistic combination nanotherapy for ovarian cancer treatment. Biomaterials. 2015 Jan;37:456-68. doi: 10.1016/j.biomaterials.2014.10.044. Epub 2014 Oct 31. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25453973>

and in other news ...

Introducing Maisie Elisabeth! Maisie was born to Lisi (Krainer) Hamilton, a PhD candidate in Cell and Developmental Biology, and her husband Bill on January 2, 2015 weighing 7lbs and 11oz and 21" long. Congratulations, Lisi!



ISA Ping Pong Tournament: The International Student Association sponsored a Ping Pong Tournament last month. Pictured at left is first year grad student Esther Mutongi with fellow grad student Paurav Desai, a PhD Candidate in Cell and Developmental Biology - who was also the first runner up in the tournament! **Congrats, Paurav!**



Bowling for a Cause: From left to right: Liz Snyder, a student in Microbiology & Immunology, and Jacquelyn Schulman, a student in Pharmacology, placed fourth in the finals of the Van Wie Women's Doubles Tournament, which raised approximately \$1,800 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. They competed against seven other teams in the finals, bowling 16 games over a two-day period. **Nice work, ladies!!**



YAXIN LIU, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology with Dr. Xin Jie Chen, was awarded a Keystone Symposia Future of Science Fund Scholarship in the amount of \$1,200 that she used to attend the Keystone Symposium on "Mitochondria, Metabolism and Heart Failure" in New Mexico last month. **Congratulations, Yaxin!**

FOUR of our first year students earned **COMMENDATION LETTERS** for their stellar academic performance in their first semester here: **HANNAH PHILLIPS, MARISSA SMITH, KELLY-ANN GESUELLI** and **WEIYI XU** keep up the great work ladies!

... we're officially PhD Candidates!

DANDAN GUO, a student in Pharmacology with Dr. Juntao Luo, and **MEGAN GRIBBLE**, a student in Microbiology & Immunology with Dr. Jennifer Moffat, successfully passed their Qualifying Exams! **Congratulations ladies!**

save the dates & upcoming events

Student Research Day:

ABSTRACT DEADLINE IS MONDAY!

Students can still submit an abstract for the Student Research Day.

Not only do you get to participate in this great event, but the top abstract will be awarded a \$200 prize and the opportunity to present an oral presentation on their research* and the first and second place posters will receive \$200 and \$100.

Submit your abstract to Jennifer at brennanj@upstate.edu.

**you must check the "either" box in section four of the cover form to be considered*

SURF's Up!

We're still recruiting faculty to mentor our Summer Undergraduate Researchers this summer. The program will run June 1st through August 7th. If you are interested in participating or want some more information about the program, contact Mike Cosgrove at cosgrovm@upstate.edu.

GSA SPONSORED BAKE SALE

Thursday & Friday, February 12-13, 2015

10:00am - 2:00pm | WH 9th Floor Lobby

Come support the GSA & grab some homemade goodies for your sweetheart or yourself just in time for Valentines Day!

PHDIVERSIFIED: CAREERS IN LIFE SCIENCE SALES

Monday, February 16, 2015

12:00pm | Setnor 2509

Dr. Rebecca Enigk, Sales Representative, Illumina, Inc.

Join us for an informal conversation with Upstate Alum Rebecca Enigk.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN ACADEMIA

Friday, February 20, 2015

11:00am | Setnor 1507

Dr. Gary Chan Assistant Professor, Microbiology & Immunology

Dr. Bruce Knutson Assistant Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: APPLYING FOR A FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

11:00am | Setnor 1507

Jennifer Rudes & Brian Moore, Research Administration

Find out what opportunities are out there, how to find them & how to apply

BEYOND THE DOCTORATE RESEARCH DAY

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

12:30pm | Oral Presentations | Weiskotten Hall 103

3:00pm | Keynote Address | Weiskotten Hall 103

Keynote Address: "Mitochondria in Disease, Aging and Immunity"

Gerald S. Shadel, PhD

Departments of Pathology and Genetics

Director, Pathology Research

Yale School of Medicine

Poster Session & Reception immediately follows in 9th Floor Cafeteria.

STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

1:15pm | Oral Presentations | Weiskotten Hall 2231

3:00pm | Keynote Address | Weiskotten Hall 2231

Keynote Address: "Pulmonary Alveolar Formation Function and Disease"

Jeffrey A. Whitsett, MD

Professor of Pediatrics; Executive Director, Perinatal Institute;

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center;

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Student Poster Session & Reception immediately follows in IHP Atrium.

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??

If you have something that should be included in our next issue, let us know!
Email Jennifer Brennan at brennanj@upstate.edu or Terri Brown at brownt@upstate.edu