

upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

december 2015

KEEP CALM AND HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY

As we move into the holiday season we find ourselves bombarded with stress. There is the stress of buying presents, of seeing relatives and in-laws, of affording everything, of all the weight we are going to gain, of never having enough time, of the imminent snow, not to mention the expectations of others and those we put on ourselves. To top this off we have only about eight hours of daylight, assuming it isn't cloudy and overcast, and thousands of other crazed people trying to do all the same things we are trying to do.

I could tell you a good "Keep Calm" quote, but I don't think that will really help. My advice is to go to your happy place. Think about all the wonderful things that are in your life. All the fun you are going to have with that sister that you like. How beautiful the first snowfall will look. How good that hot cocoa will taste by a fireplace. Maybe think about the smile on your kid's faces as they open that present they always wanted or the smile you will have when you get something that you really never wanted. This is also the season for self-evaluation and reflection. A time to think about what we have gotten done in the last year and make plans on what we want to accomplish. This can add stress to the situation but can also relieve stress. We should never let problems fester, since they won't go away, but when they are solved we feel so much better.

So from myself and the graduate studies staff, we would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season and the best of health in the New Year!

– Mark E. Schmitt, PhD
Dean, College of Graduate Studies
schmittm@upstate.edu

publications & presentations

In the past month, the following researchers in the College of Graduate Studies have published articles:

HICKS SD, IGNACIO C, Gentile KL, MIDDLETON FA.

Exosomal microRNA expression in childhood autism spectrum disorder.

International Journal of Developmental Neuroscience. 2015 Dec;47(Pt A):93.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26531575?dopt=Abstract>

MIDDLETON FA, IGNACIO C, CAMARGO M, HICKS S, Mooney S.

Effects of developmental ethanol exposures in wildtype and p53-null mice on transcriptional and epigenetic regulation of DNA damage repair, cell cycle, cell fate and cell death processes.

International Journal of Developmental Neuroscience. 2015 Dec;47(Pt A):124-5.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26531654?dopt=Abstract>

Kikinis Z, Cho KK, Coman IL, **RADOEVA P**, Bouix S, Ekbo R, Makris N, Kwon JS, Kubicki M, **KATES WR**, Shenton ME.

Developmental abnormalities in brain white matter in prodromes with 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome: A tract based spatial statistics study.

International Journal of Developmental Neuroscience. 2015 Dec;47(Pt A):88-9.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26531562?dopt=Abstract>

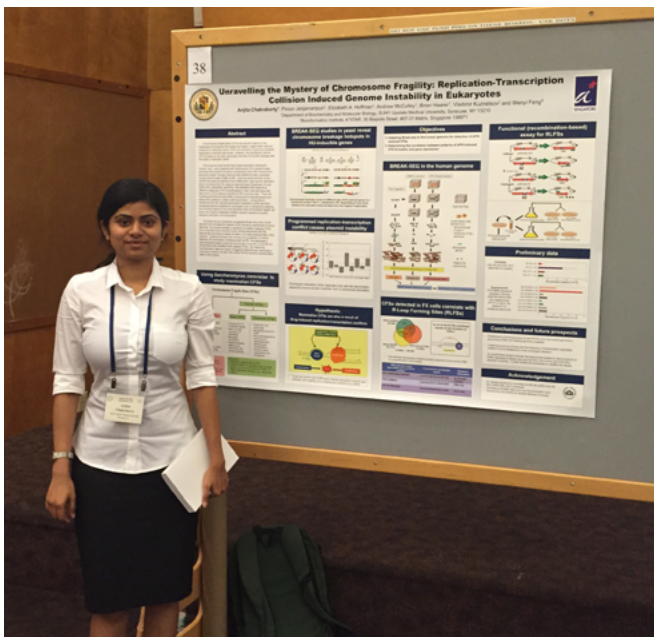
THORN TL, He Y, Jackman NA, Lobner D, **HEWETT JA, HEWETT SJ.**

A Cytotoxic, Co-operative Interaction Between Energy Deprivation and Glutamate Release From System xc- Mediates Aglycemic Neuronal Cell Death.

ASN Neuro. 2015 Dec;7(6).

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26553727?dopt=Abstract>

In the past month, the following researchers have attended, and presented, at conferences:



Eukaryotic DNA Replication & Genome Maintenance

Cold Spring Harbor, NY | September 1 - 5, 2015

ARIJITA CHAKRABORTY, a PhD Student in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, presented a poster entitled "Unravelling the mystery of chromosome fragility – Replication-transcription collision induced genome instability in eukaryotes."

from our students:

HARSH PATEL, a student in Pharmacology, successfully passed his qualifying exam last month. Harsh's advisor is Dr. Ying Huang. **Congratulations, Harsh!**

NICK STAM, a student in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is engaged to Katie Latanyshyn! Nick and Katie are planning a Fall 2016 wedding. **Congratulations to the happy couple!**



LALA ZAFREEN, a student in the PhD Program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, successfully defended her Dissertation last month. Lala has accepted a position as a Business Analyst with American Technology Consulting in Iowa. Lala is pictured above with her dissertation advisor, Dr. Edward Berry. **Congratulations, Lala!**

from our alumni:



LESLEY BAKER (Pharmacology MS '14) is engaged! Her fiancée, Lieutenant Jonathan Cashon of the US Navy is currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Lesley and Jonathan met during their undergraduate years at Rhodes College. Lesley is currently working on the IT Vendor Relations and Asset Management Team at a natural gas distribution company in Tulsa, OK.
Congratulations Lesley and Jonathan!



MAGGIE PANNING PEARCE ('09) completed her postdoctoral position at Stanford University and began as an Assistant Professorship in Biology at the University of the Sciences, Philadelphia, PA last month. Maggie will be teaching undergraduate and graduate students while managing a research lab focused on studying molecular mechanisms that underly neurodegenerative disease progression. She is particularly interested in using a fruit fly model she developed during her postdoc to investigate how protein aggregates that appear in the brains of patients with Huntington's Disease move between individual cells. Maggie, her husband Kevin, and their two children Molly (5) and Ryan (3) are enjoying their new life in Philadelphia and will be welcoming baby #3 in early 2016!

CHRIS LUCCHESI ('15), who recently started his postdoctoral appointment at the University of California at Davis, reports that he has been awarded a NIH T32 Fellowship. The synopsis of the project is: As a focal regulatory component of RNA metabolism, RNA-binding proteins (RBPs) modulate all facets of RNA biogenesis including RNA surveillance and maturation, subcellular localization and nucleocytoplasmic transport, translation and degradation. RNA-binding motif protein 38 (Rbm38), also known as RNCP1, is an RBP which positively regulates the mRNA stability of p21, p73, and HuR, while it negatively regulates the mRNA stability of p63 and MDM2. Interestingly, Rbm38 was shown to suppress p53 mRNA translation by interacting with eIF4E on p53's mRNA. Further, Rbm38 was found to be over expressed in breast cancer patients, which correlated with poor prognosis, and linked to malignant transformation of colorectal adenoma carcinoma. Collectively, modulating Rbm38's negative regulation of p53 might prove an effective therapeutic option for cancers which frequently show mutations in p53, such as lymphomas. The one-year fellowship can be extended to two years. **Congratulations, Chris!**

**We love hearing from you...
Don't forget to drop by our website and
let us know how you're doing!**
<http://www.upstate.edu/grad/gradalumni>

college happenings



Dr. Leszek Kotula

We're very happy to announce that **DR. LESZEK KOTULA**, Associate Professor of Urology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was named Co-Director of the MD/PhD Program, effective 8/31/15. Dr. Kotula joins **DR. ANDRAS PERL**, Professor of Medicine, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Immunology, who was previously serving as a Co-Director. Under their guidance, the MD/PhD Program welcomed some potential new recruits to campus last month.



SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS is still under way! This discussion series was designed to help our first year students get off to a strong start in grad school. Pictured above, **DR. JENNIFER MOFFAT** led our fourth discussion entitled "Writing a Research Report."

A complete list of this year's topics and presenters can be viewed on our website:
<http://www.upstate.edu/grad/students/mentoring.php>

CHECK OUT THE UPSTATE UROLOGY - WINNING TEAM!

The advertisement, features two of our graduate students in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology PhD Program: **RENEE BULLARD**, **DIANA DUNN**, and **ANGELINA REGUA**

And graduate faculty members: **DR. GENNADY BRATSLAVSKY**, **DR. DIMITRA BOURBOULIA**, **DR. LESZEK KOTULA**, **DR. MEHDI MOLLAPOUR**.

HOLLY MCCURDY (Senior Organizational Training Specialist, Professional Development, Human Resources, SUNY Upstate) presented our **CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP** last month entitled: Conflict Resolution: Communication & Leadership Skills. The objective of the workshop was to improve our ability to recognize different types of conflict and act accordingly, while maintaining a degree of respect and professionalism.

For a complete list of upcoming workshops and events, please visit:
<http://upstate.edu/grad/career/careerdev.php>

save the dates!



SAVE THE DATE!

Beyond the Doctorate Research Day: Postdocs, Residents & Fellows

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

The College of Graduate Studies and the Office of Graduate Medical Education will be hosting the Beyond the Doctorate Day, featuring the research of Upstate postdocs, residents and fellows on Wednesday, March 9, 2016. The Research Day includes a keynote speaker, platform presentations and a poster session. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Leszek Kotula, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Urology and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, SUNY Upstate Medical University. All postdocs, residents and fellows are encouraged to submit an abstract.

Deadline for abstract submission: MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016, at Noon!

Abstract submission details can be found at:

http://www.upstate.edu/postdoc/postdoc_life/events.php

STUDENT WORKSHOP

International Professionals in Science: What You Need to Know!

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

12:00 PM

WH 3113

Navigating the job search is hard enough! Join us for an informal yet informative presentation about what you need to know as an international grad student, especially as you think about what's next after graduation. Bring your questions and we'll be ready to help you!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Keeping Professional Boundaries on the Web

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

12:00 PM

WH 3113

We live in an increasingly connected society, where we're always plugged in. As a professional, social media and internet presence can be a great resource for growing your business or professional identity ... when used appropriately. Join us as Dr. Ann Botash shows us how to get the most out of social media.

STUDENT WORKSHOP

Psychological Self Care and Well Being in Graduate School

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

12:00 PM

WH 3113

We all know grad school can be tough, but you're not alone. Join us for an informal session on how to identify and deal with the stressors of graduate school, presented by the Student Counseling Center's Holly Vanderhoff, PhD; Michael Miller, PhD and Siphon Mbuqe, PhD.

AFTERNOON TEA

Every Wednesday at 3:00

WH 3120 or NRB 3708*

*First Wednesday of the month, tea is at the NRB.

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??

Email Jennifer Brennan at brennanj@upstate.edu to get it included in the next issue!