

Medicine

Chair: David Duggan, MD '79

- **Debanik Chaudhuri, MD**, resident in internal medicine at SUNY Upstate, received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award.
- **David Duggan, MD '79**, was quoted in the July issue of the *Catholic Courier* (Rochester) on issues relating to umbilical cord blood, in light of possible location of a cord blood center at SUNY Upstate. Dr. Duggan notes that parents can donate umbilical-cord blood quite easily. After the mother gives birth, the cord blood can be collected and then shipped to a cord-blood bank, he said. Stem cells from cord-blood, which are classified as adult stem cells, can be used for treating a variety of cancers, immune deficiencies, and other diseases.
- **Sara Jo Grethlein, MD**, has been named the 2006 Physician of the Year by the New York State Society of Physician Assistants in recognition of her contributions to the physician assistant profession. Dr. Grethlein is an Upstate oncologist.
- **Ruth Weinstock, MD, HS '85**, received the 2006 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities.
- **William J. Williams, MD**, received the SUNY Upstate President's Award for Distinguished Service.

Neurology

Chair: Jeremy Shefner, MD, PhD

- **Tarakad S. Ramachandran, MD**, received the 2006 Upstate President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Neurosurgery

Chair: Charles J. Hodge, Jr., MD, HS '74

- **Igor Yusupov, MD '04**, a resident at SUNY Upstate, received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Chair: Shawky Badawy, MD

- **Nanci L. Hawkins, MD**, of Rodman, NY, opened a private practice in Rodman in June with two certified nurse-midwives called Wise Woman OB-GYN.
- **Brian Hearn, MD '03**, a resident at SUNY Upstate, received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award.
- **Steven Solano, MD**, a resident at SUNY Upstate, received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award.

Orthopedic Surgery

Chair: Stephen Albanese, MD, HS '85

- **Raman Dhawan, MD, HS '04**, of Manlius, NY, has joined Hamilton Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine. Dr. Dhawan specializes in the treatment of spine diseases and injuries.

Pediatrics

Chair: Thomas Welch, MD

- **Nick Bennett, MD**, a resident at SUNY Upstate, received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award.
- **Neal Seidberg, MD '93, HS '96**, received the 2006 Upstate President's Award for Outstanding Contribution of the Year, Clinical.

Psychiatry

Chair: Mantosh Dewan, MD, HS '79

- **Robert Daly, MD '57**, was recognized for his long-time leadership role in the field of health care ethics at the Annual Meeting of the Institute for Ethics in Health Care held at Le Moyne College.
- **John Manring, MD '77**, received the 2006 Upstate President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- **Paula M. Trief, PhD**, received the 2006 Upstate President's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service.

Graduate Health Studies Section**Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

Chair: Richard Cross, PhD

- **Barry Knox, PhD**, received the 2006 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence and Leadership in Research.

Cell and Developmental Biology

Chair: Joseph Sanger, PhD

- **Elinor Spring-Mills, PhD**, was named by Governor George Pataki to a seat on the New York State Health Research Science Board. The board reviews a variety of grants relating to public and occupational health and breast cancer. Dr. Spring-Mills appointment comes as an outgrowth of her long service to the National Cancer Institutes Breast Cancer Working Group.
- **Susan Stearns, PhD**, received the 2006 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Microbiology and Immunology

Chair: Richard Cross, PhD

- **Jennifer F. Moffat, PhD**, received the 2006 Upstate President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- **Allen Silverstone, PhD**, attended a University of Kentucky Superfund Advisory Committee meeting in April and lectured on Immunotoxicology at New York University in March.

Schmitt Research Group Study Published in Journal of Cell Biology

Researchers at SUNY Upstate Medical University have a new understanding of how cell cycle regulation is affected by RNA degrading enzymes. In this latest study, published in the *Journal of Cell Biology* (April 2006), researchers have found that location of an RNA-degrading enzyme is key to its role in cell cycle regulation.

"Since we know that abnormal cell growth and behavior lead to cancer, it is important that we learn as much as we can about cell cycle regulation and what impact it has on degrading RNAs, as these issues play a significant role in developing our understanding of inhibitory drugs for the treatment of cancer," says Mark E. Schmitt, PhD, principal investigator of the study and associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Upstate.

Researchers found the location of mitochondrial RNA processing (RNaseMRP) is cell-cycle controlled. During the cell-division process, RNaseMRP localizes to the nucleolus. In this location, it is not exposed to mRNAs and therefore cannot degrade mRNAs. However, immediately following the initiation of mitosis, when the chromosomes start to separate, RNaseMRP begins the degrading of mRNAs and ends the cell division process.

What researchers discovered was that with the beginning of mitosis, the RNaseMRP relocates to the punctuate spot in the cytoplasm to begin its work in degrading mRNAs.

Earlier research by Schmitt and his team showed that RNaseMRP degrade mRNAs that encode a specific class of regulatory molecules called B-cyclins.

The degrading of RNAs is essential to keeping the cycle cell regulation on track.

Marion Zatz, PhD, program director with the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), applauded the efforts of Schmitt and his team in creating a

new understanding of cell cycle regulation. "Most cell cycle regulation relies on changes in protein levels and activities," Dr. Zatz says. "Dr. Schmitt's studies reveal a new level of spatial and temporal cell cycle regulation by RNA degrading enzymes."

The SUNY Upstate study was funded by the National Institute of General Medical Science. Upstate coauthors with Schmitt include Tina Gill and Jason Aulds.

—Darryl Geddes

