












# What's New in Biochemistry

## PERSONNEL CHANGES:

	Fanghui Hua has joined Bruce Knutson's lab as a Graduate Assistant.
	After completing his PhD degree in Stephan Wilken's lab, Sergio Couoh-Cardel has accepted a postdoc at Stanford.
	Maria Presti has joined Stewart Loh's lab as a Graduate Assistant.
	Natela Dushukyan has joined Mehdi Mollapour's lab as a Graduate Assistant.
	Kaitlyn Clapp completed her SURF Student Assistant position in Patty's lab.

	John Sfakis completed his SURF Student Assistant position in Michael's lab.
	Sarah Boothman completed her SURF Student Assistant position in Mark's lab.
	April Jules completed her SURF Student Assistant position in Stewart's lab.
	Nancy Walker-Kopp left Bruce Knutson's lab for a state position at SUNY ESF.

## GRANT INFO:

Bruce Knutson was awarded a Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer award.

## PUBLICATIONS:

Banerjee S and Kane PM, Direct interaction of the Golgi V-ATPase  $\alpha$ -subunit isoform with PI(4)P drives localization of Golgi V-ATPases in yeast. *Mol Biol Cell*. 2017 Jul 18. pii: mbc.E17-05-0316. doi: 10.1091/mbc.E17-05-0316. [Epub ahead of print]

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28720663>

Yan Han, Chunli Yan, Thi Hoang, Duong Nguyen, Ashleigh J Jackobel, Ivaylo Ivanov, Bruce A Knutson, Yuan He (Bruce and Yuan He are both corresponding authors) “Structural mechanism of ATP-independent transcription initiation by RNA polymerase I eLife”

17 June 2017; 6:e27414 DOI: 10.7554/eLife.27414 <https://elifesciences.org/articles/27414>

Nancy Walker-Kopp Ashleigh J. Jackobel Gianni N. Pannafino Paola A. Morocho Xia Xu Bruce A. Knutson “Treacher Collins syndrome mutations in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* destabilizes RNA polymerase I and III complex integrity”

Human Molecular Genetics, ddx317,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/hmg/ddx317>

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<https://academic.oup.com/hmg/article/doi/10.1093/hmg/ddx317/4082706/Treacher-Collins-syndrome-mutations-in?guestAccessKey=fae09dd9-c3ce-4185-be63-6071ad9686b8>

### AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Congratulations to Nick Huang who passed his qualifying exam on June 28<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations to Liam Coyne who passed his qualifying exam on June 30<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations to Ashley Canning who passed her qualifying exam on July 10<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations to Anna John who passed her qualifying exam on July 20<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations to Ashleigh Jackobel who passed her qualifying exam on August 10<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations to Sergio Couoh-Cardel who passed is PhD defense on August 1<sup>st</sup>!



Sergio

Consistent with Wilkens lab tradition, Sergio displays a hat modeled after his Ph.D. thesis. Note the similarity to the V-ATPase c-ring, with peppers standing in for critical glutamates.



Thank you to Nicholas Stam for providing the following comments and photo of Sergio:

“This pic below is of the newly minted Dr. Couoh arriving back at his car.

When Sergio parked his car the morning of his defense he made sure there was a redundant mechanism so that his car didn't roll down the hill...

- 1 put in gear
- 2 turn the wheels (as pictured)
- 3 set the parking brake

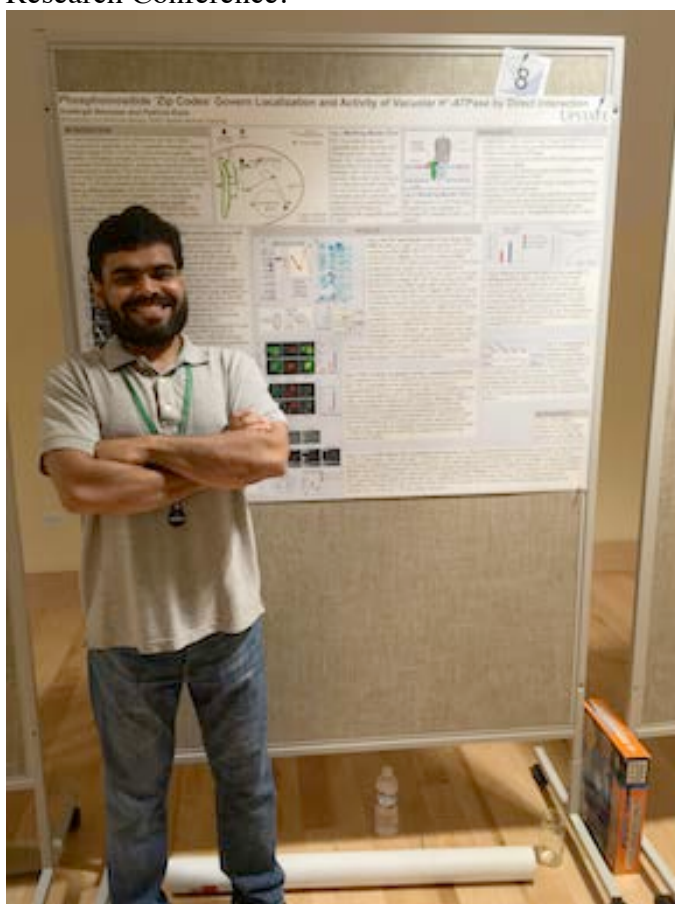
...similar to the redundant autoinhibition of Vo...”



Congratulations to Gourav Chaoudhary who was awarded a Graduate Student Preceptship from the Rheumatology Research Foundation which pays \$3,000 to student and \$1,000 to the institution.

Stuti Sharma presented a poster at the Gordon Research Conference on the mechanisms of membrane transport. The title of her poster was "Vacuolar H<sup>+</sup> ATPase assembly from its autoinhibited V1 and Vo sectors." She won the best poster award at the meeting.

Subhrajit Banerjee attended the Gordon Research Conference 2017 - Molecular Membrane Biology. Subhra was invited for a talk entitled "Phosphoinositide "zip codes" govern localization and activity of Vacuolar H<sup>+</sup>ATPases through direct interaction" at the Gordon Research Seminar. He presented a poster with the same title at the Gordon Research Conference.



Subhrajit at Gordon Research Conference

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dr. Vladimir Kuznetsov from A\*STAR Bioinformatics Institute in Singapore is scheduled to present a seminar on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Wenyi Feng is gauging interests in building a BMB team for the "A run for their life" 5k walk/run and/or 15k run (<http://www.cmbarunfortheirlife.com/>). Current signees: Wenyi Feng, Arijita Chakraborty, Angelina Regua, Anna John, Stephan Wilkens (non-committal pending potentially conflicting marathon), Andrew McCulley (?? no pressure...), your name here. Please contact Arijita, designated team captain.

### PERSONAL NEWS:

Our annual Biochemistry picnic was on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at Jamesville Beach. It was a beautiful day to relax and hang out with family and friends. Thank you to Andrew McCulley and Sandra Jarvis for their efforts in organizing the event and for Brian Haarer, Ryan Palumbo, and Sandy for grilling. Can Jam, Ladder Toss, Corn Hole, and soccer were enjoyed by many. Thank you to Xin Jie Chen and Arijita Chakraborty for sharing the photos below from the picnic.







Dr. Heba Diab with some friends in Guinea

**NEWS ABOUT ALUMNI:**

After completing her postdoc at the NIH, Heba Diab (Patty Kane’s graduate student) joined the State Department's Biosecurity Engagement Program where she has been a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow for the past 10 months. Her office engages with partners all over the world to mitigate the risks posed by biological threats. She currently runs our Sub-Saharan Africa and Ukraine portfolios, and manage our Ebola recovery efforts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. She currently is living in Conakry, Guinea and is working at the Embassy. There she works with Guinea's Ministry of Security and Ministry of Health to develop a national coordination plan to build the government's capacity to respond to public health threats. The fellowship has been quite a life-changing experience and she is loving her time in Guinea so far!

Heba describes the above photo “The picture I sent is one of my favorites because it really represents the Guineans. They're a kind, welcoming, warm-hearted people and these kids were all about the giggles and hugs that I'm always game for.”

Penny received this email from David Turner:

Hi, Penny!  
Nancy and I are back from a trip to Switzerland, where we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with our sons and their families.

I'm attaching a photo taken of us with Christian and Piers (both softball players for the department years ago). It was a rainy day in Zurich. We look bedraggled but happy.

Cheers,  
David

