

upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

february 2016

TRANSFORMATIONAL EDUCATION

Recently, I have heard this buzz phrase “Transformational Education”. Buzzwords and phrases often mean something different to everyone. They can be global, non-specific and overarching statements. This one is also stolen from our College motto, “Transforming students from consumers of knowledge to creators of knowledge”. That being said, Transformational Education is for the most part redundant. Nearly all education is transforming to the student, mostly for the better. When all of us think back to that first day of graduate school we remember how little we knew, how naïve we were. When we compare that to our thesis defense we realize how much we learned, how far we have come in our knowledge, thought processes and laboratory and analytical skills. We also grew immensely in our life and personal skills. We have learned to better understand and communicate with people and hopefully have a much better understanding of the world around us. If we don’t understand something, we know how to find the answer. In essence we have been transformed through education. If the job was done right, we became life-long self-learners, and are constantly being transformed. This is clearly the most important attribute we can instill on all of our students and one they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

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

publications

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

PEPPENELLI MA, Arend KC, **COJOHARI O**, Moorman NJ, **CHAN GC**.

Human cytomegalovirus stimulates the synthesis of select Akt-dependent antiapoptotic proteins during viral entry to promote survival of infected monocytes. *Journal of Virology*. 2016 Jan 6;. [Epub ahead of print] <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26739047?dopt=Abstract>

YANG L, **FARAONE SV**, Zhang-James Y.

Autism spectrum disorder traits in Slc9a9 knock-out mice. *Am J Med Genet B Neuropsychiatr Genet*. 2016 Jan 11. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26755066?dopt=Abstract>

GHOSH D, **LO J**, **EGBUTA C**.

Recent Progress in the Discovery of Next Generation Inhibitors of Aromatase from the Structure-Function Perspective. *J Med Chem*. 2016 Jan 19. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26689671>

Woodford MR, Truman AW, **DUNN DM**, Jensen SM, Cotran R, **BULLARD R**, Abouelleil M, Beebe K, Wolfgeher D, Wierzbicki S, Post DE, **CAZA T**, Tsutsumi S, Panaretou B, Kron SJ, Trepel JB, Landas S, Prodromou C, Shapiro O, Stetler-Stevenson WG, **BOURBOULIA D**, Neckers L, **BRATSLAVSKY G**, **MOLLAPOUR M**.

Mps1 Mediated Phosphorylation of Hsp90 Confers Renal Cell Carcinoma Sensitivity and Selectivity to Hsp90 Inhibitors. *Cell Rep*. 2016 Jan 19;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26804907?dopt=Abstract>

In the past month, the following researchers have attended conferences:



New York Academy of Sciences: Risky Buisness: The Future of Biopharmaceutical Innovation
New York City, NY | January 30, 2016

The College of Graduate Studies supported the registration costs for students to attend the workshop designed to guide participants into industry's past and the ever-changing present, while inviting participants to ponder the possibilities that lay ahead.



OLESEA COJOHARI

Microbiology & Immunology PhD Student

DISHAREE DAS

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology PhD Student

AVIK DUTTA

Pharmacology PhD Student

PATRICK FAUGHNAN

Pharmacology PhD Student

ANNA JOHN

Undeclared PhD Student

JOSHUA KARCHIN

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology PhD Student

ESTHER MUTONGI

Microbiology & Immunology PhD Student

DIPMOY NATH

Pharmacology PhD Student

DAKSHESH PATEL

Pharmacology PhD Student

SUMANA SUNDARAMURTHY

Undeclared PhD Student

ERIC ZLUHAN

Neuroscience PhD Student

from our students:

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

HEART WALK

Our graduate students are putting together a team to participate in the **AMERICAN HEART WALK** on **SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND AT 10:00 AM** at **ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**.

Sign up today to walk or you can donate by contacting one of our team captains:

JACQUALYN SCHULMAN - schulmaj@upstate.edu or

LIZ SNYDER - snydere@upstate.edu.

Any donation gets your name written on a heart to be featured proudly in the halls of Upstate. A donation of \$1 or more gets you a fancy AHA rubber bracelet or pin.

A Donation of \$20 (received by March 3rd) gets you a long sleeve, moisture-wicking tech shirt pictured below!

Donations also being accepted in the Graduate Studies Office.

JOIN THE TEAM, SUPPORT THE CAUSE!



ELISABETH "LISI" HAMILTON, a student in Anatomy and Cell Biology, successfully defended her Dissertation last month. Pictured above is Lisi alongside her dissertation advisor, Dr. Scott Blystone. **Congratulations, Lisi!**

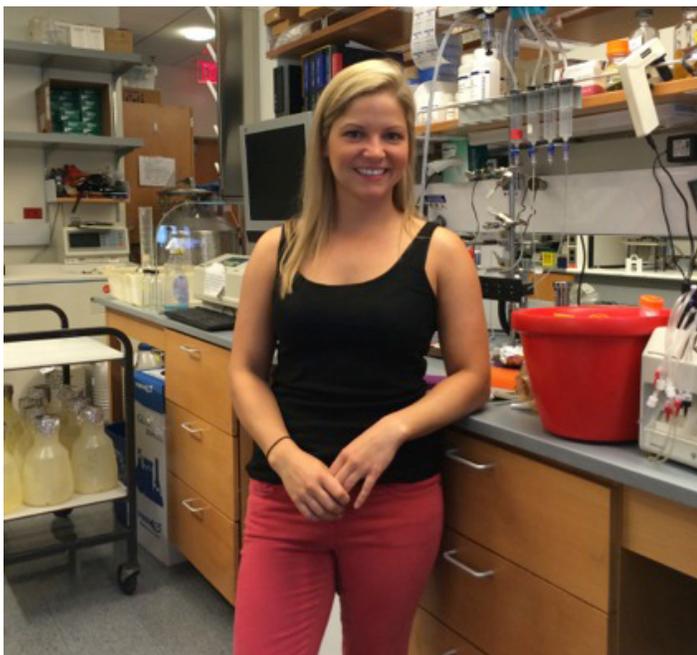
SARAH BARGER, a student in Anatomy & Cell Biology, successfully passed her qualifying exam last month. Sarah's advisor is Dr. Mira Krendel.

Congratulations, Sarah!



ARTURO BARBACHANO-GUERRERO, a Microbiology & Immunology PhD student, became engaged over the holiday break. Arturo is pictured above with his fiancée, Berenice Cabrera-Martinez. **Congratulations to the happy couple!**

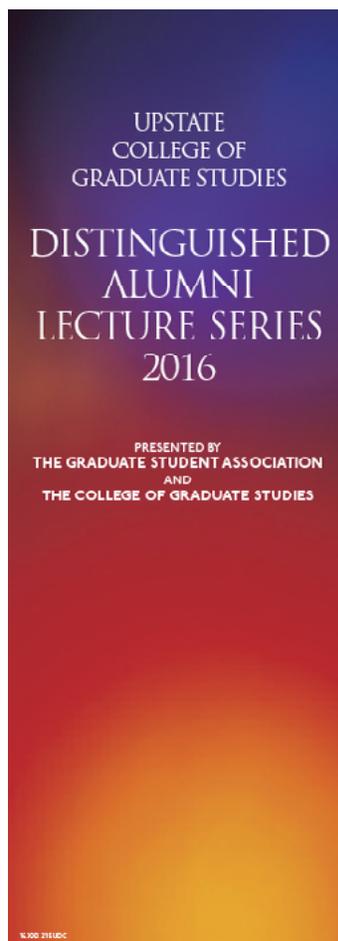
from our alumni:



MARGARET (MEG) STRATTON, PhD, (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology '10), started an Assistant Professorship at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in September 2015 after completing her postdoc with Dr. John Kuriyan at the University of California, Berkeley. Meg is running a research group that focuses on the study of long-term memory at the molecular level. The Stratton lab analyzes the proteins involved in synaptic transmission such as CaMKII, Arc, and the NMDA receptor, among others. In addition to research, Meg is also teaching some undergraduate and graduate Molecular Biology courses.

MEG WILL BE RETURNING TO UPSTATE THIS APRIL!

During her visit she will be a guest lecturer for the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar Series, hosted by her former thesis sponsor Dr. Stewart Loh. Her talk entitled **"Understanding the Molecular Components of Memory Formation"** will be held **Monday, April 11th at 12:00 Noon in WH 2231**. After, Meg will be joining us for a **Career Development Workshop at 1:00 PM in Setnor 3507/3508**, where she will meet with our graduate students and postdocs over lunch to share her experiences and advice on everything from finding a job in academia to starting your own lab and more!



Wednesday, February 24, 2016
1:15 PM
Room 103, WH
Refreshments will be served



Mary Fowkes, MD, PhD
Director of Neuropathology
and Autopsy Service
Associate Professor
Department of Pathology
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY

"Opportunities Taken and Made"

Dr. Fowkes earned her PhD from the
Anatomy & Cell Biology Program in 1999.
Her thesis sponsor was Dr. David Mitchell.

All are welcome!

More information: Terri Brown
tbrown1@upstate.edu

We love hearing from you ...
Drop by our website & let us know how you're doing!

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??

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

college happenings



GSA AFTER-HOLIDAY PARTY: 01/08/16



We are very excited to welcome President Laraque-Arena to Upstate!

The State University of New York Board of Trustees named **DANIELLE LARAQUE-ARENA, MD,FAAP**, as president of SUNY Upstate Medical University on Thursday, September 10, 2015. She assumed the role last month; her first day was January 14, 2016.



IT'S OUR ANNIVERSARY!



A few of the highlights from 2015, volume one of the Upstate Grad Update, now onto volume two....

upcoming events & save the dates!

SAVE THE DATE!

Distinguished Alumni Lecture

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

1:15 PM | WH 103

The Graduate Student Association, assisted by the College of Graduate Studies, hosts the annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series. This year's guest is: Dr. Mary Fowkes, MD, PhD. Mary is now the Director of Neuropathology and Autopsy Service at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Mary earned her PhD from the Anatomy & Cell Biology program in 1999. Her thesis sponsor was Dr. David Mitchell.

SIX WEEKS TO SUCCESS

How to Get the Most Out of Your Advisor and Your Committees

Friday, February 26, 2016

12:00 PM | WH 3113

This seminar for first year students is designed to help guide students as they start thinking about selecting a dissertation advisor and eventually creating a qualifying and/or advisory committee. Join us as Dr. Stewart Loh, Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Stuti Sharma, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology offer their advice on identifying a good advisor and being a good advisee. Come prepared with any questions you might have!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

An Introduction to the CNYBAC & Optional Tour of the Facility

Monday, February 29, 2016

12:00 PM | NRB 4709

This workshop is a must attend for anyone interested in industry or looking to gain some experience outside of the academic lab! Join us as Director of Operations, Kathi Durdon, MA, CCRP explains what the CNY Biotech Accelerator is and what opportunities they have to offer you. Plus, join us after the workshop for the chance to tour the facility to see the lab space first hand - you won't want to miss it!

SAVE THE DATE!

Beyond the Doctorate Research Day: Postdocs, Residents & Fellows

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

1:00 PM | WH 103

This day, sponsored by the College of Graduate Studies and the Office of Graduate Medical Education, features the research of Upstate postdocs, residents and fellows. The 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.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

SciPhD: Preparing for a Professional Career

Wednesday, March 30, 2016

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM | WH 3113

Join us for a very special workshop featuring SciPhD Founder Randall Ribaudo! We are very excited to welcome Randy back to Upstate. This workshop is a must attend for anyone considering a future in industry or preparing for life post-grad school. Randy will present three interactive hour-long workshops designed to help you market yourself for industry. He'll dissect job postings, cover letters, resumes and more. Bring your CV and sample cover letter to review with him!

SAVE THE DATE!

Student Research Day

Friday, April 8, 2016

1:30 PM | WH 2231

The Research Day features four student talks, a keynote presentation and an early evening poster session in the IHP Atrium. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Michael Caligiuri, MD, Professor of Internal Medicine, Hematology, Ohio State University and CEO James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute.

Abstracts are now being accepted through February 29th!

Please visit: <http://www.upstate.edu/grad/students/celebration.php>

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!