

# upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

july 2015



## FROM THE DEAN:

Recently, I have been contemplating how over the last several months I have had an incredible string of luck. I have bought \$1 lottery tickets that have won \$100. I have been given exceptional hotel room upgrades for no reason at all. I have also noticed it in the little things: being unable to sleep, but there's an incredible sunrise outside or being caught in a torrential downpour, but it's a summer rain that makes you smile. An Irish friend of mine always said, "there is no such thing as luck – it is what you make of the cards you are dealt and how you look at those cards."

When I look back over the years, I have had many good cards dealt, and, of course, many bad ones. We all need to find ways to make the bad cards valuable, to identify the opportunity that may be directly in front of us and jump on it. Science is no different. I often hear students complain that they have had no luck in the lab. In order to inspire me, my thesis advisor would tell me that luck comes to those who buy a lot of lottery tickets, "So get back to work." I agree, but as scientists we must also look carefully at results, at what we are doing to identify those little observations or nuggets that will solve the immediate problem and lead to great discoveries. We must not commiserate about the problems but look for the solutions to solve them. Lastly, we must act on these solutions, embrace and implement them. This will bring luck into our lives.

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

**BI J, CARROLL RT, James ML, OUDERKIRK JL, KRENDEL M, SIROTKIN V.**

Effects of FSGS-associated mutations on the stability and function of myosin-1 in fission yeast.

*Dis Model Mech.* 2015 Jun 18;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26092123?dopt=Abstract>

**FERNANDES S, BROOKS R, GUMBLETON M, Park MY, Russo CM, Howard KT, Chisholm JD, KERR WG.**

SHIPi Enhances Autologous and Allogeneic Hematolymphoid Stem Cell Transplantation.

*EBioMedicine* 2(3):205-213, 2015.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26052545?dopt=Abstract>

**GLASS AM, SNYDER EG, TAFFET SM.**

Connexins and pannexins in the immune system and lymphatic organs.

*Cell Mol Life Sci.* 2015 Jun 23;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26100515?dopt=Abstract>

**MARGULIES BS, DEBOYACE SD, Parsons AM, POLICASTRO CG, Ee JS, DAMRON TS.**

Functionally deficient mesenchymal stem cells reside in the bone marrow niche with M2-macrophages and amyloid- $\beta$  protein adjacent to loose total joint implants.

*J Orthop Res.* 33(5):615-24, 2015.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25418884>

**MARGULIES BS, DEBOYACE SD, DAMRON TA, Allen MJ.**

Ewing's Sarcoma of Bone Tumor Cells Produce MCSF that Stimulates Monocyte Proliferation in a Novel Mouse Model of Ewing's Sarcoma of Bone.

*Bone.* 2015 Jun 4;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26051470?dopt=Abstract>

**MI-MI, L. and PRUYNE, D.**

Loss of Sarcomere-associated Formins Disrupts Z-line Organization, but does not Prevent Thin Filament Assembly in *Caenorhabditis elegans* Muscle.

*Journal of Cytology & Histology.* 6(2):318 (2015).

[http://omicsonline.org/cytology-histology-abstract.php?abstract\\_id=43687](http://omicsonline.org/cytology-histology-abstract.php?abstract_id=43687)

**YAN D, JOBE F, Hutchison RE, MOHI G.**

Deletion of Stat3 enhances myeloid cell expansion and increases the severity of myeloproliferative neoplasms in Jak2V617F knock-in mice.

*Leukemia.* [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26044284?dopt=Abstract>

Zhang T, **ZHOU Q, Ogmundsdottir MH, Möller K, Siddaway R, Larue L, Hsing M, Kong SW, Goding C, Palsson A, Steingrimsdottir E, PIGNONI F.**

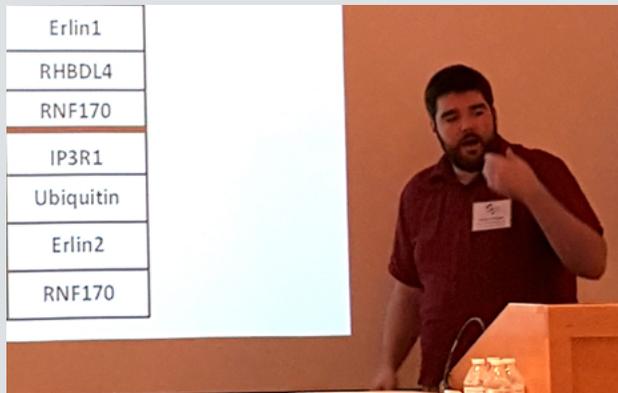
Mitf is a master regulator of the v-ATPase forming an Mitf/v-ATPase/TORC1 control module for cellular homeostasis.

*J Cell Sci.* 2015 Jun 19;. [Epub ahead of print]

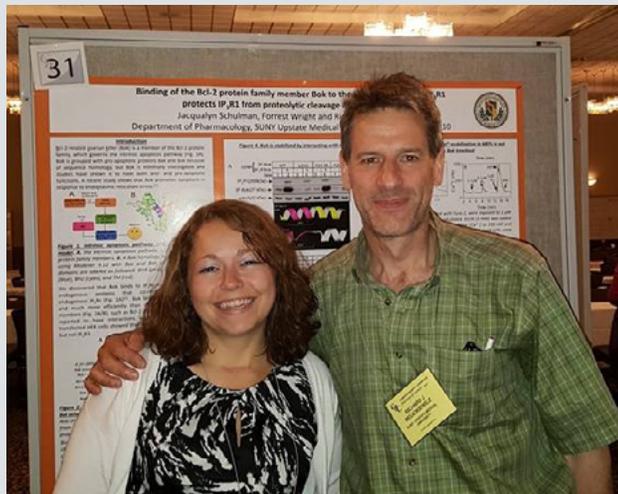
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26092939?dopt=Abstract>

# presentations

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



*Above, Forrest Wright giving an Oral Presentation and below, Jacquelyn Schulman pictured in front of her poster with their PI Dr. Richard Wojcikiewicz at the Gordon Conference on Calcium Signaling.*



## **Gordon Research Conference: Calcium Signaling: Molecular & Cellular Mechanisms in Health & Disease**

Newry, ME | June 7-12, 2015

**JACQUALYN SCHULMAN**, a PhD Candidate in Pharmacology  
**FORREST WRIGHT**, a PhD Candidate in Pharmacology

## **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Workshop: Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Cold Spring Harbour, NY | June 4-10, 2015

**DANIEL TYLEE**, an MD/PhD Student in Neuroscience

## **Gordon Research Conference: Bioenergetics**

Proctor Academy, Andover, NJ | June 21-26, 2015

**SUBHRAJIT BANERJEE**, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
**SERGIO COUOH-CARDEL**, a PhD Student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
**STUTI SHARMA**, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
**NICHOLAS STAM**, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
**SWETHA DEVI VELIVELA**, a PhD Student in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
**REBECCA OOT**, a Postdoc in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Postdoc

Approximately one-third of the junior investigators who gave poster presentations were invited to give a five minute oral presentation. We're excited to report that all of our participants were selected to give an oral presentation. And we are very pleased to announce that of those, Rebecca Oot was also awarded one of the four best oral presentations.

## **Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology: Mitochondrial Biogenesis and Dynamics in Health, Disease and Aging**

West Palm Beach, FL | May 17-22, 2015

**YAXIN LIU**, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

## **American Diabetes Association's Scientific Session**

Boston, MA | June 5-9, 2015

**HEATHER NELSON**, a PhD Candidate in Anatomy & Cell Biology

from our students:

**GURSEWAK SINGH**, a Masters Student in Physiology successfully defended his thesis last month. Gursewak's advisor is Dr. Huaiyu Hu. Congratulations G and best of luck!



**DIANA DUNN**, a PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology with Dr. Mehdi Mollapour, successfully passed her qualifying exam. Congratulations, Diana, and keep up the great work!

**ADAM BLANDEN**, an MD/PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology with Dr. Stewart Loh, has been granted a three-year NIH fellowship: "Restoring the Missing Zinc: A quantitative investigation of p53 hotspot mutant reactivation by synthetic metallochaperones for cancer chemotherapy." Congratulations, Adam! Keep up the great work!

## THE ANNUAL GSA PICNIC



### TEAM:CDB

The Graduate Student Association hosted their Annual Picnic at Green Lakes on Friday, June 26th. There was lots of good food, fun and as is tradition, the Annual Softball Tournament. This year, the (mostly) Cell and Developmental Biology Team, pictured above, took home the much-coveted trophy. Only minor injuries were reported.



### TEAM:MICRO/PHARM



### TEAM:BIOCHEM

from our alumni:



## good news ... comes in pairs!

**CHERRY MAE IGNACIO, PHD**, a graduate from the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Program earlier this year, recently accepted a position at Partek, Inc. as a Field Application Scientist in St Louis, Missouri. Cherry began her new position July 1st. We congratulate Cherry on her new job and wish her the best of luck!

In addition, Cherry also accepted a marriage proposal from her boyfriend, Stephen Barry, an Associate Scientist at Bristol Myers Squibb. Congratulations again, Cherry!

**IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??**

Email Jennifer Brennan at [brennanj@upstate.edu](mailto:brennanj@upstate.edu)

or Terri Brown at [brownt@upstate.edu](mailto:brownt@upstate.edu) to get it included in the next issue!

# welcoming our undergrad researchers



Some of our SURF Students out on a hike with SURF Director Mike Cosgrove, far left.

Our Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program is designed to give undergraduate students a glimpse of life as a graduate student, gaining invaluable experience doing hands-on research while working alongside faculty, postdocs and graduate students.

During this intensive ten-week program, undergraduates formulate a proposal, perform experiments, and write a formal research paper, potentially giving them the opportunity to see their work published. Each student works under the supervision and guidance of a principal investigator, who is assigned based on mutual research interests. In addition, students attend research seminars presented by faculty and graduate students. They will then give a presentation of their research to their peers and supervisors. Outside of the lab, we offer guidance on applying to graduate school, career planning and classes on ethics, humane use of animals, lab safety, and presentation skills. And we do have some fun – SURF Director, Dr. Michael Cosgrove, organizes some social events like nature walks, kayaking trips and more so students can get to know each other outside the lab. Each year the SURF Program also helps us recruit outstanding graduate students as former SURF students are eligible for fast-track admission to our Biomedical Sciences Program.

**This year, we are happy to host 15 undergraduate researchers for the summer, June 1st through August 7th:**

**Christopher Bartlett**, SUNY Oswego  
Dr. Daniel Ts'o, Neurosurgery

**Bryan Ferguson**, Hamilton College  
Dr. Juntao Luo, Pharmacology

**Marisa Ross**, Duquesne University  
Dr. Sijun Zhu, Neuroscience & Physiology

**Juan Bastidas**, SUNY Stony Brook  
Dr. Eric Olson, Neuroscience & Physiology

**Brooke Hamling**, Syracuse University  
Dr. Xin Jie Chen, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Morgan Ross**, Nazareth College  
Dr. Gary Winslow, Microbiology/Immunology

**Nicole Coloney**, The University at Buffalo  
Dr. Wei-Dong Yao, Psychiatry

**Briana Natale**, LeMoyne College  
Dr. Huaiyu Hu, Neuroscience & Physiology

**Elizabeth Swallow**, King University  
Dr. William Brunken, Ophthalmology

**Sierra Darling**, SUNY College at Oneonta  
Dr. Christopher Neville, Physical Therapy

**Gianno Pannafino**, LeMoyne College  
Dr. Bruce Knutson, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Isabel Utschig**, Marquette University  
Dr. Stewart Loh, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

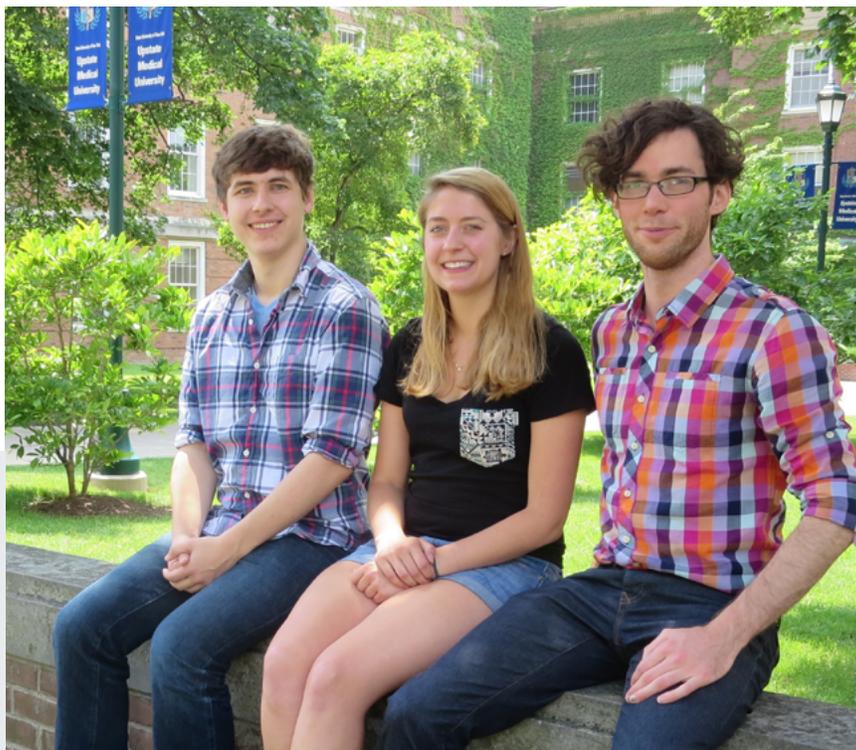
**Tim DeMarsh**, SUNY Cobleskill  
Dr. Wenyi Feng, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

**Maria Presti**, Bard College at Simons Rock  
Dr. Mira Krendel, Cell & Developmental Biology

**Isaac Vingan**, Binghamton University  
Dr. David Pruyne, Cell & Developmental Biology

# in other news

We are very excited to welcome our three first-year MD/PhD students to Upstate:  
From left, **ERIC BARNETT**,  
**LAURA SZCZESNIAK**,  
and **ALAN BLAYNEY**.



**JACQUALYN SCHULMAN**, a PhD Student in Pharmacology, is engaged! Jacquelyn's now fiancé, Tyler Herrman, proposed to her at the top of Tinker Falls with their pup Khaleesi in tow!  
**Congratulations, Jacquelyn and Tyler!!**



**MAMUN RASHID**, a PhD Candidate in Neuroscience, married Syeda Zakia Zaman on June 12th in Dhaka, Bangladesh.  
**Congratulations, Mamun and Syeda!!**



**JOSHUA KARCHIN**, a PhD Candidate in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and **JING BI KARCHIN**, a PhD Candidate in Anatomy & Cell Biology, celebrated their marriage vows on June 14th surrounded by their family and friends.  
**Congratulations Jing and Josh!**



save the dates!

Mark Your Calendars for the 15th Annual

## Biomedical Sciences Retreat

Thursday, September 17, 2015 • 8:00 am – 6:00 pm  
The Lodge at Welch Allyn, Skaneateles, NY

**Abstract Deadline: Sunday, August 23rd**  
**Registration Deadline: Monday, August 31st**

This full day symposium features faculty presentations, two guest speakers and a poster session. This is a great opportunity to catch up on the research happening around you and to meet the new faculty and incoming class of graduate students.

Registrants are eligible to submit an abstract and present a poster at the retreat. Graduate student first-authored posters have priority and will also be eligible for cash awards.

**For more information or to register visit:**  
<http://www.upstate.edu/grad/retreat/>

**UPSTATE**  
MEDICAL UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

### BIOCHEMISTRY PICNIC

Monday, July 27, 2015

12:00 Noon

Jamesville Beach State Park

### SURF RESEARCH REPORTS

Tuesday & Wednesday, August 4 & 5, 2015

4:00 PM

Weiskotten Hall 3113

Join us **EVERY WEDNESDAY** at **3PM** in the **GRAD STUDIES CONFERENCE ROOM\*** for **AFTERNOON TEA & SWEETS!!**

**\*First Wednesday of the month, tea is at NRB 3708.**

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??  
Email Jennifer Brennan at [brennanj@upstate.edu](mailto:brennanj@upstate.edu)