

# upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

june 2015

## FROM THE DEAN

As you will see in this issue, we just held our annual graduation ceremony, where we celebrated our 18 stellar graduates. It was a great ceremony with all the pomp and circumstance deserving of these students. Interestingly, it brings mixed emotions for everyone. Students, faculty and staff are always excited and proud to see the results of their hard work and joyful for what lays ahead. However, there is also a sadness that pervades the ceremony. We will miss each of these students – their enthusiasm and excitement for science – they have become our friends and colleagues. Many will be leaving Syracuse, which has been their home for many years, bringing stress and uncertainty. Hence, it is appropriate that we celebrate this event for not only the student's accomplishments but also to embrace all of those emotions that fill us. Rightfully so, it is these events that we remember down the road, these milestones that are filled with emotion help make us who we are as we move through life. Congratulations to all the students, we will miss you, but we are incredibly proud of you and what you have accomplished.

# oh the places you'll go!

## IN THE PAST MONTH, THE FOLLOWING RESEARCHERS HAVE ATTENDED AND PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES:



ARVO 2015 - From left to right graduate students: Kimberly Wong, Nycole Maza, Dmitri Serjanov, and Rose Pasquale.

### NK2015 – 15TH MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR NATURAL IMMUNITY MONTEBELLO, QUEBEC | MAY 3-6, 2015

- **MATTHEW GUMBLETON**, MD/PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology
- **RAKII SUDAN**, Postdoc in Microbiology & Immunology

### ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN VISION & OPHTHALMOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING | DENVER, CO | MAY 3-7, 2015

- **BISWAS S**, Bachay G, Hunter D, **BRUNKEN WJ**. Laminins containing  $\beta^2$  and  $\beta^3$  chains regulate retinal angiogenesis by modulating microglial activation-dependent TGF- $\beta^2$  pathway.
- **WONG K**, Trembley M, Abd Wahab S, **VICZIAN A**. Efficient retina formation requires suppression of both Activin and BMP signaling pathways in pluripotent cells.
- **MAZA N**, **NAJAFI M**, **GENEVA I**, **CALVERT P**. Surveying the electrostatic binding potential of rod photoreceptor membranes and its role in setting peripheral membrane protein distribution.
- **PASQUALE R**, Umino Y, **SOLESSIO E**. Light-adapted electroretinograms in Cx36 knockout mice.
- **VICZIAN A**, **WONG K**, Trembley M. Biasing early primitive ectoderm-like cells toward retinal cone photoreceptors.
- Tan HY, **GENEVA I**, **CALVERT P**. Single molecule tracking of rhodopsin-like GPCRs and chimeras reveal diverse mechanisms of transport to, and within sensory cilia.
- **MARTINO J**, Bachay G, Hunter D, **BRUNKEN W**. Roles for Extracellular Matrix in Corneal Development and Wound Healing.
- **SERJANOV D**, Bachay G, Hunter D, **BRUNKEN W**. Laminin  $\beta^2$  and  $\beta^3$  Chains Regulate Retinal Progenitor Cell Division Polarity and Cell Cycle.
- **KIMBERLY WONG**, co-moderated the 'Stem Cell Engineering' poster session with David Gamm, MD, PhD

### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF IMMUNOLOGISTS MEETING NEW ORLEANS, LA | MAY 8-12, 2015

- **KEVIN KENDERES**, PhD Candidate in Microbiology & Immunology
- **SCOTT MINCHENBERG**, MD/PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology
- **AMBER PAPHILLION**, PhD Candidate in Microbiology & Immunology

# look mom, we've been published!

## CONGRATULATIONS AUTHORS!

Check out some of the publications from the College of Graduate Studies in the last month:

Daud II, **COLEMAN CB, SMITH NA**, Ogolla S, Simbiri K, Bukusi EA, Ng'ang'a ZW, Sumba PO, Vulule J, Plutz-Snyder R, Dent A, **ROCHFORD R**.

Breast-Milk as a Potential Source of Epstein-Barr Virus Transmission among Infants Living in a Malaria Endemic Region of Kenya. *J Infect Dis*. 2015 May 17;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25985902?dopt=Abstract>

Gruber RC, **LARocca D, MINCHENBERG SB**, Christophi GP, Hudson CA, Ray AK, Shafit-Zagardo B, **MASSA PT**.

The control of reactive oxygen species production by SHP-1 in oligodendrocytes. *Glia*. 2015 [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25919645?dopt=Abstract>

**MANGIO RS**, Votra S, **PRUYNE D**.

The canonical eIF4E isoform of *C. elegans* regulates growth, embryogenesis, and germline sex-determination. *Biol Open*. 2015 May 15;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25979704?dopt=Abstract>

Xu G, Shi C, **GUO D, WANG L**, Ling Y, Han X, **LUO J**.

Functional-segregated coumarin-containing telodendrimer nanocarriers for efficient delivery of SN-38 for colon cancer treatment. *Acta Biomater*. 2015 [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25910639?dopt=Abstract>

Simbiri KO, **SMITH NA**, Otieno R, **WOHLFORD EE**, Daud II, Odada SP, **MIDDLETON F, ROCHFORD R**.

Epstein-Barr Virus Genetic Variation in Lymphoblastoid Cell Lines Derived from Kenyan Pediatric Population. *PLoS One*. 2015;10(5):e0125420.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25933165?dopt=Abstract>

Sowalsky AG, **SAGER R**, Schaefer RJ, **BRATSLAVSKY G**, Pandolfi PP, Balk SP, **KOTULA L**.

Loss of Wave1 gene defines a subtype of lethal prostate cancer. *Oncotarget*. 2015 [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25906751?dopt=Abstract>

Yu L, **ZHOU Q, PIGNONI F**.

ato-Gal4 fly lines for gene function analysis: Eya is required in late progenitors for eye morphogenesis. *Genesis*. 2015 May 15;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25980363?dopt=Abstract>

# honors, accomplishments & awards



*Darin celebrates surrounded by the Ophthalmology Group!*

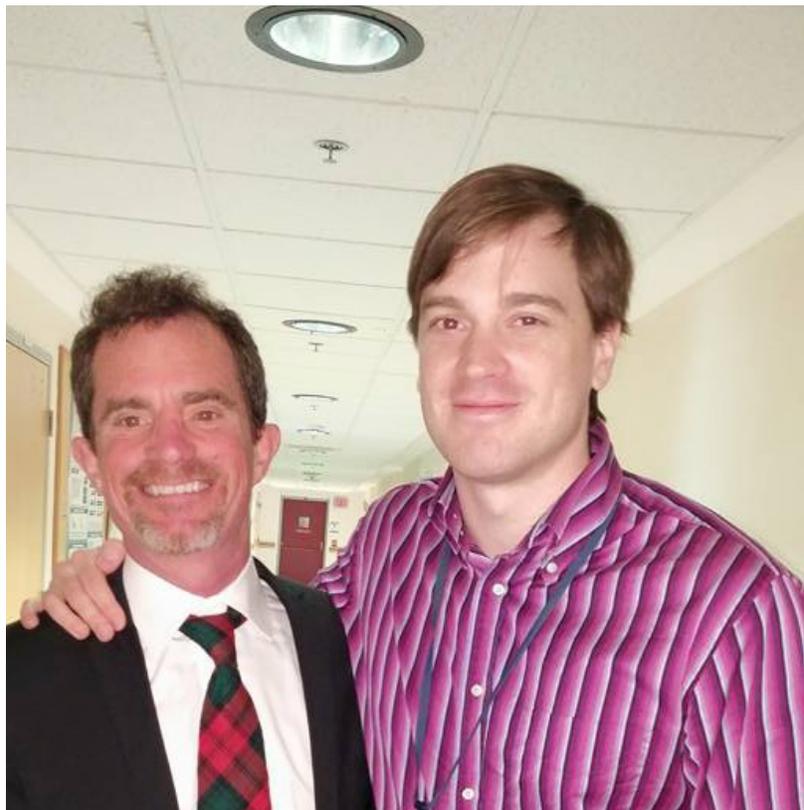
**DARIN DOLEZAL**, an MD/PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, successfully defended his dissertation. Darin's dissertation advisor is Dr. Francesca Pignoni. Darin now returns to medical school to complete his MD. Congratulations and best of luck, Darin!



*Robbie, pictured at center, alongside his sponsor William Kerr, PhD, and his former lab mate/graduate student Sonia Iyer, PhD.*

**ROBBIE BROOKS**, a PhD Candidate in Microbiology & Immunology, successfully defended his dissertation. Robbie's advisor is Dr. William Kerr. Congratulations, Robbie, and best of luck!

**DANIEL TYLEE**, an MD/PhD student in Neuroscience & Physiology with Dr. Stephen Glatt, successfully passed his qualifying exam. Congratulations, Dan!



*Matt pictured alongside his advisor William Kerr, PhD.*

**MATTHEW GUMBLETON**, an MD/PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology, successfully defended his dissertation. Matt's advisor is Dr. William Kerr. Matt now returns to medical school to complete his MD. Congratulations and best of luck, Matt!

# commencement: the class of 2015

May 17, 2015 | Carrier Theater, John M. Mulroy Civic Center

The Ceremony included the presentation of awards, Distinguished Commencement Speaker Dr. Richard Cross, a SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus, and Student Speaker Jason Gokey, from Anatomy & Cell Biology and the conferral of degrees for the following students:

**CHRISTIAN CASSARA**

MS, Pharmacology  
Advisor: Dr. Richard Veenstra

**EDWARD DOHERTY**

PhD, Microbiology & Immunology  
Advisor: Dr. Andras Perl

**MATTHEW MILLER**

PhD, Anatomy & Cell Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Scott Blystone

**ADESEYE ADEKEYE**

MD/PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Barry Knox

**ROBERT BROOKS**

PhD, Microbiology & Immunology  
Advisor: Dr. William Kerr

**JASON GOKEY**

PhD, Anatomy & Cell Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Jeffrey Amack

**JESSICA OUDERKIRK**

PhD, Anatomy & Cell Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Mira Krendel

**SAMUEL MACKENZIE**

MD/PhD, Neuroscience  
Advisor: Dr. Blair Calancie

**ORI COHEN**

PhD, Anatomy & Cell Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Stephen Glatt

**ELISABETH HAMILTON**

PhD, Anatomy & Cell Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Scott Blystone

**NAMAN SHAH**

PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Thomas Duncan

**ERIC WOHLFORD**

MD/PhD, Microbiology & Immunology  
Advisor: Dr. Rosemary Rochford

**CHANDRAV DE**

PhD, Microbiology & Immunology  
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Moffat

**JING BI KARCHIN**

PhD, Anatomy & Cell Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Mira Krendel

**STEPHEN SHINSKY**

PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Advisor: Dr. Michael Cosgrove

The student selected flag bearer at the College of Graduate Studies Commencement Ceremony was:  
Sam Mackenzie.

**PAURAV DESAI**

PhD, Anatomy & Cell Biology  
Advisor: Dr. David Mitchell

**CHRISTOPHER LUCCHESI**

PhD, Pharmacology  
Advisor: Dr. Ying Huang

**NEVA WATSON**

PhD, Microbiology & Immunology  
Advisor: Dr. Rosemary Rochford



# and the winners are ...

## *Recipients of the 2015 Commencement Awards are:*

### **Award for Professional and Public Service:**

Jing Bi Karchin, Anatomy & Cell Biology PhD Student

### **John Bernard Henry, MD Endowed Scholarship Award:**

Neva Watson, Microbiology & Immunology PhD Student

### **Honorable Mentions:**

Robert Brooks, Microbiology & Immunology PhD Student &  
Stephen Shinsky, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology PhD Student

### **Maxwell Mozell Unsung Hero Award:**

Olesea Cojohari, Microbiology & Immunology PhD student

### **Research Day Presentation Awards:**

#### **Oral Presentation Award:**

Adam Blanden, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology MD/PhD Student

#### **Best Poster Presentation - First Prize:**

Gregory Goreczny, Anatomy & Cell Biology PhD Student

#### **Best Poster Presentation - Second Prize:**

Kimberly Wong, Neuroscience PhD Student &  
Yue Yang, Pharmacology PhD Student

### **SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence:**

Samuel Mackenzie, Neuroscience MD/PhD student

### **Written Research Proposal Award:**

Megan Gribble, Microbiology & Immunology PhD Student

### **Outstanding Teacher Award:**

Dr. Stewart Loh, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology



# from our alumni

Alumnus **MICHAEL LAIOSA**, PhD, was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the Zilber School of Public Health at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. Michael graduate from the Microbiology & Immunology Program at Upstate in 2002. Congratulations Michael! For more information, please visit: <http://uwm.edu/publichealth/people/laiosa-phd-michael/>

**IN MEMORIUM** – We are saddened to report that alumnus **JAMES KINSELLA**, PhD, passed away on May 25, 2015. Dr. Kinsella received his doctorate from Upstate Medical University in 1979 from the Pharmacology Program. Dr. Kinsella's dissertation advisor was Dr. Charles Ross. Following his graduation from Upstate, Dr. Kinsella held a post doctoral fellowship at Yale University School of Medicine, prior to establishing a laboratory at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1981. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. For more information, please visit: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/baltimoresun/obituary.aspx?n=james-l-kinsella&pid=174955297&fhid=13160#sthash.KFHmyh0Q.dpuf>

**Alumni, let us know what you're up to ... we'd love to feature it in our next issue!**  
**Email [brennanj@upstate.edu](mailto:brennanj@upstate.edu) or [brownt@upstate.edu](mailto:brownt@upstate.edu)**

# in other news



**HEATHER NELSON**, a PhD Candidate in Anatomy & Cell Biology with Dr. Michael Roe won the “Greek Peak Mountain Quest” held at Greek Peak on May 9th. The 5k run was up and down the mountain while navigating through mud and other obstacles. Heather came in first place overall for all ages and genders. Congratulations, Heather!



## **Congratulations Adam & Melanie!!**

Adam Blanden, an MD/PhD student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and his wife Melanie welcomed their first child – a beautiful baby girl named Leah – last month.

# upcoming events

## save the dates!

### GSA PICNIC

Friday, June 26, 2015

12:00 Noon - 6:00 pm

Green Lakes State Park, Reserved Shelter, Fayetteville

*Join us for the annual GSA Picnic. As always, we'll have plenty of good food and great fun. Plus, the much-anticipated Softball Tournament ... Who will claim the coveted trophy (and bragging rights) this year?*

*Parking passes (\$5) now available in the Graduate Studies Main Office, Weiskotten Hall 3122 or see Kimberly Wong, Ophthalmology, IHP 4631.*

### 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

**Don't forget to join us EVERY WEDNESDAY at 3PM  
in the GRAD STUDIES CONFERENCE ROOM\* for AFTERNOON TEA & SOME SWEET TREATS!!  
\*FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, TEA IS AT THE NRB 3708. WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR REMINDERS.**