

upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

January/February 2017

MAINTAINING MOTIVATION



Motivation is a topic I have touched on before. One of the hardest parts of research is keeping your motivation. Research is extremely difficult, and we can often go long periods of time without success. This is an unfortunate part of our job that is incredibly difficult to explain to friends and family. Unless you have participated in research it's impossible to understand. This is one of the reasons we look for significant research experience in applicants, to ensure they know what they are getting into.

I have found that students use different techniques to stay motivated. This may include going out for beers on Fridays, playing trivia around town or bowling in a league. It also helps to have a personal attachment to a disease such as cancer or heart disease. Last week our Upstate President gave her State of the University address. During her speech she showed a video of one of our doctoral students, **ANUSHREE GULVADY**, talking about what motivates her. It was a great example of what keeps us all going and I would highly encourage you to watch it here. In under two minutes, it says far more than I could ever say in this blog. Watch it here: <http://www.upstate.edu/grad/about/videos.php>

– Mark E. Schmitt, PhD
Dean, College of Graduate Studies
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JOBE F, Patel B, Kuzmanovic T, Makishima H, **YANG Y**, Przychodzen B, Hutchison RE, Bence KK, Maciejewski JP, **MOHI G**.

Deletion Of Ptpn1 Induces Myeloproliferative Neoplasm.

Leukemia. 2017 Jan 23;. [Epub ahead of print]

Thompson CA, Karelis J, **MIDDLETON FA**, Gentile K, Coman IL, **RADOEVA PD**, Mehta R, Fremont WP, Antshel KM, **FARAONE SV**, **KATES WR**.

Associations Between Neurodevelopmental Genes, Neuroanatomy, And Ultra High Risk Symptoms Of Psychosis In 22Q11.2 Deletion Syndrome.

American Journal of Medical Genetics. Part B Neuropsychiatric Genetics. 2017 Jan 31;. [Epub ahead of print]

Juárez-Morales JL, **MARTINEZ-DE LUNA RI**, **ZUBER ME**, Roberts A, **LEWIS KE**.

Zebrafish Transgenic Constructs Label Specific Neurons In Xenopus Laevis Spinal Cord And Identify Frog V0v Spinal Neurons.

Developmental Neurobiology. 2017 Feb 11;. [Epub ahead of print]

SHARMA S, **WILKENS S**.

Biolayer Interferometry Of Lipid Nanodisc-Reconstituted Yeast Vacuolar H⁺-Atpase.

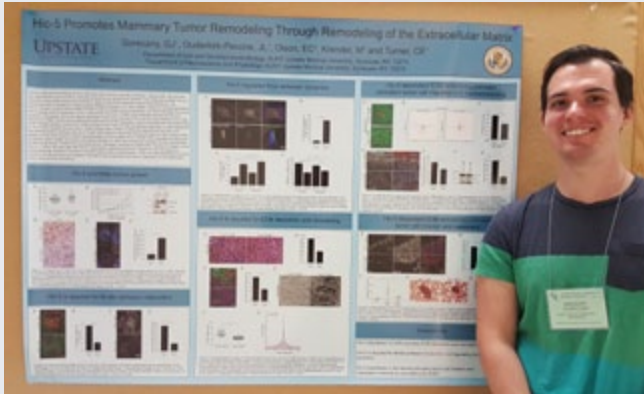
Protein Science. 2017 Feb 27;. [Epub ahead of print]

OOT RA, **COUOH-CARDEL S**, **SHARMA S**, **STAM NJ**, **WILKENS S**.

Breaking Up And Making Up: The Secret Life Of The Vacuolar H⁺-Atpase.

Protein Science. 2017 Mar 1;. [Epub ahead of print]

presentations

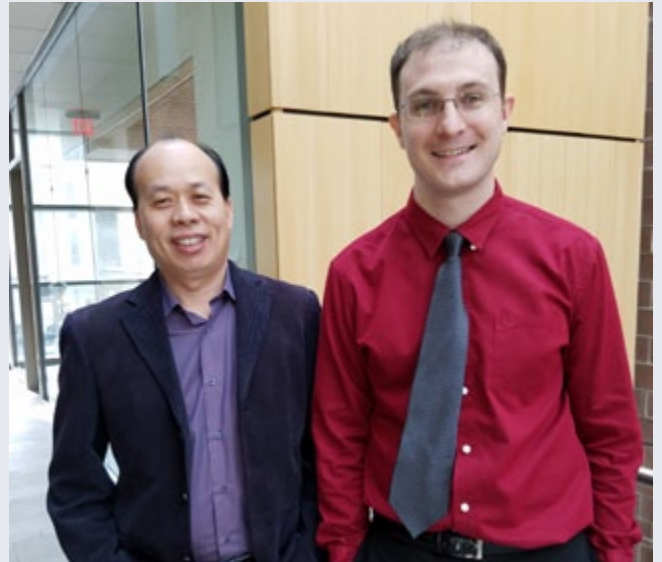


GREGORY GORECZNY, a PhD student in Anatomy & Cell Biology, presented at the Gordon Research Seminar 2017: Fibronectin, Integrins & Related Molecules in Ventura, California from January 29th through February 3rd. As a result of his poster presentation at the seminar, Greg was selected to give an oral presentation at the Gordon Research Conference - one of only three student talks given. The title of Greg's presentation was "Hic-5 Promotes Mammary Tumor Progression Through Remodeling of the Extracellular Matrix."

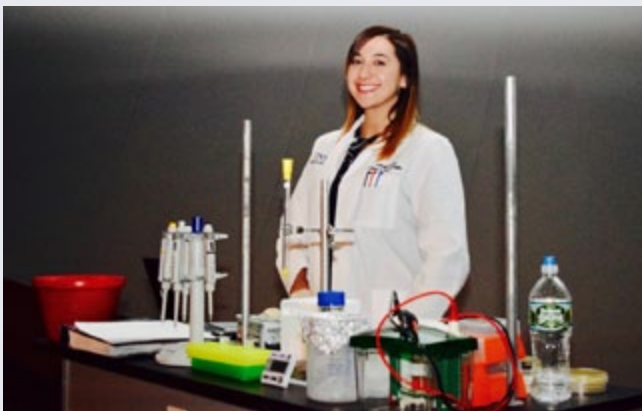
SARAH BARGER, a PhD student in Anatomy & Cell Biology, was a student panelist for the College of Graduate Studies at a Lunch & Learn sponsored by the Student Learning Outcomes Committee on February 10th. The interactive session on "Grading vs Assessment: A Student's Perspective" featured a student panel comprised of representatives from each of the colleges. Sarah represented us well!

from our students

AMBER PAPILLION, a PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology, successfully defended her dissertation in January. Amber's dissertation advisor was Dr. Gary Winslow. Amber accepted a postdoctoral position in the Department of Medicine, Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. **Congratulations, Amber!**



PATRICK SWEENEY, a PhD student in Neuroscience, successfully defended his dissertation in February. Patrick's dissertation advisor was Dr. Yunlei Yang. Patrick accepted a postdoctoral position in the Life Sciences Institute at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. **Congratulations, Patrick!**



ASHLEIGH JACKOBEL, a graduate student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, has been volunteering at the Museum of Science and Technology (MOST). She is teaching strawberry DNA extractions in the Syracuse City School District program available at the MOST. She is also doing a few GFP demonstrations for the Boy Scouts that are earning their science badge.



In January, the Asian Pacific Medical Student Association and Chinese Student Scholars Association hosted a **LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION** featuring a dinner and various performances of Chinese music and dance. Graduate Student **JING LI** was one of the emcees for the evening and also sang a solo "Glorious China," before joining fellow graduate student **JENNIFER CHEUNG** for a Handkerchief Dance. The event was sponsored by the Consulate General of People's Republic of China in New York. Photos taken by Kinh-Vy Nguyen, a medical student here at Upstate.

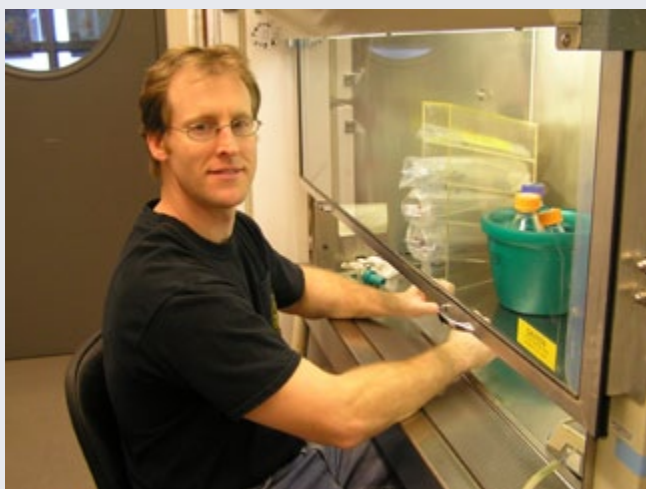
from our alumni

KEITH JAROSINSKI, PHD is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign/College of Veterinary Medicine. He studies herpesvirus transmission, replication, and herpesvirus-induced cancer with a focus on avian herpesviruses.

Prior to joining the University of Illinois, he spent five years at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine in the Department of Microbiology as a Research Assistant Professor. Keith completed his postdoc at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. While still at Cornell, Keith moved up the ranks, as he was promoted to Research Associate and then finally Senior Research Associate prior to leaving for Iowa.

Keith married Dr. Helen Valentine, DVM whom he met during his time at Cornell. He enjoys spending time with his two dogs and three cats, playing hockey, riding his bicycle on the flat roads of Illinois, and traveling. More information on Keith can be found at: <http://illinois.edu/person/kj4>

Keith earned his PhD in Microbiology & Immunology in 1999 under Dr. Paul Massa's mentorship.



KAYLEN LOTT, PHD (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology PhD, '11) and **MASASHI OHIRA, MD/PHD** (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology MD/PhD, '10) announced the birth of their daughter Emi. Emi was born on November 7, 2016, weighing seven pounds and four ounces. Congratulations!

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!

from our alumni

JOSEPH CHOI, MD/PHD is currently Associate Professor of Surgery at Commonwealth Medical College. He also holds appointments as the Chief of Orthopedic Surgery and Chairperson of the Musculoskeletal Service at the Guthrie Clinic in Sayre, Pennsylvania. He splits his time between shoulder surgery, administration, and resesarch.

His wife, Eileen Choi, PhD, teaches at Elmira College in the Nursing Department. Together, they have two sons: Archer (6) & Anderson (2) who keep them very busy!

Joseph graduated from the MD/PhD Program here in 2003. He earned his PhD in Neuroscience with Dr. Mary Lou Vallano. Joseph notes how thankful he is for his time at Upstate: "I appreciate the training in critical thinking and writing I received as a graduate student at Upstate."



MACMILAN MBANTENKHU, PHD is currently an Applications Specialist at Canon Biomedical, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Canon USA. Canon Biomedical is "focused on empowering the biomedical research and healthcare communities by developing, manufacturing, and marketing innovative technologies and solutions." Macmilan is also working on earning his MBA from the Kogod School of Business at American University in Washington DC. He is expected to graduate in December 2018.

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distinguished alumni lecture - 2/7/17



The Graduate Student Association (GSA), assisted by the College of Graduate Studies, again hosted the annual Distinguished Alumni Lecture. This year's distinguished alumni was Georgia Tomaras, PhD, Professor of Surgery, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC

The day-long event included a one-hour seminar, breakfast and lunch with the graduate students, and several meetings with faculty members. The Distinguished Alumni lecture is to help mentor our graduate students in the area of career development.

Dr. Tomaras earned her PhD from the Microbiology & Immunology Program in 1998. Her thesis sponsor was Dr. Steven Taffet.

upcoming events & save the dates

NIH FELLOWSHIP DEADLINES

April 8, 2017

August 8, 2017

December 8, 2017

Visit www.researchtraining.nih.gov for more information

BEYOND THE PHD: ALTERNATE CAREER PATHS

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 | 12:00 Noon - 1:30 PM | Weiskotten Hall 3111

As Deputy Scientific Director, Dr. Spiro is involved in all aspects of the foundation's research initiatives in the field of autism. Prior to joining the foundation, Dr. Spiro worked at *Nature Neuroscience*, before joining the prestigious general science journal *Nature* as a senior editor on the biology team. He oversaw a group of editors responsible for editorial decisions and peer review of manuscripts across all areas of neuroscience – ranging from molecular development to functional imaging and behavior. Join us for an informal conversation with Dr. Spiro as he shares his experiences and advice for seeking an alternative career. Come with questions - and business cards! This will be a great chance to make connections.

STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

The Student Research Day, which highlights research from students in all four colleges at Upstate Medical University will be held Wednesday, April 26, 2017. The Student Research Day includes a keynote presentation, student talks and a poster session with a reception. This year's Keynote Speaker is Amita Sehgal, PhD. Dr. Sehgal is the John Herr Musser Professor of Neuroscience at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.



AFTERNOON TEA:

Every Wednesday at 3:00

First Wednesday of the month, tea is at the NRB 3708 (call 6-7753), all others in WH 3120.

DATA CARPENTRY WORKSHOP: GENOMICS

Thursday & Friday, May 4 - 5, 2017 | 9:00 - 4:30 PM | Weiskotten 103

This two-day, hands-on workshop is for any researcher who has data they want to analyze - no prior computational experience is required. We'll begin by introducing a single dataset and the steps we'll go through for analysis. The focus of this workshop will be on working with genomics data and data management and analysis for genomics research. We will cover metadata organization in spreadsheets, data organization, connecting to and using cloud computing, the command line for sequence quality control and bioinformatics workflows, and R for data analysis and visualization. We will not be teaching any particular bioinformatics tools, but the foundational skills that will allow you to conduct any analysis and analyze the output of a genomics pipeline. Participants should bring their laptops and plan to participate actively. By the end of the workshop learners should be able to more effectively manage and analyze data and be able to apply the tools and approaches directly to their ongoing research. **Tickets are \$10.**

Register Online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/data-carpentry-at-suny-upstate-medical-university-may-04-05-2017-tickets-33346433079>

Using Password: dcumu2017

COMMENCEMENT

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Mark your calendars and save the date! Commencement for the College of Graduate Studies will be held Sunday, May 21st at 1:45 PM at the Carrier Theater in the John M. Mulroy Civic Center. The ceremony is expected to last approximately one hour, and will include the hooding of PhD and MS graduates, presentation of awards, Distinguished Guest and Student Speaker talks, and conferral of degrees.

Please refer to the commencement website for more information:

<http://www.upstate.edu/commencement>

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