The Department of Immunobiology

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Megan Smithey, PhD, receives Faculty Seed Grant Money

The University of Arizona Foundation Grants and Awards Committee of the Board of Trustees and the University of Arizona Office of the Senior Vice President for Research, awarded Research Assistant Professor Dr. Megan Smithey the amount of $9,966.80 for her Faculty Seed Grant proposal, *Identifying common mechanisms underlying age-related impaired immunity to infections*. The program is extremely competitive and involves evaluations by both peer and lay review panels.

David Harris, PhD, receives Arizona Alzheimer’s Disease Core Center (ADCC) grant for pilot program

In April Professor Dr. David Harris received notification from ADCC’s Internal Scientific Advisory Committee that his application entitled *Platelets as a Source of Brain Amyloid β Petide* was selected for a $52,000 grant award. Bravo!
More accolades ...

Sherilen Clark receives the 2012 Lura Hanekamp Award of Excellence

Annually the AHSC community holds The Awards of Excellence recognition ceremony for administrative classified staff and professional appointed personnel to acknowledge the amazing contributions of some very outstanding employees. The Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health participate by nominating candidates in three separate grade categories and then one employee from each category is selected to receive a plaque and a monetary award.

At the April 11, 2012 ceremony a very surprised and elated Ms. Clark, IMB Department Administrator, received one of the prestigious awards. Kudos and well done!

What’s New

The Departmental new Website is almost here

The IMB website committee has been working with the web designers of the UA College of Medicine to get a revamped IMB website online very soon, stay tuned for more details! The new site will be drupal-based, enabling quicker and easier updating of content. Thanks to all who contributed ideas regarding content and design of the IMB website during the retreat and thanks to the lab representatives for working with us.

Send topics of interest or suggestions or fully scripted contributions to Angie Hessell at ahessell@email.arizona.edu for inclusion in the next issue of our newsletter.
What’s New (cont’d)

Bowling Summer Fun

Sounds of cheer, excitement, and general merriment were heard from numerous lab members with the crashing of a bowling ball into pins at a recent gathering at Lucky Strike bowling alley. The enjoyable outing provided a fun opportunity for labs to gather and mingle in a friendly competition to strengthen the camaraderie between labs.

Mark from the Kuhns Lab will be organizing various outings in the future, if you would like to suggest any ideas please contact him at brocklee@email.arizona.edu for summer adventures and future outings.

Welcome …

Jean Boyer, research volunteer in Dr. Wu’s Lab

Max Holland, student employee in Dr. Frelinger’s Lab

Zea Navazio, student employee in Dr. Wu’s Lab

Mahmood Saba, postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Harris’ Lab

Jake Vroman, student employee in Dr. Nikolich’s Lab

Additionally this summer, our Labs hosted a significant number of High School and Undergraduate volunteers.
Publications

Sam Campos, PhD

Felicia Goodrum, PhD

Michael Kuhns, PhD
- **Kuhns MS** and Davis MM. *TCR signaling emerges from the sum of many parts*. Frontiers in T Cell Biology. Open access publication.

Janko Nikolich-Žugich, MD, PhD and Megan Smithey, PhD

Janko Nikolich-Žugich, MD, PhD

2012 Faculty Meetings:
- **August 14, 2012**; September 17, 2012
- October 15, 2012; November 19, 2012
- December 17, 2012
Presentations and Outreach Activities

Janko Nikolich-Žugich, MD, PhD

- Served as Invited Speaker and Session Chair, Fondation Merieux Conference “Aging and Immunity”, Siena, Italy, April 22-24, 2012.

- Served as Invited Speaker and Session Chair, 41st Annual Meeting of the American Aging Association, Ft. Worth, TX June 1-4, 2012.

- Presented public lecture “Why are we aging?” – part of the series “Healthy aging 2012”, Foundation Ilija M. Kolarac, Belgrade, Serbia, June 7, 2012

- Presented the following invited seminars:
  ⇒ Department of Experimental Pathology, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, April 2012;
  ⇒ Institute for Immunology, University of California, Irvine, April 2012;
  ⇒ University of Belgrade School of Medicine, Belgrade, Serbia, June 2012;
  ⇒ University of Kragujevac, Belgrade, Serbia, June 2012

Kristin Renkema, PhD candidate

- Taught AP Biology at Foothills High School on April 19 (9am-4pm). Taught a CDC-based lesson plan on infectious disease and also gave the students 3 real-world infectious disease mini-proposals to discuss.

- Asked by Science Teachers at Foothills High School to serve as an outside reviewer of the Biosciences Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Attended a meeting from 3-5 pm on May 1st as part of the advisory committee and helped review the current program and contributed recommendations about how to better prepare students for any bioscience path, whether it be a job straight out of high school or continuing education.

News from Joint Faculty

Hannah Phipps-Yonas, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in Karen Taraszka-Hastings’, PhD, lab, was selected for the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) 2012-13 Public Policy Fellow, a program designed to engage select postdoctoral fellows and junior scientists in public policy and legislative activities that impact biomedical research.

As a designated fellow, Dr. Phipps-Yonas will have the opportunity to experience advocacy first hand on a visit to Capitol Hill and to delve more deeply into key issues through the AAI public affairs program. We join Dr. Taraska-Hastings in congratulating Dr. Phipps-Yonas!