The Department of Immunobiology

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

ABBSolutely Awesome!

We have successfully completed the inaugural year of the Arizona Biological and Biomedical Sciences (ABBS) graduate program.

After 60 rotations, 20 students matriculated. The Immunobiology (IMB) faculty sponsored 12 rotations or 20%.

At the end of the third rotation 3 students chose to join IMB:

- John Davies (Nikolich-Žugich Lab)
- Wong Jong Kim (So Lab)
- Heather Rizzo (Kuhns Lab)

If you have not had the opportunity to meet these students, please take a few moments to introduce yourselves and help us make them feel welcome.

<table>
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<th>2012 Faculty Meetings:</th>
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<td>April 16, 2012</td>
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<td>May 21, 2012</td>
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<td>June—CANC</td>
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<td>July 16, 2012</td>
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<td>August 20, 2012</td>
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<td>September 17, 2012</td>
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<td>October 15, 2012</td>
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<td>November 19, 2012</td>
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<td>December 17, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<th>ABBS Program entering class Fall 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Domestic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total International</td>
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<tr>
<td>Invited for interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total interviewed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Accepted</td>
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<td>Number Accepting offer (3/16)</td>
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Still outstanding are the 12 international students residing outside the US; 4-6 will receive offers this week when the committee completes telephone interviews.
The Seventh Annual Frontiers in Immunobiology/Immunopathogenesis Symposium was held on Friday, March 9th. There was an excellent turnout - over 100 people attended from across campus as well as from the College of Medicine - Phoenix. We were treated to an outstanding scientific session featuring plenary talks from three external leaders in the areas of bacteriology (Dr Peggy Cotter, University of North Carolina), virology (Dr Michael Gale, University of Washington), and immunology Dr Michael McHeyzer-Williams, The Scripps Research Institute). Further, the event showcased the quality and breadth of immunobiology research at Arizona. Indeed, the plenary speakers were very complimentary of the dynamic research environment evident here. The Symposium also provided opportunities over lunch and during the poster session for informal scientific interactions.

Outstanding Poster Awards were given to: Lydia Barrigan (1st prize) and Alyson Hockenberry (2nd prize). Congratulations!

Thank you to everyone that participated in making this year’s Symposium so successful, and in particular to the fantastic Organizing Committee – Drs Lybarger & Kuhns and Mss. Hessell, Deshpande, Lorenz and Nikolich-Zugich.
DEPARTMENTAL NEWS: What’s New

51st Annual Midwinter Conference of Immunologists

Faculty (Drs. Jeff Frelinger, Mike Kuhns and Joyce Wu) and students/lab personnel (Lydia Barrigan, Lynn Edde, Kristin Renkema and Shraddha Tuladhar) attended the 51st Annual Midwinter Conference of Immunologists at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, California. The group enjoyed 2 ½ days of high quality scientific talks, interactions with faculty, post-docs, and students from around the country, and the beautiful scenery in the afternoon free time. Jeff and Lydia shared the Frelinger lab traditions of dinner at Abalonetti’s and hikes at Point Lobos and Big Sur with the rest of the group. Lydia, Lynn, Kristin, and Shraddha all presented posters and Lydia won a Young Investigator Travel Award for outstanding presentation of her poster.

The 2012 Fisher Scientific Scholar of Excellence Award

Dr. Adam Buntzman (left in photo), Immunobiology Department researcher in the Frelinger group, is the first recipient of the Fisher Scientific Scholar of Excellence Award. The plaque was conferred for recognition of the study of Extremophile Genomics and Evolutionary Immunobiology.

The project represents the initiation of a larger project whose goal is to map the variation of immune-related genes, as they are selected within different organisms over evolutionary time. Wild organisms (fish, birds, mammals, lizards, etc) each occupy their own ecological niche. These unique environmental niches (desert landscapes, marshlands, ocean, frozen tundra) present divergent infectious challenges upon each organism, necessitating an adaptation of immune gene variants to adapt to the differing infectious loads.

When interviewed about the award, Dr. Buntzman said "The Fisher Scientific's financial sponsorship and it's reagents have been critical for the successful progression of this project. The support from Fisher Science, and specifically the personal attention provided by Edward Parkin (right in photo), Research Sales Representative, has been invaluable. This has been a fruitful partnership between a wonderful representative of ThermoFisher and our basic science immunology lab. It is an alternative model for accomplishing scientific progress in an era when funding is limited. I hope that we can further nurture relationships like these in the future."

Welcome ...

Angela Muise Magallanes, Research Technician in Dr. Harris’s Lab
UPDATES: Movers and Shakers

Nafees Ahmad, PhD
- Selected for membership in the Academy of Medical Educations Scholars (AMES) at the University of Arizona College of Medicine.

Felicia Goodrum, PhD
- Attended the Annual Meeting of PEW Scholars in Biomedical Sciences meeting in Panama, March 17-22, 2012. Presented “Viral Fate Decisions”.
- Visited the Cleveland Clinic on March 1, 2012 and presented “Viral Determinants Modulating Human Cytomegalovirus Infection”.

David Harris, PhD
- The Harris Lab recently spun-off a new stem cell company called: AdiCyte and, signed a fee for service contract with AdiCyte, Inc. entitled “Adipose cell and tissue banking” for $300,000 to run for calendar years 2012-2013.
  Invited Speaker:
  • Scottsdale Cosmetic Surgeons, February 8, 2012
  • St. Louis State Nursing Society Meeting, March 15, 2012
  • San Jose, CA Cosmetic Surgeons Meeting, March 28, 2012

Michael Kuhns, PhD
- Attended the Annual Meeting of PEW Scholars in Biomedical Sciences meeting in Panama, March 17-22, 2012.

Janko Nikolich-Žugich, MD, PhD
- Presented research progress at the NIAID Workshop “Immune protection in Special Populations”, Bethesda, MD, Jan 27, 2012
- Presented invited lecture "The many changes and challenges of the aging immune system" at the Banner Sun Health Research Institute, Sun City, AZ, March 2012

Kristin Renkema, PhD candidate
- Invited instructor at Catalina Foothills High School on March 19, 2012. Ms. Renkema taught 4 classes (for a total of 8 hours) of Anatomy and Physiology; topic of discussion “Different fields of Immunology study and interesting Immunology research.” Ms. Renkema proved to be very engaging and was asked to return in April and teach several other classes. STRONG WORK!!

Publications

Sam Campos, PhD
The retreat took place the afternoon of March 8, 2012 and served as a kick-off for the 7th Annual Frontiers in Immunobiology and Immunopathogenesis Symposium of March 9th. Annually henceforth the Retreat and Symposium will be considered and treated as a single event, as that is a customary practice. In its simplest distillation, the purpose of the retreat is for the department to plan, on a yearly basis, future strategic collaborations and grant initiatives, to review the state of departmental affairs and to obtain input from faculty, trainees and staff on improving the workplace and satisfaction. This specific retreat had an additional role: to generate and codify its own 5-year strategic plan under the College’s comprehensive and global 5-year strategic plan.

**POTPOURRI**

**Lights OUT**
Recently the college of medicine has been receiving complaints from the community about the Medical Research Building’s lack of energy conservation. While we cannot control any floors other than our own we would still like to do our part so as not to be guilty for having wasteful energy habits. In an effort to conserve more, the administrative staff will be turning off the lights around 5-5:30, if you will be staying in the office later than this and need the main lights on, please turn them, as well as your desk lights off when you leave.

**Let’s use our Inside Voices**
It is also important to note that the office is a place of work and that the noise level needs to be kept to a minimum so as not to be distracting to fellow employees and students. If you are having a casual conversation or talking on the cell phone please be mindful of your volume. If you are in a common area of work consider taking your conversation to a private office or the balcony.

**Want to Add Something to the Newsletter?**

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.