What's New in Biochemistry

PERSONNEL NEWS:



Elizabeth Jones completed her SU work-study position in the office for the 2013-14 academic year.



Carly Buresch is graduating from SU and leaving her work-study position in Wenyi's lab.



Daniel Loh joins Michael Cosgrove's lab for the summer as a Student Assistant. Daniel is the son of Stewart Loh and Jenny Ha.



Madeline Clark joins Patty's lab as a SURF Student for the summer. Madeline is an undergraduate at SUNY ESF.



Julie Klaric joins Xin Jie's lab as a SURF Student for the summer. Julie is an undergraduate at the University of Connecticut.



Koshu Takatsuji joins Stewart's lab as a SURF Student for the summer. Koshu is an undergraduate at Bard College at Simon.



Diana Dunn joines Mehdi Mollapour's (adjunct faculty) lab as a Graduate Assistant in the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology graduate program.



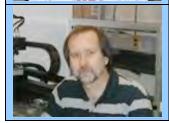
Arijita Chakraborty joins Wenyi Feng's lab as a Graduate Assistant.



Angelina Regua joines Leszek Kotula's (adjunct faculty) lab as a Graduate Assistant in the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology graduate program.



Hannah Lukow won the Upstate Dean's Award for a high school student to do summer research here at Upstate. She will be working in Michael Cosgrove's lab.

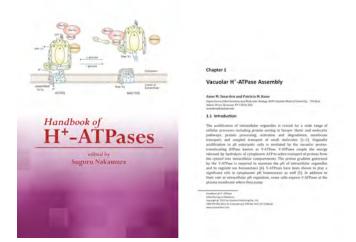


After 30 years, Bob West, Jr. is retiring effective June 30, 2014. He will be appointed as an Emeritus Professor. He is going to be a grandfather at the beginning of August!

PUBLICATIONS:

Tie F, Banerjee R, Saiakhova AR, Howard B, Monteith KE, Scacheri PC, **Cosgrove MS**, Harte PJ. Trithorax monomethylates histone H3K4 and interacts directly with CBP to promote H3K27 acetylation and antagonize Polycomb silencing. *Development* 2014;141: 1129-1139. (Featured as an exceptional article by the Faculty of 1000 website)

Patty Kane and Anne Smardon had a book chapter published in "Handbook of H+-ATPases" edited by Dr. Suguru Nakamura. Their figure was chosen for the cover of the book.



Shinsky, S.A., Hu, M., Vought, V.E., Ng, S.B., Bamshad, M. J., Shendure, J., and **Cosgrove, M.S.** (2014). A non-active site SET domain surface crucial for the interaction of MLL1 and the RbBP5-Ash2L heterodimer within MLL family core complexes. *Journal of Molecular Biology* 426, 2283-2299.

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24680668

Aggeli, D., Kish-Trier, E., Lin, M.C., Haarer, B., Cingolani, G., Cooper, J.A., Wilkens, S., and Amberg, D. Coordination of the Filament Stabilizing Versus Destabilizing Activities of Cofilin Through its Secondary Binding Site on Actin. *Cytoskeleton*, Month 2014 00:00–00 (doi: 10.1002/cm.21178)

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/cm.2117 8/abstract

DiPrima, S., Haarer, B., Viggiano, S., Pons, C., Myers, C.L., and Amberg D.C. Linking Genetics to Structural Biology: Complex Heterozygosity Screening with Actin Alanine Scan Alleles Identifies Functionally Related Surfaces on Yeast Actin. *G3 Genes/Genomes/Genetics* June 17, 2014 g3.114.012054.

http://www.g3journal.org/content/early/2014/ 06/17/g3.114.012054.abstract

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Congratulations to Patty Kane who won the Basic Science Faculty Teaching Award for the College of Graduate Studies and Stephan Wilkens who won the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Back Row Left: Wayne Decature, Chris Duncan, Tom Duncan, Drew Craft, and Mike Duncan. Second Row Left: Subhrajit Banerjee, Naman Shah, Mark Schmitt, Josh Karchin, Andrew McCulley, Matt Craft, and Penny McPhilmy. Front Row Left: Steve Hanes, Stewart Loh, Nilda Alicea Velazquez, Cherry Mae Ignacio, and Stuti Sharma. Missing: Zach Popp and Rich Cross

The Biochemistry softball team regains the softball trophy at the annual GSA picnic at Green Lakes on June 6th. Biochem beat the Micro team 16-3 in the first game, Neuro beat Pharm in the second game, Neuro beat Cell & Developmental Biology in the third game, and Biochem beat Neuro 13-2 in the championship.

Congratulations to Adam Blanden who passed his Qualifying Exam with honors on June 18th.

Kevin Namitz and Arijita Chakroboroty (two of our fist year students) received commendation from the Dean of the Graduate School for their grades for the recent semester. From Upstate Update July 3 to July 10, 2014: http://upstateonline.info/static/July3-July102014/blog/story-2/index.html



Dr. David Amberg named interim vice president for research

David Amberg, PhD, has been named interim vice president for research at Upstate Medical University. The appointment was announced by interim President Gregory L. Eastwood, MD.

Amberg succeeds Rosemary Rochford, PhD., who remains on the faculty, as professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

"I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge both Dr. Amberg and Dr. Rochford," Eastwood said. "Dr. Amberg's leadership in important areas of Upstate's research and his comprehensive knowledge of issues related to academic medical research make him well suited to lead our research enterprise.

"I am grateful for the service of Dr. Rochford and for her work to enhance support and service to our research faculty and staff," Eastwood said, "and am pleased that she remains on the faculty to continue her important NIH-funded research on viral-associated malignancies, malaria and other diseases."

As interim vice president for research, Amberg will oversee the university's research enterprise, which includes the core facilities for research. He also will have oversight of other vital components of our research mission, including the Clinical Trials Office, research development, tech transfer, intellectual property transfer, the Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects (IRB).

Amberg's association with Upstate Medical University began nearly 20 years ago, when he was appointed an assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Since that time, he has taken on roles of increasing responsibility, such as chair of the graduate program

committee and associate vice president of research integrity and conflict of interest officer. His research examining complex interactions in cells is helping to further the understanding of human genetic disorders.

Amberg is well respected among his peers and his work has been honored numerous times, most recently with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities.

Amberg holds a PhD in biochemistry from Dartmouth Medical School and completed his postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University School of Medicine.

PERSONAL NEWS:

Celine Chen, daughter of Xiaowen and Xin Jie, won a Silver Medal for her drawing, "Studying Claudio" in the 2014 National Scholastic Art & Writing Award competition. Celine, together with the other two winners from FM high school, attended the awards ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 6, 2014.





Celine's winning artwork.

Congratulations to Elena Milgrom who has worked in our department for 15 years.

Patty Kane's son, Josh Popp, and Mark Schmitt's daughter, Serena, won the dance competition at CBA's prom this year. They did not go as dates, but when they realized that there was a dance competition, they decided to do the Hustle that they had learned together in gym class.

