



# What's New in Biochemistry

## PERSONNEL NEWS:



Lala Zafreen completed her PhD degree with Ed Berry. She has a job as a business analyst at American Technology Consulting.



Dr. David Kakhniashvili leaves as Director of the Proteomics Facility for a position at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, TN.

## GRANTS:

Stewart Loh was awarded a two year \$50,000 Nappi grant—Driving Inspiration and Innovation Through Collaboration. His collaborator is Carlos Castenada at SU. Article in Upstate Online can be found at: <http://upstateonline.info/static/Dec17-Dec242015/blog/story-1/index.html>

Stewart Loh was also awarded a one year \$105,000 in direct costs grant from Biomotiv, Inc. He is Co-PI with Darren Carpizo.

Stephan Wilkens is lead investigator on \$1.12M NSF grant in collaboration with ESF and SU. Article in Upstate Online can be found at: <http://upstateonline.info/static/Dec17-Dec242015/blog/story-3/index.html>

## PUBLICATIONS:

Jeung-Hoi Ha, Joshua M. Karchin, Nancy Walker-Kopp, Carlos A. Casteneda, and Stewart N. Loh, "Engineered Domain Swapping as an On/Off Switch for Protein Function", *Chemistry & Biology*, Volume 22, Issue 10, p 1384-1393, 22 October 2015  
<http://www.cell.com/chemistry-biology/abstract/S1074-5521%2815%2900370-1>

## AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Stewart Loh's lab was featured in the Fall, 2015 issue of *Cancer Care* and on the What's Up at Upstate blog. The article was entitled "Will zinc be an element of future cancer treatment". The full article can be found at: <https://whatsupatupstate.wordpress.com/2015/10/19/will-zinc-be-an-element-of-future-cancer-treatment/>

**Wenyi Feng, PhD** presented "Novel Function of the Fragile X Mental Retardation Protein in Genome Stability" at the 2015 Eukaryotic DNA Replication & Genome Maintenance Conference, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, Sept. 2015.

**Peng J** and **Feng W.** Impaired Smc5/6 Complex Function Accelerates Replication Fork Progression and Generates Single-stranded DNA Gaps due to Ribonucleotide Incision in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. 2015 Eukaryotic DNA Replication & Genome Maintenance Conference, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, Sept. 2015

Congratulations to Angelina Regua and Arijita Chakraborty who both passed their qualifying exams in October!

**Chakraborty A**, Hoffman E, McCulley A, Haarer B, Arnak R, Feng W. Unraveling the Mystery of Chromosome Fragility: Replication-transcription Collision-induced Genome Instability in Eukaryotes. 2015 Eukaryotic DNA Replication & Genome Maintenance Conference, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, Sept. 2015 .



Arijita Chakraborty in front of her poster.

Congratulations to Lala Zafreen who successfully defended her PhD thesis on November 9<sup>th</sup>!



Left to right: Dr. Edward Berry (advisor) and Dr. Lala Zafreen

Michael Cosgrove gave an invited seminar at RPI on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, in the department of Biology. The Title was "Molecular mechanisms for the assembly and regulation of the mixed lineage leukemia core complex."

Stephen Shinsky has been awarded a two-year Pagano Postdoctoral Fellowship in Cancer Research at UNC Chappel Hill.

### PERSONAL NEWS:

Nick Stam is engaged to Katie Latanyshyn! Nick and Katie are planning a Fall, 2016 wedding.

The unveiling of Rich Cross' portrait was held on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 80 of Rich's friends, colleagues, and former lab personnel attended. The artist, Mark Topp, did the unveiling. Carlo Nalin and Bill Kohlbrenner, two of Rich's former students, spoke as well as David Amberg and Tom Duncan.





Rich Cross with Xin Jie Chen, the 2015 winner of the Richard Cross Departmental Excellence Award

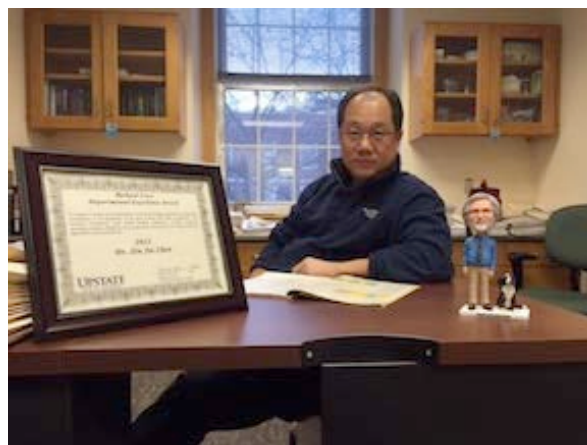


Rich Cross (left), with previous students, Bill Kohlbrenner (center) and Carlo Nalin (right).



Rich Cross with artist, Mark Topp (left).

To honor Rich, a **Richard Cross Departmental Excellence Award** was created. *This award is to recognize a member of the Biochemistry & Molecular Biology department for exceptional contributions to the department, in the spirit of Rich Cross' many contributions. The awardee's contributions could include funding, publications, scientific recognition, mentoring, teaching, collegiality, or just going above and beyond the call of duty to make the department a better place for all.* Each year in November, nominees will be solicited from departmental members. Rich will choose the deserving recipient from the nominees. There is a bobblehead likeness of Rich that includes his dog, Ozzy. This bobblehead is passed to the new awardee each year. This is modeled after the coveted Graduate Student softball trophy (dog dish) idea. The recipient will also receive a certificate that they can keep and their name will be added to the Richard Cross Departmental Excellence Award perpetual plaque. **This years recipient was Xin Jie Chen.**



Xin Jie Chen with his certificate and bobblehead.

Another enjoyable Christmas party at Lemon Grass on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.



Rich Cross, David Trner, and Kathryn Davis



Maureen Tarsio, Patty Kane, and Anne Smardon



Hodgepodge of graduate students, techs, and postdocs.