

upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

april 2016

IMPERMANENCE

Impermanence, one of the doctrines of Buddhism, expresses the notion that without exception, everything is transient and in a state of flux. I have certainly seen that in my own life and even more so in the lives of the students we educate as they come and go. It was displayed last week as the university campus and the Syracuse community celebrated with the inauguration of our new university president, Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP.

Dr. Laraque-Arena brings with her a sense of enthusiasm and excitement that has percolated through the campus. The inauguration ceremony brought with it pomp and circumstance along with a long list of honored guests and noteworthy participants. It was a fitting start to what will hopefully be a great tenure of our new president. It is now time to roll up our sleeves and start the process of change for which we have all been waiting. It is time to bring out those ideas we have contemplated and make them a reality. Over the next several months I expect big changes around Upstate Medical University, which will foster and promote an exciting environment where everyone wants to come to learn, to work or to get healthy. As impermanence dictates, things will change even if we resist, so we should ensure that they change for the better and drive the change towards a common vision that we can all be proud in completing.

– Mark E. Schmitt, PhD

Dean, College of Graduate Studies

schmittm@upstate.edu

from our students:



MICHAEL JASKOLKA, a PhD Student in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, participated in the first annual St. Baldrick's Fundraiser sponsored by the Upstate Cancer Center on March 19. St. Baldrick's is a not-for-profit that raises and distributes tens of millions of dollars each year to pediatric cancer research, including researchers here at Upstate. To read more about Michael's decision visit the [With Distinction](#) blog.



JAMESON PATAK, an MD/PhD student in Neuroscience, and his wife, Halley, welcomed MacAllister Raymond to the world on March 17th at 11:55 AM. Baby MacAllister weighed 6 pounds, 1oz and was 19.5 inches long. **Congratulations!**

DAWN LAMMERT, an MD/PhD student in Neuroscience, presented at the March 3rd meeting of the Student Research Organization (SRO) Meeting here at Upstate. She spoke about the two day course she completed at Cold Spring Harbor that focused on bioinformatics and genome sequencing data analysis.

A list of courses available at Cold Spring Harbor can be found online:
<https://meetings.cshl.edu/courseshome.aspx>



ARTURO BARBACHANO-GUERRERO, a PhD student in Microbiology & Immunology, married Berenice Cabrera-Martínez on March 19th in Mexico City. **Congratulations, Arturo!**

from our alumni:



GUANGLIANG “JOHNNY” WANG, PhD, and his wife, Alice, announced the birth of baby Henry, who was born on January 20th.

Johnny also began a new position last month at Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research, where he is working as an Investigator. He'll be working on schizophrenia, autism and neurodegenerative disorders using the zebrafish model. Johnny earned his PhD from the Anatomy & Cell Biology Program in 2013. His dissertation advisor was Dr. Jeffrey Amack. **Congratulations!**

MARLA BRUNS, MD, PhD, was highlighted in the Ohio Health newsletter “*Secret Lives*.”

Marla is a neurologist at the Ohio Health John J. Gerlach Center for Senior Health, and has been enjoying ballroom dancing for the last six years. The article points out that Marla is setting an example for her patients, as a 2003 study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* demonstrated that dancing reduces the risk of dementia by 76 percent. Marla earned her PhD in Neuroscience and graduated from the MD/PhD Program in 2008.

**We love hearing from you ... Drop by our website
& let us know how you're doing!**



JASON NEWLON, PhD, earned his PhD from the Physiology Program in 2014. Jason now leads the development, execution, and interpretation of sensory evaluation studies to understand the objective perception of P&G products like Vicks, Metamucil, Pepto-Bismol, Align, New Chapter, Crest, Scope, Fixodent, and Oral-B. He partners with key product developers and marketers to leverage that data to deliver the right product to the right consumer. He also leads the internal network of sensory scientists across the company. Sometimes his work is focused on providing data to support intellectual property claims or even product performance claims.

With this position, he has been all over the world supporting the business. He explains, “In 2014, I traveled to NYC with a small team of 6 people from P&G to follow the FBI (and other Federal Law Enforcement agencies) into 23 warehouses all around the NYC area that were suspected of selling counterfeit P&G goods. After law enforcement raided the warehouses and all was secure, we went in and searched for real and counterfeit P&G product. My job was to help authenticate suspect product, using sensory techniques.”

Externally, he leads several task and discussion groups for ASTM International, that publish standards on a large range of things including bridge concrete, vacuum cleaners, airplane aluminum, and amusement park rides to name a few. These standards are important because the courts rely on them for guidance for cases involving challenges to product claims or intellectual property infringement.

In 2014, he was elected as the chair of The Society of Sensory Professionals, a cross-academia, cross-industry society for practitioners in the field of sensory evaluation – all-encompassing from expert objective sensory evaluation to subjective consumer experience.

Pictured above, Jason with his wife, Amy, and his two sons Max and Andy.

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??

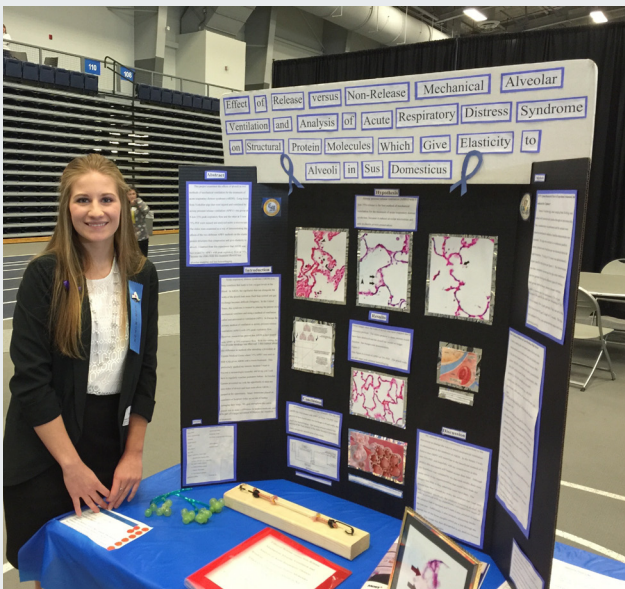
Email Jennifer Brennan at brennanj@upstate.edu to get it included in the next issue!

recruitment efforts



RECRUITMENT DAYS were March 10th and 11th, where we welcomed fourteen prospective students to campus. Each prospective student was paired with a student host, who escorted them during their visit. Over the course of two days, prospects had the chance to meet with faculty and students, tour our facilities and get a feel for life in Syracuse. Thanks to everyone who participated!

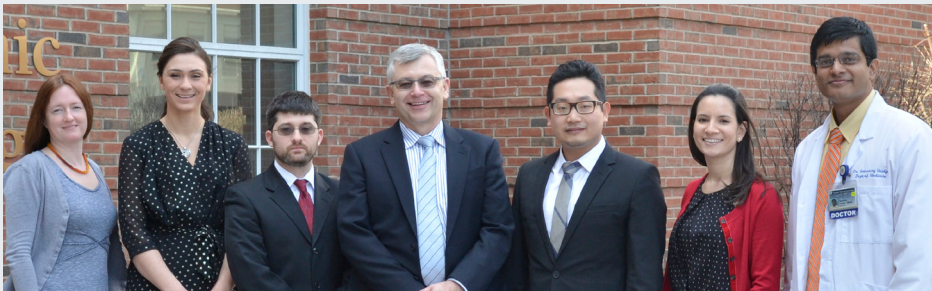
Pictured at left, some of our student hosts in their sweet tees.



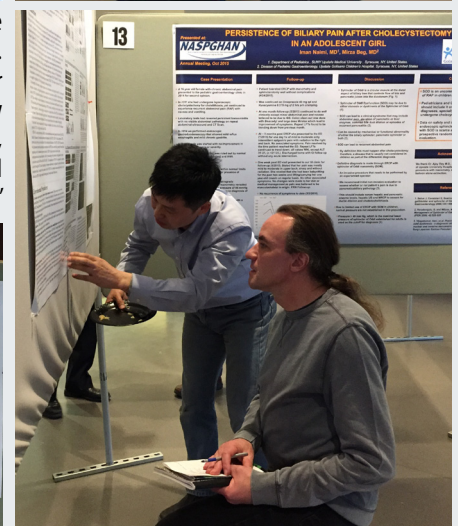
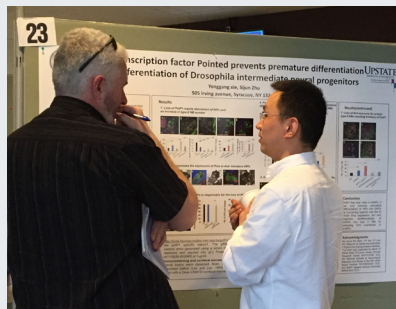
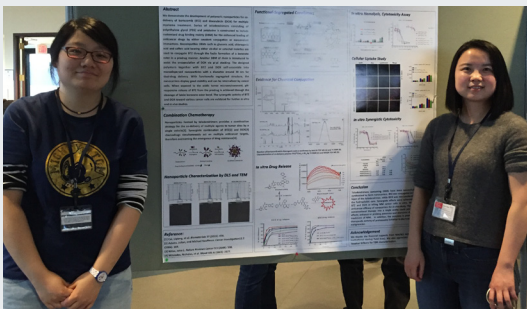
The College of Graduate Studies again participated in the Central New York Science & Engineering Fair, sponsored by the Museum of Science and Technology. This year's event was held on March 20 at the SRC Arena, located at Onondaga Community College. The competition is for Central New York Students between 4th and 12th grade.

The Upstate Dean's Award in the Biological Sciences was awarded to Madison Sacco, a senior at Cato Meridian Senior High School. This award is given to an outstanding high school student whose project has demonstrated creativity, innovation and scientific excellence in the biological sciences. The Dean's Award winner received a \$500 award and a plaque. The award was judged by Dr. Mark Schmitt, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Michael Cosgrove, Director of our Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. Students in the College of Graduate Studies, pictured above with the Dean, also participated as judges.

campus happenings



The **BEYOND THE DOCTORATE RESEARCH DAY** was Wednesday, March 9th featuring research from Upstate postdocs, residents & fellows. Pictured above, at center, is **LESZEK KOTULA, MD, PhD**, the Keynote Speaker. Dr. Kotula is Associate Professor of Urology and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. He also serves as Co-Director for the MD/PhD Program. Pictured above are our Oral Presenters, from left to right: Rebecca Oot, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Jennifer Makin, MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology; Alex Helkin, MD, Surgery; Hoon Choi, MD, MS, Neurosurgery; Nilda Alicea-Velázquez, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology; Gaurang Vaidya, MBBS, Internal Medicine. Pictured upper left are our postdoc winners Xu Wang, PhD for "Best Poster" and Rebecca Oot for "Best Oral."



RANDALL RIBAUDO, PhD, co-founder of SciPhD, joined us on Wednesday, March 30th for a very special **CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP** with graduate students and postdocs. His interactive, five hour presentation entitled "Preparing for Your Professional Career" covered a variety of topics including networking, finding jobs, creating a CV and cover letter, interviewing and much more!

upcoming events & save the dates!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Show Me the Data! Presenting Your Results Visually

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

12:00 PM | WH 3113

Now that you know how to write a solid paper ... what about figures! A good paper is nothing without quality graphs and illustrations. Dr. Aileen Kenneson-Adams, Epidemiologist in the Center for Global Health and Translational Science, will offer her tips and tricks while teaching you the do's and don'ts of presenting your results visually.

STUDENT WORKSHOP

INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS IN SCIENCE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VISAS & MORE!

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

12:00 PM | WH 3113

Our collection of visa experts will be gathered in one room to give you an overview of what you need to know as an international professional in science. They will be able to answer any questions you might have about federal regulations, visas, health insurance, and more!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

An Introduction to the CNYBAC & Optional Tour of the Facility

Monday, May 23, 2016

4:00 PM | CNYBAC

This workshop is a must attend for anyone interested in industry or looking to gain some experience outside of the academic lab! Join us as Director of Operations, Kathi Durdon, MA, CCRP explains what the CNY Biotech Accelerator is and what opportunities they have to offer you. Plus, join us after the workshop for the chance to tour the facility to see the lab space first hand - you won't want to miss it!

SAVE THE DATE!

College of Graduate Studies Commencement

Sunday, May 22

1:45 PM | Carrier Theater, John M. Mulroy Civic Center

The College of Graduate Studies Commencement 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. Also, join us for a Pre-Ceremony Brunch will be served at 11:00 AM on the Ninth Floor of Weiskotten Hall prior to the ceremony. All faculty, postdocs, students, staff, family and friends are invited to join us in the celebration.

The College of Medicine Commencement Ceremony is scheduled for 3:00 pm at the Crouse Hinds Theater of the Mulroy Civic Center.

Please refer to the commencement website for more information:

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

AFTERNOON TEA | Every Wednesday at 3:00 | WH 3120 or NRB 3708* | *First Wednesday of the month, tea is at the NRB.

IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??

Email Jennifer Brennan at brennanj@upstate.edu to get it included in the next issue!