



# upstategrad update

transforming students from consumers of knowledge into producers of knowledge

september 2015

## FROM THE DEAN: **LOVE WHAT YOU LIVE**

It is that time of year when we welcome new students into the College. This is a hectic, exciting and fun time. The enthusiasm on the faces of the students is matched only by their nervousness. They have those apprehensions of change, the thrill of newness, the forced meeting of new people, and fear of Dr. Loh's protein lectures in the first week. We try hard to make them feel at home, by matching them up with student mentors and hosting dinners with faculty. We also work hard to get them involved in research early with departmental presentations and rotations starting in the middle of September. We have a first year specific workshop series that is designed to give them some of those critical skills we all wish we had learned early on.

But in the end, much of how well students perform is dependent on what they personally put into it. Students have a number of resources at their disposal to help advise and guide them, including committees and faculty, but graduate school is highly self-directed. If the student doesn't have that internal drive and passion for science, that willingness to work hard, they will struggle, no matter how intelligent or qualified they are on paper. We, as scientists, have an obligation to be honest: graduate school is not easy. It can be incredibly draining and exhausting, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. Keep in mind the incredible opportunity we have: to learn great things, to discover what has never been known before, and to potentially find something that will improve the health and wellness of mankind or even change the world. It is those students that love what they do and that find excitement and joy in this opportunity that succeed to their full potential.

*In the past month, the following researchers in the College of Graduate Studies have published articles:*

**DEAN AB, MITCHELL DR.**

Late steps in cytoplasmic maturation of assembly-competent axonemal outer arm dynein in *Chlamydomonas* require interaction of ODA5 and ODA10 in a complex. *Molecular Biology of the Cell*. 2015 Aug 26;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26310446?dopt=Abstract>

**DUNN DM, Woodford MR, Truman AW, Jensen SM, SCHULMAN J, CAZA T, Remillard TC, Loisselle D, Wolfgeher D, Blagg BS, Franco L, Haystead TA, Daturpalli S, Mayer MP, Trepel JB, Morgan RM, Prodromou C, Kron SJ, Panaretou B, Stetler-Stevenson WG, Landas SK, Neckers L, BRATSLAVSKY G, BOURBOULIA D, MOLLAPOUR M.**

c-Abl Mediated Tyrosine Phosphorylation of Aha1 Activates Its Co-chaperone Function in Cancer Cells.

*Cell Reports*. 2015 Jul 28;. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26235616?dopt=Abstract>

**GOKEY JJ, DASGUPTA A, AMACK JD.**

The V-ATPase accessory protein Atp6ap1b mediates dorsal forerunner cell proliferation and left-right asymmetry in zebrafish.

*Developmental Biology*. 2015 Aug 4;;DBI01531. [Epub ahead of print]

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26254189?dopt=Abstract>

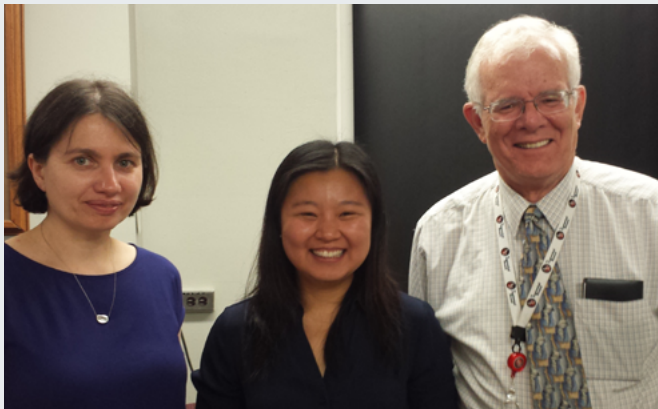
Anderson CK, Salter AI, Toussaint LE, Reilly EC, Fugère C, SRIVASTAVA N, KERR WG, Brossay L.

Role of SHIP1 in Invariant NKT Cell Development and Functions.

*Journal of Immunology*. 2015 Jul 31;. [Epub ahead of print]

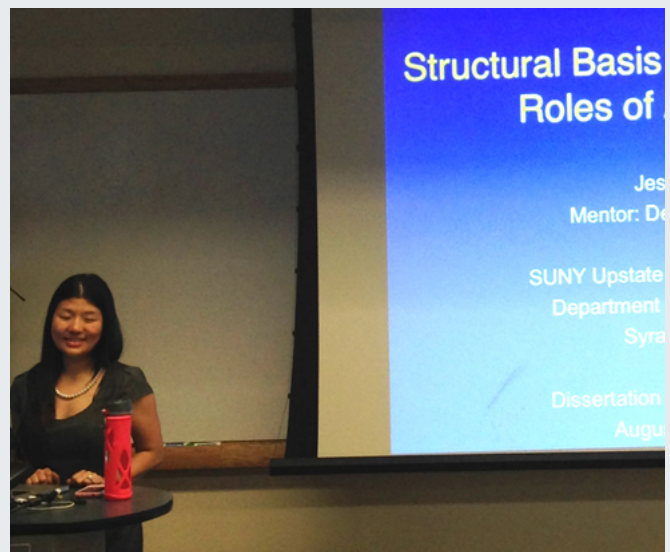
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26232432?dopt=Abstract>

# from our students:



**JING BI KARCHIN**, a PhD Candidate in Anatomy and Cell Biology, successfully defended her Dissertation last month. Jing has accepted a postdoc position with Katalin Susztek, MD, PhD, in the Division of Hypertension at the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine. Jing is pictured with her advisor Dr. Mira Krendel and Dr. Joseph Sanger, Chair of the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology **Congratulations, Jing!**

**MATTHEW MILLER**, a PhD Candidate in Anatomy and Cell Biology, successfully defended his Dissertation last month. Matthew has a postdoc position with Anthony Bretscher, PhD, in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics at Cornell University. Matt is pictured below with his advisor Dr. Scott Blystone - **Congratulations, Matt!**



**JESSICA LO**, a PhD Candidate in Pharmacology, successfully defended her Dissertation last month. Jessica's dissertation advisor is Dr. Debashis Ghosh. **Congratulations, Jessica!**

**DANIELLE (SAGOR) HARRISON**, a Masters Student in Physiology, successfully defended her thesis last month. Jessica's dissertation advisor is Dr. Steven Youngentob. Danielle is an Associate Scientist at Bristol-Myers Squibbb in Massachusetts. **Congratulations, Danielle!**

# from our students:

**ARTURO BARBACHANO-GUERRERO**, a student in Microbiology and Immunology successfully passed his qualifying exam last month. Arturo's advisor is Dr. Timothy Endy. **Congratulations, Arturo!**

**ROSE PASQUALE**, a student in Neuroscience and Physiology, successfully passed her qualifying exam last month. Rose's advisor is Dr. Eduardo Solessio. **Congratulations, Rose!**

**KEVIN NAMITZ**, a student in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, successfully passed his qualifying exam last month. Kevin's advisor is Dr. Michael Cosgrove. **Congratulations, Kevin!**

**JACQUALYN SCHULMAN**, a student in Pharmacology, successfully passed her qualifying exam last month. Jacquelyn's advisor is Dr. Richard Wojcikiewicz. **Congratulations, Jacquelyn!**

**DON'T FORGET** to join the CoGS/GSA Team for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, October 18th at 10:00 AM through Downtown Syracuse, sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

You can sign up to participate as a walker or simply support the team with a donation!

Either way visit the team site at: [http://main.acevents.org/site/TR?team\\_id=1878037&pg=team&fr\\_id=69996&s\\_locale=en\\_US&et=iASlgk67ox\\_eMzV03J3Ylg&s\\_tafid=1624209](http://main.acevents.org/site/TR?team_id=1878037&pg=team&fr_id=69996&s_locale=en_US&et=iASlgk67ox_eMzV03J3Ylg&s_tafid=1624209)

# from our alumni:

## Exciting news from Dr. Maxwell Mozell's former students:

- **DANIEL KURTZ**, PhD ('83), has been named Chair of the Biology Department at Utica College in Utica, NY.
- **STEVEN YOUNGENTOB**, PhD ('84), has taken a position at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center as Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Research in Memphis, TN.

**Congratulations Dan & Steve - keep up the great work!**

**DAVID AUERBACH**, PhD ('11), is currently a Senior Instructor in the Department of Medicine - Cardiovascular Research at University of Rochester Medical Center. David moved to the University of Michigan to complete his PhD alongside his Upstate Advisor Dr. Jose Jalife. He then complete a three year postdoctoral fellowship in Dr. Lori Isom's laboratory. He is now developing an independent line of research that employs a multisystem approach to studying ion channel diseases of the brain and heart. **Welcome back to New York, David and keep up the great work!**



Shortly before his departure from SUNY Upstate, **STEVEN YOUNGENTOB**, PhD ('84), received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities.

Steve earned his PhD in Physiology with Dr. Maxwell Mozell. He graduated from Upstate in 1984 and subsequently joined the Upstate faculty that same year, where he's served for more than 30 years. **We wish Steve the best of luck at UTHSC!**

**PAURAV DESAI**, PhD ('15), has accepted a postdoctoral position at University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA with Dr. Gregory Pazour, Program in Molecular Medicine. **Congratulations, Paurav and best of luck!**

**We love hearing from you...  
Don't forget to drop by our website and  
let us know how you're doing!**  
<http://www.upstate.edu/grad/gradalumni/intouch.php>

**IS THERE SOMETHING WE MISSED??**

Email Jennifer Brennan at [brennanj@upstate.edu](mailto:brennanj@upstate.edu)

or Terri Brown at [brownt@upstate.edu](mailto:brownt@upstate.edu) to get it included in the next issue!



Last month, we said good-bye to our Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) students. The summer program ended on August 7th. Pictured above, the students proudly held their certificates of completion with Dr. Michael Cosgrove, Director of the SURF Program, on their last day.

### **A very special thank you to our faculty mentors:**

Dr. Daniel Ts'o, Neurosurgery  
Dr. Eric Olson, Neuroscience & Physiology  
Dr. Wei-Dong Yao, Psychiatry  
Dr. Christopher Neville, Physical Therapy  
Dr. Wenyi Feng, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Dr. Juntao Luo, Pharmacology  
Dr. Xin Jie Chen, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Dr. Huaiyu Hu, Neuroscience & Physiology  
Dr. Bruce Knutson, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Dr. Mira Krendel, Cell & Developmental Biology  
Dr. Sijun Zhu, Neuroscience & Physiology  
Dr. Gary Winslow, Microbiology/Immunology  
Dr. William Brunken, Ophthalmology  
Dr. Stewart Loh, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
Dr. David Pruyne, Cell & Developmental Biology

**Mark Your Calendars!** Next summer, our SURF program runs Monday, June 6th through Friday, August 12, 2016.

**Interested in Becoming a Faculty Mentor?** Contact the SURF Director, Michael Cosgrove at [cosgrovm@upstate.edu](mailto:cosgrovm@upstate.edu) for more information!

**Know a Potential Student?** If you know of an undergraduate in good academic standing, who will be between their junior and senior years during the summer of 2016, and are majors in chemistry, biology, or a related field, encourage them to apply or at least check out our website. Applicants must have a strong interest in pursuing a Ph.D. degree in biomedical research. The application will open next month.

**Visit us online at:** <http://www.upstate.edu/grad/index.php>

# incoming class

**WE ARE SO VERY EXCITED TO WELCOME THE BRAND NEW CLASS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS TO CAMPUS!**

**ASHLEY CANNING**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
SUNY Oswego

**ARIANNA LASZLO**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Skidmore College

**AMANDA ORZECOWSKI**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Gettysburg College

**SUMANA SUNDARAMURTHY**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Illinois Institute of Tech, MS

**CURTIS YINGLING**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
University of Kansas

**RUI CHEN**

PhD Student  
Neuroscience Program  
Fudan University, MS

**RUSSELL LEVACK**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Houghton College

**ERIC PLANTE**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
SUNY Cortland

**XIN WANG**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Upstate, MPH

**ROBERT ZOLLO**

MS Student  
Pharmacology Program  
Syracuse University

**DANIEL DISTEFANO**

MS Student  
Biochemistry Program  
University of Vermont

**JING LI**

PhD Student  
Neuroscience Program  
Shanxi Medical University

**LINDSAY RATHBUN**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
SUNY Geneseo

**JARED WATTERS**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Central Michigan University

**YING GUO**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Shandong University

**PEI-JU LIU**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
National Yang-Ming University, MS

**LINDSEY RUGGIERO**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Muhlenberg College

**SIYU WEI**

MS Student  
Pharmacology Program  
Qiqihar Medical University

**ASHLEIGH JACKOBEL**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
SUNY Buffalo

**YU LIU**

PhD Student  
Neuroscience Program  
Brandeis University

**PEU SANTRA**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
University of Calcutta, BS & MS

**MATTHEW WELCHONS**

MS Student  
Anatomy Program  
Siena College

**ANNA JOHN**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Karunya University

**KRYSTEN O'HARA**

PhD Student  
Biomedical Sciences Program  
Elon College

**MATTHEW STUVER**

MS Student  
Pharmacology Program  
Loyola University

**THOMAS WINANS**

MS Student  
Biochemistry Program  
Cornell University

Scroll down for pictures from  
the Fall Welcome Reception!

# welcome reception





# save the dates!

## **CAREER DEVELOPMENT:**

### **How to Select a Postdoc Advisor**

**Tuesday, October 6, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Weiskotten Hall, 3111**

*Whether you're getting ready to graduate or just starting to think about life post-grad school, you won't want to meet this! Find out the things you need to know as you start applying for, and selecting postdoc positions as presented by Dr. Michael Cosgrove, Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. As always, lunch will be served so RSVP is encouraged not required.*

## **CAREER DEVELOPMENT:**

### **Networking 101**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

**11:00 AM**

**Weiskotten Hall, 3113**

*To get the job that will bring you the most success and fulfillment, you must first understand your unique skills, interests and values. Then you can strategically and authentically connect with the right people who can help you get there. Once you've expanded your self-awareness, you will craft and practice an authentic and compelling way to introduce yourself and cultivate a network that will help you advance your professional career.*

*This workshop will equip graduate students and postdocs with concrete tools to develop a memorable elevator pitch and will discuss strategies to build and maintain relationships with the people on your network.*

*This workshop will include interactive exercises on the following topics:*

- Skills assessment
- The one minute bio sketch
- Active listening

## **American Physician Scientist Northeast Regional meeting**

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**

**8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Weiskotten Hall, Ninth Floor**

*The Upstate MD/PhD Program with the support of the College of Graduate Studies, College of Medicine, and President's Office are proud to host the American Physician Scientist Association Northeast Regional Meeting.*

*Please contact Krystal Ripa at smithkry@upstate.edu with any questions.*

## **Join us EVERY WEDNESDAY at 3PM in the GRAD STUDIES CONFERENCE ROOM\* for AFTERNOON TEA & SWEETS!!**

**\*First Wednesday of the month, tea is at NRB 3708.**