AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Brian Dilkes was highlighted in the March AG Research Spotlight. To read the full article, https://ag.purdue.edu/arp/Pages/Spotlight-Dilkes.aspx

Natalia Dudareva was featured in an article from The Exponent on March 1, 2016 entitled “Female STEM professors share their outstanding research for Women’s History Month”. To read the full article, see http://www.purdueexponent.org/features/article_173271cd-ff8a-509c-a573-947fe8bad550.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Congratulations to Jim Forney on being named a 2016 Trustees Teaching Award recipient for the Indiana University School of Medicine. Recipients of this prestigious award receive a $2,500 bonus and are recognized at the Medical School Commencement in May.

Mark Hall received an AgSEED award in the amount of $75,000 for his proposal “Exploring a novel anti-fungal target to fight plant pathogens”. This is a two-year project from 03/01/2016 – 06/30/2018.

Xiaoqi Liu received a $257,688 award for the first phase of his project “Overcoming drug resistance of castration-resistant prostate cancer”. The total project is for five years with a total funding of $1,302,434. The award was sponsored by the NIH.

Xiaoqi Liu also received a $354,563 award for the first phase of his project “Enhancing anti-neoplastic activity of metformin in prostate cancer”. The total project is for five years with a total funding of $1,785,542. The award was sponsored by the NIH.

Xiaoqi Liu was recently named the 2016 Outstanding Cancer Researcher by the Lafayette Lions Club Award for outstanding achievements in cancer research at Purdue. He joins a list of 38 former winners of this award which has been sponsored since 1978 by the Lafayette Lions Club.

Xiaoqi Liu was selected as a 2016 University Faculty Scholar. The University Faculty Scholar program sponsored by the Office of the Provost recognizes outstanding faculty members across the university who are on an accelerated path for academic distinction. Faculty Scholars are appointed for a nonrenewable five-year term and receive an annual $10,000 discretionary allocation. Xiaoqi joins Barb Golden, Ann Kirchmaier, and Andy Tao who are also Faculty Scholars.

Andy Mesecar gave the keynote address at the annual breast cancer fundraiser, Big Man on Campus. He was featured in The Exponent article, “Breast cancer fundraiser raises more than ever before”. To read the full article, see http://www.purdueexponent.org/campus/article_e4386f20-dad3-507f-a257-a336ccd15993.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share
DEPARTMENT NEWS

Axelrod Lectures
Mark Hochstrasser, Chair, Department of Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry at Yale University, presented this year’s Bernard Axelrod Lecture on March 21 and 22. Part of the Yale faculty since 2000, Prof. Mark Hochstrasser holds appointments in the Department of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and the School of Medicine’s Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program. He earned his B.A. at Rutgers University and his Ph.D. at the University of California, San Francisco, and conducted postdoctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has earned numerous honors for his scientific contributions, including a Young Investigator Award from the Cancer Research Foundation and designation as a Searle Scholar and a Fletcher Scholar.

The 2016 Lafayette Regional Science and Engineering Fair
This year’s Lafayette Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held on March 4, 2016. Volunteers helped judge over 600 students and their projects in grades 5-12 from across Indiana. The Biochemistry department had several representatives at the fair:

Graduate Students: Whitney Dolan (Chapple lab)

Undergraduate Students: Ryan Hockemeyer, Kelsey Roe, Abigail Gress, Ben Kick, Austin Dixon, Andrew Delks and Stephanie Price

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS
Permanent lab placements: Zachary Beck (Tran lab), Aaron Benjamin (Lohman lab), Ryan Benke (Dudareva lab), Colin Carlock (Liu lab), Elia Farah (Liu lab) and Bethany Manning (Lohman lab).

GOING THE EXTRA MILE
Natalia Dudareva gave a seminar entitled “A journey through the metabolic pathways to plant volatile emission" on February 26, 2016 at the Department of Biological Sciences, University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

Natalia Dudareva and her postdoc Joseph Lynch attended the DOE annual project meeting "2016 Genomic Sciences Program Annual PI Meeting" in Tysons, Virginia on March 6 – 9, 2016. Natalia gave a talk entitled "Modeling and engineering of the phenylpropanoid network in plants", and Joe presented a poster entitled "Model-guided metabolic engineering of increased 2-phenylethanol production in plants".

Natalia Dudareva also served on the NSF grant review panel in Washington D.C. on March 10 and 11, 2016.

Xiaoqi Liu traveled to Ohio University on March 7, 2016 to present a seminar entitled "Polo-like kinase 1 in cancer metabolism and treatment".

Elizabeth Tran and Julie Hendon (Manager of Donor Relations, PUCCR) met with members of the Fleet Feet 5K running group on March 8, 2016 to encourage runners to sign up for the Purdue Center for Cancer Research Challenge 5K on April 16. Beth is a 5K running coach for Fleet Feet and a member of the PUCCR faculty.

Elizabeth Tran traveled to Bethesda, MD to serve on the MIRA R35 study section for the NIH, a new funding initiative for new investigators applying to NIGMS on 03/14 – 15/2016. She also provided feedback to the program officer on how to improve this funding strategy in the future.

Elizabeth Tran traveled to Little Rock, AR to present her work to the University of Arkansas Medical School on 03/29 - 20/2016.
SAFETY CORNER
By Karyn Rodkey

Hazard Alerts

Outdoor Sirens
The outdoor sirens are in place to alert people who are already outside, to seek shelter. If you hear the siren, you should know you are being warned about weather, or some other “shelter-in-place” situation. Once you seek shelter in the nearest building, you are to use all means at your disposal to determine the nature of the warning (i.e. computer, phone, radio, etc.). The sirens only sound for a short period of time, but the hazard warning is not lifted until one receives an “all clear” from Purdue emergency personnel.

Indoor alarms
When the indoor alarm is sounding, one must leave the building immediately. Please proceed down the nearest stairwell and gather with your lab/office mates across the street and in front of Nelson Hall of Food Science or inside the lobby if weather is poor. Please make sure everyone is accounted for and safe.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS
Spring 2016 Biochemistry Speaker Seminars – 3:30–4:30 p.m. – WSLR 116, Unless Noted
April 4
Dr. Hari Koul
LSU Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, LA
Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

April 12
Dr. Emily Wang
City of Hope, Department of Cancer Biology
Title: A role of extracellular miRNAs in cancer-host crosstalk

April 26
Biochemistry Awards Convocation
Deans Auditorium (PFEN 241)

Biochemistry Graduate/postdoc – 12:30-1:30 p.m. - WSLR 116
April 1
Hunter Balduf & Lee Stunkard

April 8
Fabiola Muro-Villanueva & Chuan-Chih Hsu

April 15
I-Hsuan (Blair) Chen & Xiangying (Candy) Mao

April 22
Samantha Lee & Ben Carter

April 29
Zheng (Cindy) Xing & Erin Sorlien

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES
- Classes End – Saturday, April 30
- Final Exams – Monday, May 2 – Saturday, May 7
- Semester Ends – Saturday, May 7
- Commencement Division 4 (Agriculture, Pharmacy, Science) – Saturday, May 14 at 2:30pm
STRICTLY PERSONAL
April Birthdays

Zach Beck
Aaron Benjamin
Matthew Kilgore
Yueping Zhang