



February 2017 Issue

PUBLICATIONS

Weiss, J., J.K. Mühlemann, V. Ruiz-Hernandez, **N. Dudareva** and M. Egea-Cortines. 2016. Phenotypic space and variation of floral scent profiles during late flower development in *Antirrhinum*. *Front Plant Sci.* **7**: 1903. eCollection.

Wang, C., M. Wang, J. Arrington, T. Shan, F. Yue, Y. Nie, **W.A. Tao** and S. Kuang. 2017. Ascl2 inhibits myogenesis by antagonizing the transcriptional activity of myogenic regulatory factors. *Development.* **144**: 235 – 247.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Natalia Dudareva and Laura Henry (Dudareva lab) received an award in the amount of \$95,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for a proposal entitled “Understanding regulation of terpenoid biosynthetic pathways for enhanced production of economically important terpenoid compounds”. The project period for this grant is 12/15/2016 – 12/14/2017.

The College of Agriculture Faculty and Staff Awards were recently given to three Biochemistry faculty members. Congratulations to all.

- Joe Ogas: *David C. Pfendler Outstanding Counselor*
- Clint Chapple: *Outstanding Grad Mentor/Teacher*
- Orla Hart: *Outstanding Service to Students*

NEW FACES



Majid Kazemian joined the Department on January 2 as an Assistant Professor. He earned a PhD in computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with major focus on computational biology. He did postdoctoral research in the Laboratory of Molecular Immunology at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. His primary appointment is in the Department of Biochemistry with a secondary appointment in the Department of Computer Science. Majid’s research focuses on acquiring and utilizing high-throughput genome sequencing data to create new computational models and biological assays to study genome regulation. His lab will initially work on the discovery and modeling of the regulatory circuitry of the non-coding genome, which is essential for maintaining normal cellular physiology.



Iskander Ibrahim joined the Puthiyaveetil lab as a postdoctoral researcher on January 2. He earned a bachelor’s degree and a doctorate in Biochemistry from Queen Mary, University of London. He then did postdoctoral research on cyanobacterial carbon concentration mechanism at the University of Greenwich. At Purdue, his research focuses on discovering how Chloroplast Sensor Kinase (CSK), a modified sensor histidine kinase, senses photosynthetic electron transport activity and modifies the activity of its interacting partner sigma factor 1 (SIG1) to affect the expression of chloroplast genes. In his spare time, he likes running and playing soccer.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Natalia Dudareva traveled to the Biocenter at the University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany to give a seminar entitled “A journey through the metabolic pathways to plant volatile emission” on January 13. The presentation included scientific part, description of career steps and career advice and was hosted by GSfBS, IMPRS, and CEPLAS Graduate School.

Andy Mesecar and his postdoc Nicole Hjortland attended the 25th Enzyme Mechanisms Conference, January 4 - 8 in St. Pete Beach, Florida. Nicole presented a poster entitled “A Tethered-Rheostat Model for the Intramolecular Activation of the Anti-Cancer Target USP7/HAUSP by Its Ubiquitin-Like Domains 4 and 5”.

SAFETY CORNER

By Karyn Rodkey

When defrosting a freezer NEVER use any kind of metal object!



Here are some examples of items that may be used:



PLASTIC



OR AIR



BIRTHDAYS

Justine Arrington
Anton Iliuk
Kim Muldoon
Ronald Somerville

Clint Chapple
Jeong Im Kim
Fabiola Mura-Villanueva

Mark Hall
Yu-Hsuan (Karen) Lai
Stefan Paula

Jake Hatfield
Andy Mesecar
Sandy Rossie

UPCOMING EVENTS

Distinguished Professor Renewal Seminar

February 14 – Natalia Dudareva, Distinguished Professor Seminar, Purdue University – “Plant Volatiles: Past, Present and Future”

February 2017 Biochemistry Seminars

(Tuesdays at 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in Whistler Hall, Rm. 116)

February 7 – Katrin Karbstein, The Scripps Research Institute, Cancer Biology – “Untangling 40S Ribosome Assembly”

February 21 – Jeremy Day – University of North Carolina Dept. of Neurobiology – “Control-Alter-Delete: Epigenetic Regulation in Neuronal Systems”

February 28 – Damon Lisch – Purdue University, Botany and Plant Pathology – “Multigenerational Loss of a Component of the RNA-directed DNA Methylation Pathway Triggers a Reduction in MicroRNA-mediated Repression of a Family of Transcription Factors in Maize”

February 2017 Biochemistry Graduate and Postdoc Seminars

(Every other Friday at 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in Whistler Hall, Rm. 116)

(ROTATION TALKS WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON IN WHISTLER, RM. 116)

February 17 – Chuan-Chih Hsu (Tao lab) & Prashant Pawar (Chapple lab)

February 24 – **ROTATION TALKS**